

This Region baked and steamed in summer 2005: an average June temperature nearly 6° F above normal at Poughkeepsie, NY was typical. Precipitation varied from well below to above average locally, and high lunar tides hit beach-nesting species hard again this year. Following an extra-high spring tide (full moon) 24 May, the 7 June neap tide (new moon) and the spring tide of 21 Jun washed out many nests on beaches and in tidal marshes. Laughing Gulls, terns, and oystercatchers have adapted, of course, and many were busy with third attempts two or three weeks behind schedule in July. But heavy beach use by humans allows the birds less space to avoid high tides.

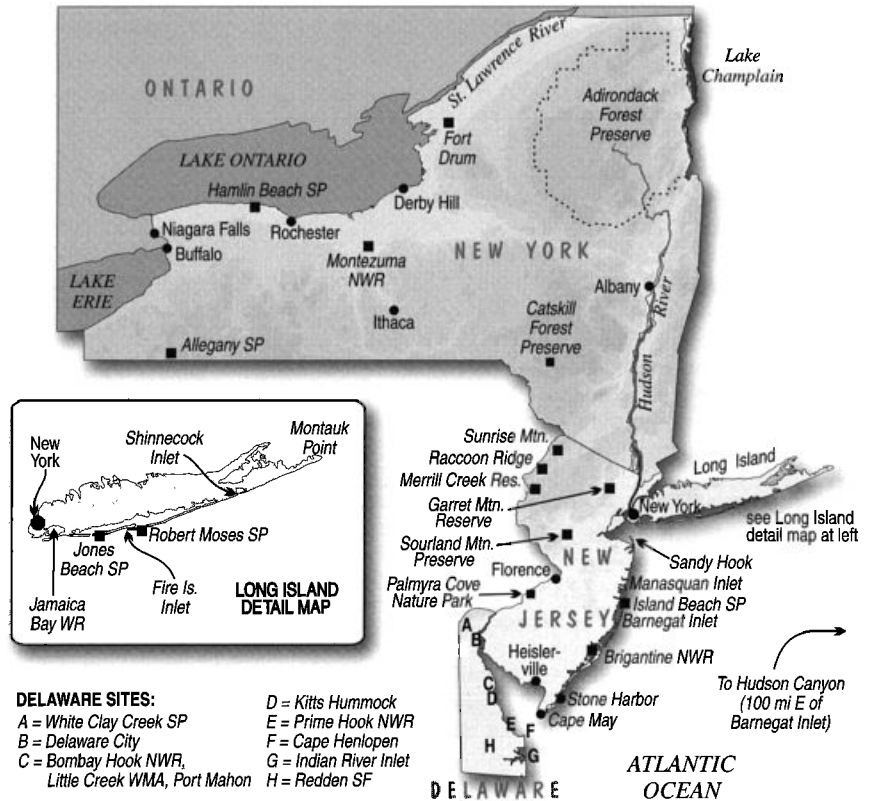
The final year of the second New York State breeding bird atlas improved coverage. Some species seem to be drawing in their southern limits (Upland Sandpiper, Henslow's Sparrow), while others give signs of northward expansion: Great Egret, Mississippi Kite, Chuck-will's-widow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Yellow-throated Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Orchard Oriole. Merlin, Dickcissel, and Clay-colored Sparrow are meanwhile colonizing from the west.

Abbreviations: Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE); Brig. (Brigantine Unit, E. P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); Cupsogue (Cupsogue County Park, barrier beach e. of Moriches Inlet, Suffolk, Long I.); Four Brothers (islands in L. Champlain off Willsboro Pt., Essex, NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City); Jones Beach (Jones Beach S.P., Nassau, Long I.); Montezuma (Montezuma N.W.R., Seneca, NY); N.J.D.F.G.W. (New Jersey Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife); N.Y.D.E.C. (New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation); Robert Moses S.P. (w. end of Fire I., Suffolk, Long I.); Stone Harbor Pt. (n. side of Hereford Inlet, Cape May, NJ).

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

Two or 3 Red-throated Loons, rarer in mid-summer than Common Loons, lingered on the coast. One in alternate plumage and inland at Boonton Res., Morris, NJ 21 Jun (RR) was exceptional. Good Northern Fulmar counts continued, with 25 on 4-5 Jun ca. 40 km s. of Montauk Pt., Long I. (JP). Other tubenoses were seen more frequently from shore than usual, perhaps because of increased effort but more likely owing to a shift in (or paucity of) prey resources. An extraordinary 250 Cory's Shearwaters were in view from Robert Moses S.P. 24 Jul (A. Guthrie et al.). In much smaller numbers, Greater and Sooty Shearwaters were often visible there and in the rips off Cape May Pt., where they fed among masses of Laughing Gulls. With patient watching, Manx Shearwaters are also visible from shore: 3 were off Jones Beach 7 Jul (A. Wollin), 2 were off Robert Moses S.P.

Hudson-Delaware



Robert O. Paxton

460 Riverside Drive, Apt. 72
 New York, New York 10027
 (rop1@columbia.edu)

Joseph C. Burgiel

331 Alpine Court
 Stanhope, New Jersey 07874
 (burgiel@alum.mit.edu)

Brian L. Sullivan

Michael Powers
 Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
 159 Sapsucker Woods Road
 Ithaca, New York 14850
 (heraldpetrel@aol.com)
 (mep42@cornell.edu)

Richard R. Veit

Department of Biology
 College of Staten Island
 2800 Victory Boulevard
 Staten Island, New York 10314
 (veitrr@hotmail.com)

29 Jul (A. Ott), and singles were observed repeatedly at Cape May. Two were even in Long I. Sound off Milton Pt., Rye, *Westchester*, NY 15 Jun (TWB). Far more unusual was an Audubon's Shearwater seen from shore at Cape May 26 Jul (B. Fogg, PL, MO'B). The best shoreline counts of Wilson's Storm-Petrel were 30 off Shinnecock Inlet, Long I. 4 Jun (A. Baldelli) and 90 off Robert Moses S.P. 22 Jun (PLI, SM), while 240+ (including 200 in one raft) were far above average from the Cape May-Lewes ferry 14 Jun (VE, T. Magarian). Fifteen that ventured far into Long I. Sound were seen from Milton Pt., *Westchester*, NY 16 Jun (TWB), and some entered Delaware Bay as far as Norbury's Landing, *Cape May*, NJ 9 Jun.

In addition to the one settled at Brig since 25 Apr (possibly last summer's bird), one to 4 American White Pelicans hung around Montezuma and vicinity after 8 Jun (G. Calabrese, m.ob.). Brown Pelicans, annual since 1982, wandered northward sparingly. The best count was 33 off Cape May Pt. 24 Jun (A. Nelson); only singles reached Long Island. A mini-invasion of frigatebirds, presumably Magnificent, began in Jul. One visited Cape May Pt. 19 Jul (P. Spencer, J. Fielder, R. Weiman), and another, probably different, was at Stone Harbor Pt. 29 Jul (S. Nelson, L. Nelson). Singles were reported twice off e. Long Island 28 Jul—early Aug (fide M. Scheibel, M. & M. Wolffsohn).

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The New York harbor heronries—one happy result of cleaner water since the 1970s—now receive complete surveys only triennially. This year's interim survey, the 21st conducted by New York City Audubon, showed that Black-crowned Night-Herons are still the premier species (544 out of a total 736 nests), with Great Egret (110 nests) and Snowy Egrets (73 nests) trailing behind. A new colony of 43 Black-crowned Night-Herons appeared on Mill Rock in the East River. Cattle Egrets seem to have stopped nesting in New York harbor, and only three Glossy Ibis nests were found (E. J. McAdams, YG). The still great but sadly diminished heronry on Pea Patch I., off Delaware City, *New Castle*, is notable for the Region's only coastal Great Blue Heron colony and its last important colony of declining Cattle Egrets. In the absence of site visits, we have monthly counts from opposite sides of Delaware Bay of birds flying in and out. The Jun Cattle Egret count was 378 from Delaware City (CB) and 128 from Fort Mott, *Salem*, NJ (L. Ziemba, G. Rittenhouse et al.), about 25% below 2004 numbers. The Glossy Ibis count from both sides in Jun fell almost 30% to 692. Snowy Egrets decreased mostly sharply, down about 80% to 34. Only Black-crowned

Night-Herons increased, up about 5% to 193 in Jun. Great Egrets continue to inch northward. The Motor I. colony in the Niagara R. reached 20 nests (W. Watson), while a few continued on the Four Brothers. Single White-faced Ibis summered again at the most likely sites, Brig. (J. McKee) and Bombay Hook (FR, MG, BP, F. Windfelder), as we have come to expect, but there were no mul-



Mississippi Kites continue to prospect northward each spring and early summer, though no nest has been found north of northern Virginia. Most wanderers are subadults, but this adult male was found near Port Penn, Delaware 9 June 2005. Photograph by John Janowski.

tles and none reported elsewhere.

The first Mute Swan nest at Montezuma marked this introduced species' continued spread in upstate New York. The introduced Trumpeter Swan pair produced 2 more young at last year's nest site just e. of the *Wayne/Monroe*, NY county line, but the young disappeared. The unseasonal Barnacle Goose at Gilgo Beach, *Suffolk*, Long I. all summer (B. Maaser, m.ob.) was likely an escapee. A drake Garganey was discovered at



Mary Gustafson and Bruce Peterjohn found this Franklin's Gull at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware 30 July 2005 (here). Delaware has about 11 prior records, many of them in late summer like this one.

Photograph by Larry Graff.

Barnegat, *Ocean*, NJ 2 Jun (ph. M. Barrow), and what was likely the same bird appeared 18 & 30 Jun at Brig. (ph. D. Larsen, J. Caragher). Most East Coast records are in the spring (Apr-Jun) window. The usual handful of sea ducks summered along the coast, including 2 King Eiders in New Jersey, but a drake White-winged Scoter in the Adiron-

dacks on Little Tupper L., *Hamilton*, NY 18 Jun—8 Aug (M. Medler) was remarkable.

KITES THROUGH CRANES

Mississippi Kites, following a busy spring, visited all three states again. One hung around Cape May as usual, and pioneers included an ad. at Pouch L. in the Staten I., NY greenbelt 11 Jun (H. Fischer et al.); a subad. at Sandy Hook, *Monmouth*, NJ 6 Jun (SB, LM); and an imm. along L. Ontario at Hogan Pt., *Monroe*, NY 16 Jun (DT). Delaware had 2, an ad. and a first-summer bird, in coastal *New Castle* 9 & 12 Jun (ph. J. Janowski, B. Lantz, FR). Despite decades of expectation, nesting has not been documented nearer than n. Virginia. The only Swallow-tailed Kite, following five spring records, overflew Higbee Beach, *Cape May*, NJ 23 Jun (ph. RC).

Bald Eagles established four new aeries in w. New York, in *Cattaraugus*, *Wayne*, and *Allegany*; two up the Hudson R. n. of Albany; and one in *St. Lawrence*, increasing the state's occupied nests from 84 to 92. Of these, 63 successful nests fledged 112 young. Spring weather inflicted some nestling mortality (P. Nye, N.Y.D.E.C.). In New Jersey, 48 of the state's 53 territorial pairs laid eggs, and 40 of them fledged 64 young. Two new nests were established in n. New Jersey, one in farmland, a hopeful sign of adaptability (KC). Delaware's 38 pairs fledged 49 young, astonishing compared to the seven nests with 8 young there in 1991; the rapid development of Delaware, however, leaves little space for further expansion (CB). The famous "pale male" Red-tailed Hawk and his mate failed at their reconstructed nest site on Fifth Ave., but other pairs nested successfully in New York City. An ad. Golden Eagle was sighted repeatedly around Fort Drum, *Jefferson*, NY this summer (JB), well w. of putative breeding areas in the Adirondacks.

In the Adirondacks, a nest box project for declining American Kestrels in *Franklin*, NY began promisingly, with 16+ chicks in five boxes out of 24 (M. Manske). Yunick banded 5 American Kestrel chicks near Amsterdam, *Montgomery*, NY 30 Jun; the young were being tended by 3 ads. ("Harris's Hawk fashion"). An informal census by New York City Audubon found one possible, four probable, and one confirmed kestrel nests in the city (YG); 3 were confirmed in 2004, and there are probably more. Merlins, whose downtown Buffalo roost has tantalized observers for several years, were finally confirmed breeding in a heavily populated neighborhood (A. Humann et al.). A nest was also found in *Salamanca*, *Cattaraugus* (TbD), and a territorial pair at Horseheads, *Chemung* in Jun (R. Sleeper) established a new breeding frontier

on the Appalachian Plateau, far south of the Adirondacks where New York's first nest was confirmed in 1992. Peregrine Falcons reached "amazing numbers" in New York (B. Loucks, N.Y.D.E.C.). Territorial pairs increased from 52 to 62, 47 of which fledged 118 young, the first time over a hundred. There were six new sites, three of them upstate, and a pair at Jamaica Bay took over an Osprey platform, as another did last year at Hempstead, Long I. New Jersey's active pairs increased by two to 20. Three of these inhabit cliff sites; their productivity rate was a healthy 2.1. New aeries appeared in Newark and Elizabeth (KC).

SA Piping Plovers received much protective attention, but many nests and young succumbed to tides, human visitors, and animal predators. A good example is Delaware's last population, at Cape Henlopen Pt. and nearby Gordon's Pond. It had been nursed back to eight pairs. Victims of repeated flooding and predation, the plovers constructed a total of 15 nests and laid 47 eggs, but only 12 young finally fledged (CB). New Jersey's Piping Plovers slipped again an alarming 18% to 111 breeding pairs. Productivity of 0.77 was slightly above last year's but still probably insufficient to sustain the population. Flooding was the main culprit, with predation not far behind (T. Pover, N.J.D.F.G.W.).

Common Moorhen distribution is decidedly spotty in the Region. Common only in w. New York, the species has abandoned the lakeshore w. of Rochester (RGS) and all of downstate New York. Widely separated breeding areas elsewhere include the Thousand Acre Marsh, along the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, *New Castle*, DE and, in New Jersey, the Hackensack Marshes, *Hudson*; National Park, *Gloucester*; and Mannington Marsh, *Salem*. The Sandhill Crane pair that established the first New York State nesting record in 2003 raised 2 young again near Savannah, *Wayne* (B. Carlson, G. Chapin). What seems to be a feral Sandhill Crane population is becoming established in New Jersey. A pair raised 2 young in Galloway Twp., just nw. of Atlantic City, and the local press pictured them threading their way through suburban traffic. A presumably different individual repeatedly visited a townhouse lawn in West Milford, *Passaic*, in Jun.

SHOREBIRDS

A Wilson's Plover reported at Tobay Beach, *Nassau*, Long I. 23 Jun (L. Lampel) topped off an encouraging three spring reports. Upland Sandpipers seemed slightly improved in the St. Lawrence R. Valley, perhaps because of closer coverage of grasslands, but they remain scarcer than 10 years ago (JB). They no longer nest at JFK airport (DR), but 10 pairs hang on at their southernmost site, Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station, *Ocean*, NJ (SB). A Eurasian Whimbrel (subspecies unknown) was reported in Jarvis Sound, Cape May 3 & 5 Jul (B. Carlough). Marbled Godwits were reported only as singles, all at

coastal lagoons.

Curlew Sandpiper went unreported. Two female Ruffs in coastal New Jersey, both one-day wonders, were below par. Wilson's Phalaropes were far below normal; the only multiple report was of 4 at Bombay Hook 16-17 Jul (B. Rufe et al.). The only Red-necked Phalarope lingered through 4 Jun at Pike's Beach, Long I. (J. Fritz et al.). A Red Phalarope, least expected of the three species of phalarope, paused at Cupsogue 27 Jul (Brad Carlson, Jamie Glydon, SM).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

A few Parasitic Jaegers were visible from Robert Moses S.P. and Cape May, increasingly evident in Jul; the other jaegers were not reported. Two Franklin's Gulls showed up: at Cape May 12 Jul (L. Zemaitis) and at Bombay Hook 30 Jul (MG, BP, ph. L. Graff). The latter, an ad., constituted about the 12th Delaware record, of which four come from midsummer. A first-summer Little Gull vis-

ited Stone Harbor Pt. 16 Jun (MO'B); another was at the Ted Harvey Wildlife Area, *Kent*, DE 2 (FR) & 8 Jul (M. Smith), where a few now summer regularly. For the 2nd summer in a row, a Black-headed Gull summered at the South Amboy mudflats at Morgan, *Middlesex*, NJ (T. Boyle). Another was at Pickering Beach, *Kent*, DE 25 Jun (MG). A few Lesser Black-backed Gulls lingered on the coasts. Oddly, given that hundreds winter inland, the only inland report was at Boonton Res., *Morris*, NJ 21 Jun (RR).

Caspian Terns, whose only New York colony has been Little Galloo I., in L. Ontario, off *Jefferson*, are attempting to found a new colony in L. Champlain on the Four Brothers. Last year, the terns placed their nests near Great Black-backed Gulls, who fed the tern chicks to their own offspring. This year, 18 pairs of Caspian Terns fledged some young on the Four Brothers.

A few Royal Terns were regular at Stone Harbor Pt. in Jun, and 44 were at Cape May Pt. 10 Jun. These engaged in active courtship display 13 Jun (CV), but no nests were reported this year. A few Sandwich Terns have become normal without storms, now that they breed n. to Maryland. The Roseate Tern colony on Great Gull I., off e. Long I., had an estimated 1273 nests, down slightly (H. Hays). The supplementary colony on nearby Cartwright Shoal continued but with fewer (80) birds (M. Male). Small numbers of Roseates still nest on islands in Shinnecock Bay (M. Wasilco, N.Y.D.E.C.). A new colony of six pairs farther w. on Goose Flat in Babylon Twp., *Suffolk* (BZ) is welcome news. But breeding remains unconfirmed s. of Long I., even though a few Roseates have loitered every summer on the Jersey shore in recent years. As has become almost normal, a "portlandica" (first-summer) Arctic Tern visited Moriches Inlet, Long I. 5-6 Jul (SM, D. Futyma), and one was at Stone Harbor Pt. 22 Jul (CV). The Forster's Tern colony in Joco Marsh, just off JFK airport, has suddenly

SA When Horseshoe Crab spawning in Delaware Bay peaked on the full lunar tide of 23 May and the dark lunar tide of 7 Jun, tens of thousands of shorebirds—mostly Red Knots, Sanderlings, Ruddy Turnstones, and Semipalmated Sandpipers—were waiting for the eggs. This year, the shorebirds arrived late and departed late. Even after departures had begun, the 1 Jun aerial shorebird survey, conducted every spring since 1997 by the N.J.D.F.G.W.'s Endangered and Non-Game Species Program, found about 8600 Red Knots, 42,200 Ruddy Turnstones, 58,300 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 2,700 Sanderlings still present. The final survey on 7 Jun still counted 3000 Red Knots, 7750 Ruddy Turnstones, 25,600 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 2700 Sanderlings. These numbers are slightly better than last spring's, which were at all-time low levels. Red Knots have shown the most pronounced decline; the spring assemblage in Delaware Bay formerly reached as high as 96,000. The American subspecies of Red Knot is currently under consideration for listing as federally endangered. Sanderlings have been decreasing since the 1980s, while turnstones and Semipalmated Sandpipers have declined less severely.

Supplementing other recent protection measures, Acting Governor Richard A. Codey closed the New Jersey catch of Horseshoe Crabs completely and extended the closure for another two weeks on 11 Jun. Since the crabs take 10-11 years to reach sexual maturity, it is too early to detect any rebound. Only about 1500 eggs/m² were laid, compared to the normal 4000, according to the N.J.D.F.G.W. This may be not be adequate to refuel the Red Knots during migration to Arctic breeding grounds. Insufficient nourishment may explain why increasing numbers of shorebirds seem to abandon their northward migration. One Red Knot, color-banded 2 Jun on Delaware Bay, got no farther than Long I., at Cupsogue 2 Jul (SM). Fourteen species of shorebirds were present between Cupsogue and Pike's Beach, *Suffolk*, Long I. 29 Jun (SM, PLI), a date when migration is typically at a lull. Red Knots totaled 109 in that area at the end of Jun (PLI, SM) and 115 at Stone Harbor Pt. 21 Jun (MO'B). Five Dunlin 29 Jun, "in plumages ranging from basic to high alternate" (SM, PLI) and a calling Long-billed Dowitcher 18 Jun (PLI) in the same Long I. area were exceptional for those dates. A Dunlin in alternate plumage at Montezuma 10-13 Jul (B. Carlson, G. Chapin, m.obs.) was unprecedented.

tripled to about 250 pairs, while a similar number persists in Hempstead, *Nassau*, Long I. (JZ).

Least Terns suffered severely from tides and predation and were only intermittently successful. About 200 pairs at Cedar Beach, *Suffolk*, Long I. deserted after a fox arrived (BZ); foxes caused a thriving colony of Common and Roseate Terns to desert the same site in 1995. Least Terns did poorly at the only two sites known in Delaware, Cape Henlopen and South Bower Beach; only one chick fledged at each colony, and one of those disappeared (CB). Black Terns were widespread coastally all summer, possibly a sign of poor breeding success in the north. The Black Skimmer population is assembling into mega-colonies, and Long I. had two: 400 pairs at Breezy Pt., Brooklyn (DR) and 500+ ads. near Lido Beach, *Suffolk* (JZ). In New Jersey, a colony that held 1123 birds added to the glorious profusion of birdlife on Stone Harbor Pt., while 700 ads. and 300 young were on Moredecai I., Barnegat Bay, NJ at the season's end (FL). Skimmers bred so late that young chicks were widespread in early Sep. A Dovekie was well described about 40 km s. of Montauk Pt., Long I. 6 Jun (JP), most unexpected.

DOVES THROUGH KINGLETS

A Eurasian Collared-Dove at Hamlin Beach, *Monroe*, NY 17 Jun (DT, ph. RGS, m.ob.) was near the site of the area's first in 2002. Cuckoos, including the less-common Yellow-billed, were noted in two or three times their typical numbers in the St. Lawrence River valley (JB), and similar comments came from other areas of caterpillar infestation. In *Saratoga*, NY, Forest Tent Caterpillars rather than Common Tent Caterpillars were in abundance (RPY).

Roof-top Common Nighthawks are gone. Our only reports of the species came from the s. New Jersey pine barrens: 8 at Whitesbog, *Burlington*, 23 Jun (L. Little) and 6 in the Wharton S.F. 26 Jun (T. Bailey). Following one in upstate New York last spring, a Chuck-will's-widow called all season at Glen Wild L., *Passaic*, NJ, well inland from the usual range (RR, D. Oster, m.ob.). Radis found Whip-poor-wills "still rather common" on dry Chestnut Oak ridges in the Jersey Highlands; 9+ called 12 Jun on Copperas Ridge, at Picatinny Arsenal, *Morris*. Another healthy population inhabits the Dwarf Pine

plains of Westhampton, *Suffolk*, Long I., where 9 called, along with 4 Chuck-will's-widows, 6 Jun (HMcG).

The Region's first mid-summer Say's *Phoebe* thrilled many 23 Jun at Jones Beach (M. & N. Larsen et al.). Most of the 25+ previous Regional records span Sep–Nov, plus a few in winter. An imm. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Mt. Loretto, Staten I. 5 Jun (R. McGovern, m.ob.) was the latest in a string of spring records. Small flocks of Blue Jays appeared to be migrating northward 13–14 Jun at Cape May (CV, P. Dunne), as they also



Formerly an uncommon fall and spring migrant and winter visitor to the Hudson-Delaware region, Black-headed Gulls have become regular in summer in small numbers along the coast. This bird was photographed on the South Amboy flats, near Morgan, Middlesex County, New Jersey 19 July 2005. A Black-headed Gull summered at the same location last summer. Photograph by Tom Boyle.

do each spring along Long I. barrier beaches, long after the local jays have young. Are they headed for some remote n. breeding area, or simply dispersing after breeding? Common Ravens are spreading into the lowlands: 2 frequented Braddock Bay on L. Ontario 11–27 Jun (DT, D. Niven, J. Bounds), and a pair nested on L. Champlain on Valcour I. (N. Olson). A successful White-breasted Nuthatch nest was the first ever recorded in Manhattan's Central Park (DA). A **Brown-headed Nuthatch**, whose n. limit had been Cape Henlopen, DE since time immemorial, finally made it across Delaware Bay and onto the New Jersey state list at Cape May Pt. 23–28 Jun (RC, m.ob.).

Sedge Wrens prospered, in their enigmatic way. In the n. portions of the Region, they frequented four areas near Buffalo and were "unusually common" in the St. Lawrence Valley (JB). At least 20 territorial males sang in Fort Drum, and at least 15–20 others were in *Jefferson*, *Lewis*, and *St. Lawrence*, NY. Singing males at two spots near Sharon Springs, *Schoharie*, NY were a surprise (*vide* J. Graves). In the Region's far south, the usual few continued at Bombay Hook. None were reported in between. Newly fledged Golden-crowned Kinglets near the Muttontown Preserve, *Suffolk*, Long I. 16 Jul (ph. S. Walter) seem to constitute the first Long I. breeding

record since 1963 (SM), although they fit the general recent pattern of range extension southward into ornamental conifers.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Golden-winged Warblers are holding on, often in powerline cuts, in several areas of nw. New Jersey: the Delaware Water Gap, *Warren* (B. Hardiman); Sparta Mt., *Sussex*; and the Pequannock Watershed, *Sussex-Passaic*. Northern Parulas are making a "comeback" in e. Long I., where atlasers found singing males in a fair number of blocks (KF). The first *Sullivan*, NY nest was confirmed at Narrowsburg 22 Jun (R. Davis, V. Freer, M. Gorton). Yellow-throated Warblers continue to press northward from their Delaware R. stronghold into nw. New York. A pair with 2 young confirmed breeding again in Allegany S.P. (Tbd). A Prairie Warbler in Stockholm Twp., *St. Lawrence*, NY 5 Jun was well n. of known breeding areas (JB). Pine Warblers feeding young at the New York Botanical Garden, the Bronx 4 Jul (R. De Candido) appeared to constitute a first New York City breeding record. Palm

Warblers, first confirmed breeding in New York in 1983, are "now found on virtually all Adirondack bogs" (JMCP); 15 singing males at Single Shanty Brook, *Hamilton* suggested, by extrapolation, a local population of 100 pairs (T. Salo). After a strong spring showing, a Prothonotary Warbler continued into Jun in Maple Swamp, *Suffolk*, Long I. (KF), while another strayed in Central Park 17–18 Jun (S. Blodgett, T. Fiore). The species' n. limit remains unchanged in w. and cen. New York, at Tonawanda and around Oneida L., respectively.

Summer Tanagers have become regular in small numbers on e. Long Island. Following record-high spring numbers, one was at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, *Suffolk* 27 Jun (E. Lewis, T. Green), near New York's first confirmed nest site, and another was nearby at Sag Harbor 7 Jun (HMcG). Eastward-colonizing Clay-colored Sparrows were at Jay Twp., *Essex*, NY through Jun (P. Osenbaugh), in the Adirondacks, and at Hoffman Park, *Hunterdon*, NJ 2–4 Jun (*vide* FS), plus a half-dozen known sites in w. New York. Henslow's Sparrows are now confined to this Region's n. rim, and they are scarce there. The recently prosperous Lancaster Twp. site, just e. of Buffalo, had only 3–5 (MM). Around Rochester, only one site was inhabited, near Geneseo (J. Kimball). Numbers were

low in the St. Lawrence Valley: 6-8 at Perch River W.M.A., 5-6 in Fort Drum, and a few individuals elsewhere in *Jefferson*. (JB). A singing male Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was documented at the Chazy Riverlands, Clinton, NY 2 & 13 Jul (B. Krueger). Breeding is unknown nearer than Québec. Dark-eyed Junco, a formerly common breeder, is now absent in summer from Jenny L., Saratoga, NY, probably because deer have browsed the understorey so heavily (RPY).

Dickcissels seem bent on re-establishing their nineteenth-century e. breeding range. Near Sharon Springs, *Schoharie*, a pair fledged young (P. Doherty), probably the first confirmed New York breeding record since 1988. Elsewhere, singing males frequented Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn (S. Blodgett, S. Nanz et al.) and near Harrington, *Kent*, DE (CB et al.). A territorial male Orchard Oriole in Rutland Twp., *Jefferson*, NY through 2 Jun (C. Reidy et al.) was far n. of known breeding areas. They are increasing around Syracuse (M. Scilingo) and have bred continuously since 2001 in Central Park, New York City (DA). Purple Finches had a good breeding season in the s. Adirondacks at Jenny L., *Saratoga* and probably elsewhere, regaining some ground lost in their mysterious 1992 crash (RPY). Even though last winter's invasion was minor, a juv. Pine Siskin attended a feeder at Wells

Mills County Park, *Ocean*, NJ 5 Jul (FL), and a few wandered as far s. as Cape May (K. Johnson, MO'B, RC).

Observers (subregional compilers in bold-face): **Deborah Allen** (Central Park, NYC), **Robert Andrlé** (Niagara Frontier), **Tim Baird** (TbD), **Scott Barnes** (n. coastal New Jersey: scott.barnes@njaudubon.org; Sandy Hook Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 533, Fort Hancock, NJ 07732), **Chris Bennett** (Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Conservation), **Michael Bochnik** (Lower Hudson Valley: BochnikM@cs.com; 86 Empire St., Yonkers, NY 10704), **Jeff Bolsinger** (St. Lawrence, NY: cadybols@gisco.net; 98 State St., Canton, NY 13617), **T. W. Burke** (NY Rare Bird Alert), **Kathy Clark** (N.J.D.F.G.W.), **Richard Crossley**, **Paul Driver** (sw. New Jersey: pjdeye@aol.com; 915 Melrose Ave., Elkins Park, PA 19027), **A. P. Ednie** (Delaware: ednieap@wittnet.com; 59 Lawson Ave., Claymont, DE 19703), **Vince Elia** (s. coastal New Jersey: vje@njaudubon.org; 106 Carolina Ave., Villas, NJ 08251), **Ken Feustel**, **Yigal Gelb** (New York City Audubon), **K. C. Griffith** (Genesee, NY: ckgrif@localnet.com; 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), **Mary Gustafson**, **Helen Hays** (Great Gull Island), **Spencer Hunt** (Susquehanna, NY: hunts493@clarityconnect.com; 493 Glenmary Dr., Owego, NY 13827), **Jim Kimball**, R.

J. Kurtz, **A. J. Lauro**, **Paul E. Lehman**, **Fred Lesser**, **Pat Lindsay** (PLi), **Linda Mack**, **Hugh McGuinness** (e. Long Island: hmccguinness@ross.org; 12 Round Pond La., Sag Harbor, NY 11963), **Shaibal Mitra** (Long Island: mitra@mail.csi.cuny.edu; P.O. Box 142, Brightwaters, NY 11718), **Michael Morgante** (Niagara Frontier: mormg@adelphia.net; 59 Briar Hill Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127), **Michael O'Brien**, **Bill Ostrander** (Finger Lakes: brown_creeper@sg23.com; 872 Harris Hill Rd., Elmira, NY 14903), **Jack Passie**, **Bruce Peterjohn**, **J. M. C. Peterson** (Adirondack-Champlain: 477 County Route 8, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), **Bill Purcell** (Oneida Lake Basin: wpurcell@twcny.rr.com; 281 Baum Rd., Hastings, NY 13076), **Barbara Putnam** (Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club), **Rick Radis** (n.-cen. New Jersey: isotria@bellatlantic.net; 69 Ogden Ave., Rockaway, NJ 07866), **Don Riepe** (Jamaica Bay), **Rochester Birding Association**, **Frank Rohrbacher** (Delaware Bird Records Committee), **Frank Sencher, Jr.** (nw. New Jersey: fjsencher@aol.com; 43 Church Rd, Milford, NJ 08848); **R. G. Spahn** (Genesee Ornithological Society), **Pat Sutton** (Cape May B.O.), **Dave Tetlow**, **Chris Vogel**, **R. T. Waterman Bird Club** (*Dutchess*, NY), **Will Yandik** (Hudson-Mohawk: wyandik@hotmail.com; 269 Schneider Rd., Hudson, NY 12534), **Robert P. Yunick**, **John Zarudski**, **Brian Zitani**. ☉

The summer season was exceptionally warm but not particularly wet in Virginia and Maryland, and impounded areas for shorebirds had optimal habitat; rainfall, though adequate for most crops, was not sufficient to flood farm fields to provide additional shorebird habitat, and July counts of adult shorebirds were average or below average. On the outer beaches, a die-off of shearwaters made local and national headlines.

Most of the season's exciting news was provided by the Region's diligent, diverse crew of conservation biologists, who turned in fascinating reports on Coastal Plain Swamp Sparrow, Cliff Swallow, Golden-winged Warbler, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and many colonial waterbirds. Our thanks in particular to Bryan D. Watts of the Center for Conservation Biology, College of William and Mary, for keeping the birding public abreast of its many important projects

Todd M. Day

5118 Beaver Dam Road
Jefferson, Virginia 22724
(blkvulture@aol.com)

Middle Atlantic

