

## WATERFOWL THROUGH FRIGATEBIRD

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Delaware's 3rd, visited Woodland Beach 18 Jul (Andrew Leidig et al., ph. Derek Stoner), marking the northeastern edge of a general incursion into the cen. and se. states this season. A few non-breeding geese often summer on the coast; more unexpected inland were 2 Brant at the Chazy Riverlands 14 Jul (BK) and 8 Snow Geese at Lowville, Lewis, NY 23 Jun (JB). Introduced Trumpeter Swans seem to be establishing themselves in upstate New York, for good or ill. Pairs with young were noted just e. of the Monroe/Wayne line (RGS, Susan Spahn) and at the Perch River W.M.A., Jefferson (JB), while apparent nonbreeders summered at Montezuma, at Savannah, Wayne, and at Watertown, Jefferson. Eight broods of Ring-necked Ducks, a relatively recent breeder in the Saint Lawrence Valley, were found at Upper and Lower Lakes (JB). A male Bufflehead at Batavia 16 Jun (WW) was the most unusual among widespread summering diving ducks. Ruddy Ducks no longer breed in the Region, as far as we know, but 27 lingered at Batavia in mid-Jul, and a few individuals remained coastally in all three states. A male at the Chazy Riverlands 4-7 Jul (BK, Charles Mitchell) was the first Adirondack summer record.

We now have the 2006 census results from the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program: a survey on 15 Jul 2006 of 221 lakes and ponds (mostly in the Adirondack Park) found 578 Common Loons on 158 water bodies (79% of those surveyed), of which 493 were ads., 67 were chicks, and 18 were juvs. (*Adirondack Tremolo* 6: 1; 2006-2007 winter newsletter). Numbers have declined slightly since these counts began in 2001. Red-necked Grebes have bred in s. Ontario, so a pair performing courtship display 11 Jun at Upper and Lower Lakes attracted attention (JB). Another in basic plumage lingered there 8 Jul (WR), and still another was in the Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve, Franklin, NY 30 Jul (Hollis White). One American White Pelican seen occasionally at Montezuma was actually a low number,

considering the recent surge of sightings. Once exceptional rarities, frigatebirds were around for the 3rd consecutive summer. Following a May record, an all-dark individual (thus a male of some species) was offshore n. of Cape May 1 Jun (Alan Brady); one (without particulars) was at Great Egg Harbor Inlet, Atlantic 22 Jun (E. O'Sullivan); and a fe-



The northward march of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks was documented yet again on the East Coast, this time at Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, Kent County, Delaware on 18 July 2007. Photograph by Derek Stoner.

male or imm. followed the Cape May ferry 29 Jul to the Lewes, DE dock, where it tangled with Laughing Gulls (Jason Guerard, ph. Richard Martin). None of these could be conclusively identified to species.

## HERONS

The 22nd New York Harbor Heron survey, sponsored by NYC Audubon, found a general increase since 2004 (the counts are now triennial) from 1711 to 1846 herons on 10 of 16 islands inspected (Andrew Bernick). The main apparent trends were increases in Great Egret (361 nests) and Snowy Egret (308 nests); a decline in Glossy Ibis (254 nests)

**SA** A Western Reef-Heron amazed Anthony Laquidara at South Amboy, Middlesex, NJ 30 Jun. The bird then disappeared, only to turn up 8 Jul at Coney Island Creek in the Dreier-Offerman Park complex (also known as Calvert Vaux Park), Brooklyn, NY (Alex Wilson, AW et al.). It appeared intermittently there through the period, with one additional sighting 14 Jul at South Amboy and a possible flyby at Sandy Hook 9 Jul. This West African coastal species has occurred at least three times and possibly four times in North America. The first record was Nantucket I., MA, 26 Apr-13 Sep 1983. A bird discovered at Rye Harbor, NH 9 Aug 2006 subsequently moved about between Kittery, ME, and adjacent New Hampshire. There are two Canadian records: Stephenville Crossing, Newfoundland, summer 2005; and Glace Bay, Cape Breton I., Nova Scotia 26 Jun-2 Aug 2006. This latter bird could easily be the same as the one found at Rye, NH seven days later. Transatlantic vagrancy in this species seems to be quickening: so striking a heron is unlikely to go unnoticed. These birds probably make the Atlantic crossing, like Cattle Egrets before them, at the narrowest point, arriving in Brazil or the Caribbean and moving northward in spring.

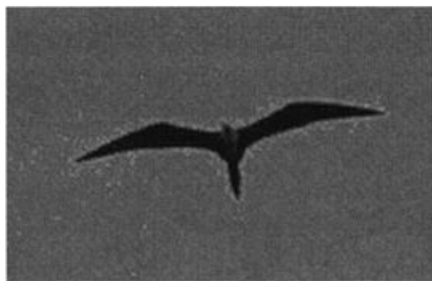


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Summer 2007 was temperate and (along the coast) wet. Beach-nesting species "suffered extensively from heavy rains and flooding" in central New Jersey and perhaps elsewhere, in addition to their normal perils. The season's highlight was a much-pursued Western Reef-Heron that shifted between New Jersey and Brooklyn, establishing first records for two states and the Region. A Roseate Spoonbill in New Jersey and 14 White Ibis in Delaware rounded out a memorable long-legged wader season.

We gratefully thank two major contributors to this column who have retired: Pat Sutton (Cape May Bird Observatory) and Andy Ednie, who assembled the Delaware data for us for nearly a quarter century.

Abbreviations: Batavia (W.T.P., Genesee, NY); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE); Brig (Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); Chazy Riverlands (mouths of Chazy R. on L. Champlain, Clinton, NY); Cupsogue (county park, barrier beach e. of Moriches Inlet, Suffolk, Long I.); D.N.R.E.C. (Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation); Fort Drum (Fort Drum Military Installation, Jefferson, NY); Hamlin Beach (L. Ontario, Monroe, NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, NYC); Jones Beach (Jones Beach S.P., Nassau, Long I.); Montezuma (N.W.R., Seneca, NY); N.J.D.F.G.W. (New Jersey Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife); NYC (New York City); N.Y.D.E.C. (New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation); Plateau Mt. (Catskill summit, Greene, NY); Stone Harbor Pt. (n. side of Hereford Inlet, Cape May, NJ); Upper and Lower Lakes (W.M.A., Canton, St. Lawrence, NY); Woodland Beach (Wildlife Area, Kent, DE).



With the rather surprising increase in records of Lesser Frigatebird in North America in recent years, from a trio of states no one would have guessed (Michigan, Wyoming, and California), observers of this frigatebird at Lewes, Delaware 29 July 2007 wisely left it unidentified to species, though Magnificent is the most likely species involved. Photograph by Richard Martin.

was evident. Black-crowned Night-Heron (802 nests) still predominate. Cattle Egrets hang on by a toenail in New York Harbor (two nests); the Region's only remaining substantial colony is at Pea Patch I., in the Delaware R. off Delaware City (est. 284 pairs, CB). The growth of urban estuary heronries such as those in New York Harbor has coincided with declines in rural heronries. There is now considerable debate about whether heavy metals and other pollutants subject these urban heronries to extra mortality.

A Tricolored Heron at Tiffit Nature Preserve, Buffalo 28 & 30 Jun (Ed Ratajczak, Peter Yoerg) and another photographed at Vischer Ferry, Saratoga, NY 2 & 3 Jun (John Hershey), were far n. of their Long I. breeding limit. The same is true of a Glossy Ibis at Hoosic Falls, Rensselaer/Washington, NY 28 Jul (Kevin Hemeon). Fourteen ad. White Ibis over the beach n. of Indian River Inlet 5 Jun (CB) constituted the largest group ever encountered in Delaware, but none were reported elsewhere. Single White-faced Ibis were picked out of the Glossy Ibis flocks only at Brig 3 Jun (Linda Mack; S. Galick) and at Bombay Hook 23-28 Jul (Clive Harris et al.); perhaps fewer people are looking. A Roseate Spoonbill discovered at Brig 12-19 Jul (John Danzenbaker, K. Ar-

curi, C. Herlands) delighted many into Sep (ph. C. Bohinski et al.). The only previous New Jersey record was at Linden 24 Aug 1992, and the same bird, or another, was on Staten I., NY 20-29 Aug 1992. These are the northernmost East Coast observations.

## RAPTORS

Ospreys continue to fill in the blanks; a nest on the Niagara R. was the first there in decades (MM). Most states no longer census them every year. Ground inspection of 232 New Jersey nests indicated a productivity rate of 1.75, well above average (KC), but perhaps because of food shortage, productivity was low on e. Long I. (Mike Scheibel). After multiple spring records, only one Mississippi Kite hung around Cape May. Elsewhere an ad. male was near Prime Hook W.A., Kent, DE 2 Jun (BGP), and 2 were in Alloway Twp., Salem, NJ 7 Jul (JDo). A breeding record still eludes us.

Bald Eagle, delisted this year as an Endangered Species, climbed again to 122 occupied territories in New York. Fledged young totaled 151, a little below last year's whopping 178, when a third of the nests had three chicks. Significant new breeding areas included the s. shore of L. Ontario, at Irondequoit Bay, and the U.S. side of the Saint Lawrence in Jefferson, as well as several new sites in w. New York (Joe Nye, N.Y.D.E.C.). Eagles built new eyries down the Hudson R. in Ulster (two sites) and Dutchess and to the southeast in Rensselaer and Westchester. A nest in Three Rivers W.M.A. was the first in n. Onondaga in 57 years (WP). New Jersey's Bald Eagle population climbed again to 64 territorial pairs, of which 60 laid eggs and 40 fledged 62 young. The productivity rate (1.03) was a little below average because of Apr storms at the early chick stage (KC). Delaware fledged 41 chicks (Kitt Heckscher, D.N.R.E.C.), compared to 14 a decade ago.

A Sharp-shinned Hawk nest at the Ashland Nature Center, New Castle, DE constituted a first state record (Joe Sebastiani). Merlins continue to expand as breeders in upstate

New York, though not always linearly: last year's sites around Rochester went unoccupied. Elsewhere, five pairs were reported in the Adirondacks without further details (JMCP), while two nests were local firsts in residential neighborhoods of Watertown, Jefferson, and Canton, St. Lawrence (JB). New Jersey had 20 active pairs of Peregrine Falcons that fledged a healthy 45 young, despite the failure in inclement spring weather at three of the state's four natural cliff sites, all on the Hudson River Palisades (KC). New York's 63 territorial pairs fledged a record 127 young. Five new sites were occupied, including an Osprey platform in Jamaica Bay and four upstate cliffs (Barbara Loucks, N.Y.D.E.C.; Chris Nadaresky, NYC Department of Environmental Protection).

## CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Sandhill Crane pair nested for the 5th year at the initial New York breeding site, near Savannah, Wayne, this time successfully raising a colt to flying stage (RGS). Two or three others lingered in the w. L. Ontario plain around the Iroquois N.W.R. and Tonawanda W.M.A. (WW, JW). A "lost" Whooping Crane from the e. reintroduction project summered in the Tug Hill region, w. of the Adirondacks (JB).

The number of lingering summering shorebirds, according to observers in both Delaware and Long I., returned to normal after two summers of abnormally high counts. Following a spate of spring and summer records, a female Wilson's Plover visited Stone Harbor 3 Jun (CV). Piping Plovers respond well to protection, against great odds. We now have the 2006 Piping Plover census results for Long I.: 422 to 436 pairs and 619 fledges, up from 182 pairs in 1992 (Michelle Gibbons, N.Y.D.E.C.). In Delaware, where Piping Plovers have clawed their way back from extinction, the remnant population at Cape Henlopen produced nine nests (one more than last year). New Jersey's Piping Plovers gained 11% to 129 pairs, somewhat above the twenty-year average, but the reproduction rate was a "dismal" 0.65 (TP).

An American Oystercatcher established a first nw. New Jersey record at Swartswood L., Sussex, NJ 3 Jun (Rose Hooley et al., ph), on a day of rain and northeasterly wind. American Avocets touched down, as usual, well n. of their habitual Delaware post-breeding assemblage. They have been nearly annual in recent years on the L. Erie shore, but three reports (Dunkirk Harbor, Silver Creek, and Canadaway Creek) 6-27 Jul (WW, Dave Neveu) were the most in memory. Two paused briefly at Cupsogue 17-18 Jun (Andy Baldelli).

A gratifying count of 12-15 Upland Sand-

**SA** Raptors are a growing feature of New York City's avifauna. A survey by NYC Audubon found eight raptor species—five diurnal and three nocturnal—breeding within the city during 2007 (CG). There were 15 confirmed and one probable Osprey nests, 10 of these at Jamaica Bay, where the first NYC nest in a century was found in 1991 (Don Riepe). One Cooper's Hawk, rarest of the five diurnal species, was confirmed nesting on Staten I., plus two possibles in Brooklyn. (A successful nest at Cape May further illustrated this accipiter's growing acceptance of residential areas.) A potential sixth diurnal NYC raptor, Red-shouldered Hawk, an occasional nester at the Bronx Zoo, was missing in 2007. The most conspicuous NYC raptor, Red-tailed Hawk, rose to 21 confirmed nests plus 11 probables and four possibles. Ironically, the Fifth Avenue site where it all began in 1993 with "Pale Male" failed again.

Twelve American Kestrel nests were confirmed in the city, plus 16 probables and 22 possibles. More are likely, as these cavity nesters are easily overlooked amid rooftop clutter. Urban success is good news for American Kestrels; rural declines are alarming. A survey in Delaware confirmed only two nests in 2007 and several possibles, down from 200-500 in 1990. Nest boxes work well: five of 24 boxes in Franklin, NY in the Adirondacks produced 18 young (Mark Manske).

**SA** Red Knots peaked at 12,375 in the aerial survey of the Delaware Bay shorebird concentration on 29 May, the lowest yet (KC), down 90% in 10 years. Since Horseshoe Crabs take 11 years to mature, harvest reductions will make more eggs available only slowly. And those reductions are challenged. In Delaware, a two-year harvest ban was overturned on 8 Jun by a Superior Court judge, who ruled that the crab fishermen's interests had been insufficiently taken into account. The Fish and Wildlife Service declined earlier this year to list the *rufa* subspecies of Red Knot as Endangered. The situation is beyond deplorable.

pipers at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station, Ocean, NJ 14 Jul marked this species' present s. limit, after a half-century of retraction. They have apparently abandoned JFK Airport. At least 6 frequented Blue Chip Farm, Orange, NY in mid-Jun (Pat Pollock, Eve Levine, Omar Morales, Stephanie Seymour), and a small number of active sites in upstate New York includes Tillman W.M.A., near Buffalo; Sharon Springs, Schoharie; Fort Edward, Washington (Mona Bearor); and Ames, Montgomery (WR). Regrettably, only 4 inhabited a section of Fort Drum, formerly the upstate stronghold, where 15-16 pairs used to be found (JB), though some additional birds frequent adjacent Wheeler-Sack Airfield, where access is limited. Fort Drum is very active with deployments to the Middle East, which has produced a boom in real estate development (JB).

Three Curlew Sandpipers continued the pace from spring, recalling the great 1950s-1960s. One bright bird arrived at Cupsogue 30 Jun-1 Jul (SM, m.ob.). Another was at Jamaica Bay 22 Jul (PLI, m.ob.), and a 3rd graced Stone Harbor Pt. 18-19 Jul (CV). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper in a ploughed field near Hamlin Beach 25 Jul (DT) was the earliest ever for New York. Only 2 Ruffs appeared: one at Brig 4-5 Jun (B. Hiesch), and a fading black-and-chestnut male at Taylor's Gut, n. of Woodland Beach, DE 12-15 Jul (Colin Campbell, Michael Bowen). Only single Wilson's Phalaropes visited the classic coastal sites such as Jamaica Bay, Brig, Bombay Hook, and Woodland Beach.

## GULLS THROUGH TERNS

A first-summer Laughing Gull prospecting as far inland as Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, NJ 3-4 Jun (FS, John DeMarrais, Sam Galick). A first-summer Franklin's Gull at Pickering Beach, Kent, DE 4 Jul (BGP) was one of few reports in recent years. A third-cycle California Gull at South Cape May Meadows 28 Jun (Michael O'Brien, PEL) would be a 3rd state record and is unprecedented in summer. Six Lesser Black-backed Gulls across the three

states, all coastal except one at the dump area near Florence, Burlington, NJ 9 Jun (Tom Bailey), now seems a normal count in summer. A Glaucous Gull at Greece, Monroe, NY 18 Jul (DT) was the first local Jul record. A first-summer Little Gull, exceptional in midsummer, turned up at Cupsogue 15 Jul (Andy Guthrie, AW), and what was probably the same bird was at nearby Sag Pond 23 Jul and Mecox Flats 24-25 Jul (AW).

The center of Gull-billed Tern density in this Region is Brig, where a maximum of 22 was present 21 Jul. Five nested in Barnegat Bay, NJ (JBU). At their n. limit, three or four pairs apparently bred in the Great South Bay in Hempstead, Long I. (JZ), and repeated summer sightings at Jamaica Bay suggest they may be breeding nearby. The Region's one Caspian Tern colony, Little Galloo I. in L. Ontario, contained 1580 nests 6 Jun (JB), and there was a lone nest in Barnegat Bay, NJ (JBU), as has occurred occasionally since 1984. N.Y.D.E.C. personnel collected 271 Caspian Tern carcasses along the L. Ontario shoreline, thought to be victims of Type E Botulism. This outbreak was less severe than that of last summer. Royal Terns made news at Stone Harbor. Summer visitors have been regular, occasionally displayed courtship behavior, but an influx of some 200 birds this Jun produced about 20 nests and 15 fledglings (CV, TP). The state's only previous breeding record was one in 1988. A Sandwich Tern was photographed at Breezy Pt., on w. Long I. 15 Jul (Alexander Hellquist), and a few now summer regularly at Cape May. About 1300 Roseate Tern chicks were banded at Great Gull I., a slight gain, but the species' main problem on Long I. is the absence of any significant alternative colony there since 1995. Two or 3 hung around Cape May, as in most recent summers, and, more unusually, singles were at Sandy Hook 24 Jul (SB) and 29 Jul and at Leonardo on Raritan Bay 28 Jul (both Tom Boyle), but breeding in the Region remains unproven s. of Long Island. Forster's Terns continue to nest as far ne. as Hempstead, Suffolk, Long I. (327 pairs, JZ). Five ads. at Cupsogue 17 Jun included a displaying pair (SM), perhaps presaging further eastward expansion. Destruction of Forster's Tern nests by Jul rains in Barnegat Bay, NJ (JBU) could explain wanderers to Round Valley Res., Hunterdon, NJ 17 Jul (FS, Frank Sencher,

Sr.) and even to L. Champlain at the Chazy Riverlands 6 Jul (BK, Nancy Olsen), the first Adirondack record. Two were exceptional on 9 Jun at Olcott, Niagara, NY on L. Ontario (WD'A, BeP), more likely off course from the s. Ontario population. Black Terns, limited to far upstate New York, have rebounded to 209 pairs from only 133 in 2001, according to the N.Y.D.E.C.'s triennial survey (Irene Maz-zochi), still far below the 284 pairs of 1991. Interior wetlands produce more Black Terns than L. Ontario shoreline wetlands, where habitat quality is declining.

## OWLS THROUGH THRUSHES

Nocturnal raptors censused in NYC included eight confirmed Barn Owl nests (mostly at Jamaica Bay), plus sixteen probables and five possibles; two confirmed nests of Eastern Screech-Owl and nine probables (mostly on



Still a shocking vagrant in the mid-Atlantic states, this Roseate Spoonbill at Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey (a.k.a., Brigantine) arrived 14 July 2007 and stayed for nearly three months (last documented 7 October 2007). Photograph by Christopher James Bohinski.

Staten I.); and two confirmed Great Horned Owl nests (one each in the Bronx and Queens), plus several on Staten Island.

Red-headed Woodpeckers hung on in a few widely dispersed lowland areas, primarily on the L. Ontario plain, the upper Saint Lawrence Valley, and s. coastal New Jersey. The best concentrations reported to us were 5 on Fort Drum, St. Lawrence (JB) and 2 in a Red-headed Woodpecker Habitat Enhancement Area in Brendan Byrne (formerly Lebanon) S.F., Burlington/Ocean, NJ. American Three-toed Woodpeckers were found only at Ferd's Bog, Hamilton, NY, while there were seven Adirondack reports of Black-backed Woodpecker.

Flycatcher migration continued as usual well into Jun, as witnessed by 28 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers banded at Manitou, Monroe, NY 5 Jun (RMcK). An impressive 24 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were counted at dawn 7 Jun atop Plateau Mt. (SC). Acadian Flycatch-

ers are prospering. A pair well documented at Petersburg, *Rensselaer*, e. of the Hudson Valley, was well n. of 1988 atlas limits (ph., vt. Hope Batchellor). An unprecedented number settled in NYC parks (Central, Prospect, Forest), on Staten I., at Jamaica Bay, and in Eastport, Long Island.

Something bizarre got into Red-breasted Nuthatches. Invasion years usually materialize in late summer, but Red-breasted Nuthatches started turning up in mid-Jun in coastal lowlands well away from their known breeding outposts in ornamental pine plantations. A few solitary Jun records are known, but never such a cavalcade of them: East Islip, *Suffolk*, Long I. 14 Jun (SM); Cape May 18 & 23 Jun (George Myers, Karl Lukens, Tom Parsons et al.); and Montauk Pt., Long I. 23 Jun (JG). Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were at Napeague, *Suffolk*, Long I. 1 Jul (J. Osterlund); one was on Staten I., NY 2 Jul (Howie Fischer); 5 were in Alloway Twp., *Salem*, NJ 7 Jul (JDo); and one was near Hockessin, *New Castle*, DE 4 Jul (Bob Rufe). Records proliferated in Jul in the coastal lowlands of all three states, including outer headlands. Curiously, our reporters in the Adirondacks noted nothing out of the ordinary.

Elusive Sedge Wrens continued at Bombay Hook, as usual, but were scanty elsewhere, mostly in upstate New York wetlands: Savannah, *Wayne* (KCG); Braddock Bay, *Monroe* (DT, C Gates); and especially Upper and Lower Lakes (11 on 4 Jul, JB). Two were a good find at Sharon Springs, *Schoharie*, NY 30 Jun (Andy Mason). Bicknell's Thrushes inhabited 15 Adirondack peaks, with a maximum of 13 on Blue Mt. 7 Jun (Joan Collins). A remarkable 23 were on Plateau Mt. at dawn 7 Jun (SC), a Catskill summit whose dwarf spruce cap could disappear with global warming.

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A dawn count of 32 Blackpoll Warblers on Plateau Mt. 7 Jun (SC) indicates the health of the southerly Catskill population. One at Wilson, *Niagara*, NY 18 Jun (BeP) was exceptionally late. Northerly Prothonotary Warblers continued at Tonawanda W.M.A., *Erie*, NY and at two sites on Oneida L.: Shackleton Pt., *Madison* and Big Bay, *Oswego* (WP). Breeding was confirmed e. of previously known locations in East Hampton, *Suffolk*, Long I. (SM, PLI, JG, Betsy McCully), and another one was observed at nearby Sag Harbor in early Jun (Bob Wilson). Hooded Warblers have become one of the most abundant warblers in the lower Hudson Valley, and apparent breeding pairs were found well n. of 1988 atlas limits at New Salem and Clarksville, both *Albany*, NY (Dave Baim, Ron Harrower).

Clay-colored Sparrows are now fully established breeders in upstate New York. From Fort Drum come counts of 14 singing males 7 Jun and 19 in a different part of the Fort 1 Jul (JB). Richard Rosche found them "with regularity" in proper habitat in *Wyoming*, *Cattaraugus*, and *Allegany*. The southernmost bird known to us was at Sharon Springs, *Schoharie* (WY). A Lark Sparrow was extraordinarily early at Brig 6 Jun (Nancy Cooke, Stehen Liebhaber).

Significant grassland habitat is being managed for wildlife at the 2700-acre Duke Farms, *Somerset*, NJ. Breeding there in 2007 were 35-40 pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows; two pairs of Dickcissels (the first New Jersey nesting record since 1998); approximately 50 pairs of Bobolinks; and 10-15 pairs of Eastern Meadowlarks (a species in real difficulty in this Region). Henslow's Sparrows bred there in 2006, the first in New Jersey since 1994, but they did not return in 2007 (Chris Aquila). All other Henslow's Sparrow reports came from New York: Sharon Springs, *Schoharie* (Bill Lee, WR, Matt Liebers); sites in both *Livingstone* and *Genesee*; and 7 in Fort Drum (JB). A singing male Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Fort Drum 1 Jun (JB) may have been a late migrant, but breeding should be watched for.

A White-crowned Sparrow singing in Greece, *Monroe* 25 Jun and observed sporadically all summer (DT, Kathy Tetlow, KG) was curious but not entirely unprecedented. Another at Moose River Plains, in the Adirondacks, 13 Jun (RMcK) was extremely late for a migrant. A Dark-eyed Junco photographed at Jones Beach 15 Jul (Sy Schiff) belongs to a w. form, although the photograph does not permit certainty about which one. Even a Slate-colored Junco would be unprecedented there in midsummer.

In addition to the Duke Farms Dickcissels, the Region's only confirmed nesting pairs, 2 more were observed at Mannington, *Salem*, NJ through mid-Jun (Frank Lenik), and another was seen 10 Jun at Tonawanda W.M.A., in the L. Ontario plain (JW). One was a surprise over Hamlin Beach 27 Jul (RGS). An ad. female **Snow Bunting** was truly bizarre at Piermont Pier, *Rockland*, NY 20-25 Jun (Tom Dow, ph. Alan Wells). We know of no other Regional summer record. A very early female Yellow-headed Blackbird lingered at Jones Beach 6-mid-Jul (Corey Finger, m.ob.). An ad. and a juv. Pine Siskin at feeders at Wells Mills County Park, *Ocean*, NJ 12 Jul (Fred Lesser) could have bred nearby.

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