

## July 2016 Sightings Report

Drought! A hot, dry July! Temperatures averaged 74.8 °F, 4.0° above normal, and precipitation totaled only 1.22", 2.11" below normal. It was the 7<sup>th</sup> warmest July on record, though no daily records were set. On 9 days, the highs exceeded 90°. Half of the meager rainfall occurred on the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. There was some relief from thunderstorms, but these effects were very local. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> driest June and July period on record. Still, surprisingly Lake Ontario levels remained high and shorebird habitat very poor both in our area and nearby. Conditions were good for birders to get out, and a good species total was amassed. About 17,689 total eBird "records" were submitted, about 50% more than last July. An effect was a jump in the species total for the month.

With the drought, there were very few waterbirds reported. Ducks were either at the remaining wetlands in the NMWMA or at larger lakes and ponds. Numbers were low. The injured Snow Goose was reported in the Van Dyne Spoor area thru mid-month. Still, by late month the usual early or summering loons and a passing Red-necked Grebe were reported from Hamlin Beach State Park. An interesting surprise was 32 Great Egrets on the 28<sup>th</sup> at Northrup Creek, just inland from Long Pond in Greece.

There were no especially notable raptor observations for the month. Apparently, there was no effort, or at least no reporting of the usual July hawk movement from Braddock Bay. There was a likely Merlin nesting again in the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward, and the Rochester Peregrine Falcons continued to be observed and tracked through the month along with additional birds from more distant sites.

Given the dry month, 18 species of shorebirds was a good total. Reports were from scattered locations with muddy margins around ponds or from along the Lake Ontario shore. In the last week of the month, scarcer species, Willet and Whimbrel and a very rare Marbled Godwit, were sighted from locations spanning the lakeshore in our region; all singles and brief encounters. In the first half of the month there were three reports of White-rumped Sandpiper, all before the previous record early date. Several expected species were missed, though reported from neighboring regions.

Unsurprisingly, gull numbers remained fairly low, though juvenile Ring-billed Gulls and Caspian Terns started appearing. Bonaparte's Gulls reappeared, a rare subadult Laughing Gull passed Hamlin Beach, more Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported, and numbers increased for the regular terns, including a couple of Forster's Terns.

Again, MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival) work, continued low level banding at BBBO, and the general input of records to eBird and geneseebirds resulted in a number of passerine species reported at above normal counts, all of the expected species for the time of year plus a few surprises. A few maxima are noted, but there are really no particularly high counts among the passerines; the examples cited are just illustrations. High counts can be an interesting topic for

discussion; often they are simply a function of somebody deciding to actually count carefully or function of the size of the area and length of time over which the number was accumulated. There were again no really rare birds in this large group. Early migrants or at least birds away from their typical breeding areas included: Swainson's Thrush, Ovenbird, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow at lakeshore sites. Clay-colored Sparrow reports continued from three locations. Several lines in the table of numbers of Yellow Warbler banded late in the month are a reminder that many species, including Yellow Warbler, move out and can be encountered in large numbers by late July. Similarly for the peak numbers of swallows noted, though these are minuscule relative to observations not too many years ago for especially Bank Swallow along the lakeshore at this time of year. The only passerine I might consider "missed" in July was Black-throated Blue Warbler, and it is a relatively scarce breeder in the region. Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, and Golden-crowned Kinglet again seemed scarce; all had few eBird records submitted.

The slow month provides an opportunity to once more advocate for eBird as the best way to input and archive your records in a database from which interested people can download and analyze the data in many ways. eBird provides many tools to help in this and continues to add to these. However, this month's data also provides reminders that such data cannot be simply dumped and played with statistically uncritically. The user should be sure to read the notes that accompany the tools and also to think about how the data is gathered and exactly how it can be analyzed. Examples of potential distortions include shared lists, e.g a group of 19 birders out together and sharing a list of 28 species shows as 19 x 28 = 542 records instead of the 28 records appropriate to most analyses; the issues around "aggregation" in comparing high counts; and how one treats daily submissions for likely the same bird(s) coming to a feeder or food source; Just a reminder to stop and think or to ask questions relative to conclusions based on such data. Please submit reports to eBird, post them on geneseebirds, and/or send by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month to Andrea Patterson, 144 Greystone Lane, #24, Rochester, NY 14618.

	2016	2015	10-year Average (2006-2015)
Species for July	181	173	168.1
New for the year	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3.4</u>
Total for the year to date	270	270	269.5

*Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee*

**July Observers:** Jim Adams, Janet Akin, John Ballou, Jessie Barry, **Jim** Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Betty Beckham, Don Bemont, Linda Clark-Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, John Boettcher, Lynn Braband, Robert Buckert, Sebastiajn Cabanne, Bruce Cady, Corey Callaghan, Doug Cameron, Brad Carlson, Gary Chapin, Kelly Close, Andrew Consler, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Susan Danskin, Ian Davies, Steve Denning, Crystal Doyle, Kelly & Mark Fitzsimmons, George Ford, Andy Garland, Sheryl Gracewski, Kevin

Griffith, Aidan & Devin Griffiths, Michael Gullo, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Andrew Guthrie, Mike Habberfield, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Peter Hawrylyshyn, Raul Heitmann, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Chris Lajewski, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Alexander Lees, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Matt Medler, Jim Miles, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, IBA Monitoring, Celeste

Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Nargila Moura, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Cody Nichols, Michael Palermo, Andrea Patterson, Norma Platt, Jon Podoliak, Jay Powell, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Jesse Rubenstein, Jackie Salsbury, Livia Santana, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Joseph Stevenson, Kim Sucy, Steve Taylor, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget Watts, Drew Weber, Joe Wing, Chris Wood.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

JULY 2016

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Snow Goose	1	<u>thru 13</u>	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	mob
Trumpeter Swan	2	<u>23</u>	<u>West Port Bay Pt (Wayne Co.)</u>	P. Heitmann
Gadwall	1	<u>30</u>	<u>Hamlin Beach SR</u>	C. Callaghan, A. Guthrie
American Black Duck	<u>max 1, LOW</u>	18-30	2 locations	sev
Northern Shoveler	2	<u>29</u>	NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit)	C. Lajewski, <i>et al.</i>
Green-winged Teal	<u>max 5</u>	24	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	S. Denning
Canvasback	3	<u>29</u>	NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit)	C. Lajewski, <i>et al.</i>
Common Merganser	5	<u>28</u>	<u>Hamlin Beach SP</u>	A.Guthrie
Red-throated Loon	2	<u>21</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	A.Guthrie
Common Loon	1	<u>3</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	E. Gyllenhaal, G. Lawrence
Common Loon	1-3	<u>14, 28, 29</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	A.Guthrie
Red-necked Grebe	1	<u>28FF</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	A.Guthrie
Great Egret	<u>max 32</u>	28	<u>Northrup Creek (Greece)</u>	S. Taylor, A. Guthrie, <i>et al.</i>
<u>Yellow-crowned Night-Heron</u>	1	22	NMWMA (near MAC)	C. Nichols - ph
<u>Red-shouldered Hawk</u>	1	3	Canadice Lake area	E. Gyllenhaal, G. Lawrence
Semipalmated Plover	2	<u>26FF</u>	NMWMA (Colvin Marsh)	J. Wing
Killdeer	<u>max 74</u>	21	Church Rd (Hamlin)	A. Guthrie
Solitary Sandpiper	2	<u>3FF</u>	Hogan Pt (Greece)	A. Guthrie, K. Sucy
Greater Yellowlegs	1	<u>6FF</u>	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	Ji. Miles
<u>Willet</u>	1	<u>25</u>	Summerville Pier	M. Tetlow, 4 other obs
Upland Sandpiper	1	<u>22FF</u>	Geneseo Airfield	R. Buckert
Whimbrel	1	<u>22FF</u>	West Port Bay Pt (Wayne Co.)	M. & M. Rowley
<u>Marbled Godwit</u>	1	30F	Hamlin Beach SP	C. Callaghan, A. Guthrie, Bri. Morse
Stilt Sandpiper	1	<u>17FF</u>	King's Bend Park (Pittsford)	P. Martin, 4+ other obs
Sanderling	2	<u>15FF</u>	Sodus Pt.	J. Wing
Least Sandpiper	<u>max 40</u>	24	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	S. Denning
White-rumper Sandpiper	1	<u>7FF</u>	Henpeck Park-Erie Canal	P. Hawrylyshyn
White-rumper Sandpiper	1	<u>9</u>	Sodus Bay--Sodus Point	M. Gullo
White-rumper Sandpiper	1	<u>15</u>	Avon DEC Ponds (Twin Cedars)	M. Wasilco
Pectoral Sandpiper	5	<u>22FF</u>	Groveland Hill Pnd (Livingston Co.)	K. Close
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1	<u>9FF</u>	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	J. McGowan
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<u>max 35</u>	26	NMWMA (Colvin Marsh)	J. Wing
Short-billed Dowitcher	2; 4	<u>13FF</u>	King's Bend Park (Pittsford)	D. Bemont; Ji. Miles
Bonaparte's Gull	2; 3	<u>19FF</u>	IB Outlet; Hamlin Beach SP	Ji. Miles; N. Kachala
<u>Laughing Gull</u>	1 sub ad	28	Hamlin Beach SP	A.Guthrie
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	<u>1 1st sum</u>	5, 8, 8, 31	Hamlin Beach SP	A.Guthrie
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	<u>1 1st sum</u>	9	Lakeshore Rd (T Kent)	A.Guthrie, Bri. Morse
Caspian Tern	<u>max 84</u>	30	Hamlin Beach SP	A.Guthrie
Black Tern	<u>max 15</u>	4	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	A. Lees, N. Moura, S. Cabanne
Forster's Tern	1 sub ad	<u>14-15FF</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	A.Guthrie
Red-headed Woodpecker	1-4 ea	all month	<u>6 locations</u>	mob

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

JULY 2016

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<u>max 20</u>	24	Cumming Nature Center	R. & S. Spahn
Least Flycatcher	<u>3B</u>	<u>16-17</u>	Manitou (BBBO)	A. Patterson
American Kestrel	<u>max 16</u>	24	Genesee County Airport	S. Barth
<u>Merlin nesting?</u>	1	2	19th Ward, Rochester	L. Braband
<u>Merlin</u>	1	27-31	3 locations	sev
<u>Peregrine Falcon</u>	1	9, 14, 23	Rochester	sev
<u>Fish Crow</u>	2	17	<u>N. Wolcott (Wayne Co.)</u>	W. & M. Rowley
<u>Fish Crow</u>	<u>max 7</u>	23	Charlotte area and nearby	A. Guthrie
N. Rough-winged Swallow	<u>max 200</u>	5	Braddock Bay	K. Sucy
Tree Swallow	<u>max 500</u>	20	Hamlin Beach SP	P. Heitmann
Bank Swallow	<u>max 850</u>	1	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<u>max 8</u>	3	H.H. Spencer SRA	E. Gyllenhaal, G. Lawrence
Swainson's Thrush	1 B	<u>17</u>	<u>Manitou (BBBO)</u>	A. Patterson
Ovenbird	2B	<u>11, 15</u>	<u>Manitou (BBBO)</u>	A. Patterson
Tennessee Warbler	1B, 2nd yr m	<u>24FF</u>	Manitou (BBBO)	A. Patterson
Nashville Warbler	1	<u>24FF</u>	<u>Williamson Town Park</u>	P. Heitmann
Yellow Warbler	<u>31B</u>	<u>21</u>	Manitou (BBBO)	A. Patterson
Yellow Warbler	<u>14B</u>	<u>22</u>	Manitou (BBBO)	A. Patterson
Yellow Warbler	<u>18B</u>	<u>23</u>	Manitou (BBBO)	A. Patterson
Yellow Warbler	<u>78B</u>	<u>24</u>	Manitou (BBBO)	A. Patterson
Canada Warbler	1	<u>2; 10</u>	<u>Garlinghouse Rd. (Ontario Co.)</u>	B. Howe; M. Gullo
<u>Clay-colored Sparrow</u>	2; 1	1; 6	Hamlin (Cook Rd)	A. Guthrie; K. Griffith
<u>Clay-colored Sparrow</u>	1-2	3-11	Ballatyne Rd. area	5 obs
<u>Clay-colored Sparrow</u>	1	9	T Kendall	A. Guthrie, Bri. Morse
White-throated Sparrow	2	<u>24</u>	Manitou (BBBO)	A. Patterson
Bobolink	<u>max 80</u>	17	Honeoye Creek WMA	K. Kirsch
Red-winged Blackbird	<u>max 200</u>	5	Braddock Bay Park	K. Sucy
Common Grackle	<u>max 240 ea</u>	28	Erie Canal, 2 loc Wayne Co.	D. Spier
Pine Siskin	1-2	<u>7-27</u>	Lake Rd, T Webster	P. Mabb
Pine Siskin	1-2	<u>8-18</u>	Rochester	J. & V. Lindberg
Pine Siskin	2-3	<u>2-11</u>	Durand-Eastman Park area	Ad. Mitchell