

## August 2018 Sightings Report

It was a hot humid, month, relieved periodically by cold fronts and showers. Temperatures averaged 73.6 °F, 4.3° above normal and the eighth warmest on record. On 23 of the days the average temperature was above normal, and on 18 days it stayed above 65°. Still, the only record was a record high low on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Rain fell off and on through the 14<sup>th</sup>, but precipitation totaled just 2.67", 0.80" below normal. There were heavy rains to our south and east on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 2-4" fell in the metro area on the 14<sup>th</sup>, but only 0.84" was actually recorded at the airport on that peak date.

The total number of species reported was down a bit but still above average at 196. The only misses were species that require extra effort to search out late in the breeding season. That said, much of the time migration seemed slow and numbers low. A total of 338 new bands at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) banding station is a slow start, but this year started later, on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Only 16 species of warblers were banded, but again observers reported 26 species total for the third year in a row. About 23,712 eBird records were downloaded, up about a third from last year.

Again, waterfowl numbers were low and dominated by puddle ducks. The only diving ducks were Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, and a Long-tailed Duck, and a few reports each of the 3 merganser species. Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, and Red-necked Grebe arrived on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, and Common Loon sightings were scattered through the month.

Double-crested Cormorant was again reported in good numbers, all along the Lake Ontario shore and elsewhere in the region. Great Egrets were scattered about, but there were no really high counts. Once again, there were no reports of rarer, wandering, post-breeding herons.

Again there was no formal hawk watch, but interested observers caught some good movements of Red-tailed Hawks and small numbers of other species. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon sightings were again typical of recent years. Again this year, the only details on likely Merlin nesting success in the region came from Geneseo.

A special event for this late summer was the apparent killing off of the cattails at Van Dyne Spoor in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA), resulting in great visibility of some of the marsh species there. Counts of Common Gallinule approached 300, limited really by the time it would take to do an accurate count. In contrast, observations of Sandhill Crane families were down.

Moderately high water, dry fields, and a good growing season for cattails have combined to leave us with generally poor shorebird habitat. The regional shorebird hotspot has been the new barrier beach constructed off the East Spit of Braddock Bay. Parts can be viewed from the spit or other distant sites, but serious searching requires a boat of some sort. The usual beaches and piers plus passing birds did produce reports of 24 shorebird species. Scarcer species included: Upland

Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Red Knot, and Wilson's Phalarope. Numbers of individuals were low, other than a couple of good counts for Sanderling.

Gulls and terns were again lackluster. Once more, no jaegers or really rare gulls were reported. Only the now-usual, few Lesser Black-backed Gulls were on the scarcer side. A single report of a Least Tern, possibly the one from July still hanging around, was the only notable tern report.

While there were no particularly special reports among the non-passerine land birds, we can again use a species, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, to illustrate some thoughts around records. In the Noteworthy Records table on the RBA website, you will note 462 eBird lines of records for that species. eBird allows us to gather and archive large amounts of data. However, we cannot use it uncritically. In this case, 314 of the records posted were from just 13 observers reporting 10-39 lists from their home feeders this month. Another 13 reported another 60 times at 3-8 each. Next, to analyze this data we would need to eliminate multiple entries from people birding together and posting separate lists or shared lists or people recording on smart phones in the field and entering the same list more than once by mistake. Finally, we would need to look for the same birds being reported by different people at the same place using different names for their posting location. Trying to really see what is going on can take a fair amount of work.

Again, all of the really expected passerine species were reported. The only ones that might be vaguely called missing were hard to find species or migrants that only occasionally arrive in late August. The relative scarcer species reported this month were: a Prothonotary Warbler lingering in the Armitage Road area where they breed and a Connecticut Warbler banded at BBBO.

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.

	2018	2017	10-year Average (2008-2017)
Total species for August	196	199	195
New species for the year	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
Total for the year to date	273	275	275

### *Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee*

**Observers:** Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Liz Barry, Mitchell Barry, BBBO (Andrea Patterson), Doug Beattie, Betty Beckham, Don Bemont, Linda Clark-Benedict, Steven Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Kelly Close, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Mark Fitzsimmons, George Ford, Kyle Gage, Bill Gillette, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, James Goetz, John Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Mike Gullo, Andy Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Chris & Helen Haller, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill &

Mari Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nichoas Kachala, Logan Kahle, Dave Kennedy, Jim Kimball, Mike Laird, Tom Lathrop, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Jim Miles, Adrielle Mitchell, Brian & Brooke Morse, Chan Nam, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, David Odell, Andrea Patterson, Norma Platt, Jay Powell, Bill Purcell, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Wade &

Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Jennifer Rycenga, Ed Sailer, Livia Santana, Cindy Scaropoli, Michael Scheibel, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Roger Smith, Tom Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Dave Tetlow, Mike Tetlow, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget & Gary Watts, Joe Wing, Paul Wolter, Jim Wood, Rochester Young Birders Club. Plus many eBird observers.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

AUGUST 2018

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Mute Swan	<u>max 40</u>	12	Irondequoit Creek	B. & M. Howe
Gadwall	1	<u>15FF</u>	Braddock Bay - East Spit	R. Ryan
Gadwall	1	<u>16</u>	Unity Hospital Pond (Greece)	R. Ryan
American Wigeon	1	<u>3FF</u>	Sodus Pt.	D. Sherony, M. Tetlow
Mallard	<u>max 163</u>	7	Ontario Beach area	R. Buckert
Blue-winged Teal	<u>12</u>	28	<u>Braddock Bay - East Spit</u>	R. Buckert
Northern Shoveler	1-2	<u>2-25</u>	<u>Braddock Bay - East Spit</u>	mob
Northern Pintail	2 fem	<u>16FF</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Green-winged Teal	1	<u>2FF</u>	Braddock Bay - East Spit	6 obs
Redhead	1	<u>25FF</u>	<u>Braddock Bay - East Spit</u>	G. Lawrence, L. Kahle, R. Buckert
Ring-necked Duck	4	<u>4FF</u>	Conesus Inlet WMA	R. Ryan
Long-tailed Duck	1 fem	<u>31FF</u>	Braddock Bay - East Spit	R. Ryan, C. Staropoli
Red-breasted Merganser	1	<u>1FF</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	S. & R. Spahn
Red-breasted Merganser	1	<u>2-11</u>	Braddock Bay - East Spit	12 obs
Red-throated Loon	1	<u>23FF</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Common Loon	<u>max 6</u>	31	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Pied-billed Grebe	<u>max 42</u>	8	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	B. Beckham
Horned Grebe	<u>1</u>	<u>24FF</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Red-necked Grebe	<u>5</u>	<u>23FF</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>max 430</u>	31	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
American Bittern	1	8	<u>Basket Rd., Webster</u>	J. Wing
Red-tailed Hawk	<u>252</u>	5	Manitou (Owl Woods)	D. Tetlow
Red-tailed Hawk	<u>364</u>	6	Manitou (Owl Woods)	D. Tetlow
Red-tailed Hawk	<u>max 578</u>	28	Braddock Bay - Hawkwatch	M. Tetlow
Broad-winged Hawk	<u>max 27</u>	6	Manitou (Owl Woods)	D. Tetlow
Red-tailed Hawk	<u>max 47</u>	12	Braddock Bay - Hawkwatch	B. Watts
Golden Eagle	1	<u>22</u>	Plank & 5 Mi Line Rds., Penfield	K. Hartquist
Common Gallinule	<u>max 296</u>	18	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	D. Daniels

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

AUGUST 2018

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
American Coot	<u>max 55</u>	18	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	D. Daniels
Black-bellied Plover	1	13FF	Jones Bridge Rd., Livingston Co.	J. Kimball
American Golden-Plover	3	18F	Wyoming Rd., Wyoming Co.	R. Stevens, D. Beattie
Killdeer	<u>max 75</u>	18	Woods Rd. Wayne Co.	J. Wood
<u>Upland Sandpiper</u>	1	2, 6, 17; 25	Hamlin	A. Guthrie; Bri. Morse
Whimbrel	<u>max 12</u>	18	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Ruddy Turnstone	<u>max 12</u>	2	Summerville Pier	L. Bergmeyer
<u>Red Knot</u>	1	2-11	Braddock Bay - East Spit	mob
<u>Red Knot</u>	2	27	Braddock Bay - East Spit	S. Gracewski, P. Martin
<u>Red Knot</u>	2	1	Summerville Pier	D. Horsey, C. Giles
Sanderling	<u>max 50</u>	21	Sodus Pt.	J. Wing, W. & M. Rowley
Dunlin	4	18FF	Wyoming Rd., Wyoming Co.	D. Beattie, R. Stevens
Baird's Sandpiper	1	7F	Sodus Pt.	M. Gullo, M. & W. Rowley
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<u>max 34, low</u>	2	Braddock Bay - East Spit	B. Carlson
Short-billed Dowitcher	<u>max 13</u>	24	Braddock Bay - East Spit	K. Hartquist
Wilson's Phalarope	1	21FF	Sodus Pt.	J. Wing, W. & M. Rowley
Bonaparte's Gull	<u>max 45, low</u>	19	Braddock Bay - East Spit	T. Lenz
Ring-billed Gull	<u>max 3000</u>	19	Ontario Beach & piers	R. Spahn
Lesser Black-backed Gull	6 singles	<u>3-22</u>	5 loc	7 obs
<u>Least Tern</u>	1	3	Braddock Bay - East Spit	L. Bergmeyer
Caspian Tern	<u>max 100</u>	16	Braddock Bay - East Spit	D. Sherony
Black Tern	1	2, 19	Braddock Bay - East Spit	12 obs
Common Tern	<u>max 24</u>	30	Hamlin Beach SP	R. & S. Spahn
Common Nighthawk	1	15FF	Honeoye Falls	B. Carlson
Chimney Swift	<u>max 230</u>	19	York Central School, Greiggsville	J. Kimball
Chimney Swift	<u>150</u>	20, 21	Dalton Elementary School	J. Gordinier
Ruby-th. Hummingbird	<u>462 ll. eBird</u>	all month	many	many
Merlin	<u>10 rep, 10 ind</u>	8-27	8 loc	12 obs
Peregrine Falcon	<u>14 rep, 13 ind</u>	5-30	9 loc	10 obs
<u>Olive-sided Flycatcher</u>	1	<u>4FF</u>	Conesus Inlet WMA	B. Beckham
<u>Olive-sided Flycatcher</u>	1	19-25	Jones Bridge Rd., Livingston Co.	J. Kimball, 3 oth obs
<u>Olive-sided Flycatcher</u>	1	23-26	Beechwood SP, Wayne Co.	M. Gullo, 5 oth obs
<u>Olive-sided Flycatcher</u>	1	25	New Rd., Wyoming Co.	D. Beattie
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	3B	15FF	Manitou	BBBO

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

AUGUST 2018

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<u>total B 12</u>	15-30	Manitou	BBBO
"Trail's" Flycatcher	<u>total B 6, low</u>	15-24	Manitou	BBBO
Least Flycatcher	<u>total B 8</u>	20-30	Manitou	BBBO
Philadelphia Vireo	1	27FF	Brown Rd., Wolcott, Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley
Red-eyed Vireo	<u>total B 18</u>	15-30	Manitou	BBBO
Red-eyed Vireo	<u>max 19</u>	16	Hamlin Beach - West End	R. Spahn
Horned Lark	<u>max 65</u>	13	Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Tree Swallow	<u>max 150</u>	29	Braddock Bay - Hawkwatch	R. Buckert
Barn Swallow	<u>max 150</u>	25	Braddock Bay - East Spit	G. Lawrence, L. Kahle
<b>Winter Wren</b>	2B	22FF	Manitou	BBBO
Swainson's Thrush	1	16FF	Hamlin Beach - West End	R. Spahn
Hermit Thrush	1	25FF	Manitou (Owl Woods)	G. Lawrence, L. Kahle
Gray Catbird	<u>total B 47</u>	15-30	Manitou	BBBO
Northern Mockingbird	<u>max 20</u>	2	Kings Bend Park, Pittsford	R. Ryan
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	6	<u>Canadice L., S boat launch</u>	B. Howe
Northern Waterthrush	<u>total B 12</u>	12-30	Manitou	BBBO
<u>Prothonotary Warbler</u>	1	10L	NMWMA (Armitage Rd.)	J. McGowan
Tennessee Warbler	1B	16FF	Manitou	BBBO
Nashville Warbler	1B	16FF	Manitou	BBBO
<u>Connecticut Warbler</u>	1B, ph	25F	Manitou	BBBO
Common Yellowthroat	<u>total B 18</u>	15-29	Manitou	BBBO
American Redstart	<u>total B 34</u>	15-30	Manitou	BBBO
Cape May Warbler	3	15FF	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Magnolia Warbler	1	19FF	Chimney Bluffs, Wayne Co.	M. Gullo, 5 oth obs
Magnolia Warbler	<u>total B 36</u>	21-30	Manitou	BBBO
Bay-breasted Warbler	1B	16FF	Manitou	BBBO
Blackburnian Warbler	1	13FF	Greece	K. Griffith
Yellow Warbler	<u>total B 9, low</u>	15-29	Manitou	BBBO
Black-th. Blue Warbler	1	25FF	Hamlin Beach SP	R. Spahn
Pine Warbler	<u>max 10</u>	25	Hamlin Beach SP	Bri. Morse
Canada Warbler	1B	15FF	Manitou	BBBO
Wilson's Warbler	1	20FF	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	D. Kennedy
Bobolink	<u>max 100</u>	18	Livonia, Livingston Co.	T. Bohling
Common Grackle	<u>max 200</u>	6	Burger Park, Greece	P. Wolter
Brown-headed Cowbird	<u>max 300</u>	31	Hamlin Beach SP	R. Spahn

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

AUGUST 2018

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Pine Siskin	1	<u>6</u>	Webster	P. Mabb
Pine Siskin	1	<u>21</u>	Sodus Pt.	W. & M. Rowley