

The Prothonotary

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 88, No. 10 October 2022

THE MONTH: September

Joel Strong

The month of September was wetter than normal, giving the region some much needed drought relief from a six-month dry spell of below-average precipitation. The average temperature of 63.3°F (17.4°C), was just 0.1°F (0.1°C) below normal. The total precipitation of 4.3 in. (10.9 cm) was 0.2 in. (0.5 cm) above normal and included some thunderstorms on the 19th, 21st-22nd, and a heavy rain event of 2.7 in. (6.9 cm) from the 25th through the 28th. This last rain event, coinciding with strong west-southwest winds, resulted in some exceptional birding at the northeast end of Lake Erie, as described below. Lake Erie's water temperature averaged above normal for September and dropped from 75°F (24°C) to 67°F (19°C) over the course of the month. Weather data provided by the National Weather Service (<https://forecast.weather.gov/product.php?site=BUF&issuedby=BUF&product=CLM&format=CI&version=13&glossary=0>).

A total of seven new species for the year was added to the BOS running tally in September, bringing the 2022 total to 294 species, subspecies, and hybrids. This total was 4 less than September of last year.

Waterfowl migration was evident during the end of September with increased numbers and diversity. The first of season Cackling and Snow Geese made an appearance as well as Surf and White-winged Scoters. Robert Buckert found an Eared Grebe at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant on the 19th and was seen by numerous birders through the 25th.

Shorebirds made a nice showing in September, including a flyby Whimbrel found by Gale VerHague at Dunkirk Harbor on the 5th and another found by Sue Barth at Woodlawn Beach State Park on the 9th. In the same photograph of the Whimbrel, VerHague also captured the unique black and white wing pattern of two Willets as the trio flew through the harbor. Baird's Sandpipers were



Buff-breasted Sandpiper photographed by Markus Lenzdins (top) and Ryan Griffiths (middle) at St. Catharines, Ontario on September 3rd and (bottom) a juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope** photographed by James Kroeker (found by Blayne and Jean Farnan) at Morgan's Point, Pt Colborne, Ontario on September 30th.

109	The Month <i>Joel Strong</i>
112	Noteworthy Records <i>Joseph Mitchell & Statisticians</i>
119	Species Spotlight - Common Raven <i>Jared Feura</i>
120	Announcements/Calendar

reported from five locations, including two birds at Port Colborne on the 13th. There were only two Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports;

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Joe Fell, 86 Trinity Place, Buffalo, NY 14201-2143

Correspondence to:
skalicky@biochem.utah.edu

Editor: Jack Skalicky
Publishing: Audrey Horbett
Editorial Consultants: Sue Barth, Mike Morgante

Society Officers:

President: David Suggs
V. President: Beverly Seyler
Treasurer: Jason Van Etten
Secretary: Bernie Kester
Statisticians: Willie D'Anna
Alec Humann
Mike Morgante
Compiler: Joe Mitchell
Archivist: Audrey Horbett

Council:

2020-2022 Marsha Heckle
Gerry Rising
David Spiering
2021-2023 Tom O'Donnell
Marcus Rosten
Bernie Clabeaux
2022-2024 Ulrike Carlino-MacDonald
Chris Hollister
Christina Rockwell

both from St. Catharines. Troy Johnson and Don Deegan found a cooperative individual at Charles Daley Park on the 3rd, which entertained many birders for two days. The trio of Marcie Jacklin, Bob Highcock and Jean Hampson found another Buff-breasted on the 5th at Lakeside Park. There was just one report of White-rumped Sandpipers; a group of five found by Walter Parker at Fort Erie on the 7th, giving nice comparison views with the Sanderlings they were associating with.

You can almost set your calendar to the strong wind and rain events during the last days of September. Such an event occurred on the 26th (just two days later than a similar event last year). When the winds are from the southwest, they sweep along the long

axis of Lake Erie. Add in some heavy walls of rain, and you have the perfect recipe to dump some rare and uncommon species along the Buffalo waterfront near the inlet to the Niagara River. Savvy birders are well aware of the bounty to be had on such days and wait in anticipation. Alec Humann wrote a terrific summary of the day's events in his eBird checklist: *"Today's weather was a perfect set-up to blow birds out of Lake Erie and into the Niagara River. Arriving by 1130, I was immediately impressed with the number of Bonaparte's Gulls feeding just south of the Peace Bridge at the source of the Niagara. A few COTEs [Common Terns] were mixed in. As winds increased out of the WSW, lake effect rain hammered the area with thunder and hail and torrential downpours, interspersed with rain-free periods and even breaks of sun. When the storm cells moved through, visibility was diminished to near zero but that is what pushed lots of birds towards the Niagara River. As the day went on, numbers of Bonaparte's built up and with them the expected species such as Common and Forster's Terns, Little and Sabine's Gulls, Parasitic Jaeger and Red and Red-necked Phalaropes. Surprising was the absence of Kittiwake and Black Tern."* The day's weather produced one Red-necked Phalarope, two Red Phalaropes, at least one Parasitic Jaeger, a juvenile Sabine's Gull, four Little Gulls, 750 Bonaparte's Gulls, one Forster's Tern. Other gull highlights from the month



(top to bottom) Parasitic Jaeger photographed by Ryan Griffiths at Port Weller, Niagara on September 5th, juvenile Sabine's Gull photographed Don Dixon (found by Alec Humann) at the north end of Unity Island on September 27th, juvenile Laughing Gull photographed by Sandy Geschwender at Beaver Island State Park on September 13th, and a juvenile American Golden-Plover photographed by Sue Barth at Woodlawn Beach State Park on September 4th.

included a 1st winter Laughing Gull nicely photo-documented by Sandy Geschwender at Beaver Island State Park on the 13th.

Diana and Rick Werezak found an immature dark ibis at Charles Daley Park in St. Catharines on the 15th. Though identified as Glossy by those that saw it in the field, the time of year combined with the fact it was an immature bird leave this one best left as Glossy/White-faced Ibis even with several photographs.

Olive-sided Flycatchers made a nice showing in September with seven reports, including one remarkable report of three individuals at Tiff Nature Preserve by Brad Carlson. Bruce Hoover had a rather late Acadian Flycatcher still calling at Chestnut Ridge Park on the 10th and Steven Pitt found and photographed a stunning White-eyed Vireo at the Allegheny River Valley Trail at St. Bonaventure on the 28th. Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter had major surprise at their bird pond when Betsy noticed a female type Evening Grosbeak taking a dip and alerted D'Anna. The bird was seen from the 16th-18th and D'Anna was able to capture a nice photograph. VerHague had yet another good find at Dunkirk Harbor on the 9th when she saw a Yellow-headed Blackbird flush from a nearby shrub while she was kayaking in the harbor. She provided a great description of her encounter in her eBird checklist comments: *"We were paddling our kayaks about 15 feet from the outer breakwall in the harbor and heard a scratchy "kuduk" call as a blackbird flushed from a large shrub growing on the wall. It flew about 50 feet away to the top of another shrub and I was able to get good looks at it through binoculars. It was somewhat larger than a RWBL and had a white patch visible on the wings when it flew. It was bright yellow on the head and upper breast. I tried to get photos with my cell phone camera but couldn't stabilize the kayak enough to get a focused shot before it ducked down into the shrub."*

September is a great month for warbler migration and this one held true to form. On the 6th in West Seneca, Josh Ketry found a Brewster's Warbler, which is a hybrid between a Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warbler. Though the two species look quite different, genetic analysis reveals they are 99.97% genetically alike! This explains their propensity to hybridize when ranges overlap, which presents an important obstacle to the conservation strategy for the declining Golden-winged Warbler (Axelson 2016), a species once known to breed in our region but has been absent in recent summers and has yet to be found here with breeding evidence in the first three years of NYBBA III. Other warbler highlights included three individual Connecticut Warbler sightings by Karl Schmidt, Phil Mills, and Sue Barth on the 12th, 15th, and 29th, respectively. Saving the best for last the biggest highlight of the month was on the 29th when Shelley Seidman found and photographed the region's second Townsend's Warbler, just a year after the first had been documented. Seidman had been scrutinizing every Black-throated Green Warbler, the very similar-looking, expected species we get in our region. Her diligence paid off big time when she spotted a good candidate and was able to snap a diagnostic photo to be reviewed and accepted by the statisticians and other "western warbler" aficionados.

References

Axelson, G. (2016, July 6) Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers are 99.97 percent alike genetically. *Living Bird*.



(top to bottom) **Red Phalarope** photographed by Don Dixon (found by Phil Mills and Kevin Rybczynski) at the Niagara River, north end of Unity Island, on September 26th, three adult **Black-backed Gulls** photographed by Sue Barth at Woodlawn Beach State Park on September 14th, male **Hooded Warbler** photographed by Sue Barth at Birdsong Parklands in Orchard Park on September 17th, and a **Philadelphia Vireo** photographed by Sue Barth at Woodlawn Beach State Park on September 6th - Note the dark charcoal lores and that the most intense yellow is concentrated in the throat area.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Noteworthy Records Annotations

*	First record of year.
F	First record for migration.
L	Last record for migration.
NFC	Night Flight Calls
(f)	Feeding station
(n)	Nest
(yg)	Nestling/Fledgling
(imm/juv)	Immature/Juvenile
PV	Previously Verified location

Underlined common names, dates and localities indicate an acceptable written verification, according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (10th Edition - Revised April, 2021), has been received and placed in permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlined numbers of birds indicate an unusually high count for the species and was accompanied by observation notes and the counting method.

Please mail Noteworthy Records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to BOS Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com.

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	24F	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Strong
"	30	1	Olean	Gee
Cackling Goose	27F	2	Batavia WWTP	Johnston
Mute Swan	12	9	Waterport	Bemont
Trumpeter Swan	18	9	Tonawanda WMA	Strong
Wood Duck	13	75	Tifft NP	Ketry
"	19	85	Batavia WWTP	Buckert
Blue-winged Teal	6	26	Tifft NP	Sigurdson
"	30	37	Oak Orchard WMA	Schmidt
Northern Shoveler	19	115	Batavia WWTP	Buckert
Gadwall	22	10	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mantione
"	25	8	Oak Orchard WMA	Rabjohns
American Wigeon	29	45	Middleport	Rothman
American Black Duck	2	20	Oak Orchard WMA	Lauricella-Pack
Northern Pintail	25	7	Batavia WWTP	A. Guthrie
Green-winged Teal	13	58	Tifft NP	Carlson
"	16	20	Oak Orchard WMA	Heine
Redhead	13	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Tavares
Ring-necked Duck	1; 14	1; 7	Tonawanda WMA	Strong; Heine
Greater Scaup	21	13	St. Catharines, Ont.	Downey
"	26	4	Niagara River - Buffalo	Lenz
Lesser Scaup	5	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Griffiths
"	6	2	Tifft NP	Schadel
"	26	10	Niagara River - Buffalo	Barth
Surf Scoter	26F	2	Niagara River - Buffalo	Barth
White-winged Scoter	22F, 23	4, 6	Wilson	D'Anna
"	26	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Barth
Long-tailed Duck	18F	1	Rock Point Provincial Park	Lees
"	26	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Lenz
Common Merganser	30	100	Port Colborne, Ont.	Farnan
Red-breasted Merganser	24F	4	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Strong
"	24F	1	Lake Erie SP	Lenz
Ruddy Duck	20	8	Batavia WWTP	Mills
* Eared Grebe	19-25	1	Batavia WWTP	Buckert et al
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	25	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Griffiths
Black-billed Cuckoo	4L	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Barth
Common Nighthawk	2	5	Springville	Brock

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	3	12	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
"	6	10	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klassen
"	7	8	Buffalo	Rybczynski
"	9	15	Fort Erie, Ont.	Groulx
"	28L	1	Stiglmeier Park	Lauricella-Pack
Virginia Rail	9	1	Conewango	Brock
"	10	1	Caneadea	Schmidt
Sora	8	2	Conewango	Brock
"	12	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Werezak
"	17	1	Birdsong Parklands	Barth
Common Gallinule	17	8	Iroquois NWR	Crock
Sandhill Crane	4	6	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Chambers
"	8	2	Jamestown Audubon	Ragucci
"	15	6	Iroquois NWR	Heine
Black-bellied Plover	5	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Griffiths
"	6	2	Allegheny Reservoir	Brock
"	7	2	Port Colborne, Ont.	Sorgenfrei
"	11	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Rybczynski
"	17	2	Rock Point Provincial Park	Lees
"	20	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Massaro
American Golden-Plover	4	1	Allegheny Reservoir	Suckow
"	4	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Barth
"	5	2	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Caughel
"	7	3	Porter	D'Anna
"	10; 21	24; 10	Port Colborne, Ont.	Novoselac; Farnan
"	14	1	Iroquois NWR	Bemont
"	17	1	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
"	25	18	Middleport	Strong
Semipalmated Plover	6	24	Allegheny Reservoir	Suckow
"	7	24	Fort Erie, Ont.	Parker
"	8	18	Tiff NP	Hollister
Killdeer	1	143	Port Colborne, Ont.	Farnan
Whimbrel	5F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	9	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Barth
Ruddy Turnstone	2	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Mills
"	4	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Barth
"	5	4	St. Catharines, Ont.	Loveridge
"	7	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Davis, Banning
Sanderling	4	13	Woodlawn Beach SP	Barth
"	6	24	St. Catharines, Ont.	Werezak
"	14	14	Point Gratiot	Banning, Davis
Dunlin	7	6	Port Colborne, Ont.	Sorgenfrei
Baird's Sandpiper	1	1	Tonawanda WMA	Strong
"	1	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Skirrow
"	6	1	Allegheny SP	Brock
"	11	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Sielaff, Nieman
"	13	2	Port Colborne, Ont.	Farnan

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Least Sandpiper	8	30	St. Catharines, Ont.	Williams
White-rumped Sandpiper	7	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Parker
* Buff-breasted Sandpiper	3	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Johnson, Deegan
Pectoral Sandpiper	25	6	Iroquois NWR	Rabjohns et al
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5	16	St. Catharines, Ont.	Hampson, Highcock
Short-billed Dowitcher	10	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Griffiths
Solitary Sandpiper	6	5	Allegheny Reservoir	Brock
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	12	Iroquois NWR	Ketry
Willet	5	2	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	10	2	St. Catharines, Ont.	Griffiths
Greater Yellowlegs	30	12	Oak Orchard WMA	Schmidt
Red-necked Phalarope	26	1	Unity Island	Mills et al
* Red Phalarope	26	2	Unity Island	Mills, Rybczynski et al
* Parasitic Jaeger	5	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Griffiths
"	19; 26	1; 1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Mills; Humann et al
* Sabine's Gull	26	1 juv	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann, Barth et al
Bonaparte's Gull	26	750	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann et al
Little Gull	5	1 juv	St. Catharines, Ont.	Griffiths
"	26	4	Niagara River - Buffalo	Lenz
<u>Laughing Gull</u>	13	1	Beaver Island SP	Geschwender
Lesser Black-backed Gull	3	3	Barcelona Harbor	Lenz
"	14	4	Woodlawn Beach SP	Barth
"	13	2	Goat Island	Hudson
Caspian Tern	6	16	Niagara River - Buffalo	Petre
"	6	25	St. Catharines, Ont.	Blight
Common Tern	4	280	Port Colborne, Ont.	Downey
"	26	85	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann, Barth
Forster's Tern	5	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Jacklin
"	26	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Fell, Sielaff
"	26	1	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
Common Loon	4	1	Evangola SP	Nusstein
"	24	5	Point Gratiot	Bletsch
Double-crest. Cormorant	6	1300	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	8	2600	Port Weller, Ont.	Jacklin, Black
"	16	3000	Rock Point Provincial Park	Friis
"	28	1050	Buffalo Harbor	Morgante
American Bittern	3	1	Times Beach NP	Seidman, Adriaansen
"	25	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Griffiths
"	27	1	Tiff NP	Kazmierczak
Great Egret	2	48	Iroquois NWR	Crock
"	2	58	Port Colborne, Ont.	Groulx
<u>Glossy/White-faced Ibis</u>	15	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Werezak
Black Vulture	12	12	Whirlpool SP	Lauricella-Pack
"	18	6	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Burrell
Broad-winged Hawk	24L	1	Evangola SP	Nusstein
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	6	Lake Erie SP	VerHague, Banning, Davis
"	5	4	Ripley	Lenz

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	5	3	Evangola SP	Nusstein
"	6	3	Point Gratiot	VerHague
Olive-sided Flycatcher	2	1	Amherst SP	Hollister
"	2	1	Shelby	Lauricella-Pack
"	4	1	Somerset	Rothman
"	6	1	Fredonia	Banning, Davis
"	7	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Highcock, Hampson
"	10; 13	1; 3	Tiff NP	Sielaff, Nieman; Carlson
"	20	1	Buckhorn Island SP	Humann
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	4-24	1	Reports from 18 locations	Multiple Observers
"	6	3	Woodlawn Beach SP	Barth
"	29L	1	Stiglmeier Park	Barth
Acadian Flycatcher	<u>10L</u>	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Hoover
Willow Flycatcher	7L	1	West Seneca	Barth
Least Flycatcher	29L	1	Fredonia	Davis
Great Crested Flycatcher	29L	1	Tiff NP	Mills
Eastern Kingbird	5L	1	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
"	5L	1	West Seneca	Barth
White-eyed Vireo	<u>28</u>	2	Olean	Pitt
Yellow-throated Vireo	18	1	Iroquois NWR	Bemont
"	18	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Lauricella-Pack
Philadelphia Vireo	17	3	Orchard Park	Barth
"	29L	1	Amherst SP	Sawusch et al
Warbling Vireo	29L	2	Buckhorn Island SP	Humann
Fish Crow	12	6	St. Catharines, Ont.	Johnston
Horned Lark	10	25	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Reinhardt
"	11	18	Somerset	Strong
Purple Martin	3	50	Buckhorn Island SP	MacDonald
Tree Swallow	25	110	Batavia WWTP	A. Guthrie
Northern Rough-w. Swallow	11	35	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Chambers
"	29	6	Shelby	Rothman
Bank Swallow	16L	10	Oak Orchard WMA	Heine
Barn Swallow	5	120	Fort Erie, Ont.	Parker
Cliff Swallow	6	2	Niagara River - Buffalo	Petre
Winter Wren	2F	1	Amherst SP	Hollister
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	21L	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Guard
Golden-crowned Kinglet	21F	2	Woodlawn Beach SP	Barth
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5F	1	Forestville	VerHague
Veery	27L	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
Gray-cheeked Thrush	8	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Barth
"	15	2	Buckhorn Island SP	Humann
"	21	4	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
"	24	2	Lake Erie SP	Lenz, Bletsch
"	25	4	Carlton	Bemont
"	27	3	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
Swainson's Thrush	17	29	Somerset	Strong
"	18	7	Porter	D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	21	9	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
American Robin	1	178	Reinstein Woods NP	Hollister
Cedar Waxwing	4	150	Woodlawn Beach SP	Barth
American Pipit	16F	2	Woodlawn Beach SP	Lauricella-Pack
"	16F	1	Times Beach NP	Sediman, Barth
"	21	30	Port Colborne, Ont.	Sorgenfrei
"	25	29	Middleport	Strong
"	28	1	Hanging Bog WMA	Schmidt
"	30	24	Sheridan	VerHague
Evening Grosbeak	<u>16 - 18</u>	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Pine Siskin	25F	1	Smithville, Ont.	Colic
Clay-colored Sparrow	<u>1, 4</u>	4, 2	Krull County Park	D'Anna, Potter
Vesper Sparrow	23	1	Lancaster	Kerr
"	24	1	Conewango Valley WMA	Higgins, Feura
Lincoln's Sparrow	9F	1	Rushford	Schmidt
"	10	1	Belfast	Schmidt
White-throated Sparrow	24	75	Bond Lake CP	Lauricella-Pack
"	25	185	St. Catharines, Ont.	Griffiths
White-crowned Sparrow	17F	1	Orchard Park	Barth
<u>Yellow-headed Blackbird</u>	9	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
Bobolink	11	15	Tonawanda WMA	King
"	20L	1	Iroquois NWR	Bemont
Red-winged Blackbird	17	250	Iroquois NWR	Crock
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	65	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Chambers
"	11	50	Shelby	Morien
Rusty Blackbird	21F	1	Fredonia	Balisteri
"	24	15	Iroquois NWR	Crock
"	30	34	Buckhorn Island SP	Humann
Common Grackle	3	700	Tonawanda	Heine
"	24	750	Canadaway Creek WMA	Higgins, Feura
"	25	1200	Mina	Lenz
"	27	800	Wainfleet, Ont.	Bacon
Ovenbird	17	3	Orchard Park	Barth
Northern Waterthrush	15L	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Blight
Blue-winged Warbler	22L	1	Stiglmeier Park	Barth
"Brewster's" Warbler	6	1	West Seneca	Ketry
Black-and-white Warbler	6	4	Stiglmeier Park	Hollister
"	6	5	Tift NP	Lauricella-Pack
Tennessee Warbler	20	13	Sheridan	VerHague
"	22	12	West Falls	Pitt
Orange-crowned Warbler	20F	1	Buckhorn Island SP	Humann
"	25	2	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Yoerg
"	29	2	Erie Basin Marina	Seidman
"	29	2	Stiglmeier Park	Barth
Nashville Warbler	29	8	Stiglmeier Park	Hollister
* Connecticut Warbler	12F	1	Hanging Bog WMA	Schmidt
"	15	1	Tift NP	Mills

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	29	1	Stiglmeier Park	Barth
Mourning Warbler	4	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Parker
"	6	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Barth
"	6	1	Olean	Yaworsky
"	29L	1	Ellery	Berry
Hooded Warbler	29L	1	Stiglmeier Park	Barth
"	29L	1	Carlton	Bemont
American Redstart	7	20	Tift NP	Lauricella-Pack
Cape May Warbler	7	6	Port Colborne, Ont.	Downey
"	6	6	Tift NP	Lauricella-Pack
"	17	8	Long Point SP	Mosher, Baldwin
Northern Parula	23	6	Woodlawn Beach SP	Barth
"	30	5	Tift NP	Sharon
Magnolia Warbler	7	10	Tift NP	Lauricella-Pack
"	17	12	Rock Point Provincial Park	Lees
Bay-breasted Warbler	6	10	Stiglmeier Park	Hollister
"	6	11	Amherst SP	Sawusch
"	17	15	Rock Point Provincial Park	Lees
Yellow Warbler	21L	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Barth
Chestnut-sided Warbler	29	6	Stiglmeier Park	Lauricella_Pack
"	29	1	Amherst SP	Higgins, Guard, Schmidt
Blackpoll Warbler	17	7	Wales	Lawrence
"	17	25	Rock Point Provincial Park	Lees
"	20	8	Buckhorn Island SP	Humann
Black-throated Blue Warbler	28	6	Stiglmeier Park	Lauricella-Pack
Palm Warbler	1F	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Barth
Pine Warbler	12	6	Long Point SP	Berry, Baldwin
Prairie Warbler	3-6	1	Times Beach NP	Seidman et al
"	17L	2	Granger	Buckert
* <u>Townsend's Warbler</u>	29	1	Erie Basin Marina	Seidman
Black-throat. Green Warbler	24	8	Tift NP	Pitt
"	24	8	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pitt
Canada Warbler	19L	1	Times Beach NP	Kauffman
Wilson's Warbler	12	3	Orchard Park	Barth
"	15	4	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Lauricella-Pack
"	30L	1	Erie Basin Marina	Seidman
Indigo Bunting	20	5	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
"	23	12	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Milson
Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year:				287
Species, subspecies, and named hybrids new for the year:				7
Total for the year (to date):				294

Species Spotlight - Common Raven

Jared Feura | February 17, 2023

Previously published at <https://ebird.org/atlasny/news/species-spotlight-common-raven>

Common Ravens are among the largest members of the crow family and the largest passerines in the world. Their expansive and unique repertoire of vocalizations make them easy to recognize and entertaining to observe. As is true of most corvids, Common Ravens are highly capable problem solvers, which has allowed them to expand their range and population size adjacent to expanding human populations.

Top Tips

- Common Ravens begin nesting in late January to mid-April, so keep an eye out for birds carrying sticks, nesting materials, or hanging around nests from previous years.
- Keep an eye out for recently fledged young as early as April and May as they can become less and less distinguishable as recently fledged by late summer. They can also be highly mobile once flighted, and not reliably counted as fledged within a given block.
- While simply carrying food isn't evidence enough to confirm breeding in Common Ravens, they are often carrying food items large enough to see and can indicate the direction to head in search of a nest, young, and the opportunity to observe breeding behaviors.

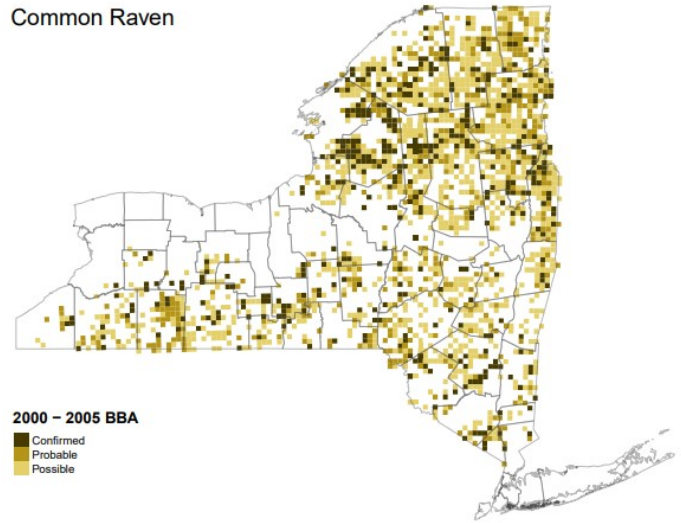
Where to Find Them

Common Ravens can be found nearly anywhere in New York although they are less common in densely populated areas. While they are less common in dense urban areas, Common Ravens are already confirmed breeding in many urban blocks, so you should never count them out as simply a visitor if encountered there. In these areas, ravens will nest on man made structures like building ledges, water towers, power line towers, windmills, and cell towers.

In forested and wilderness areas Common Ravens will utilize coniferous and broad leaved trees for nesting where their raptor-like stick nests can be seen near the top of a tree, though usually with some canopy cover. Common Ravens are also notorious for nesting on cliff sides under overhangs.

Common Ravens can favor a wide array of habitats and will capably breed wherever there may be high enough structure to build a nest. They are found in open grasslands and agricultural fields adjacent to forest patches or even cell and water towers. In forested areas, Common Ravens utilize a wide range of deciduous and coniferous cover. They often can be found at the intersection of forests and varying other habitat types, usually making use of natural nesting areas including cliffs. In New York and the northeast, Common Ravens typically leave highways and busy roadsides for American and Fish Crows.

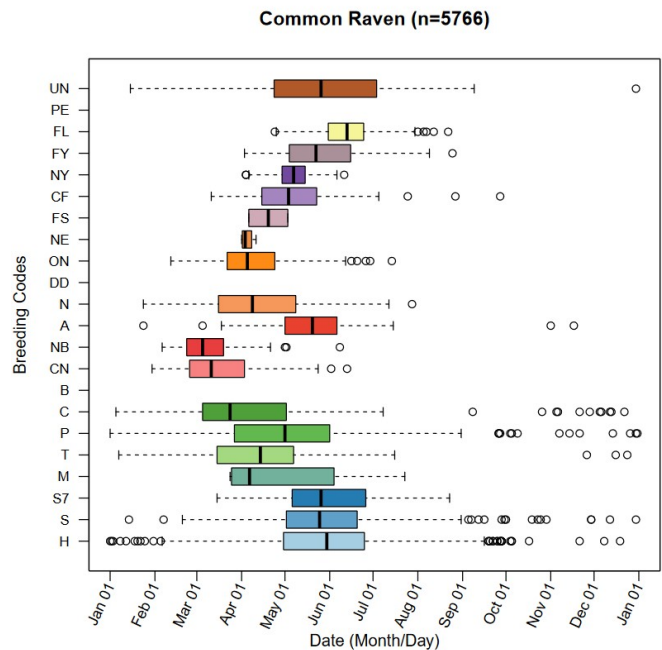
Common Raven



Distribution of Common Raven from the 2000-2005 Atlas.

When to Find Them

Common Ravens are non-migratory year round residents in New York. They are early nesters, so it is worthwhile to note areas of Common Raven activity in winter to follow up on later in the breeding season. Common Ravens can start building or repairing nests as early as late January, finishing within days or weeks depending on their level of building and repairs. Females lay eggs soon after the nest is complete, and they will begin incubating after completing their clutch. As they are early to build nests and lay eggs, nestlings and fledglings can be seen and heard as early as April through May and June. Keep in mind that fledgling ravens can become mobile quite rapidly, so be cautious to restrict calling birds recently fledged to the less mobile and non-flighted stages. Fledged Common Ravens can be fed by parents well into becoming juveniles when they are nearly as mobile as their parents.



Breeding Calendar

- **January to March:** Courtship, pair formation, nest building, egg laying
- **March to May:** Nest building, egg laying, and incubation, fledglings
- **May-July:** Fledglings, feeding young
- **July-October:** Feeding young

How To Find Them

Common Ravens are often easy to hear on an atlas outing, but they can be secretive around their nest while it contains eggs and nestlings. Common Ravens are a species that can require some patience and repeated visits to hone in on breeding behaviors within a block since they are capable of traversing wide distances to acquire food and nesting resources.

As there is no single appropriate habitat for Common Ravens, listen for their calls and multitude of vocalizations throughout the morning and evening, although they can be heard regularly throughout the day. Smaller birds mobbing ravens can be an indicator to follow a raven as they often rob nests for food for themselves and their young. Keep in mind that ravens are a species where just being seen carrying food may not be sufficient to code them as carrying food. They will carry away food for themselves to eat without disturbance, especially when being mobbed after robbing another bird or their nest.

Behaviors To Look For

Although Common Ravens are often highly vocal, they are adept at spotting potential predators and ceasing vocalization quickly. As their repertoire is expansive and varies regionally, there is little evidence supporting specific vocalizations related to breeding.

- **Singing.** Although Common Ravens do not have a set song, the vocalizations given by males and females can be attributed as S (Singing).
- **Pairs.** Code P (pair) should be used with caution throughout the breeding season. Two birds calling at or near each other may not be a pair, and could be territorial rivals.
- **Nest building.** Common Ravens will carry sticks, mosses, and strip bark from trees to use in their nests. Even when reusing a nest they will often add more sticks and lining materials so NB (nest building) can be used when witnessing these behaviors.
- **Feeding young.** Adults feed their young a variety of food sources, and when out of the nest they can also be fed whole food items. Any feeding of young out of the nest can be coded FY (feeding young).
- **Occupied nest.** Since nests are typically high and it can be difficult to determine the contents, when an adult is seen sitting on a nest use ON.
- **Nest with young.** Chicks visible in the nest receive the code NY (nest with young).
- **Recently fledged.** Common Raven coloring can make it difficult to determine when a chick has

reached the ability to fly and become more mobile. When young are still fluffy and appear to be unable to fly reliably you can safely use FL (recently fledged).

Life History

Common Ravens are a globally exceptional bird species in many regards. Common Ravens are among the largest of songbirds, closely tied with other raven species found elsewhere across the globe. They also have one of the most expansive ranges of any bird in the world. Raven species are also considered some of the greatest problem solvers of all birds, and even among all animals by some measures. This problem solving has led them to be successful in a wide variety of habitats in the northern hemisphere, and often considered troublemakers and pests in many instances.

Common Ravens are not only habitat generalists, but they are willing scavengers, hunters, and food generalists as well. Ravens will scavenge through garbage and animal carcasses, formerly being known for following American Bison and wolves as a means of scavenging on the remains of wolf prey. Common Ravens are themselves capable hunters that will fly fields to catch rodents, pull chicks and eggs from nests, or steal food from other avian predators. Common Ravens will eat insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish while also scavenging through human garbage for food items. They are known to raid tern and gull colonies, sometimes as a team, to the point of wiping out smaller colonies over a season.

As pests, they are known to interfere with human agriculture from crops to livestock including chicks, small fowl, and even pecking at the eyes and afterbirth of newborn sheep and goats. Additionally, their inquisitive nature leads them to pull cables, peel labels, and damage other human products in a variety of ways.

Common Ravens are non-migratory and a mated pair will maintain and defend their territory year round. Very little is known about dispersal of young after leaving the care of their parents, but banded juveniles have been spotted as far as 500km away from their banding site. As mated pairs retain their same territory all year, they will sometimes reuse nests from prior years, typically with some repairs. They will also build new nests throughout their territory if a nest is damaged beyond repair, or it is deemed unsuitable for other reasons that are unclear to humans.

The size of Common Raven territories varies based on habitat and resource availability. In areas of high food and resource abundance territories can be as small as 5 square kilometers, but they can expand to more than 40 square kilometers where resources are scarce. Common Ravens will defend their nesting areas from other ravens, crows, hawks, owls, and falcons should they attempt to prey on eggs or nestlings.



Calendar and Announcements

BOS website: www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org

Please mail Noteworthy Records for each month no later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler:

Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004;

Email: bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com.

Please visit the BOS website for the most current meeting and field trip information; (<https://www.buffaloornithologicalsociety.org/Calendar.aspx>)

BOS Field Trips, Counts, Meetings, and Lectures

March 15 - May 15, 2023. Hamburg Hawk Watch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Road between Routes 5 & 20). Approximately 10 AM until 3 PM (weather permitting). Contact Jim Landau at 716-941-3869 or landaujr@gmail.com.

April 1, 2023: Saturday at 10:00 AM. Field Trip - Purple Martin Set-Up Social with Celeste Morien. Location: Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, 17 Treadeasy Ave, Batavia, NY 14020 ([map](#)). RAIN DATE - Sunday, April 2. Leader: Celeste Morien (585) 721-8202 and Celeste.morien@gmail.com. Please email for reservation.

April 2, 2023: Sunday. April Bird Count. All BOS members are encouraged to participate. Please help us add to the decades of records this count has provided. Compiler: Joel Strong joelstrong78@yahoo.com.

April 12, 2023: Wednesday 7PM. BOS Meeting - Vaughan Lecture at the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science ([map](#)). Dr. Kyle Horton from Colorado State University presents "Integrating Community Data on Migration Behaviors"

April 22, 2023: Saturday at 8:30 AM. Field Trip - Montezuma NWR with David and Debbie Suggs. Location: 3395 US-20, Seneca Falls, NY 13148 ([map](#)). Leader: David and Debbie Suggs at dsuggs@buffaloornithologicalsociety.org or 716-861-8948. Meet 8:30 AM at the visitor's center.

May 6, 2023: Saturday at 7:30 AM. Field Trip - Tift Nature Preserve with Seaghan Coleman. Location: Tift Nature Preserve, 1200 Fuhrmann Boulevard, Buffalo, NY 14203 ([map](#)). Meet at 7:30 AM on the bridge just past the visitor center. Leader: Seaghan Coleman at 716-435-7753 or seaghanc@gmail.com.

May 7, 2023: Sunday at 7:30 AM. Field Trip - Braddock Bay Bird Observatory Banding Station with Alec Humann. Location: 10 Braddocks Ave, Hilton, NY 14468 ([map](#)). Leader: Alec Humann at alechumann@msn.com or 716-604-2971. This will be a full day trip so bring beverages

and lunch. Meet at 7:30am at the passerine banding station (see link to map above). Bring rubber boots in case of mud and your camera! We will be in attendance at the banding station from approximately 7:30-10:30 and then the hawkwatch from 11-1:30. *** NOTE - please email Alec if you plan to attend. Parking is limited at the station so we may have to shuttle from the Owl Woods Lot. Because BBBO is a non-profit, I will be collecting a suggested donation of \$5/person to be donated to the Observatory. Dress in layers.

May 10, 2023: Wednesday 7PM. BOS Meeting at the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science ([map](#)).

May 13, 2023: Saturday at 8:00 AM. Field Trip - Letchworth State Park for Migrant Warblers with Matt Nusstein. Location: 6773 Trailside Road, Castile, NY 14427 ([map](#)). Meet at 8 AM at the Humphrey Nature Center, 6773 Trailside Road, Castile, NY 14427. Leader: Matt Nusstein at Matthew.Nusstein@parks.ny.gov or (716) 446-3376.

May 14, 2023: Saturday at 8:00 AM. Field Trip - Floating Fen with Marcus Rosten. Location: 8067 Route 380, Brockton, NY 14716 ([map](#)). Meet at the College Lodge Parking lot (8067 Rte 380, Brocton, NY 14716) at 8:00 AM and we will carpool to the location. Leader: Marcus Rosten at mrosten11@gmail.com or 716-713-7651.

May 21, 2023: Sunday. BOS May Bird Count. Location: BOS Study Area ([map](#)). All BOS members encouraged to participate in the 85th annual May Bird Count.

May 27, 2023: Saturday. Field Trip - Whip-poor-wills of Port Colborne, Ontario with Joe Fell. Location: Wilson and Garringer Road intersection, Wainfleet, Ontario ([map](#)). Meet at 8 PM at the intersection of Wilson and Garringer Roads, Wainfleet, Ontario. This location is north of Morgan's Point. Whips may not start calling until 9:30 PM so plan accordingly. **SPECIAL NOTE** - This trip requires crossing the border into Canada. Proper identification is required: Passport, NEXUS, or Enhanced Driver's License. Bridge toll also required. Leader: Joe Fell.

June 10, 2023: Saturday at 7:30 AM. Field Trip - Holland Bog with Rob Sielaff. Location: Holland Bog, 9913 Wagner Road, Holland, NY 14080 ([map](#)). Meet at 8:00 AM at the first snowplow turnaround after Rise n' Swine farm shop coming from the North. This is on the East side of Wagner Road between Wilkens Road and Miller Avenue. Leader: Rob Sielaff at 585-319-7438 or rsielaff@me.com.

June 14, 2023: Wednesday at 6 PM. Annual BOS picnic meeting and walk through Tift. Location: Tift NP ([map](#)).

June 23-25, 2023 for the Big Atlas Weekend. Sue Barth and Mike Morgante to organize atlas coverage in under covered priority blocks with meetups for lunch. More details to follow.