

# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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### THE MONTH: June

Mike DeSha

According to the National Weather Service, June was “a more typical month, following after the second-wettest spring on record.” Total precipitation for the month was only 2.21 inches at the Buffalo airport, 1.45 inches below the average of 3.66 inches. The bulk of the rain fell during the second half of the month. The wettest day of the month was the 18<sup>th</sup> when one-half to one inch of precipitation fell across the Buffalo metro area due to the development of wide-spread severe thunderstorms. Southwest winds prevailed, averaging 10.7 mph. Unsettled cooler weather with showers and thunderstorms developed during the last week. Waterspouts formed over Lake Erie and Lake Ontario on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

The average temperature for the month was 67.3°F, 1.0°F above normal. Ten days reached at least 80°F. There were more warm nights than normal for June. The night-time minimum temperature on June 11 was 70°F, tying a record set in 1942. The temperature of Lake Erie at Buffalo rose at a record-setting pace, starting the month at 59°F and reaching 73°F at the end of the month.

Humann, et al. reported that the Brown Pelican, first seen by Monaco last month on the 28<sup>th</sup>, continued on the Niagara River at least through the 6<sup>th</sup>. This is only the fifth record of this species in the BOS study area in 45 years. Hardenburg noted that the Red-throated Loon reported in May was last seen at Barcelona Harbor on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. Lawrence and Morien saw a Glossy Ibis on the 21<sup>st</sup> in Tonawanda WMA. This rarely-seen species is somewhat more regular in May.

Rose-Burney found a Black Vulture in Lewiston on the 11<sup>th</sup>. It is gratifying to note the continued survival of this small population in our area. Sandhill Cranes were seen throughout the region. A high count of five by George in Alabama on the 19<sup>th</sup> was followed by Lawrence’s sighting of five, likely the same group, on

the 21<sup>st</sup> in Tonawanda WMA. The necked Stilt on the 17<sup>th</sup> in Iroquois NWR, likely the same individual last seen on May 26<sup>th</sup> in the same area. It was also seen and reported by Potter and D’Anna. It was again seen on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, apparently spending a lot of its time well hidden by vegetation. Marvelous pictures accompanied the verification and there is no doubt of the identification. The May records comprised the first occurrence of this species in Western New York as well as the first May record for the species and the sightings this month constitute the first June record for the species.



(top) Dickcissel photographed by Gale VerHague at [place](#) on June 20<sup>th</sup> and (bottom) a Cerulean Warbler photographed by Gale VerHague at [place](#) on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

<b>59</b>	<b>The Month</b> <i>Mike DeSha</i>	the 21 <sup>st</sup> in Tonawanda WMA.
<b>61</b>	<b>Noteworthy Records</b> <i>Joe Mitchell &amp; Statisticians</i>	Morien et al.
<b>64</b>	<b>Announcements/Calendar</b>	spotted a Black-

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Because of the decline of grassland habitat, any records of grassland birds are always appreciated. Four Upland Sandpipers were first reported by Sharon at Tillman Rd. WMA on the 14<sup>th</sup> and refound by Mudd on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Highcock saw one in Welland on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Strong found a Laughing Gull on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> at Point Breeze and then D'Anna et al. reported up to two Laughing Gulls later that day at the same location. Laughing Gulls are not regular visitants, but they have been recorded in the BOS study area every month.

The usual warblers were well reported throughout the region. Of particular note was a

Brewster's Warbler seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> by Mudd in Iroquois NWR, suggesting there was at least one Golden-winged Warbler in the Reserve, this warbler being a first-generation(F1) hybrid between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers. Morien and Bemont found a second-generation hybrid Lawrence's Warbler feeding young in Medina on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Five Prothonotary Warblers were seen in Tonawanda WMA on the 16<sup>h</sup> by Lawrence and Hess and then on the 26<sup>th</sup> by Lawrence. On this last date, Lawrence reported on Genesee Birds List –serve that there was a pair with three young using a nest box provided by the DEC.

Grassland sparrows were fairly well reported. Strong reported 4 Clay-colored Sparrows in the Town of Yates on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Barth and Hollister found 8 in Olcott, while Mudd reported 4 there on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Bemont noted 3 on the 5<sup>th</sup> in Carlton.

Vesper Sparrows were reported at three locations. VerHague found 2 in Sheridan on the 7<sup>th</sup>; Morse reported 2 in New Albion on the 10<sup>th</sup>; and Strong et al. found 1 in Yates continuing from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Grasshopper Sparrows were reported at four locations throughout the month. VerHague found 2 at Dunkirk Harbor on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Coleman noted 2 at Tillman Rd. WMA on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Potter and D'Anna

located 2 in Lewiston on the 24<sup>th</sup> and Bemont reported finding 3 in Yates on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately again this June there was no report of Henslow's Sparrow.

Dickcissels irrupted into the BOS study area as part of a larger nomadic movement northward and eastward out of their core breeding area in the Midwest. It is apparently not known what triggers these wanderings, but they provide wonderful birding opportunities in the surrounding areas. The last major irruption of Dickcissels occurred in 2012, though there were no records in the BOS area for that year.

The excitement in our study area this month began on the 17<sup>th</sup> in Ontario, Canada, with Griffiths finding 3 Dickcissels in Jordan and subsequently on the 18<sup>th</sup> spotting 4 in Rosedene that continued there from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>. He found 2 more on the 18<sup>th</sup> at Saint Ann's, Ontario and 1 at North Pelham, Ontario on the 28<sup>th</sup>. It should be noted that the names of locations give here were chosen by the Statisticians to provide more precise locations for these sightings.

In the United States, VerHague found 3 Dickcissels in Sheridan on the 20<sup>th</sup> and then found 6 when she returned to the location on the 29<sup>th</sup>. From the 23 through the 28<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Yates became the locale of another spate of Dickcissel sightings. Strong et al. found 2-5 at Foss Rd., 4-7 at Lyndonville Rd. and 1 at Lakeshore Rd. Finally, from the 21<sup>st</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>, Lawrence et al. noted 5 individuals at John White WMA, first found by Hoh, the DEC grassland bird technician.



(top) Indigo Bunting photographed by Gale VerHague at [place](#) on June 15<sup>th</sup> and (bottom) a Prairie Warbler photographed by Gale VerHague at [place](#) on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (9th Edition - Revised 2012) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Verified Location

Please mail NWRs for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: [bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com](mailto:bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com) (effective November 1, 2014).

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	1	1	Cassadaga	VerHague
"	21	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
Trumpeter Swan	3-24	2	Iroquois NWR	Sweeney, Kester
Wood Duck	8; 14	65; 85	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence; Morien
Gadwall	21	3	Iroquois NWR	Blair
American Wigeon	7; 20	2; 1	Iroquois NWR	Stevens; Lawrence
Northern Pintail	22	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
Green-winged Teal	20	5	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence
Redhead	5, 26	4, 3	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	1-30	2	Batavia WWTP	Morien
Ring-necked Duck	1-30	2	Batavia WWTP	Morien
"	4	2	Iroquois NWR	Ketry
"	4	1	Carroll	Berry
Lesser Scaup	1	1	Batavia WWTP	Morien
"	14	2	Times Beach NP	Seidman
Long-tailed Duck	8	1	Carlton	Bemont
Bufflehead	5	2	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
Common Merganser	25	1 + 5 yg	Allegany SP	Hess
Red-breasted Merganser	3	2	Derby	Herle
"	8	2	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
Ruddy Duck	1; 16	24; 37	Batavia WWTP	Nash
"	3	7	Dayton Gravel Ponds	VerHague
"	3; 30	1	Allegany SP	Minnick; Rybczynski
Red-throated Loon	3L	1	Barcelona Harbor	Hardenburg
<u>Brown Pelican</u>	1-6	1 PV	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann et al
American Bittern	8	2	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
"	12	4	Iroquois NWR	Stephenson
Least Bittern	14	2	Tiff NP	Humann et al
"	14	2	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence
Great Blue Heron	22	136	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence
Great Egret	17	40	Tonawanda	Hoover
"	21	61	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence
Black-cr. Night-Heron	3	14	Iroquois NWR	Sharon
* <u>Glossy Ibis</u>	21	1	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence, Morien
Black Vulture	11	1	Lewiston	Rose-Burney
Osprey	4	6	Conewango Swamp WMA	VerHague
"	14	5	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Sandhill Crane	14	1	North Harmony	Johnson
"	17-19	1	Angola	Bilowus, White
"	19	5	Alabama	George
"	21	5	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence
"	26	1	Fredonia	fide Adams, Mead
Semipalmated Plover	4L	12	Somerset	D'Anna, Strong
<u>Black-necked Stilt</u>	17, 20; 21	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien et al; Potter, D'Anna
Greater Yellowlegs	<u>5_6</u> , 23, 30	1	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence
Lesser Yellowlegs	24F	1	Yates	McGann, Fidler
"	30	4	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Upland Sandpiper	14; 24	4	Tillman Rd. WMA	Sharon; Mudd
"	17	1	Welland, Ont.	Highcock
Ruddy Turnstone	1	1	Angola	Riley
"	2L	25	Ellery	Seleen
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1, 5	48, 21	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence
"	4; 13L	285; 2	Somerset	D'Anna, Strong; Strong
Least Sandpiper	3L	1	Haldimand, Ont.	Yoerg
"	30F	7	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence
White-rumped Sandpiper	2; 7L	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	Mudd; Stevens
"	4	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Strong
Dunlin	1; 4	3; 5	Somerset	Strong; D'Anna
"	3; 7L	3	Iroquois NWR	Fell; Stevens
Short-billed Dowitcher	<u>4L</u>	6	Somerset	D'Anna, Strong
Wilson's Phalarope	2	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Bonaparte's Gull	8; 9	2; 1	Point Breeze	Strong; A. Guthrie
* <u>Laughing Gull</u>	8	2	Point Breeze	Strong, D'Anna et al
Iceland Gull	1	1	Niagara Falls	Kundl
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4, 5	1	Somerset	D'Anna
Caspian Tern	2; 4	50; 30	Buffalo Harbor	Walters; Seidman
"	2	31	Wilson	D'Anna
Black Tern	2	1	North Tonawanda	Walters, Adams
"	20	24	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence
Common Tern	2	320	Niagara Falls	Walters
Common Nighthawk	1; 15	3; 4	Jamestown	Stineman; Leenders
Eastern Whip-poor-will	3	6	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg
Red-headed Woodpecker	30	3	Westfield	Grise
Merlin	1-9	2	Lakewood	Simmons
"	12; 15	2; 3	Buffalo	Humann
"	28	2	Allegany SP	Rybczynski
Peregrine Falcon	10	5	Buffalo	Hoover
"	14	2	Niagara Falls	Walters
"	21	3	Grand Island	Walters
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	3L	1	Hunters Creek CP	Dupont
Acadian Flycatcher	3	5	Hunters Creek CP	Dupont
"	8	3	Iroquois NWR	Mark
"	11	1	Barre	Bemont
"	24-30	5	Allegany SP	Hess
<u>Fish Crow</u>	2	1	Niagara Falls	Kundl
Purple Martin	22	116	Batavia WWTP	Morien
Cliff Swallow	1	53	Amherst	Morse
"	14	100	Niagara	Walters
"	16	250	Tonawanda	Walters
* Sedge Wren	19	1	Tonawanda WMA	Martin, Gullo
"	20	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien et al
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5L	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Swainson's Thrush	2; 3	1; 2	Allegany SP	Mlnnick; Reeves
"	4	3	Tonawanda	Hess
"	5L	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	2	Chestnut Ridge Park	Dupont
"	11	6	Wales	Lawrence
"	24-30	3	Allegany SP	Hess
* Brewster's Warbler	2	1	Iroquois NWR	Mudd
<u>Lawrence's Warbler</u>	28	1	Medina	Morien, Bemont
Black-and-white Warbler	3	1	Hunters Creek CP	Dupont
"	3	1	Bethany	Hess
Prothonotary Warbler	16; 26	5; 5	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence, Hess; Lawrence
Nashville Warbler	9	1	Harris Hill SF	Vanstrom
"	10	1	Allegany SP	Daniels
Cerulean Warbler	3	4	Iroquois NWR	Sweeney, Kester
"	7, 17	1, 2	Hartland	Strong
"	24	3	Newstead	McGann, Fidler
Northern Parula	3	2	Hunters Creek CP	Dupont
"	3; 24-30	5; 6	Allegany SP	Reeves; Hess
"	8	1	Machias	Barth

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Blackpoll Warbler	1	1	Amherst SP	Dupont, Stephenson
"	3L	1	Clarence	Morgante
"	3L	2	Delaware Park	Dupont
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	1	Iroquois NWR	Mudd
Prairie Warbler	2	6	Yorkshire	VanEtten
"	3; 8	3; 3	Machias	VerHague; Barth
"	8-23	1	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
Canada Warbler	5	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	11	3	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	28	4	Keeney Swamp SF	Schmidt
Yellow-breasted Chat	3; 4	1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg; Fell
Clay-colored Sparrow	7	4	Yates	Strong
"	<u>16; 30</u>	8; 4 PDDBA	Olcott	Barth, Hollister; Mudd
"	<u>25</u>	3	Carlton	Bemont
Vesper Sparrow	7	2	Sheridan	VerHague
"	10	2	New Albion	Morse
"	18-27	1	Yates	Strong et al
Grasshopper Sparrow	4, 19	2	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
"	17	2	Tillman Rd. WMA	Coleman
"	24	2	Lewiston	Potter, D'Anna
"	25	3	Yates	Bemont
White-throated Sparrow	8, 16	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	8	1	Iroquois NWR	Barton
"	28	2	Keeney Swamp SF	Schmidt
<u>Dickcissel</u>	17, 29	3, 5	Jordan, Ont.	Griffiths
"	18-25	4	Rosedene, Ont.	Griffiths
"	18, 26	2, 1	Saint Anns, Ont.	Griffiths, Smith
"	20; 29	3; 6	Sheridan	VerHague
"	23-28	2-5	Yates – Foss Rd.	Strong, Wilson et al
"	23-28	4-7	Yates – Lyndonville Rd.	Strong, Wilson et al
"	23-28	1	Yates – Lakeshore Rd.	Strong et al
"	21-29	5	John White WMA	Lawrence et al
"	28	1	North Pelham, Ont.	Griffiths
Bobolink	8	20	Alfred	Brooks
"	18	21	Belfast	Beattie
"	24	20	John White WMA	A. Guthrie, Morse
Orchard Oriole	3	1	Allegany SP	Miles, Mlnnick, Rhinehart
"	4	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
"	17	2	Hanging Bog WMA	Schmidt
"	13, 27	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Lawrence
"	24	1	Bond Lake CP	Warchocki
"	24	3	Olcott	Fell
Purple Finch	7, 26	8	Andover	Vars

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 273

Species, subspecies, and hybrids new for the year: 4

Total for the year (to date): **277**



(Left to Right) Mourning Warbler (Sprague Brook Park; **date**), Blue-winged Warbler (**place; date**), and Yellow Warbler (**place; date**) photographed by Sue Barth.



[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## Calendar and Announcements

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird:** 716-896-1271  
**Bird Hotline:** 1-877-698-3261 or 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335  
**Buffalo-Niagara Region Nature Blog:** <http://bnnatureblog.com/>  
 Visit [www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org) for a additional information on upcoming meetings and field trips.

**December 3: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester Birding Association for gulls and waterfowl.** Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced driver's license. Dress warmly. Leaders: RBA: Bob Spahn (585-671-5690, [RSPAHN@prodigy.net](mailto:RSPAHN@prodigy.net)); BOS: Tom O'Donnell (716-284-5569, [tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com))

**December 13: Wednesday 7PM. Holiday Celebration and a Talk from Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER.** BOS Meeting in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Presentation by Wendy Paterson. Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the quality and quantity of water, while connecting people to water. We will also be holding our Annual Holiday Celebration so please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship. We will also elect officers for the year 2018.

**December 16: Saturday. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC,** Garner Light ([garnerlight@hotmail.com](mailto:garnerlight@hotmail.com) or 716-491-4408)

**December 16: Saturday. Scio CBC,** Russell Allen ([rlatrains@yahoo.com](mailto:rlatrains@yahoo.com) or 585-593-3109)

**December 17: Sunday. BOS,** David Gordon ([dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com) or 716-390-1429)

**December 17: Sunday. St. Bonaventure CBC,** Regina M. VanScoy ([vanscoy716@outlook.com](mailto:vanscoy716@outlook.com) or 716-925-7109)

**December 17: Sunday. St. Catharines CBC,** Bob Highcock / Jean Hampson ([bob.jean@sympatico.ca](mailto:bob.jean@sympatico.ca) or home: 905-688-1260 or cell: 905-327-5457)

**December 17: Sunday. Jamestown CBC,** Bill Seleen ([wseleen@stny.rr.com](mailto:wseleen@stny.rr.com) or 716-664-4204)

**December 23: Saturday. Beaver Meadow CBC,** Tom Kerr ([tkerr.buffaloaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:tkerr.buffaloaudubon@gmail.com) or Beaver Meadow 585-457-3228 Tues - Sat)

**December 27: Wednesday. Niagara Falls CBC (ON/NY),** Marcie Jacklin (Ontario: [mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577) or Willie D'Anna (NYS: [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com) or 716-751-3637)

**December 28: Thursday. Oak Orchard CBC,** Celeste Morien ([celeste.morien@gmail.com](mailto:celeste.morien@gmail.com) or 585-721-8202)

**December 30: Saturday. Hamburg-East Aurora CBC,** Tom O'Donnell ([tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com) or 716-284-5569)

**December 30: Saturday. Port Colborne CBC,** Drew Campbell ([drew.campbell@gm.com](mailto:drew.campbell@gm.com) or [drewcampbell@roadrunner.com](mailto:drewcampbell@roadrunner.com); (home) 716-668-0759 or (cell) 812-797-6679). Meet at McDonald's, Highway 3 and Highway 58, Port Colborne at 8AM

**January 1, 2018: Monday. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC,** Joanne Goetz ([goetz@netsync.net](mailto:goetz@netsync.net) or 716-673-1627)

**January 10, 2018: 7PM Wednesday. Rarity Roundup!** BOS Meeting in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. A slideshow of photos and stories will be presented by BOS members that will include some of the rarities seen in the BOS study area in 2017! If you have photos and stories of rarities in 2017, please email the photo(s) to Sue Barth: [suebarth@verizon.net](mailto:suebarth@verizon.net) or Alec Humann [alechumann@msn.com](mailto:alechumann@msn.com).

**January 14, 2018: Sunday. January Waterfowl Count and Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey.** Contact the compiler for info or questions: Jim Landau at 716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)

**February 14: 7PM Wednesday. Western New York Land Conservancy.** BOS Meeting in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jajeane Rose-Burney WNY Land Conservancy will focus on the Western New York Land Conservancy, our work to protect wildlife habitat, especially that of birds.

**March 14: 7PM Wednesday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge Land Management Update.** BOS Meeting in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Program to be TBD.



House Wren photographed by Gale VerHague at [yyy](http://yyy) on June 14<sup>th</sup>.