Common Name: American black duck ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Anas rubripes*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S3B, SNRN
Tracked: No

Synopsis:
Until 1874, ornithologists did not distinguish between American black duck and mottled duck; both were then known collectively as dusky duck, under the name *Anas obscura*. In 1908, the American Ornithologists' Union adopted *rubripes* as the species name. American black duck commonly interbreeds with mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*) and other species (AOU 1983). Some authors suggest that it might be taxonomically appropriate to recognize the black duck as a dark morph (rather than a subspecies) of the mallard, based on genetic and behavioral similarity and frequent hybridization (Ankney et al. 1986).

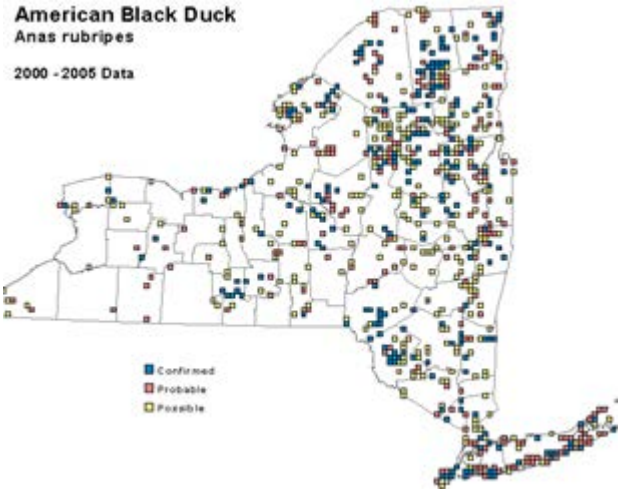
American black ducks occur in the eastern half of the United States and Canada, occurring year-round in the middle of this distribution, including New York. Breeding has been documented in a wide variety of habitats across its range including coastal salt marshes, brackish tidal marshes, and inland water bodies as well as open woodlands away from water. Severe declines of more than 90% rangewide began in the 1950s, but changes to hunting regulations in 1983 appear to have resulted in a stabilized—though much reduced—population in the Atlantic Flyway.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		Abundance (within NY distribution)		NY Distribution Trend	NY Abundance Trend
0% to 5%		Abundant		Severe Decline	Severe Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%	X	Fairly common	X		
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
American black duck is adaptable, nesting in boreal forest bogs and coastal marshes as well as ponds, streams and even scrub fields and open woodlands some distance from water. Coastal habitats are known to be declining, with long-term rates of decline accelerating since the 1970s. Inland habitats are stable.

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Plain Pond
Floodplain Forest
Freshwater Marsh
Hardwood Swamp
High Marsh
Open Acidic Peatlands
Tidal Creek
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occurrence in 728 survey blocks, 14% of the state (McGowan and Corwin 2008). This represents a 34% decline in occupancy from 1980-85 to 2000-05. Winter counts in Atlantic Flyway averaged 36,000 in New York in the 1950s and 20,000 in the early 1980s. Since then, counts have remained stable around 17,500. Breeding Bird Atlas data show a decline of 34% from the first Atlas (1980-85) to the second Atlas (2000-05). Breeding Bird Survey data show no significant trend range-wide but New York data show a non-significant decline from 0.30 bird/route in the late 1960s to 0.12 in the 1980s, and fewer than 0.08 birds/route in 2000.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Longcore, Jerry R., Daniel G. Mcauley, Gary R. Hepp and Judith M. Rhymer. 2000. American Black Duck (Anas rubripes), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America
Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/481
doi:10.2173/bna.481

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (hybridization w/ mallards)	N	L	V
2. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals	N	L	L
3. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	R	M	H
4. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas	R	M	V

References Cited:

Ankey, C.D., D.G. Dennis, L.N. Wishard, and J.E. Seeb. 1986. Low genetic variation between black ducks and mallards. Auk 103:701-709.

AOU (American Ornithologists' Union). 1983. Check-list of North American birds, 6th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, DC.

McGowan, K.J. and K. Corwin, eds. 2008. The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: American three-toed woodpecker ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Picoides dorsalis*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: SGCN

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2
Tracked: Yes

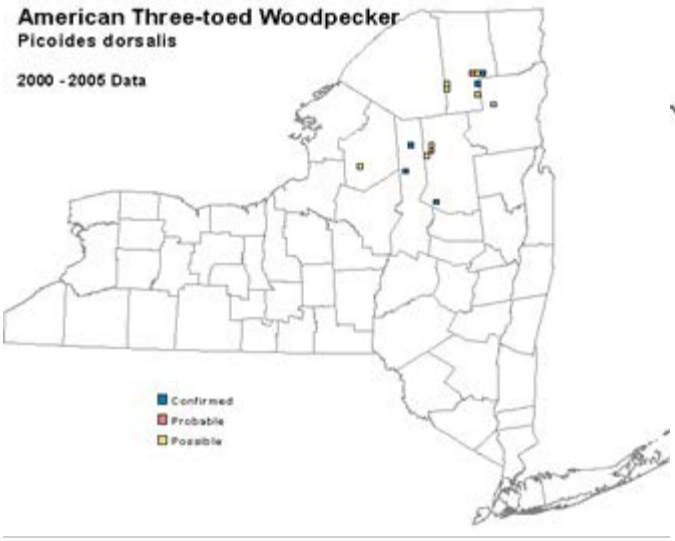
Synopsis:
The Northern three-toed woodpecker was separated into distinct New World and Old World species in 2006: *P. dorsalis* in North America and *P. tridactylus* in Europe and Asia. The American three-toed woodpecker has the northernmost distribution of any woodpecker in North America, remaining year-round in boreal regions of Canada and northernmost regions of the United States. The disjunct population in New York is found in the Adirondack Mountains where breeding occurs in black spruce bogs and mountain spruce-fir forests. In all areas where the three-toed woodpecker occurs, it is thinly distributed and is thus a difficult species to monitor. There are indications of decline in New York: the second Breeding Bird Atlas documented the species in 32% fewer survey blocks than 20 years ago, though Peterson (1988) noted that the difficulties in finding this species result in uncertainty regarding its true status.
Although trends are difficult to interpret, populations at the southern edge of the range are thought to be lower than they were previously. The three-toed woodpecker's use of old-growth forests and its dependence on ephemeral habitats created by natural disturbances make it a conservation concern.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Data Deficient	Data Deficient
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
The three-toed woodpecker is associated with spruce-fir and spruce-fir-northern hardwood forests, which are often associated with bogs and swamps. It is found in areas where dead standing timber remains following burning or logging. Occasional irruptions of this woodpecker follow increased bark beetle populations that result from disturbances including burns, but also storms and flooding.
In New York, three-toed woodpeckers breed in mountain spruce-fir forests and black spruce bogs, as well as forests with deciduous trees.

Primary Habitat Type
Boreal Forested peatland
Conifer Forest Swamp
Mixed Hardwood Swamp
Mountain Spruce-Fir Forests
Spruce-Fir Forests and Flats

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 15 survey blocks statewide with confirmed breeding in only 5 blocks, a decline of 32% overall.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Leonard, Jr., David L. 2001. American Three-toed Woodpecker (Picoides dorsalis), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/588
doi:10.2173/bna.588

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting	N	M	H
2. Natural System Modification	Fire & Fire Suppression	N	L	H
3. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	P	V	V
4. Pollution	Air-borne Pollutants (acid rain, mercury)	W	H	H
5. Residential & Commercial Development	Residential & Commercial Development (fragmentation)	R	M	H
6. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (spruce budworm)	W	M	V

References Cited:

Peterson, J.M.C. 1988. Three-toed woodpecker, *Picoides tridactylus*. Pages 236-239 in The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State, R.F. Andrle and J.R. Carroll, editors. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York, USA.

Common Name: Barn owl
Scientific Name: *Tyto alba*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S1S2
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
Formerly known as common barn-owl, the barn owl occurs across most of the United States and southward to Central America. In New York, it is at the northern extent of its range. This owl is rare in New York and has declined at an alarming rate in the past 20 years. It is a secondary cavity-nester that breeds in open habitats including grasslands, marshes, and agricultural areas. Appropriate cavities range from barns and outbuildings to cliff crevices to man-made nest boxes. Most known nesting areas are on Long Island and Staten Island (Coastal Lowlands), where nest boxes are seemingly critical.

The Breeding Bird Atlas documented a 78% decline in occupancy statewide since the 1980s with records all but disappearing from upstate New York. A 66% decline was documented on the Coastal Lowlands during this period (1980-85 to 2000-05). The species responds well to the placement of nest boxes and has a "high recovery and management potential" (Rosenberg 1992). Release of captive-raised owls in western New York beginning in 1974 has been ineffective in establishing a breeding population but may account for at least some of the records upstate. Declines have been documented in other northeastern states in the past several decades.

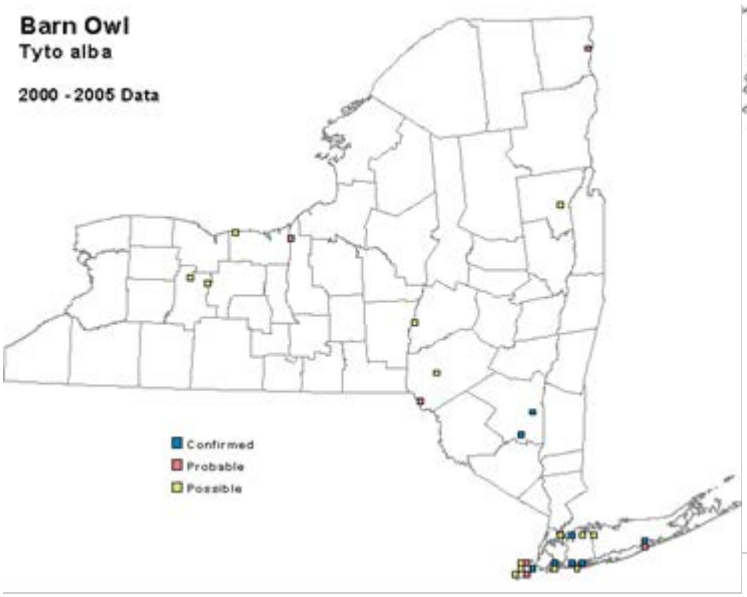
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Barn owls occupy a broad range of open habitats, urban to rural, and occur virtually anywhere there are populations of rodents upon which to feed (Bull 1974). Barn owls will nest in a wide variety of cavities, both natural and those made by humans, including trees, cliffs, caves, riverbanks, church steeples, barn lofts, haystacks, and nest boxes. Breeding numbers seem limited by the availability of nest cavities in proximity to adequate densities of small mammals, especially voles, its primary prey.

Primary Habitat Type
Cultivated Crops
Freshwater Marsh
Freshwater Tidal marsh
Great Lakes Freshwater Estuary Marsh
Maritime Dunes
Native Barrens and Savanna

Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Pasture/Hay
Rocky Outcrop

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 28 survey blocks, which is <1% of the state (McGowan and Corwin 2008). The northern range limit is determined by climate, specifically the severity of winter conditions. New York is at the northern edge of the range. Christmas Bird Count data show declines in the last 20 years. BBA data (2000-05) show 78% fewer blocks where the species was documented since the first Atlas (1980-85). Only 11 of the 28 atlas surveys blocks with records in 2000-05 were north of Long Island. On Long Island, there was a decline of 66% in occupancy was documented during the second atlas period.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Marti, Carl D., Alan F. Poole and L. R. Bevier. 2005. Barn Owl (Tyto alba), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/001
doi:10.2173/bna.1

Primary Habitat Type
Cultivated Crops
Freshwater Marsh
Freshwater Tidal marsh
Great Lakes Freshwater Estuary Marsh
Maritime Dunes
Native Barrens and Savanna
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Pasture/Hay
Rocky Outcrop

References Cited:

Bull, J. 1974. Birds of New York State. Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City, NY. [Reprinted by Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, 1985.]

McGowan, K.J. and K. Corwin, eds. 2008. The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Rosenburg, C. 1992. Barn owl, *Tyto alba*. In Migratory nongame birds of management concern in the Northeast, K.J. Schneider and D.M. Pence, eds. USFWS, Newton Corner, MA.

Common Name: Bay-breasted warbler
Scientific Name: *Setophaga castanea*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
Formerly *Dendroica castanea*, bay-breasted warbler was reclassified into the genus *Setophaga* in July 2011 (see AOU). This species breeds in mature conifer forests, especially spruce-fir. About 98% of the population breeds across the boreal forests in Canada. In New York, it is found only in the Adirondack Mountains, where it occurs as a disjunct population at the southernmost edge of the North American range, about 250 miles from the core breeding area. A 63% decline in occupancy in New York was documented by the Breeding Bird Atlases from 1980-85 to 2000-05.

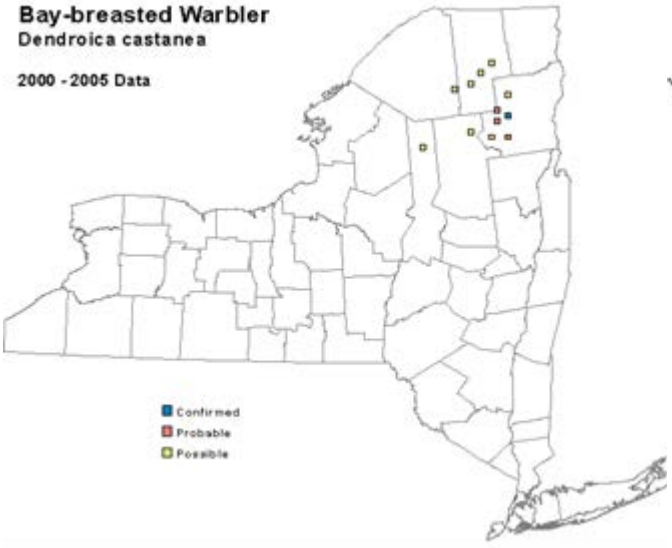
Local populations fluctuate with the presence of a favored food item, spruce budworm. Royoma et al. (2005) refer to bay-breasted warbler as a cyclical species that has a very high probability of returning to higher population levels.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Bay-breasted warbler nests in mature conifer forest, especially spruce/fir with only a scattering of deciduous trees and often near water, but it appears to expand its habitat into young and intermediate aged stands in response to budworm outbreaks. Peterson (1988) summarized the habitat use to include Norway spruce plantations—one near a large open bog—and a variety of tree species including balsam fir, hemlock, pine, birch, willow, and shrubs. Peterson (1988) also noted that breeding frequently occurred in these forest types along rivers, open water courses, sluggish streams, and beaver ponds.

Primary Habitat Type
Conifer Forest Swamp
Mixed Hardwood Swamp
Mountain Spruce-Fir Forests
Spruce-Fir Forests and Flats

Distribution:
Bay-breasted warbler populations fluctuate markedly with the abundance of spruce budworm (Venier et al. 2009). In Canada, which contains more than 90% of its range, the bay-breasted warbler declined 3% annually from 1970 to 2009 and 5.2% annually from 1989 to 2009. In North America, the bay-breasted warbler has increased an average of 2.7% per year from 2001-2011 (Sauer et al. 2012). In New York, the Breeding Bird Atlas documented a 63% decline in occupancy from 1980-85 to 2000-05. Sauer et al. (2012) have suggested that declines in the New York from 2001-2011 are approximately 5.4% per year, which indicates a 43% decline in abundance over the period. However, Sauer et al. (2012) advise that these data should be used cautiously as they may have some deficiencies.
The Wildlife Conservation Society conducted point counts for 12 boreal species at 59 locations in the Adirondack Park from 2007-2011. Fewer than five detections were obtained for bay-breasted warbler, which prevented occupancy modeling. The second breeding bird atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 12 survey blocks, less than 1% of the state. This is a decline of 63% since 1980-85.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Venier, Lisa, Steve Holmes and Janet Mci. Williams. 2011. Bay-breasted Warbler (Setophaga castanea), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/206
doi:10.2173/bna.206

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (collisions with buildings, cell towers)	R	M	H
2. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting	N	M	H
3. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	P	V	V
4. Pollution	Air-borne Pollutants (acid rain, mercury)	W	H	H
5. Pollution	Excess Energy (migration, esp. NYC)	R	M	M
6. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (fragmentation)	R	M	H
7. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Management (insect spraying)	R	M	H

References Cited:

McGowan, K.J. and K. Corwin, eds. 2008. The second Atlas of breeding birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Peterson, J.M.C. 1988. Bay-breasted warbler, *Dendroica castanea*. Pages 392-93 in The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (R.F. Andrle and J.R. Carroll, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Royama, T., W.E. MacKinnon, E.G. Kettela, N.E. Carter, and L. Harting. 2005. Analysis of spruce budworm outbreak cycles in New Brunswick, Canada, since 1952. Ecology 86: 1212–1224.

Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, J. E. Fallon, K. L. Pardieck, D. J. Ziolkowski, Jr., and W. A. Link. 2012. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2011. Version 07.03.2013 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

Venier, L.A., J.L. Pearce, D.R. Fillman, D.K. McNicol and D.A. Welsh. 2009. Effects of Spruce Budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana* (Clem.)) Outbreaks on Boreal Mixed-Wood Bird Communities. Avian Conservation and Ecology - Écologie et conservation des oiseaux 4(1): 3.

Common Name: Bicknell's thrush
Scientific Name: *Catharus bicknelli*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Candidate Species
New York Status: Special Concern

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G4
New York: S2S3B
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
Formerly known as a subspecies of the gray-cheeked thrush, the Bicknell's thrush was classified as a distinct species in 1995 (AOU 1995), a designation that has heightened conservation interest. This species occurs in montane fir forest in the northeastern United States and adjacent Canadian provinces. Following the narrow habitat preferences, populations are localized and disjunct. In New York, breeding occurs only in the Adirondack Mountains and Catskill Mountains; other U.S. populations occur in Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire.

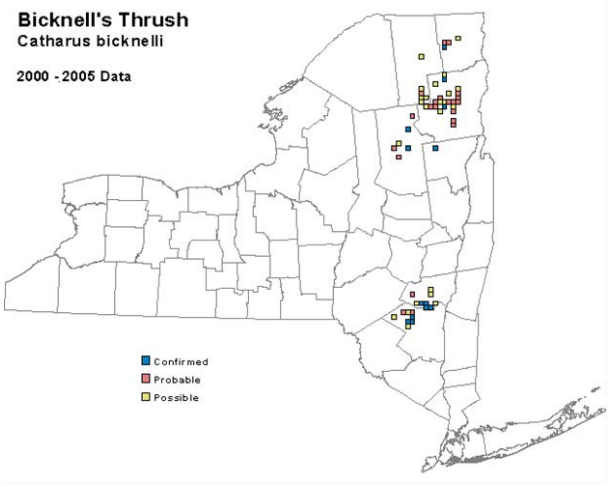
Bicknell's thrush is considered vulnerable due to its restricted breeding range in high elevation forests (North American Bird Conservation Initiative 2010). The Mountain Birdwatch (MBW) program has conducted species-specific monitoring of Bicknell's thrush in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine since 2000. The trend analysis of observed abundance in MBW data from 2001-2010 indicate significant increases in the Adirondack and Catskill mountains, and across the five regions (Scarl 2011). Populations in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are declining severely (Campbell and Stewart 2012).

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Increasing	Increasing
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Lambert et al. (2005) estimated that 24% of Bicknell's thrush habitat in the U.S. is found in New York; 93% of those known lands are conserved in some manner. This thrush nests in dense montane forests dominated by balsam fir with lesser amounts of red and black spruce, white birch, and mountain-ash. Regenerating spruce/fir "waves" (trees of progressing ages) are preferred habitat. In a statewide survey in 1992-94, Rimmer (2013) reports that the lowest elevation where Bicknell's thrush was reported was 3,780 feet.

Primary Habitat Type
Mountain Spruce-Fir Forests
Spruce-Fir Forests and Flats

Distribution:
From 2001 to 2010, Mountain Birdwatch documented nesting season reports on 38 mountains in New York: 14 in the Catskills and 24 in the Adirondacks. The second breeding bird atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in a total of 57 blocks (17 in Catskills, 40 in Adirondacks), 13 of which were records of confirmed breeding (McGowan and Corwin 2008).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Rimmer, Christopher C., Kent P. Mcfarland, Walter G. Ellison and James E. Goetz. 2001. Bicknell's Thrush (Catharus bicknelli), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/592 doi:10.2173/bna.592

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	W	M	V
2. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	N	L	V
3. Residential & Commercial Development	Tourism & Recreation Areas (skiing)	N	L	H
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	Utility & Service Lines (cell towers)	N	L	H
5. Pollution	Air-borne Pollutants (acid rain)	W	M	M
6. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (mercury)	P	H	H
7. Pollution	Excess Energy (migration, esp. NYC)	R	M	M

References Cited:

American Ornithologists' Union. 1995. Fortieth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union checklist of North American birds. Auk 112:819-830.

Campbell, G. and Stewart, B. 2012. High Elevation Landbird Program 10-year Report. Unpublished report by Bird Studies Canada (Atlantic Region), Sackville NB.

Lambert, J.D., K.P. McFarland, C.C. Rimmer, S.D. Faccio, and J.L. Atwood. 2005. A practical model of Bicknell's thrush distribution in the northeastern United States. Wilson Bulletin 117:1-11.

North American Bird Conservation Initiative U.S. Committee. 2010. The State of the Birds 2010 Report on Climate Change, United States of America. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior.

Rimmer, C.C. and K.P. McFarland. 2013. Bicknell's Thrush: a twenty-year retrospective on the Northeast's most vulnerable songbird. Bird Observer 41:9-16.

Scarl, J. C. 2011. Mountain Birdwatch 2010-2011: Annual report to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Unpublished report. Vermont Center for Ecostudies, Norwich, VT. 18 pp.

Common Name: Black rail
Scientific Name: *Laterallus jamaicensis*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Endangered

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G4
New York: S1B
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
Two of five black rail subspecies breed in North America; the eastern black rail (*L. j. jamaicensis*) breeds in the eastern United States and southward into Central America. The northern edge of the distribution is in Long Island, NY and along the Connecticut shore. Black rails inhabit tidal marshes and freshwater wetlands. The breeding range of eastern black rail has contracted since the early 1930s and its population has declined by as much as 75% over the past 10 to 20 years. It is not abundant anywhere but occurs in higher densities south of New Jersey.

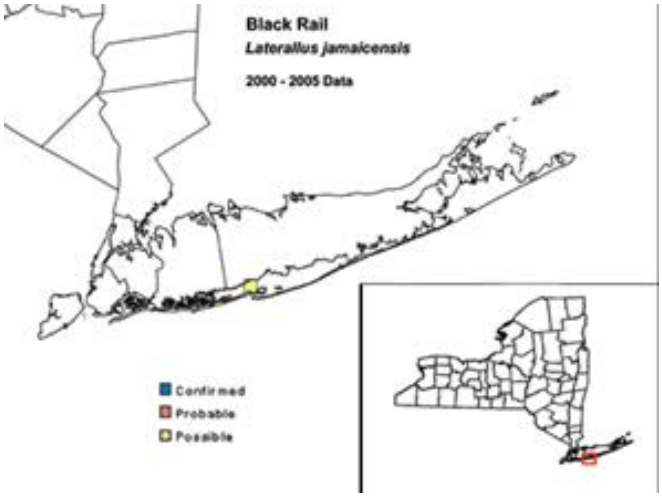
One of New York's rarest birds and the smallest of the rail family, this state-endangered species was documented in only one Atlas block in both survey periods—the location in that survey block was Oak Beach, Suffolk County—and was not confirmed breeding during either Atlas survey. Medler (2008) summarized the history of the species in New York: confirmed breeding has not been documented since 1940, though breeding was suspected in 1969 (Post and Enders 1969).

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		No Data/Data Deficient	No Data/Data Deficient
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Black rail occur in salt marshes, shallow freshwater marshes, wet meadows, and flooded grassy areas. Confirmed breeding occurred in saltmeadow cordgrass in New York and breeding was suspected in saltwater cordgrass (Medler 2008).

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Plain Pond
Freshwater Marsh
Great Lakes Freshwater Estuary Marsh
High Marsh
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
The second breeding bird atlas (2000-05) documented only one record—Oak Beach, Suffolk County—the same location of the single record during NY's first atlas. A territorial black rail was documented on three dates in June and July 2009 at Napeague, Suffolk County (Lindsay and Mitra 2009).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

NYSDEC (2013)

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration (including sea level rise)	P	H	V
2. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	P	H	V
3. Human Disturbance & Intrusions	Recreational Activities	P	H	H
4. Pollution	Household Sewage & Urban Wastewater	P	M	M
5. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (Phragmites, domestic cats)	P	H	H
6. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (predation)	P	H	H
7. Pollution	Air-borne pollutants (mercury)	P	H	H

8. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents (insect spraying)	P	H	H

References Cited:

Medler, M. D. 2008. Black Rail, Laterallus jamaicensis. The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (McGowan, K. J., Corwin, K. J., Eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Lindsay, P.J. and S.S. Mitra. 2009. Region 10 – Marine. Kingbird 59(4):390-98.

Post, W. and F. Enders. 1969. Reappearance of the Black Rail on Long Island. Kingbird 19:189-191.

Common Name: Black skimmer
Scientific Name: *Rynchops niger*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Special Concern

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
The black skimmer is coastal species, occurring from Massachusetts southward along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to Mexico. It breeds on sparsely-vegetated sandy beaches and—with more frequency since the early 1990s—in salt marshes. Sandy beach habitat has been compromised in many places by increased development and recreation. Since 2000, the number of black skimmer colonies has ranged from 6 to 15, but in 2010 and 2011, skimmers bred in only two locations: Breezy Point in Queens County and Nickerson Beach in Nassau County. In the same period, the number of breeding pairs has increased overall.

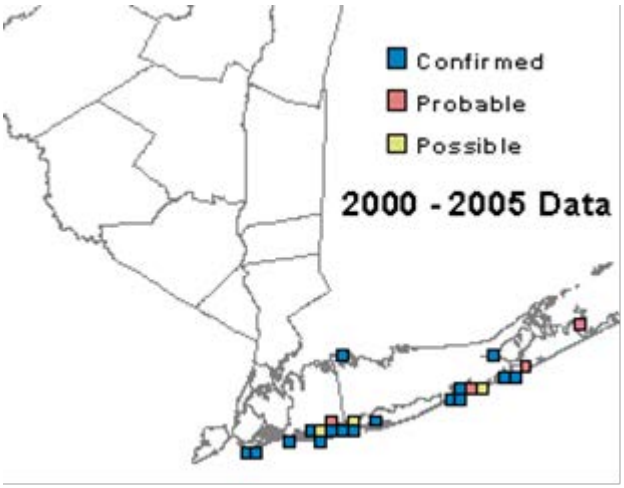
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Stable
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common	X		
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Black skimmer is a coastal breeder, nesting on sparsely-vegetated sandy beaches, dredge spoil islands, and in salt marshes. In New York, the species has recently begun using salt marshes more frequently, likely a response to increased development and recreation pressures on Long Island's sandy beaches. On the south shore of Long Island, skimmers nest near bay inlets. Sandy beach habitats are often shared with nesting least terns. Black skimmers and terns have been using rooftops as alternate nesting locations along the coast in Florida where beach habitat has become severely limited (Langridge and Hunter 1986). Foraging habitat, which may be a considerable distance away from nesting areas, includes shallow and tidal waters of bays, inlets, marshes, estuaries, and salt marsh pools (Arthur 1921, Tompkins 1951).

Primary Habitat Type
High Marsh
Marine Dredge Spoil Shore
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Maritime Dunes

Distribution:
On average, about 495 black skimmer pairs nest annually in New York. The Long Island Colonial Waterbird survey documented 589 pairs at two active sites in 2010. The Nickerson Beach nesting site averages between 150 and 200 pair annually with much higher counts in recent years. Nickerson's highest survey count occurred in 2009 with 467 pair. The Breezy Point nesting site averages approximately 150

pair with a high survey count of 353 pair in 2001. The second breeding bird atlas (2000-05) documented occurrence in 25 survey blocks, less than 1% of the state but 9% of the survey blocks on Long Island (McGowan and Corwin 2008).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Gochfeld, Michael and Joanna Burger. 1994. Black Skimmer (Rynchops niger), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America
Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/108
doi:10.2173/bna.108

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	P	H	M
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (human-subsidized predators)	P	H	H
3. Natural System Modification	Other ecosystem (control of overwash)	P	M	L
4. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	P	M	V
5. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive and Non-native/Alien Species (domestic cats)	P	L	H

References Cited:

Arthur, S. C. 1921. The feeding habits of the black skimmer. Auk 38:566-574.

Langridge, H.P. and G.S. Hunter. 1986. Inland nesting of black skimmers. Florida Field Naturalist 14: 72-74.

McGowan, K.J. and K. Corwin, eds. 2008. The second atlas of breeding birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Tomkins, I. R. 1951. Method of feeding in the black skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*). Auk 68: 236-239.

Common Name: Black tern
Scientific Name: *Chlidonias niger*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Endangered

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G4
New York: S2B
Tracked: Yes

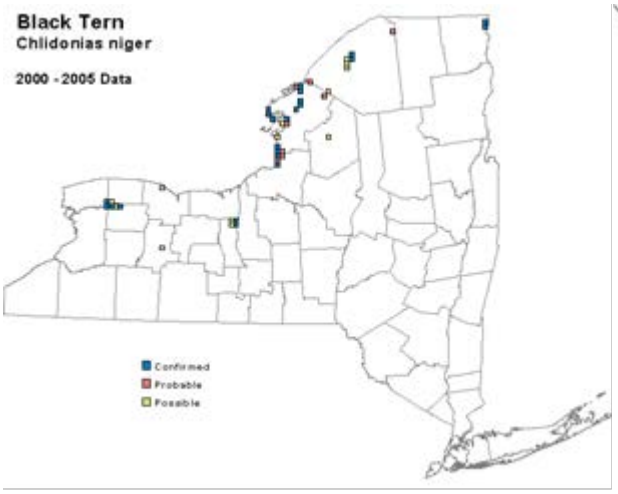
Synopsis:
Two subspecies are recognized, New World *surinamensis* and *niger* of Eurasia. The black tern occurs in semi-secluded freshwater marshes and forages in nearby open bodies of water. It is listed as Endangered in New York due to serious long-term population declines. In North America, Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data show an average annual decline of 3.2% over the period 1966-2009. During the period 1966-1989 the breeding population in North America has declined at an annual rate of 5.6% per year, for an overall population decline of 71.8%. The decline has been greater during this same period in the U.S. (8.2% per year, overall 84.8%) than in Canada (4.8% per year, 66.1% overall). In New York, recent surveys have shown a decline from 235 nesting pairs at 28 sites in 1989 compared to 182 nesting pairs at 10 sites in 2010 (I. Mazzocchi, pers. comm.). Nearly all extant populations in New York occur on the Great Lakes Plain.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Severe Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Black terns breed semi-colonially in semi-secluded freshwater emergent marshes. They forage over nearby bodies of open water. In the Great Lakes region, black terns use both marshes as well as inland and lake shoreline habitat for breeding. Occupied habitats include shallow marshes, open water areas of deeper marshes, wet meadows, natural ponds, lakes and river oxbows, reed-bordered sloughs, shallow river impoundments, edges of streams, and swampy grasslands. Habitat requirements seem strict, as black terns will colonize and abandon marshes as water level changes and vegetation makeup changes. Because the black tern is sensitive to water level fluctuations, it has been adopted as a performance indicator species by the International Joint Commission Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study (www.losl.org). The black tern is an area-dependent species and in addition to marsh size, proximity to other wetlands is a critical factor in habitat selection (NYNHP 2011). Terns favor marshes > 20 ha, but they will nest in marshes ranging from 5-11 ha, though only if they are part of a larger wetland complex (Brown and Dinsmore 1984, Novak 1992).

Primary Habitat Type
Freshwater Marsh
Great Lakes Freshwater Estuary Marsh
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
NYSDEC conducts a black tern statewide count every three years. In 2010, 93 historic or current sites were surveyed. Ten of the sites were occupied and a total of 182 nesting pairs were documented (NYSDEC unpublished data). Occupied sites and the numbers of breeding birds at those sites can vary by year.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Heath, Shane R., Erica H. Dunn and David J. Agro. 2009. Black Tern (Chlidonias niger), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/147 doi:10.2173/bna.147

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (wetland fragmentation)	R	L	V
2. Residential & Commercial Development	Tourism & Recreation Areas (shoreline development)	R	L	V
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (purple loosestrife, phragmites, reed canary, invasive cattail sp.)	P	M	H
4. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents (runoff, siltation, organochlorines)	W	L	H
5. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (acid deposition, mercury, organochlorines)	P	L	H
6. Natural System Modification	Other Ecosystem Modification (succession)	R	L	M
7. Natural System Modification	Dams & Water Management/Use	W	M	H
8. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	W	L	V
9. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	M	V
10. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Drought	W	M	V
11. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (cattail)	W	M	H
12. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (paddling/photography)	R	L	M

References Cited:

Brown, M., and J. J. Dinsmore. 1986. Implications of marsh size and isolation for marsh bird management. J. Wildl. Manage. 50:392-397.

New York Natural Heritage Program. 2011. Online Conservation Guide for *Chlidonias niger*. Available from: http://acris.nynhp.org/guide.php?id=6925. Accessed 10 February 2012.

Novak, P. G. 1992. Black tern, *Chlidonias niger*. Pages 149-169 in K. J. Schneider and D. M. Pence, editors. Migratory nongame birds of management concern in the Northeast. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Newton Corner, Massachusetts. 400 pp.

Common Name: Bobolink
Scientific Name: *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S5B
Tracked: No

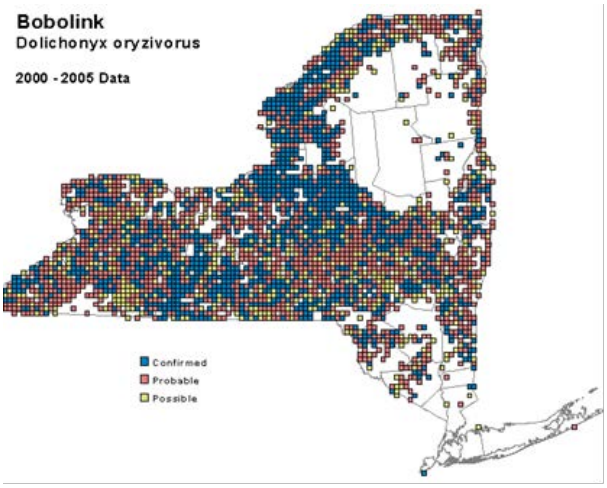
Synopsis:
Bobolinks breed across the northern half of the United States and winter in South America. They rely on agricultural landscapes, where nesting occurs in hay meadows or grassy pastures. Higher densities are observed in larger grazed pastures and larger, older hayfields containing the least amount of alfalfa. The Second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) showed an 8% decline in occupancy since 1980-85. Breeding Bird Survey data for New York show a significant annual decline of 0.8% per year for the period 1999-2009 and a significant annual decline of 1% per year for the period 1966-2009.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%		Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common	X		
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%	X	Rare			

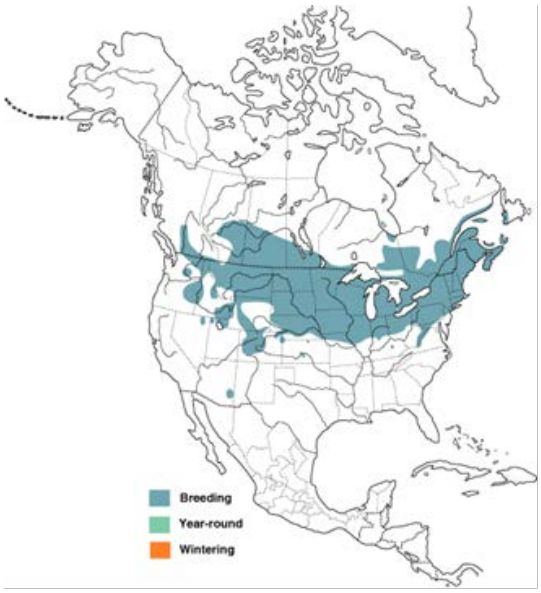
Habitat Discussion:
Bobolinks may prefer fields comprised of a mixture of grasses and broad-leaved forbs such as red clover (*Trifolium pretense*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*). Density is high in fields in west-central New York with relatively low amounts of total vegetative cover, low alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) cover, and low total legume cover but with high litter cover and high grass-to-legume ratios relative to other nearby fields (Bollinger 1988a, Bollinger and Gavin 1992). These vegetative characteristics occur in hay fields in New York that are ≥ 8 years old, determined by the time since last plowing and reseeding (Bollinger and Gavin 1992). These "old" hay fields contain significantly higher densities of bobolinks than hay fields < 8 years old, or than any of 3 other types of fields or pastures sampled. Also, large fields have higher densities than small fields; fields ≥ 30 ha support more than twice the number of males per 100 m of transect than fields ≤ 10 ha (Bollinger and Gavin 1992).

Primary Habitat Type
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Pasture/Hay

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) recorded occupancy in 60% of the survey blocks statewide, a decline of 8% since 1980-85 (McGowan and Corwin 2008).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Martin, Stephen G. and Thomas A. Gavin. 1995. Bobolink (Dolichonyx oryzivorus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/176 doi:10.2173/bna.176

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	W	L	V
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-Timber Crops (intensification & changes in agriculture)	P	H	M
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (competition for nest sites; red-winged blackbird)	P	L	H
4. Transportation & Service Corridor	Roads & Railroads (fragmentation)	R	L	V
5. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents (pesticides, rodenticides)	W	H	H
6. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	P	H	M
7. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (sensitive to disturbance from turbines)	R	L	H
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (pale swallowwort)	R	M	M
9. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (fracking)	N	L	H

References Cited:

Bollinger, E. K. 1988a. Breeding dispersion and reproductive success of Bobolinks in an agricultural landscape. Phd Thesis. Cornell Univ. Ithaca, NY.

Bollinger, E. K. and T. A. Gavin. 1992. Eastern Bobolink populations: ecology and conservation in an agricultural landscape. Pages 497-506 in Ecology and conservation of neotropical migrant landbirds. (Hagan III, J. M. and D. W. Johnston, Eds.) Smithson. Inst. Press, Washington, D.C.

McGowan, K.J. and K. Corwin, eds. 2008. The second atlas of breeding birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Brown thrasher
Scientific Name: *Toxostoma rufum*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S3S4B
Tracked: No

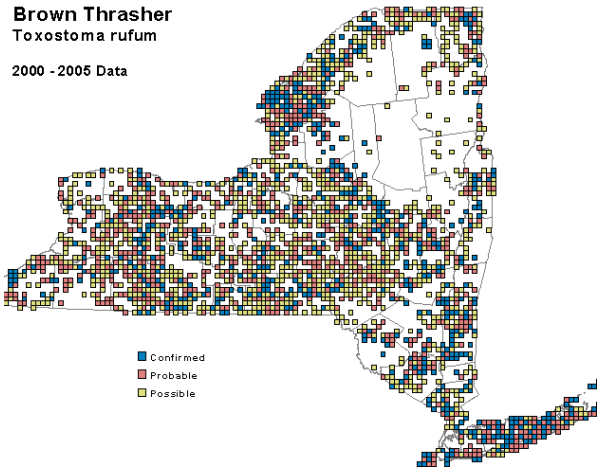
Synopsis:
Brown thrashers breed across the eastern two-thirds of the United States. They can be found in brushy open country, forest clearings, thickets, shelter belts, riparian areas, and suburbs. In New York, they occur statewide with the exception of the Adirondack Mountains, where records are sparse. Breeding occurs in thickets, hedgerows and open countryside; this is an early-successional species. Significant declines have been noted in New York by the Breeding Bird Survey since 1966. The second Breeding Bird Atlas in New York documented a decline in occupancy of 30% since the 1980s. Declines have been documented in all adjacent states and in the Eastern BBS Region.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%		Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon	X		
> 50%	X	Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Brown thrashers breed in thickets and bushy areas in deciduous forest clearings and forest edge, in shrubby areas and gardens, as well as overgrown pastures, hedgerows, and barren habitats. During migration and winter they also use scrub habitats. Cade (1986) summarized the literature reporting thrasher density in several habitats and found highest densities in Illinois hedgerows and North Dakota woody draws, and lowest density in Iowa herbaceous fields, Michigan coniferous/deciduous forest, and North Dakota floodplain forest.

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Coniferous Barrens
Native Barrens and Savanna
Non-native Shrublands
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Pine Barrens
Powerline

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 44% of the survey blocks statewide, a decline of 30% since the first atlas (McGowan and Corwin 2008).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Cavitt, John F. and Carola A. Haas. 2014. Brown Thrasher (Toxostoma rufum), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/557 doi:10.2173/bna.557

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss to development)	W	L	H
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Perennial & Non-Timber Crops (habitat loss to agriculture)	N	L	M
3. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	P	M	M
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species	Problematic Native Species (increased predation from urbanization)	R	L	H
5. Transportation & Service Corridors	Roads & Railroads (road kill, fragmentation)	R	L	H
6. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (competition with mockingbirds)	N	L	H
7. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (brown-headed cowbird parasitism)	W	L	H
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-native/Alien Species	W	L	H
9. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (collisions with communication towers similar to wind turbines)	W	L	H

References Cited:

Cade, B. S. 1986. Habitat suitability index models: Brown Thrasher. Biol. Rep. 82 (10.118). U.S. Dep. of Agric., U.S. For. Wildl. Serv.

McGowan, K.J. and K. Corwin, eds. 2008. The second atlas of breeding birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Buff-breasted Sandpiper ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Tryngites subruficollis*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G4
New York: SNRN
Tracked: No

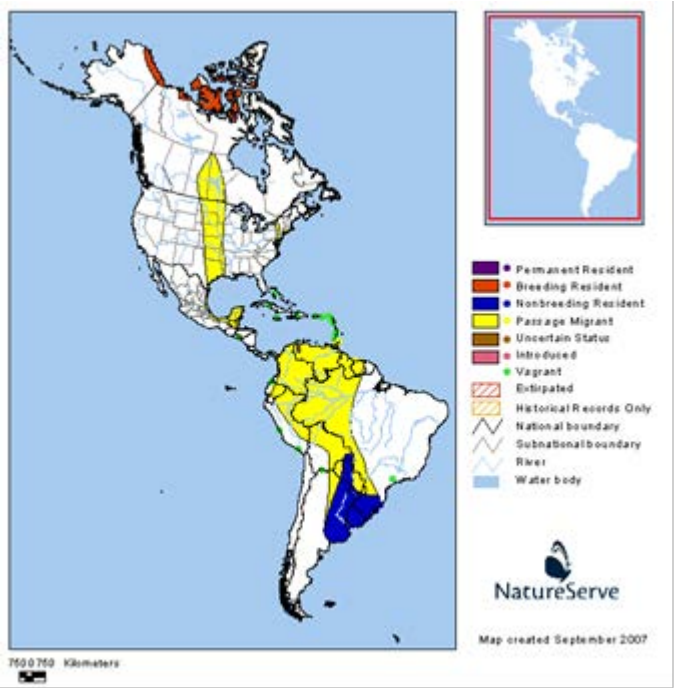
Synopsis:
Buff-breasted sandpiper was severely overhunted in the early part of the 1900s, reportedly declining to near extinction from a population that may have numbered in the millions. All available evidence suggests that buff-breasted sandpiper is declining across its range. It occurs in New York only as a fall migrant; spring migration occurs along the Central Flyway. Small numbers of birds occur in New York annually; rarely, groups reach 30 or 40. Sod farms provide the best habitat for buff-breasted sandpipers in New York.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Stable	Stable
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Fall migrants are found in short grass plains and dry uplands (Johnsgard 1981). It has been observed in man-altered habitats such as sod fields, airport runways, golf courses, cemeteries, burnt-over grasslands, cotton fields, recently ploughed fields, newly planted rice fields, flat, hard, sunbaked stubble, and barren recently inundated land (Cramp and Simmons 1983, Lanctot, unpubl. data). Edges of ponds are used for wading, drinking, and bathing, but not feeding (Cramp and Simmons 1983). In New York, sod farms across upstate and on Long Island have been the most productive place to observe this sandpiper.

Primary Habitat Type
Cultivated Crops
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Urban and Recreational Grasses

Distribution:
Lolya (1989) notes that "reports of this species have increased during the last 20 years but groups of more than one or two individuals are still very rare."



NatureServe (2013)

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas	P	H	V
2. Residential & Commercial Development	Tourism & Recreation Areas	W	L	L
3. Human Intrusion & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	W	L	L
4. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents	P	H	V
5. Pollution	Household Sewage & Urban Waste Water	P	H	V
6. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	P	H	V
7. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	M	M
8. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (wind farms)	W	M	H
9. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (dredging, filling)	W	M	H

References Cited:

Cramp, S. and K. E. L. Simmons (eds.). 1983. The birds of the Western Palearctic. Vol. 3: waders to gulls. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Johnsgard, P.A. 1981. The Plovers, Sandpipers and Snipes of the World. University of Nebraska Press. Lincoln. 493 pp

Common Name: Canada warbler
Scientific Name: *Cardellina canadensis*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S5
Tracked: No

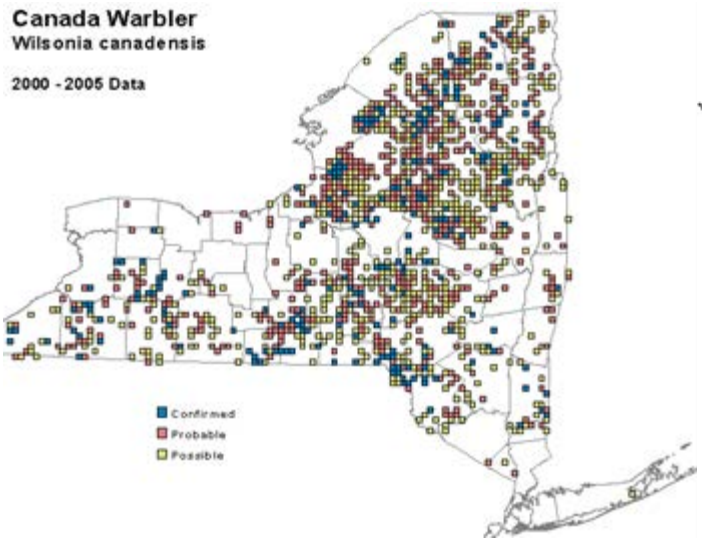
Synopsis:
Formerly *Wilsonia canadensis*, Canada warbler was recently placed in the genus *Cardellina*. It breeds across Canada and in the northeastern United States, where populations extend southward along the highest elevations of the Appalachian Mountains. This is an early-successional species that prefers moist, mixed deciduous-coniferous forests with a well-developed understory. Populations rangewide have declined steadily over the past 30 years. New York's second Breeding Bird Atlas shows a 23% decline in occupancy over the past 20 years. Declines are likely in response to forest maturation, deer over-browse, and loss of forested wetlands in the breeding range, and habitat loss outside of the breeding range.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%		Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%	X	Uncommon	X		
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
The Canada warbler inhabits a variety of deciduous and coniferous forests with a well-developed understory. At the southern edge of the range, where New York lies, Canada warblers are more common in higher elevations, especially in tangled thickets and streamside vegetation. They can, however, also be found at lower elevations in wooded swamps and bogs. New findings suggest that Canada warbler densities are naturally highest in swamps and riparian forests with a well-developed shrub layer (Lambert and Faccio 2005). Canada warblers require large forested tracts for breeding in settled landscapes, but it appears not to be area-sensitive in forest-dominated regions (Lambert and Faccio 2005).

Primary Habitat Type
Conifer Forest Swamp
Floodplain Forest
Hardwood Swamp
Mixed Hardwood Swamp
Mixed Northern Hardwoods
Northern White Cedar Swamp

Distribution:
New York's second breeding bird atlas (2000-05) recorded Canada warbler in 24% of survey blocks statewide, a decline of 23% since the first atlas survey (McGowan and Corwin 2008). Most occupied blocks are in the Adirondack Mountains, Tug Hill, and the Appalachian Plateau.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Reitsma, Len, Marissa Goodnow, Michael T. Hallworth and Courtney J. Conway. 2010. Canada Warbler (Cardellina canadensis), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/421
doi:10.2173/bna.421

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (forest maturation)	W	M	M
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (deer overbrowse)	R	M	M
3. Pollution	Air-Borne Pollutants (acid rain, mercury)	R	L	H
4. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (collision with wind towers, communication towers)	N	L	H
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	N	L	H

References Cited:

Lambert, J.D. and S.D. Faccio. 2005. Canada warbler population status, habitat use, and stewardship guidelines for northeastern forests. VINS Technical Report 05-4. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Woodstock, VT.

McGowan, K.J. 2008. Canada warbler, *Wilsonia canadensis*. Pages 534-35 *in* The second atlas of breeding birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Cape May warbler
Scientific Name: *Setophaga tigrina*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2
Tracked: Yes

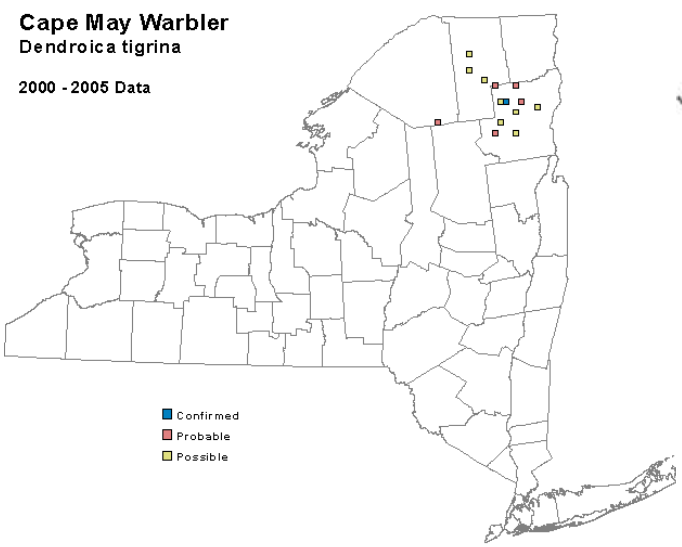
Synopsis:
Formerly *Dendroica tigrina*, Cape May warbler was recently placed in the genus *Setophaga* (Chesser et al. 2011). This warbler breeds in the boreal forests of Canada and northernmost portions of the United States. In New York, Cape May warblers breed only in the Adirondack Mountains. This population is disjunct from the main breeding range and represents the southern breeding limit for the species. This warbler's presence is known to be closely associated with spruce budworm outbreaks and it can disappear from an area in the absence of this favored food source (Morse 1978). Breeding Bird Atlas data and Breeding Bird Survey data for New York both indicate declining trends in the past 20 years. Long-term trends show declines as well, though more severely.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Cape May warbler breeds in boreal spruce and fir forests, typically in stands more than 50 years old, and more than 15 meters high; trees generally have well-developed crowns. Occupied areas also include some trees that rise above canopy, and are thus suitable for singing posts (NatureServe 2011).

Primary Habitat Type
Conifer Forest Swamp
Mountain Spruce-Fir Forests
Spruce-Fir Forests and Flats

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented Cape May warbler in 14 survey blocks statewide, again all in the Adirondack Mountains, and still less than 1% of the entire state (McGowan and Corwin 2088). Only two locations were the same during both Atlases, though: Bloomingdale Bog on the Essex/Franklin county line; and Chubb River, Essex County.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Baltz, Michael E. and Steven C. Latta. 1998. Cape May Warbler (Setophaga tigrina), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/332 doi:10.2173/bna.332

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Transportation & Service Corridors	Roads & Railroads (fragmentation)	R	M	H
2. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (collisions with buildings, cell towers, turbines)	R	M	H
3. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting	N	M	H
4. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	P	V	V
5. Pollution	Air-borne Pollutants (acid rain, mercury)	W	H	H
6. Pollution (migration, esp. NYC)	Excess Energy	R	M	M
7. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (fragmentation)	R	M	H
8. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Management (insect spraying)	R	M	H

References Cited:

Chesser, R. Terry, Richard C. Banks, F. Keith Barker, Carla Cicero, Jon L. Dunn, Andrew W. Kratter, Irby J. Lovette, Pamela C. Rasmussen, J. V. Remsen, James D. Rising, Douglas F. Stotz, Kevin Winker. 2011. Fifty-second supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds. Auk 128(3):600-613.

McGowan, K.J and K. Corwin, eds. 2008. The second atlas of breeding birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Morse, D.H. 1978. Populations of Bay-breasted and Cape May Warblers during an outbreak of the spruce budworm. Wilson Bull. 90:404-413.

NatureServe. 2011. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available http://www.natureserve.org/explorer. Accessed 13 December 2011.

Common Name: Cattle egret
Scientific Name: *Bubulcus ibis*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
This species began a remarkable worldwide range expansion from eastern Africa in the late 1800s, and on the North America continent in the early 1950s. The U.S. population increased greatly from the 1950s to the 1970s, and by the 1990s, cattle egret was common in many regions. Populations are still colonizing new areas, but Atlantic Coast populations have been declining since the 1970s to 1990s (Telfair 2006, Sauer et al. 2012). Regarding their presence in New York, McCrimmon (1978) noted that the cattle egret has demonstrated the "complex and variable dynamics of a species at the northern limit of its range."

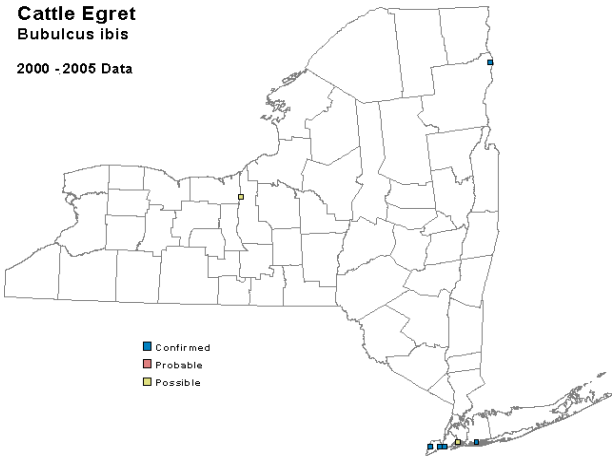
Cattle egret first appeared in New York in 1970 when nesting was documented at Gardiners Island, Suffolk County (Puleston 1970). During the 1980s, two colonies were active upstate: Little Galloo Island and Four Brothers Island. Only Four Brothers Island currently has breeding activity. Although no birds were observed nesting during the 2013 survey in New York Harbor, there were two adult birds in breeding plumage sighted on Elders Marsh, Jamaica Bay during June of that year (S. Elbin, pers. comm.).

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Severe Decline	Severe Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Cattle egret are distinct from other herons in their association with cattle. They are found in wet pastureland and marshes, fresh water and brackish situations, dry fields, and agricultural areas (especially irrigated ones), as well as at garbage dumps. Breeding colonies are often situated near human habitation (Telfair et al. 2000b). On Long Island, cattle egret occur on non-barrier salt marsh islands (NY Natural Heritage 2009).

Primary Habitat Type
Freshwater Marsh
Low Marsh
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Pasture/Hay
Urban and Recreational Grasses

Distribution:
During the second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05), nesting was documented upstate only at Four Brothers Islands. Downstate, 2004 surveys at the New York Harbor area showed breeding only at South Brother Island (Bronx County) and Hoffman Island (Suffolk County), and in 2005 only at South Brother Island (McGowan and Corwin 2008). The Long Island Colonial Waterbird Survey in 2010 documented breeding at one colony, Canarsie Pol, with one active breeding pair. No active nesting was documented during 2013 surveys (F. Hamilton, pers. comm.). Although no birds were observed nesting during the 2013 survey in NY Harbor, there were two adult birds in breeding plumage on Elders Island in Jamaica Bay in June (S. Elbin, pers. comm.).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Telfair II, Raymond C. 2006. Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/113 doi:10.2173/bna.113

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	N	H	M
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species	Problematic Native Species (cormorants)	P	H	M
3. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	P	M	V

References Cited:

McCrimmon, Jr., D. A. 1978. Nest site characteristics among five species of herons on the North Carolina coast. Auk 95:267-280.

McGowan, K.J. and K. Corwin, eds. 2008. The second atlas of breeding birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Puleston, D. 1970. First recorded nesting of the cattle egret in New York State. Kingbird 20:178-179.

Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, J. E. Fallon, K. L. Pardieck, D. J. Ziolkowski, Jr., and W. A. Link. 2012. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2011. Version 12.13.2011 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

Telfair II, R. C. 2006. Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/113.

Common Name: Common nighthawk
Scientific Name: *Chordeiles minor*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Special Concern

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2S3B
Tracked: Yes

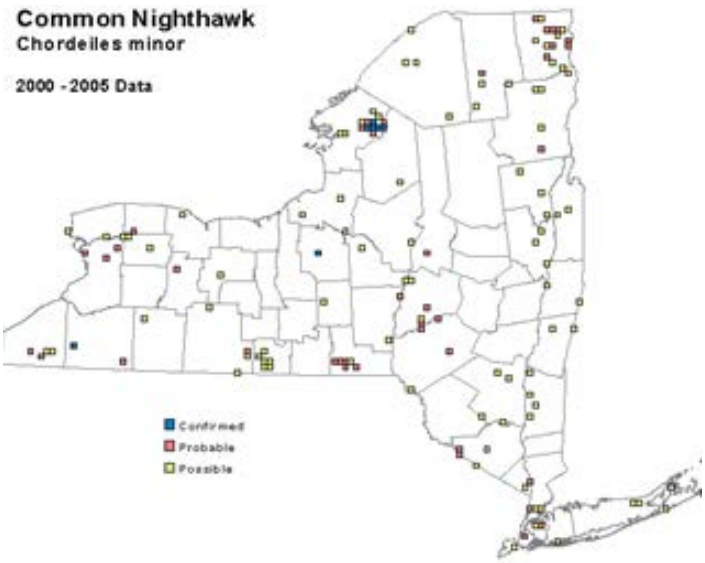
Synopsis:
Nine subspecies of common nighthawk have been recognized based on plumage color and size. Habitats include mountains and plains in open and semi-open areas: open coniferous forests, savanna, grasslands, fields, vicinity of cities and towns. In New York, populations seem to be concentrated in urban areas where rooftops are presumably used for nesting, and also in areas of the state with open barrens habitat including Fort Drum, eastern Long Island, and eastern Clinton County. Range-wide trends and New York trends show severe population declines, both short-term and long-term. The second Breeding Bird Atlas showed a 71% decline in occupancy in New York over the past 20 years.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Severe Decline	Severe Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Habitats include mountains and plains in open and semi-open areas: open coniferous forests, pine barrens, savanna, grasslands, fields, vicinity of cities and towns. Nesting occurs on the ground on a bare site in an open area. In New York, this species also nests on the flat gravel roofs of buildings, perhaps related to prey availability at artificial lights. This type of roof material is now infrequently used, having been replaced by rubberized surfaces.

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Coniferous Barrens
Commercial/Industrial and Residential
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Pasture/Hay
Pine Barrens

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented nighthawks in 3% of the survey blocks across the state, a decline of 71%. The number of blocks with Confirmed records was 8, a decline of 81%.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Brigham, R. M., Janet Ng, R. G. Poulin and S. D. Grindal. 2011. Common Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/213
doi:10.2173/bna.213

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (changes in rooftop construction material)	W	M	H
2. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents (insecticides)	W	H	M
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (blue jays, crows, foxes,)	W	M	H
4. Natural Systems Modifications	Fire & Fire Suppression	N	L	M
5. Natural System Modifications	Other System Modifications (loss of pastures to natural succession)	R	L	H

References Cited:

McGowan, K.J. and K. Corwin, eds. 2008. The second atlas of breeding birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Eastern meadowlark
Scientific Name: *Sturnella magna*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S5B
Tracked: No

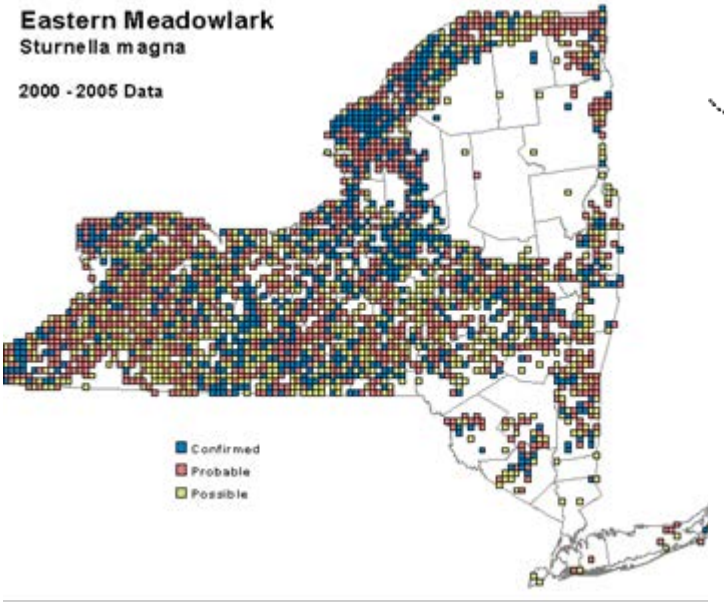
Synopsis:
The eastern meadowlark is not a lark (Family *Alaudidae*) but is related instead to New World blackbirds (Family *Emberizidae*). This is a bird of farmland and open country, occurring in this habitat across the eastern United States. Numbers have declined drastically since the 1960s throughout much of its North American range because of changes in land use and human encroachment.
In New York, the second Breeding Bird Atlas documented a 25% decline in occupancy from 1980-85 to 2000-05. Breeding Bird Survey data for New York show significant short-term (1999-2009) and long-term (1966-2009) declines. These declines correspond with the disappearance of suitable nesting habitat resulting from the succession of open lands to forest and suburban development (Smith 2008).

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%		Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%	X	Uncommon	X		
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
This is a species of agricultural and somewhat developed landscapes including hay meadows and grassy pastures, as well as the grassy areas of airports and golf courses. It is absent from higher elevations and developed areas in the state.

Primary Habitat Type
Cultivated Crops
High Marsh
Native Barrens and Savanna
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Pasture/Hay
Urban and Recreational Grasses

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 49% of the survey blocks statewide, a decline of 25% (McGowan and Corwin 2008). BBS data for New York show a significant decline of 5.0% per year from 2001-2011 and a significant decline of 5.5% per year from 1966-2011. BBS data for the eastern region show a significant 3.4% per year decline from 2001-2011 and a significant 3.7% annual decline from 1966-2011 (Sauer et al. 2012).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

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doi:10.2173/bna.160

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	W	L	V
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-timber Crops (intensification & changes in agriculture)	P	H	M
3. Transportation & Service Corridor	Flight Paths (plane strikes)	N	L	V
4. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (pesticides, rodenticides)	W	H	H
5. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	P	H	M
6. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (sensitive to disturbance from turbines)	R	L	H
7. Invasive & Non-Native Species & Genes	Invasive/Alien Species	R	M	M
8. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (fracking)	N	L	H

References Cited:

Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, J. E. Fallon, K. L. Pardieck, D. J. Ziolkowski, Jr., and W. A. Link. 2012. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2011. Version 07.03.2013 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

Smith, C.R. 2008. Eastern meadowlark, Sturnella magna. Pages 592-93 in The second Atlas of breeding birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Golden-winged warbler ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Vermivora chrysoptera*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Special Concern

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G4
New York: S3B
Tracked: No

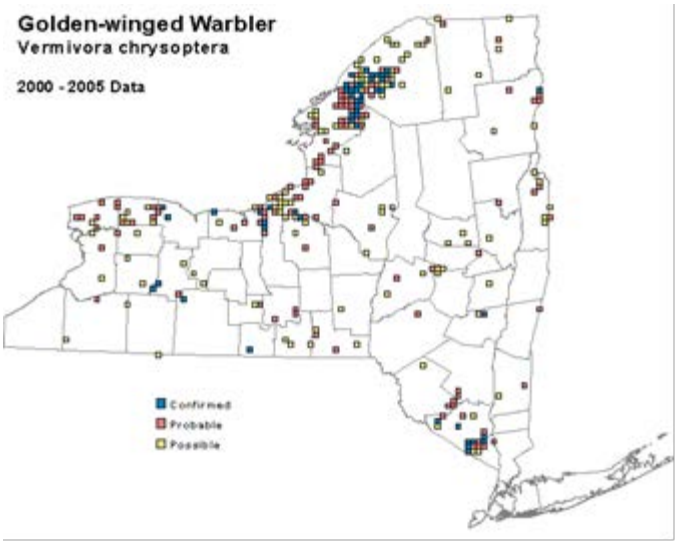
Synopsis:
The golden-winged warbler is a bird of early-successional habitats. In New York, it is near the northern edge of its distribution. The North American distribution has expanded northward over the past 100 years, but populations in the Northeast have declined severely over the past 40 years. Golden-winged warbler is included on lists of conservation concern in the United States and Canada. Breeding Bird Atlas data for New York, where it is listed as a Species of Special Concern, show a 53% decline in occupancy from 1980-85 to 2000-05. The golden-winged warbler is most seriously threatened by competition and hybridization with the blue-winged warbler. Reversion and conversion of early-successional habitats to more mature forest types and developed habitats are also major threats.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Severe Decline	Severe Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
This warbler nests in habitat with dense herbaceous cover and patches of shrubs, often adjacent to a forest edge. Natural disturbance habitats include beaver glades, openings from natural fires, oak parklands, and swamp forests with partially open canopy. It also occurs in a variety of anthropogenic disturbance sites such as clearcuts, abandoned farmlands, reclaimed strip mines, and power line rights-of-ways. Golden-winged warbler is considered a keystone species by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Early Successional (ESH) Habitat Initiative.

Primary Habitat Type
Hardwood Swamp
Non-native Shrublands
Plantation, Disturbed Land, Pioneer Forest
Powerline
Riparian
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 270 survey blocks statewide, a decline of 53% since the first Atlas (McGowan and Corwin 2008).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Confer, John L., Patricia Hartman and Amber Roth. 2011. Golden-winged Warbler (Vermivora chrysoptera), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/020 doi:10.2173/bna.20

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Natural System Modification	Other Ecosystem Modification (succession)	P	H	H
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (cowbird parasitism)	P	H	H
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (interaction with blue-winged warbler)	W	H	H
4. Residential & Commercial	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss to development)	N	L	V
5. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Perennial & Non-Timber Crops (habitat loss to agriculture)	R	M	H
6. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-native/Alien Species (phragmites)	N	M	M
7. Energy Production and Mining	Renewable Energy (communication towers similar to wind turbines)	R	L	M

References Cited:

McGowan, K.J. and K. Corwin, eds. 2008. The second Atlas of breeding birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Grasshopper sparrow ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Ammodramus savannarum*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Special Concern

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S3B
Tracked: No

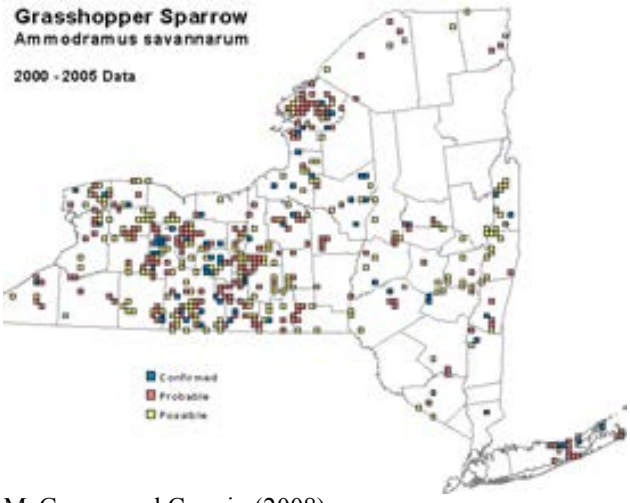
Synopsis:
Four subspecies of grasshopper sparrow occur in North America. This is a sparrow of open grasslands and prairies with habitats containing more shrubs utilized in the southwest (Vickery 1996).
As a grassland bird, the grasshopper sparrow is one of the most severely declining species in New York. Breeding Bird Atlas data shows a decline of 42% between the two Atlas periods, 1980-85 to 2000-05. BBS data show significant long-term and short term declines in the state and in the Eastern BBS region. Areas of concentration include the Finger Lakes region, the central portion of the Southern Tier, and Jefferson County. It is sparsely distributed across the Mohawk Valley and persists in the eastern Suffolk County barrens habitat on Long Island (Smith 2008).

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%		Abundant		Moderate Decline	Severe Decline
6% to 10%	X	Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

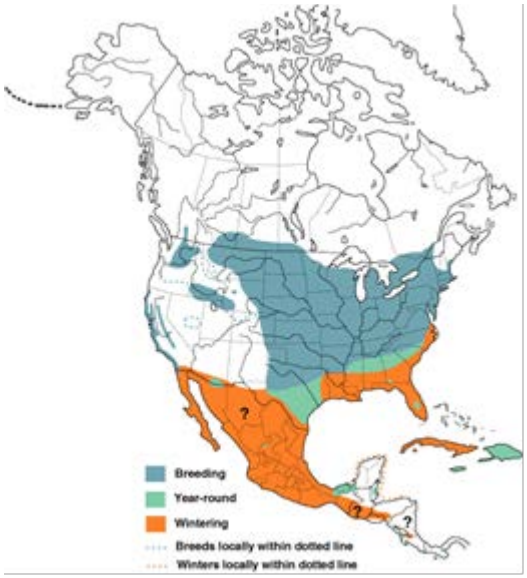
Habitat Discussion:
The grasshopper sparrow is a bird of open grasslands and prairies. This sparrow is reported to use open grasslands with patches of bare ground, avoiding areas with extensive shrub cover (Vickery 1996), but this is not always the case in New York (Smith 2008). In western New York, grasshopper sparrows are more likely to persist in grasslands larger than 8 ha (Balent and Norment 2003).

Primary Habitat Type
Native Barrens and Savanna
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Pasture/Hay
Pine Barrens
Urban and Recreational Grasses

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 9% of the survey blocks statewide, a decline of 42% in the last 20 years (McGowan and Corwin 2008).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Vickery, Peter D. 1996. Grasshopper Sparrow (Ammodramus savannarum), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America
Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/239
doi:10.2173/bna.239

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	W	M	V
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-timber Crops (intensification & changes in agriculture)	P	H	M
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (competition for nest sites; RWBL, SAVS)	P	M	H
4. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (pesticides, rodenticides)	W	H	H
5. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	P	H	M
6. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (sensitive to disturbance from turbines)	R	M	H
7. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-native/Alien Species	R	M	H
8. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (fracking)	N	L	H

References Cited:

Balent, K.L. and C.J. Norment. 2003. Demographic characteristics of a grasshopper sparrow population in a highly fragmented landscape of western New York State. Journal of Field Ornithology 74:341-348.

McGowan, K.J. and K. Corwin, eds. 2008. The second Atlas of breeding birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Smith, C. R. 2008. Grasshopper sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum*. Pages 556-57 in The second atlas of breeding birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Vickery, Peter D. 1996. Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology. <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/239>.

Common Name: Gray jay
Scientific Name: *Perisoreus canadensis*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S3
Tracked: No

Synopsis:
The gray jay is a species found across North America in boreal and sub-alpine coniferous habitat, where it is considered emblematic of such habitat. In New York State, it is restricted to mature spruce forest in the Adirondack Mountains. The gray jay is considered G5 (globally secure), but it is classified as S3 (vulnerable) in New York, S1 (critically endangered) in Vermont (NatureServe 2013), and an S3 in both Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Blancher (2003) suggested that the species is declining across its continental range. Peripheral populations in Algonquin Park, Ontario are experiencing significant population declines, which have been attributed to spoiling of food supplies due to a changing climate (Waite and Strickland 2006). In New York, the species was confirmed to breed at one more atlas block in the 1980-1985 Breeding Bird Atlas than in the 2000-2005 Atlas. Moreover, there was a similar number of blocks in which gray jays were observed, but not confirmed to breed. However, atlas data results should be considered with caution as survey effort is not standardized. Results of Glennon (2010) suggest that the gray jay's population was stable from the 2007-2009 surveys; however, more recent survey data show a downward population trend (Glennon, unpubl. data). Given that NY is at the southern edge of the boreal habitat and that climate change may negatively affect both food caches and boreal habitat alike, the gray jay is likely to experience further range-wide declines in NY in the future.

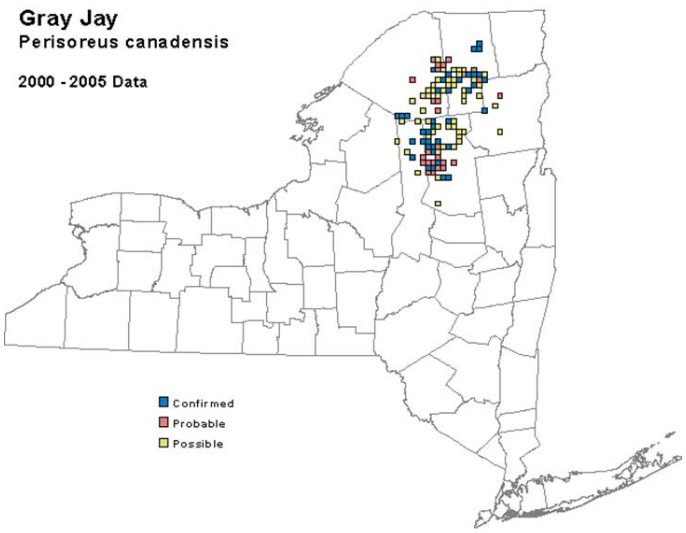
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Severe Decline	Severe Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common	X		
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
The gray jay lives in boreal coniferous forest, which occurs in isolated patches in New York, disjunct from the neighboring boreal to the north. These isolated patches of habitat occur at fringes of bogs and water courses, and tend to be associated with peatlands. Loss and fragmentation of boreal habitat occurred in the late 1800s and early 1900s due to widespread softwood logging (i.e., clearcutting) and increasing development that took place at that time. After timber in these clearcut areas regenerated, softwood species tended to give way to the more prolific hardwood species, and in many cases, these areas became hardwood-dominated and therefore no longer suitable for boreal species' occupancy (McCarthy 1919, McMartin 1994, Jenkins 2004). Another contributing factor adding to spruce tree declines was a blight caused by the spruce beetle (*Dendroctonus rufipennis*), which is thought to have killed an estimated one-third to one-half of spruce trees in the Adirondack Region from 1870-1885, potentially contributing to further habitat fragmentation and population reductions (Fox 1895, Pinchot 1899). In addition, timber harvesting was often accompanied by the damming of rivers to transport

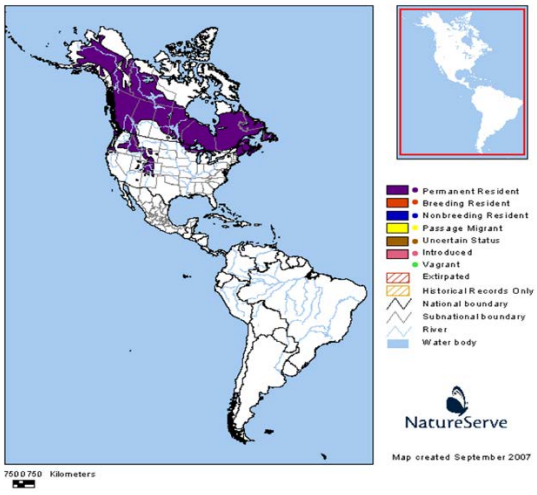
softwoods downstream to mills, which resulted in the flooding and additional loss of boreal habitat (Bouta 1991).

Primary Habitat Type
Boreal Forested peatland
Mountain Spruce-Fir Forests
Spruce-Fir Forests and Flats

Distribution:
Recent extensive target species surveys indicated that the gray jay has experienced a decline from 71 (+12) % to 67 (+12) % of boreal forest occupancy in the Adirondack Park from 2007-2001 (Table 1) (M. Glennon, unpubl. data).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



NatureServe (2013)

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting	N	L	L
2. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	P	M	V
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (spruce budworm outbreaks)	N	L	H

4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (West Nile Virus)	R	M	V
5. Pollution	Air-Borne Pollutants (acid rain)	W	M	M
6. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (mercury)	W	M	H

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Waite, T.A., and D. Strickland. 2006. Climate change and the demographic demise of a bird living on the edge. Proc. R. Soc. Biol. Sci. 273(1603):2809-2813.

Common Name: Henslow's sparrow
Scientific Name: *Ammodramus henslowii*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Threatened

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G4
New York: S3B
Tracked: Yes

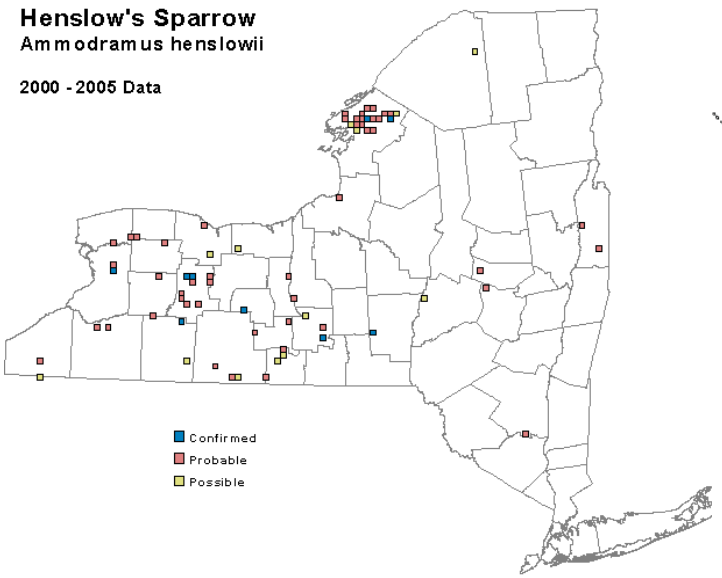
Synopsis:
Henslow's sparrow occurs roughly from New York to Minnesota and southward to Kansas in the west and Pennsylvania in the east. This is a grassland bird that prefers tall, dense grassy fields with no woody plants, some standing dead vegetation, and a thick litter layer (Herkert et al. 2002). It is found largely in pastures, both active and inactive (Smith 1988), and tolerates wet conditions (Bull 1974). The largest concentration of Henslow's sparrow occurs in Jefferson County. Other occurrences are scattered in the western part of the state; most of the records from eastern New York disappeared in the past 20 years. Breeding Bird Survey data for the United States from 1966-2011 show a decline of 0.7% per year. BBS data for New York from 1966-2011 show that Henslow's sparrow populations are decreasing at a rate of approximately 10.5% per year (Sauer et al. 2012). Breeding Bird Atlas data for New York documented an 80% decline in occupancy from 1980-85 to 2000-05 (McGowan and Corwin 2008).

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Severe Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

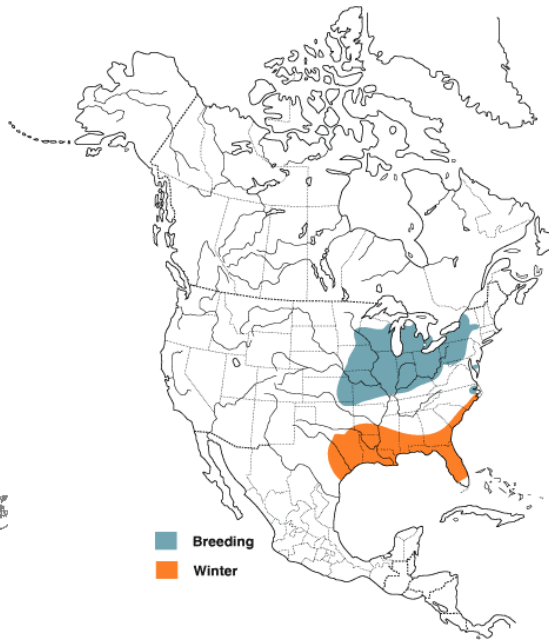
Habitat Discussion:
The Henslow's sparrow is a grassland species, preferring tall, dense, grassy fields with little woody vegetation; wet grasslands are also used (NYNHP 2011). Peterson (1983) found them in large, ungrazed fields with a variety of moisture regimes and without woody invasion. They were often found on hilltops. Bull (1974) described their habitat preference in New York as "grassy fields and meadows with scattered bushes and herbaceous plants, both in wet and dry situations."

Primary Habitat Type
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Pasture/Hay
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 70 blocks statewide, a decline of 80% in twenty years (McGowan and Corwin 2008).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Herkert, James R., Peter D. Vickery and Donald E. Kroodsma. 2002. Henslow's Sparrow (Ammodramus henslowii), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/672
doi:10.2173/bna.672

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	W	V	V
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-timber Crops (intensification & changes in agriculture)	P	V	V
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (competition for nest sites, RWBL, SAVS)	P	L	H

4. Transportation & Service Corridor	Roads & Railroads	R	L	V
5. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (pesticides, rodenticides)	W	H	H
6. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	P	H	M
7. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (sensitive to disturbance from turbines)	R	M	H
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive/Non-native Alien Species	R	M	H
9. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (fracking)	N	L	H

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Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, J. E. Fallon, K. L. Pardieck, D. J. Ziolkowski, Jr., and W. A. Link. 2012. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2011. Version 07.03.2013 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

Common Name: Horned lark
Scientific Name: *Eremophila alpestris*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Special Concern

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S3S4B
Tracked: No

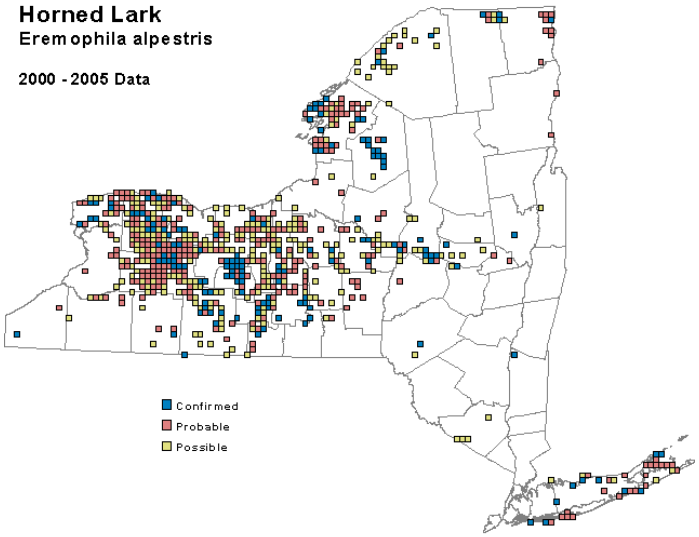
Synopsis:
Two races of horned lark occur in New York. The *nominate alpestris* is highly migratory, breeding in Ontario and Quebec, and on islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; it winters in large numbers in New York. The race *practicola* breeds in New York and is at least partially sedentary.
A bird of open agricultural lands, the horned lark breeds on unplowed fields early in the year, often raising and fledging young before those fields are planted in the spring. The North American distribution has shifted in response to habitat availability, with populations in the shortgrass prairies west of the Mississippi River expanding eastward and southward during the late 1800s as land was cleared for agriculture. Breeding was first confirmed in New York (Buffalo) in 1875 (Bull 1974).
Populations are now declining in the east—including in New York—with the loss of open agricultural lands for breeding. Declines were first documented in the Northeast in the 1940s. Breeding Bird Survey data for the eastern United States show a short-term decline of 0.9% per year from 1999 to 2009 and a long-term decline of 2.9% per year from 1966 to 2009. The second Breeding Bird Atlas in New York showed a 37% decline in occupancy from 1980-85 to 2000-05.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%		Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%	X	Fairly common	X		
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

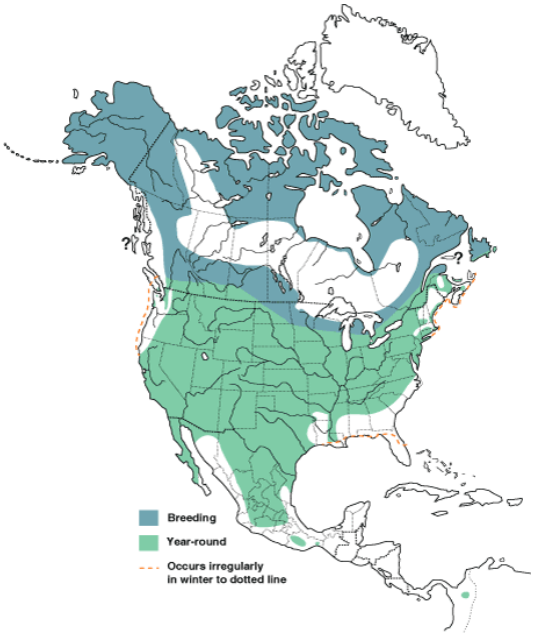
Habitat Discussion:
Horned larks prefer the least vegetated of open lands for nesting; sparse vegetation and exposed soil are characteristic of nesting areas. Pickwell (1931) described the horned lark habitat in New York to include old meadows, plowed fields, pastures, potato and cabbage fields, racetrack grounds, golf courses, sheep pastures, and sandy barrens. Bull (1974) included sand dunes with beach grass as a breeding habitat. Larks will continue to occupy active pastures and fields planted with corn, beans, and potatoes well into mid-summer (Smith 2008).

Primary Habitat Type
Cultivated Crops
Great Lakes Dune and Swale
Maritime Dunes
Native Barrens and Savanna
Pasture/Hay
Urban and Recreational Grasses

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 13% of survey blocks statewide, a decline of 37% in the past 20 years (McGowan and Corwin 2008).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



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doi:10.2173/bna.195

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	W	L	V
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-timber Crops (intensification & changes in agriculture)	P	L	M
3. Transportation & Service Corridor	Roads & Railroads	R	L	V
4. Transportation & Service Corridor	Flight Paths (plane strikes)	N	L	V
5. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (pesticides, rodenticides)	P	H	H
6. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	P	M	M
7. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (sensitive to disturbance from turbines)	N	L	H
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive/ Non-native Alien Species (non-native plants e.g. swallowwort)	R	M	M
9. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (fracking)	N	L	H

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Pickwell, G. B. 1931. The Prairie Horned Lark. St. Louis Acad. Sci. Trans. 27:1-153.

Smith, C.R. 2008. Horned lark, *Eremophila alpetris*. Pages 390-91 in The second atlas of breeding birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Kentucky warbler
Scientific Name: *Geothlypis formosus*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2
Tracked: No

Synopsis:
Kentucky warbler is a fairly common breeder in the southern United States and has been expanding its range northward since the early 1960s, reoccupying its historic range. New York is the northern extent of the breeding range. Breeding occurs only in the southernmost parts of the state and populations appear to fluctuate. The preferred habitat in New York is hilly woodlands with stream-bearing ravines and a dense shrubby understory.
The Breeding Bird Survey data for the Northeast show a declining trend of 0.7% per year since 1966, but an increasing trend of 0.4% per year since 1999. The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented a 72% decline in occupancy since 1980-85.

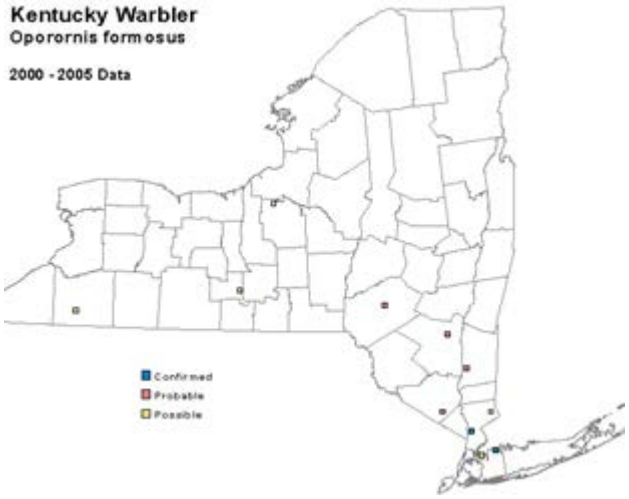
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
The Kentucky warbler breeds in dense thickets within damp, heavily-shaded deciduous forests of floodplains, swamps, and ravines (Bent 1953, Terres 1980). McDonald (1998) described the breeding habitat as bottomland hardwoods at low elevations. Robbins (1979) estimated that the minimum forest area required to sustain a viable breeding population was 80-125 acres. A thick understory and well-developed ground cover is essential to the species' reproductive success.
In New York, Kentucky warbler breeds in hilly woodlands with stream-bearing ravines and a dense shrubby understory. These warblers will breed in forests of various ages but are most common in medium-aged forests (NatureServe 2011).

Primary Habitat Type
Hardwood Swamp
Mixed Northern Hardwoods
Riparian

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 11 survey blocks with Probable or Confirmed records in only 6 blocks, a decline of 72% since the first Atlas. Occupancy was still less than

1% of the 5,335 survey blocks (McGowan and Corwin 2008). Declines were especially dramatic in the two former strongholds, the Manhattan Hills and the Coastal Lowlands.



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McDonald, Mary Victoria. 2013. Kentucky Warbler (Geothlypis formosa), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America
Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/324
doi:10.2173/bna.324

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas	R	H	H
2. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting	N	M	H
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (nest site competition, deer overbrowse)	W	H	H
4. Pollution	Air-Borne Pollutants (mercury)	W	M	H
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	N	L	V
6. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy	N	M	H
7. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (fracking)	R	H	H
8. Pollution (migration, esp. NYC)	Excess Energy	R	L	M
9. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Management (insect spraying)	R	M	H

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Robbins, C. S. 1979. Effect of forest fragmentation on bird populations. Pages 198-212 in. Management of North Central and Northeastern Forests for Nongame Birds (R. M. DeGraff and K. E. Evans, eds.). U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, General Technical Report NC-51. htto://www.ncrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/gtr/other/gtr_nc051/index.htm.

Terres, J. K. 1980. The Audubon Society encyclopedia of North American birds. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

Common Name: King rail
Scientific Name: *Rallus elegans*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Threatened

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: Not Listed
New York: Threatened
Tracked: Yes

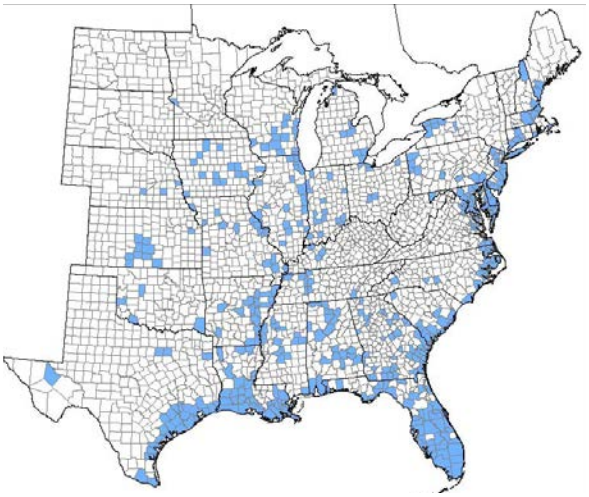
Synopsis:
King rail is closely related to clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris*) and interbreeding between the two has been the subject of considerable scientific speculation. Some authorities consider the two forms to be conspecific.
The king rail is a rare breeder in New York. The northeastern edge of the distribution in North America just reaches into western New York and the Coastal Lowlands, thus producing the two populations—inland and coastal—that accounts of the species in New York. King rail breeds in a variety of wetlands including tidal and non-tidal freshwater marshes, brackish marshes, and marsh-shrub swamps (Poole et al. 2005).
King rail populations in North America have declined alarmingly in the past 30 years (Poole et al. 2005). Breeding Bird Survey data show a significant short-term decline in North America as well: -3.7% per year from 2000-2010. King rail has historically been rare in New York. During the second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05), king rail was documented in only five survey blocks statewide (out of 5,335), producing a state distribution map much more sparse than that of Bull (1974).

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
The King Rail uses a variety of wetland habitats throughout its range including freshwater marshes (tidal and non-tidal), brackish marshes, shrub swamps, and rice fields (Meanley 1969, Sikes 1984, Reid et al. 1994, Poole et al. 2005). Meanley (1969) stated, "The King Rail probably occurs in a wider variety of habitats than any other rail." Typical habitat includes dense, emergent vegetation and shallow water. Micro-topography is also important with sites usually containing an interspersion of hummocks, swales, and dry patches. Bull (1974) reports on seven nests examine in New York: five were in cattails, one in Phragmites, and one in a potato field near a salt marsh.

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal; Tidal Wetland
Estuarine; Freshwater Intertidal; Tidal Wetland
Freshwater Marsh
Great Lakes Freshwater Estuary Marsh
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 5 survey blocks statewide. The two localities documented in the Hudson Valley during the first Breeding Bird Atlas (1980-85) were not documented during the second Atlas. Neither atlas survey period documented confirmed breeding. Medler (2008) noted that one location where king rail was reported during the second Atlas, the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye (Westchester County), had a confirmed breeding record in 1997 but that king rails had not been observed there since a common reed control project began in 2003. The breeding event of a king rail and a clapper rail was documented in 2006 at the Marine Nature Study area in Oceanside (Nassau County) when the pair produced 10 eggs in June and were seen in mid-August tending three chicks (Farina 2006, Guthrie 2007, NYSARC 2009). In 2013, a king rail was documented by L. Federman at the Great Vly WMA in Greene County.



Cooper (2008)

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Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (wetland fragmentation)	W	L	V
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (purple loosestrife, phragmites)	W	M	H
3. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents (runoff, siltation)	W	M	H
4. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (mercury)	W	M	H
5. Natural System Modification	Other Ecosystem Modification (succession)	W	M	M
6. Natural System Modification	Dams & Water Management/Use	W	M	H
7. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	P	M	V
8. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	P	M	V
9. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Drought	P	M	V
10. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (boat wakes, photography/birders)	W	L	H
11. Transportation & Service Corridors	Roads & Railroads (roadkill)	W	L	H
12. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals	N	L	H

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Reid, F.A., B. Meanley, and L.H. Fredrickson. 1994. King Rail. Pages 180-191 in: Tacha, Thomas C. and Clait E. Braun [Eds]. Migratory shore and upland game bird management in North America. International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Washington D.C. 223 pp.

Sikes, P.J. 1984. Effects of management practices on habitat use of King and Clapper Rails on the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Texas. M.S. Thesis, Texas A&M University, 40pp.

Common Name: Little gull
Scientific Name: *Hydrocoloeus minutus*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: SNRN
Tracked: No

Synopsis:
Formerly placed in the genus *Larus*, little gull was reclassified to the genus *Hydrocoloeus* in 2008. Little gull began colonizing the United States in the early 1960s and was first recorded breeding on Lake Ontario outside Toronto, Canada in 1962. No breeding has been documented in New York, but birds have wintered annually in the Buffalo/Lake Erie and Rochester areas since the 1970s. In recent years there have been more reports of little and Bonaparte's gulls lingering on the lower Great Lakes into early winter, along with more reports of wintering birds.
The debate is ongoing as to whether this species occurred historically in small numbers in North America or colonized during this century by influxes across the North Atlantic or across the Bering Strait (Baillie 1963, Bruun 1968, Johnson and Adams 1977, Hutchinson and Neath 1978, McRae 1989).

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Increasing	Increasing
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
During migration, little gull is noted most often on larger lakes and rivers, and along marine coasts. Regularly associates with Bonaparte's Gulls on roosting areas, and at productive feeding sites in areas of water turbulence, and at sewage outfalls, upwellings and at mouths of rivers. Daytime roosts (loafing areas) noted on beaches, mudflats, lawns, and airports, often with other gulls (Green 1974, Steeves et al. 1989, Davis 1995a, 1995b). Most breeding records are from shallow, freshwater wetland complexes, but brackish marshes used along Hudson Bay and James Bay lowlands (McRae 1984, Carpentier 1986, Wilson and McRae 1993).

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal; Tidal Wetland
Estuarine; Freshwater Intertidal; Tidal Wetland
Large/Great River
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Tidal Flat

Distribution:
A new high count was reported in March 1999 when 85 little gulls were observed at the mouth of the Niagara River (Bellerby 1999). The subsequent years produced more typical numbers, a few to a dozen birds per sighting.

Ewins, Peter J. and D. V. Weseloh. 1999. Little Gull (Hydrocoloeus minutus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/428 doi:10.2173/bna.428

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (larger gulls)	P	H	V
2. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	P	M	M
3. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	P	H	V
4. Natural System Modifications	Dams & Water Management/Use	W	M	M
5. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills, other contaminants)	W	M	M

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Common Name: Loggerhead shrike
Scientific Name: *Lanius ludovicianus*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Endangered

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G4
New York: S1B
Tracked: Yes

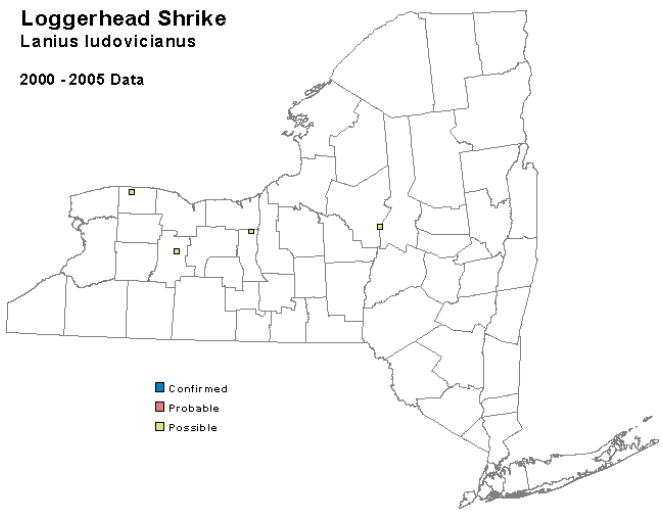
Synopsis:
The loggerhead shrike is a bird of open landscapes, roadsides, golf courses, riparian areas, steppes, deserts, savannahs, prairies, and occasionally, suburban areas. It is most abundant in the southern half of the United States. Across its range, the population is estimated to have declined by 72% since 1967. Declines have been most significant in the Northeast.
In New York, loggerhead shrike historically bred on the Great Lakes Plain, St. Lawrence Plain, and the Champlain Valley. Spahn (1988) referred to loggerhead shrike as, "perhaps the most seriously declining species in New York" and the second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented the extirpation of the species as a breeder in the state, marking the end of a long decline that began in the 1930s and 1940s (Novak 2008). Loggerhead shrike is now extirpated as a breeder in all northeastern states. Remaining populations in Ontario and Quebec are declining.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Severe Decline	Severe Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

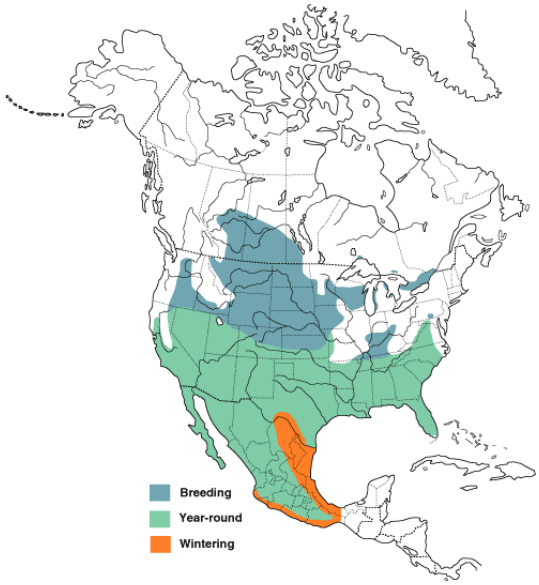
Habitat Discussion:
Novak (1989) documented habitat use in New York. Pasture with less than 20% cover of woody vegetation and saplings at densities of three to forty-one plants per hectare was a preferred breeding habitat. Nests were more frequently placed in single trees (or shrubs) or clumps of trees rather than a continuous line of trees such as a hedgerow or wind break. Hawthorn was the most commonly-used nest tree, but this may reflect the availability of this species rather than the shrike's preference for it.
According to Spahn (1988), loggerhead shrikes in New York are found in open fields and scrubby clearings with thickets and hedgerows having hawthorn and apple among the tree species. Its habitat must contain trees or shrubs with thorns or a multitude of small crotches, to accommodate the feeding mechanism of impaling or wedging larger prey items.
In general, loggerhead shrikes live in a variety of semi-open habitats that are dominated by short vegetation. Those native to Illinois, New York, and Maryland frequent pastures, while those endemic to western states prefer sagebrush, desert scrub, and pinyon-juniper woodlands with small shrubby trees. Residential areas with suitable perches often have a number of loggerhead shrikes occupying them, and the birds have been recorded in mountainous areas up to 6,600 feet (2,000 meters) as well (Yosef 1996).

Primary Habitat Type
Cultivated Crops
Native Barrens and Savanna
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Pasture/Hay

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented Possible records in only four survey blocks statewide. No Confirmed or Probable records were reported. The species is considered to be extirpated as a breeder.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Yosef, Reuven. 1996. Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/231 doi:10.2173/bna.231

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	W	V	H
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-timber Crops (intensification & changes in agriculture)	W	V	H
3. Transportation & Service Corridor	Roads & Railroads	W	V	H
4. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (pesticides, rodenticides)	W	V	H
5. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	W	V	H
6. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive/ Non-Native Alien Species	W	L	M

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Spahn, R. 1988. Loggerhead shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*. Pages 338-39 in The Atlas of Breeding birds in New York State (R.F. Andrle and J.R. Carroll, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Yosef, R. 1996. Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/231 doi:10.2173/bna.231

Common Name: Northern bobwhite
Scientific Name: *Colinus virginianus*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S4
Tracked: No

Synopsis:
Northern bobwhites breed and winter in New York—the northern extent of the range—where they occur in open, early-successional habitats and farmland. Northern bobwhite is a game species with an open season. Individuals were released in western New York in the 1930s and 1950s, though the influence of these introductions is unclear (McGowan 2008). Two subspecies, *mexicanus* and *marilandicus*, occurred historically in New York, with the former arriving from the west and the latter from the south. The populations within the original ranges of these subspecies are now heterogenous and the species is considered binomial.

Northern bobwhites have been declining at an alarming rate for the past 40 years across their range. Breeding Bird Survey data show significant long-term (1966-2010) and short-term (2000-2010) declines of -3.8% and -4.0% per year respectively for the United States, and -5.1% and -5.3% respectively for the Eastern region. Long-term and short-term BBS trends for New York are significant and declining as well, at -7.3% and -6.4% respectively, though caution is warranted because of small sample sizes. Christmas Bird Count data have documented fewer than 15 individuals in total since the 2006-07 season (McGowan 2007, 2011).

Currently in New York, populations of wild, self-sustaining quail are restricted to Long Island. A long-term call-count survey in Suffolk County conducted since 1979 shows a precipitous decline in this region from an annual average of 101 calling males in the 1980s, to 41 calling males in the 1990s, and 10 calling males over the past 12 years. No calling males were heard during the 2011 and 2012 surveys. A severe winter in 2011 may have contributed to the dearth of calling males heard the last two years. DEC staff are considering expanding the survey routes to see if birds are heard in other areas.

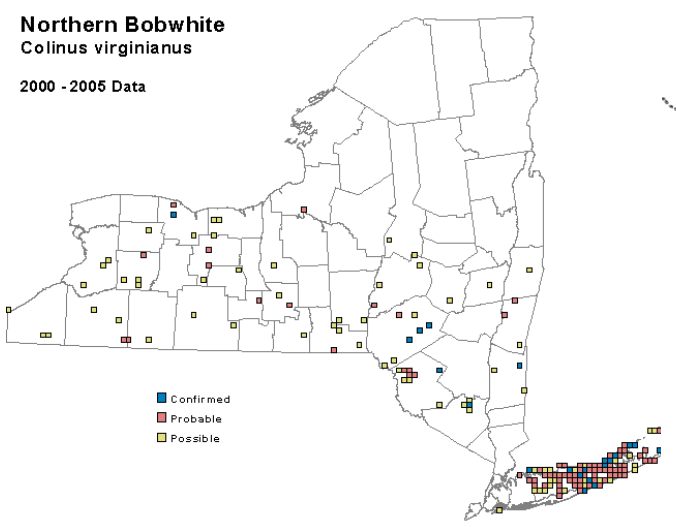
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Severe Decline	Severe Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Northern bobwhite breed and winter in open, early-succession habitats and farmlands. Favored breeding areas include brushy fields, hedgerows, and thickets. During the winter, bobwhites use the edges of swamps in open country (Bull 1985). Levine (1988) notes the use of open fields of tall grass, in weedy and cultivate fields, along the edges of golf courses, and even in open scrub pine

forest. The requirement for breeding is the close proximity of nearly bare ground and associated herbaceous cover (Levine 1988).

Primary Habitat Type
Cultivated Crops
Oak-Pine Forest
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Pasture/Hay

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented Northern bobwhite in 175 survey blocks statewide, a decline in occupancy of 26%. On Long Island alone, the change in occupancy was -35%. The number of blocks with Confirmed breeding records fell from 105 during the first Atlas to 17 during the second Atlas.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Brennan, Leonard A., Fidel Hernandez and Damon Williford. 2014. Northern Bobwhite (Colinus virginianus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/397 doi:10.2173/bna.397

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	W	L	V
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-timber Crops (intensification & changes in agriculture)	R	L	H
3. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	P	H	M
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (domestic cats)	P	H	V
5. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species	P	H	V
6. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals	R	M	M

References Cited:

Bull, J. 1974. Birds of New York State. Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City, NY. [Reprinted by Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, 1985.]

Levine, E. 1988. Northern bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus*. Pages 132-33 in The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

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McGowan, K.J. 2008. Northern bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus*. Pages 144-45 *in* The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

McGowan, K.J. 2011. Regional summaries of the 111th Christmas Bird Count: New York. American Birds 65:54-55.

Common Name: Olive-sided flycatcher ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Contopus cooperi*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G4
New York: S3
Tracked: No

Synopsis:
Olive-sided flycatcher occurs across northern North America, breeding in high elevation spruce-fir northern hardwood forest, typically near standing water. Formerly known as C. borealis, this species is characteristic of a lowland boreal forest. In New York, where the population reaches the southeastern edge of the range, this flycatcher is restricted to the Adirondack Mountains, the Tug Hill Plateau, and the Catskill Mountains. Wintering occurs in the northwestern portion of South America.
The Breeding Bird Atlas in New York documented a 34% change in occupancy between 1980-85 and 2000-05. Both long-term (1966-2010) and short-term (2000-2010) trends documented by the Breeding Bird Survey are significantly negative in New York, in the Eastern region, and across the range. Glennon (2010) notes that olive-sided flycatcher is of significant conservation concern in the Adirondacks due to its low occupancy rates and relatively high rates of local extinction.

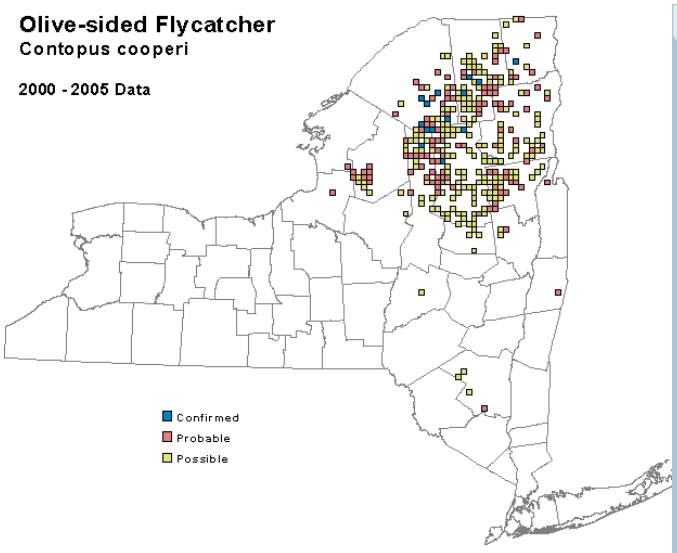
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%		Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%	X	Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Olive-sided flycatcher is a lowland boreal forest bird, breeding in coniferous or mixed deciduous forests, favoring edges and openings created by sphagnum bogs, burned over forest, swampy lake edges, and beaver meadows (Altman and Sallabanks 2000). Glennon (2010) found that olive-sided flycatcher showed a preference for floating bogs primarily, as well as grounded bogs, conifer swamps, and open river corridors. Peterson (2008) describes the favored habitat in New York as mountain tarns and quaking bogs, swampy lake shores, marshy streams, river backwaters, and beaver meadows surrounded by a forest of black or red spruce mixed with balsam fir, tamarack or eastern hemlock. Most records from the Catskills are from above 1500 feet (Peterson 1988). The habitat used by olive-sided flycatcher has remained stable in New York over the past 20 years, perhaps even increasing due to the increase in beaver populations.

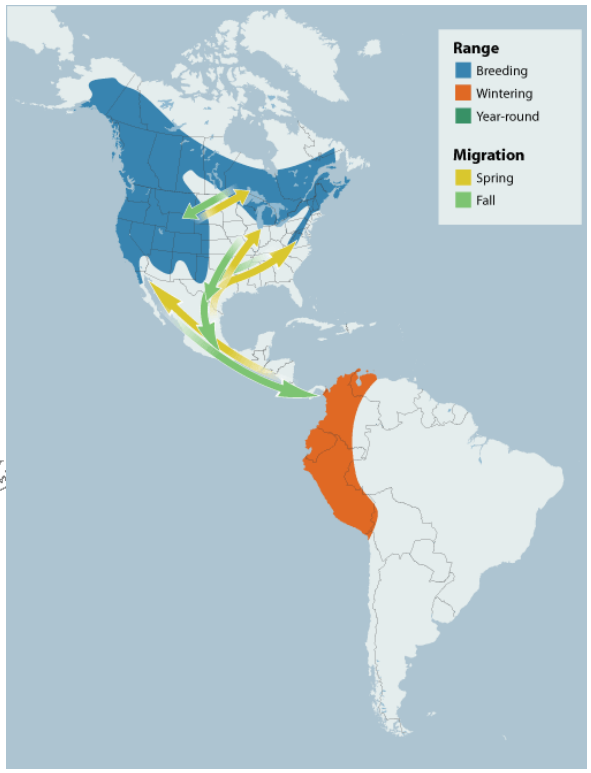
Primary Habitat Type
Boreal Forested peatland
Conifer Forest Swamp
Mixed Hardwood Swamp
Mixed Northern Hardwoods
Mountain Spruce-Fir Forests

Open Acidic Peatlands
Riparian
Spruce-Fir Forests and Flats
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 316 survey blocks statewide, a change of 34% in 20 years.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



www.borealbirds.org (2012)

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (fragmentation)	R	M	H
2. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (mercury)	W	H	H
3. Natural System Modifications	Fire & Fire Suppression	N	L	M
4. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	P	V	V
5. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting	N	L	M
6. Pollution (migration, esp. NYC)	Excess Energy	R	M	M

References Cited:

Altman, B. and R. Sallabanks. 2000. Olive-sided Flycatcher. In A. Poole and F. Gill, (eds.) The Birds of North America, No. 502. The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Glennon, M. 2010. Distribution and abundance of boreal birds in the Adirondack Park. Final Report to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Wildlife Conservation Society, Saranac Lake, NY.

Peterson, J. M. C. 1988. Olive-sided flycatcher (Contopus borealis). Pages 244-245 in The Atlas of breeding birds in New York State (R.F. Andrle and J.R. Carroll, Eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Piping plover
Scientific Name: *Charadrius melodus melodus*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Great Lakes: Endangered
Atlantic Coast: Threatened

New York Status: Endangered

Natural Heritage Program Rank:

Global:	G3
New York:	S3B
Tracked:	Yes

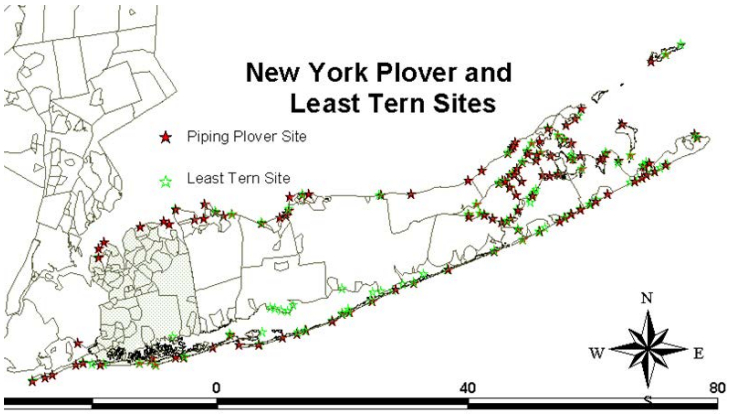
Synopsis:
Two subspecies of piping plover breed in three populations in the United States: *C. m. melodus* along the Atlantic Coast, and *C. m. circumcinctus* in the Northern Great Plains and Great Lakes. The Atlantic Coast population is listed as federally threatened and the Great Lakes population is listed as federally endangered.
In New York, piping plovers winter and breed on the north and south shores of Long Island. Breeding no longer occurs inland. The Long Island population has increased from 166 birds (likely 88 breeding pairs) at 41 sites since the subspecies was first listed as threatened in 1983. The Long Island Colonial Waterbird and Piping Plover survey documented 309 pairs in 2000. In 2010, 390 breeding pairs were documented at 87 active sites.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon	X		
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Along the Atlantic Coast piping plovers breed on sparsely vegetated beaches composed of sand, gravel, or cobble, frequently adjacent to sand dunes (Haig 1986, Brown 1987, Burger 1987). Garber (1999) reported on piping plovers breeding at JFK Airport on newly deposited dredge spoils near a busy taxiway and directly under the flight path of hundreds of planes per day. The area was newly-created, highly disturbed, and not immediately adjacent to the shore.

Primary Habitat Type
Marine Dredge Spoil Shore
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Maritime Dunes
Tidal Flat

Distribution:
The Long Island Colonial Waterbird Survey documented 390 pairs at 87 active sites in 2010; 337 young were fledged. The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in a total of 76 survey blocks, 72 of which had Confirmed breeding. There was no change in the percent of blocks occupied between the two Atlas periods.



NYSDEC (2012)

Elliott-Smith, Elise and Susan M. Haig. 2004. Piping Plover (Charadrius melodus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America
Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/002
doi:10.2173/bna.2

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (humans on beaches, fireworks)	P	H	H
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (human-subsidized predators)	P	L	M
3. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modification (beach construction, rip rap, jetties, groins, overwash)	P	L	M
4. Natural Systems Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (beach raking)	R	L	M
5. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills)	R	L	M
6. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	W	L	H
7 Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	P	M	H
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive/ Non-native Alien Species (domestic cats)	P	L	V

References Cited:

Brown, S. 1987. Comparative breeding biology of the piping plover and spotted sandpiper. M.S. thesis. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Burger, J. 1987. Physical and social determinants of nest site selection in piping plover in New Jersey. Condor 89:881-918.

Garber, S.D. 1999. Piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) breeding at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City. Kingbird 49(3):195-98.

Haig, S.M. 1986. Piping plover distribution and biology. Endangered Species Washington Information System Workbooks. USFWS.

Common Name: Prothonotary warbler ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Protonotaria citrea*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2
Tracked: Yes

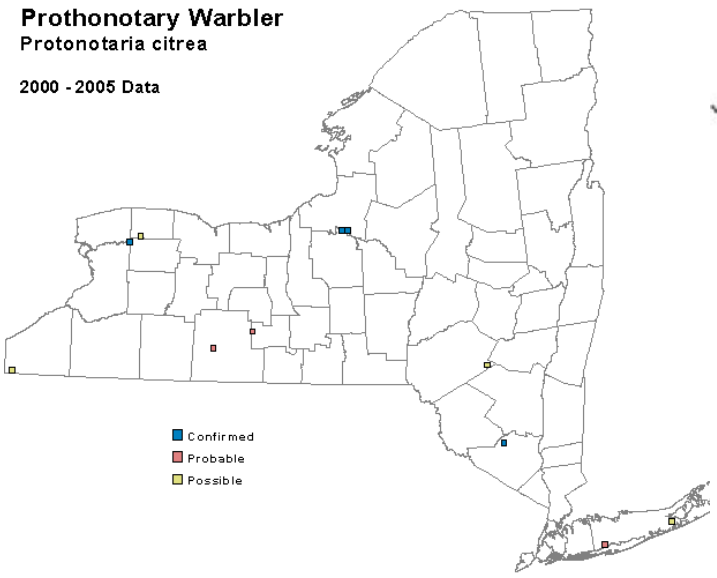
Synopsis:
The prothonotary warbler is a cavity-nester that breeds in wooded habitats near water, particularly in flooded bottomland hardwood forests, cypress swamps, and along large lakes and rivers. Breeding occurs in the eastern half of the United States, primarily in the south but with patchy areas of local breeding extending northward to Ontario. Breeding Bird Survey trends across the range show slight long-term declines (0.9% per year, 1966-2010) and slight short-term increases (0.5% per year, 2000-2010).
Only in the past 80 years has prothonotary warbler bred in New York; the first confirmed breeding was in 1931 at Oak Orchard Swamp in Genesee County. This southern species remains uncommon and local in New York where it is well north of the core distribution. Breeding locations are sparsely distributed across the southern parts of the state and on Long Island. The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented a 50% decline in occupancy since 1980-85; only four locations in the state had confirmed breeding during the 2000-05 survey.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Data Deficient
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Prothonotary warblers require mature forested habitat that is situated in close association with water (preferably flooded), and that contains large dead or live trees that provide nesting cavities. Preferred nest cavities are typically 2-8 feet above the water. Commonly used habitat includes flooded bottomlands, cypress swamps, white cedar swamps and backwater areas along large lakes and rivers. Other important habitat correlates include low elevation, flat terrain, shaded forest habitats with sparse understory, and in some parts of the range, presence of bald cypress (Kahl et al. 1985, Robbins et al. 1989).

Primary Habitat Type
Atlantic White Cedar Swamp
Coastal Red Maple-Black Gum Swamp
Floodplain Forest
Hardwood Swamp
Northern White Cedar Swamp
Riparian

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 11 survey blocks statewide; 4 of those blocks had Confirmed breeding records. This represented a 50% decline in occupancy across the state. Breeding was Confirmed on the shore of Oneida Lake, where prothonotary warbler has bred since the 1940s, at Oak Orchard WMA, and at a small pond in Orange County, but not at Montezuma NWR (McGowan 2008). Breeding was last recorded at Montezuma NWR in 1998 (Ostrander 1998).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Petit, Lisa J. 1999. Prothonotary Warbler (Protonotaria citrea), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America
Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/408
doi:10.2173/bna.408

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas	W	L	H
2. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting (removal of snags)	W	L	H
3. Natural System Modification	Dams & Water Management/Use (channelization)	R	L	H
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species	W	L	H
5. Pollution	Air-Borne Pollutants (mercury, acid)	W	L	H
6. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (wind turbines)	N	L	H
7. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	L	V
8. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Drought	W	L	V
9. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents (insecticides)	N	L	H

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Ostrander, B. 1998. Region 3—Finger Lakes. Kingbird 48:330-336.

Robbins, C. S., D. K. Dawson, and B. A. Dowell. 1989. Habitat area requirements of breeding forest birds of the Middle Atlantic States. Wildl. Monogr. 103.

Common Name: Red knot
Scientific Name: *Calidris canutus rufa*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G4
New York: SNRN
Tracked: No

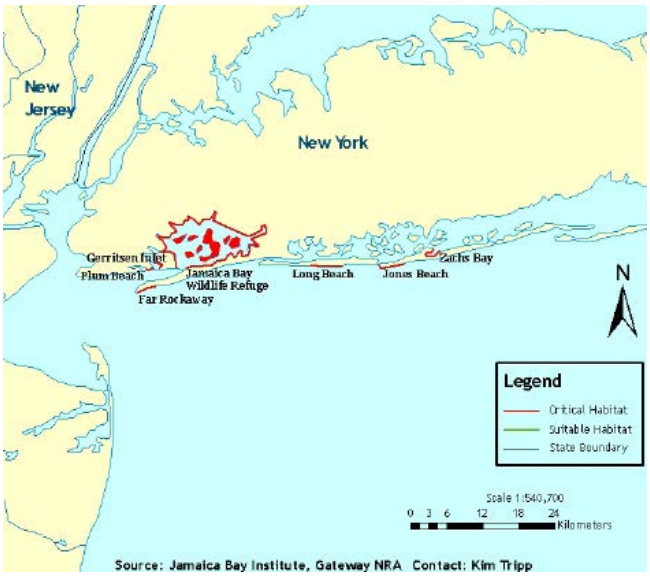
Synopsis:
Red knots breed in the Canadian Arctic and winter at the southern tip of South America. A major stopping point on the 10,000-mile northward migration is the Delaware Bay, where these shorebirds feed heavily on horseshoe crab eggs to replenish fat supplies before continuing. In New York, the subspecies *C. c. rufa* occurs along the salt meadows and mudflat of the South Shore of Long Island in both spring and fall, numbering more than 1,000 individuals.
Red knot populations have declined by 75% since the 1980s in some key areas across its range due to declines in horseshoe crab populations in Delaware Bay and to threats from sea-level rise and shoreline development. Numbers have declined in New York since the 1950s. The dramatic decline in red knot numbers at the major wintering area of Tierra del Fuego resulted in consideration for inclusion the federal endangered species list in 2006; it was listed as Threatened in 2014.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Data Deficient	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common	X		
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
During the boreal winter, red knots frequent intertidal habitats, especially on coasts of oceans and large bays where relatively high wave or current action supplies sandy habitat. During migrations, birds are found in the broad coastal salt meadows and mudflats of the South Shore of Long Island.

Primary Habitat Type
High Marsh
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Tidal Flat

Distribution:
During past ten years, a high count of 500+ red knots was reported in 2006 (Suffolk County). The East Pond Impoundment and Plumb Beach of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is an important area of concentration for red knots on the New York coast. Secondary locations where red knots are known to congregate are Far Rockaway, Long Beach, and Jones Beach (Niles et al. 2007).



Niles et al. (2007)

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Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Biological Resource Use	Fishing & Harvesting Aquatic Resources (horseshoe crab)	W	M	M
2. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (clammers, boaters, birders)	W	L	H
3. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (dredging shoals)	N	L	V

References Cited:

Niles, L.J. et al. 2007. Status of the red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) in the western hemisphere. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Trenton, NJ.

Common Name: Red-headed woodpecker ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Special Concern

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2B
Tracked: Yes

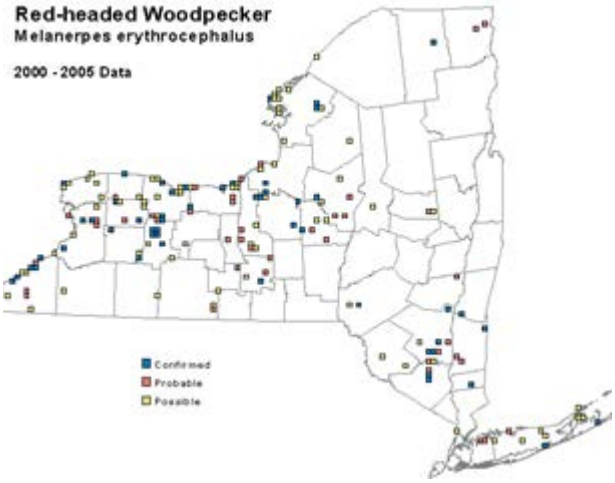
Synopsis:
Red-headed woodpeckers occur in the eastern two-thirds of the United States; some populations are sedentary while others migrate. They use a variety of open deciduous woodlands with groves of decaying trees. Bull (1964) noted two distinct habitat types in New York: open woods with a park-like character, and open wooded swamps and bottomlands.
Though red-headed woodpeckers have exhibited substantial increases and decreases in population size over the past 200 years, their sharp and severe decline over the last 20 years is alarming. In New York, the second Breeding Bird Atlas documented a 76% decline in occupancy from 1980-85 to 2000-05. Breeding Bird Survey data for New York show declining trends of 9.1% per year since 1980. Trends in the Eastern U.S. are less severe though significant, at 2.4% per year since 1980.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Severe Decline	Severe Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Red-headed woodpeckers are found in a variety of open deciduous woodland habitats where dead and dying trees are available, including groves of beech or oak, orchards, parks, forest edges, and open wooded swamps, as well as parks and open country with scattered trees (Smith et al. 2000).
Bull (1964) notes two distinct habitat types in New York: (1) open woodlands with park-like characteristics such as golf courses and along roadsides with scattered large trees, and (2) open wooded swamps and river bottoms in which dead trees stand in water, such as beaver ponds.
McGowan (2008) noted that the creation of flooded habitat by increasing beaver populations does not appear to have helped populations of red-headed woodpecker.

Primary Habitat Type
Floodplain Forest
Hardwood Swamp
Mixed Northern Hardwoods
Native Barrens and Savanna
Oak Forest
Urban and Recreational Grasses

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented red-headed woodpecker occupancy in 167 survey blocks statewide (3%), a decline of 76%. See Figure 3; blue blocks indicate a loss between atlas periods.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Smith, Kimberly G., James H. Withgott and Paul G. Rodewald. 2000. Red-headed Woodpecker (Melanerpes erythrocephalus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/518 doi:10.2173/bna.518

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (removal of snags)	N	L	H
2. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting	N	L	H
3. Natural System Modification	Dams & Water Management/Use (channelization)	N	L	H
4. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-Timber Crops (intensification)	R	L	H
5. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (nest site competition)	W	H	H
6. Transportation & Service Corridors	Roads & Railroads (road kill)	W	L	H

References Cited

Bull, J. 1964. Birds of the New York area. Harper and Row, New York, NY.

McGowan, K.J. and K. Corwin, eds. 2008. The atlas of breeding birds in New York State: 2000-2005. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY. 688 pp.

Common Name: Roseate tern ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Sterna dougallii*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Endangered
New York Status: Endangered

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G4
New York: S1B
Tracked: Yes

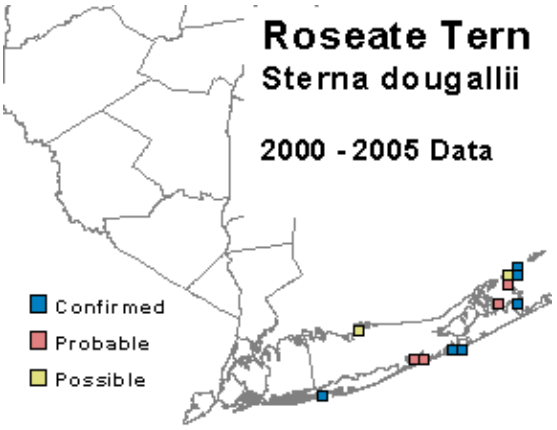
Synopsis:
The North Atlantic population of roseate tern breeds along the Atlantic Coast from the Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence southward to New York; this population is federally endangered. A separate population breeds in the Caribbean; this population is federally threatened. As colonies in Virginia and New Jersey became extirpated, these two populations, both *S. d. dougallii*, have been moving farther from one another, since the 1930s. The North Atlantic population rebounded in the early 1900s following protection from hunting and peaked in the mid-1970s. Both the number of colonies and the number of breeding pairs have dropped since then.
In New York, all colonies—historic and current—are on Long Island, with the vast majority of pairs (99% in 2010) nesting at Great Gull Island. Great Gull Island is the largest of only three primary colonies in the Northeast, resulting in an elevated risk of extirpation due to stochastic events. Nesting occurs in a variety of habitats including marshes, rocky islands, and open sand.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

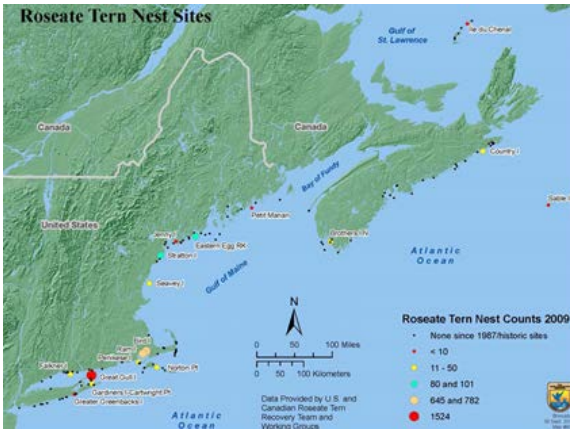
Habitat Discussion:
Roseate tern colonies occur in a variety of habitats in New York including rocky offshore islands (Great Gull Island), barrier beaches (Gardiners Island), and salt marsh (Shinnecock Bay). Roseate terns frequently nest with common tern, but roseate tern are less flexible in nesting site requirements than common tern. Most roseate tern colonies are near shallow-water fishing sites with sandy bottoms, bars, or shoals. Roseate terns will place their nests under artificial structures including boxes and buried tires.

Primary Habitat Type
Bar
High Marsh
Low Marsh
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Maritime Dunes

Distribution:
The Great Gull Island colony—the largest occurrence of roseate tern in New York—there were 1,200 breeding pairs in 1988; 1,500 in 1996; 1,273 in 2005; and 1,303 pairs in 2010. The population in New York during 2010 totaled 1,315 breeding pairs.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



USFWS (2010)

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Work and Other Activities (researchers)	P	L	M
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (predators- gulls, mink)	P	V	M
3. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills)	P	M	M
4. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	N	L	H
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	P	V	V
6. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (offshore wind towers)	P	L	H

References Cited:

Common Name: Rusty blackbird
Scientific Name: *Euphagus carolinus*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G4
New York: S2B
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
Greenberg and Droege's (1999) publication detailing the severe decline of rusty blackbirds marked the beginning of a period of heightened attention to the species. In 2005 the International Rusty Blackbird Technical Working Group was organized to focus research on this poorly-known species and to address its mysterious decline.
Over the past 40 years, rusty blackbird populations have shown rangewide cumulative declines of 85% to 95% as illustrated by Breeding Bird Survey and Christmas Bird Count data (Greenberg et al. 2011). The second Breeding Bird Atlas in New York documented a 23% decline in occupancy across the state from 1980-85 to 2000-05. Acute declines continue.
Rusty blackbird reaches the southern limit of its boreal distribution in New York, occurring in the Adirondack region as an isolated population; the nearest breeding population is 130 miles to the east in northern Vermont. Breeding occurs in a variety of wetland habitats that are associated with coniferous and mixed forest, such as bogs and beaver ponds. Two subspecies of rusty blackbird are recognized: *E. carolinus* breeds in New York while *E. nigrans* breeds in the eastern Canadian provinces (Crowell 1998). New York is at the northern edge of the wintering range. Hobson et al. (2010) found isotopic evidence for use of two distinctive flyways: birds that breed in Alaska and central Canada winter in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley while birds that breed in eastern Canada winter in the Atlantic Coastal Plain. A potentially smaller, geographically-isolated Atlantic Flyway population was also identified by Hobson et al. (2010), and appears to be susceptible to the local extirpations observed in New England, the Maritime Provinces, and the southern boreal zone (including NY) (Greenberg and Matsuoka 2010).

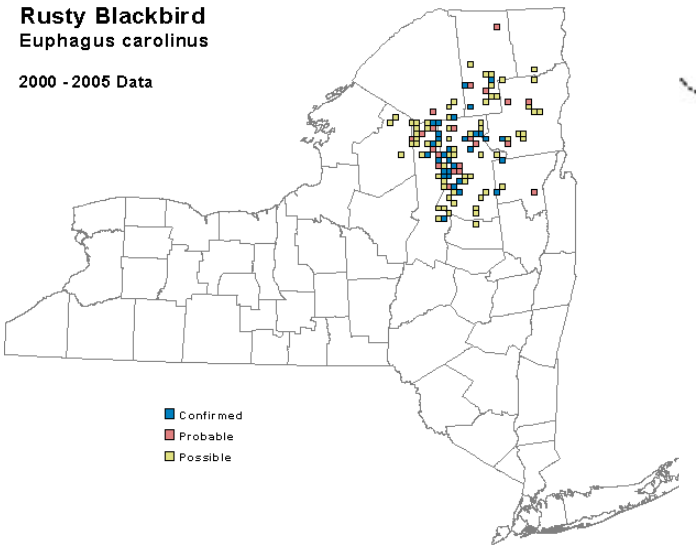
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
The rusty blackbird's breeding distribution corresponds to the boreal forest. The species is closely associated with water and can thus be found in a variety of habitats where these characteristics converge, including fens, alder-willow bogs, muskeg, beaver ponds, as well as forest opening such as the swampy edges of lakes and streams.

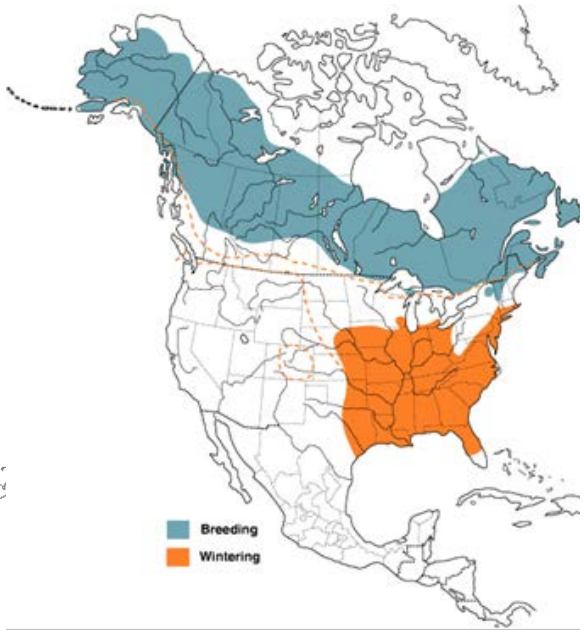
Primary Habitat Type
Conifer Forest Swamp
Mixed Hardwood Swamp

Open Acidic Peatlands
Riparian
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in a total of 117 survey blocks statewide. Breeding was Confirmed in 32 blocks (27%). Between Atlas surveys, occupancy declined by 23%. The number of Confirmed records dropped by 37% and birds were not documented in Tug Hill.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Avery, Michael L. 2013. Rusty Blackbird (Euphagus carolinus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/200 doi:10.2173/bna.200

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (competition from other blackbirds)	R	M	H
2. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting (habitat degradation)	N	M	H
3. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (mercury)	P	H	H
4. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals (nuisance control)	N	L	L
5. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (increased raptor, grackle populations)	W	H	H
6. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	P	V	V

References Cited:

Crowell, K.L. 1998. Rusty blackbird, *Euphagus carolinus*. Pages 549-550 in Bull's Birds of New York State (E. Levine, ed.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Greenberg, R. and S. Droege. 1999. On the decline of the Rusty Blackbird and the use of ornithological literature to document long-term population trends. Conserv. Biol. 13:553-559.

Greenberg, R., and S. M. Matsuoka. 2010. Rusty Blackbird: mysteries of a species in decline. Condor 112:770–777.

Greenberg, R., D. W. Demarest, S. M. Matsuoka, C. Mettke-Hofmann, D. Evers, P. B. Hamel, J. Luscier, L. L. Powell, D. Shaw, M. L. Avery, K. A. Hobson, P. J. Blancher, and D. K. Niven. 2011. Understanding declines in Rusty Blackbirds. Pp. 107– 126 in J. V. Wells (editor). Boreal birds of North America: a hemispheric view of their conservation links and significance. Studies in Avian Biology (no. 41), University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.

Hobson, K.A., R. Greenberg, S.L. Van Wilgenburg, and C. Mettke-Hofmann. 2010. Migratory connectivity in the rusty blackbird: isotopic evidence from feathers of historical and contemporary specimens. The Condor 112(4):778-788.

Common Name: Saltmarsh sparrow ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Ammodramus caudacutus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G4
New York: S3B
Tracked: No

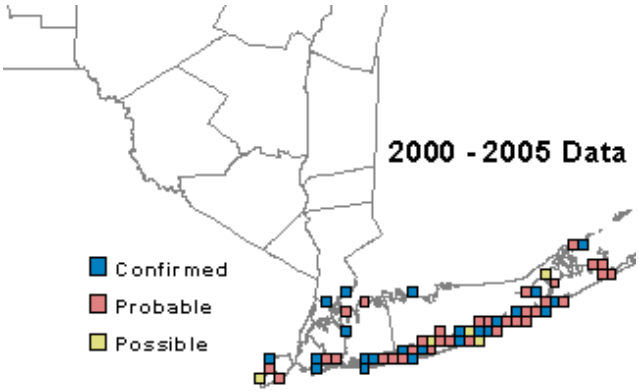
Synopsis:
The sharp-tailed sparrow group was split in 1995 to recognize two distinct species: saltmarsh sharp-tailed sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) and Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow (*A. nelsoni*). "Sharp-tailed" was subsequently dropped from each common name (AOU 2009). The two species replace each other geographically with saltmarsh sparrow breeding and wintering along the Atlantic Coast and Nelson's sparrow occurring in the Canadian Great Plains, Hudson and James bays, and the northern Atlantic Coast. There is overlap of the two species from Maine to Massachusetts and it has been suggested that this hybridization zone is expanding southward (Hodgman et al. 2002).
As its name implies, saltmarsh sparrow is an obligate species of brackish and salt marshes. Available data on population trends for saltmarsh sparrow suggest that loss of coastal marsh habitat over the past 100 years has resulted in population reductions and local extirpations (DiQuinzio et al. 2001). New York's Breeding Bird Atlas in 1980-85 (Lent 1988) provided the first comprehensive evaluation of the species in New York (Greenlaw 2008). During that period, breeding was confirmed only in the salt marshes of the Coastal Lowlands with a concentration on the South Shore of Long Island. The second Atlas in 2000-05 documented this sparrow in nearly the same distribution, though in 15% fewer survey blocks.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common	X		
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

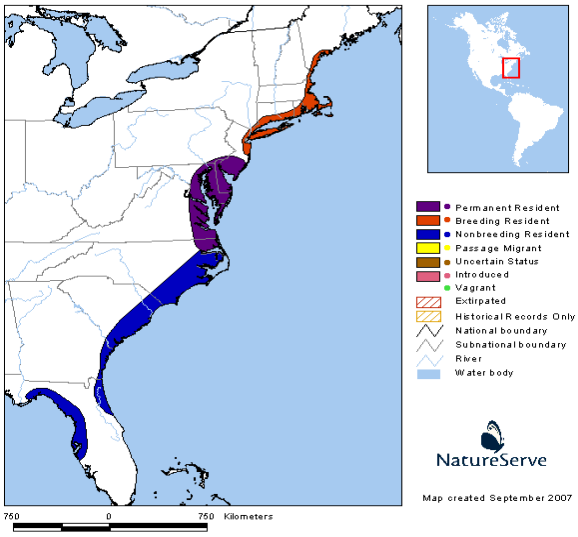
Habitat Discussion:
The saltmarsh sparrow nests exclusively in estuarine emergent wetlands. In the Northeast the saltmarsh sparrow is found in salt marsh/meadows from just below to well above the mean high water level (Pierson et al. 1996). Successful nesting may be limited to areas above spring high tides, although nesting and fledging may be accomplished between spring tide events (Hill 1968).
In New York, this sparrow occurs in high salt marsh characterized by salt-meadow grass and spikegrass (Lent 1988). Saltmarsh sparrows appear to be area-sensitive and are therefore unlikely to use small marshes (Benoit and Askins 2002). Elliot (1953) suggested that marshes smaller than 0.4 to 0.8 ha are avoided although examples of sparrows using these small marshes do exist (e.g., Four Sparrow Marsh, New York City Parks, Brooklyn, NY). This may be due to the species' avoidance of marshes with high surrounding urban land cover (>50%), an increasing problem in the continually growing populace of Long Island (Kocek and Cohen 2013).

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 61 survey blocks statewide. Breeding was confirmed in 49% of the blocks. The statewide occupancy changed by 15% but this sparrow's modern range in New York as documented by the first Atlas remained the same. The exception is the return of nesting on Staten Island, where the species was apparently absent for 30 years (Schiff and Wollin 1992).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



NatureServe (2012)

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration (rising sea level)	P	L	V
2. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	P	M	V
3. Natural System Modifications	Dams & Water Management/Use (ditching, dredging)	N	L	M
4. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (erosion)	W	L	V
5. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (common reed)	W	M	H
6. Pollution	Air-Borne Pollutants (mosquito spraying)	W	L	H
7. Mining & Energy Production	Oil & Gas Drilling (oil spills)	N	L	H
8. Problematic & Invasive Species & Genes	Non-native/Alien Species (domestic cats)	W	M	H
9. Pollution	Air-Borne Pollutants (mercury)	P	M	H

References Cited:

AOU (American Ornithologists Union). 2009. Fiftieth supplement to the American Ornithologists Union Checklist of North American Birds. Auk 126(3):705-14.

Benoit, L. K. and R. A. Askins. 2002. Relationship between habitat area and the distribution of tidal marsh birds. The Wilson Bulletin 114(3):314-23.

DiQuinzio, D. A., P. W. C. Paton, and W. R. Eddleman. 2001. Site fidelity, philopatry, and survival of promiscuous Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Rhode Island. Auk 118:888–899.

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Greenlaw, J. S. 2008. Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus caudacutus*. Pages 560-561 in The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York (K. J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

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Hodgman, T. P., W. G. Shriver, and P. D. Vickery. 2002. Redefining range overlap between the sharp-tailed sparrows of coastal New England. Wilson Bulletin 114:38-43.

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Pierson, E.C., J E. Pierson and P.D. Vickery. 1996. A Birders Guide to Maine. Down East Books, Camden, ME.

Schiff, S. and A. Wollin. 1992. Region 10 – Marine. Kingbird 42:278-282.

Common Name: Seaside sparrow ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Ammodramus maritimus maritima*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G4
New York: S2S3B
Tracked: Yes

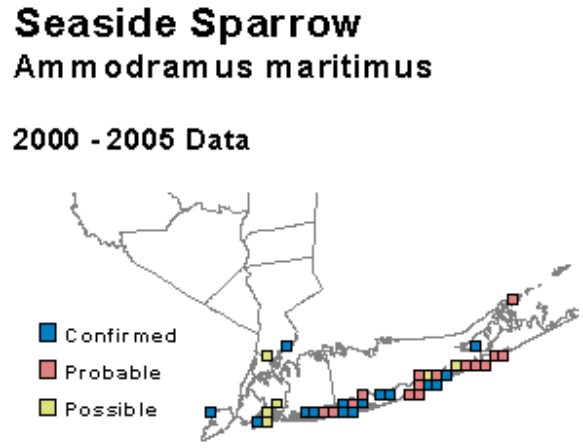
Synopsis:
Seven subspecies of seaside sparrow breed along the Atlantic Coast from Maine to the Gulf Coast. The most northerly subspecies, *A. m. maritimus*, breeds from southern Maine to Virginia where salt marshes occur. In New York, seaside sparrow occurs in estuarine and salt marsh habitat primarily on the south shore of Long Island, though populations also persist on Long Island Sound (Westchester County) and the east end of Long Island. Though some birds remain in New York during the winter, most move to coastal areas in the southern United States.
Long-term losses documented in New York since the late 1800s (Schneider 1998, Greenlaw 2008) have been attributed to habitat alteration (mosquito ditching and filling) and to predation, especially by Norway rats. A 25% decline in occupancy is documented by the second Breeding Bird Atlas for the period 1980-85 to 2000-05.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon	X		
> 50%		Rare			

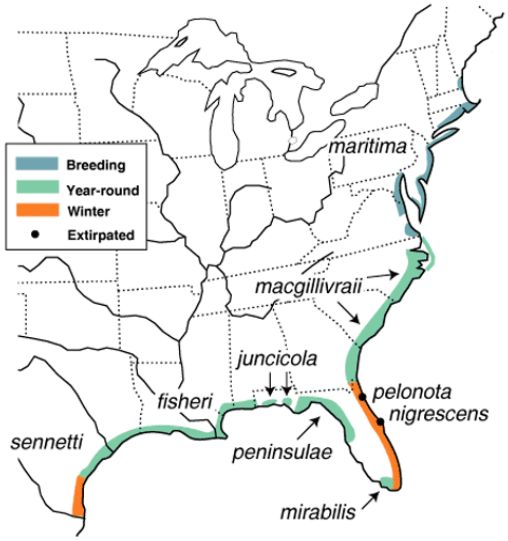
Habitat Discussion:
Seaside sparrows are found in coastal areas where they are considered a sentinel species, reflecting the health of the salt and brackish marshes where they breed. Optimal habitat is said to be in marshes with expanses of medium-high cordgrass (*Spartina* spp.) with a turf of clumped, residual stems. Especially suitable are spots not subject to extreme flooding that have open muddy areas for feeding (Post et al. 2009).
In New York, seaside sparrows are found primarily in the upper intertidal zone of unaltered marshes (Greenlaw 1983). Both high marsh and low marsh are used. In high marsh, nests are placed on edges dominated by marsh elder (*Iva frutescens*) while in low marsh, patches of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) are used (Greenlaw 1983). Seaside sparrows will also use ditched marshes on grassy marsh elder-dominated spoil deposits, though in lower densities (Post 1970, 1974, Greenlaw 1983). Although territory sizes, commuting distances, and feeding behavior differed greatly between ditched and natural salt marshes, reproductive success did not (Post 1974, Greenlaw 1992).

Primary Habitat Type
High Marsh
Low Marsh
Tidal Creek

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 36 survey blocks statewide, a decline of 25% since the first Atlas. The distribution along the south shore of Long Island remained the same. Breeding was reported in Baychester (Bronx County), a historic site where seaside sparrows were not reported during the first Atlas. Continued breeding on Staten Island is notable (Greenlaw 2008).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Post, William, W. Post and J. S. Greenlaw. 2009. Seaside Sparrow (Ammodramus maritimus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/127 doi:10.2173/bna.127

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration (rising sea level)	P	L	V
2. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	P	M	V
3. Natural System Modifications	Dams & Water Management/Use (ditching, dredging)	N	L	M
4. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (erosion)	W	L	V
5. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (common reed)	W	M	H
6. Pollution	Air-Borne Pollutants (mosquito spraying)	W	L	H
7. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (oil spills)	N	L	H
8. Problematic & Invasive Species & Genes	Non-native/Alien Species (domestic cats)	W	M	H
9. Pollution	Air-Borne Pollutants (mercury)	P	M	H

References Cited:

Greenlaw, J. S. 1983. Microgeographic distribution of breeding Seaside Sparrows on New York salt marshes. Pages 99-114 in The Seaside Sparrow, its biology and management. (Quay, T. L., J. B. Funderburg, Jr., D. S. Lee, E. F. Potter, and C. S. Robbins, Eds.) Occas. Pap. North Carolina Biol. Surv. Raleigh, NC.

Greenlaw, J. S. 1992. Seaside Sparrow, *Ammodramus maritimus*. Pages 211-232 in Migratory nongame birds of management concern in the northeast. (Schneider, K. J. and D. M. Pence, Eds.) U.S. Dept. Interior, Fish and Wildl. Serv. Newton Corner, MA.

Greenlaw, J.S. 2008. Seaside sparrow, *Ammodramus maritimus*. Pages 562-63 in The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Post, W. 1970. Breeding bird census no. 46: salt marsh. Audubon Field Notes 24:771-772.

Post, W. 1974. Functional analysis of space-related behavior in the Seaside Sparrow. Ecology 55:564-575.

Post, W., W. Post and J. S. Greenlaw. 2009. Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/127 doi:10.2173/bna.127

Schneider, K. J. 1998. Seaside sparrow, *Ammodramus maritimus*. Pages 521-23 in Bull's Birds of New York State (E. Levine, ed.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Sedge wren ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Cistothorus platensis*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Threatened

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S3B
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
Previously known as the short-billed marsh wren, the sedge wren is an inhabitant of wet meadows, hay fields, and marshes. This wren's use of ephemeral habitats drives its tendency to abandon areas as they become too wet or too dry and move to new areas. Within a season, sedge wrens may raise one brood in May and June and then move to a southern or northeastern part of the range to raise a second brood in July and August. This pattern can make detection and monitoring by traditional methods unreliable. Little is known of the life history or demographics of this species.
In the Prairie Pothole region, where sedge wren is most abundant, Breeding Bird Survey data show increasing long-term and short-term trends: 5.6% increase per year from 1966 to 2010 and 1.0% increase per year from 2000 to 2010. Significant declining trends were noted in the Northeast beginning in the 1950s due to destruction of wetlands. In response to this decline, sedge wren is now listed as Endangered in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. It is listed as Threatened in New York.
In New York, where it is at the far eastern edge of its range, sedge wren was historically a sparse nester and it remains so today. Since the mid-1980s, sedge wren occupancy in New York has increased by 26% as documented by the second Breeding Bird Atlas, though McGowan (2008) cautions that this species may have been overlooked during the first Atlas. Breeding occurs primarily on the Great Lakes Plain and a consistently-breeding population appears to be establishing itself in St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties. As a species far outside of its main range, however, sedge wren can be expected to remain uncommon in New York (McGowan 2008).

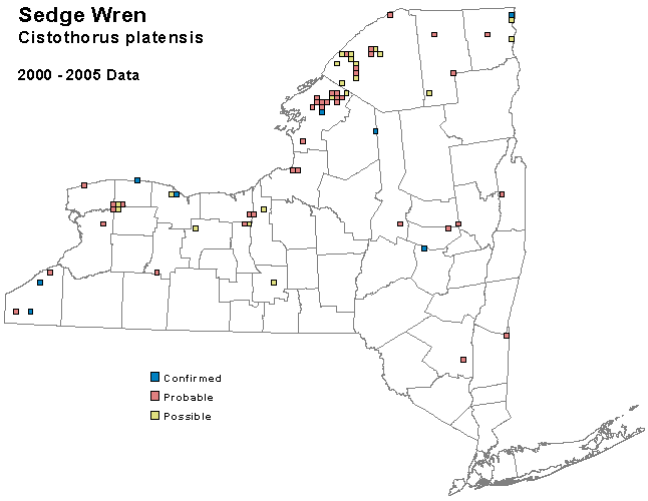
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Stable	Data Deficient
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Sedge wrens breed in a variety of wetlands with dense tall sedges and grasses, avoiding areas with standing water and cattails. Such areas include wet meadows, hayfields, marshes, upland edges of ponds, and sphagnum bogs. In the Northeast where breeding occurs later in the summer than in the Prairie Pothole region, sedge wrens use permanently wet marshes with tussocks (Bagg and Eliot 1937).

Primary Habitat Type
Old Field/Managed Grasslands

Open Acidic Peatlands
Open Alkaline Peatlands
Pasture/Hay
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 72 survey blocks statewide (1%), an increase of 26%.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Herkert, James R., Donald E. Kroodsma and James P. Gibbs. 2001. Sedge Wren (Cistothorus platensis), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/582 doi:10.2173/bna.582

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	W	V	V
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-timber Crops (intensification & changes in agriculture)	P	V	V
3. Transportation & Service Corridor	Roads & Railroads	R	L	V
4. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (pesticides, rodenticides)	W	H	H
5. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	P	H	M
6. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (sensitive to disturbance from turbines)	R	M	H
7. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive/ Non-native Alien Species (cats, plants) (reed canary grass can be beneficial)	R	M	H

References Cited:

Bagg, A.C., and S.A. Eliot, Jr. 1937. Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts. Northampton: The Hampshire Bookshop. 813 pp.

McGowan, K.J. 2008. Sedge wren, *Cistothorus platensis*. Pages 426-27 in The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Semipalmated sandpiper ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Calidris pusilla*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: SNRN
Tracked: No

Synopsis:
This sandpiper is a long-distance migrant, breeding in the arctic and wintering along the northern coast of South America. Referred to as an abundant shorebird across its range, the semipalmated sandpiper has experienced dramatic declines in numbers since the 1980s at breeding grounds, at significant staging areas, and on wintering grounds. In one wintering area in Suriname, numbers of semipalmated sandpiper have dropped from 2 million in the 1980s to 400,000 during 2009 and 2010 surveys (NJ Audubon). Jehl (2007) described the breeding population in Churchill, Manitoba as having "disappeared," with the last documented nesting of this species occurring there in 2001.
The Delaware Bay is a traditional migration stopover for birds breeding in the eastern arctic and migrating along the Atlantic Flyway. Thousands of birds congregate there annually to feed on calorie-rich horseshoe crab eggs. Aerial spring surveys at Delaware Bay show declines in semipalmated sandpiper from 285,802 in 1986 to 51,320 in 2002 (USFWS 2003). In New York, this sandpiper is an abundant migrant on Long Island beaches and along large inland shorelines.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant	X	Data Deficient	Data Deficient
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Semipalmated sandpipers migrating through New York use tidal estuaries and mudflats, frequently associating with other small shorebirds.

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal; Tidal Wetland
Tidal Flat

Distribution:
Morris (1990) reported on the fall 1989 season at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge noting, "An excellent season was highlighted by a new maximum [for semipalmated sandpiper] of 2,457 on 28 July." The number of juveniles (750) was also noted as unusually high. In May 2008 a high count of 400 individuals was reported at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant in Genesee County (Morgante 2008).

Herkert, James R., Donald E. Kroodsma and James P. Gibbs. 2001. Sedge Wren (Cistothorus platensis), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/582 doi:10.2173/bna.582

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	W	L	H
2. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills, contaminants)	R	L	M
3. Pollution	Household Sewage & Urban Waste Water (runoff)	R	L	H
4. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	P	L	V
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	L	V

References Cited:

Jehl, J. R. 2007. Disappearance of breeding Semipalmated Sandpipers from Churchill, Manitoba: More than a local phenomenon. Condor 109(2):351-360.

Morgante, M. 2008. Region 1 – Niagara Frontier. Kingbird 58(3):243-51.

Morris, A. 1990. The 1989 fall shorebird season at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Kingbird 40(3):132-48.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2003. Delaware Bay Shorebird-Horseshoe Crab Assessment Report and Peer Review. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Publication R9-03/02. Arlington, VA. 99 p.

Common Name: Short-billed dowitcher ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Limnodromus griseus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: SNRN
Tracked: No

Synopsis:
Long-billed dowitcher and short-billed dowitcher were designated as separate species in 1950. Three subspecies of short-billed dowitcher breed in North America: *L. caurinus* occurs on the Pacific Coast, L. griseus on the Atlantic Coast, and *L. hendersoni* in central Canada. The *nominate griseus* breeds in northern Canada and occurs in New York during migration, although a few specimens of *hendersoni* have also been taken in New York. Exposed mudflats are used as stopover points in New York, available on the Coastal Lowlands of Long Island and along the Great Lakes, as well as the large national wildlife refuges, Montezuma and Iroquois.
The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan and the International Shorebird Survey note significant declines in short-billed dowitcher populations since the mid-1970s. Declines are attributed to habitat loss on breeding grounds and on wintering grounds. Trends in New York are not available.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant	X	Data Deficient	Data Deficient
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
During migration short-billed dowitcher prefers saltwater habitat, whereas long-billed dowitcher prefers freshwater ponds and marshes. During migration, short-billed dowitchers are common on tidal flats, beaches, salt marshes, sewage ponds, and flooded agricultural fields (Jehl et al. 2001).

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal; Tidal Wetland
Marine; Intertidal
Tidal Flat

Distribution:
Dowitchers were hunted almost to extinction during the 1800s, but legal protection allowed populations to rebound and they were again common during the 1950s and 1960s. However, there are indications that this trend has been reversed, and that the species (at least on the East Coast) is perhaps only about half as common as several decades ago (Jehl et al. 2001). International Shorebird Survey results from 1972 to 1983 indicated decline of 5.5%/yr, 46% overall (Howe et al. 1989). Similar rates continued through 1995–1997 at 6 sites in Massachusetts and Brigantine, NJ. Data from Maritimes (e. Canada) Shorebird Survey, 1974–1991 (Morrison et al. 1994), indicate significant decline, the rate dependent on type of

analysis. Maximum New York State counts are summarized in Sherony (1998): 3,500 in July 1992 at Line Islands, Nassau County.

Jehl, Jr., Joseph R., Joanna Klima and Ross E. Harris. 2001. Short-billed Dowitcher (Limnodromus griseus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/564 doi:10.2173/bna.564

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	R	L	M
2. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills)	R	M	H
3. Pollution	Household Sewage & Urban Waste Water (runoff)	W	L	H
4. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	W	M	H
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	M	H
6. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (dredging, filling, beach nourishment)	W	L	H

References Cited:

Howe, M. A., P. H. Geissler, and B. Harrington. 1989. Population trends of North American shorebirds based on the International Shorebird Survey. Biol. Conserv. 49:185-199.

Jehl, Jr., J.R., J. Klima and R.E. Harris. 2001. Short-billed Dowitcher (Limnodromus griseus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/564doi:10.2173/bna.564

Morrison, R. I. G., C. Downes, and B. Collins. 1994. Population trends of shorebirds on fall migration in eastern Canada 1974-1991. Wilson Bull. 106:431-447.

Common Name: Short-eared owl
Scientific Name: *Asio flammeus*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Endangered

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
A bird of open areas, the short-eared owl is dependent upon sufficient small mammal populations and will shift its local breeding and wintering distribution accordingly. The nominate race, *A. f. flammeus* occurs in North America and reaches its southern breeding limit in New York. In recent decades, short-eared owls have declined in many areas of North America, but especially in the northeastern United States. This is thought to be due to loss and degradation of grassland and wetland areas, and to contamination from pesticides (Wiggins et al. 2006).
In New York, short-eared owls are considered to be local and uncommon breeders. The second Breeding Bird Atlas documented a continuing decline (-33%) that was earlier noted by Bull (1974), who called this owl a, "local breeder, greatly decreased in recent years." Breeding occurs in grasslands, wetlands, and other open country. There were only four records of confirmed breeding in the state during the second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05). Wintering birds are more common in New York and communal roosts can harbor a few dozen individuals.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Data Deficient
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Short-eared owls use a variety of open habitats for breeding and wintering, including wet meadows, fresh and saltwater marshes, grasslands, shrublands, and agricultural areas where small mammal populations—especially meadow vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*)—are adequate. Extensive blocks of habitat are essential for this owl (Wiggins et al. 2006). In the northeastern United States, breeding territory size generally decreased with increasing vole densities (Clark 1975).
Schneider (2003) reported habitat use in New York: Short-eared owls are most frequently found breeding in salt marshes, hayfields, fallow farm fields, and pastures. Breeding territories are frequently among ridges and valleys with low-lying wet areas between, though some are adjacent to wetlands or rivers. Wintering birds roost communally near feeding areas.

Primary Habitat Type
Cultivated Crops
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal; Tidal Wetland
Freshwater Marsh

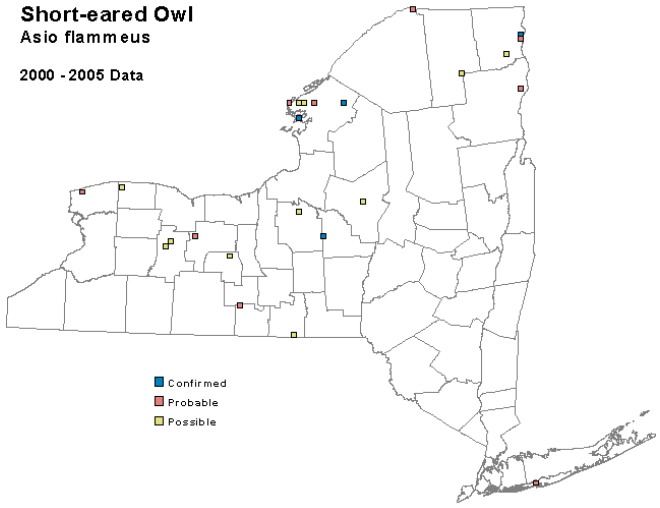
Maritime Dunes
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Pasture/Hay
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:

Clark (1975), who studied breeding ecology in Manitoba and wintering ecology in New York, showed that short-eared owls respond to spatial and temporal variation in small mammal abundance by shifting breeding and wintering sites, and by adjusting the timing of breeding and fecundity in accordance with local prey abundance. The population status of short-eared owl is difficult to assess because of this nomadic nature and because of annual fluctuations in numbers; also contributing to difficulties in monitoring are their crepuscular habits and overall low abundance. Severity of winter weather, including snow depth and snow/ice crust, can also impact abundance and distribution of these owls in winter months, as these factors affect prey availability.

Only two areas show significant BBS trends for short-eared owl: the Prairie Pothole region and the North American distribution as a whole, though each area is still in a category that denotes a deficiency in the data. Given that caveat, the long-term (1966-2010) trend for North America shows a decline of -2.5% per year, while the trends for the Prairie Pothole region are -4.7% per year for 1966-2010 and -11% per year for 2000-2010.

The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 36 survey blocks statewide (<1%), a decline of 33%. Breeding was Confirmed in only four survey blocks: two in Jefferson County, one in Clinton County, one in Madison County. Only one survey block on Long Island had any short-eared owl breeding activity (Probable).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Wiggins, D. A., D. W. Holt and S. M. Leasure. 2006. Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/062 doi:10.2173/bna.62

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	W	M	V
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-timber Crops (intensification & changes in agriculture)	P	H	M
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (competition for nest sites)	W	L	H
4. Transportation & Service Corridor	Roads & Railroads (roadkill, trains)	W	L	V
5. Transportation & Service Corridor	Flight Paths (plane strikes)	N	L	V
6. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (pesticides, rodenticides)	W	H	H
7. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	W	H	M
8. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (sensitive to disturbance from turbines)	R	M	H
9. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (increased predation associated with development)	W	L	H
10. Residential & Commercial Development	Tourism & Recreational Areas (snowmobile)	N	L	M
11. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive/ Non-native Alien Species (non-native plants)	N	L	H

References Cited:

Bull, J. 1974. Birds of New York State. Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City, NY. [Reprinted by Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, 1985.]

Clark, R. J. 1975. A field study of the Short-eared Owl, *Asio flammeus* (Pontoppidan), in North America. Wildlife Monographs 47:1-67.

Schneider, K.J. 2003. The status and ecology of the short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*) in New York State. Kingbird 53(4):313-330.

Common Name: Spruce grouse
Scientific Name: *Falcipennis canadensis*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Endangered

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2
Tracked: Yes

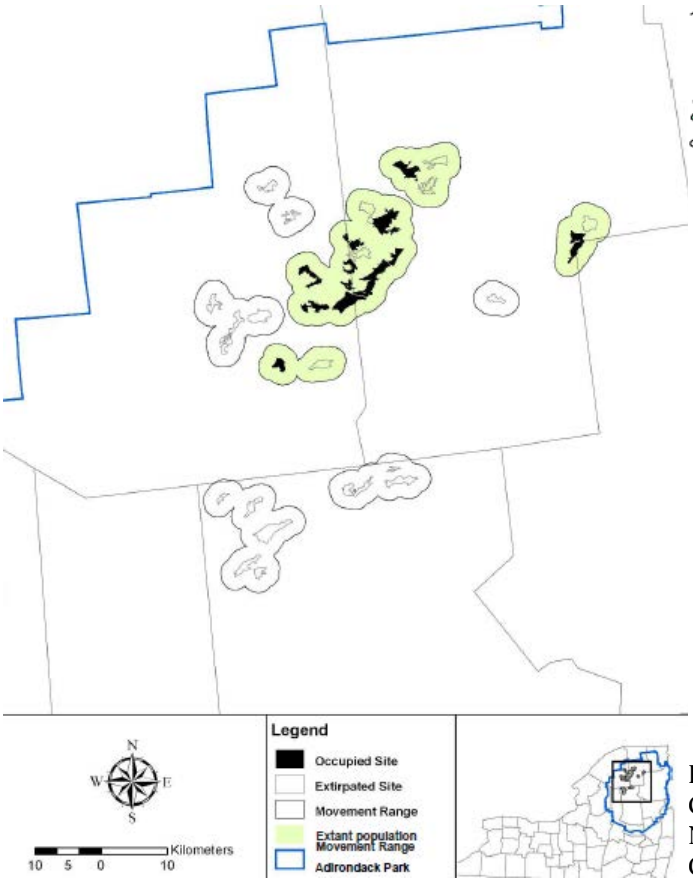
Synopsis:
The spruce grouse is a member of the order Galliformes and is included in the genus Falcipennis. The spruce grouse is distributed in a transcontinental band across North America that generally conforms to the extent of the boreal forest biome (Aldrich 1963). In New York it occurs in isolated patches of lowland coniferous forests dominated by spruce, tamarack, and balsam fir. The species is restricted to 15 small isolated subpopulations located exclusively within the northwestern and north-central section of the Adirondack Park in St. Lawrence and Franklin counties. Spruce grouse subpopulations in New York are small and declining. By 2006, only 14 of 32 sites occupied from 1976-1987 (Fritz 1977, Bouta 1991) and one new site were occupied (Ross and Johnson 2008) and there were probably fewer than 75 – 100 adults in the state (Ross and Johnson, unpublished data).

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		[Text here]	[Text here]
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
In New York the species is restricted to isolated populations within lowland coniferous forests. These isolated populations occur at fringes of bogs and water courses, and tend to be associated with peatlands. A common theme to all spruce grouse habitat is the presence of an understory of ericaceous vegetation and low hanging branches (Soule 1992). There is evidence that spruce grouse show some changes in habitat use seasonally (Keppie 1977, Allan 1985) where denser conifer stands are used more often in winter. These shifts may reflect dietary shifts. In New York, the spruce grouse inhabits coniferous forests dominated by black spruce and tamarack with lesser components of balsam fir and white pine, although historically the species also inhabited areas dominated by red spruce in upland habitats.

Primary Habitat Type
Boreal Forested peatland
Mountain Spruce-Fir Forests

Distribution:
In 2010, there were 15 local populations in New York of the 32 sites occupied from 1976-1987 (Fritz 1977, Bouta 1991) and one newly occupied site (Ross and Johnson 2008), and there were probably fewer than 75 – 100 adult spruce grouse in the state (Ross and Johnson, unpublished data).



Boag, D. A. and M. A. Schroeder. 1992. Spruce Grouse (Falcipennis canadensis), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/005
doi:10.2173/bna.5

Ross and Johnson (2012)

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting	W	L	M
2. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	P	L	V
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (spruce budworm outbreaks)	N	M	H
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (West Nile Virus)	R	M	V
5. Pollution	Air-Borne Pollutants (acid rain)	W	H	H
6. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (mercury)	W	H	H
7. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals	W	L	L

References Cited:

Aldrich, J.W. 1963. Geographic orientation of North American *Tetraoninae*. J. Wildl. Manage. 27(4):529-545.

Allan, T.A. 1985. Seasonal changes in habitat use by Maine spruce grouse. Can. J. Zool. 63:2738-2742.

Bouta, R.P. 1991. Population status, historical decline, and habitat relationships of spruce grouse in the Adirondacks of New York. M.S. Thesis, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York. 117pp.

Fritz, R.S. 1977. The distribution and population status of the spruce grouse in the Adirondacks. M.S. Thesis, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York. 115pp.

Keppie, D.M. 1977. Snow cover and the use of trees by spruce grouse in autumn. Condor 79:382-384.

Ross, A.M., and G. Johnson. 2008. Spruce grouse in lowland boreal forests of New York State: distributions, movements and habitat. Final Report: State Wildlife Grant T-2 Project 1. New York State Dept. of Environ. Cons. Albany, New York 144pp.

Soule, J. 1992. Species management abstract: spruce grouse. The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, Virginia.

Common Name: Upland sandpiper
Scientific Name: *Bartramia longicauda*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Threatened

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S3B
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
The upland sandpiper breeds primarily in the Great Plains region of the United States and Canada, with populations extending sparsely eastward to the Northeast. It is listed as Threatened or Endangered in 10 northeastern states. In New York, upland sandpiper is listed as Threatened and is among the rarest of grassland birds, second only to the Henslow's sparrow. The second Breeding Bird Atlas in New York documented a 65% decline in occupancy in the past 20 years; the number of survey blocks with confirmed breeding declined by 73%.

Changes in farming practices, development, and reforestation are responsible for the steady decline in the Northeast. Upland sandpipers have adapted their habitat requirements to utilize airports, reclaimed mine lands, capped landfills, and other human-made landscapes, suggesting that recovery potential is promising if suitable nesting and brood-rearing habitat is managed and increased.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Severe Decline	Severe Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

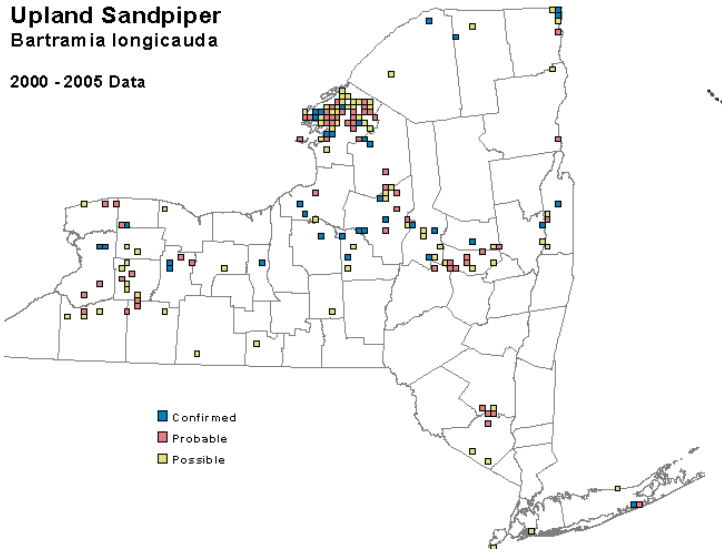
Habitat Discussion:
The upland sandpiper is a grassland bird. Optimal breeding habitat contains a mixture of short grass areas for feeding and courtship, interspersed with taller grasses and forbs for nesting and brood cover. Vegetation height at the time of spring arrival should be 15-20cm (NatureServe 2012). Other important habitat characteristics include fence posts, large expanses of open areas, little forest, and little topography (White 1983). Upland sandpipers are area-sensitive, preferring grasslands larger than 25 to 40 acres in size (Smith and Smith 1992).

In New York, breeding occurs in agricultural areas including old pastures and hayfields (Bull 1974). In most areas of New York where upland sandpiper is persisting there are a number of Amish families whose farming techniques remain less intensive. Upland sandpipers can also be found in mowed areas adjacent to airport runways and highways. Airfields appear to be an especially hopeful avenue for providing upland sandpiper habitat.

Primary Habitat Type
Native Barrens and Savanna

Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Pasture/Hay
Urban and Recreational Grasses

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 165 survey blocks statewide (3%), a decline of 65%. Breeding was confirmed in 38 blocks, a decline of 73%.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Houston, C. Stuart, Cameron R. Jackson and Daniel E. Bowen, Jr. 2011. Upland Sandpiper (Bartramia longicauda), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/580 doi:10.2173/bna.580

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	W	V	V
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-timber Crops (intensification & changes in agriculture)	P	V	V
3. Transportation & Service Corridor	Roads & Railroads	R	L	V
4. Transportation & Service Corridor	Flight Paths (plane strikes)	R	L	H
5. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (pesticides, rodenticides)	W	H	H
6. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	P	H	M
7. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (sensitive to disturbance from turbines)	R	M	H
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive/ Non-native Alien Species	R	M	H

References Cited:

Bull, J. 1974. Birds of New York State. Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City, NY. [Reprinted by Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, 1985.]

NatureServe. 2012. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. Accessed 11 June 2013.

Smith, D.G. and C.R. Smith. 1992. Henslow's sparrow and grasshopper sparrow: a comparison of habitat use in Finger Lakes National Forest, NY. Bird Observer 20(4):187-194.

White, R. P. 1983. Distribution and habitat preference of the upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) in Wisconsin. American Birds 37:16-22.

Common Name: Vesper sparrow
Scientific Name: *Pooecetes gramineus*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Special Concern

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S3B
Tracked: No

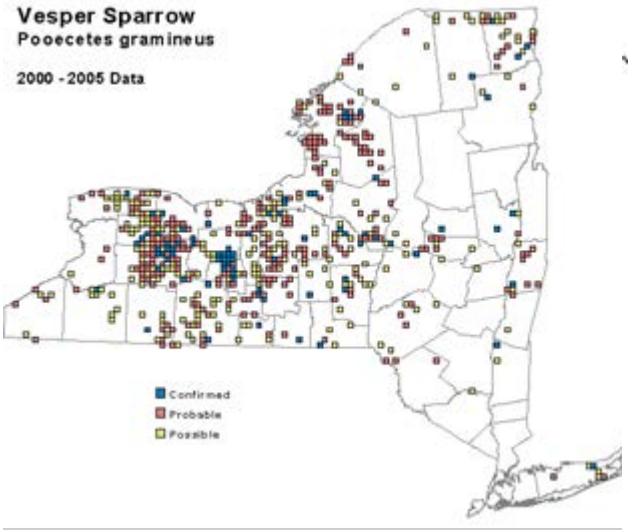
Synopsis:
Though classified as a grassland bird, vesper sparrow is more appropriately called an "open land" bird, as it is more closely associated with agricultural fields than hayfields or grassy meadows (Wiens 1969, Smith 2008). In New York, this sparrow is near the eastern edge of its North American distribution, which extends in a wide band to the west coast and northward into Canada. Wintering occurs in the southern United States southward to Central America.
Population declines for vesper sparrow that parallel losses of agricultural lands have been noted since the mid-1900s across the distribution and in the eastern region. Eastern declines appear to be associated with loss of open habitats to reforestation and urbanization, as well as changes in agricultural practices, including removal of hedgerows and more frequent mowing and haying (Santner 1992, Graham and Cotter 1996). In New York, Breeding Bird Survey data and Breeding Bird Atlas data have documented declining trends in abundance and occupancy since the mid-1960s.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%		Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%	X	Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon	X		
> 50%		Rare			

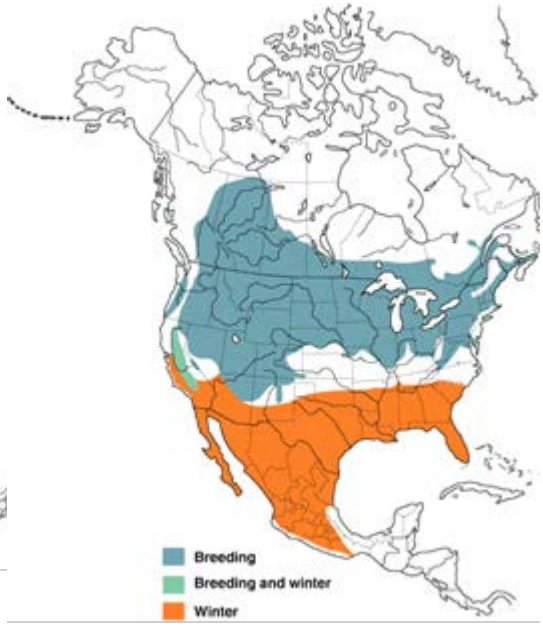
Habitat Discussion:
The vesper sparrow is an open-land bird that requires large expanses of relatively short grasses and ample areas of bare ground (Wiens 1969, Smith 2008). Nicholson (1985) noted that in New York, sheep grazing created optimal habitat for vesper sparrow in the early 1900s because sheep crop the grasses closely and have a tendency to overgraze (Smith 2008). This sparrow's affinity for agricultural areas is likely a result for its requirement for bare ground; in New York it has been found in potato fields, cornfields, and over-grazed pastures (Smith 2008).
Vesper sparrows respond quickly to changes in habitat, colonizing new areas swiftly when habitat becomes suitable and abandoning old fields rapidly as they change into forest.

Primary Habitat Type
Cultivated Crops
Native Barrens and Savanna
Pasture/Hay

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 564 survey blocks statewide, a decline of -49%. Breeding continued on the Erie-Ontario Plain and Central Appalachians with scattered records in Clinton County, the Mohawk Valley, and Long Island.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Jones, Stephanie L. and John E. Cornely. 2002. Vesper Sparrow (Pooecetes gramineus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/624
doi:10.2173/bna.624

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	W	L	V
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-timber Crops (intensification & changes in agriculture)	P	M	M
3. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (pesticides, rodenticides)	W	H	H
4. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	P	H	M
5. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (sensitive to disturbance from turbines)	N	L	H
6. Transportation & Service Corridors	Roads & Railroads	R	L	V
7. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-native/Alien Species	R	M	M
8. Energy production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (hydrofracking)	N	L	H

References Cited:

Graham, D. and R. C. Cotter. 1996. Vesper Sparrow. Pages 974-976 in The breeding birds of Quebec: atlas of the breeding birds of southern Québec. (Gauthier, J. and Y. Aubry, Eds.) Assoc. québecoise des groupes d'ornithologues, Prov. of Quebec Soc. for the protection of birds, Can. Wildl. Serv., Environ. Canada, Québec Region, Montréal.

Nicholson, A.G. 1985. The development of agriculture in New York State. Natural Research and Extension Series, no 23. Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Santner, S. 1992. Vesper Sparrow. Pages 380-381 in Atlas of breeding birds in Pennsylvania. (Brauning, D. W., Ed.) Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA.

Smith, C.S. 2008. Vesper sparrow, *Pooecetes gramineus*. Pages 552-53 in The second atlas of breeding birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Wiens, J.A. 1969. An approach to the study of ecological relationships among grassland birds. Ornithological Monographs, no. 8:1-93.

Common Name: Whimbrel
Scientific Name: *Numenius phaeopus*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: SNRN
Tracked: No

Synopsis:
North American whimbrels breed in two separate populations in the Arctic: a "western" population occurs across the Yukon Territory westward to Alaska while an "eastern" population is found south and west of the Hudson Bay. Both breeding populations winter along the coasts of North America. On the Atlantic Coast, wintering regularly occurs as far north as North Carolina. In New York, the whimbrel is a passage migrant, common on the coast during the fall and inland during the spring.
The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan places whimbrel in a "Highly Imperiled" conservation category. The Hudson Bay population has dropped from an estimated 42,500 in 1973 to only 17,000 in 2007.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Data Deficient	Data Deficient
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
During migration, whimbrels use beaches, tidal mudflats, marshes, estuaries, edges of tidal creeks, sandy or rocky shores, flooded fields and pastures (AOU 1983). Nighttime communal roosting occurs on saltpond flats and dikes, or in mangroves (Stiles and Skutch 1989).

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal; Tidal Wetland
Lake and River Beach
Maritime Dunes
Pasture/Hay
Tidal Creek
Tidal Flat

Distribution:
In 2009, a high count of migrating whimbrel in the spring was 74 individuals at Oneida Lake; the statewide total for May was 95 birds (Purcell 2009).

Skeel, Margaret A. and Elizabeth P. Mallory. 1996. Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/219 doi:10.2173/bna.219

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas	N	L	H
2. Residential & Commercial Development	Tourism & Recreation Areas (shoreline development)	N	L	H
3. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	W	L	H
4. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills, contaminants)	W	M	H
5. Pollution	Household Sewage & Urban Waste Water (runoff)	W	L	H
6. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (bird influenza)	R	M	V
7. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	W	M	H
8. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	M	H
9. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (bulkheads, beach nourishment, dredging)	W	M	H
10. Energy Production & Mining	Mining & Quarrying (sand mining)	W	M	H

References Cited:

American Ornithologists' Union (AOU). 1983. Check-list of North American Birds, 6th edition. Allen Press, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas. 877 pp.

Purcell, B. 2009. Region 5 – Oneida Lake Basin. Kingbird 59(3):268-73.

Stiles, F. G. and A. F. Skutch. 1989. A guide to the birds of Costa Rica. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York, USA. 511 pp.

Common Name: Whip-poor-will
Scientific Name: *Caprimulgus vociferus*
Taxon: Birds

SGCN – High Priority

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Special Concern

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S3B
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
In July 2010, the whip-poor-will was separated into two distinct species: Eastern whip-poor-will and Mexican whip-poor-will. Nesting occurs in early- to mid-successional forests and open forested habitats adjacent to clearings. Significant declines have been noted for whip-poor-will since the 1980s in the Northeast primarily, but also across the eastern part of the range (which is now known to include only Eastern whip-poor-will). While neither Breeding Bird Survey nor Breeding Bird Atlas protocol document this nocturnal species well, both show significant and notable declines. BBS data for the New York and five adjacent states show a combined declining trend of 3.58% per year for 1966-2007. In the northern New York populations in Clinton and Jefferson counties, however, whip-poor-will populations are large.

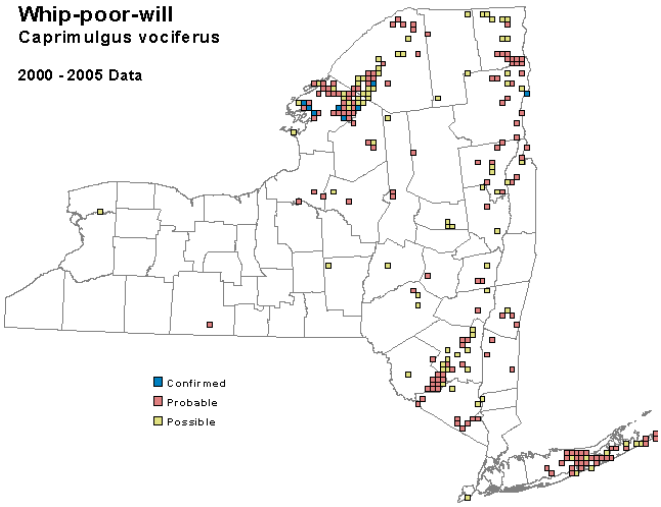
The causes of the rangewide decline in whip-poor-wills are poorly understood; it may be a combination of loss and fragmentation of scrubby woodlands, increased predation on eggs and young by mammalian predators (including cats), and increased road mortality due to paving of dirt roads.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Severe Decline	Severe Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

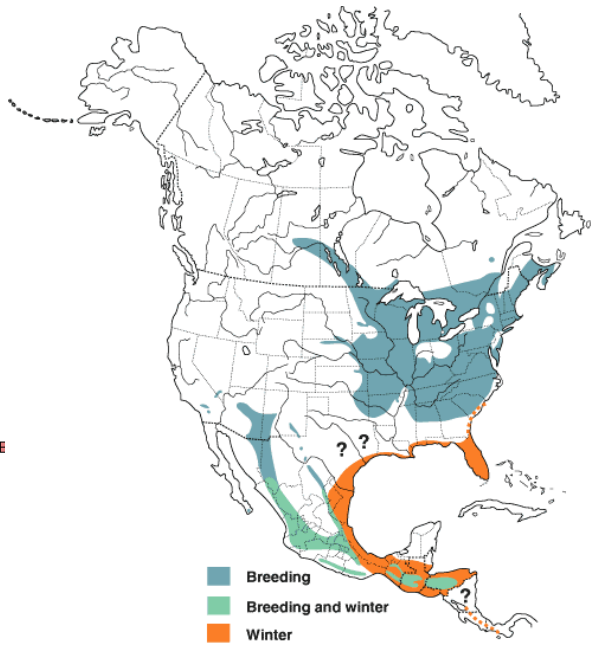
Habitat Discussion:
Whip-poor-wills are present in a variety of habitats but are absent from extensively forested areas. Occupied areas provide both open habitats for aerial foraging and protected areas for nesting and roosting. In New York, whip-poor-will is most abundant in barrens communities (Medler 2008). Lower densities occur where open areas are found adjacent to second-growth forests, such as along power line cuts, quarries, and fields (Medler 2008).

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Coniferous Barrens
Mixed Northern Hardwoods
Native Barrens and Savanna
Oak Forest
Oak-Pine Forest
Pine Barrens

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 241 blocks statewide, a decline of 57%. The number of blocks with confirmed breeding declined by 50%. Areas that appear to have been lost during the years between the two Atlas projects include virtually all of western New York including the southern Lake Ontario Plain and the southern tier, and northern New York areas peripheral to the Adirondacks.
Surveys conducted in 2007 by NYSOA's monitoring program identified areas of concentration: Connetquot River State Park (Suffolk County), Fort Drum (Jefferson County), Gadway Sandstone Pavement Barrens (Clinton County), Jefferson County Alvar Communities (Jefferson County), Rocky Point NRMA (Suffolk County), and the Shawangunk Ridge (Ulster/Orange/Sullivan County). Preliminary results from NYSDEC's 2013 monitoring confirmed continued concentrations at: Connetquot River State Park, Gadway Sandstone Pavement Barrens, Jefferson County Alvar Communities, Rocky Point NRMA, and the Shawangunk Ridge. The Fort Drum are in Jefferson County was not monitored in 2013.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Cink, Calvin L. 2002. Eastern Whip-poor-will (Antrostomus vociferus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America
Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/620
doi:10.2173/bna.620

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss to development)	W	M	H
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Perennial & Non-Timber Crops (habitat loss to agriculture)	N	L	H
3. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession of open areas)	W	M	H
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species	Problematic Native Species (increased predation from urbanization)	R	M	H
5. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (industrial pollution)	W	L	H
6. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (pesticide use)	R	L	H
7. Pollution	Excess Energy (light)	N	M	H
8. Natural Systems Modifications	Fire & Fire Suppression (suppression)	R	L	H
9. Invasive & Other Problematic Species	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (domestic cats)	W	M	H

References Cited:

Medler, M.D. 2008. Whip-poor-will, Caprimulgus vociferous. Pages 310-11 in The second atlas of breeding birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Yellow-breasted chat ***SGCN – High Priority***
Scientific Name: *Icteria virens*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Special Concern

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2?B
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
Yellow-breasted chat is a neotropical migrant that breeds most abundantly in southern states and is near its northern extent in New York. As the largest member of the family Parulidae, the yellow-breasted chat's classification has been examined due to its size, unusual vocal repertoire, and atypical physical attributes. Its breeding preference includes a variety of open-canopy habitats with shrubby, second-growth vegetation and thickets. This early-successional habitat is declining in New York.

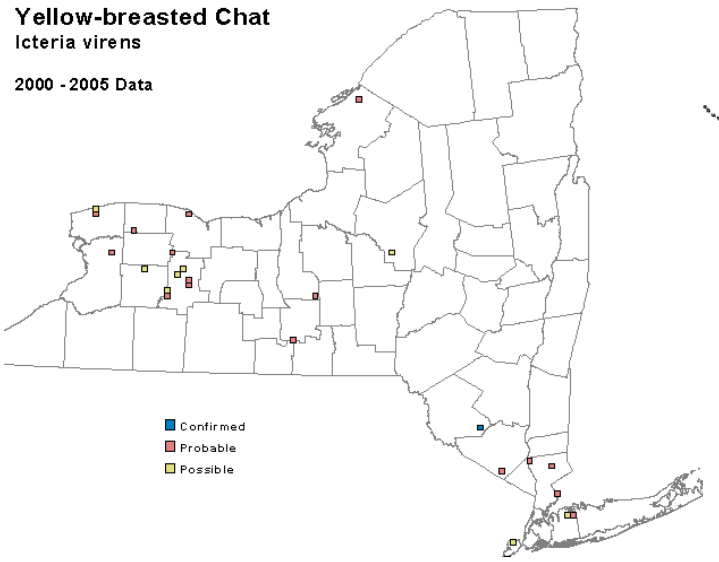
Across this warbler's distribution, Breeding Bird Survey data show a slightly declining population trend since 1966 and a relatively stable trend since 2000. The trend in the Appalachian Mountains shows statistically significant long-term and short-term declines. It is likely that yellow-breasted chat was always be uncommon in New York (McGowan 2008). Records found scattered sparsely across the Appalachian Plateau, Coastal Lowlands, and lower Hudson Valley during the first Breeding Bird Atlas went missing during the second Atlas; occupancy was found to have declined by 78%.

Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Declining	Declining
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon	X		
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
The yellow-breasted chat is a shrubland bird. It breeds in open areas with dense, shrubby vegetation and no tree canopy, including the edges of streams, swamps, and ponds as well as forest edges, regenerating burned-over forest, logged areas, fencerows, shrubby old pastures, thickets with few tall trees, and powerline corridors (Eckerle and Thompson 2001).

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Coniferous Barrens
Native Barrens and Savanna
Non-native Shrublands
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Pine Barrens
Powerline

Distribution:
The Long Island Colonial Waterbird Survey documented 31 breeding pairs at 6 sites in 2010. The survey documented 14 pairs in 2001, 25 in 2004, and 42 in 2007. In addition to island locations, the Harbor Herons Survey in 2012 documented 39 nests at one inland location, Redfern Houses at Far Rockaway, which was down from a high of 65 nests at this site in 2010 (Craig 2011, 2012). The population at Redfern was 40 nests in 2013 and although this population is stable, it is vulnerable (S. Elbin, pers. comm.).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Eckerle, Kevin P. and Charles F. Thompson. 2001. Yellow-breasted Chat (Icteria virens), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/575 doi:10.2173/bna.575

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas	W	M	H
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Perennial & Non-Timber Crops (habitat loss to agriculture)	W	H	H
3. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (forest maturation)	W	H	M
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (increased predation from urbanization raccoons, foxes)	W	L	H
5. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Non-native/Alien Species (domestic cats)	W	L	H
6. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Non-native/Alien Species (bush honeysuckle)	W	M	M

References Cited:

Eckerle, Kevin P. and Charles F. Thompson. 2001. Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/575 doi:10.2173/bna.575

McGowan, K.J. 2008. Yellow-breasted chat (Icteria virens). Pages 536-37 in The second atlas of breeding Birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.