Common Name: American bittern ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Botaurus lentiginosus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Special Concern

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

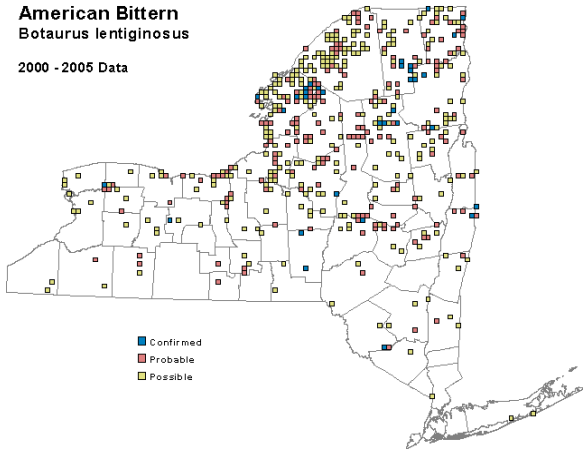
Synopsis:
The American bittern occurs across the northern half of North America and in most of Canada where it breeds in freshwater wetlands. The species is monotypic. It occurs sparsely throughout the state, occurring in 9% of Breeding Bird Atlas survey blocks statewide with concentrations in St. Lawrence and Jefferson counties (McGowan 2008). Since the early 1980s, a 10% decline in occurrence was documented during the second Breeding Bird Atlas survey. Historic declines were documented in the 1950s through 1970s due to loss of wetland habitat, but populations now appear to be fairly stable. Detection of American bittern is best attained through species-specific surveys because of its secretive nature.

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

Habitat Discussion:
American bitterns breed in freshwater wetlands with tall emergent vegetation, especially larger wetlands with abundant amphibian populations, and rarely tidal marshes. Eaton (1914) suggested that there were occurrences in New York at marshes of less than four hectares. This bittern seems to be adaptable to a wide variety of wetland habitats, ranging from margins of boreal lakes in Quebec (DesGranges and Houde 1989) to dense cattail marshes in New York (Andrle and Carroll 1988), and can thrive at wetlands of many types as long as suitable prey and adequate cover are available (Gibbs et al. 1991). Nesting can also occur in grasslands adjacent to wetland habitat.

Primary Habitat Type
Freshwater Marsh
Freshwater Tidal marsh
Great Lakes Freshwater Estuary Marsh
Native Barrens and Savanna
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Open Acidic Peatlands
Open Alkaline Peatlands
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Lowther, Peter, Alan F. Poole, J. P. Gibbs, S. Melvin and F. A. Reid. 2009. American Bittern (Botaurus lentiginosus), 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/018

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

References Cited:

Andrle, R.F. and J.R. Carroll, eds. 1988. The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Desgranges, J. L., and B. Houde. 1989. Effects of acidity and other environmental parameters on the distribution of lacustrine birds in Quebec. *In* Studies of the Effects of Acidification on Aquatic Wildlife in Canada: Lacustrine Birds and Their Habitats in Quebec. (J. L. DesGranges, editor.) Can. Wildl. Serv. Occas. Pap. No. 67.

Gibbs, J. P., and S. M. Melvin. 1992. American bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*. Pages 51-69 *in* Migratory nongame birds of management concern in the Northeast (K. J. Schneider and D. M. Pence, editors). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Newton Corner, Massachusetts. 400 pp.

McGowan, K.J. 2008. American bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*. Pages 156-157 *in* The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, editors). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY. 688 pp.

Common Name: American kestrel ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Falco sparverius*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

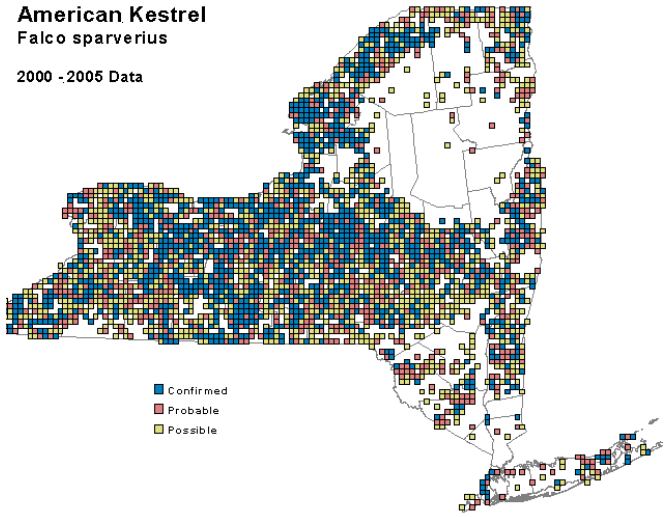
Synopsis:
Despite their broad distribution and relative abundance throughout much of the eastern United States, American kestrel numbers have significantly and steadily declined in the past fifty years, particularly in the Northeast. The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (McGowan and Corwin 2008) documented a 14% decline in occurrence from 1980-85 to 2000-05; regions surrounding the Adirondack, Allegany, and Catskill mountains, as well as suburban areas of the lower Hudson Valley and Long Island have experienced declines (Nye 2008). This decline is consistent with that of other birds requiring open grassland habitat, which is disappearing and becoming fragmented due to development, intensification of agriculture, and ecological succession. American kestrels remain common and widespread in New York despite their disappearance from many areas where they were once abundant.

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			

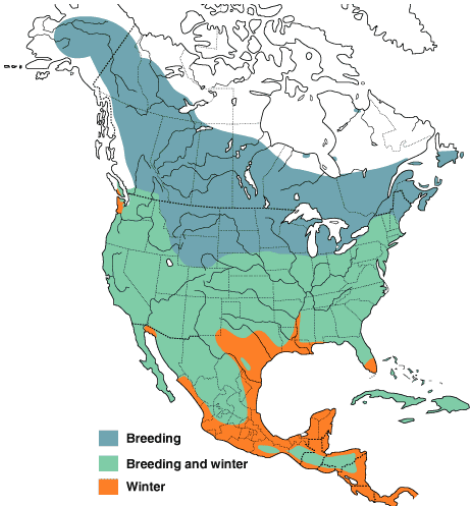
Habitat Discussion:
American kestrels prefer to nest in woodpecker-excavated cavities in isolated dead trees near open areas, but also along the edges of woods. Man-made crevices and nest boxes are also used as nest sites. Proximity to grasslands or fallow early-succession fields provides kestrels with an abundance of large insects to feed on (e. g., grasshoppers, dragonflies, mantids); they also feed on reptiles, amphibians, and small birds and mammals when invertebrate prey are not available. The kestrel's occurrence in New York is positively correlated with grassland focus areas. American kestrels have adopted the behavior of hunting and displaying from perches on telephone lines or poles bordering rural roads.

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

Distribution:
This species has a very widespread distribution, breeding throughout most of North America, primarily south of the Arctic Circle southward into Central America, the Caribbean, and parts of South America in zones where appropriate tree or cactus cavities are available. Kestrels breed throughout New York, except for the Adirondacks, Tug Hill, and parts of the Catskill and Alleghany mountains where open habitats are not available. New York birds migrate southward in the fall.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Smallwood, John A. and David M. Bird. 2002. American Kestrel (Falco sparverius), 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/602

doi:10.2173/bna.602

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	W	M	H
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-timber Crops (intensification & changes in agriculture)	W	M	H
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive/Non-native Alien Species (nest competition with starlings)	W	H	L
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive/Non-native Alien Species (West Nile virus)	W	H	H
5. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (Cooper's hawks)	W	L	H
6. Transportation & Service Corridor	Roads & Railroads (road mortality)	W	M	V
7. Transportation & Service Corridor	Flight Paths (plane strikes, airport management)	N	L	V
8. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (rodenticides)	W	H	M
9. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (flame retardants)	P	M	H
10. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	W	V	M
11. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (sensitive to disturbance from turbines)	R	M	V
12. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (hydraulic fracturing)	R	M	V

References Cited:

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

Nye, P. 2008. American kestrel, *Falco sparverius*. Pages 206-07 in The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, editors). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: American oystercatcher ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Haematopus p. palliatus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

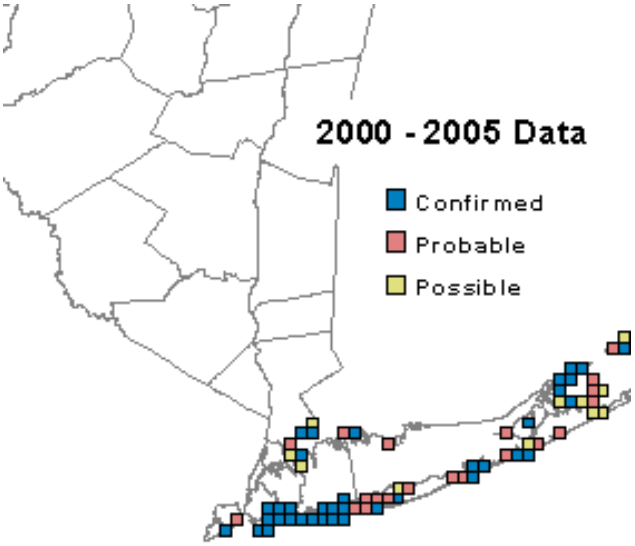
Synopsis:
American oystercatcher was extirpated from New York in 1896. Breeding resumed in the Northeast in the 1930s and the population has increased since then. Breeding resumed in New York in 1957 (Post 1961). New York's second Breeding Bird Atlas revealed a 51% increase in the last 20 years in the number of survey blocks where this species breeds, which includes the coastal lowlands and southern Westchester County (McGowan and Corwin 2008). The species remains vulnerable due to its use of salt marshes.

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	X		
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Breeding occurs traditionally among sand dunes on barrier islands, but an adaptation to nesting in salt marshes has been observed, likely as a result of disturbance in traditional habitats (American Oystercatcher Working Group et al. 2012). This adaptation is thought to be critical to the expansion of populations in the Northeast.

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

Distribution:
The first Breeding Bird Atlas (1980-85) documented breeding in 45 survey blocks (<1% of the state), mostly on the south shore of Long Island from Jamaica Bay to Southampton and the outer Peconic Bay area of Gardiners Island to Fishers Island (Andrle and Carroll 1988). The second Atlas (2000-05) documented an increase of 51% in the number of blocks where the bird was found as compared to the first Atlas (McGowan and Corwin 2008). Breeding expanded to eastern Suffolk County, the north shore of Long Island, Staten Island, and Westchester County (Wasilco 2008). The 2013 Long Island Colonial Waterbird survey documented 133 pairs at 45 sites.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

American Oystercatcher Working Group,, Erica Nol and Robert C. Humphrey. 2012. American Oystercatcher (Haematopus palliatus), 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/082 doi:10.2173/bna.82

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (habitat degradation, disturbance)	P	L	H
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (human-subsidized predators)	W	L	H
3. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills)	R	L	L
4. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	W	L	V
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	P	L	V

References Cited:

American Oystercatcher Working Group, E. Nol and R. C. Humphrey. 2012. American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*), 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/082

Andrle, R.F. and J.R. Carroll, eds. 1988. The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

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

Post, P. W. 1961. The American Oystercatcher in New York. Kingbird 11:3-6.

Wasilco, M. R. 2008. American oystercatcher, *Haematopus palliatus*. Pages 236-37 *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: American woodcock ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Scolopax minor*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

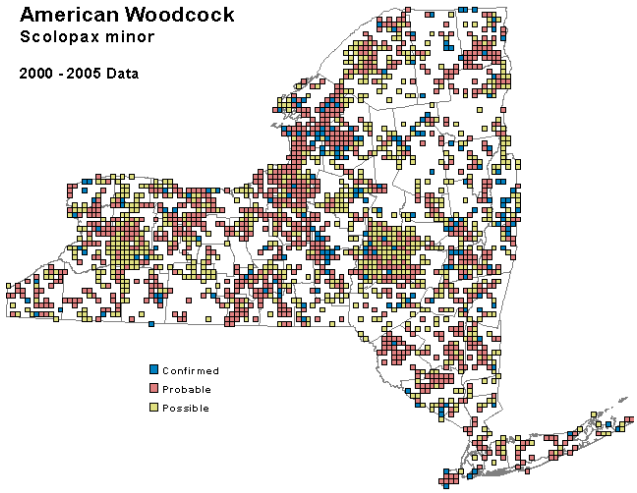
Synopsis:
Significant declines in American woodcock have been documented in both eastern and central populations since the 1970s. Although its abundance has declined historically, particularly in its eastern range and probably owing to natural succession and human-caused loss of forests, there is no evidence that its overall range has shrunk. The Eastern Management Region has shown no significant trend during 2001-11 and for eight consecutive seasons (Cooper and Parker 2010), suggesting a stable population for the past ten years. Breeding Bird Atlas data for New York concur, with occupancy increasing by only 4% since 1980-85 (McGowan and Corwin 2008).

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

Habitat Discussion:
New York is well within the core of the species' North American distribution. Woodcocks depend on early-successional habitat with a mix of shrublands, canopy cover, and moist soils. Specifically, it requires a mix of habitats in close proximity: early-successional forests or shrublands with canopy cover, moist soils, and abundant worm populations for feeding. Riparian shrublands and forests can be a particularly important habitat type. American woodcock is generally considered an edge species.

Primary Habitat Type
Conifer Forest Swamp
Floodplain Forest
Hardwood Swamp
Mixed Hardwood Swamp
Northern White Cedar Swamp
Powerline
Riparian
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
American woodcock occur across the state, though less frequently in areas that have been subject to heavy development.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

McAuley, Dan, Daniel M. Keppie and R. Montague Whiting, Jr. 2013. American Woodcock (Scolopax minor), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	P	L	V
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-timber Crops (intensification & changes in agriculture)	W	L	H
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (raptors, raccoons)	P	L	M
4. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (pesticides)	W	L	H
5. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	P	M	M
6. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals (hunting)	P	L	L
7. Human Intrusion & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	N	L	L
8. Natural System Modification	Dams & Water Management Use (wetland filling, ditching)	W	L	L
9. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (DDT, lead)	P	L	H
10. Transportation & Service Corridors	Utility & Service Lines (cell towers)	W	L	V
11. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (wind turbines)	R	L	V
12. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (hydraulic fracturing)	N	L	H

References Cited:

Cooper, T.R., and K. Parker. 2011. American woodcock population status, 2011. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland. 17 pp.

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: Bald eagle ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Threatened

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2S3B, S2N
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
New York's breeding bald eagle population is experiencing a consistent annual increase, having rebounded from one breeding pair in the 1970s to 254 known occupied pairs in 2014. While current bald eagle numbers are encouraging, the species faces continued threats, including habitat loss or disturbance, railroad strikes, and lead poisoning.

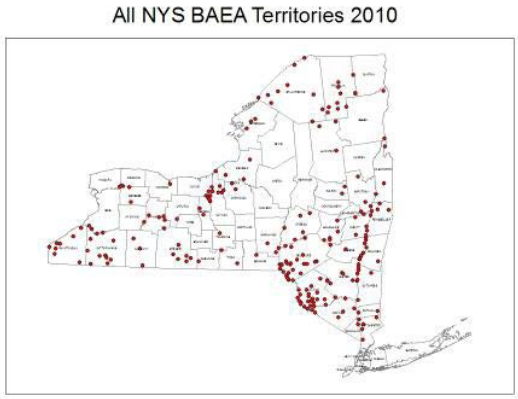
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%		Abundant		Increasing	Increasing
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%	X	Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon	X		
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Breeding typically occurs in undisturbed forested areas, near lakes, rivers, or wetlands. The bald eagle typically breeds in undisturbed forested habitat near lakes, rivers, or wetlands, especially in complex forested habitats with variable structure including super-canopy trees, where the nest is placed. In New York, it shows a preference for nesting in white pines and—particularly along the Hudson River—cottonwoods. During winter, bald eagles congregate at larger rivers where water remains open and food resources are abundant and accessible.

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Hardwoods
Floodplain Forest
Lake and River Beach
Large/Great River
Mixed Northern Hardwoods
Oak Forest
Oak-Pine Forest
Riparian

Distribution:
Bald eagles are known to breed throughout New York, with the exception of the New York City area, Long Island, and a portion of central New York. In 2010, NYSDEC documented 224 nesting territories (192 breeding pairs) throughout the state with the exception of Long Island, New York City, and

Madison, Lewis, and Oneida counties in central New York. Two nests are suspected (young observed in 2012) on Long Island but have yet to be confirmed.



NYSDEC (2010)

Buehler, David A. 2000. Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), 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/506 doi:10.2173/bna.506

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	N	L	H
2. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting (loss of mature trees)	N	L	H
3. Transportation & Service Corridors	Roads & Railroads (train/vehicle strikes)	R	M	V
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	Utility & Service Lines (electrocution, tower collision)	R	L	M
5. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (nest disturbance, feeding)	R	L	M
6. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (PCBs, pesticides, mercury)	W	L	H
7. Pollution	Garbage & Solid Waste (lead bullet fragments)	N	L	M
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (botulism, avian pox)	R	L	H
9. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals (persecution)	N	L	M
10. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Temperature Extremes (nest failure due to cold weather)	N	L	V
11. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding (wind, rain)	N	L	V

References Cited:

Common Name: Black scoter ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Melanitta americana*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
Black scoter is a sea duck that breeds in subarctic North America and winters off coastal New York and on the Great Lakes. Small numbers (fewer than 50) of migrants are occasionally seen on Adirondack lakes. Population trends are difficult to ascertain because aerial surveys combine all three scoter species: black, white-winged, and surf. North American populations appear to be declining, though wintering populations in the Northeast appear to be increasing. Mitra (2009) reported that winter counts in New York increased during the previous five years, averaging 5,800 individuals.

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

Habitat Discussion:
Along New Hampshire and Massachusetts coasts, white-winged, surf, and black scoters prefer sandy beaches (50.8 birds/km censused) to rocky headlands (0.62 birds/km) (Stott and Olson 1973). Black scoter occur mostly on coastal waters, and less commonly on large inland lakes and rivers when not breeding. It nests near lakes and pools on grassy or bushy tundra and in northern taiga.

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Deep
Lake
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Marine; Deep Sub-tidal

Distribution:
Black scoters occur in coastal waters off Long Island as well as on Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Small numbers are seen on Adirondack lakes.

McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals (hunting)	P	L	L
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (problems associated with zebra and quagga mussels)	R	L	H
3. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills)	W	L	L
4. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (offshore wind towers)	N	L	H

References Cited:

Mitra, M.M. 2009. Region 10 – Winter 2008-2009. Kingbird 59(2):217-222.

Common Name: Black-bellied plover ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Pluvialis squatarola*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
Black-bellied plovers breed in the high arctic of North America and winter in coastal areas of the U.S. including New York, where they occur on the south shore of Long Island and on the shores of Lake Ontario. The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan reports a 45% decline rangewide since the 1970s (Brown et al. 2001). Significant 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	Increasing	Stable
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
On its wintering grounds, the black-bellied plover roosts in dense flocks but spreads out over sandy and muddy flats to forage as the tide recedes. Although generally a coastal bird, it also forages successfully in freshwater and upland habitats. Habitats include mudflats, beaches, salinas, wet savanna, shores of ponds and lakes, wet meadows, flooded fields; sometimes mangroves or rocky shores (Stiles and Skutch 1989).

Primary Habitat Type
Lake and River Beach
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Tidal Flat
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
In New York, black-bellied plover occurs in large numbers on the extensive mudflats along the south shore of Long Island, especially on the western end, and on SE and SW Lake Ontario.

McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents	R	L	H
2. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	R	L	M
3. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (dredging, filling, bulk heads)	R	L	H
4. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	R	L	H
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	R	L	H

References Cited:

Brown, S., C. Hickey, B. Harrington, and R. Gill, eds. 2001. The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, 2nd ed. Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, Manomet, MA.

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: Black-billed cuckoo ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Coccyzus erythropthalmus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

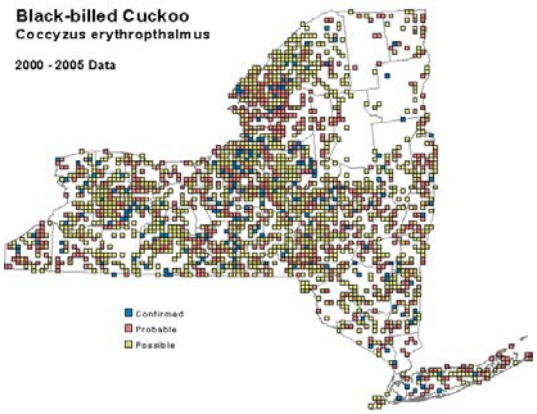
Synopsis:
The black-billed cuckoo has a more northern distribution than the yellow-billed cuckoo, which also occurs in New York. Black-billed cuckoos breed in early successional forests and in shrublands. They are found everywhere in the state, but are noticeably less common in the high elevations of the Adirondack Mountains. The second Breeding Bird Atlas shows no change in occupancy in the past 20 years (McGowan and Corwin 2008) and Breeding Bird Survey data show no significant long-term trend (Sauer et al. 2014). Short-term trends can be skewed by the cuckoo's tendency to follow caterpillar outbreaks.

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

Habitat Discussion:
The black-billed cuckoo nests in shrublands and forest edges. Habitats include thickets, orchards, abandoned farmlands, brushy hillsides, and along forest edges, often near water.

Primary Habitat Type
Mixed Northern Hardwoods
Plantation, Disturbed Land, Pioneer Forest
Riparian

Distribution:
Black-billed cuckoos are found everywhere in the state but are noticeably less common in the high elevations of the Adirondack Mountains. The Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented breeding in 38 percent of survey blocks statewide (McGowan and Corwin 2008).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Hughes, Janice M. 2001. Black-billed Cuckoo (Coccyzus erythropthalmus), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology

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	L
3. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	W	M	M
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species	Problematic Native Species (increased predation from urbanization)	W	L	H
5. Transportation & Service Corridors	Roads & Railroads (fragmentation)	N	L	H
6. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (pesticides)	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.

Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, J. E. Fallon, K. L. Pardieck, D. J. Ziolkowski, Jr., and W. A. Link. 2014. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2013. Version 01.30.2015 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

Common Name: Black-crowned night-heron ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

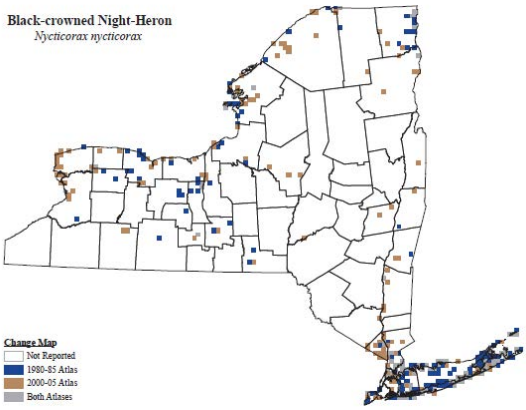
Synopsis:
The black-crowned night-heron is the most widespread heron in the world, breeding on every continent except Antarctica and Australia. In New York it occurs primarily on the Coastal Lowlands and the Great Lakes Plain; other records are scattered throughout the state. Breeding Bird Atlas data show no change in the number of occupied blocks in the past 20 years, though some local shifts occurred. Long Island populations are increasing or stable, while upstate populations appear to be declining. Rangewide, both increases and decreases have been documented, but when comparisons are made to historical abundance, declines are noted everywhere the species occurs.

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	X		
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

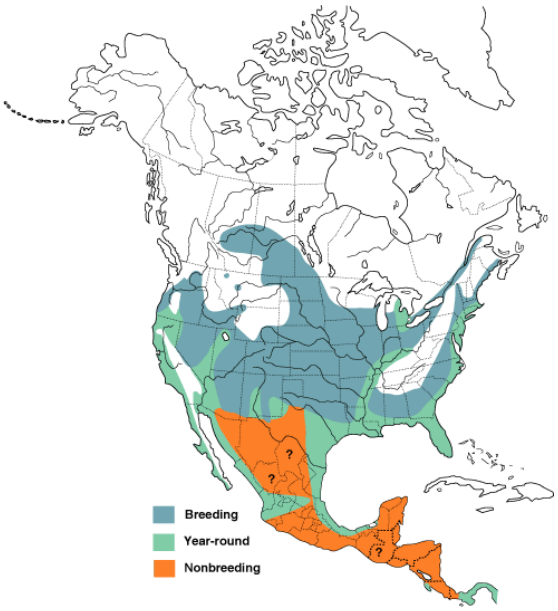
Habitat Discussion:
Black-crowned night-heron is found in coastal, estuarine, and freshwater habitats including swamps, streams, and rivers, the edges of ponds, lakes, lagoons, tidal mudflats, salt marsh, canals and reservoirs, as well as in wet farm fields (see McCrimmon 2008). Daytime roosting occurs in mangroves or swampy woodlands. Nesting occurs with other heron species.

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Plain Pond
Coastal Red Maple-Black Gum Swamp
Freshwater Marsh
Great Lakes Freshwater Estuary Marsh
High Marsh
Tidal Flat
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
The Long Island Colonial Waterbird survey in 2010 reported 1,926 breeding pairs. The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 213 survey blocks statewide (McGowan and Corwin 2008). The 2012 Harbor Heron survey documented an increase in activity by approximately 52% on South Brother Island and 21% on Mill Rock (Craig 2012).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Hothem, Roger L., Brianne E. Brussee and William E. Davis, Jr. 2010. Black-crowned Night-Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax), 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/074
doi:10.2173/bna.74

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas	N	L	H
2. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding (storm frequency)	R	M	M
3. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration (habitat shifting— sea level rise)	N	L	V
4. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	W	L	M
5. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (contaminants)	N	L	M
6. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents (pesticides)	N	L	M
7. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (competition with cormorants)	N	L	L

References Cited:

Craig, E. 2012. New York City Audubon's Harbor Herons Project: 2012 Interim Nesting Survey Report. New York City Audubon, New York, NY.

McCrimmon, D.A. 2008. Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*. Pages 174-75 *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. and K. Corwin, eds. 2008. The second Atlas of breeding birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Black-throated blue warbler ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Setophaga caerulescens*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

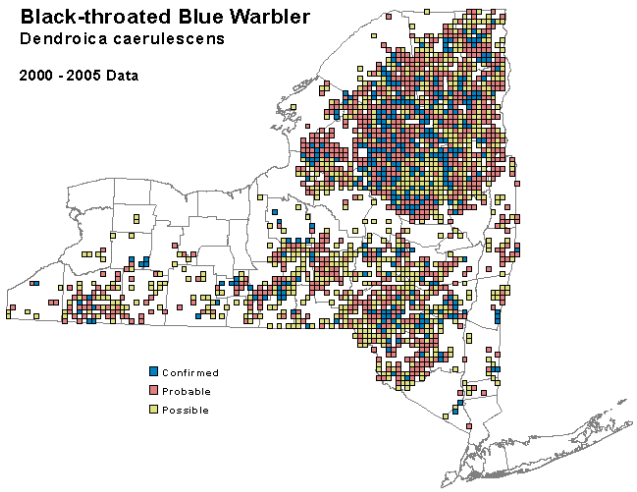
Synopsis:
The black-throated blue warbler is a common breeder at high elevations throughout the state, with centers of abundance in the Adirondacks, Catskills, and Appalachian Plateau. It prefers large tracts of relatively undisturbed hardwood and mixed forest with a closed canopy and dense undergrowth. The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) showed an increase of 10% in the number of occupied survey blocks since the early 1980s (McGowan and Corwin 2008). Breeding Bird Survey data for New York show an increasing short-term trend of 2% per year for the period 2003-2013 and a long term declining trend of 1.0% per year for the period 1966-2013 (Sauer et al. 2014).

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

Habitat Discussion:
Black-throated blue warblers occur in large tracts of relatively undisturbed hardwood and mixed forests with a closed tree canopy and dense undergrowth that often contains hobblebush (Holmes et al. 2005, Collins 2008). It is an area-sensitive species, occurring mainly in forest tracts >100 ha. Yet, black-throated blue warbler is just as common in managed and unmanaged forests as long as canopy cover is relatively complete (Holmes et al. 2005).

Primary Habitat Type
Mixed Hardwood Swamp
Mixed Northern Hardwoods

Distribution:
The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented occurrence in 1,919 survey blocks, 36% of the state (McGowan and Corwin 2008). Centers of abundance can be seen in the high elevation areas of the state, especially the Adirondack Mountains.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Holmes, Richard T., N. L. Rodenhouse and T. S. Sillett. 2005. Black-throated Blue Warbler (Setophaga caerulescens), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology

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

References Cited:

Collins, J. 2008. Black-throated blue warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens*. Pages 488-89 *in* The second Atlas of breeding birds of New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Holmes, R. T. and T. W. Sherry. 1992. Site fidelity of migratory warblers in temperate breeding and neotropical wintering areas: implications for population dynamics, habitat selection, and conservation. Pages 563-575 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.

Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, J. E. Fallon, K. L. Pardieck, D. J. Ziolkowski, Jr., and W. A. Link. 2014. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2013. Version 01.30.2015 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

Common Name: Blue-winged teal ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Anas discors*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2S3B
Tracked: No

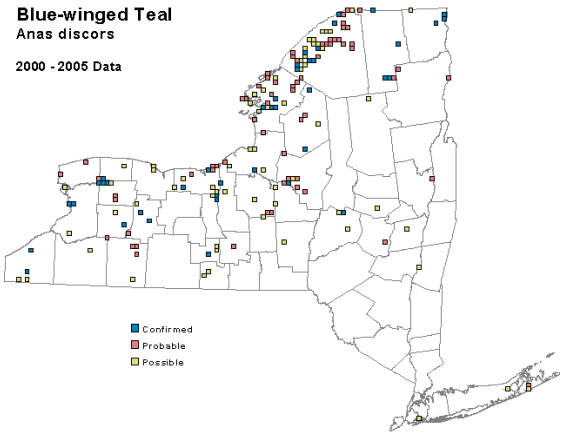
Synopsis:
Blue-winged teal breed in grasslands and open fields along shallow ponds and larger wetlands. Its occupancy in New York has declined by 63% over the past 20 years (McGowan and Corwin 2008). Threats include agricultural practices that affect the availability and use of grasslands, as well as predation during the breeding season (NYSDEC 2005). The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) showed that blue-winged teal disappeared from the Hudson Valley and the Coastal Lowlands since 1980-85 but still occurs sparsely across the rest of the state with a concentration in the St. Lawrence Valley and Great Lakes Plain. Blue-winged teal may hybridize in the wild with cinnamon teal, *A. cyanoptera*.

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:
Blue-winged teal nest along shallow ponds with abundant invertebrates and will use seasonal ponds and larger wetlands. Optimal nesting habitats include semi-permanent wetlands, ponds, and seasonal wetlands surrounded by grassland (Brewer et al. 1991).

Primary Habitat Type
Freshwater Marsh
Great Lakes Freshwater Estuary Marsh
Lake; Pond; Eutrophic
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
Blue-winged teal is a local breeder in small numbers in New York, occurring primarily in the St. Lawrence Valley and the Great Lakes Plains.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Rohwer, Frank C., William P. Johnson and Elizabeth R. Loos. 2002. Blue-winged Teal (Anas discors), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Natural System Modification	Other Ecosystem Modification (loss of grassland to succession)	R	L	M
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-Timber Crops (intensification of agriculture)	W	M	M
3. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals	R	L	L
4. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas	R	L	V
5. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (increased predators)	W	M	H

References Cited:

Brewer, R., G.A. McPeek, and R.J. Adams, Jr. 1991. The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Michigan. Michigan State University Press, East Lansing, Michigan.

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

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). 2005. New York State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/index.html>.

Common Name: Blue-winged warbler ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Vermivora cyanoptera*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

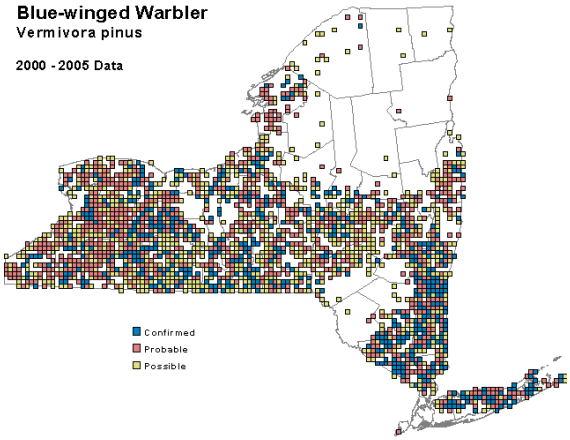
Synopsis:
The blue-winged warbler has expanded northward in the past century with the abandonment of farmlands. In the past 20 years it has increased its occupancy in New York by 17% (McGowan and Corwin 2008). Hybridization and competition with the golden-winged warbler (*V. chrysoptera*) is suspected of contributing to the decline/local extirpation of that species. Both warblers occur in early- to mid-successional habitats.

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

Habitat Discussion:
The blue-winged warbler breeds in early to mid-successional habitat and in swamps with a high density of shrubs. Brushy hillsides, second growth, partly open situations with saplings, bogs, woodland edge and clearings, stream edges, overgrown pastures, and swamps are favored. Nests are close to or on ground, in bushes, weeds, or grasses, or under bushes, or between exposed roots of stump (Terres 1980). Blue-winged warbler nests successfully in small clearcuts (less than 5 hectares); large expanses of continuous early successional habitat are not necessary (NatureServe 2011).

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

Distribution:
The blue-winged warbler is widespread across southern and central New York and has become more common in the eastern lake Ontario Plains since the completion of the first Breeding Bird Atlas (1980-85). It is generally absent from the central Adirondacks and is still only occasionally encountered in the eastern St. Lawrence Valley and the northern Lake Champlain Valley.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Gill, Frank B., Ronald A. Canterbury and John L. Confer. 2001. Blue-winged Warbler (Vermivora cyanoptera), 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/584 doi:10.2173/bna.584

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	P	M	M
2. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss to development)	W	L	V
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (cowbird parasitism)	W	L	H
4. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Perennial & Non-Timber Crops (habitat loss to agriculture)	N	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.

NatureServe. 2011. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available http://www.natureserve.org/explorer. (Accessed: December 2, 2011).

Terres, J.K. 1980. The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds. Alfred A. Knopf. New York. USA. 1109 pp.

Common Name: Bonaparte's gull ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
Bonaparte's gull was formerly included in the genus *Larus* but separated on the basis of genetic data (Pons et al. 2005). This gull appears in New York during migration and winter, where it frequents inland lakes and rivers, and coastal bays, estuaries, and inshore waters reaching numbers in the hundreds of thousands. Smaller numbers of non-breeders occur in New York during the summer. The long-term population trend seems to be increasing across its range but there are no data on recent trends (Burger and Gochfeld 2002, BirdLife International 2009).

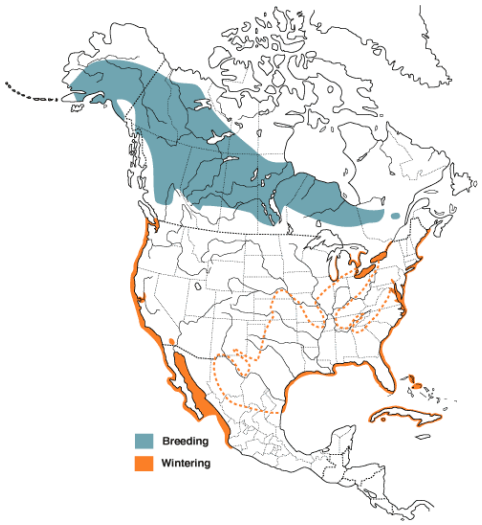
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant	X	Stable	Stable
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
This species usually overwinters on lakes, rivers, marshes, coastal bays and harbors, sandbars and mudflats, and beaches along coasts. It often concentrates near convergences, upwellings, sewage outfalls and lagoons and inlets (Lauro 1980, Campbell et al. 1990, Small 1994).

Primary Habitat Type
Bar
Lake and River Beach
Large/Great River
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Tidal Flat

Distribution:
In New York, Bonaparte's gull frequents Long Island waters, the lower Hudson River, and the Great Lakes region where the largest numbers occur in the Niagara Falls and Buffalo area, especially in fall and winter. There are occasional records on inland lakes and ponds.

Numbers fluctuate annually. Christmas Bird Count Data for 2000-2009 documented an average of 6,100 individuals with a high count of 14,502 in 2005-06 and a low count of 2,183 in 2007-08. Recent high counts are summarized by Brock (1998): 40,000 at the mouth of the Niagara River in December 1990. During the winter of 2012-2013, more than 45,000 Bonaparte's gulls were counted in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area.



Burger, Joanna and Michael Gochfeld. 2002. Bonaparte's Gull (Chroicocephalus philadelphia), 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/634 doi:10.2173/bna.634

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Transportation & Service Corridors	Utility & Service Lines (oil spills)	N	L	H
2. Pollution	Household Sewage & Urban Waste Water	N	L	H
3. Biological Resource Use	Fishing & Harvesting Aquatic Resources (entanglement)	N	L	L
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (botulism)	N	L	V
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	L	M
6. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	W	L	M
7. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (beach nourishment, erosion)	N	M	L

References Cited:

BirdLife International 2009. *Larus philadelphia*. In: IUCN 2011. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2011.2. <www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 07 December 2011

Brock, R.W. 1998. Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*. Pages 279-80 in Bull's Birds of New York State. M. Levine, ed. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Burger, J. and M. Gochfeld. 2002. Bonaparte's Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*), 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/634

Campbell, R. W., N. K. Dawe, I. McTaggart-Cowan, J. M. Cooper, G. W. Kaiser, and M. C. E. McNall. 1990. The birds of British Columbia, Vol. 2: diurnal birds of prey through woodpeckers. R. Br. Columbia Mus. Victoria.

Lauro, A. J. 1980. The winter ecology of Bonaparte's Gull on the south shore of Long Island. Linn. News Letter 34(Mar):1-3.

Pons, J. M., A. Hassanin, and P. A. Crochet. 2005. Phylogenetic relationships within the Laridae (Charadriiformes: Aves) inferred from mitochondrial markers. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 37:686-699.

Small, A. 1994. California birds: their status and distribution. Ibis Publ. Co. Vista, CA

Common Name: Caspian tern ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Hydroprogne caspia*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S1
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
Formerly *Sterna caspia*, Caspian tern was recently classified in the genus *Hydroprogne* (Banks et al. 2006). Breeding occurs in six small and widely separated regions in North America: the Pacific, Atlantic, and Gulf coasts, inland in the western interior, the Prairie Provinces of Canada, and along the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes population occurs in parts of Lake Michigan, Lake Ontario, Lake Huron, and the Thousand Islands of the upper St. Lawrence River (Cuthbert and Wires 1999).

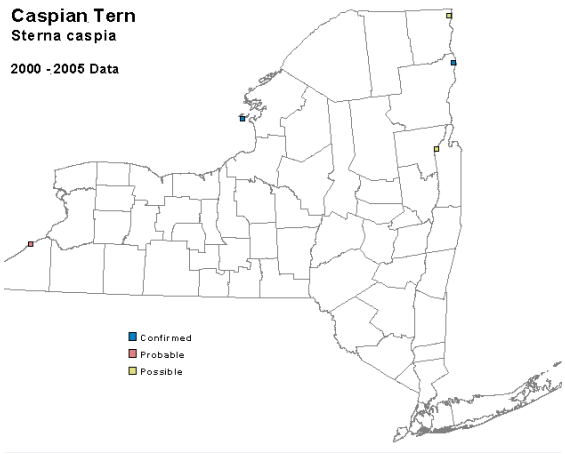
Breeding was first confirmed in New York in 1986, a likely result of an eastward expansion of the Great Lakes population (Smith 2008). Prior to this, Caspian tern was only a migrant in New York. Breeding now occurs regularly on Little Galloo Island in Lake Ontario (Jefferson County) and Four Brothers Islands in Lake Champlain (Essex County). Populations have increased at both locations in, but the species' susceptibility to large die-offs from type E botulism is a concern.

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

Habitat Discussion:
In North America, Caspian terns breed in various types of habitats including estuaries, salt marshes, islands (coastal and freshwater), bays, and beaches. Both nesting colonies in New York are on islands in large lakes. Populations along the Great Lakes typically nest on islands and beaches with a substrate consisting of sand, pebbles, or fine gravel with very little vegetation (New York Natural Heritage Program 2011). In western Lake Ontario, Caspian terns nest on man-made islands and peninsulas.

Primary Habitat Type
Lake
Lake and River Beach

Distribution:
Caspian tern is a common breeder at two locations in New York: Little Galloo Island (Jefferson County), and Four Brothers Island in Lake Champlain (Essex County). The second Breeding Bird Atlas documented a probable record (a territorial bird documented in July) near Dunkirk in Chautauqua County. Smith (2008) suggested that breeding is not unlikely in the area, as both the breakwater wall and the lake shoreline provide suitable habitat.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Cuthbert, Francesca J. and Linda R. Wires. 1999. Caspian Tern (Hydroprogne caspia), 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/403 doi:10.2173/bna.403

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (interactions with gulls, cormorants)	W	M	M
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Non-Native Species (disease, botulism e)	W	L	M
3. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (PCBs, etc)	P	L	V
4. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (wind turbines)	W	L	H

References Cited:

Banks, R.C., C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen, J.D. Rising, and D.F. Stotz. 2006. Forty-seventh supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds. Auk 123(3):926-936.

Cuthbert, F. J. and L. R. Wires. 1999. Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*), 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/403

New York Natural Heritage Program. 2011. Online Conservation Guide for *Hydroprogne caspia*. Available from: http://www.acris.nynhp.org/guide.php?id=6914. Accessed December 14th, 2011.

Smith, G. 2008. Caspian tern, *Hydroprogne caspia*. Pages 264-65 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: Cerulean warbler ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Setophaga cerulea*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

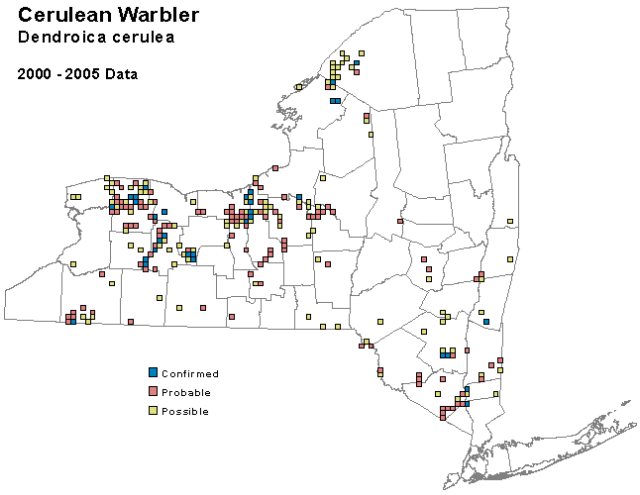
Synopsis:
This warbler uses two distinct habitat types in New York: forested wetlands and riparian corridors, and dry ridge tops and hillsides. Breeding Bird Survey trends indicate a significant decline rangewide of 3.1% per year since 1966. The second New York Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) shows a decline in occupancy of 13% since 1980-85. With no change in the magnitude of threats or the magnitude of conservation efforts, projections of future population trends based on an assumption of historic BBS trends continuing into the future indicate there is about a 90% probability that within 100 years cerulean warblers will decline to a population size that is about 10% of their current numbers (Thogmartin et al. 2006).

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			

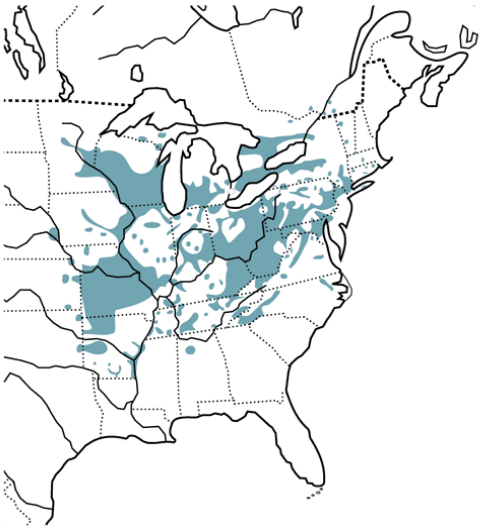
Habitat Discussion:
Two distinct habitat types are used: (1) forested wetlands and riparian corridors dominated by sycamore, cottonwood, silver and red maples, and green ash; and (2) dry ridgetops and hillsides dominated by mature oak-hickory and mixed mesophytic forests (Rosenberg et al. 2000). Favored riparian habitats appear to include at least some very large “super-canopy” trees.

Primary Habitat Type
Floodplain Forest
Hardwood Swamp
Oak Forest
Oak-Pine Forest
Riparian

Distribution:
Cerulean warblers are sparsely distributed in New York with the largest concentrations in the Great Lakes Plain and smaller concentrations in Allegany State Park and the Hudson Highlands area west of the Hudson River, and southwest of St. Lawrence County.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Buehler, David A., Paul B. Hamel and Than Boves. 2013. Cerulean Warbler (Setophaga cerulea), 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/511 doi:10.2173/bna.511

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

References Cited:

Rosenberg, K.V., S.E. Barker, and R.W. Rohrbaugh. 2000. An atlas of Cerulean warbler populations: final report to USFWS: 1997-2000 breeding seasons. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. http://www.birds.cornell.edu/cewap/cwapresultsdec18.pdf

Thogmartin, W.E., J. R. Sauer, P. Hamel, M.G. Knutson, J. Baldy, E. Ozdenerol, J.Cochrane, T. Will, R. Dettmers, P. Wood. 2006. Modeling for Cerulean Warblers on the breeding ground. Abstract. Paper presented at Fourth North American Ornithological Conference, Veracruz, Mexico, October 2006.

Common Name: Common eider ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Somateria mollissima*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S1B, S3?
Tracked: Yes

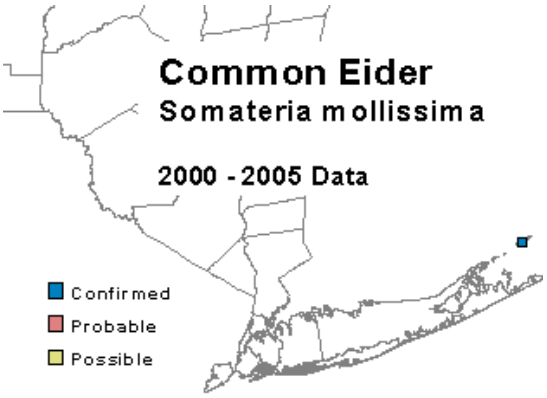
Synopsis:
Four subspecies of common eider are recognized in North America; three have been recorded in New York. *Somateria mollissima dresseri* is presumed predominant in New York. Populations have been expanding in the Northeast since the 1970s when the species was simultaneously spreading southward from Maine and being introduced to islands off the coast of Massachusetts. In New York, breeding was first documented in 2000 on Fishers Island off eastern Long Island following increasing numbers of wintering birds and summering birds. Breeding continues in New York with annual increases in the number of nests. The entire population is currently healthy but is under increasing harvest pressure.

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:
Common eiders use marine coasts and offshore islands for nesting. Nests are on the ground in grass or brush, usually close to salt water, often on an island or rocky headland or along the shore of a pond or lagoon. Nests often but not always are concealed by plants (forest, shrub, or herbaceous), rocks, logs, driftwood. Often nests are in the same site in successive years. Wintering occurs off the coast.

Primary Habitat Type
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Rocky Intertidal

Distribution:
Common eider is a fairly common to abundant winter visitant to the Montauk area (eastern Long Island) and rare to uncommon elsewhere on Long Island. It is very rare inland, though occasionally observed and harvested on the Great Lakes and the Niagara River. The state's first documented breeding occurred at Fishers Island (Suffolk County) in 2000; breeding was documented at South Dumpling Island (Suffolk County) in 2004 (Guthrie 2004). Breeding has continued at both islands. Twelve nests with two to five eggs each were found on South Dumpling Island in 2008 (Williams 2008).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Goudie, R. Ian, Gregory J. Robertson and Austin Reed. 2000. Common Eider (Somateria mollissima), 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/546 doi:10.2173/bna.546

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (shoreline development)	N	L	V
2. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals (persecution)	W	L	L
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (predation)	N	L	L
4. Biological Resource Use	Fishing & Harvesting Aquatic Resources (entanglement in fishing gear)	W	L	H
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	N	L	L
6. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	L	M

7. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (contaminants, oil spills)	N	L	M
8. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	N	L	L

References Cited:

Guthrie, A. 2004. Highlights of the Season – 2004. Kingbird 54(4):320-25.

Williams, G. 2008. At least 12 common eider nests on South Dumpling Island, Suffolk County. Kingbird 58(3):233.

Common Name: Common goldeneye ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Bucephala clangula*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

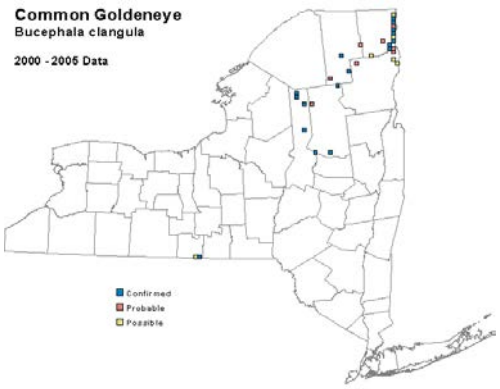
Synopsis:
The common goldeneye is a boreal species that nests in secondary cavities or nest boxes typically near water bodies. New York is at the southern edge of the breeding range and most records of nesting are in the Adirondack region and northern Lake Champlain. Common goldeneye populations are relatively stable. In New York, the distribution has shifted in the past 20 years and occurrence has increased. Populations may have benefited from increased lake acidification which provides clear, fishless lakes (Eadie et al. 1995).

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		

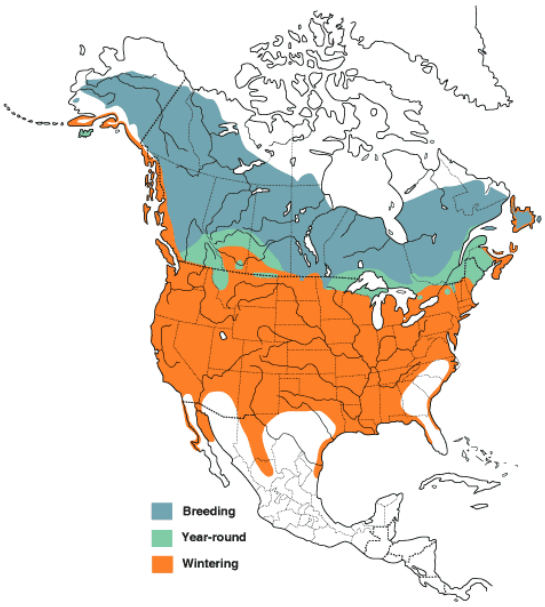
Habitat Discussion:
Common goldeneye nests in tree cavities in mature boreal forests. They will also use nest boxes, and in northern areas of the range, rock crevices are used. Nests are usually placed near a pond, lake, or river with clear water and abundant invertebrates. Waterbodies with no fish, and those that are isolated from other waterbodies are preferred (Mallory et al. 1993). Although not as frequently, nests may be placed up to a mile away from water (Eadie et al. 1995). In an unusual breeding event, a confirmed breeding record was obtained on the Chemung River (Chemung County) in 2003 during the second Breeding Bird Atlas (McGowan and Corwin 2008).

Primary Habitat Type
Floodplain Forest
Lake
Lake and River Beach
Lake; Pond; Oligotrophic
Large/Great River
Spruce-Fir Forests and Flats

Distribution:
Common goldeneye are rare to uncommon breeder in the Adirondacks Mountains and the Lake Champlain Valley.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Eadie, J. M., M. L. Mallory and H. G. Lumsden. 1995. Common Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula), 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/170 doi:10.2173/bna.170

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting (availability of cavities)	N	L	L
2. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals	N	L	L
3. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (organochlorines, mercury)	W	L	H
4. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	W	L	M

References Cited:

Eadie, J. M., M. L. Mallory and H. G. Lumsden. 1995. Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), 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/170

Mallory, M.L., P.J. Weatherhead, D.K. McNicol, and M.E. Wayland. 1993. Nest site selection by Common Goldeneyes in response to habitat features influenced by acid precipitation. Ornis Scand. 24:59-64.

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: Common Loon ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Gavia immer*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Special Concern

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S4
Tracked: Yes

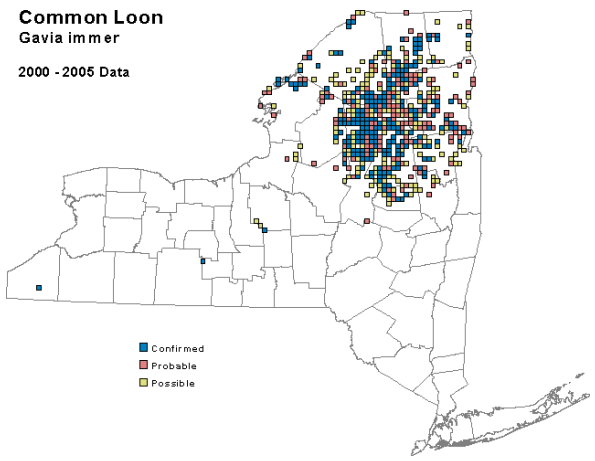
Synopsis:
The common loon breeds on freshwater lakes and ponds in Canada and the northern fringes of the United States; wintering occurs along both coasts. Populations are expanding across the range. In New York, the population is centered in the Adirondack region, though a small number of breeding records have been confirmed in western and central parts of the state as well. The state's breeding distribution has expanded in all directions since the 1980s when a survey was conducted on 500 water bodies in the Adirondack Park. The Adirondack population has been monitored annually since 2001 and has almost doubled in the past thirty years. Despite continuing threats from shoreline development, recreation, pollution, and contaminants, New York's population appears to be stable for the period 2001-2011.

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

Habitat Discussion:
Common loons breed in freshwater habitats, nesting on bog mats, logs, large rocks, and along shorelines of both islands and the mainland. Wintering occurs in coastal waters along the Atlantic Coast. Water quality is important for successful breeding and clear water is crucial for effective foraging.

Primary Habitat Type
Lake and River Beach
Lake; Medium Lake; Oligotrophic

Distribution:
Common loon is a common breeder in the Adirondacks and rare elsewhere in the state, though breeding was confirmed in Chautauqua, Schuyler, and Onondaga counties during the second Breeding Bird Atlas (McGowan and Corwin 2008).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Evers, David C., James D. Paruk, Judith W. Mcintyre and Jack F. Barr. 2010. Common Loon (Gavia immer), 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/313 doi:10.2173/bna.313

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (including photography)	W	L	M
2. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (acid rain, mercury)	W	L	V
3. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas	N	L	V
4. Pollution	Garbage & Solid Waste (lead fishing tackle & fishing line)	W	L	H
5. Transportation & Service Corridors	Shipping Lanes (oil spills)	N	M	H
6. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (Applies to migration: botulism)	R	M	V
7. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (predation - eagles)	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.

Common Name: Common tern ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Sterna hirundo*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Threatened

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

Synopsis:
The continental population of common tern is widespread and productive but threats are numerous, including prey contamination, mismanagement on wintering grounds, catastrophic weather events, displacement by gulls, beach traffic, and vandalism. Common terns use a variety of habitats during the breeding season and may be found on coastal beaches or barrier islands, marshes, or large inland lakes. They are present in New York from April to September. Breeding occurs along shorelines of the state including Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Oneida Lake, the Niagara River, and the St. Lawrence River, with the highest concentrations occurring on Long Island. There are roughly 50 colonies nesting on Long Island each year with additional inland populations that are generally smaller and scattered. The distribution and abundance in New York has been stable or increasing for 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	X	Stable	Stable
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Common terns use a variety of habitats and may be found on coastal beaches or barrier islands, marshes, or inland lakes. They nest on sand, gravel, shell, or cobble in open areas with some scattered vegetation or other cover in which chicks can find shelter (Nisbet 2002). Selection of nesting locations may vary by habitat in different parts of the state. On two islands in Oneida Lake, Severinghaus (1982) found common terns selected dried grass as the nesting substrate over stony areas when available and these nests hatched significantly more young than nests located on stony substrate. The relatively recent discovery and apparent expansion into saltmarshes since the 1970s (Burger and Lesser 1978, Buckley and Buckley 1980) has led to some conjecture as to whether beaches are the preferred habitat on Long Island and human disturbance has forced common terns to nest in lower quality marsh habitat which is subject to increased flooding (Buckley and Buckley 2000).

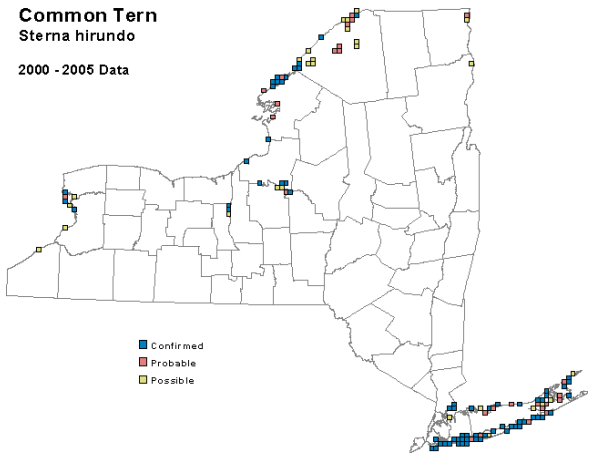
On Lake Erie and the St. Lawrence and Niagara rivers, most of the common tern nest sites are on manmade structures including break waters, water intake structures, and navigation cells.

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Freshwater Intertidal; Artificial Structure
Freshwater Marsh
Great Lakes Dune and Swale

Great Lakes Freshwater Estuary Marsh
Lake and River Beach
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Maritime Dunes

Distribution:

Common terns breed across much of Canada and on shorelines in the northeastern United States including both large inland water bodies and the Atlantic Coast. Wintering occurs primarily along the coastlines of Central and South America. In New York, common tern is a locally abundant breeder and migrant on Long Island, and less numerous in the interior, breeding locally in the vicinity of the Niagara River, the St. Lawrence River, and Lake Ontario.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Nisbet, Ian C. 2002. Common Tern (Sterna hirundo), 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/618 doi:10.2173/bna.618

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss)	N	L	H
2. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (humans on beaches)	P	L	H
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (human-subsidized predators, gulls, peregrines, great-horned owl, mink, ghost crabs, rats)	P	L	M
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive/ Non-native Alien Species (domestic cats)	N	L	H
5. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (Competition for nest sites by cormorants and gulls)	N	L	M
6. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modification (beach construction, rip rap, overwash prevention, beach grooming)	R	L	H
7. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills, mercury, DDT, etc…)	W	L	H
8. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	W	L	H
9. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	L	H
10. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Work & Other Activities (disturbance by researchers)	R	L	L
11. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (offshore wind turbines)	R	L	M

References Cited:

Buckley, P.A. and F.G. Buckley. 2000. Patterns of colony-site use and disuse in saltmarsh-nesting Common and Roseate Terns. Journal of Field Ornithology 71(2):356-369.

Burger, J. and F. Lesser. 1978. Selection of colony sites and nest sites by Common Terns *Sterna hirundo* in Ocean County, New Jersey. Ibis 120:433-449.

Nisbet, I. C. 2002. Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*). 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/618

Severinghaus, L. L. 1982. Nest site selection by the Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* on Oneida Lake, New York. Colon. Waterbirds 5:11-18.

Common Name: Cory's shearwater ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Calonectris diomedea borealis*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
A wintering waterbird in New York, Cory's shearwater is a common to abundant late summer and fall visitant off eastern Long Island where groups typically numbering less than one hundred can be seen from the outer beaches; in some years numbers exceed 2,000. The subspecies that occurs commonly in New York waters is *borealis* (Atlantic), though the subspecies *diomedea* (Mediterranean) has been collected from New York waters on five occasions since 1902 (Askildsen 1998). Breeding occurs on oceanic islands and cliffs of the Mediterranean, the Canary Islands in the Atlantic (Spain), and on Berlengas Islands and the Azores (Portugal) (BirdLife International 2012).

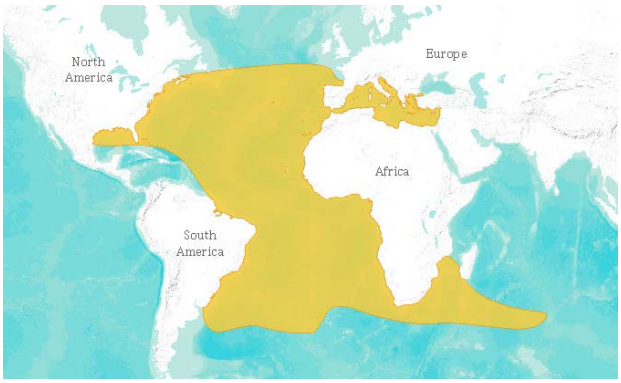
The global distribution is expansive, but concerns have been noted over declines in population size. In 1975-76, killing of individuals in the world's largest breeding colony off the coast of Portugal reduced the population to 10% of its numbers. Significant protection following that event resulted in a 4.6% growth rate between 1980 and 2005 and the population continues to grow (Granadeiro et al. 2006).

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

Habitat Discussion:
Cory's shearwater breeds in colonies on barren offshore islands in temperate waters where they occupy cliffs, caves, and boulder fields (BirdLife International 2012). Individuals range widely into the ocean to feed. Wintering occurs in open, offshore waters.

Primary Habitat Type
Erosional Bluff
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Marine; Deep Sub-tidal

Distribution:
Cory's shearwater is common to abundant late summer and fall visitant off eastern Long Island, usually much less numerous westward (Askildsen 1998).



BirdLife International (2012)

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (offshore wind tower collisions)	W	M	V
2. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills, heavy metals)	R	M	M
3. Pollution	Garbage & Solid Waste (entanglement, ingestion of plastic)	N	L	V
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (botulism)	N	L	V
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	L	M
6. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration (food supply)	N	L	M
7. Energy Production & Mining	Mining & Quarrying (sand mining, dredging)	N	L	L

References Cited:

Askildsen, J.P. 1998. Cory's shearwater, *Calonectris diomedea*. Pages 106-07 *in* Bull's birds of New York State (E. Levine, ed.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

BirdLife International. 2012. Species factsheet: *Calonectris diomedea*. Downloaded from http://www.birdlife.org on 4 January 2012

Granadeiro, J.P., M.P. Dias, R. Rebelo, C.D. Santos, P. Catry. 2006. Numbers and Population Trends of Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedes* at Selvagem Grande, Northeast Atlantic. Waterbirds 29(1): 56-60. Abstract only available. Accessed 13 February 2013 from BioOne Online Journals.

Common Name: Forster's tern ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Sterna forsteri*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S1
Tracked: Yes

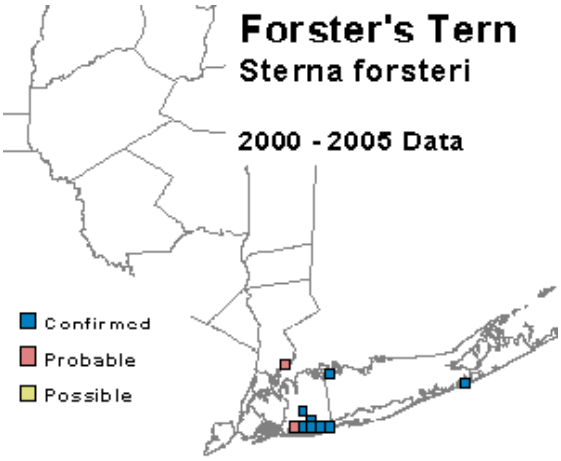
Synopsis:
Forster's tern breeds primarily in fresh, brackish, and saltwater marshes. It was first recorded breeding in New York in 1981 in Nassau County and the first Breeding Bird Atlas (1980-85) documented a single breeding pair in 1984 (Andrle and Carroll 1988). By the second Breeding Bird Atlas in 2000-05, Forster's tern was confirmed breeding in 8 survey blocks (McGowan and Corwin 2008). In 2010, Long Island Colonial Waterbird surveys documented 352 pairs at 9 sites, the highest count to date.

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		

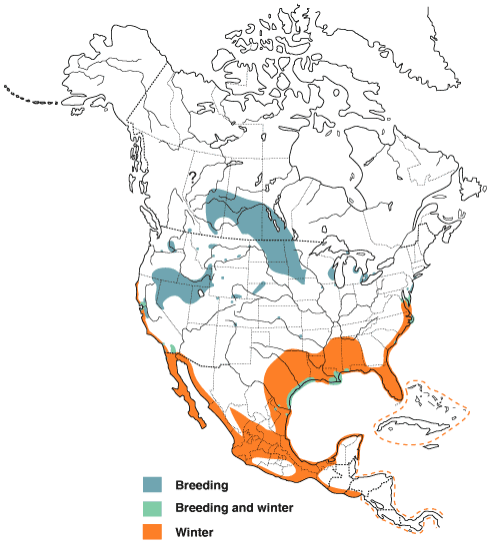
Habitat Discussion:
A "marsh tern," this species breeds primarily in fresh, brackish, and saltwater marshes, including marshy borders of lakes, islands, or streams. It is found more often in open, deeper portions of marshes, generally in wetlands with considerable open water and large stands of island-like vegetation and/or large mats of floating vegetation. Nesting frequently occurs on storm-deposited wrack material that accumulates within stands of cordgrass during winter storms and high-tide events.

Primary Habitat Type
Freshwater Marsh
High Marsh
Maritime Dunes

Distribution:
This species was recently established (1981) as a breeder in salt marshes on the south shore of Long Island where it is now locally common. Still rare in spring on Long Island away from breeding areas; rare to uncommon spring migrant on the Great Lakes; locally common fall migrant on the coast, and locally uncommon to fairly common fall migrant on the Great Lakes and lower Hudson River; rare on other upstate lakes; casual in winter.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Mcnicholl, Martin K., Peter E. Lowther and John A. Hall. 2001. Forster's Tern (Sterna forsteri), 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/595 doi:10.2173/bna.595

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Natural System Modifications	Dams & Water Management/Use (ditching, draining, mosquito control)	N	L	H
2. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (erosion)	W	L	V
3. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (boating)	P	L	M
4. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills)	W	L	M
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration (including sea level rise)	P	L	V
6. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding (esp. moon tides)	P	L	V

References Cited:

Andrle, R. F. and J. R. Carroll, editors. 1988. The atlas of breeding birds in New York State. Cornell University Press. 551 pp.

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: Glossy ibis ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Plegadis falcinellus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

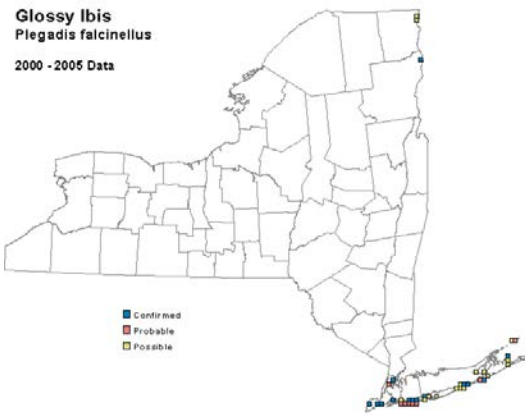
Synopsis:
This colonial waterbird has a short history in New York that includes sharp increases and recent declines. Glossy ibis was first reported breeding in New York in 1971 at Jamaica Bay. Numbers increased each year since that time to a maximum of 892 pairs in 1979. The first Breeding Bird Atlas (1980-85) documented occupancy in 47 survey blocks (Andrle and Carroll 1988).and the second Atlas (2000-05) documented occupancy in 38 survey blocks, a decline of 19% (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	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common	X		
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Glossy ibis typically nests on sandy islands among dense vegetation. It relies on established heronries for nesting sites and is adaptable to various situations. Nesting has occurred in a variety of situations including among deciduous shrubs and small trees, along highways, on isolated islands, and at some distance from water.

Primary Habitat Type
Freshwater Marsh
Freshwater Tidal marsh
High Marsh
Lake
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
Most of the state's population occurs on the coastal lowlands, but breeding has also been confirmed on Four Brothers Island in Lake Champlain.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

The Glossy Ibis is a generally understudied species in North America (but see Baynard 1913b, Bent 1926, Palmer 1962), so, for this monograph, we have drawn on information about the species worldwide (see Cramp and Simmons 1977, del Hoyo et al. 1992, Marchant and Higgins 1990).

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (boating)	W	L	M
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (fox, raccoons)	N	L	M
3. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Severe Weather	P	M	H
4. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (oil spills)	N	L	M
5. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-native/Alien Species (domestic cats)	N	L	L

References Cited:

Andrle, Robert F. and Janet R. Carroll, editors. 1988. The atlas of breeding birds in New York State. Cornell University Press. 551 pp.

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

Common Name: Golden eagle ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Aquila chrysaetos*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Endangered

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: SHB, S1N
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
The golden eagle is extirpated as a breeder in New York, with the last known successful nesting occurring in 1970. Summer records occur occasionally and there are two known, regularly-used wintering areas. Numbers of migrating individuals at the hawk watches at Derby Hill, Braddock Bay, and Franklin Mountain have been increasing since the 1980s.

The golden eagle inhabits a wide range of latitudes throughout the Northern Hemisphere and uses a variety of habitats ranging from arctic to desert. It historically nested throughout North America (Bent 1937), but is now primarily a western species, where it has always been more common. The most recent nesting in the Northeast was in Maine in 1999.

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:
Golden eagles are traditionally associated with rugged land features in open country. They often nest on cliffs in mountains, foothills, canyons, and open rangelands. The species breeds in open and semi-open habitats from near sea level to 3,630 m (Poole and Bromley 1988) - tundra, shrublands, grasslands, woodland-brushlands, and coniferous forests (Kochert 1986). Golden eagles avoid heavily forested areas.

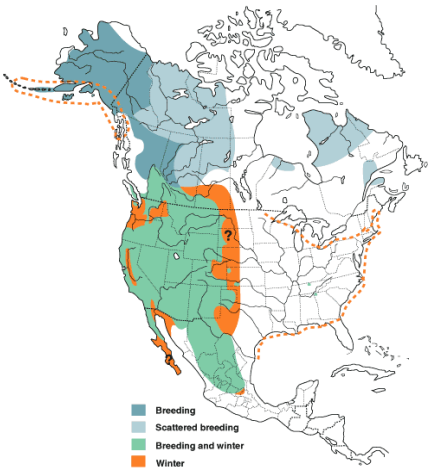
Six nesting sites are known in New York from the 20th century. All were within the Adirondack region. Four were on cliff edges, mostly overlooking mountain lakes; two were in white pine trees (Nye 2008).

Primary Habitat Type
Native Barrens and Savanna
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Rocky Outcrop

Distribution:
Golden eagle is extirpated as a breeder in New York. Wintering occurs with some regularity in Dutchess County and Delaware County (Nye 2008). The last known successful breeding in New York occurred in

1970 in Hamilton County. An attempt was made at the same site in 1979 when eggs were laid; no young were hatched.

Two wintering areas are known in New York. The Dutchess County site is well-documented and has been used by a breeding pair for more than two decades. The pair built a nest at this site in 1993 but then proceeded to migrate north as usual. In Delaware County, an annual over-wintering site for a pair of adult golden eagles was discovered recently; one of the adults was captured and radio-tagged. This bird was found to nest in northern Quebec, returning to the same Delaware County site annually with its mate (Nye 2008).



Kochert, M. N., K. Steenhof, C. L. Mcintyre and E. H. Craig. 2002. Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos), 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/684 doi:10.2173/bna.684

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals (persecution)	N	L	M
2. Transportation & Service Corridors	Utility & Service Lines (electrocution)	N	L	L
3. Transportation & Service Corridors	Roads & Railroads (train and vehicle strikes)	N	L	H
4. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (collision with wind or cell towers)	R	M	M
5. Human Intrusion & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (rock-climbing)	N	L	L
6. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession, fire control)	R	L	M
7. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (destruction of habitat)	N	L	H

References Cited:

Bent, A. C. 1937. Life histories of North American birds of prey, Pt. 1. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 167.

Kochert, M. N. 1986. Raptors. Pages 313-349 in Inventory and monitoring of wildlife habitat. (Cooperrider, A. L., R. J. Boyd, and H. R. Stuart, Eds.) Chapter 16. U.S. Dep. Int., Bur. Land Manage., Serv. Center, Denver, CO.

Nye, P.G. 2008. Golden eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*. Pages 204-05 *in* The second Atlas of breeding birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Poole, K. G. and R. G. Bromley. 1988. Interrelationships within a raptor guild in the central Canadian arctic. Can. J. Zool. 66:2275-2282.

Common Name: Great egret ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Ardea alba*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

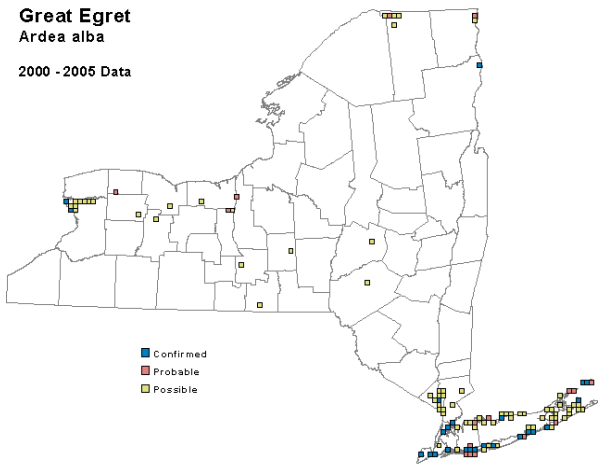
Synopsis:
The population has been expanding in New York in the past 20 years. The second Breeding Bird Atlas shows an increase of 71% including three additional new locations outside of the Coastal Lowlands (McGowan and Corwin 2008). Populations are increasing in the eastern United States as well. This egret's adaptability as a generalist has doubtless contributed to its global distribution and wide-ranging recovery from previous North American population decimation.

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	X		
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

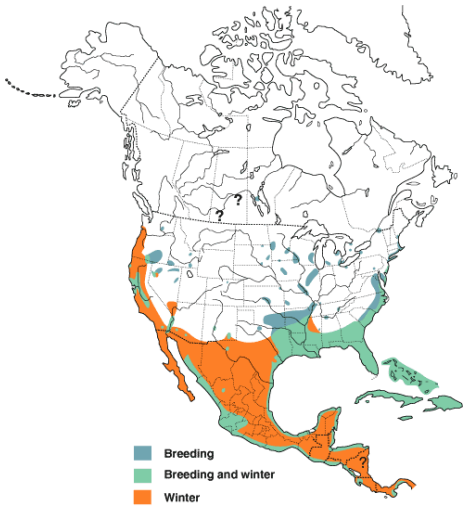
Habitat Discussion:
The great egret occurs in marshes, swampy woods, tidal estuaries, lagoons, mangroves, streams, lakes, and ponds; also fields and meadows. Nests primarily in tall trees, usually with other colonial water birds; in woods or thickets near water.

Primary Habitat Type
Freshwater Marsh
Freshwater Tidal marsh
High Marsh
Lake
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
Local breeder on Long Island. Also breeds on islands in the Niagara River Basin and Lake Champlain; rare elsewhere in the state.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Mccrimmon, Jr., Donald A., John C. Ogden and G. Thomas Bancroft. 2011. Great Egret (Ardea 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/570 doi:10.2173/bna.570

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (fishing, photographers)	P	L	M
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species	Problematic Native Species (night-herons, cormorants)	R	L	M
3. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	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: Greater scaup ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Aythya marila*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
Greater scaup is a very abundant winter visitant to Long Island; it is present but much less numerous on the Great Lakes and in the Niagara River region. It does not breed in New York. Distinguishing greater scaup from lesser scaup (*A. affinis*) at a distance is difficult and the two species are combined during aerial (and most ground) population surveys. Surveys therefore do not provide an accurate assessment of changes for either species, but especially for greater scaup, which is the less common of the two.

Wintering populations in Long Island Sound decreased greatly (by one order of magnitude) from the 1950s to the early 1990s (Barclay and Zingo 1994). No other areas in North America showed increases that might indicate a shift in wintering location. Recent declines in wintering populations also are evident in northeastern North America, the Atlantic Flyway, and for all other North American flyways. The record low count in 2006 was 37% lower than the long-term average.

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

Habitat Discussion:
During migration and in winter, this species is found in bays, estuaries, and large open inland lakes and rivers. Greater scaup breeds near shores of ponds and lakes, in marshes, or on islands, primarily in forested tundra and northern borders of the taiga; among grass or shrubs, or under spruce boughs.

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Shallow; Aquatic Bed
Great Lakes Aquatic Bed
Lake
Lake and River Beach

Distribution:
Greater scaup is a very abundant winter visitant to Long Island; it is present but much less numerous on the Great Lakes and in the Niagara River region.

Kessel, Brina, Deborah A. Rocque and John S. Barclay. 2002. Greater Scaup (Aythya marila), 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/650 **doi:10.2173/bna.650**

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills, contaminants)	N	L	L
2. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	N	L	H
3. Transportation & Service Corridors	Shipping Lanes (oil spills)	N	L	L
4. Biological Resource Use	Fishing & Harvesting Aquatic Resources (entanglement)	N	L	M

References Cited:

Barclay, J., and J. Zingo. 1994. Winter scaup populations in Connecticut coastal waters. Connecticut Warbler 13:136-150.

Common Name: Greater yellowlegs ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Tringa melanoleuca*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
Greater yellowlegs appears to be increasing in North America, but its remote and wild breeding habitat, coupled with an enormous wintering range, make accurate counts difficult. Since 1958, the Christmas Bird Count has recorded significant increases in wintering populations of this species, but explanations for these changes are speculative.

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	X		
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
The greater yellowlegs restricts itself as a breeder to swampy muskeg habitats of central Canada and southern Alaska. During the nonbreeding season, it inhabits fresh and saline wetlands across the Americas including marshes, ponds, lakes, stream margins and sand and gravel bars, lagoons, salinas, and coastal mudflats (AOU 1983, Stiles and Skutch 1989).

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Plain Pond
Freshwater Marsh
Lake and River Beach
Low Marsh
Maritime Dunes
Tidal Flat

Distribution:
Greater yellowlegs occur off the coast of Long Island including Jones Beach and Jamaica Bay and in some inland area including Albany County.

Elphick, Chris S. and T. Lee Tibbitts. 1998. Greater Yellowlegs (Tringa melanoleuca), 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/355 doi:10.2173/bna.355

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Tourism & Recreation Areas (shoreline development)	N	L	L
2. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills, contaminants)	N	L	L
3. Pollution	Household Sewage & Urban Waste Water (runoff)	N	L	L
4. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	N	L	L
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	N	L	L
6. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (beach nourishment, bulkheads)	N	L	L
7. Natural System Modifications	Dams & Water Management/Use (wetland drainage)	N	L	L

References Cited:

American Ornithologists Union. 1983. Checklist of North American Birds, 6th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

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: Gull-billed tern ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Gelochelidon nilotica*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S1
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
Gull-billed tern is now placed by most authorities in the monotypic genus *Gelochelidon* (AOU 2006) but was formerly placed in the larger genus Sterna (AOU 1998). *G. n. aranea* is the subspecies that occurs in the eastern United States. Historically referred to as "marsh tern," this bird nests among salt marshes in New York and along sandy beaches or sandy beach barriers elsewhere along the Atlantic Coast.

Populations along the Atlantic Coast are small, but seem to be stable or increasing since the mid-1970s (Molina et al. 2010). This tern has been known to breed in New York since 1975 when two nests were found at Jones Beach in Nassau County (Buckley et al. 1975). Fifteen pairs were documented at three sites during the 2010 Long Island Colonial Waterbird Survey, the highest count of pairs in the past ten years of this survey; there were 10 pairs during the 2009 survey.

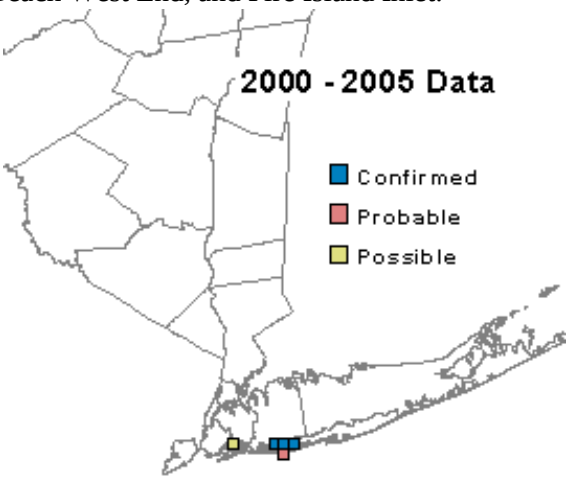
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Stable	Stable
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare	X		

Habitat Discussion:
Gull-billed tern has been called a "marsh tern" (Bent 1921). In 1977, most colonies in New Jersey were in marshes (Buckley and McCaffery 1978). Along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, most pairs now nest on sandy beaches or on sandy barrier islands in coastal waters, especially near ocean inlets. In New York, gull-billed tern nests have been found on dredge spoil islands within bays and marshes and on barrier beaches (Mitra 2008). The one barrier beach location previously known from New York has been abandoned and all currently known breeding locations are on bay islands consisting of marsh.

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

Distribution:
The Long Island Colonial Waterbird survey in 2010 documented 15 pairs at three locations in Nassau County, all in the Town of Hempstead, Nassau County: East Channel Islands, Garrett Marsh, and

Parsonage Island Group. Individuals appear regularly in May at specific sites, notably Jamaica Bay, Jones Beach West End, and Fire Island Inlet.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Molina, K. C., J. F. Parnell and R. M. Erwin. 2014. Gull-billed Tern (Gelochelidon nilotica), 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/140 doi:10.2173/bna.140

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Natural System Modifications	Dams & Water Management/Use (ditching, draining, mosquito control)	N	L	H
2. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (erosion)	P	L	V
3. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (boating)	R	L	M
4. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills)	W	L	M
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration (including sea level rise)	P	L	V
6. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding (esp. moon tides)	P	L	V
7. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (predation & competition)	R	H	H

References Cited:

American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. Check-list of North American birds. 6th ed. Am. Ornithol. Union, Washington, D.C.

Bent, A. C. 1921. Life histories of North American gulls and terns. U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 113.

Buckley, P.A., F.G. Buckley, and M. Gochfeld. 1975. Gull-billed tern: New York State's newest breeding species. Kingbird 25:178-83.

Buckley, F. G. and C. A. McCaffrey. 1978. Use of dredged material islands by colonial seabirds and wading birds in New Jersey. Tech. Rep. D-78-1. U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Exp. Stn. Vicksburg, MS.

Mitra, S.S. 2008. Gull-billed tern, *Gelochelidon nilotica*. Pages 262-63 in The second Atlas of breeding birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Molina, K. C., R. M. Erwin, E. Palacios, E. Mellink, and N. W. H. Seto. 2010. Status review and conservation recommendations for the Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) in North America. U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological Technical Publication, FWS/BTP-R1013-2010, Washington, D.C.

Common Name: Harlequin duck ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Histrionicus histrionicus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G4
New York: S1N
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
The harlequin duck is among the rarest of waterfowl in eastern North America. In New York, harlequin ducks occur in small numbers off coastal Long Island and on the large water bodies where rock jetties provide habitat. Lauro (1998) stated that the number of individuals wintering in New York had "increased dramatically" during the previous two decades.

Two disjunct breeding areas are found in North America: the east coast and the west coast. It is unclear how much, if any, mixing of birds between the two breeding areas occurs, however recent studies have concluded that the two populations are truly distinct. On the East Coast, three populations of harlequin duck are recognized. There is one population in Iceland that is sedentary, and two populations that isolate themselves by wintering areas: Greenland and the east coast of North America. More than half of the eastern population winters in Maine; the species is listed as Threatened there. Another key wintering area is on coastal Rhode Island.

The population that winters in eastern North America has declined from historic levels but has shown a slight upward trend since the early 1990s—likely in response to a ban on hunting—and currently numbers about 1,800 to 2,000 birds. Historic population levels are debated and largely unknown but probably were less than 10,000.

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:
Harlequin ducks spend the winter in rough coastal waters, especially along rocky shores or reefs; summering non-breeders and immatures also occur in this habitat (Cassirer et al. 1993).

Primary Habitat Type
Groins
Jetties
Rocky Intertidal

Distribution:
Harlequin duck is a rare to fairly common winter visitant on Long Island and a rare winter visitant on the Great Lakes, Niagara Falls, along the St. Lawrence River, and on Lakes George and Champlain.

Robertson, Gregory J. and R. Ian Goudie. 1999. Harlequin Duck (Histrionicus histrionicus), 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/466 doi:10.2173/bna.466

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Transportation & Service Corridors	Shipping Lanes	N	L	H
2. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills, contaminants)	W	H	H
3. Pollution	Household Sewage & Urban Waste Water (runoff)	W	L	M
4. Natural System Modifications	Dams & Water Management/Use	N	L	L
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	R	L	M
6. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	R	L	M
7. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals (persecution)	N	L	L
8. Energy Production & Mining	Mining & Quarrying (sand mining)	N	L	L

9. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	R	L	L

References Cited:

Cassirer, E. F., G. Schirato, F. Sharpe, C.R. Groves, and R.N. Anderson. 1993. Cavity nesting by harlequin ducks in the Pacific Northwest. Wilson Bull. 105:691-694.

Lauro, A.J. 1998. Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus*. Page 167 *in* Bull's Birds of New York State (E. Levine, ed.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Horned grebe ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Podiceps auritus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
About 92% of the breeding range for horned grebe occurs in Canada but the population winters on both coasts and in the southeastern United States. The breeding range has contracted northward and westward in the past 40 years and negative trends are apparent for both Breeding Bird Surveys and Christmas Bird Counts. This species has undergone a large and statistically significant decrease over the last 40 years in North America: 75.9% decline over 40 years, equating to a 29.9% decline per decade; data from Breeding Bird Survey and/or Christmas Bird Count (Butcher and Niven 2007 cited in BirdLife International 2012). Counts of individuals during the annual Winter Waterfowl survey in New York show stable numbers from 1970 through 2008.

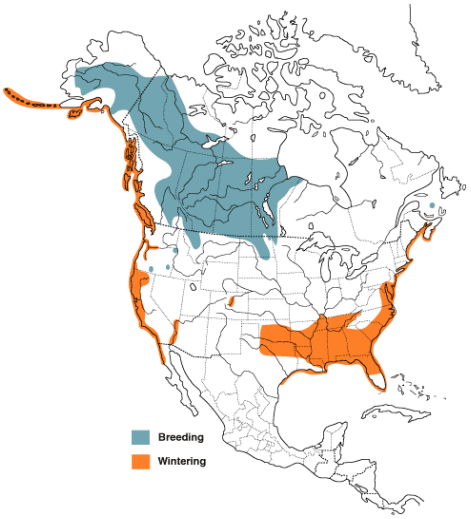
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Stable	Stable
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon	X		
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Breeding occurs in marshes, ponds and lakes, occasionally along sluggish streams. Horned grebes nest on small and large lakes and ponds (about 0.1 ha or larger), in calm waters of marshes, along rivers and streams. This species favors areas with much open water. It usually nests among tall vegetation in shallow water, and the highest breeding densities occur in pothole marshes of aspen woodland (NatureServe 2011).

Wintering habitat includes bays, estuaries and seacoasts. During migration, horned grebes are found in inland freshwater habitats, especially lakes and rivers (NatureServe 2011).

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal
Lake
Large/Great River
Marine; Intertidal

Distribution:
In New York, this species is a common to abundant migrant and winter visitant along the coast. It is a common migrant and uncommon winter visitant on the interior lakes. The occurrence of this species is rare in summer.



Stedman, Stephen J. 2000. Horned Grebe (Podiceps auritus), 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/505 doi:10.2173/bna.505

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Transportation & Service Corridors	Utility & Service Lines (oil spills)	N	L	H
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (botulism)	N	L	H
3. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents	N	L	L
4. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (contaminants, oil spills)	R	L	M
5. Biological Resource Use	Fishing & Harvesting Aquatic Resources (entanglement)	N	L	H
6. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (shoreline development)	N	L	L
7. Transportation & Service Corridors	Utility & Service Lines (collisions)	N	L	M
8. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	R	M	H
9. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	R	M	H
10. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (erosion)	R	L	H

References Cited:

NatureServe. 2011. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available http://www.natureserve.org/explorer. (Accessed: March 28, 2012.

Common Name: Laughing gull ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Leucophaeus atricilla*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S1
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
The laughing gull was recently reclassified in the genus *Leucophaeus*, having formerly been in the paraphyletic genus *Larus*.

After devastation from egg collecting and the millinery trade in the late 1800s, coastal populations of this small gull expanded northward during the early 1900s only to face competition from larger gulls—herring gulls and great black-backed gulls—that were expanding southward. The laughing gull is currently expanding its population in most of the range, likely due to its adaptation to feeding on landfills and mowed fields surrounding airports. In New York, laughing gulls breed at five colonies, the largest of which—Jo Co Marsh—is subject to a lethal control program because of its proximity to John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK). An annual survey of nests at Jamaica Bay (immediately adjacent to JFK) in 2011 revealed 1,979 estimated nests, the lowest estimate since aerial surveys began in 1992.

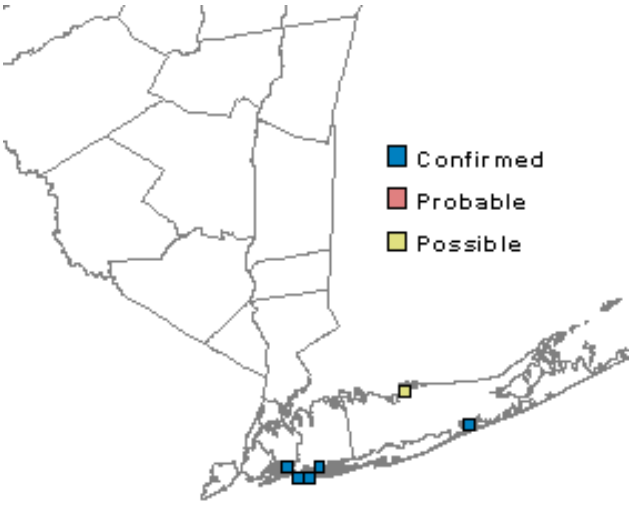
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Moderate Decline	Stable
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon	X		
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
In New York, laughing gulls nest in salt marshes as well as in dry habitats such as sandy beaches. Islands and secluded areas are often chosen, but nesting can also occur close to areas with human activity. In winter, laughing gulls are found all along the coast and occasionally inland. They are opportunistic, and may occur wherever food is present.

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal; Tidal Wetland
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Maritime Dunes
Urban and Recreational Grasses

Distribution:
The Long Island Colonial Waterbird Survey documented 1,571 pairs at three sites in 2010, including 330 pairs at East High Meadow; 41 pairs at Silver Hole Marsh; and 1,200 pairs at Jo Co Marsh. The second

Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented confirmed breeding in five survey blocks (McGowan and Corwin 2008).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Burger, Joanna. 1996. Laughing Gull (Leucophaeus atricilla), 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/225 doi:10.2173/bna.225

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals (Research)	W	L	L
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (larger gulls)	W	L	H
3. Transportation & Service Corridors	Flight Paths (JFK airport- bird strike hazard and air strike control)	P	M	H
4. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration (inc. sea level rise)	P	L	H
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	P	L	H
6. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (aviation discharge)	P	L	V
7. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (erosion)	P	L	V
8. Transportation & Service Corridors	Flight Paths (plane crash)	P	V	V

References Cited:

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

Common Name: Least bittern ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Ixobrychus exilis*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Threatened

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S3B, S1N
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
Least bittern trends are difficult to assess because the secretive nature of the birds make them difficult to detect without targeted surveys. Where least bitterns do breed, however, they can occur in densities as high as 15 nests per hectare (Poole et al. 2009). Least bitterns are listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern in all states adjacent to New York except Vermont. It has been included on the National Audubon Society Blue List since 1979 (Tate 1986) because birdwatchers reported the species as reduced over much of its range and extirpated in some areas.

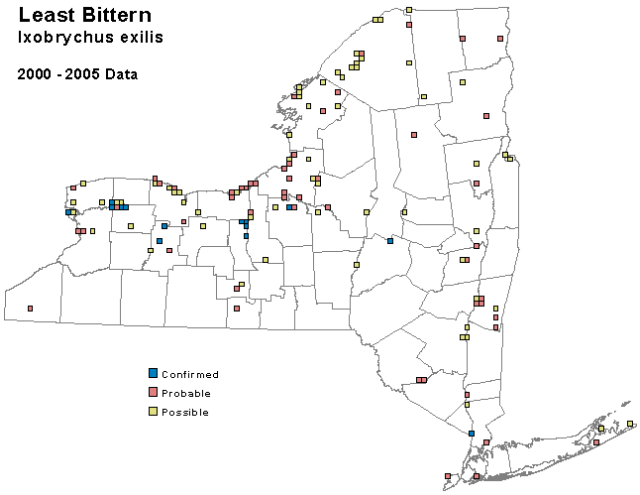
In New York, the second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented a 9% decline in occupancy since the first Atlas in 1980-85 (McGowan and Corwin 2008), but abundance trends are difficult to detect.

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		

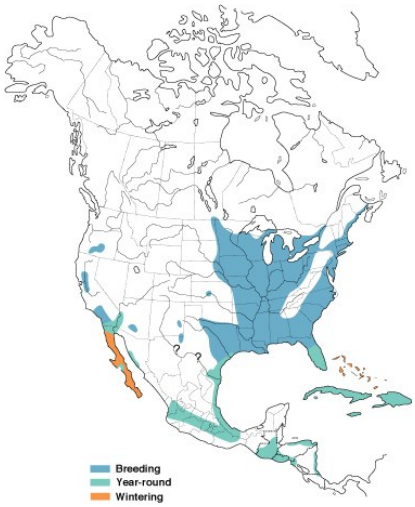
Habitat Discussion:
In New York, least bitterns breed in freshwater marshes with tall emergent vegetation, such as cattail, interspersed with open water. Recent breeding reports on Long Island have been from freshwater and brackish marshes, which appear to be favored over salt marsh habitat (Kennedy 2008). Least bitterns are thought to be area-dependent, preferring marshes of greater than 5 hectares (12.3 acres) (Brown and Dinsmore 1986).

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal; Tidal Wetland
Freshwater Marsh
Freshwater Tidal marsh
Great Lakes Freshwater Estuary Marsh

Distribution:
Least bittern is an uncommon breeder with a spotty distribution in New York. In winter it is very rare along the coast and unknown upstate (Stoner 1998).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Poole, Alan F., Peter Lowther, J. P. Gibbs, F. A. Reid and S. M. Melvin. 2009. Least Bittern (Ixobrychus exilis), 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/017
doi:10.2173/bna.17

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (wetland fragmentation)	W	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 (loosestrife, phragmites)	W	M	H
4. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents (runoff, organochlorines)	W	L	H
5. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	R	L	M
6. Natural System Modifications	Dams & Water Management/Use (water level manipulation)	W	M	H
7. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	W	L	V
8. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	L	V
9. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Drought	W	L	V
10. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	N	L	H

References Cited:

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

Kennedy, H. B. 2008. Least bittern, *Ixobrychus exilis*. Pages 158-159 *in* K. J. McGowan and K. Corwin, editors. The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. Cornell University Press. Ithaca, NY.

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

Poole, A. F., P. Lowther, J. P. Gibbs, F. A. Reid and S. M. Melvin. 2009. Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), 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/017 doi:10.2173/bna.17

Stoner, S.J. 1998. Least bittern, *Ixobrychus exilis*. Pages 123-124 *in* Bull's Birds of New York State (E. Levine, ed.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Tate, Jr., J. 1986. The Blue List for 1986. Am. Birds 40:227-236.

Common Name: Least tern ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Sternula antillarum*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Endangered (interior)
New York Status: Threatened

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

Synopsis:
The least tern was reclassified from the paraphyletic genus *Sterna* to the genus *Sternula* (Banks et al. 2006). Least terns nest along the Atlantic Coast from southern Maine to Florida and along the Gulf of Mexico to Texas. In New York, least terns are present from May through September, breeding on the north and south shores of Long Island.

The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) showed a shift in distribution since the first Atlas (1980-85) that resulted in a gap along the south shore of Long Island and re-population of areas on the north shore (Wasilco 2008). This shift coincides with expansion of the federally endangered piping plover population and accompanying management and protection efforts, which also benefit least terns. Despite annual variability, the number of breeding pairs of least tern has remained stable from 2001 to 2010 according to the Long Island Colonial Waterbird Survey. Breeding Bird Survey data for the United States show a non-significant decline of -2.8% per year from 1999-2009; the data are problematic because BBS methods are not conducive to surveying beach-nesting species.

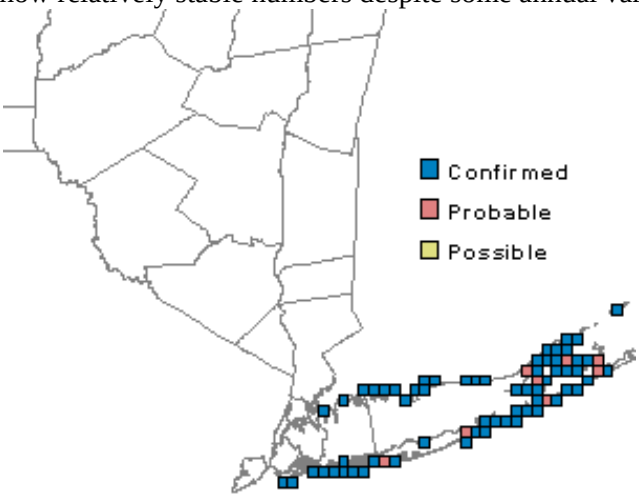
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant		Stable	Stable
6% to 10%		Common	X		
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
In New York, least terns are locally common in coastal areas with suitable habitat of sandy substrates that are relatively free of vegetation; it is rare away from salt water. As open sandy areas become vegetated, they are no longer suitable for nesting until they are disturbed in some way to recreate the preferred sandy conditions. They will nest on dredge material, and are capable of colonizing newly available areas.

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

Distribution:
Nesting was re-established in 1926 after extirpation due to the millinery trade in 1882. By the 1970s, colonies were documented in most of coastal New York from Staten Island to the Peconic Bay and

Fishers Island, as far west along the north shore to Eaton's Neck where 851 pairs nested in 1976 (Peterson 1988). During the 1970s, surveys documented 1,719 to 2,628 pairs at 29 to 47 active sites on the north and south shores of Long Island. The Long Island Colonial Waterbird Survey documented 2,832 pairs of nesting least terns at 59 active sites (out of 173 sites) in 2010. Surveys conducted from 2001 through 2009 show relatively stable numbers despite some annual variability.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Thompson, Bruce C., Jerome A. Jackson, Joannna Burger, Laura A. Hill, Eileen M. Kirsch and Jonathan L. Atwood. 1997. Least Tern (Sternula antillarum), 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/290

doi:10.2173/bna.290

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

References Cited:

Banks, R.C., C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen Jr. , J.D. Rising, and D.F. Stotz. 2006. Forty-seventh supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. The Auk 123(3):926-936.

Peterson, D.M. 1988. Least tern (*Sterna antillarum*). Pages 182-83 *in* The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (R.F. Andrle and J.R. Carroll, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY

Wasilco, M. 2008. Least tern, *Sternula antillarum*. Pages 260-61 *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: Lesser scaup ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Aythya affinis*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
Lesser scaup breeds in north central Canada and north central United States, well north of New York, though two disjunct breeding populations are known in Quebec and Ontario. Only one breeding record exists for New York, from June 1946 in Erie County. There are a handful of summer records since 1980, but this duck is best known as a migrant through New York. Population size and trends are difficult to determine because survey data cannot be collected separately for lesser scaup and greater scaup (*Aythya marila*). The scaup population is estimated at 4.5 million; lesser scaup are believed to represent 89% of the scaup population.

The lesser scaup is among the most abundant ducks in North America, but it has been declining significantly over the last 30 years. In 2006, combined winter estimates of lesser and greater scaup set a record low—37% below the long-term average. Between 1966 and 2003, Breeding Bird Surveys recorded significant population declines, especially in the southern and central ranges. Statistical analyses reveal that the lesser scaup's population is becoming older, and has fewer females.

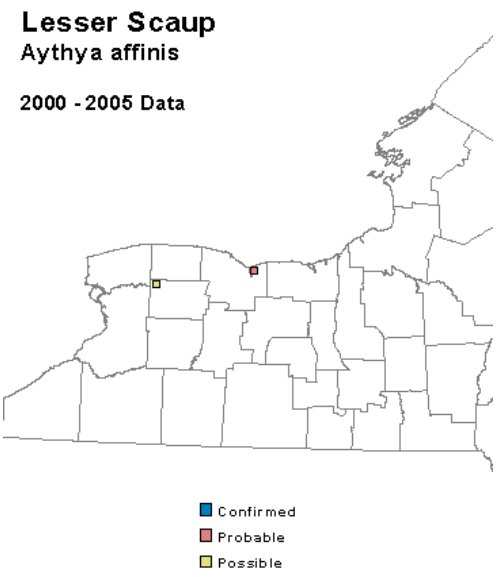
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%	X	Abundant	X	Unknown	Increasing
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
A variety of habitats are used during migration and wintering, but lesser scaup are typically found on larger semi-permanent and permanent wetlands and lakes, such as along the Great Lakes and large impounded portions of rivers (>3,000 ha) in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa; along coasts, found on large wetlands, lakes, reservoirs, and fresh to brackish estuaries (Bookhout et al. 1989, Korschgen 1989).

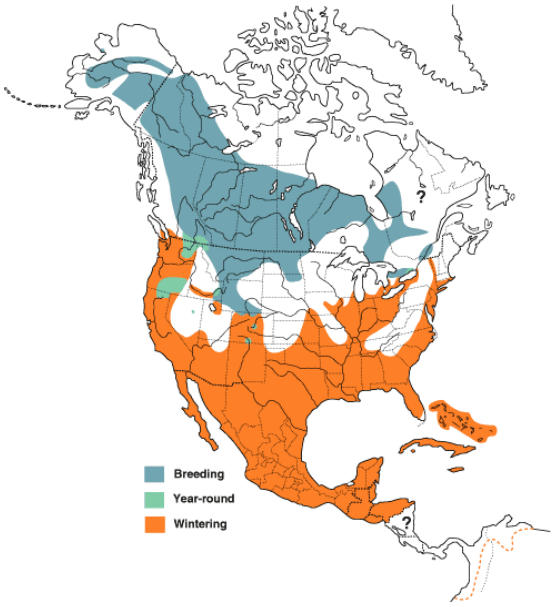
Breeding occurs primarily in boreal forests and parklands with small seasonal wetlands and lakes that have emergent vegetation (Austin et al. 1998).

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Shallow; Aquatic Bed
Great Lakes Aquatic Bed
Lake

Distribution:
A single breeding event is known: a female with a brood of seven downy young was observed in June 1946 at the Tifft Street Marsh in Buffalo, Erie County (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965). The first Breeding Bird Atlas (1980-85) documented Probable breeding in three survey blocks (out of 5,335): Braddock Bay, Monroe County; Wilson Hill WMA, St. Lawrence County; and Kings Bay WMA, Clinton County (Andrle and Carroll 1988). During the second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05), one sighting was made in June 2000 at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, and a pair was recorded at Irondequoit Bay in June 2003 (McGowan and Corwin 2008).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Anteau, Michael J., Jean-Michel DeVink, David N. Koons, Jane E. Austin, Christine M. Custer and Alan D. Afton. 2014. Lesser Scaup (Aythya affinis), 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/338 doi:10.2173/bna.338

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills, contaminants)	N	L	L
2. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	N	L	H
3. Transportation & Service Corridors	Shipping Lanes (oil spills)	N	L	L
4. Biological Resource Use	Fishing & Harvesting Aquatic Resources (entanglement)	N	L	M

References Cited:

Andrle, R.F. and J.R. Carroll, eds. 1988. The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Austin, J.E., C. M. Custer and A.D. Afton. 1998. Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*), 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/338 doi:10.2173/bna.338

Bookhout, T. A., K. E. Bednarik, and R. W. Kroll. 1989. The Great Lakes marshes. Pages 131-156 *in* Habitat management for migrating and wintering waterfowl in North America. (Smith, L. M., R. L. Pederson, and R. M. Kaminski, Eds.) Texas Tech Univ. Press, Lubbock.

Korschgen, C. E. 1989. Riverine and deepwater habitats for diving ducks. Pages 157-180 *in* Habitat management for migrating and wintering waterfowl in North America. (Smith, L. M., R. L. Penderson, and R. M. Kaminski, Eds.) Texas Tech. Univ. Press, Lubbock.

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

Common Name: Little blue heron ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Egretta caerulea*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
Little blue heron is an uncommon breeder in New York, where it nears the northern edge of its breeding distribution. The majority of the population breeds in the southeastern United States. Population trends can be difficult to determine for this species because the bird's dark coloration makes them difficult to see during aerial surveys. Breeding Bird Survey data show an increasing trend in North America during 2000-2010 and a decreasing trend for the Northeast for the same period.

In New York, breeding occurs only on the Coastal Lowlands. The Long Island Colonial Waterbird Survey documented declines in breeding pairs and colonies of little blue heron since 2000. The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented little change in occupancy. The New York City Audubon Harbor Herons Nesting Survey, conducted annually since 1985, has documented a consistent, low-level presence of little blue herons nesting in the Greater New York/New Jersey Harbor (Craig 2012).

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:
Little blue herons nest in mixed-species assemblages of colonial waterbirds using varied colony habitat and nesting substrate. Nesting occurs mostly in shrubs and small trees in standing water or upland sites on islands. Wetlands used for nesting include both freshwater and bottomland hardwood swamps, and marine-estuarine habitats. Colony sites are located in riparian habitats, swamps, ponds, lakes, human-made impoundments, and on natural and human-made (dredged-material) islands (Rodgers and Smith 1995).

Little blue herons feed in a variety of freshwater and marine-estuarine habitats, including marshes, swamps, streams and rivers, ponds, lakes, impoundments, lagoons, tidal flats and wetlands, canals, ditches, fish-rearing facilities, and flooded agricultural fields.

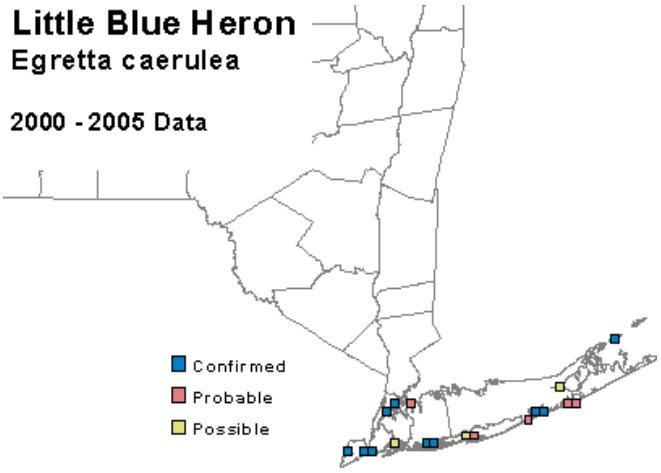
In New York, nesting occurs on coastal marsh scrub/shrub islands in dense thickets and trees. Foraging occurs in estuaries surrounding the islands (Rodgers and Smith 1995, McCrimmon 2006, NYNHP 2009).

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal; Tidal Wetland
Floodplain Forest
Freshwater Marsh
Hardwood Swamp
Lake and River Beach
Northern White Cedar Swamp
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Riparian

Distribution:
The first breeding record in New York was at Tobay Pond in Nassau County in 1958. Breeding expanded along the south shore, and from 1974 to 1978 a mean of 20 pairs were documented at four sites. In 1985, 68 pairs were reported breeding in 8 colonies on the South Shore of Long Island (Andrle and Carroll 1988). From 1985 to 1995, nesting pairs fluctuated between the high of 68 in 1985 to a low of 27 in 1995 with a mean of 51 pairs (Sommers et al. 1996). The Breeding Bird Atlas (1980-85) documented Confirmed breeding in 9 survey blocks (Andrle and Carroll 1988).

The Long Island Colonial Waterbird survey documented 16 breeding pairs at three sites in 2010: Carnarsie Pol (12 pairs; Brooklyn), Ingraham Hassock (2 pairs; Hempstead), and Hoffman Island (2 pairs; Staten Island). In 2001 there were 32 breeding pairs, 23 in 2004, and 19 in 2007. The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented confirmed breeding in 11 survey blocks (McGowan and Corwin 2008).

NYC Audubon's Harbor Herons Project documented a low-level, stable presence in the Greater NY/NJ Harbor since 1985, with nest counts ranging from 0 in some years to a high of 19 in 2011 (a 46% increase from 2010 counts). Six nests were documented in 2012. From 1985 to 2012, the average annual count was 5 nests and nesting occurred on 9 out of 18 islands surveyed (Craig 2011, 2012).



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Rodgers, Jr., James A. and Henry T. Smith. 2012. Little Blue Heron (Egretta caerulea), 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/145
doi:10.2173/bna.145

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (boating)	W	L	M
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species	Problematic Native Species (fox, raccoons)	N	L	M
3. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Severe Weather	P	M	H
4. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & gas drilling (oil spills)	N	L	M

References Cited:

Andrle, R.F. and J.R. Carroll, eds. 1988. The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Craig, E. 2011. New York City Audubon's Harbor Herons Project: 2012 interim nesting survey report. New York City Audubon, New York, NY.

Craig, E. 2012. New York City Audubon's Harbor Herons Project: 2012 interim nesting survey report. New York City Audubon, New York, NY.

McCrimmon, D.A. 2006. Species group report for colonial nesting herons. Pages 33-42 of Appendix A-1, Species group reports for birds in: NYS Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. NYSDEC, Albany.

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

New York Natural Heritage Program. 2009. Biotics database. NYSDEC, Albany.

Rodgers, Jr., J. A. and H.T. Smith. 1995. Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*), 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/145 doi:10.2173/bna.145

Common Name: Long-eared owl ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Asio otus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2S3, SNRN
Tracked: No

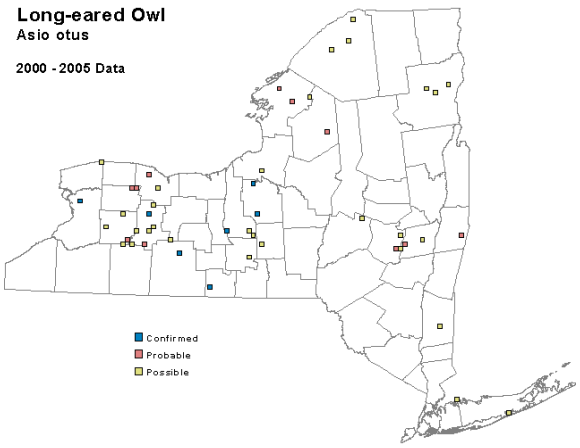
Synopsis:
The long-eared owl breeds and winters in the central United States and into southern Canada. In New York it is considered a rare and local breeder, though it has been reported in almost every county. Long-eared owls are secretive birds that typically nest in dense forested areas and are best detected through targeted surveys, thus population trends are generally lacking. The population is thought to be stable in most of North America over the last 40 years, but declines have been noted in some areas, including New York. The second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-05) documented a 41% decline in occupancy since the first Atlas in 1980-85 (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	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon	X		
> 50%		Rare			

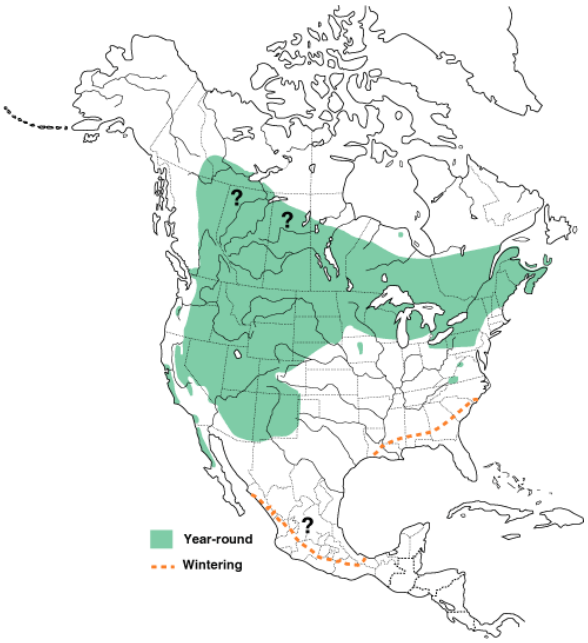
Habitat Discussion:
Long-eared owls require a mosaic of wooded and open habitat for breeding. Coniferous forest is preferred—both ornamental and natural—but deciduous forest is also used. Dense tangles of vegetation are necessary to provide cover. Foraging occurs in both wetlands and grasslands. In New York, a nest was found on Staten Island, and one in an apple tree in an abandoned Niagara County orchard, evidence that this is not exclusively a forest species (Bull 1974).

Primary Habitat Type
Native Barrens and Savanna
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Plantation, Disturbed Land, Pioneer Forest

Distribution:
Long-eared owl has been recorded in nearly every county in New York. The species is gregarious in winter roots; in New York three or four birds are typically found together but occasionally there may be many more (Brinkley 1998). Christmas Bird Count data for New York suggest that long-eared owl is more numerous as a wintering bird than as a breeder.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Marks, J. S., D. L. Evans and D. W. Holt. 1994. Long-eared Owl (Asio otus), 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/133
doi:10.2173/bna.133

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (destruction of habitat)	R	L	H
2. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	W	M	M
3. Invasive & Other Non-Native Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (competition with other owls)	W	H	V
4. Pollution	Excess Energy (noise)	N	L	H

References Cited:

Brinkley, E.S. Long-eared owl, *Asio otus*. Pages 336-37 in Bull's bird of New York State (E. Levine, ed.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Bull, J. 1974. Birds of New York State. Garden City, NY: Doubleday/Natural History Press.

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

Common Name: Long-tailed duck ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Clangula hyemalis*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
Formerly known as oldsquaw, the long-tailed duck is a circumpolar breeder and migrant. Breeding range includes Alaska, Northern Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Scandinavia, and Russia. It winters along the Pacific coasts of North America, Russia and Eurasia, including Japan and Korea; the Atlantic coasts of North America, Europe, Greenland and Iceland. In North America, it winters along coastal areas and large lakes, occasionally as far south as Florida and San Francisco Bay, California. Except for the Great Lakes, it is rare inland away from the coasts. Long-tailed duck is hunted throughout its range for sport and subsistence.

Obtaining population size and trend estimates for long-tailed duck have proven difficult; its light color makes it difficult to see, a low-flying plane can cause individuals to dive for long periods, and flocks can occur far offshore. The species has undergone a small or statistically insignificant decrease over the last 40 years in North America (data from Breeding Bird Survey and/or Christmas Bird Count: Butcher and Niven 2007). Available data for the west coast of North America suggest that this species is declining drastically. On the East Coast, trends do not show evidence of declines, but estimates have been difficult to obtain. Winter counts in New York for the period 1998-2008 suggest increases in wintering birds since the 1970s.

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

Habitat Discussion:
Long-tailed duck winters in New York on coastal marine waters and large freshwater lakes. Most feeding takes place in water less than 9 meters (30') deep, but water up to 60 meters (200') deep is used. During migration, long-tailed duck moves close to shore, but may also migrate offshore, following ice leads (Richardson and Johnson 1981, Johnson and Richardson 1982); it stays inland when ice cover is extensive (Woodby and Divoky 1982), and uses coastal lagoons and deep open lakes for molting grounds (Johnson and Richardson 1982, Derksen et al. 1981).

Primary Habitat Type
Great Lakes Aquatic Bed
Lake; Large Lake
Lake; Very Large Lake
Marine; Shallow Sub-tidal; Aquatic Bed

Distribution:
In New York, long-tailed duck is most numerous in Great Lakes area, Long Island coast, and the Finger Lakes.

Marks, J. S., D. L. Evans and D. W. Holt. 1994. Long-eared Owl (Asio otus), 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/133 doi:10.2173/bna.133

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Biological Resource Use	Fishing & Harvesting Aquatic Resources (entanglement in fishing gear)	W	L	V
2. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (oil spills)	W	L	L
3. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (contaminants)	N	L	V
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Non-Native species (botulism e)	R	L	L
5. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (wind turbines)	N	L	H

6. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (tidal turbines)	N	L	M
7. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (running gun, drift fishing on Niagara River)	N	L	L

References Cited:

Butcher, G.S. and D.K. Niven. 2007. Combining Data from the Christmas Bird Count and the Breeding Bird Survey to Determine the Continental Status and Trends of North American Birds. National Audubon Society technical report http://stateofthebirds.audubon.org/cbid/report.php

Derksen, D. V., T. C. Rothe, and W. D. Eldridge. 1981. Use of wetland habitats by birds in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Resour. Publ. no. 141. U.S. Fish Wildl. Serv. Washington, D.C.

Johnson, S. R. and W. J. Richardson. 1982. Waterbird migration near the Yukon and Alaskan coast of the Beaufort Sea: II. Moult migration of seaducks in summer. Arctic 35:291-301.

Woodby, D. A. and G. J. Divoky. 1982. Spring migration of eiders and other waterbirds at Point Barrow, Alaska. Arctic 35:403-410.

Common Name: Louisiana waterthrush ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Parkesia motacilla*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
Formerly in the genus *Seiurus*, the Louisiana waterthrush was reclassified to the genus *Parkesia* in 2010 (Chesser et al. 2010). This warbler has been expanding its range northward and eastward in northeastern North America from the 1950s to the 1990s, perhaps as a result of reforestation (Robinson 1995). It breeds in forested ravines alongside moving streams and is sensitive to fragmentation. In the Coastal Lowlands where this bird is much less common than upstate, wooded wetlands and slow-moving streams are used.

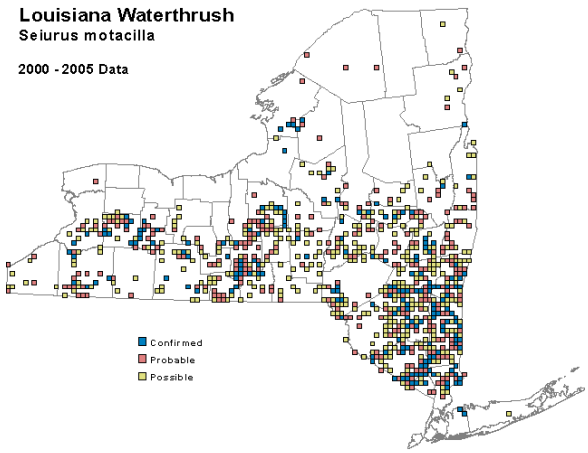
Breeding Bird Survey data show stable range-wide population trends since 1968 though in many areas outside of southern states, data are insufficient due to low detection rates. Short-term trends (2000-2010) indicate an increase across the range and in the Northeast. In New York, the second Breeding Bird Atlas recorded a decline in occupancy of 21% 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%		Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%	X	Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon	X		
> 50%		Rare			

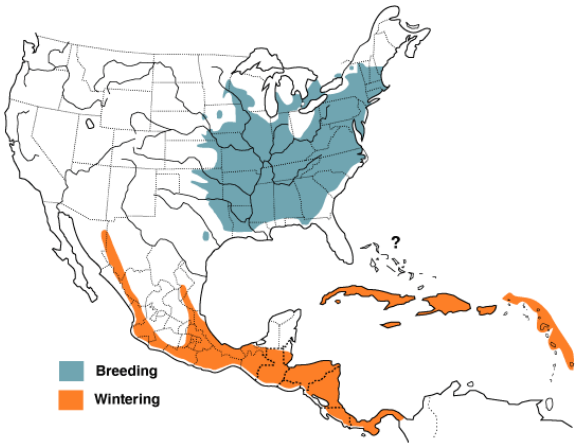
Habitat Discussion:
The Louisiana waterthrush establishes linear territories of 200-1,200 m in length alongside fast-running streams in coniferous or mixed deciduous forests (Mattsson et al. 2009). Ravines with well-developed banks and overturned trees with exposed root masses provide structure necessary for nesting and feeding. In the Coastal Lowlands, the Louisiana waterthrush is found in wooded swamps and near slow-moving streams (Bull 1974). This warbler is an indicator of high-quality streams because it expands its diet in response to declining water quality (Mulvihill 1999, Mattsson and Cooper 2006).

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Red Maple-Black Gum Swamp
Hardwood Swamp
Mixed Northern Hardwoods
Oak Forest

Distribution:
Louisiana waterthrush breeds primarily in the southern half New York with a concentration in the lower Hudson Valley.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Mattsson, Brady J., Terry L. Master, Robert S. Mulvihill and W. Douglas Robinson. 2009. Louisiana Waterthrush (Parkesia motacilla), 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/151
doi:10.2173/bna.151

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas	**W**	**M**	**V**
2. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting	N	L	H
3. Natural System Modification	Dams & Water Management/Use (channelization)	R	L	H
4. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-Timber Crops (intensification)	N	L	M
5. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (nest site competition, parasitism, raccoons, opossum)	W	L	V
6. Pollution	Air-Borne Pollutants (mercury)	W	L	H
7. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	W	L	V
8. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	L	V
9. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Drought	W	L	V
10. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (wind turbine collisions)	N	L	H
11. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Non-native/ Alien Species (Hemlock woolly adelgid, cats)	R	L	H

References Cited:

Bull, J. 1974. Birds of New York State. Garden City, NY: Doubleday/Natural History Press.

Chesser, R.T., R.C. Banks, F.K. Barker, C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, I.J. Lovette, P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen Jr., J.D. Rising, D.F. Stotz, K. Winkler. 2010. Fifty-first supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds. The Auk 127(3):726-44.

Mattsson, B.J. and R. J. Cooper. 2006. Louisiana waterthrushes (*Seiurus motacilla*) and habitat assessments as cost-effective indicators of instream biotic integrity. Freshwater Biology 51(10):1941-58.

Mattsson, B. J., T.L. Master, R.S. Mulvihill and W.D. Robinson. 2009. Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*), 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/151 doi:10.2173/bna.151

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

Mulvihill, R.S. 1999. Effects of stream acidification on the breeding biology of an obligate riparian songbird, the Louisiana wood thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) In: Pp. 51-61 in The effects of acidic deposition on aquatic ecosystems in Pennsylvania (W. E. Sharpe and J. R. Drohan, eds.). Proc. 1998, Pennsylvania Acidic Deposition Conf., Vol. 2, Environmental Resources Research Institute, University Park, PA.

Robinson, W.D. 1995. Louisiana waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*). In The Birds or North America, No. 151 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Common Name: Northern goshawk ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Accipiter gentilis*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Special Concern

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S3S4B, S3N
Tracked: No

Synopsis:
Northern goshawks formerly nested principally in Canada, but the breeding range has expanded southward into northeastern North America since around 1950 as forests have regenerated (Speiser and Bosakowski 1987). Goshawks occur in boreal or temperate forests, preferring large tracts of coniferous, deciduous, or mixed coniferous-deciduous forests with relatively open understory.

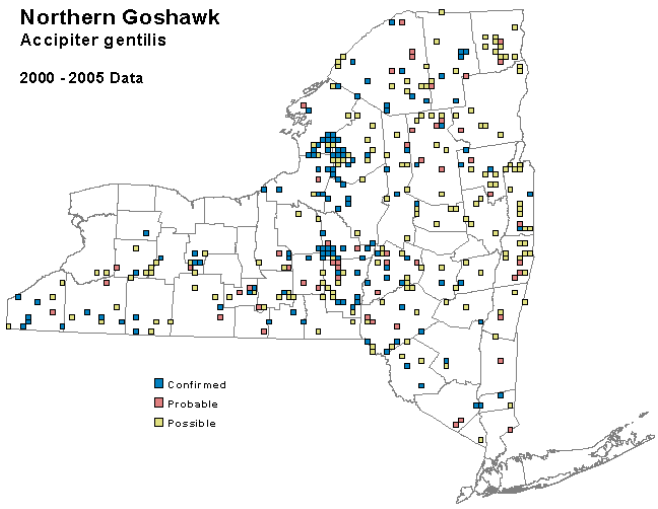
Population trends for Northern goshawk are poorly understood; as top-level carnivores, the density of breeding pairs is low and breeding is difficult to document because extensive nest searches are needed over large areas. Eastern populations apparently are increasing as forests regenerate. Breeding Bird Survey data for the Eastern region show a nonsignificant increase of 3.29% per year for the period 2000-2010 (Sauer et al. 2011). In New York, the second Breeding Bird Atlas showed a 20% decrease in occupancy from 1980-85 to 2000-05 but the percent of blocks with Confirmed records changed little (McGowan and Corwin 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%	X	Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon	X		
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Northern goshawks nest in a wide variety of forest types including deciduous, coniferous, and mixed forests as well as conifer plantations. They typically nest in mature or old-growth forests (Reynolds et al. 1982, Speiser and Bosakowski 1987, Hayward and Escano 1989, Squires and Ruggiero 1996) and generally select larger tracts of forest over smaller tracts (Bosakowski and Speiser 1994, Woodbridge and Detrich 1994). In the eastern United States, goshawks nest in hardwood-hemlock forests, where black birch and American beech are preferred nest trees (Speiser and Bosakowski 1987).

Primary Habitat Type
Mixed Northern Hardwoods
Oak-Pine Forest
Plantation, Disturbed Land, Pioneer Forest

Distribution:
Northern goshawk is an uncommon breeder that is widely but sparsely distributed across the state with the exception of the Coastal Lowlands and the Erie-Ontario Plain.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Squires, John R. and Richard T. Reynolds. 1997. Northern Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis), 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/298

doi:10.2173/bna.298

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas	N	L	H
2. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting	W	M	H
3. Natural System Modifications	Fire & Fire Suppression	N	L	L
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (great horned owl)	N	L	H
5. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	R	L	M

References Cited:

Bosakowski, T., and R. Speiser. 1994. Macrohabitat selection by nesting northern goshawks: implications for managing eastern forests. Studies in Avian Biology 16:46-49.

Hayward, G. D., and R. E. Escano. 1989. Goshawk nest-site characteristics in western Montana and northern Idaho. Condor 91:476-479.

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

Reynolds, R. T., E. C. Meslow, and H. M. Wight. 1982. Nesting habits of coexisting Accipiter in Oregon. Journal of Wildlife Management 46:124-31.
Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, J. E. Fallon, K. L. Pardieck, D. J. Ziolkowski, Jr., and W. A. Link. 2011. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2010. Version 12.07.2011 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

Speiser, R., and T. Bosakowski. 1987. Nest site selection by northern goshawks in northern New Jersey and southeastern New York. Condor 89:387-394.

Squires, J. R. and L. F. Ruggiero. 1996. Nest-site preference of northern goshawks in south-central Wyoming. Journal of Wildlife Management 60:170-177.

Woodbridge, B. and P. J. Detrich. 1994. Territory occupancy and habitat patch size of northern goshawks in the southern Cascades of California. Studies in Avian Biology 16:83-87.

Common Name: Northern harrier ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Circus cyaneus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S3B, S3N
Tracked: Yes

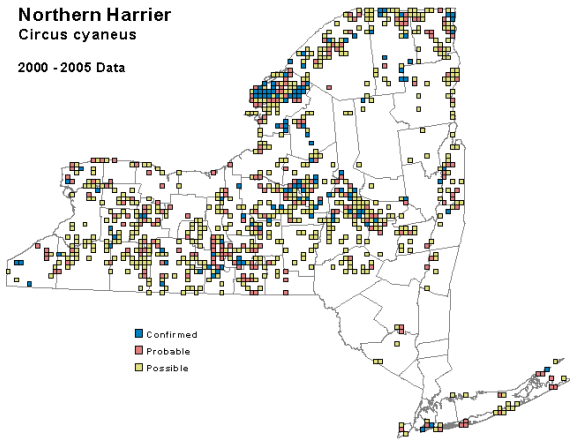
Synopsis:
The northern harrier occurs across the entire United States, breeding in the northernmost regions and into Canada northward to Alaska. It is listed as Threatened in New York due to declining grassland habitat and small populations. Northern harriers breed and winter in New York, occupying open grasslands, shrublands, marshes, and bogs. Breeding Bird Atlas data from 1980-85 to 2000-05 shows no change in the percent of occupied blocks in the state, but shifts in occupancy are apparent (Post 2008); northern harrier is a nomadic species that responds to changes in prey availability. Though Breeding Bird Survey data in New York and other northeastern states are too sparse for analysis, data for both the Eastern region and North America for 2000-2010 show a significant decline of -0.5% per year (Sauer et al. 2011). Christmas Bird Count data show an increasing trend from 1950 to 2010 for New York's wintering population and for wintering populations in states adjacent to New York.

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

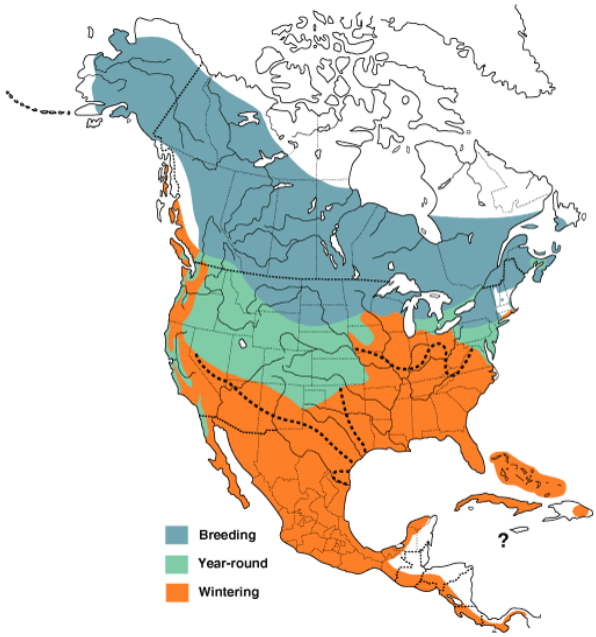
Habitat Discussion:
In New York, the Northern harrier breeds and winters in open wetlands, marshy meadows, wet, lightly grazed pastures, old fields, freshwater and brackish marshes, upland prairies, mesic grasslands, drained marshlands, croplands, cold desert shrub-steppe, and riparian woodland. Wet grasslands and marshes appear to support the highest breeding densities. Harriers generally avoid urban areas, but foraging does occur along roadsides (Hager 2009).

Primary Habitat Type
Freshwater Marsh
Great Lakes Dune and Swale
Great Lakes Freshwater Estuary Marsh
High Marsh
Maritime Dunes
Native Barrens and Savanna
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Open Acidic Peatlands
Pasture/Hay
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
Northern harriers occur statewide but gaps are noticeable in heavily forested areas and urbanized areas.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Smith, Kimberly G., Sara Ress Wittenberg, R. Bruce Macwhirter and Keith L. Bildstein. 2011. Northern Harrier (Circus cyaneus), 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/210 doi:10.2173/bna.210

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 (nest predation)	W	L	H
4. Transportation & Service Corridor	Roads & Railroads	R	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. Natural System Modification	Dams & Water Management/Use (wetland draining)	N	L	M
10. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive/ Non-native Alien Species (non-native plants)	R	M	M
11. Mining & Energy Production	Oil & Gas Drilling	N	L	H

References Cited:

Hager, S. B. 2009. Human-related threats to urban raptors. Journal of Raptor Research 43(3):210-226.

Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, J. E. Fallon, K. L. Pardieck, D. J. Ziolkowski, Jr., and W. A. Link. 2011. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2010. Version 12.07.2011 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

Post, T. J. 2008. Northern harrier, Circus cyaneus. Pages 190-91 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: Northern pintail ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Anas acuta*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S1B, S3N
Tracked: No

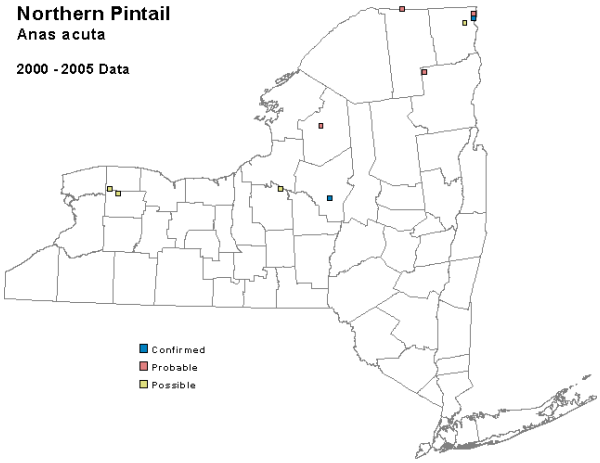
Synopsis:
Northern pintail was once one of the most abundant ducks in North America but the species has suffered a disturbing decline since the 1950s. In 2012, the breeding population was estimated at 3.5 million birds, substantially below the North American Waterfowl Management Plan objective of 5.5 million, and 13% below the long-term average of 4 million. More than any other North American waterfowl species, the northern pintail population has suffered from persistent drought and loss of grassland habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region. Populations have not responded to high water levels during the 1990s in the core breeding areas.

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:
As a breeder in New York, northern pintail prefers open habitat with low vegetation and scattered shallow, seasonal wetlands. Nests are situated in short vegetation, generally away from water but occasionally along the water's edge (Austin and Miller 1995). Bellrose (1976) describes pintails as preferring to nest in farmland habitats, including stubble fields, roadsides, hayfields, pastures, fallow fields, field edges, and fields of growing grain, with stubble fields as being the most frequently chosen.

Primary Habitat Type
Cultivated Crops
Freshwater Marsh
Pasture/Hay
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Clark, Robert G., Joseph P. Fleskes, Karla L. Guyn, David A. Haukos, Jane E. Austin and Michael R. Miller. 2014. Northern Pintail (Anas acuta), 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/163 doi:10.2173/bna.163

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-Timber Crops (intensification)	W	M	M
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Livestock Farming & Ranching (loss of pasture land)	W	M	H
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (increased predators)	W	M	H
4. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Droughts	W	M	H
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	W	M	M
6. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents (runoff, contaminants)	W	M	H
7. Natural System Modifications	Dams & Water Management/Use	W	M	H
8. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (loss of wetlands)	W	M	V

References Cited:

Austin, J.E. and M.R. Miller. 1995. Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), 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/163 doi:10.2173/bna.163

Bellrose, F. C. 1976. Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, PA.

Common Name: Peregrine falcon ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Falco peregrinus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Endangered

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

Synopsis:
Peregrine falcons, having become extirpated in the United States in the 1950s, have made an astonishing recovery across the range and in New York where breeding resumed in 1983. The ban on DDT in the early 1970s and a widespread reintroduction program (in which more than 6,000 birds were released) allowed populations to return to some historic breeding sites and even expand into new areas. In New York breeding occurs on bridges, towers, and buildings in urban settings as well as on cliff habitats in the Adirondack Mountains and vicinity.

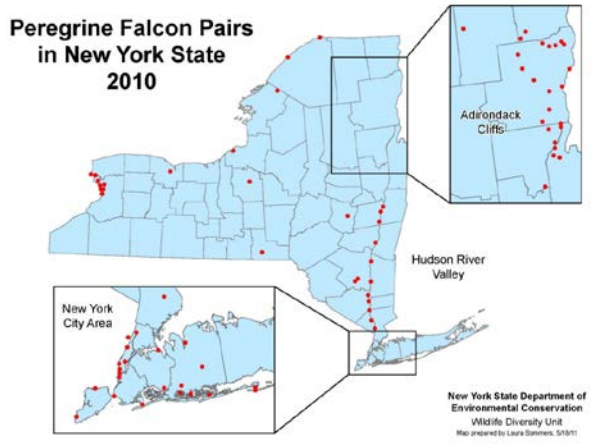
The NYSDEC's annual survey of peregrine falcons documented 72 territorial pairs in 2013 and 52 successful pairs, which fledged a total of 122 young. The second Breeding Bird Atlas documented an increase in blocks with confirmed breeding records from 4 in 1980-85 to 68 in 2000-05 (McGowan and Corwin 2008). Similar increases have been documented in all adjacent states and Vermont has removed the species from its endangered species list.

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	X		
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Peregrine falcons are found in a wide variety of habitats that provide avian prey and high cliff (or cliff-like) nest sites. In New York, nest heights outside of the Adirondacks range from 10-foot platforms in coastal salt marshes to a 693-foot bridge (C. Nadareski, pers. comm.). Over the past two decades, peregrines have established themselves as urban denizens, placing nests on urban structures that mimic cliffs, including buildings and bridges (Cade et al. 1996). Increasingly, peregrines have used other unconventional nest sites such as old common raven nests, nests on electric pylons, osprey nests, and cormorant nests on channel buoys, special towers in salt marshes, power plants, and heating stacks.

Primary Habitat Type
Cliff and Talus
Commercial/Industrial and Residential
Floodplain Forest
Freshwater Marsh
Riparian

Distribution:
Once extirpated as a breeder in New York, the peregrine falcon is now a local breeder. It is a resident bird in the New York City area and in some upstate areas including Albany and Buffalo. Peregrines are a fairly common fall migrant on the outer coast and rare inland (Levine 1998). Peregrine falcons breed in the New York City area and northward along the Hudson River where every major bridge as far north as Troy hosts a breeding pair. Nests are known in other urban areas as well, including Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Binghamton, Albany, and Troy. Nesting also occurs in the Adirondack Mountains, eastern Adirondack Foothills, Champlain Valley, the Shawangunk and Catskill mountains, and the Hudson River Palisades. In recent years peregrine falcons have extended their range to include breeding throughout Long Island on buildings, bridges, and in coastal marshland.



Loucks (2011)

White, Clayton M., Nancy J. Clum, Tom J. Cade and W. Grainger Hunt. 2002. Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus), 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/660 doi:10.2173/bna.660

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (rock climbing)	N	L	L
2. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (window strikes,)	W	M	H
3. Transportation & Service Corridors	Utility & Service Lines (powerlines)	N	L	V
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	Flight Paths (airplane strikes)	N	L	V
5. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (DDE, PCBs)	W	L	H
6. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents (organochlorine pesticides)	W	L	H
7. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals (persecution)	N	L	H
8. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Temperature Extremes (nests washed off)	N	L	H
9. Transportation & Service Corridors	Roads & Railroads (vehicular strikes)	R	L	H
10. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Work & Other Activities	R	L	M
11. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (Trichinosis, West Nile)	R	L	H

References Cited:

Cade, T. J., J. H. Enderson, and J. Linthicum. 1996. Guide to management of Peregrine Falcons at the eyrie. The Peregrine Fund, Inc. Boise, ID.

Levine, E. 1998. Bull's Birds of New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

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

Nadareski, Christopher A. Personal Communication. New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

Common Name: Pied-billed grebe ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Podilymbus podiceps*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Threatened

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S3B, S1N
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
One subspecies of pied-billed grebe occurs in New York: *Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*. It breeds in all of the United States, northward into southern Canada, and southward to all of Central America.

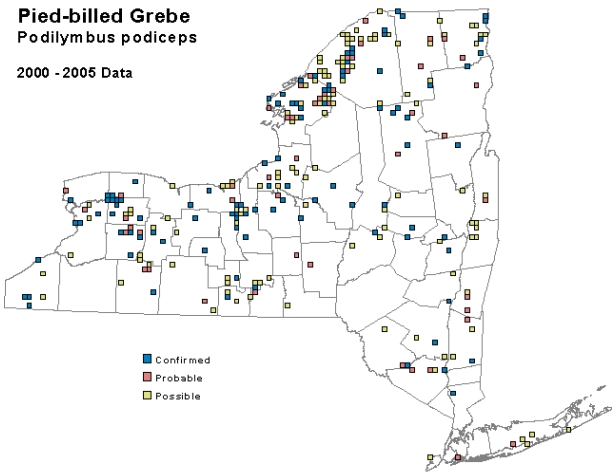
The pied-billed grebe is a Threatened species in New York. It is a rare and local breeder in the Ontario Plain, Great Lakes Plain, and Hudson Valley. Nesting occurs in freshwater wetlands with open shallow water and an abundance of aquatic emergent vegetation. The second Breeding Bird Atlas documented a 47% increase in occupancy from 1980-85 to 2000-05 with new records centered in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties (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		Increasing	Increasing
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon	X		
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Pied-billed grebes breed on seasonal or permanent ponds and other bodies of slow-moving or still water such as sluggish rivers and freshwater marshes where there is an abundance of emergent aquatic vegetation. The nest is floated on dense stands of dead or growing emergent vegetation. Open water areas are also important to pied-billed grebes.

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Plain Pond
Freshwater Marsh
Great Lakes Freshwater Estuary Marsh

Distribution:
Pied-billed grebes breed primarily in the Great Lakes Plain, St. Lawrence Plain, and the Hudson Valley.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Muller, Martin J. and Robert W. Storer. 1999. Pied-billed Grebe (Podilymbus podiceps), 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/410 doi:10.2173/bna.410

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (wetland fragmentation)	W	L	V
2. Residential & Commercial Development	Tourism & Recreation Areas (shoreline development)	R	L	H
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (purple loosestrife, phragmites)	W	M	H
4. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents (runoff, siltation)	W	L	H
5. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (acid deposition)	W	L	H
6. Natural System Modification	Other Ecosystem Modification (succession)	R	L	M
7. Natural System Modification	Dams & Water Management/Use	R	L	H
8. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	W	L	V
9. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	L	V
10. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Drought	W	L	V
11. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (botulism C)	N	L	H
12. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (boat wakes)	N	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: Prairie warbler ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Setophaga discolor*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
Formerly in the genus *Dendroica*, prairie warbler was reclassified to *Setophaga* in 2011 (Chesser et al. 2011). Breeding occurs in the eastern United States and wintering occurs in Florida, Central America, and Bermuda, Bahamas, Greater Antilles, Virgin Islands, and the Cayman Islands. Prairie warblers have experienced widespread declines since about 1970, often being cited as one of the most seriously declining Neotropical migrants (Nolan et al. 1999). Expansions are evident, however, at the northern edge of the range, including in New York. The second Breeding Bird Atlas documented a 20% increase in occupancy from 1980-85 to 2000-05 (McGowan and Corwin 2008). Breeding Bird Survey data show increasing (though nonsignificant) short term (2000-2010) and long term trends (1966-2010) of 2.1% and 1.9% respectively (Sauer et al. 2011).

Prairie warblers breed in dry upland early-successional habitats of a wide variety. It is unclear why this warbler is expanding its range while other birds that use this habitat are declining.

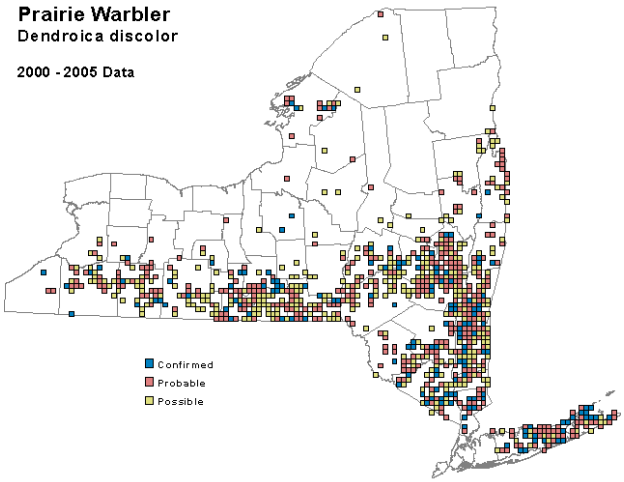
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%		Abundant		Increasing	Increasing
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%	X	Fairly common	X		
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Prairie warblers breed in dry upland early-successional, regenerating hardwood forest, old field, shrub/dune, upland shrub habitats; prefers open canopy (however uses closed canopy palustrine forest in Mid-Atlantic breeding areas). Smith (2008) describes the habitat as having a "savannah-like appearance with widely-spaced woody plants of low stature interspersed with grasses and forbs." Levine (1998) noted that though prairie warblers are rare at high elevations, breeding has been documented at the Connecticut Hill WMA in Tompkins County at an elevation of about 2,100 feet.

Ecological communities on Long Island that are frequently occupied include dwarf pine plains, pitch pine-scrub oak barrens, pitch pine-oak-heath woodlands, successional red cedar woodland, and pitch pine-oak forest (Edinger et al. 2002). Powerline rights-of-way are a frequently-used habitat. Several ecological communities support prairie warblers in the Albany Pine Bush including pitch pine scrub oak barrens, powerline rights-of-way, and successional old fields and regenerating forests that include low-woody cover. Abundances were highest in frequently managed pitch pine – scrub oak barrens characterized by a discontinuous/patchy scrub oak canopy that is less than 2 meters tall (Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, unpublished data).

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Coniferous Barrens
Native Barrens and Savanna
Non-native Shrublands
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Pine Barrens
Plantation, Disturbed Land, Pioneer Forest
Powerline

Distribution:
Prairie warbler is a common breeder on Long Island, the Hudson Valley, and the Appalachian Plateau. The distribution is expanding northward in New York except at higher elevations. It is a locally common to rare migrant.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Nolan Jr., V., E. D. Ketterson and C. A. Buerkle. 2014. Prairie Warbler (Setophaga discolor), 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/455 doi:10.2173/bna.455

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas	W	L	V
2. Natural Systems Modifications	Fire & Fire Suppression (fire suppression)	N	H	M
3. Natural Systems Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modification (succession)	W	L	M
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (cowbird parasitism)	W	L	M
5. Pollution	Agriculture & Forestry Effluents (spraying on powerlines)	W	L	M
6. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (collisions with buildings, cell towers, turbines)	W	L	H

References Cited:

Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission. Unpublished Data. 195 New Karner Road, Albany, NY.

Chesser, R.T., R.C. Banks, F. K. Barker, C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, I.J. Lovett e, P.C. Rasmussen, J. V. Remsen, Jr., J. D. Rising, D.F. Stotz, and K. Winker. 2011. Fifty-second supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds. Auk 128(3):600-613.

Edinger, G.J., D.J. Evans, S. Gebauer, T.G. Howard, D.M. Hunt, and A.M. Olivero (eds.). 2002. Ecological Communities of New York State. Second Edition. A revised and expanded edition of Carol Reschke's Ecological Communities of New York State. (Draft for review). New York Natural Heritage Program, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, NY.

Levine, E. 1998. Bull's Birds of New York State. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

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

Nolan Jr., V., E. D. Ketterson and C. A. Buerkle. 1999. Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*), 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/455 doi:10.2173/bna.455

Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, J. E. Fallon, K. L. Pardieck, D. J. Ziolkowski, Jr., and W. A. Link. 2011. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2010. Version 12.07.2011 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

Smith, C.S. 2008. Prairie warbler, *Dendroica discolor*. Pages 500-501 *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: Purple sandpiper ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Calidris maritima*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
Purple sandpiper was formerly placed in the genus *Erolia*; no subspecies are currently recognized. This sandpiper breeds in northern Canada, Iceland, and Greenland, and winters along the seacoasts of the North Atlantic. In New York, it is common during the winter on the coasts of Long Island where there are rocky shorelines. Robust population trends are difficult to determine because of a lack of systematic surveys, but a slight and non-significant declining trend has been documented for the North American population over the past 40 years.

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

Habitat Discussion:
During migration and winter, purple sandpiper uses rocky shoreline almost exclusively, especially where the tidal action is strong, winds are light, and temperatures are cool to cold. Wintering grounds include rocky coasts and jetties and coastal islands where crustaceans, mollusks, and other invertebrates are plentiful (Payne and Pierce 2002).

Purple sandpipers breed in a variety of habitats on the arctic tundra: gravel beds, the edges of frozen ground, and heath meadows.

Primary Habitat Type
Marine; Intertidal; Artificial Structure
Rocky Intertidal

Distribution:
Purple sandpiper is a locally very common winter visitant along the coast of New York. Wintering occurs along the rocky shorelines of Long Island. The largest numbers occur on the rock jetties along the South Shore, the rocky promontories at Montauk, and on rocky islands and breakwaters in Long Island Sound (Watson 1998). It is uncommon at Niagara Falls and rare at the Great Lakes.

Payne, Laura X. and Elin P. Pierce. 2002. Purple Sandpiper (Calidris maritima), 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/706 doi:10.2173/bna.706

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusion & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	N	L	L
2. Biological Resource Use	Fishing & Harvesting Aquatic Resources (rockweed)	N	L	L
3 Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents	N	L	M
4. Pollution	Household Sewage & Urban Waste Water	N	L	M
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	R	L	M
6. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	N	L	L

References Cited:

Payne, L.X. and E.P. Pierce. 2002. Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*), 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/706 doi:10.2173/bna.706

Watson, W. 1998. Purple sandpiper, *Calidiris maritima*. Pages 258-259 in Bull's Birds of New York State (E. Levine, ed.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Razorbill ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Alca torda*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
In North America the razorbill breeds in boreal and low-arctic waters. About 300 pairs nest in northern Maine, the bird's only breeding presence in the United States. Wintering occurs in the North Atlantic as far south as Long Island and New Jersey, rarely to Virginia.

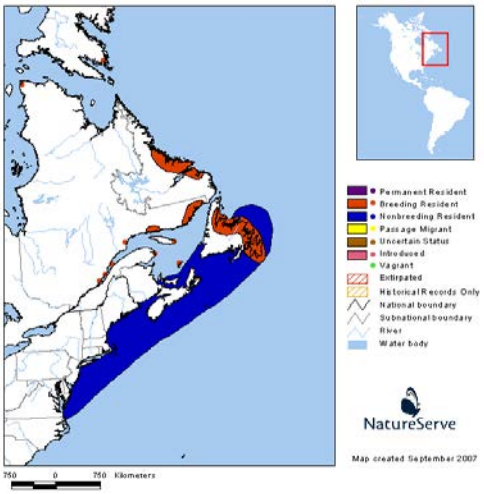
Razorbill populations declined seriously in the early 1900s as a result of hunting for eggs, feathers, and meat. As a result of protection in 1917 followed by public education, razorbill populations have increased in North America, with notable increases over the last 20 years. Before 1990, razorbills were a rare occurrence in waters off Long Island, but subsequently increased notably (Usai 1998).

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:
Razorbills breed in boreal and sub-arctic waters, placing nests on rocky islands and steep, mainland cliffs. Nest sites are partly or wholly enclosed, often in crevices among boulders. Wintering occurs mainly in coastal, boreal waters unaffected by sea ice, some into northern cool subtropical zone, especially in the east Atlantic. Typically inhabits shallow waters of 20–40 m depth in winter, often over sandy sea bed (Carboneras 1988, Lavers et al. 2009).

Primary Habitat Type
Marine; Shallow Sub-tidal; Aquatic Bed

Distribution:
Razorbills are observed annually off the coast of Long Island, particularly at Montauk Point. As recently as 2006, individuals have been observed in the Niagara Region and Lake Ontario. There are about 38,000 breeding pairs in North America.



NatureServe (2012)

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Transportation & Service Corridors	Shipping Lanes (oil spills)	N	L	L
2. Biological Resource Use	Fishing & Harvesting Aquatic Resources (entanglement)	R	L	M

References Cited:

Carboneras, C. 1988. The auks in the western Mediterranean. Ringing & Migr. 9:18-26.

Lavers, J., M. Hipfner, G. Chapdelaine and J.M. Hipfner. 2009. Razorbill (*Alca torda*), 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/635 doi:10.2173/bna.635

Usai, M. L. 1998. Razorbill. Pages 313 in Bull's birds of New York State. (Levine, E., Ed.) Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY.

Common Name: Red-shouldered hawk ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Buteo lineatus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Special Concern

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S4B
Tracked: No

Synopsis:
Red-shouldered hawks breed primarily in the eastern half of the United States, occurring as year-round residents across much of the range. Breeding also occurs in a narrow band along the west coast. It reaches the northern extent of the range in New York. This is a hawk of extensive, mature, mixed forest. In New York, red-shouldered hawks are found in bottomland hardwood forests, riparian habitats, and flooded swamps as well as in upland forests.

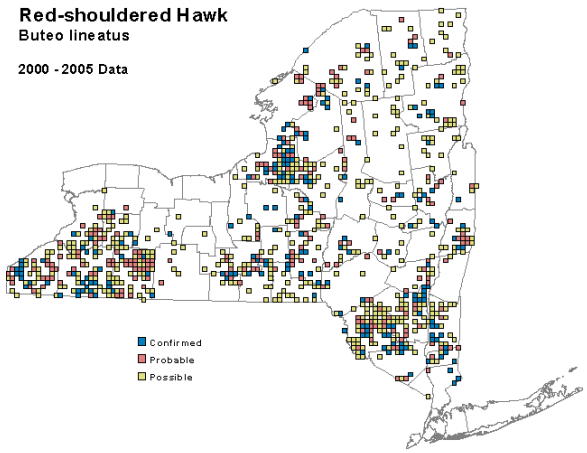
Peterson and Crocoll (1992) postulated that reforestation of former agricultural land in Northeast may result in reestablishment of red-shouldered hawks in some areas; this appears to have happened in New York. The second Breeding Bird Atlas documented a 23% increase in occupancy from 1980-85 to 2000-05 (McGowan and Corwin 2008). Similar increases have been documented throughout the Northeast.

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

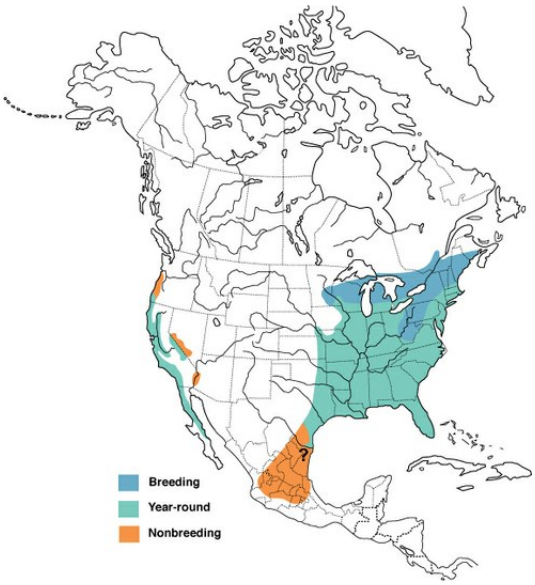
Habitat Discussion:
Red-shouldered hawk is a bird of extensive, mature forests with a preference for bottomland hardwood forests, riparian areas, and flooded swamps (Dykstra et al. 2008). It prefers large expanses of habitat.

Primary Habitat Type
Floodplain Forest
Hardwood Swamp
Mixed Northern Hardwoods
Oak Forest
Plantation, Disturbed Land, Pioneer Forest
Riparian

Distribution:
Red-shouldered hawk reaches the northern extent of its range in New York, where it is concentrated in the Catskill Peaks, Appalachian Plain, and Tug Hill Plateau. It is absent from the Coastal Lowlands and the Great Lakes Plain.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Dykstra, Cheryl R., Jeffrey L. Hays and Scott T. Crocoll. 2008. Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus), 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/107 doi:10.2173/bna.107

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities	N	L	L
2. Biological Resource Use	Logging & Wood Harvesting (disturbance, fragmentation, increased competition)	R	M	H
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (competition with other raptors- GHOW, RTHA)	R	L	H
4. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (industrial chemicals i.e. fracking)	N	L	H
5. Transportation & Service Corridors	Roads & Railroads (vehicular collision, fragmentation)	N	L	H
6. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (destruction/loss of habitat) *More likely regionally (Hudson Valley)*	N	M	H

References Cited:

Dykstra, C. R., J.L. Hays and S.T. Crocoll. 2008. Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), 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/107 doi:10.2173/bna.107

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. and S. T. Crocoll. 1992. Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus*. I*n* Migratory nongame birds of management concern in the northeast. (Schneider, K. J. and Pence, D. M., Ed.).US. Dept. Inter., Fish and Wildlife Serv., Newton Corner, MA.

Common Name: Ruddy duck ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Oxyura jamaicensis*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S1
Tracked: Yes

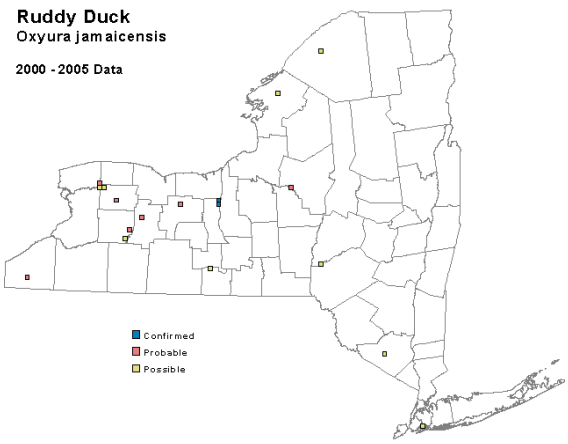
Synopsis:
Ruddy ducks nest in dense emergent vegetation around the edges of marshes and ponds that also provide areas of open water. About 86% of the ruddy duck population in North America breeds in the Prairie Pothole Region of the Great Plains. Scattered populations occur in the eastern United States, and New York is at the far eastern edge of the distribution. Long-term population trends in the United States are currently increasing or stable. In New York and other northeastern states, as well as Ontario, ruddy ducks have become more numerous in the past 30 years. But while populations in upstate New York have increased, ruddy duck appears to have been lost from Long Island. Elsewhere, breeding occurs in virtually any location where open water and emergent vegetation exist (McGowan 2008). Historic and current breeding locations in New York are on managed lands including Montezuma WMA and Jamaica Bay Refuge.

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:
Ruddy ducks breed in large managed and unmanaged marsh systems, stock ponds, reservoirs, and deep natural basins. All wetlands used tend to have extensive emergent vegetation and enough open water for landing and taking flight (Savard et al. 1994, Murkin et al. 1997). Historic and current breeding areas are on managed lands where water levels can be controlled.

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Plain Pond
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal; Tidal Wetland
Estuarine; Brackish Shallow; Aquatic Bed
Freshwater Marsh
Great Lakes Freshwater Estuary Marsh
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
McGowan (2008) notes that ruddy duck has no established population in New York but that isolated incidents of breeding can be expected virtually anywhere in the state where open water and emergent vegetation exist.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Brua, Robert B. 2002. Ruddy Duck (Oxyura jamaicensis), 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/696 doi:10.2173/bna.696

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Droughts	P	L	H
2. Invasive & Problematic Species & Genes	Non-native & Alien species	W	H	M

References Cited:

McGowan, K.J. 2008. Ruddy duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis*. Pages 130-31 *in* The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Murkin, H. R., E. J. Murkin, and J. P. Ball. 1997. Avian habitat selection and prairie wetland dynamics: A 10-year experiment. Ecol. Applic. 7:1144-1159.

Savard, J. P. L., W. S. Boyd, and G. E. J. Smith. 1994. Waterfowl-wetland relationships in the aspen parkland of British Columbia: comparison of analytical methods. Hydrobiologia 279/280:309-325.

Common Name: Ruddy turnstone ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Arenaria interpres*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
Ruddy turnstone breeds in the high arctic tundra. There are two subspecies, *A. i. interpres* and *A. i. morinella*, the latter of which winters along the Atlantic Coast. In New York it is an abundant spring and fall migrant, and may also occur inland during migration. Numbers of ruddy turnstone in North America have declined since the 1970s, but are now thought to be stable or increasing in the Northeast since 1980 (Butcher and Niven 2007, Andres 2009). Turnstones and other shorebirds are at considerable risk of population declines due to rapid loss of critical resources at coastal-stopover locations during migration and in wintering areas.

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

Habitat Discussion:
Ruddy turnstones breed in the arctic on the dry tundra, usually near water.

Outside of the breeding season ruddy turnstone are coastal, occurring on rocky or sandy beaches, barren pebbly coasts, mud flats, river mouths, tidal creeks, and shores of lakes (AOU 1983). During migration they occur inland on dykes or along lake shores.

Primary Habitat Type
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Tidal Flat

Distribution:
Ruddy turnstone is a migrant in New York, becoming abundant in spring and fall, and remaining common during the winter. It is a regular summering nonbreeder as well. Inland, ruddy turnstone can be common at larger bodies of water such as the Great Lakes, though more so in the fall.

Nettleship, David N. 2000. Ruddy Turnstone (Arenaria interpres), 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/537
doi:10.2173/bna.537

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

References Cited:

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

Andres, B.A. 2009. Analysis of shorebird population trend datasets. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver CO.

Butcher, G. S., and D. K. Niven. 2007. Combining data from the Christmas Bird Count and the Breeding Bird Survey to determine the continental status and trends of North America birds. National Audubon Society, New York NY. http://www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds/CBID/report.php.

Common Name: Ruffed grouse ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Bonasa umbellus*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
A popular and important game bird, the ruffed grouse is found in deciduous and coniferous forests of North America, occurring most abundantly in a mosaic of habitats that includes regenerating forests and shrub habitat. The range extends coast-to-coast across central Canada, and in the East as far southward as North Carolina. New York is well within this distribution and ruffed grouse are present year-round.

As many as 15 subspecies of ruffed grouse are recognized in North America; three, and possibly a fourth occur in New York. *B. u. umbellus* is the dominant subspecies present, while *togata* and *helmei* are recognized in central parts of the state, and Long Island respectively. A fourth subspecies, *monticola*, is the grouse of the Appalachians and occurs in the southwestern corner of New York.

Ruffed grouse are known to have cyclic population trends at approximately 10-year intervals (Bump et al. 1947), primarily in response to increased pressure from avian predators during periods of low snowshoe hare populations. However, these cycles are somewhat less prevalent in the Northeast than in midwestern and northern populations. Data from NYSDEC hunter surveys over the past two decades do not illustrate 10-year cycles in New York. Whether this is because declining habitat quantity and quality have disrupted the cycle, or whether these habitat factors are "masking" a cycle that would normally occur during optimal habitat conditions is not known. Alternately, there may be population cycles operating at a geographic scale larger (e.g., the northeastern U.S.) or smaller (e.g., the St. Lawrence Valley) than currently being measured. Northeastern populations have declined in the past 20 years.

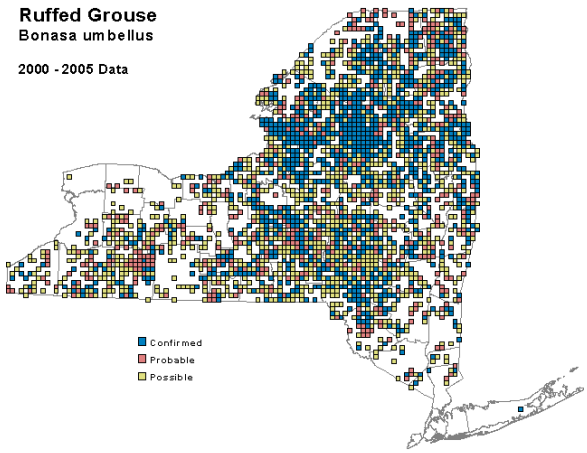
In New York, the second Breeding Bird Atlas showed a change of -18% from 1980-85 to 2000-05 (McGowan and Corwin 2008). The five-year average take/hunter from the New York State Small Game Hunter Survey declined from 2.8 birds/hunter in 1982-86 to 1.8 birds/hunter in 2006-10 (-36%).

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%	X	Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

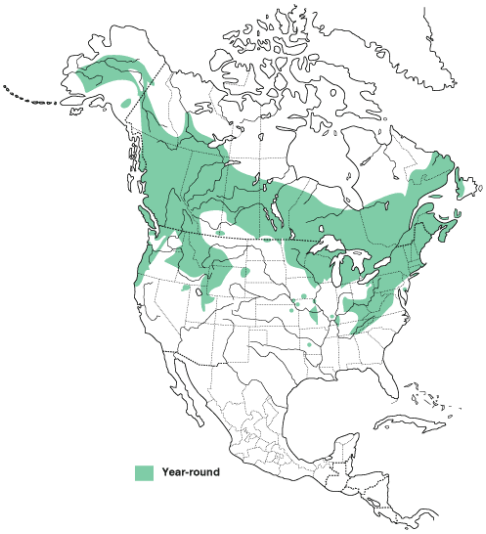
Habitat Discussion:
Ruffed grouse prefer a mix of regenerating forest and shrub habitat. Maturing forest habitats are used for nesting, sapling/pole stage hardwood forest habitats are used for breeding, and very young regenerating forests are used for brood rearing. A mosaic of these habitat types adjacent to each other results in greatest productivity and survival. The availability of drumming logs is an important component of the habitat for male breeding displays.

Primary Habitat Type
Mixed Northern Hardwoods
Oak Forest
Oak-Pine Forest
Old Field/Managed Grasslands
Plantation, Disturbed Land, Pioneer Forest
Powerline

Distribution:
Ruffed grouse is a common resident throughout New York except in metropolitan areas and in agricultural areas in the Great Lakes Plain.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)



Rusch, Donald H., Stephen Destefano, Michael C. Reynolds and David Lauten. 2000. Ruffed Grouse (Bonasa umbellus), 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/515
doi:10.2173/bna.515

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat loss to development)	W	L	V
2. Natural System Modification	Fire & Fire Suppression (fire suppression)	N	L	L
3. Natural System Modification	Other Ecosystem Modifications (succession)	P	M	M
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (predation by Cooper's hawk, goshawk, great-horned owl, fox, coyote)	W	L	M
5. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Perennial & Non-Timber Crops (habitat loss to agriculture)	N	L	M
6. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-native/Alien Species	W	L	H
7. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals	W	L	L

References Cited:

Bump, G., R. W. Darrow, F. C. Edminster, and W. F. Crissey. 1947. The Ruffed Grouse: life history, propagation, management. New York State Conserv. Dep. Albany.

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: Scarlet tanager ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Piranga olivacea*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
The scarlet tanager is found in extensive mature forests of a wide variety, especially those with maples and oaks. It breeds throughout the eastern half of the United States, though only reaching the northernmost parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Wintering populations are found in South America. In New York, scarlet tanager breeds in every county though it is less widespread in the agricultural regions of the Great Lakes Plain and the most highly developed urban areas of the Coastal Lowlands.

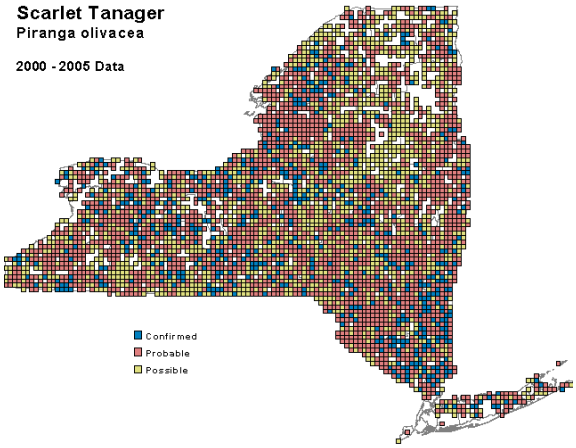
Breeding Bird Survey protocol document this species well, although it is unclear whether source-sink dynamics related to forest fragmentation may influence BBS data. Data for North America show no change in abundance from 1966 to 2010 or for the shorter period of 2000 to 2010. BBS data for New York show slight declines for long-term and short-term trends while Breeding Bird Atlas data show no change in occupancy since the mid to late 1980s (McGowan and Corwin 2008).

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

Habitat Discussion:
Scarlet tanagers breed in expansive mature forests of a wide variety, especially those forests with maples and oaks. They are area-sensitive, though the degree of sensitivity declines as forest density increases. Productivity is highest in areas that are at least 70% forested (Rosenberg et al. 1999). Although scarlet tanagers typically avoid forest edges, they will also breed in parks and orchards, and in large trees in suburban areas.

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Hardwoods
Floodplain Forest
Hardwood Swamp
Mixed Northern Hardwoods
Oak Forest
Oak-Pine Forest
Plantation, Disturbed Land, Pioneer Forest

Distribution:
Scarlet tanager is widespread across New York, breeding in every county except in the New York City metropolitan area.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Mowbray, Thomas B. 1999. Scarlet Tanager (Piranga olivacea), 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/479 doi:10.2173/bna.479

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	W	L	H
3. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-Timber Crops (intensification)	N	L	H
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (cowbird parasitism)	W	L	H
5. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (fracking)	R	L	H
6. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	N	L	V
7. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (wind turbines)	N	L	H
8. Pollution	Airborne pollutants (mercury)	W	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.

Rosenberg, K. V., R. W., Rohrbaugh, Jr., S. E. Barker, J. D. Lowe, R. S. Hames, and A. A. Dhondt. 1999. A land manager's guide to improving habitat for Scarlet Tanagers and other forest interior birds. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. 23 pp.

Common Name: Snowy egret ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Egretta thula*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S2S3
Tracked: Yes

Synopsis:
The snowy egret is at the northern edge of its breeding range in New York. It nests colonially with other waterbird species in trees and shrubs, mostly on coastal islands. After heavy persecution during the late 1800s when the species was almost extirpated by plume hunters, breeding resumed in New York in 1949 and the species increased rapidly—even expanding its historic distribution—along the Atlantic Coast through the late 1970s. Declines were noted across the Northeast beginning in the 1980s and populations have fluctuated considerably since then.

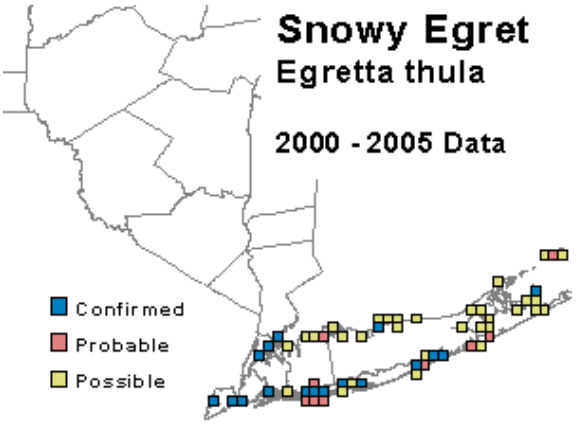
The number of breeding pairs on New York's Coastal Lowlands fluctuated from 2000 to 2010 without a notable trend, yet the number of pairs and colonies remain below peak densities from the 1970s. Despite its ability to recolonize areas after extirpation, snowy egrets remain susceptible to habitat loss and human disturbance as well as increased predation from nearby human activity.

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	X		
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Snowy egrets nest colonially with other waterbirds in small trees and shrubs on coastal areas including offshore islands, but also along open areas of rivers, lakes, salt and freshwater marshes, marine intertidal zones, and maritime beaches (Budliger and Kennedy 2005). Birds feed in small salt-marsh pools to large freshwater marshes. The remarkable population expansion in the latter half of the 1900s was largely into estuarine habitats, and inland along large river drainages (Peterjohn and Rice 1991).

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal; Tidal Wetland
Freshwater Marsh
Marine Dredge Spoil Shore
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach
Maritime Dunes
Riparian
Tidal Creek
Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh

Distribution:
Snowy egret is a locally common and abundant breeder on Long Island and rare in the winter. Inland, it is rare but regular during any month. One pair has been observed at Motor Island on the Niagara River but breeding has not been documented.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Parsons, Katharine C. and Terry L. Master. 2000. Snowy Egret (Egretta thula), 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/489
doi:10.2173/bna.489

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (boating)	W	L	M
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species	Problematic Native Species (fox, raccoons)	N	L	M
3. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Severe Weather	P	M	H
4. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (oil spills)	N	L	M
5. Pollution	Household Sewage & Urban Wastewater (Styrofoam, resin pellets)	P	L	H
6. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (competition with BCNH)	P	L	H

References Cited:

Budliger, R.E., and G. Kennedy. 2005. Birds of New York State. Lone Pine Publishing, Auburn, WA. 384pp.

Parsons, K. C. and T. L. Master. 2000. Snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), 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/489 doi:10.2173/bna.489.

Peterjohn, B. G. and D. L. Rice. 1991. The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Columbus, OH.

Common Name: Surf scoter ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Melanitta perspicillata*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
The surf scoter, a little-studied sea duck with an open season, breeds in the boreal forest in Alaska and the Northwest Territories and spends winters along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Atlantic Coast populations winter from Newfoundland southward to Virginia with the highest concentrations occurring along the New York and New Jersey coastlines and in the Chesapeake Bay. Smaller numbers winter on the Great Lakes. In New York, surf scoters are abundant on the ocean and Long Island Sound, particularly on the eastern end. The highest count of wintering surf scoters in New York from 1973 to 2008 was more than 13,000 individuals in 2001.

Reliable trends for Atlantic Coast populations are lacking, but the ratio of young to adults declined from 1961 through the 1990s and the long-term North American population trend is thought to be decreasing. In New York, the January Waterfowl Count has documented increasing numbers of wintering surf scoter since 1973.

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

Habitat Discussion:
Wintering occurs along coastal areas, primarily in the marine littoral zone, though also in bays and on freshwater lakes and rivers.

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Shallow
Lake; Very Large Lake
Large/Great River
Marine; Shallow Sub-tidal

Distribution:
In New York, the surf scoter occurs as a wintering bird, primarily along the Coastal Lowlands and infrequently along the Great Lakes. Non-breeding birds are occasionally encountered in spring and summer months and even recorded by DEC staff on Long Island during the Breeding Waterfowl Plot Survey in April and May, though in low numbers.

Savard, Jean-Pierre L., Daniel Bordage and Austin Reed. 1998. Surf Scoter (Melanitta perspicillata), 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/363 doi:10.2173/bna.363

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals (hunting)	P	L	L
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (problems associated with zebra and quagga mussels)	R	L	H
3. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills)	W	L	L
4. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (offshore wind towers)	N	L	H

References Cited:

Savard, Jean-Pierre L., Daniel Bordage and Austin Reed. 1998. Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*), 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/363 doi:10.2173/bna.363

Common Name: Tricolored heron ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Egretta tricolor*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

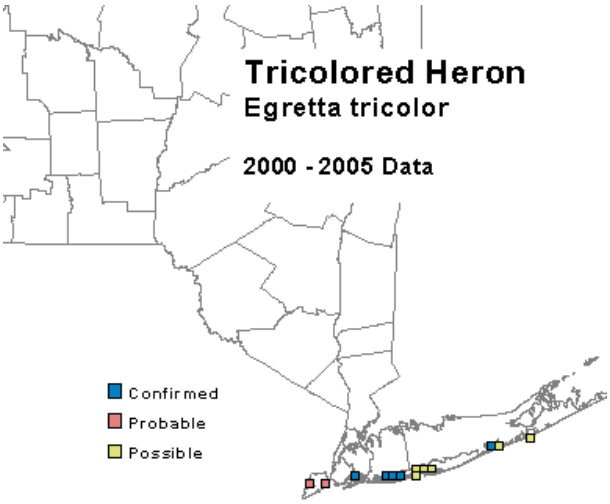
Synopsis:
Tricolored heron breeds in coastal areas along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, most abundantly in the Gulf states, but occurring as far north as southern Maine. In New York, this heron breeds in small numbers alongside other waterbirds, using islands with small trees and shrubs for nesting, and nearby wetlands for foraging. Tricolored heron was first recorded breeding in New York in 1955 and numbers increased through the mid-1980s. In 2010, there were 10 breeding pairs at 4 sites; this number is more than 50% below the average number of pairs documented from 1985 to 1996. In New York Harbor, this species has consistently nested at low numbers since 1985.

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:
Tricolored herons typically breed in colonies with other heron species and are generally found in brackish and salt water coastal areas, marshes, swamps, and mud flats (Bull and Farrand 1977). Niche partitioning among tricolored herons, snowy egrets and little blue herons in marine habitat may result from differences in prey type and size, though these species show significant differences in use of foraging habitat; tricolored heron is more common in open water and pools (Kent 1986a, 1986b).

Primary Habitat Type
Freshwater Marsh
Freshwater Tidal marsh
Low Marsh
Tidal Flat

Distribution:
Tricolored herons occur at Canarsie Pol in the New York City Harbor and at islands in Long Island's Great South Bay. The second Breeding Bird Atlas documented breeding at Staten Island as well. In 1999 and 2000, a tricolored heron was observed at a newly established great egret colony on Motor Island in the Niagara River (Watson 2001) but breeding has not been confirmed there.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Frederick, Peter C. 2013. Tricolored Heron (Egretta tricolor), 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/306 doi:10.2173/bna.306

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (boating)	W	L	M
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species	Problematic Native Species (fox, raccoons)	N	L	M
3. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Severe Weather	P	M	H
4. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (oil spills)	N	L	M

References Cited:

Bull, J. and J. Farrand, Jr. 1977. The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 784 pp.

Kent, D. M. 1986a. Behavior, habitat use, and food of three egrets in a marine habitat. Colon. Waterbirds 9:25-30.

Kent, D. M. 1986b. Foraging efficiency of sympatric egrets. Colon. Waterbirds 9:81-85.

Watson, W. 2001. Upstate New York’s first great egret colony. Kingbird 51(3):648-60.

Common Name: White-winged scoter ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Melanitta fusca*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
One of three species of scoter that occur in North America, white-winged scoter nests on lakes and wetlands in the interior of western Canada and northward to Alaska. Wintering occurs along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. All three species of scoter are game species with an open season and population trends for the three are combined due to the difficulty in separating the species during aerial surveys. White-winged scoter is believed to be the most abundant of the three scoter species. Population trends for scoters have declined by as much as 60% since 1978.

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

Habitat Discussion:
Wintering birds use coastal salt and brackish waters, as well as inland fresh waters.

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Deep
Lake; Very Large Lake
Marine; Deep Sub-tidal

Distribution:
In New York, white-winged scoter is a very abundant migrant and winter visitant on the coast. Inland it is less numerous but occurs regularly on large bodies of water including Lake Ontario and Chautauqua Lake.

Brown, Patrick W. and Leigh H. Fredrickson. 1997. White-winged Scoter (Melanitta fusca), 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/274 doi:10.2173/bna.274

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Biological Resource Use	Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals (hunting)	P	L	L
2. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (problems associated with zebra and quagga mussels)	R	L	H
3. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (oil spills)	W	L	L
4. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (offshore wind towers	N	L	H

References Cited:

Brown, P.W. and L. H. Fredrickson. 1997. White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), 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/274 doi:10.2173/bna.274

Common Name: Willet ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Tringa semipalmata*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
Formerly within the genus *Catoptrophorus*, the willet was recently reclassified into the genus *Tringa*. There are two disjunct breeding populations; *T. s. semipalmata* is the Eastern subspecies and *T. s. inornata* is the Western subspecies. Both occur in New York, but only the eastern subspecies breeds in the state while the western subspecies is present during migration. The eastern subspecies breeds along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, as far north as the Maritime Provinces.

Prized for both its eggs and its meat in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the willet was hunted almost to extirpation until it received protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1918. Though breeding was suspected in New York by early ornithologists, the first nests were not confirmed in New York until 1966 (Davis 1968). The distribution on the Coastal Lowlands and in other northeastern states has steadily increased since that time. Willets are currently secure but may be susceptible to loss of salt marsh habitat due to anticipated sea level changes.

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	X		
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%		Rare			

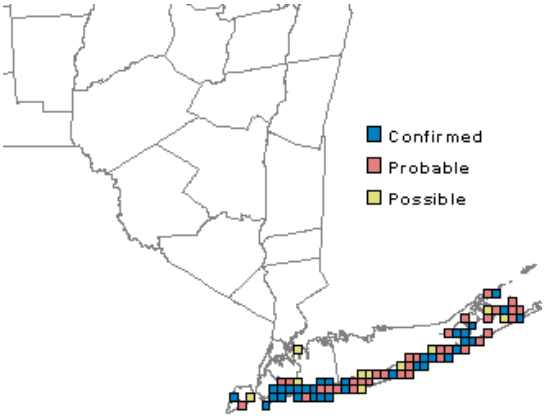
Habitat Discussion:
Willets are found in an array of wetland habitats including marshes, tidal mudflats, beaches, lake margins, mangroves, tidal channels, river mouths, coastal lagoons, sandy or rocky shores, and, less frequently, open grassland (AOU 1983, Stiles and Skutch 1989). Breeding requires large expanses of short, sparse grasslands for nesting and foraging, and wetland complexes for foraging (see NatureServe 2012).

In New York, breeding occurs primarily in salt marshes, often just above the high tide line (Wilcox 1980). They will also nest in beach areas, dunes, and marsh edges, as well as on dredge spoil islands in sparse vegetation (Burger and Shisler 1978, Zarudsky 1980).

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal
Freshwater Marsh
High Marsh
Marine Dredge Spoil Shore
Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach

Maritime Dunes
Tidal Flat

Distribution:
Willet is a common breeder on the south shore of Long Island and a common migrant all along the coast. It is rare inland, where it occurs as a migrant on the Great Lakes.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Lowther, Peter E., Hector D. Douglas III and Cheri L. Gratto-Trevor. 2001. Willet (Tringa semipalmata), 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/579 doi:10.2173/bna.579

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Natural System Modifications	Dams & Water Management/Use (ditching, draining, mosquito control)	N	L	L
2. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modifications (erosion,)	W	L	H
3. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (Phragmites)	R	L	H
4. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills)	R	L	H

5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	P	L	V
6. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	P	L	V
7. Pollution	Air-borne pollutants (mercury)	P	L	H
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (Cats)	R	L	M
9. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (predators)	R	L	M

References Cited:

American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. Check-list of North American birds. 6th ed. Am. Ornithol. Union, Washington, D.C.

Burger, J. and J. Shisler. 1978. Nest site selection of willets in a New Jersey salt marsh. Wilson Bulletin 90:599-607.

Davis, T.H. 1968. Willet nesting on Long Island. Wilson Bulletin 80:330.

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.

Wilcox, L. 1980. Observations on the life history of willets on Long Island, NY. Wilson Bulletin 92:253-58.

Zarudsky, J.D. 1980. Town of Hempstead colonial bird nesting survey, 1980. Unpublished report. Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and waterways, Point Lookout, NY.

Common Name: Wood thrush ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Hylocichla mustelina*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
The breeding distribution of the wood thrush includes the eastern half of the United States and the southern portions of the adjacent Canadian provinces. New York is well within this distribution. Wintering occurs in Central America. Wood thrush is a bird of mesic forests and woodlands, both mixed and deciduous. Long term trends show severe declines for wood thrush across its range and in the Northeast. Breeding Bird Survey data for the United States, the Eastern region, and New York all show significant short-term and long-term declines. Breeding Bird Atlas data for New York show a 7% decline in occupancy from 1980-85 to 2000-05 (McGowan and Corwin 2008). Significant threats include habitat fragmentation, mercury contamination, acid deposition, and loss of wintering habitat.

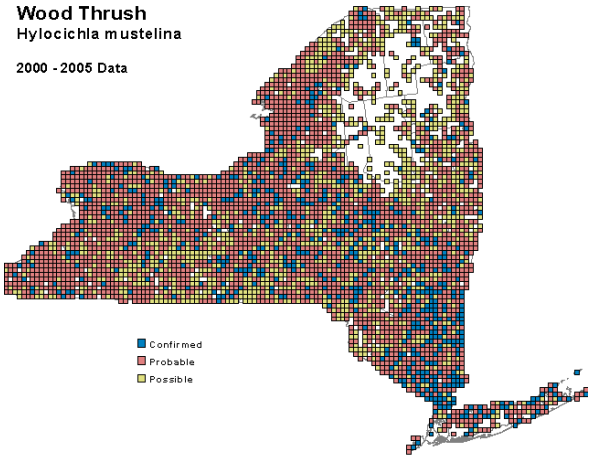
Distribution (% of NY where species occurs)		**Abundance** (within NY distribution)		**NY Distribution Trend**	**NY Abundance Trend**
0% to 5%		Abundant		Moderate Decline	Moderate Decline
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common	X		
26% to 50%		Uncommon			
> 50%	X	Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Wood thrush preferred habitat is mature, moist hardwood or mixed conifer/hardwood forest with a closed canopy and a sub-canopy shrub layer (DeGraaf and Yamasaki 2001). Although wood thrushes will nest in small woods and residential areas, it is area-sensitive, and habitat fragmentation may cause lower reproductive success due to the effects of nest parasitism, predation on eggs and nestlings, and nest abandonment caused by human disturbance (Roth et al. 1996).

Wood thrush readily nests in small woods and in residential areas, but is area sensitive; likely to occur in only 75% of patches of 100 ha in Maryland (Robbins et al. 1989).

Primary Habitat Type
Coastal Red Maple-Black Gum Swamp
Mixed Northern Hardwoods
Oak Forest
Oak-Pine Forest
Plantation, Disturbed Land, Pioneer Forest
Residential Rural

Distribution:
Wood thrush is a widespread breeder in New York, present across the state except for higher elevations of the Adirondack and Catskill mountains.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Evans, Melissa, Elizabeth Gow, R. R. Roth, M. S. Johnson and T. J. Underwood. 2011. Wood Thrush (Hylocichla mustelina), 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/246
doi:10.2173/bna.246

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (habitat fragmentation)	R	L	H
2. Energy Production & Mining	Oil & Gas Drilling (fracking)	N	L	H
3. Transportation & Service Corridors	Utility & Service Lines (fragmentation)	N	L	H
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (deer overbrowse, cowbirds)	W	M	H
5. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (mercury)	W	L	H
6. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas (building, stack, and tower strikes)	W	L	H
7. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	W	L	V
8. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	W	L	V
9. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Non-native/Alien Species (domestic cats)	R	L	H

References Cited:

DeGraaf, R.M., and M. Yamasaki. 2001. New England Wildlife. University Press of New England, Hanover, New Hampshire.

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

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. 103:1-34.

Roth, R.R., M.S. Johnson and T.J. Underwood. 1996. Wood Thrush. In The Birds of North America, No. 246 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Common Name: Worm-eating warbler ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Helmitheros vermivorum*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

Natural Heritage Program Rank:
Global: G5
New York: S4B
Tracked: No

Synopsis:
Worm-eating warbler is the only species in the genus *Helmitheros*. A neotropical migrant, it breeds in the eastern United States, in a somewhat narrow band that loosely follows the Appalachian Mountains, and winters in the Caribbean Islands and Central America. The northern end of the breeding distribution reaches into southern New York. Breeding habitat consists of deciduous and mixed-coniferous forests, usually those that are situated on a sloped hillside.

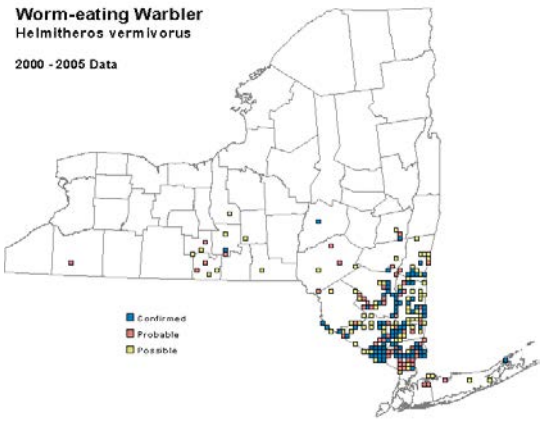
Breeding Bird Survey data have deficiencies due to low relative abundance, but the survey-wide trend and the trend for the Appalachian Mountains and the Eastern BBS are positive for 1966-2010 and 2000-2010 (Sauer et al. 2011). The trend in New York is negative for both periods, but detections are too few to determine whether the trend is statistically significant. Breeding Bird Atlas data show no change 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		Stable	Unknown
6% to 10%		Common			
11% to 25%		Fairly common			
26% to 50%		Uncommon	X		
> 50%		Rare			

Habitat Discussion:
Worm-eating warblers occur in deciduous or mixed coniferous/deciduous forests situated a on a moderately-sloped to steeply-sloped hillside with a dense understory (frequently rhododendron or mountain laurel). This warbler is area-sensitive. On Long Island, breeding occurs within dry islands on "nontidal wetland forests" (Smith 2008).

Primary Habitat Type
Mixed Northern Hardwoods
Oak Forest
Oak-Pine Forest

Distribution:
In New York, worm-eating warbler is a locally common breeder in the lower Hudson Valley with scattered records reaching into the eastern half of the Appalachian Plateau. Remnant populations exist in Long Island's remaining wet woodlands.



McGowan and Corwin (2008)

Vitz, Andrew C., Lise A. Hanners and Stephen R. Patton. 2013. Worm-eating Warbler (Helmitheros vermivorum), 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/367 doi:10.2173/bna.367

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

Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, J. E. Fallon, K. L. Pardieck, D. J. Ziolkowski, Jr., and W. A. Link. 2011. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2010. Version 12.07.2011 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

Smith, C. R. 2008. Worm-eating warbler, *Helmitheros vermivorum*. Pages 516-17 *in* The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, editors). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY. 688 pp.

Common Name: Yellow-crowned night-heron ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Nyctanassa violacea*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
There are six subspecies of yellow-crowned night-heron, five of which are tropical. The North American subspecies, *N. v. violacea*, occurs in the southeastern United States and northward along the Atlantic Coast. In New York—where it occurs primarily on the Coastal Lowlands—it is very near the northern extent of its range. Populations declined rangewide with the millenary trade in the late 1800s and early 1900s. After protection by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, populations rebounded, increasing dramatically through the 1960s.

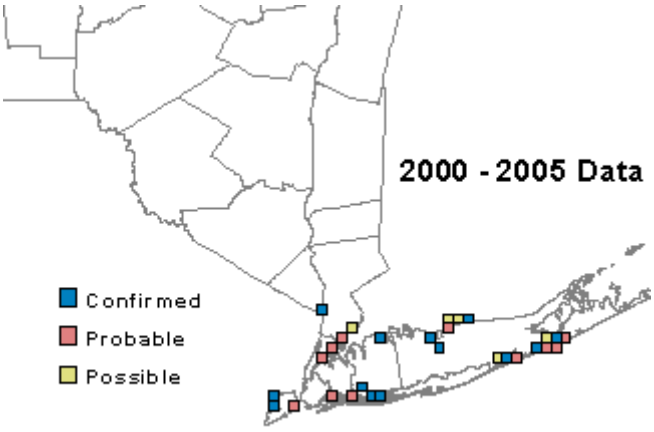
The North American Waterbird Conservation Plan assessed the yellow-crowned night-heron population as essentially stable across its range and classified it in a "moderate risk" category. In New York, this night-heron occurs in small populations scattered on the north and south shores of Long Island and in the New York City harbor. The second Breeding Bird Atlas showed a 27% increase in the number of survey blocks with confirmed breeding from 1980-85 to 2000-05. The NYSDEC Colonial Waterbird Survey documented an increase in the number of breeding pairs from 2001 to 2010. The NYC Audubon Harbor Herons survey documented a stable presence of island nesting birds since 1985; an increase in nesting at a mainland site was observed in 2012 (Craig 2012). The population in New York appears to be stable; local fluctuations occur as a result of food and habitat availability (McCrimmon 2008).

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	X		
> 50%		Rare			

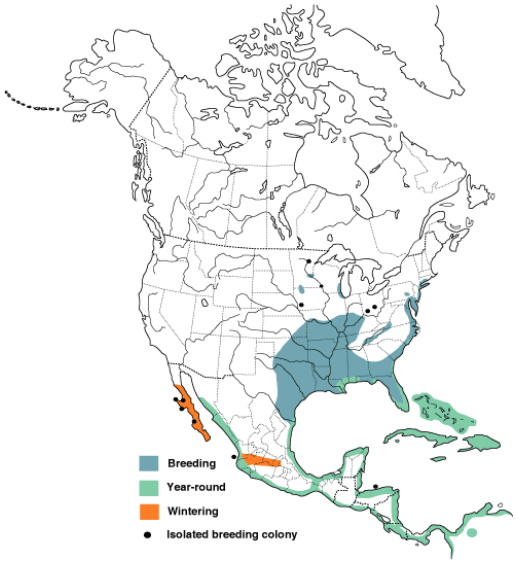
Habitat Discussion:
Yellow-crowned night-herons are colonial nesters, often nesting with black-crowned night-herons and other heron species. They can be found in marshes, swamps, lakes, lagoons, and mangrove swamps, depending on geographical location. In New York, yellow-crowned night-herons nest and feed in low, coastal shrubland, dredge spoil, on salt marsh islands, and in woodlands near swamps, rivers, and harbors in the lower Hudson and Long Island Bays (Peterson 1988, Watts 2011). They are tolerant of human habitation and have nested recently in densely populated residential areas in Staten Island, Far Rockaway, and various locations in Nassau County (McCrimmon 2008).

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal
Freshwater Marsh
Freshwater Tidal marsh
Freshwater Tidal Swamp
Lake and River Beach
Marine Dredge Spoil Shore

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)



Vitz, Andrew C., Lise A. Hanners and Stephen R. Patton. 2013. Worm-eating Warbler (Helmitheros vermivorum), 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/367 doi:10.2173/bna.367

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Invasive & Other Problematic Species	Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species (invasive plants)	N	L	M
2. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	Recreational Activities (boating, fishing)	W	L	M
3. Pollution	Industrial & Military Effluents (oil spills)	N	L	M
4. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	P	L	V
5. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	P	M	M

References Cited:

Craig, E. 2011. New York City Audubon's Harbor Herons Project: 2012 interim nesting survey report. New York City Audubon, New York, NY.

Craig, E. 2012. New York City Audubon's Harbor Herons Project: 2012 interim nesting survey report. New York City Audubon, New York, NY.

Elbin, Dr. Susan. Personal Communication. Director of Conservation and Science, New York City Audubon.

McCrimmon, D.A. 2008. Yellow-crowned night-heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*. Pages 176-77 in The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Peterson, D. M. 1988. Yellow-crowned night-heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*. Pages 52-53 in The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (R. F. Andrle and J. R. Carroll, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Watts, B. D. 2011. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), 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/161 doi:10.2173/bna.161

Common Name: Yellow rail ***SGCN***
Scientific Name: *Coturnicops noveboracensis*
Taxon: Birds

Federal Status: Not Listed
New York Status: Not Listed

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

Synopsis:
Yellow rail breeds in south-central and southeastern Canada and winters on the Gulf Coast of the United States. Two subspecies are recognized in North America: *C. n. noveboracensis* of Canada and the United States (discussed here), and *C. n. goldmani*, known only from the state of México, Mexico. The former is rare in most areas of its breeding distribution, perhaps considered so due to its nocturnal and extremely secretive behavior; it has been compared to a mammal in that it moves on the ground—often beneath vegetation—rather than flushing. In New York, yellow rail occurs as a rare migrant, primarily in the fall. Spahn (1998) states that most birders in New York have never seen a live yellow rail; documentation of its presence in the state is primarily in the form of dead individuals.

Though populations have likely declined due to habitat loss and alteration, there is insufficient information on current status and past trends. In Canada, where 90% of the breeding range occurs, the yellow rail has been listed as Special Concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Trends in New York are unknown due to the rare and secretive nature of this species, but interestingly, its impending documentation as a new breeder in the state has been predicted for 100 years (Eaton 1910, Post 1967, Levine 2002, Gochfeld 2010).

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:
Yellow rails breed in large (100-200 acre) saltwater marshes, freshwater grass or sedge marshes, and wet meadows, but also may use brackish wetlands, particularly the drier margins (DeGraaf 1991, Van Dam et al. 1993, Bookhout 1995, USFS Population Viability Assessment 2000). Each pair prefers approximately a 40-acre tract of land, hence the need for so much habitat (M. A. Burkman pers. comm. 2001 *in* Southwell 2002). Austin (2013) referred to yellow rail as the goldilocks of the waterbird world; the water level cannot be too deep or too shallow and they prefer low amounts of woody cover.

During fall migration yellow rails will use a variety of open habitats, from rice paddies to dry hayfields, dry grain fields, and wet meadows (Van Dam et al. 1993, Bookhout 1995). In New York, yellow rails occur in saltwater marshes, grassy meadows and freshwater marshes, and occasionally in upland fields.

Primary Habitat Type
Estuarine; Brackish Intertidal
Freshwater Marsh
Freshwater Tidal marsh
Freshwater Tidal Swamp
Lake and River Beach
Marine Dredge Spoil Shore

Distribution:
One or two birds are observed almost annually in the marshes on the south shore of Long Island, primarily during fall migration. A dead yellow rail was found in Oswego, Oswego County near the Lake Ontario shore during winter 1991 (Huggins 1992). Interestingly, the yellow rail appeared on the lists of 3 out of 5 expert birders in New York who were invited to predict what new breeders would be added in the next official state checklist (Levine 2002, Gochfeld 2010). This prediction, first made by Eaton (1910), may yet come to pass.

Leston, Lionel and Theodore A. Bookhout. 2015. Yellow Rail (Coturnicops noveboracensis), 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/139 doi:10.2173/bna.139

Threats to NY Populations				
Threat Category	**Threat**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Irreversibility**
1. Residential & Commercial Development	Housing & Urban Areas	U	U	U
2. Residential & Commercial Development	Tourism & Recreation Areas (shoreline development)	U	U	U
3. Natural System Modifications	Other Ecosystem Modification (succession)	U	U	U
4. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Invasive Non-Native Alien Species (purple loosestrife)	U	U	U
5. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	Problematic Native Species (disease)	U	U	U
6. Natural System Modification	Fire & Fire Suppression	U	U	U
7. Natural System Modification	Dams & Water Management/Use	U	U	U
8. Energy Production & Mining	Renewable Energy (wind tower collisions)	U	U	U
9. Transportation & Service Corridors	Utility & Service Lines (cell tower collisions)	U	U	U
10. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Habitat Shifting & Alteration	U	U	U
11. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Storms & Flooding	U	U	U
12. Climate Change & Severe Weather	Drought	U	U	U
13. Agriculture & Aquaculture	Annual & Perennial Non-Timber Crops (intensification)	U	U	U
14. Pollution	Agricultural & Forestry Effluents (organochlorines)	U	U	U

References Cited:

Austin, J. 2013. Response of yellow rails to habitat and landscape features in the context of fire." Proceedings from yellow rail webinar. USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. Abstract and presentation notes available from: http://midwestbirdmonitoring.ning.com/group/midwest_secretive_marshbirds/forum/topics/proceedings-from-yellow-rail-webinar-on-january-9-2013

Bookhout, T. A. 1995. Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), 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/139 doi:10.2173/bna.139

Eaton, E.H. 1910. The Birds of New York State, Part 1. University of the State of New York, Albany, NY.

Huggins, G. 1992. Region 5 – Oneida Lake Basin. Kingbird 42(1):41-46.

Gochfeld, D. 2010. Predictions of species to be added to the New York State checklist, v. 4.0. Kingbird 60(4):301-310.

Levine, E. 2002. Further Predictions of Species to be Added to the Checklist of the Birds of New York State. Kingbird 52(2):119-123.

Southwell, D. 2002. Conservation assessment for yellow rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region.

USFS Species Data, 1999. United States Forest Service, Region 9.Chippewa, Superior, and Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests Statement of Purpose and Reason Draft Species Data Records. November, 1999. Yellow rail. Internal document. 20 pp.

Van Dam, B., R. Jennings, J.D. Soule, G. Hammerson, M.T. Koenen, and D.W. Mehlman. 1993. Species Management Abstract: Yellow rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). The Nature Conservancy, 4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203.