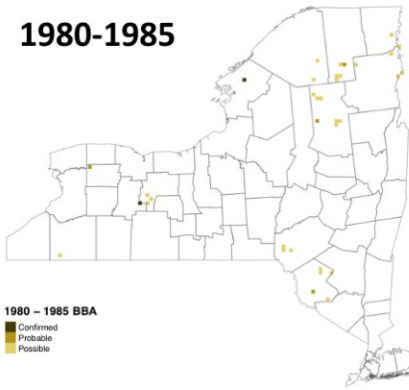
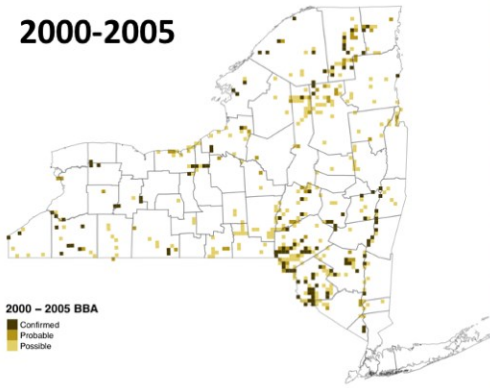


1980-1985



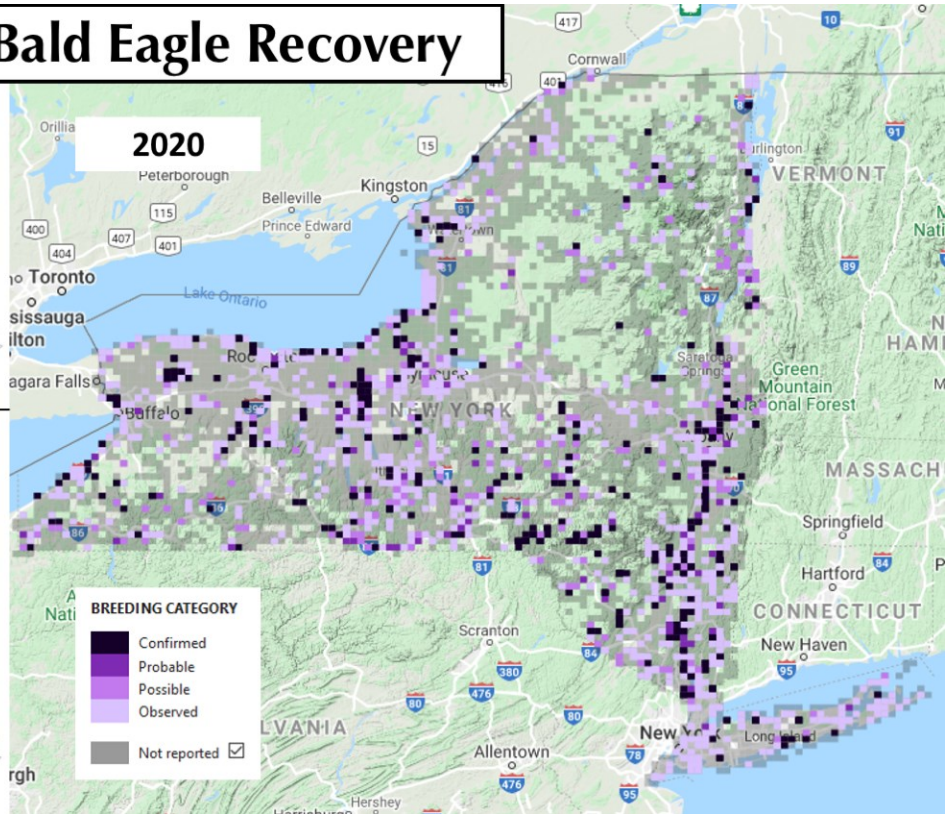
1980 - 1985 BBA
 Confirmed
 Probable
 Possible

2000-2005



2000 - 2005 BBA
 Confirmed
 Probable
 Possible

Bald Eagle Recovery



Bald Eagles have repopulated much of the state since the DDT was banned and reintroduction efforts were implemented. More Bald Eagles were confirmed breeding in the state in 2020 than in either of the previous Atlases.

Atlas Corner Year 1 Achievements

Julie Hart, Project Coordinator NY Breeding Bird Atlas III

This year was an astounding success despite novel challenges, and it's all thanks to you and your commitment to the Atlas! Here are just a few of the achievements from year one.

- More than 1500 atlasers participated in the project. Some people were experienced atlasers from the first and second atlases, while many more were discovering breeding behaviors for the first time.
- Over 2 million breeding observations were submitted. That's really big data and a testimonial to the scale of your efforts. Incredible!
- Of the state's roughly 250 breeding species, 215 were confirmed breeding in 2020. This includes some rare species like Spruce Grouse, Great Lakes Piping Plover, Short-eared Owl, Bicknell's Thrush, Sedge Wren, and Rusty Blackbird.
- Atlasers submitted over 120,000 eBird checklists. Everyone found their own niche. Some people focused on seeing how many species they could confirm breeding (10 people each confirmed more than 100 species!), others focused on making good headway on a block, while yet others targeted atlasing in different

counties and seeing how many blocks they could visit.

- 80% of priority Atlas blocks and 74% of all blocks were visited. That doesn't translate into many blocks meeting the completion criteria, but it does show that people from all corners of the state are participating in the project.
- The county with the most hours logged was Tompkins at 5670 hours, which comes as no surprise given the active birding community in Ithaca. The county with the least effort was Schoharie with 93 hours, which is somewhat surprising given its proximity to Albany.
- Essex county had the most confirmed breeding species with 134 species. The least number of confirmations were in rarely visited Fulton county with only 35 species.
- At least seven species show a range expansion: Bald Eagle, Monk Parakeet, Forster's Tern, Sandhill Crane, Trumpeter Swan, Caspian Tern, and Ring-billed Gull. These species have proportionally more breeding records in the first year of the Atlas than in either of the prior Atlases, whether you look at confirmations or total coded observations.

Over the winter months, the Regional Coordinators, Outreach subcommittee, and I will be working to incorporate atlaser feedback into our outreach plans. You've asked for more opportunities to network with other atlasers and more materials on breeding behaviors, juvenile bird identification, and how to find cryptic species. We are taking that to heart. Next year we'll be focusing on filling spatial gaps, providing tips on nocturnal atlasing, and holding more events.

We are also focused on reviewing the data from the first year for data entry mistakes and outliers. We'll be filtering the data in several different ways and reviewing anything that looks exceptional. You can find more information about the data review process on the Atlas news page at <https://ebird.org/atlasny/news/atlas-data-review>.

In the meantime, it's time to start listening for courting Great Horned Owls. Other birds, like ravens and eagles are also going to start nest building soon. Barn Owls can nest year-round, and both crossbills are still hanging around and are likely to nest again this winter. There's never a dull moment!

Thank you for your dedication to the Atlas. We can't do it without you! Your efforts truly are appreciated and go a long way to helping conserve NY's birds.

Sponsor-a-Species Help the Atlas

This November birders had their first opportunity to Sponsor-a-Species and become a part of Atlas history. Since the first Atlas in 1985, Atlas data have been used time and time again to evaluate a species' conservation status, to manage public land, to inform land protection, to target rare species surveys, and to guide development. Current, geo-referenced data, like what comes out of a bird Atlas, is incredibly valuable, but it takes hundreds of thousands of dollars, five years of field surveys, and three years of data analysis and writing to create a final product. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has given us a start, but funding beyond March of 2023 is not guaranteed and increasingly uncertain. For the Atlas to succeed, we need your sightings as well as your financial support.

The Sponsor-a-Species campaign, which kicked off in November, is an easy way to help. We anticipate that about 245 species will be recorded during the five years of field survey. Each species has been assigned one of five sponsorship levels, ranging from \$100 to \$2,000 per year (Sponsor-a-Species at <https://newyorkbirdatlas.org/>). You can sponsor a species for one-year, multiple years, or all five years of the Atlas project.



Common Loon on its nest. Photo © Joan Collins

Choose a bird that has special meaning—an honor for your favorite bird, a memorial to birding pal, a dedication to a mentor or group who introduced you to birding. As species are sponsored we will list the sponsors' names (or anonymous) next to the birds' names on this webpage: <https://newyorkbirdatlas.org/available-species>. All sponsors will be recognized in the Atlas and five-year sponsors will be able to unlock an online collection of natural history information for their species and be named on the species page in the finished Atlas. Major donors (\$10,000 and up) will be listed on the Atlas website for the duration of the project (<https://ebird.org/atlasny/about/sponsors>).



Bald Eagles along Massawepie Lake. Photo © Joan Collins

Our goal is to generate much-needed funding for the Atlas project. Look here: <https://ebird.org/atlasny/about/donate-shop> to see how the money will be used and please consider making a five-year commitment.

Kathryn Schneider, Co-chair
NY BBA III Steering Committee