

Grosbeak: 18 PvC. Indigo Bunting: max ten PBBS, an eight-year high; four PR, four Parishville. Chipping Sparrow: 18 PvC; numbers up in Henderson, with heavy migration 25 Aug. Vesper Sparrow: none. Savannah Sparrow: ten ULL 5 July; ten PBBS, close to 10-year high. Henslow's Sparrow: one found dead PR 18-19 Aug. Dark-eyed Junco: two Parishville only report. E. Meadowlark: two per day PR and ULL. N. Oriole: only two PvC. Purple Finch: six PvC; numbers much reduced in Henderson. House Finch: out-numbers Purple Finch two-one in Massena. Evening Grosbeak: 14 PvC, six Wanakena 29 June.

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REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Thanks to a revival of Breeding Bird Survey routes, several June "Big Days," bird-banding on the Four Brothers Islands and near Cedar River, and other field efforts across the region, a total of 173 species were recorded in the summer 1989, up significantly from last year's 152. In spite of the improvement, the seasonal total is still short of the 197 species in summer 1983 and 200 species in summer 1984, during the height of Atlas coverage. Surveys by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation revealed that the Adirondack recovery of nesting Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons continues.

June saw an average monthly temperature of 67.2°F, slightly above the long-term average 64.9°F. The high temperature was 92°F on 23 June, the only day of the month to break the 90° mark. The 3.6" of monthly precipitation was near average, with over an inch of that falling on 2 June. There was 54% of possible sunshine, with 19 cloudy days. Thermometers dropped to 35°F at Owl's Head on 15 Jul, but the end of the month was quite warm. Newcomb dropped to 37°F on 9 Aug and a frosty 30°F on 25 Aug. The same month saw 7.3" of precipitation that brought the yearly total to 23.4". Seasonal brooks ran throughout the summer, and shorebird hotspots along Champlain were both figuratively and literally washed out.

A number of BBS reports were received: Ellenburg (Mark Gretch), Gabriels (Ted Mack), Sciota (Gretch), Speculator (Dorothy McIlroy), and St. Regis Falls (Mack). In Clinton County, the Ellenburg BBS was last run in 1968-71 and the Sciota BBS in 1974-78. Mark Gretch found a number of significant changes in 1989. He found no Northern Flicker vs. historic averages of 8.5 and 2.71 for Ellenburg and Sciota, respectively. Nor did he have any Northern Oriole, whose averages had been 4.75 for Ellenburg and 7.29 for Sciota. Could the loss of American elms explain these declines? The abandonment of farms around Sciota is clearly reflected in the total disappearance of Bobolink on this BBS (9.14 historic average). In contrast, Ellenburg farms mostly have remained active; this is reflected in the 17 Bobolink tallied (former average 22.5). On the Sciota BBS, Gretch noted clear increases for Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Winter Wren,

Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Ovenbird, and Chipping Sparrow. Ovenbirds are sensitive to size of forest, and do not breed where woods become too fragmented. The increase to 14 Ovenbirds, from an average 7.86 further suggests the increase of forest cover in the Sciota area. Conversely, significant declines on the Sciota BBS were found in Killdeer, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Kingbird, Wood Thrush, European Starling, American Redstart, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbird. Note that several are birds of open country or brushy areas.

On an 18 Jun Franklin Co. "Big Day" from the Quebec border near Hogansburg to Madawaska, Ted Mack and Hollis & Denise White found 115 species, including Great Egret, Sora, Virginia Rail, and Black Tern. On 25 June, Bob Hagar and Ted Mack got 123 species covering the same area, despite missing White-breasted Nuthatch.

The 19-ft. "Four Winds" carried banding teams and patrols to and from the Four Brothers during June and July. A total of 1,003 Ring-billed Gulls, 36 Herring Gulls, a hen Com. Merganser, and the first-ever Double-crested Cormorant chick were banded. There were 270 cormorant nests, up just slightly from 263 last summer. Interesting sightings included a Ruddy Turnstone and Caspian Tern on 3 Jun, 11 Red-breasted Merganser 17-19 Jun, a White-winged Scoter and six Gadwall on 19 Jun, Canada Goose and six goslings 22 Jun, a Bonaparte's Gull 27 Jun, and a pair of adult Common Loons on 1 Jul. A Ring-billed Gull banded 26 Jun 1976 on Island "C" by Dr. Robert Yunick was found dead on the same island 17 Jun, aged 13 years.

Meanwhile, Bob McKinney banded 84 individuals of 37 species near his camp along the Cedar River in July, including an imm Northern Saw-whet Owl, two Cape May Warbler, a Blackpoll Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow. In Essex Co., just 26 individuals of 9 species were banded between 9 Jul and 11 Aug.

Beavers are apparently responsible for replenishing the long-dry Webb Royce Swamp between Essex and Westport during this decade. On a 30 July canoe trip into the swamp, John and Nat Parke found Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, and 40 Black-crowned Night-Heron, including a parent at a nest with young, well as Common Moorhen with young. The Parkes' second expedition on 27 Aug added Virginia Rail as well as a Peregrine Falcon (perhaps from the nearby cliff site along Champlain) being strafed repeatedly by a Northern Harrier. Such wooded swamps are scarce in Essex County and we're grateful to the beavers for this rich habitat.

The NYS DEC made flights on 9 May, 25 May, and 11 July to survey Adirondack Osprey nests. Some 46 historic sites were surveyed, and 49 nests (three new) were reviewed. Of these, 31 had parent birds on them during May. By July's flight, 18 nests were still active, producing some 33 young Ospreys, plus six (presumably infertile) eggs. This is an encouraging improvement over 20 young in 1988. Bald Eagles, meanwhile, continued nesting at three Franklin Co. sites, fledging all five young (four of which were banded), for the first confirmed successful nesting in this Region in decades. Last year's first attempts all failed, readers may recall. The five known Peregrine Falcon eyries in Essex

Co. again produced ten young: Elizabethtown (3 young, on new cliff), Keene Valley (3 young), Keeseville (3 young), Westport (none, although adults again present), and Wilmington (1 young). All things considered, this is a remarkable showing, and all those involved with the recovery efforts over the years deserve our plaudits.

Finally, an update: the previously banded second-year female Yellow-rumped Warbler netted and released on Crown Point peninsula on 14 May this year had been banded at Manomet (MA) Bird Observatory on 13 Oct 1988.

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Abbreviations: AP - Ausable Point; CL - Chazy Landing; FB - Ferd's Bog; KB - King's Bay; LA - Lake Alice.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: *intro*; also Penfield Pd and Westport July unexpected. Pied-billed Grebe: *intro*; also Bloomingdale, three y LA 30 Jul, Paul Smiths excellent for this Regional rarity. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*; Seventh L 10-12 Aug unusual, Banding Lab has no record of green streamer seen Four Brothers 16 Aug (LS). Great Blue Heron: *intro*. Great Egret: *intro*; also seen from Amtrak n Westport 26 Jul (JP). Green-backed Heron: *intro*. Black-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*. Canada Goose: *intro*; raised gosling Brandon. Wood Duck: max 100 LA 21 Aug. Green-winged Teal: max four CL 8 Jun. Mallard: max 100 Raquette Pd late Aug. N. Shoveler: male CL 8 Jun, 27 Jul noteworthy. Gadwall: *intro*. White-winged Scoter: *intro*. Com. Merganser: *intro*. Red-breasted Merganser: *intro*.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*; also ad Little Clear Pd 29 Jul, ad & imm Indian L FRAN., ad Red R HAMI 25 Aug, two ad, two imm Eagle L ESSE 7 Aug, imm fishing near NYS Fish Hatchery Saranac Inn most of Aug, plus numerous nest area reports. N. Harrier: *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. **Spruce Grouse**: feathers found at head of FB second week Jun and male photographed Shallow L trail 6 Jul (GL) reestablish the range of this rarity in HAMI s of the previously known Atlas range. Wild Turkey: hen Cedar R all summer and hen in Tupper L yard show continued penetration of central Adirondacks. N. Bobwhite: Ironville and Chilson July (DR) probably local release. Virginia Rail: *intro*; also Blue Mt L 25 Jun (TH) and L Chazy R 15 July good for this species. Com. Moorhen: *intro*; two Ti Marsh 25 Jun (TH) and four CL 27 Jul excellent in this region. Semipalmated Plover: arr Seventh L 13 Aug, where unexpected. Killdeer: *intro*; max 20 CL 27 Jul. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr KB 21 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Webb Royce Swamp 30 Jul. Upland Sandpiper: s Rouses Pt Jun-Jul and CL 27 Jul only reports. Ruddy Turnstone: *intro*. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr KB 20 Jul. Least Sandpiper: arr KB 20 Jul, max 25 CL 27 Jul. Baird's Sandpiper: juv AP 26 Aug (D&JC) an excellent find. Com. Snipe: max 20 CL 27 Jul. Bonaparte's Gull: *intro*; arr two Westport 25 Jun (TH), max 450 there 29 Aug (GC). Ring-billed Gull: *intro*. Herring Gull: *intro*; also nest with two eggs Indian L HAMI a nice inland find. Caspian Tern: *intro*. Com. Tern: Rouses Pt 17 Jul only report. Black Tern: *intro*; once again Hogansburg is the only site reported for this tern, with no recent reports from Ti Marsh, Tupper Marsh, or other Regional marshes where it formerly occurred.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: *intro*. Mourning Dove: *intro*. Black-billed Cuckoo: Moose RRA 25 Aug only report. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Westport 15 Jul (EJ), Elizabethtown 19-20 Jul only reports, in spite of caterpillar outbreaks. N. Saw-whet Owl: *intro*; also nesting Adirondack Visitor Center Jul, atop Mt Jo July, and ad with four owlets

Newcomb 23 Jul a wide showing. Com. Nighthawk: LA and Tupper L only reports. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: *intro*. Three-toed Woodpecker: FB only site. Black-backed Woodpecker: nest FB, also seen at North Meadow and Adirondack Loj.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: *intro*. E. Kingbird: *intro*. Tree Swallow: *intro*. Gray Jay: reported from FB, Helldiver Pd, Sabattis Bog. Blue Jay: *intro*. Am. Crow: *intro*. Com. Raven: max 23 Gabriels BBS 30 Jun. Boreal Chickadee: reported from FB, North Meadow, Wakely Mt. Tufted Titmouse: three Wickham Marsh 31 Jul (LS) only report. White-breasted Nuthatch: *intro*. **Carolina Wren**: Elizabethtown 3 Jul (GC), rare in summer. Winter Wren: *intro*. Marsh Wren: four Rouses Pt 21 Jul, three CL 27 Jul only reports. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Ti Marsh 25 Jun (TH) only report. Gray-cheeked Thrush: reported from Wakely Mt and Whiteface Mt. Hermit Thrush: *intro*; also nest with three eggs n CLIN 2 Aug fairly late (MG). Wood Thrush: *intro*. N. Mockingbird: Keeseville 12 Jul somewhat expected, but quite unusual at Cedar R. Cedar Waxwing: *intro*. European Starling: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: Elk L R. 25 Jun, noisy family of four attracted by hiss of insect spray can near Owls Head! **Blue-winged Warbler**: transient Onchiota FRAN 27 Aug (JB) quite extraordinary and the first record for this county. Cape May Warbler: *intro*; also Cascade Mt, Onchiota, Madawaska. Black-throated Blue Warbler: *intro*. Yellow-rumped Warbler: *intro*. Bay-breasted Warbler: Cascade Mt, Clear Pd 25 Jun; singing male and feeding young Elk L 25 Jun, Madawaska, male South Meadow 16-18 Jun a remarkably good showing for this boreal rarity. Blackpoll Warbler: *intro*, also reported from Bear Pd s of Raquette L. 22 Jun, FB 25 Jun. Black-and-white Warbler: singing L Colby 24 Aug (TM), late. Am. Redstart: *intro*. Ovenbird: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: four y Cedar R HAMI, rare there. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: *intro*; brought young to Tupper L sunflower feeder. Rufous-sided Towhee: *intro*. Chipping Sparrow: *intro*. Field Sparrow: *intro*. Lincoln's Sparrow: *intro*. Bobolink: *intro*; reedy shore of L Durant in late Jun an unusual location within the Adirondacks. Red-winged Blackbird: *intro*. Rusty Blackbird: Fiddler's L HAMI 6 Jul first seen in area by longtime summer resident and active observer (DM). N. Oriole: *intro*. House Finch: y at Indian Lake HAMI shows continued Adirondacks penetration. Red Crossbill: Paradox from 10 Jul, only report. White-winged Crossbill: flocks of 6-38 in spruce muskeg between Madawaska and McCollums FRAN all summer (TM); pair FB 25 Jul, 40 eating cherries Helldiver Pd HAMI 11 Aug with Black-backed Woodpecker (GL); three singing males Porter Mt ESSE 13 Aug (WL); and Wilson Pd HAMI 29 Aug (GL) shows a three county summer invasion. Evening Grosbeak: max 25-40 eating salt Cedar R.

ADDENDA: **Barrow's Goldeneye**: male Crown Pt, L Champlain, near W Bridgeport VT, 25 Mar 1988 (Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin). **Com. Black-headed Gull**: ad Basic pavalage Port Henry, L Champlain, near Tridison VT, 29 Oct 1988 (Walter Ellison, Richard Lavallee, Nancy Martin), first for ESSE, Adirondack P and Region. **Sabine's Gull**: juv Crown Pt Peninsula, L Champlain, near Crown Pt Bridge to DAR P VT, 29 Oct 1988 (Walter Ellison, Richard Lavallee, Nancy Martin; Vermont rare bird documentation forms provided to editor and NYSARC and on file with Vermont Institute of Natural Science), second ESSE record, Adirondack P and Region. Cedar Waxwing: juv with bright orange tail tip in flock of 60 Saranac L 8 Sep 1973 (RH), details forwarded to Kenneth C. Parkes at Carnegie Museum of Natural History; see also "Probable Dietary Basis of a Color Variant of the Cedar Waxwing," by Hudson and Brush in *J. Field Ornith.* Summer 1989.

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