

REGION 5 – ADIRONDACK

June and July were in general cold and there was heavy rainfall. The nesting success of passerine birds seems, from rather limited observation, to have been poor. Of four broods of Chipping Sparrows under observation, three were entirely lost and of the fourth brood only one out of four was reared to flight stage. August wet and cold. September about normal weather.

LOONS – DUCKS:

No southern Egrets reported in central Adirondacks this summer to my knowledge. Average to good broods of Blue-winged Teal, Black Ducks, Wood Ducks and Ring-neck Ducks. Nesting of this last species has been believed to be occurring in Saranac Lake area for several years but conclusive proof has been lacking until this summer. Two broods of young were seen in Jones Pond near Gabriels, N. Y. on July 29 by Greenleaf Chase.

White-winged Scoter – A male found dead in a field at Bloomingdale, N. Y. (5 miles north of Saranac Lake) on August 13. This is an unusual species for central Adirondacks and at a rather early date. They occur regularly on Lake Champlain about 30 miles to the east.

HAWKS – OWLS:

Ospreys nested on Little Clear Pond near Tupper Lake (Amstutz). A good season for Ruffed Grouse. Spruce Grouse (male) on October 8 near Paul Smith's (Meade). Sora and Virginia Rails reported from Tupper Lake during June and July by Dr. Kingsbury.

A flock of 50-60 Semipalmated Plover at Plattsburgh on June 2 (Provost). This offers additional evidence of the Champlain Valley as a minor fly-away.

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Olive-sided Flycatcher were distinctly down in numbers this year in central Adirondacks. Three Northern Raven reported September 24 near Harrisville, N. Y. (on western edge of Adirondacks) by Greenleaf Chase.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen in Lake Placid area June 26 - July 9 (Kemnitzers). This is second year in succession they have been present here in breeding season.

VIREOS – WARBLERS:

The writer was impressed this June and July by the much less frequent hearing of warbler songs in general in the central Adirondack woods. I have a distinct feeling the numbers were down this year.

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

Evening Grosbeaks, juvenile birds, were seen at several feeding stations in Saranac Lake village during July. Crossbills were present in area of Saranac Lake village and Paul Smith's until at least mid-June.

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REGION 6 – MOHAWK VALLEY

The summer was much cooler and wetter than usual; each of the four months showed a deficiency in average temperature (2 degrees in June and August), and each also showed an excess of rainfall; about an inch excess in June and September, and 2.6 in August. The maximum temperature reached was 90 on July 31, this was followed on August 6 by a record low of 49.

The great amount of rainfall and resulting high water caused considerably less nesting of water birds, and much fewer shore birds than usual.

LOONS — DUCKS:

American Egrets were not as common as last year, but were reported from mid-July to mid-September. An adult Little Blue Heron was seen at Saratoga Lake on August 18 (Yunick). A Least Bittern on September 16 was quite late.

Two Mute Swans, probably the same as those previously reported, were seen at various locations until June 8.

An attempt is being made to colonize Canada Geese locally; a planted pair raised four young at Watervliet Reservoir, observed June 8 (Van Vorst), and several flocks were seen in the same area through the summer.

HAWKS — OWLS:

Two Bald Eagles were seen; one June 10 at Berne swamp and one June 13 south of Castleton.

Virginia Rail was more in evidence than usual; several pairs and nests were reported throughout the summer.

A Sora was seen at Poentic Kill May 26 (Stone); also reported at this location was a very late Wilson's Snipe on June 9. A late Upland Plover was seen on September 16 on a scheduled field trip. Dowitcher, rare and irregular in this area, was seen on the same trip, along the Hudson to Catskill.

Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, uncommon but regular, were observed in about usual numbers.

Barn Owl, very rare here, was seen July 10 at Loudonville (French).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

An Olive-sided Flycatcher, rare, seen on May 26. Purple Martins were reported twice, one on June 1 and two on August 24.

A high spot of the summer was a Carolina Wren, reported at the same location from mid-June through July 17 (Stone) at Rexford.

A Winter Wren on June 5 at Meadowdale was very late.

Mockingbird observed at Delmar September 26, accidental, third local record.

A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers with three young was reported at the outlet of Lake Lonely (C. R. Robbins); there have been only two previous records of this species, both of single birds, and both in the last three years.

VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Philadelphia Vireo, rare, on September 16 at Niskayuna.

There were a few Golden-winged Warblers reported, and no further Blue-winged.

A Cape May Warbler on August 31 was early in the fall migration.

Cerulean Warbler seen at new local area, Wolf Hollow, on May 20.

Pine and Prairie Warblers are becoming increasingly common summer residents.

Yellow-breasted Chats reported on several occasions; four seen and calling at Rosendale Road on July 17 field trip.

A Bobolink reported on September 20 was quite late.

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