

Warblers — Sparrows:

A pair of Worm-eating warblers nested on the property of Mrs. York at Elmira this season, and were photographed by Dr. Allen. Blackburnian Warblers were feeding young near Breesport the first week in July, and a male was singing daily the early part of the summer near Urbana. Palm Warblers have been more common this fall than usual, and the writer has trapped and banded several. Mrs. Carter found four pairs of Mourning Warblers near Avoca. My first fall Rusty Blackbirds appeared on September 27. Indigo Buntings were rare here when I came to the area nearly 20 years ago, but now are common generally over the area, and are still here this first week in October. Mrs. F. B. Weller had an Evening Grosbeak in her yard on September 24, presumably at Watkins Glen. Mrs. Welles has had an interesting return on an Evening Grosbeak which she banded at Elmira on March 18, 1950, and was retrapped on April 13, 1952 at Marquette, Mich. First White-crowned Sparrows arrived at both Branchport and Elmira on September 28; first White-throats at Hammondsport on September 13, and first fall Juncos at Branchport on the 27th.

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REGION 3 — LAKE ONTARIO

This report includes records from June, July, August and September. It was a period featured by intense and constant heat and for the most part unusually dry weather. The Rochester Weather Bureau reports a record of 32 days on which the temperature reached ninety degrees or more!

While many swamps and wet areas away from the shoreline of Lake Ontario dried up completely, the lake itself receded only slowly and drained at or near record high levels all summer. Although local duck production undoubtedly suffered in many areas, the breeding season appeared about normal in other respects.

Shore birds were reported in good numbers considering the high water. Variety of species also seemed better than last year although not as good as two years ago.

The fall migration to date has brought a few very exceptional records and many unusually early dates particularly among water fowl and shore birds. The movement of smaller birds thus far, may also be a bit early though not especially unusual in other respects.

Loons — Ducks:

Both Common Loons and Horned Grebe were last reported in spring on June 10th and both reappeared this fall on Sept. 27th. One Whistling Swan, apparently uninjured, summered at Oak Orchard (Folker). A Green-winged Teal was reported in mid-summer at Rose's Marsh (Leubner), and a Lesser Scaup was seen at Shore Acres on July 13th (McNetts). Practically all the surface feeding ducks returned early this fall. Most of these records are from Montezuma marshes in late August. A Canvasback on Seneca Lake, Sept. 1st was likewise very early (Dolan-O'Hara).

Hawks — Owls:

Scattered reports have been received of non-resident hawks and allied species since late August, mostly from the areas adjoining Lake Ontario. These species include Duck Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, Osprey and Broad-winged Hawk. However again this year we were unable to find any evidence of a regular hawk flight through this area in the fall.

A Ruffed Grouse which had evidently strayed from its normal habitat was flushed from the small swamp at Stutson St. Bridge on Sept. 18 (Van Beurden).

Golden Plovers in numbers up to 22 were reported several times in contrast to last fall when only one was seen. Black-bellied Plovers were fairly numerous but no record of Piping Plover was obtained.

At times Ling Road was an excellent shore bird spot. Most numerous species were usually Yellow-legs, Killdeer and Semi-palmated Sandpipers, but a great variety of other species were also present.

Hudsonian Curlew was reported once or twice while Knots, Dowitchers, Stilt and Baird's Sandpipers were fairly common. Both Yellow-legs, Solitary and Least Sandpiper were all back by late June, well ahead of previous early fall dates.

Many reports were received of Forester's Tern which was first recorded in this area last fall. One or two birds were reported almost regularly in late August and September.

The Barn Owl at Weidner Road was regularly seen all summer but whether or not it nested is not known.

The Kingbird

Swifts — Shrikes:

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Carolina Wren probably nested in Chili Woods (Listman). An unusual number of reports of Cliff Swallow were received in late summer and early fall.

On Sept. 13th an Arkansas or Western Kingbird was observed near Sodus Bay. This is the first record for this area (Listman, H. Schaeffer, Van Beurden).

Vireos — Warblers:

Many warblers were back quite early — usually by late August. Blue-headed Vireo was not reported this fall. Prothonotary Warbler appears well established at both Montezuma and Oak Orchard, although it has not been reported breeding at any other locations in this area in recent years. Listman, Barry and VanBeurden report a possible Kirtland Warbler singing at Montezuma in early September. The observation was not entirely satisfactory but the repeated song as well as what was seen checked very closely with this species and not with any other. Perhaps close observation of fall Warblers will disclose the presence of this species in this area in future years during the fall migration.

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

Rusty Blackbirds were present in good numbers during late September. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Nelson's) was recorded at Manitou on Aug. 31 (Taylor). Juncos had returned by mid-September and Tree Sparrows by early October. White-throats and White-crowned Sparrows seemed especially numerous this fall as they had been this spring. None of the winter finches had made an appearance at this writing except the first Siskins which appeared in early October (Miller, Listman).

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REGION 4 — ST. LAWRENCE

The summer and early fall were warmer than normal. Nesting success appeared to be good, swallows being particularly numerous in late summer. A marked migration wave of warblers and other land birds was noted, Sept. 20-21.

Loons — Ducks:

Over 1500 ducks were banded at the Perch Lake Refuge prior to October 1 indicating a definite increase in the local duck population. These were mainly Blacks, Mallards and Wood Duck. Blue-winged Teal were noted frequently in September, pointing to a good breeding season for this species.

Hawks — Owls:

Evidence of hawk migration was first noted about Sept. 15. Duck Hawk was seen at Perch Lake on Sept. 15 (Wilson). Virginia Rail were noted in two localities in July giving evidence that this bird breeds in suitable localities in Northern New York. Sora-Sandy Pond Sept. 13 (Minor and Scheider). A Hudsonian Curlew was reported near Watertown on July 8 (Evens). The bird was seen at close range and is believed to have been injured. An unusual concentration of Wilson Snipe was found near Lowville on August 5, at least fifty birds being present in a small area. Willets at Sandy Pond, August 8 (Goodwin), Baird's Sandpiper, Aug. 17, Sept. 13, Sandy Pond. A Red-backed Sandpiper was observed near Potsdam on Sept. 26 (Allison), and a Pectoral Sandpiper near Lowville on Sept. 30 (Belknop). Two Forester's Tern at Sandy Pond Inlet Sept. 13, one Sept. 21 (Minor et al). One (possibly two) Arctic Terns at Sandy Pond Inlet Aug. 17 (Scheider and Hileman). Cuckoos are definitely increasing, mostly Black-billed.

Swifts — Shrikes:

As reported a year ago, the Red-headed Woodpecker is increasing as a summer resident. Two pairs nested near Lowville (Bowen), and birds have been seen in four localities in Jefferson Co. during July and August. Another was seen near Gouverneur in Sept.

Vireos — Warblers:

A male Yellow-breasted Chat was seen near Colton about June 15 (Daniels). The Blue-headed Vireo appears to be on the increase in the Adirondack foothills.

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