

HAWKS — OWLS: The Black-Crowned Night Herons did not nest where they were seen last year. Many nests of Great Blue Herons were reported on an island in the St. Lawrence River where they have nested other years, but no estimate was made of the number as compared with other seasons. John B. Belknap reports that in banding Herring and Ring-Billed Gulls at Little Galloo Island in Lake Ontario they found the young birds much smaller than usual for that time of the year. Nesting probably was delayed about two weeks due to cold weather in May. Solitary Sandpiper and Yellowlegs were observed near Lowville July 27. Sora and Virginia Rails, mostly young birds, were seen at Beaver Meadows near Watertown in late July. A report of several Upland Plovers comes from Lowville.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: John B. Belknap says that Migrant Shrikes appear to be more numerous than in recent years. It is believed that they are increasing as a breeding bird especially in St. Lawrence County. As usual a few Red-headed Woodpeckers have been seen. A Brown Thrasher (not cited as breeding by Eaton) was seen near Highmarket, Lewis County by Geoffrey Carlton on June 25.

WARBLERS — SPARROWS: Mourning Warblers were seen by Carlton in the Tug Hill section in late June. He also saw a Nashville Warbler (not listed for Lewis County by Eaton) in the fields north or northeast of Highmarket on June 25. The next day he picked up a dead male Evening Grosbeak on Route 3 at Childwold, St. Lawrence County. Towhees were seen near Watertown and Lowville. More than the usual number of Purple Finches were noted at Lowville.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK

GORDON M. MEADE

June in the Adirondack region was the coldest in five years. The average daily maximum at Saranac Lake was 60.4 degrees. There was considerable cold, rainy weather the first and last weeks. This period of rain, which began the last week of June, extended without interruption through July which was one of the wettest in many years. There were no more than seven days without some rainfall in contrast to the severe drought condition further south.

There has been no evidence of a southern egret incursion in this region this year. Reports continue to become more numerous each year of breeding of the Evening Grosbeak. Two records of unusual interest are Black Terns at Tupper Lake marshes on June 20th and Grasshopper Sparrow at Trudeau on June 24th and July 5th.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loon noted on several ponds this year where not previously seen the past several years. This may be evidence of increased breeding in Adirondacks. Pied-billed Grebe — Two families in Tupper Lake marshes (Agnes Amstutz). No records of Egrets so far this year. Numerous broods of Black and Wood Ducks along Au Sable River and its marshes (Thomas Lesperance). Ring-necked Ducks with family on June 20th near Tupper Lake (A. A. and Marguerite Kingsbury). Fewer American Mergansers this year than usual in Tupper Lake area (M. K.).

HAWKS — OWLS: Osprey — Old nest rebuilt on Horseshoe Pond near Fish Creek Campsite (M. K.) and single bird seen in Lower Saranac Lake about July 25th (G. M. Meade). No Ruffed Grouse broods at all seen in Keeseville area; wet season thought possibly to blame (T. L.). Duck Hawks — Nest site on island in Lake Champlain deserted but nesting at Willsboro Bay (T. L.). Ring-billed Gulls — Young banded on Four Brothers Island in Lake Champlain (T. L.). White Herring Gulls are seen throughout summer on many central Adirondack Lakes in small numbers, we are lacking evidence on the extent to which these do or do not represent breeding birds. A very interesting report of Black Tern (6) on June 20th in Tupper Lake marshes (A. A.). It will be interesting to see if they become established in central Adirondack area. Contrary to the report of the spring migration period, the Black-billed Cuckoo was very numerous during June and July in some areas, such as Tupper Lake (M. K.).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker near Tupper Lake on July 24th (M. K.). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is a regular summer resident in localized areas but is not general through the mountains — seen at Madawaska Pond area, June 25th (G. M. M.) and July 3rd (M. K.). Winter Wren — more numerous than usual in Tupper Lake (M. K.) and Saranac Lake (G. M. M.) areas. Wood Thrush — greater number than usual in Tupper Lake region (M. K.)

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Fewer warblers than most years (Leo Provost). Pine Warbler, 1 singing at Hague on Lake George (date unknown) (M. K.). Another report of Yellow-breasted Chat in Central Adirondacks at Tupper Lake on June 4th (P. W. Perron).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbirds, flocking at Tupper Lake since mid-July. Cowbird young being fed by Myrtle Warbler (A. A.). Indigo Bunting — very few in Tupper Lake - Saranac Lake area (M. K. and G. M. M.). Evening Grosbeak, reports of breeding more numerous this year than ever — male feeding young at Paul Smith's on July 3rd (M. K.); female feeding juvenal at Saranac Lake, July 5th (G. M. M.); 4 adults and several young at Tupper Lake, July 1st (P. W. P.). No evidence of breeding along Lake Champlain at Keeseville (T. L.). Pine Siskin, June 8th at Tupper Lake (A. A.). Both Crossbills all during period at Saranac Lake (G. M. M.). A notable new record is the Grasshopper Sparrow singing at Saranac Lake, June 24th and July 5th.

Trudeau, New York.

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

ALLEN H. BENTON

The almost missing summer of 1954 was characterized by near normal temperature and precipitation in June, with some rainfall on 19 of the 30 days. The ten days from the 17th to the 26th were well above normal temperatures, with a new record of 95° on the 22nd, and constituted about the only summer weather experienced in this area. July was cool and dry, with rain on 22 days at Albany, but in such small amounts that the total was only about one-half of normal quantities. Three new low-temperature records were set during this month.

LOONS — DUCKS: A few reports of Great-blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons indicate that local heronries are still in operation. American Egrets were around most of the summer, with eight reported from Vischer's Ponds on July 18. Mallards and Black Ducks nested successfully at Vischer's Ponds and broods of both were seen on July 18. American Mergansers were seen near Warrensburg on July 17 by Esly Hallenbeck.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Peregrine Falcon was seen on June 26 near South Berne by Sam Madison. A few shore-birds appeared in July, with reports from Vischer's Ponds on July 18 including a Ringed Plover, ten Killdeers, two Spotted Sandpipers, a Greater Yellowlegs, a Lesser Yellowlegs, and seven Least Sandpipers. Both Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos have been reported as breeding birds, with the latter apparently more common.

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES: Nighthawks nested in both Albany and Schenectady, and Whip-poor-wills spent the summer at Albany (A. Benton) and Warrensburg (E. Hallenbeck). Least Flycatchers appeared to some observers to be unusually common. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen near Warrensburg in mid-June by Esly Hallenbeck. They are known to nest along the edge of the Adirondacks in this vicinity. Local Cliff Swallow colonies were small, but the birds still occupy several barns near Altamont. Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen near Warrensburg in mid-June and mid-July by Esly Hallenbeck. Brown Thrashers nested in many localities. Young out of the nest were seen on July 7 at Loudonville by Mabel French. A single Mockingbird appeared at Burnt Hills on June 9, and was considerate enough to perch on the wires in front of the home of a bird student, Mrs. W. R. Foote.