

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

An exceptionally hot, dry summer was experienced in the north country. Temperatures ranged from a low of 48 degrees to a high of 98. Near drought conditions prevailed leaving small streams a series of pools and the larger ones mere trickles. Lake Champlain reached an all time low of about 12 feet below its normal spring level.

LOONS — GULLS: Common Loon, a few years ago very common in summer, now quite common throughout the length of Lake Champlain. A large colony of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls is increasing in numbers on Four Brothers Islands, Lake Champlain. Black-crowned Night Herons have increased from 27 nests to 29 nests as the Four Brothers colony. We have started to band these birds. Bitterns were not as common this summer probably due to low water in the marshes; Great Blue Heron quite common; Little Green Heron much more common than last year. These records indicate the tree nesting herons more successful in nesting this year than the ground nesters.

HAWKS — OWLS: Due to increased pond and lake margins the sandpipers were common. A Dowitcher was reported at Four Brothers Is. in late June. Greater Yellowlegs were first observed at Au Sable Pt. Aug. 15. Great-horned and Barred Owls were heard during the summer.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Phoebe and Crested Flycatchers were common at Keesville but Alders were seen only occasionally. Least was seen at Port Kent Aug. 13. Barn, Tree, Bank and Rough-winged Swallows were common. Tree swallows readily accepted small boxes placed on poles and situated about the garden. Each year for the past three years Cliff Swallows have become increasingly scarce until now, in the vicinity of Keesville, they are a rarity. Two pairs of Nighthawks have taken up residence in the village. Prior to this year the only known nesting birds in the vicinity were at Au Sable Forks. Whip-poor-wills were very common especially in the Port Kent and Clintonville areas. Purple Martins were seen only at the park in Plattsburg where a 'colony' house has been provided. They nested years ago at the Port Kent ferry house, until it was torn down. Catbirds, Veerys, Robins and Bluebirds were common at Keesville and abundant at Essex (Mason). Olive-backed and Grey-cheeked Thrushes were seen at Wickam's Marsh during July. Wood Thrushes appeared common at Essex (Mason).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: There were two pronounced waves of warblers in the spring. Most common during the summer were Redstart, Myrtle, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Yellow Warblers; very few Black and Whites were seen. A Prairie Warbler was seen along the Delaware and Hudson R. R. at Burnam's Siding and Nashville Warbler was seen just east of Keesville — both seen repeatedly.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Baltimore Orioles were unusually common this summer and many people have called to describe their particular nesting pair. It is hoped they will revisit us again in such great numbers next year. Scarlet Tanagers were reported by Mason as common in Essex. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were common at Keesville and Essex (Mason). Evening Grosbeaks were common here until the middle of July when they suddenly left. A Dickcissel was collected at Keesville on Aug. 13 for the State Teachers College at Plattsburg.

To all of you interested people who may use the above data I hope you can bear with me until my correspondents and I can in some small measure duplicate the concise but friendly reports submitted by Dr. Gordon Meade. The counties of Hamilton, Essex, Franklin and Clinton make up region 7. We would greatly appreciate any information on birds of this area.

Keesville, New York.

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

The months of June and July were quite dry in the Schenectady area. Precipitation was about two thirds of normal in June and less than half