

good. On Aug 14 fifty Redheads, aged five weeks, were stocked at Perch Lake, and the same number at Perch River and at Wilson Hill. The latter is a fish and game management area between Massena and Waddington which is being developed as a result of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power projects. Some 1870 acres have been flooded, and in the near future this may be a good place to find birds. Wood Ducks are said to be present in good numbers. The breeding season for ducks in Jefferson County has produced average or better than average results. Some ducks seemed to nest much later than others.

Hawks — Owls: Belknap reports a Turkey Vulture near Oxbow Jul 17. An adult Bald Eagle was seen by Gordon near Perch Lake Jun 15. The Osprey nest contained three young this year. The first Dowitcher appeared at the Perch River flats Jul 11. Other records of shorebirds include: Black-bellied Plover Jul 24 at Stony Point, Ruddy Turnstone Aug 14, and Pectoral Sandpiper Jul 24. Nichols reports that the Greater Yellowlegs returned early from Canada and that he found one at Perch River marsh on Jul 15. More Yellowlegs were seen there Aug 10. Semipalmated Sandpipers and Sanderling were at Stony Point Jul 24. Caspian Terns were seen near Clayton Jul 27 and at Stony Point on Lake Ontario Aug 14. A count of Mourning Doves indicated fewer birds of this species this year in Jefferson County. J. Blake reported Long-eared Owls near Clayton in July and August.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: Red-headed Woodpeckers nested in the same tree again this year at the Perch River Refuge and at least one immature bird was seen. Gordon found the Olive-sided Flycatcher Jul 20 near Highmarket, Lewis County. This is on the Tug Hill Plateau. He reports the Winter Wren at the same place Jul 12. On Jun 17 a pair of Bluebirds was found on the summit of Catamount Mountain, St. Lawrence County, at 1800 feet (Nichols). On Jul 15 a Tennessee Warbler was singing in Ogdensburg. Two Pine Warblers were seen near the village of Cranberry Lake Aug 9, and perhaps they bred locally (Nichols). Gordon reports seeing the Northern Waterthrush Aug 3 and Mourning Warbler Jul 12, both near Highmarket.

A pair of Orchard Orioles was found in June near Clayton (J. Blake). On Aug 9 Nichols found two singing male White-winged Crossbills, perching on top of dead trees in an open swampy area a mile southwest of Wanakena. One sang almost continuously for five minutes. Juncos were found as low as 1350 feet near Stark Reservoir on Jun 17 (Nichols). J. Blake observed a pair of White-throated Sparrows several times this summer near the St. Lawrence River and four miles above Clayton.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

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Our summer weather left much to be desired. In fact, the first real summer day was June 30. That was the first day on which the temperature rose to above 72 degrees. July was not much better, and only five days had temperatures above 80 degrees. The high reading for August, normally our hottest month, was 91 degrees. During that month there were 14 cloudy days, nine partly cloudy days, and eight clear days. August rainfall was 4.3 inches. A normal August has about 20 clear days, less than an inch of rainfall, and temperatures well into the high 80s and low 90s. Because of this radical change from the norm, it is justifiable to predict an early migration from this area.

There seemed to be few species in the usual birding haunts where they have been recorded in the past. New sites were selected and the more common summer species were eventually found, but in greatly reduced numbers. Warblers especially were scarce, as were vireos, flycatchers, tanagers, and grosbeaks. Common were sparrows and blackbirds. This complaint is

fairly consistent with conditions in the areas of my correspondents. Boreal species were found actually nesting in the central Adirondacks, when normally they would move farther north.

The Red-headed Woodpecker has evidently made a real invasion into this area, and reports come in which seem to indicate it is generally distributed throughout Essex, Clinton, and Franklin Counties.

Loons — Owls: There were no Loons reported as nesting in the area. Ducks, mostly the puddle variety, nested in less numbers this summer at Ausable Marsh and Wichams Marsh. Blacks, Wood Ducks, and a very few Blue-winged Teal were noted. The Ring-necked Duck nested at Chateaugay Lake, Butternut Pond, and the Upper Ausable Marsh. Common Mergansers nested in an old elm tree between Upper Jay and Jay, along the Ausable River. No other waterfowl were noted as nesters.

The Sparrow Hawk was a very common breeder. A Peregrine Falcon was noted at Ausable Chasm chasing pigeons (Sussdorf). The Barred Owl nested at Cumberland Head (Menustic) and at Ausable Chasm (Sussdorf). The Great Horned Owl nested at Ausable Chasm (Sussdorf) and once again at the village dump in Keeseville (Lesperance). A Barn Owl was recorded at Cumberland Head (Menustic).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Nighthawks now are very well established at Plattsburg, a pair nesting at the Champlain Valley Hospital there. The male spent the day on the banister of the fire escape, just outside the operating room. Chimney Swifts were common. A Red-headed Woodpecker was reported from the golf course at Tupper Lake (Amstutz), and there were a few other reports not yet authenticated. The Downy, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers seemed present in normal numbers.

Barn, Rough-winged, and Bank Swallows were common, and Cliff Swallows were again putting in an appearance after two slim years. Chickadees were common all summer at Tupper Lake (Amstutz). The Robin, Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Wood Thrush all were down in numbers and again were very quiet, even after a rain.

Vireos — Warblers: Vireos were generally scarce and secretive throughout the period; of this group the Solitary seemed to predominate.

The Redstart and Nashville Warbler were most common in the Tupper Lake area (Amstutz), and the Magnolia and Myrtle Warblers were most common in the Keeseville area. One had to hunt very hard to find the Black and White, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, and even on occasions the Yellow-throat. There was a report of the Mourning Warbler.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The only common species to not show a decrease in numbers were the blackbirds; all species nested in usual abundance. Pine Grosbeaks were in the Tupper Lake area on Aug 3, and White-winged Crossbills were there on Aug 9 (Amstutz). These species are normally not seen until late October.

I know of one Fox Sparrow report. Song, Chipping, Field, Savannah, and Grass-hopper Sparrows sang early and then were quiet along with the rest of the avian population. Juncos were more abundant in the Port Kent area than in recent years.

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

The summer months in the Capital district were generally pleasant, i. e. cool and dry. June temperatures at Schenectady averaged a good five degrees below normal, and July temperatures were exactly normal. Rainfall during July was a bit above the expected, but it was considerably below the average in June and a bit below the average during the first part of August.

Following the trend of the somewhat late and disappointing spring migration, some species of birds seemed to be scarcer than normal. On the