

Hawks — Owls: On Aug 5 Gordon saw four Turkey Vultures north of Antwerp. This is the first time more than one has been seen at once. An adult and an immature Bald Eagle were sighted at El Dorado on Jun 18. Two Osprey nests were discovered, one in Jefferson County and the other in St. Lawrence County.

Among the birds seen at El Dorado were: Semipalmated Plover, Jul 23; Ruddy Turnstone, Aug 10; Solitary Sandpiper, Aug 10; Greater Yellowlegs, Jul 10 and Aug 10; Knot, Jun 18 (early); Pectoral Sandpiper, Jul 23 and Aug 10; Least Sandpiper, Jul 23 and Aug 10; White-rumped Sandpiper, Aug 10; Dunlin and Dowitcher, Aug 10, Stilt Sandpiper, Aug 10, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Aug 10; Sanderling and Caspian Tern, Aug 10.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: Allen found Olive-sided Flycatchers and a Winter Wren near Edwards at the end of June. Gordon saw Bluebirds (a family with young) near Natural Bridge on Jun 28, and these seem to be the only ones seen in this region. Nests used this summer by Cliff Swallows were found near Rodman. Allen found Solitary, Yellow-throated, and Red-eyed Vireos near Edwards.

Allen spent Jun 26 to Jul 2 at a camp near Edwards in St. Lawrence County and found 15 kinds of warblers there. He heard 18 male Nashville Warblers singing in an area of 50 acres. He also saw Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Pine, Chestnut-sided, Mourning, and Canada Warblers as well as the Northern Waterthrush.

A Grasshopper Sparrow was seen a few times in June in a field near Watertown and probably nested there. White-throated Sparrows were reported to be increasing as breeding birds in parts of St. Lawrence County.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

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The last few weeks of the reporting period were filled with anomalies. Cold inclement days were followed by intense humid ones. The maximum temperature recorded for August was 92°, the minimum 42°. Total precipitation was 1.60 inches. Number of clear days was 23, number of cloudy days 6, and number of partly cloudy days 2. These figures were for the valley areas, but in the higher elevations frost and freezing conjured up everything but snow. Boreal species flocked early and became pretentious by their numbers in some areas. As shown, it is a period of annual drought, streams becoming low or dry completely. Lake Champlain shores and beaches reach successively further each year toward the middle of the lake. It is stated in some papers that the water table has dropped in excess of 18 feet since the turn of the century. Too many factors are involved to go into the matter here, but it is the intent of this writer to take the matter up in committee at a suitable time in the near future.

Our area is fortunate in this reporting period to have had several creditable observers vacationing in the region who have submitted their findings and brought to light some otherwise lost sightings. Among the first notes I received was the comprehensive list by Mrs. Dorothy W. McIlroy, covering the area near and at Pisico Lake, where she vacations from her home in Ithaca. Also received and equally well written were the notes by a group of the Buffalo Ornithological Society, headed by Mr. Richard C. Rosche and including also the following observers: Arthur Clark, Dale Rubach, Arthur Schaffner, and Edward L. Seeber.

After making a plea for more observers in the area, which is so remote and extensive, I am more than pleased to announce that I have a new correspondent in the person of Harriet L. Delafield, who was recommended by Dr. Gordon Meade. This brings the total of observers to five, indeed a small number for the area, to be covered. It is hoped that we shall have five more by the first of the year. At one time there were ten, well disbursed, that gave excellent coverage for the areas mentioned.

Loons — Ducks: The Common Loon was reported from Tupper Lake (Amstutz) and Saranac Lake (Delafield). Three adult and nine downy young Pied-billed Grebes were observed at Lake Alice (Delafield).

Great Blue Herons were noted at Pisico Lake (McIlroy) and in the Matawaska area (Buffalo Ornithological Society). These birds were very common near Keeseville, where a heronry has been established on Valcour Island. Green Herons were

discovered in a flourishing heronry near Sunmount (Delahanty). American Bitterns were noted at Bloomingdale Bog (BOS), and the species was also reported at Tupper Lake (Amstutz) and Durant Lake (Delehanty). The Black-crowned Night Heron was at West Chazy (Delafield), and many immatures were seen at Wichman's Marsh and AuSable Point Marsh.

Ring-necked Ducks were most common at Tupper Lake (Amstutz). Black Ducks and Wood Ducks were at Lake Alice, where the Conservation Department has a banding and trapping station and also some geese and ducks to attract or decoy wild birds (Delafield). Black and Wood Ducks were also in the Matawaska area (BOS). At AuSable and Wichman's Marshes there were good hatches of Black Ducks, Wood Ducks, and Mallards. Blue-winged Teal had fair to good hatches also. Common Mergansers were at Tupper Lake (Amstutz); the Hooded Merganser was at the Chubb RiRver Swamp in the Matawaska area (BOS), and the Red-breasted Merganser was at the St. Regis River camp (BOS).

Hawks — Owls: Among the hawk reports were the Red-shouldered at Fish Mountain and the Bald Eagle and Osprey near Mud Lake (McIlroy). The Red-shouldered Hawk and Sparrow Hawk were seen near Saranac Lake (Delafield), and the Goshawk and Broad-winged Hawk were at Matawaska (BOS).

Ruffed Grouse were reported in generally good numbers in all suitable areas. A Spruce Grouse was seen on Jul 4 by Rosche (BOS).

Common Snipe nested near River Marsh at Tupper Lake (Amstutz). Killdeer and Spotted Sandpipers were at Matawaska (BOS) and Lake Alice (Delafield). There were several species of shorebirds at AuSable Point, including Snipe, Least, Spotty, Solitary, and Yellowlegs. Snipe were present there in good numbers. There was one report not verified by me of a Baird's Sandpiper in the same area; I have seen and collected this species there in other seasons.

Bonaparte's, Herring, Ring-billed, and Great Black-backed Gulls were reported in the Port Kent and Keeseville-AuSable River areas. A Common Tern was reported from Port Kent (Delafield).

All areas reported increased numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos, in spite of the fact that this has not been a tent caterpillar year. Many cuckoos were killed by flying into windows or street lights.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The Nighthawks was a common species at Saranac Lake (Delafield). Chimney Swifts and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported from all areas.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, and Yellow-shafted Flicker were at Pisico Lake (McIlroy). The Sapsucker and Downy Woodpecker were at Saranac Lake (Delafield). Members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society reported the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (heard but not seen), Pileated, Hairy, and Downy at the Matawaska area.

The Least Flycatcher, Olive-sided, Crested, and Eastern Kingbird were normal in numbers at Tupper Lake (Amstutz). The Kingbird, Phoebe, Traill's Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Olivied-sided, and Eastern Wood Pewee were at Pisico Lake (McIlroy), while the Kingbird, Least, and Wood Pewee were at Saranac Lake (Delafield). The Crested was low in numbers at Matawaska, as was the Olive-sided, but the Phoebe and Taill's were in good numbers there. Two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen at Matawaska on Jul 2 and again on Jul 4 (BOS).

All swallows were apparently seen by the BOS members, with the Bank being the most common. Rough-wings nested at Saranac Lake, and Purple Martins were seen at W. Chazy (Delafield). Tree and Barn Swallows were at Pisico Lake (McIlroy). And here is a report I have been waiting to hear and which shows what adequate covering can do — Cliff Swallows, by the hundreds, three separate migrating flocks, spaced a few days apart, at Pisico Lake (McIlroy). I have remarked on the scarcity of this species since 1955 when I noted that they were decreasing although adequate nesting sites were still available. Last year they disappeared altogether. The year before that there was one occupied nest at Burnams' Lodge on Echo Lake at Willsboro; that was the last I have seen of them here.

Common Crows, Blue Jays, and Black-capped Chickadees were seen in all areas. A Canada Jay was observed on Jul 2 at Matawaska by Seeber (BOS). White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen at Pisico Lake (McIlroy) and Saranac Lake (Delafield), and the White-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper were observed

in the Matawaska area (BOS). Winter Wrens were well distributed in suitable areas. In the areas covered House Wrens were either spotty or absent. A Brown Thrasher was reported at St. Regis Falls on Jul 2 (BOS).

Catbirds, Swainson's Thrushes, and Wood Thrushes were all common at Pisico Lake (McIlroy). Many Swainson's were reported in the Tupper Lake area, but Bluebirds and Hermit Thrushes were scarce there (Amstutz). Catbirds, Robins, Wood Thrushes, Hermit Thrushes, and Veeries were all common at Saranac Lake (Delafield). The Swainson's Thrush was the commonest at Matawaska, where only two Bluebirds were seen, and at the 4,000-ft. level (and higher) on Whiteface Mountain Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported (BOS). Bluebirds were scarce in most of the area, but still a few were seen here and there. I seem to think that the abandoning of farms with their old orchards, where this species nested quite prevalently, does have something to do with the situation. We have only five old apple trees left of what was once a considerable orchard. One is still suited to Bluebird nesting, and occasionally these birds do nest there, but we have to drive off the Starlings to permit the Bluebirds to do so. Starlings are another factor that might augment the occasion of the Bluebird scarcity.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets were at Saranac Lake (Delafield) and Bloomingdale (BOS). Golden-crowned Kinglets were well distributed in the areas covered. The general distribution of Cedar Waxwings was good in all areas.

Vireos — Warblers: The Red-eyed, Philadelphia, Yellow-throated, and Warbling Vireos were observed at Tupper Lake (Amstutz), and the Yellow-throated, Red-eyed, Solitary, and Philadelphia were noted at Pisico Lake (McIlroy). Solitary and Red-eyed Vireos were reported from Saranac Lake (Delafield) and the Matawaska area (BOS).

A Mourning Warbler's nest with young was located at Tupper Lake (Amstutz). Warblers reported from Pisico Lake by McIlroy included Black and White, Tennessee, Nashville, Yellow, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Canada, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Yellowthroat, and Redstart. In the Matawaska area the boys from the BOS listed the following warblers: Black and White, Parula, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Bay-breasted, Nashville, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, and Canada. The Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, and Chestnut-sided Warbler were seen at Saranac Lake (Delafield). At Keeseville there was very little singing, and only the Blackburnian, Redstart, Yellow, and Black and White were seen.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Redwings, Grackles, and Cowbirds were in good general distribution in suitable areas. There was a good nesting of Baltimore Orioles at Tupper Lake (Amstutz), and adult males were seen harassing a Crow at Saranac Lake (Delafield). Bobolinks were reported at the latter locality (Delafield). At Keeseville numbers of these blackbird species were about the same as last year.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Scarlet Tanagers were at Tupper Lake, and one Pine Grosbeak was seen there (Amstutz). Two separate families of Evening Grosbeaks, with young, visited a feeder at Pisico Lake (McIlroy), and Evening Grosbeaks were also reported from Trudeau (BOS). Both Red and White-winged Crossbills were observed at Whitehouse (McIlroy).

Purple Finches, Goldfinches, Slate-colored Juncos, Chipping Sparrows, and Field Sparrows were fairly common at Pisico Lake (McIlroy). In the Saranac Lake region Purple Finches were down in numbers, while Goldfinches, Juncos, Vespers, Chippies, Fields, White-throats, and Songs were common (Delafield). In the Matawaska area White-throated Sparrows were low in numbers, but Savannah, Vesper, Chipping, Field, Swamp, and Song Sparrows were normal (BOS). From Jul 2 to 4 the Lincoln's Sparrow was observed at Matawaska, and the species was seen at Bloomingdale Bog on Jul 3. These are good observations by competent observers.

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

The summer by and large was cool and wet. Because of this weather many a vacation was unpleasant. Relatively few observations were reported, and so the summary below must be brief. In any event, there were no outstanding observations made during the period.