

## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

June was cool with little rain, and for three weeks in July the weather was much the same. In Watertown the rainfall on July 25-26 was 3.43 in. and the total for the month was 2.5 in. above normal. The July temperature averaged 3.5 degrees below normal. There were frequent and heavy rains in August. The Ranger School at Wanakena reported the heaviest rains in this region. The rainfall there was 15.89 in. for two months, July and August. This is the heaviest rainfall on their records which go back 42 years.

Some early crops like hay were very light, but plants grew well after the rains came late in July. The growth of late berries and wild fruits seems to be good. Birds should find plenty of food during the late summer and fall. Abbreviations — PRGMA — Perch Lake Game Management Area, WHGMA — Wilson Hill Game Management Area.

**Loons — Ducks:** Great Blue Heron: several seen at PRGMA and WHGMA. No Common Egrets or Cattle Egrets were reported. Canada Goose: about 125 young at WHGMA and some at PRGMA. Geese were not stocked at PRGMA this year after the experience of last year when the geese were so tame that they were easily killed at the start of the hunting season. American Widgeon: more young produced at WHGMA than in previous years. Shoveler: seen at WHGMA Jun 27. The nesting season for ducks in this region was average to good.

**Hawks — Owles:** On Aug 11 Belknap found 15 Turkey Vultures not far from Somerville which is on U.S. Route 11. This is the third year they have appeared in this area. Allen reports fewer hawks this summer, but believes that Cooper's Hawks and Red-shouldered Hawks nested near Edwards. Bald Eagle: reported at PRGMA.

El Dorado continues to be one of the best places to see the shore birds. At least ten parties visited El Dorado Jul 22 to Aug 15. Reports were received from Belknap (Gouverneur), Allen (Watertown), Rusk (Syracuse) and Starling (Rochester). Birds seen at El Dorado include: Semipalmated Plover: Jul 22, (first), 25 (most) Aug 12; Killdeer: 4-15; Black-bellied Plover: Aug 12; Ruddy Turnstone: 3 on Jul 22 and 5 in Aug; Common Snipe: Jul 27 and Aug 12; Whimbrel: Jul 25 (Allen, Belknap); Spotted Sandpiper: 12 to 20, Jul 22 and Aug 12; Solitary Sandpiper: not often seen there, but one on Aug 12; Greater Yellowlegs: two, Jul 27 and Aug 12; Lesser Yellowlegs: 10-16 Jul 22 to Aug 12; Pectoral Sandpiper: Jul 22 to Aug 12; White-rumped Sandpiper: two Aug 12 (Rusk); Least Sandpiper: 10-30 seen after Jul 22; Short-billed Dowitcher: 10 Jul 22; Stilt Sandpiper: one Jul 29 and Aug. 12; Semipalmated Sandpiper: 500 Jul 22-29, 150-250 in Aug; Sanderling: 12 Jul 22 and Aug 4.

Great Black-backed Gull: one Aug 12; Bonaparte's Gull: 20 Jul 22; Caspian Tern: 3 in Aug; Black Tern: six Jul 22. Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo: not reported except near Edwards in late Jun. Barred Owl: one found dead near Wanakena Jun 23.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Crested Flycatcher and Traill's Flycatcher: near Edwards and Whetstone Gulf in late Jun. Least Flycatcher: at Wheatstone Gulf. Horned Lark: at Whetstone Gulf in Jun. Bank Swallow: no heavy rains to damage their nests. Cliff Swallow: seen Jun 23 in the village of Star Lake trying to repair their nests which had been torn down the previous day by the owner of a building who did not want the birds nesting there. Tufted Titmouse: none. Winter Wren: at Edwards in Jun. Mockingbird: one seen and photographed near Lafargeville Jun 16 to Jul 8, but not seen after Jul 8. Swainson's Thrush: at Whetstone Gulf in Jun. Loggerhead Shrike: at Highmarket Jun 24.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Solitary Vireo: at Edwards and Whetstone Gulf in late Jun. Warbling Vireo: near Edwards. Warblers seen at Whetstone Gulf Jun 24 included Black-and-white, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Mourning and Canada Warblers. Warblers seen by Allen Jun 28 — Jul 1

near Edwards included Black-and-white, Nashville, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Mourning and Canada Warblers and Northern Waterthrush. In an area where Nashville Warblers were numerous two years ago he found only two pairs. The Chestnut-sided Warblers were numerous instead.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Cardinal: seen and heard singing in Thompson Park, Watertown in Jul. Evening Grosbeak: heard by a soldier at Camp Drum in late Jun. Slate-colored Junco: a nest with four eggs found near Wanakena Jun 23, also seen at Whetstone Gulf Jun 24, and one in our yard Aug 3. This was the first we have seen in Watertown in the summer. White-throated Sparrow: seems to have increased in numbers in St. Lawrence County.

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## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

The early part of the reporting period was cool and dry. There were no marked waves of any species in the Champlain Basin. From the second week of July to mid-August it was a time of almost continuous rain with much cool weather. Temperatures as low as 40 degrees were recorded. The latter part of August was more normal weatherwise and this trend continued until the end of the reporting period.

A super abundance of mast was produced. Aided by the prolonged rainfall and by the cooler weather which kept insects injurious to plant life to a minimum, Wild Plum, Raspberries, Elderberries, Grape and Hawthorne among the soft fruits and Acorn, Black Walnut, and Hazelnut among the hard fruits, had a good season. The conifers are loaded with cones in nearly all areas.

Parasitism by cowbirds was high as noted by those observers checking on nesting results. It was a peak year for Vireos and they could be found nearly everywhere; all members being represented except the White-eyed. Indigo Buntings also were more numerous than usual. Probably due to the unusually long extension of cool weather, some Boreal species nested locally, and reports of young Evening Grosbeaks and Brown-capped Chickadees and a summering Pine Grosbeak, make this assumption creditable.

The highlights of the reporting period are: another sighting of the CLAY-COLORED SPARROW this time by Richard Cohen of Jackson Heights, L. I.; the sighting and collecting of an albino JUNCO and the nesting of the CAPE MAY WARBLER, all these occurrences are detailed in the field-note section. A CATTLE EGRET at Crown Point is the first record for the region; the continued presence of BLACK TERNS at Tupper Lake, reported by Mrs. Delehanty whose notes regarding their arrival during the last reporting period were somehow omitted from the Kingbird; a singing Tufted Titmouse at Blue Mountain Lake; an increase of nesting of the BROWN THRASHER throughout the area; and the discovery of what almost amounts to a colony of BLUEBIRDS nesting in the confines of the Sullivan lumber mill property at Keesville.

Many thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Sheffield and to Mr. Cohen for their notes which were very comprehensive and much appreciated.

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**Loons — Ducks.** Great Blue Herons: common in all areas reporting. Appears to be increasing at Valcour Is (L. Champlain) where there were 40 active nests this summer. Active nest, Tupper L, Jun 1 (D). Green Heron: common throughout the area. Am. Bittern: lower in numbers at Sunmount (A). Least Bittern: one seen at a beaver dam along Rt 9 between Keeseville and Clintonville, Aug 29. Canada Geese: 75 wing-clipped at the so-called waterfowl refuge at Ausable Pt marsh. Black Duck: Hart L (FS), Valcour Is (L) and Sunmount (A). Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, and Wood Duck at Valcour Is (L). Ring-necked Duck at Sunmount (A). Hooded Merganser: with young at Raybrook (K). and Sunmount (A).