

late Jul. Purple Finch: nesting near Watertown and several seen with young. Grass-hopper Sparrow: PRGMA Jul 11. White-throated Sparrow heard east of Watertown in Jul. Swamp Sparrow: feeding young Aug Watertown Center.
173 Haley St., Watertown 13601

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

The weather picture for the nesting season is always hard to focus. Local weather men are too busy with tourist ventures to give summaries and, for some reason beyond my ken, the NY State Conservation Department does not keep weather records. As I was away from the area from June 15 to July 13 I have no complete record of my own.

The early drought is the only outstanding feature on which comments are made. This slowed down all growing and caused the blueberry crop to be almost non-existent. Our bird population, however, seems to have been much as usual, except along Piseco Lake shore where extensive spraying has interfered with ecology.

I am grateful to Frank Schetty for his reports from Elk Lake from June 26 thru Aug 10. Robert McKinney's observations were made between June 25 and July 1, Dorothy McIlroy's June 16-18 except for a few July records. Margaret Rusk and Scott Goodfellow had a fabulous north country day on July 17 with 68 species recorded between Paul Smiths and Santa Clara.

Hermit thrushes seem to have made a comeback but Wood Thrushes and Veeries were down. The Golden-winged Warbler at Jay was an unusual find, also the Carolina Wren at Essex and an Evening Grosbeak nest at Piseco.

Observers: AA—Agnes Amstutz; EA—Elizabeth Anderson; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; HD—Harriet Delafield; M & JD—Margaret and John Dye; JH—Joseph Hart; RH—Robert Hagar; GK—Grace Kains; JK—Joseph Keji; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; JM—James Meritt; MM—Marion Mason; RM—Robert McKinney; MR—Margaret Rusk; FS—Frank Schetty; DY—David Young.

Abbreviations: GMA—game management area; Mad—Madawaska; P—pond; RB—Ray Brook; SL—Saranac Lake; TL—Tupper Lake.

Addendum: In July issue contributor MK is Marguerite Kingsbury.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one June 18 L Colby (GK); pair Sabattis June 19 (MR); nest Elk L two eggs June 1, one young July 29, second set of eggs? (FS); two McKenzie P June 11, one ad and two juveniles Duck P July 28 one Little Long P Aug 8 (JH). Pied-billed Grebe: one TL June 10 (AA); one nest three young Elk L (FS). Great Blue Heron: one June 10 TL (AA); three July 17 (MR); one

Bloomingtondale July 26 (EA, HD); nine July 29 Ausable GMA (JH); one Aug 4, 5, 13 RB (JK). Green Heron: one Ausable R, L Placid (RM); one July 5 and Aug 11 RB (JK). Common Egret: Willsboro, early Aug (Mrs. Wick fide GC). Black-crowned Night Heron: one L Alice June 10 (JH). American Bittern: one June 10 TL (AA); pair frequented floating bog Elk L (FS); three young Litchfield Pk July 16 (RH); two Aug 4, 5, 11 RB (JK).

Canada Goose: probably returns of birds put out by Conservation Dept. family of five TL June 12 (AA); four, Mad, June 18 (MR). Black Duck: small numbers reported from all areas. Blue-winged Teal: three young with one female Stony Creek P July 4 (AA). Wood Duck: one June 12 TL (AA); six males, one nest, three young Elk L (FS); nests Barnum P, Saranac R and L Flower, broods July 10 (RH); Jones P July 23 (DY). Ring-necked Duck: three Sabattis June 19 (MR); female with five young Barnum P July 6, many broods up to ten young Jones P and Saranac R (RH). Common Goldeneye: two females July 14 Litchfield Pk, female with four young July 15 TL (RH). Hooded Merganser: one Sabattis June 19 (MR); one nest two young Elk L (FS); adults and three young Litchfield Pk July 16 (RH); four July 23 RB (JK). Common Merganser: female with 20 young TL July 4 (AA); three broods, seven, eight and four young, Elk L (FS); breeding Piseco L (DM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: Elk L—Mrs R Sheffield writes enthusiastically of June 20, "One beautiful adult dive bombed me repeatedly screaming like mad all the time." The nest and pair were observed June 27 but, disappointingly, birds left area June 30 (FS); nest with three young June 19 Jay (GC, RH). Cooper's Hawk: RM reported one on Franklin Falls Rd not far from Whiteface Mt. tollgate, "The bird flew in front of my car, in the same direction I was traveling for 5 to 10 seconds so I could observe it very well." Red-tailed Hawk: two nests, adults and imm "widely different spots" Elk L (FS). Broad-winged Hawk: three Sabattis, one Debar June 19, two Boreas R July 25 (MR); three, one ad carrying 3 ft garter snake Elk L (FS); one thru period RB (JK); one Debar July 28, three Raquette R truck trail Aug 2 (JH); one Piseco, one Fawn L (DM). Marsh Hawk: female Aug 2 SL (EA, HD); all summer L Clear outlet (DY). Osprey: one June 3 RB (JK); one on nest South P June 1 (M & JD); two at nest Quebec Brook at St Regis R July 16 (JH). Sparrow Hawk: four July 17 (MR); two ad, three young Elk L (FS); one Wilmington (RM); one SL July 26 (HD); one RB Aug 5 (JK).

Ruffed Grouse: three, Mad, July 28 (JM); adults and young Elk L (FS); family of five July 31 and Aug 12 SL (GK); ten eggs hatched June RB (JK); one Aug 2 Raquette R truck trail (JH). Killdeer: one Cadyville June 4 (EA, HD). American Woodcock: one ad Elk L (FS). Common Snipe: June 12 TL (AA); one July 17 (MR). Spotted Sandpiper: one with four young Elk L (FS); two June 17 RB (JK); Piseco L (DM). Herring Gull: nesting Litchfield Pk, young July 15 (RH); occasional elsewhere. Ring-billed Gull: three with nest Sabattis June 19, present near Keeseville July 24 and 25 (MR). Black Tern: two June 12 (AA), eight June 14 (GC), three June 25 (RM), all TL. Mourning Dove: one Normans Ridge Aug 7 (HD). Screech Owl: calling Elk L (FS). Great-Horned Owl: calling several nights Elk L (Sheffields, FS). Barred Owl: pair June 10 Ausable Marsh (JH); calling RB June 21 (JK); calling Barnum P, Gabriels and Long L (DY); one seen Piseco (DM).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one June 5 TL (AA); two seen July 22 SL (GK); five Upper Jay between June 25 and July 1 (RM). Common Nighthawk: SL July (GK) and Aug (HD). Chimney Swift: several to common all areas, over 40 Aug 9 RB (JK). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: good numbers all areas. Belted Kingfisher: June 12 TL (AA); one, Mad, June 18, one Boreas R July

25 (MR); pair with young Elk L (FS); June 15 and several times in July SL (HD, GK); three July 15 RB (JK). Yellow-shafted Flicker: good numbers all areas. Pileated Woodpecker: one Sabattis June 19 (MR); one Elk L June 18 (Sheffields); one Goldsmiths June 24 (JH). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: much more common than past few years in most areas; JK reports three nests at RB, "Also many sap bars on various trees. Sometimes at these bars are nuthatches, Downy Woodpecker, hummingbird, red squirrels and butterflies;" HD noted a hummingbird at sapsucker holes near Ampersand Bay. Hairy Woodpecker: normal all areas. Downy Woodpecker: normal; on increase since logging Elk L (FS). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: female feeding fledged young Elk L (FS); one Chubb R July 26 (GC) and 27 (HD); one RB Aug 4 (JK); two Boreas R June 15 (JH).

Eastern Kingbird: good numbers all areas. Great Crested Flycatcher: Piseco (DM); one Sabattis June 19, two July 17, one Ausable Forks July 24 (MR); one July 7 SL (GK); one Aug 11 RB (JK). Eastern Phoebe: normal except for a high count of 12 near Keeseville July 24 (MR). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Sabattis June 19, one July 17 (MR); five, trail to Sunrise Mt. near Elk L (FS); Mad and Chubb R (RM); nests Keene, Litchfield Pk, SL (RH) and Gabriels (DY). Traill's Flycatcher: one or two reported from all areas. Least Flycatcher: all areas except Piseco; abundant Elk L (FS). Eastern Wood Pewee: normal. Olive-sided Flycatcher: normal, except down SL (HD); most common of all flycatchers Elk L (FS). Tree Swallow: common. Bank Swallow: colonies all areas. Rough-winged Swallow: two Piseco July 18 (DM); one RB June 14 (JK). Barn Swallow: common. Cliff Swallow: colonies Sabattis railroad station (MR), SL, Franklin Falls and Normans Ridge (HD), RB (JK); several on wires Piseco July 18 (DM). Purple Martin: July 24 Ausable Forks.

Gray Jay: one ad with one full-grown young Chubb R July 6 (GC); one, Mad and one Sabattis June 19, six July 17 (MR); June 10 Hopkinton, July 15 Litchfield Pk, July 17 five—three young—Long L (RH). Blue Jay: common. Common Crow: normal. Black-capped Chickadee: normal except "perhaps down" Piseco (DM). Boreal Chickadee: late June, Mad (RM); July 28 Mad (JM); one July 17 (MR); three small flocks, less than '64 Elk L (FS); small numbers June 22 Keene and July 16 Litchfield Pk (RH). White-breasted Nuthatch: down Piseco (DM); up Elk L (FS); normal elsewhere. Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers. Brown Creeper: one Debar June 19, one July 17 (MR); one nest found, five others probable Elk L (FS); one seen and heard June 5 thru Aug 7 RB (JK).

House Wren: scarce, only 5 reports. Winter Wren: two Simon P Rd, TL June 12 (AA); one Sabattis June 19, one Debar June 19, six July 17, two Boreas R July 25 (MR); 22 singing males on trails around Elk L (FS); one singing July 26 Chubb R (HD); several, Piseco area (DM). Carolina Wren: one Aug 13 Essex—Mrs. Mason had this species in 1952 near her Essex house. This year she heard it frequently before she saw it. She says "There is no doubt in my mind but that it is a Carolina Wren." Long-billed Marsh Wren: Jones P July 23 (RH, DY). Catbird: a few reported all areas; young out of nest July 13 RB (JK).

Brown Thrasher: one, Mad, June 18, one Ausable Forks July 24 (MR); one SL June 11, one Keeseville to Port Kent June 15 (HD); July 14 thru Aug 13 RB (JK). Robin: good nesting season all areas. Wood Thrush: seemed a little down from '64; two nests with young Elk L (FS); small numbers other areas. Hermit Thrush: decidedly up from last three years; "many Adirondack Loj in June" (AA); "very abundant" Elk L (FS); and so on, though DM had none near Piseco while she was there. Swainson's Thrush: eleven singing males Elk L (FS); small numbers Mad, Debar, Keeseville and Boreas R, four July 17 (MR); more Piseco (DM). Gray-cheeked Thrush: three 1,000 feet below the summit of Whiteface singing at dusk (RM); present on top of Sunrise Mt. (FS). Veery: "very scarce" Piseco (DM);

down in numbers other areas also; ten July 17 (MR). Eastern Bluebird: one July 17, three Keeseville July 25 (MR); nesting RB (JK); one of five young survived June 15 brood, second brood hatched July 13 Vermontville (Tyler fide HD); three imm July 16 to Aug 17 SL (HD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: "families observed along trails" Elk L (FS); eight July 17 (MR); one Chubb R July 27 (HD); nesting Gabriels (DY); one RB Aug 7 (JK). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one, Mad, June 18, one Sabattis June 19 (MR); singing male Mad (RM). Cedar Waxwing: normal. Starling: common all areas.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: one male "in same place as previous years" Elk L (FS). Solitary Vireo: good numbers. Red-eyed Vireo: fewer reports than usual except "extremely common" Elk L (FS). Black-and-white Warbler: small numbers all areas. Golden-winged Warbler: one June 5 Jay "probably late migrant" (RH). Nashville Warbler: June 10 & 12 TL (AA); three Sabattis June 19, five July 17 (MR); three carrying food at separate sites Elk L (FS). Parula Warbler: a few all areas. Yellow Warbler: TL (AA); SL (HD); Piseco (DM). Magnolia Warbler: seems up all areas except Piseco. Black-throated Blue Warbler: numerous Elk L (FS); four July 17 (MR); Fawn L trail and Piseco (DM). Myrtle Warbler: most common warbler at Elk L (FS); first young seen July 13 RB (JK); 20 July 17 (MR); scarce Piseco (DM). Black-throated Green Warbler: small numbers all areas. Blackburnian Warbler: numerous Elk L (FS); one male, Mad, July 24 (MR); Piseco (DM); thru Aug 9 RB (JK). Chestnut-sided Warbler: good numbers all areas; 12 July 17 (MR). Bay-breasted Warbler: two ad males seen by Scott Goodfellow but not, unfortunately by MR on their great July 17. Blackpoll Warbler: common June Elk L (Sheffields); five singing males Elk L (FS). Ovenbird: eleven singing males Elk L (FS); small numbers other areas. Northern Waterthrush: one June 10 and 12 TL (AA); one, no young seen, Elk L (FS); one July 29 RB (JK); one July 17 (MR); singing Piseco (DM); one June 10 SL (HD). Mourning Warbler: 18 Elk L (FS); one July 17 (MR); one June 6 to 26 RB (JK); Piseco (DM). Yellowthroat: common all areas; 25 July 17 (MR). Canada Warbler: nine singing males Elk L (FS); small numbers other areas; six July 17 (MR). American Redstart: small numbers all areas.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: one until June 22 SL (GK); June 11 and 19 RB (JK). Eastern Meadowlark: few SL (HD, GK); one July 17 (MR). Redwinged Blackbird: 17 males Elk L (FS); common RB (JK) and SL (HD); many Piseco (DM); but none reported by MR July 17. Baltimore Oriole: one Elizabethtown June 15 (Sheffields); one Port Kent June 15 (EA, HD); one female thru period Ray B (JK); one July 16 SL (GK); three pairs with young Elk L (FS) scarce. Rusty Blackbird: several in swampy outlet of Fawn L (DM); two Chubb R (RM); one, Mad, June 18 (MR); one family Elk L (FS). Common Grackle: numerous. Brown-headed Cowbird: common. Scarlet Tanager: two June 7 Jay (GK); one Debar June 19, three July 17, one Keeseville July 25 (MR); June 1 thru Aug 9 RB (JK); nineteen singing males Elk L (FS); imm Aug 4, ad male Aug 9 SL (HD); Piseco (DM). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: good numbers all areas. Indigo Bunting: one singing male Elk L (FS); one RB (JK); one Blue Ridge (RM); one Bloomingdale July 13 (HD); one Keeseville July 24 (MR). Evening Grosbeak: this species no longer a rare nesting bird in the northern and/or higher Adirondacks; nest 40 feet up in white pine over edge of road with pair feeding one young June 17 Piseco (DM). Purple Finch: good numbers all areas. Pine Siskin: small flocks Elk L (FS); nine July 26 RB (JK). American Goldfinch: eight pairs, no young seen Elk L (FS); few RB (JK); several SL (EA, HD); only one July 17 (MR); common Piseco (DM). Red Crossbill: FS particularly notes that none were seen at Elk L; two to four June 3 to July 12, 18 July 23 RB (JK). Rufous-sided Towhee: Spy L

"not remembered previous years" (DM); one Port Kent June 15 (EA, HD); two reported from Wilmington (RM); one female Keeseville July 25 (MR). Savannah Sparrow: nests SL (HD) and RB (JK); one July 17 (MR). Vesper Sparrow: six July 17 (MR.) only report for period. Slate-colored Junco: happily "too many to keep track of" Elk L (FS); otherwise very small numbers in all areas. Chipping Sparrow: good numbers all areas. Field Sparrow: one June 10 SL (HD); one Sabattis June 19 one July 17 (MR); Spy L (DM). White-throated Sparrow: abundant all areas. Lincoln's Sparrow: two, Mad, June 18, one July 17 (MR); five, Mad (RM); one, Mad July 28 (JM); nesting RB (JK); Barnum P July 6 (DY). Swamp Sparrow: small numbers all areas. Song Sparrow: good numbers all areas.

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

June was another dry month, with precipitation totalling 1.91 in., 1.34 in. below average. Despite a cool period from June 1-5, temperatures averaged 66.9°, only 0.4° below normal. Temperatures in July averaged 68.9°, 3.2° below normal. The precipitation, 3.52 in., was essentially normal, and afforded some relief to the drought-stricken Region. Precipitation averaged greater than usual in August.

For most observers, the season was a disappointing one. Most warblers seemed to be nesting in reduced numbers throughout the Region. Nesting marsh birds continued their decline, with no reports of nesting Marsh Hawks, Pied-billed Grebes, Gallinules, Least Bitterns or Coot, and only one or possibly two of Virginia Rail and Sora. Herons were also quite uncommon, with only four American Bitterns and no night herons reported. In addition, the nesting birds of prey continued to be scarce, with very few reports of owls and only a scattering of records of hawks other than the Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks. After two good years, the shorebird flight this summer was quite disappointing—probably due to a combination of late-summer rain and an accumulation of grass in some long-dry sections of local reservoirs.

On the other hand, a number of unusual species were reported. This list is prefaced by the Scarlet Ibis (although possibly an escaped bird). Mockingbirds are becoming much more widespread in the Region, with two local nestings reported this year and many additional records. Other unusual species included Bald Eagle, Sanderling, Barn Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Boreal Chickadee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cape May Warbler and Cerulean Warbler.