

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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June weather in the first three weeks alternated between warm and cool, temperature usually changing every 3rd or 4th day with some rainy interludes. A hot, dry spell began the last week of June and lasted thru most of the first three weeks of July. Rainfall in Watertown in July was a scanty 1.37 inches, over two inches below normal, temperature averaged higher than usual with 92 degrees recorded July 3 and 4. Rainfall in the region was highly varied and local; a real drought existed by the time August rains came, especially Aug. 2, 9, 12, 14, with lower temperatures.

A poor, late spring migration had no perceptible effect on most local land breeding populations and birding was as rewarding for the ardent bird enthusiast this summer as it is most years. One (Allen) deserves mention for the large number (51) of nests he studied, 16 in back of his house.

Localities: BCW—Brookside Cemetery, Watertown; ED—ElDorado; Jeff Co—Jefferson County; PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area; St Law Co—St. Lawrence County; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; Wash Pk—Washington Park; Wat—Watertown.

Observers: AA—Arthur Allen; JB—John Belknap; FC—Frank Clinch; DG—David Gordon; WM—William Moseltine; FS—Fritz Scheider; RW—Robert Walker.

LOONS—DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: Ironsides Is heronry 150 nests with est. 80–85 active, average two young per nest Jun 25 (RW); PRGMA heronry number of nests increased from 21 in spring to 37 Jun 28 with young standing up in most, not more than 2 or 3 seemed unoccupied (DG). Green Heron: common on most bodies of water. Black-crowned Night Heron: one adult PRGMA Jul 27 and Aug 15 (DG). American Bittern: PRGMA Jun 18 and High-market, THP Aug 14 (DG). Canada Goose: about ten nests produced about 40 young at PRGMA (WM). Low water in the marsh and swamp has affected the numbers of ducks adversely and some banded early in Aug PRGMA were in poor condition (WM). Approx 800 ducks banded Aug 1–15 PRGMA, estimated breakdown: 325 Mallards, 120 Blacks, one Pintail, six Blue-winged Teal, 350 Wood Ducks. Mallards and Blacks are down, Blue-winged Teal are the same (numerous) and there were more adult Wood Ducks this year. Green-winged Teal were gone at PRGMA after Jul 15 (WM); one ED Jul 21 (FS), both species teal numerous ED Aug 4 and 12 (DG). A Pintail and four Baldpate, ED Jul 7 (FS), unusual date. Hooded Merganser: female BCW Jul 30 (DG); it has been reported nesting in s. Jeff Co.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: seven sightings from Jun 14 to Aug 13 mostly n. Jeff Co and St Law Co (AA, JB, RW). Red-tailed Hawk: thru period. Rough-legged Hawk: dark phase near Wat Jul 9 (Meritt)—see field note. BALD EAGLE: adult Perch L first week Jul, two adults may have been seen about the same time (WM); two adults PRGMA Aug 10 (Gaskin). Marsh Hawk: thru period. Osprey: two young on nest Yellow L, St Law Co Jul 25 (AA); one still there Aug 6 (JB); nest noted near Plessis, Jeff Co early in season (WM)—no details. Sparrow Hawk: common thru period. Virginia Rail: adult Jun 19 and four imm Aug 8 near Wat (DG). Sora: one adult and three imm Aug 8, one adult Aug 15 near Wat (DG).

Common Gallinule: numerous PRGMA. Am. Coot: seemed down. Semipalmated Plover: first week Jul thru period ED. Killdeer: numerous. Ruddy Turnstone: last week Jul thru period large numbers ED. Am. Woodcock: one Aug 4, ED, (FS); one caught in mist net Aug 14 ED (Lerch). Common Snipe: ED and PRGMA increase in numbers in Aug. Upland Plover: one near PRGMA Jun 18, one near Burrville Jul 31 and Aug 2 (DG); one near Wat Aug 13 (FC). Spotted Sandpiper: common at most bodies of water. Solitary Sandpiper: three Jul 30 BCW (DG). Greater Yellowlegs: ED Aug 4 (AA). Lesser Yellowlegs: one Jun 29 PRGMA (DG)—unusual date; very common ED and PRGMA late Jul thru period. Pectoral Sandpiper: common late Jul thru period. White-rumped Sandpiper: one Jul 29 ED (DG); Aug 4 ED (AA, FS). Baird's Sandpiper: one adult, Jul 31 ED (FS, Peakall, Smith). Least Sandpiper: common. Dunlin: late one, ED Jun 4 (DG). Short-billed Dowitcher: three Jul 7, 24 & 29 (JB, DG, FS), singles Jul 21, 24 (FS), several Aug 12, 14 (JB, DG, RW), all ED, all spring plumage. Stilt Sandpiper: one spring plumage Jul 24 (JB); others Jul 21, 24, 29, 31, Aug 4, 12, 14 all ED (AA, JB, DG, FS). Semipalmated Sandpiper: abundant late Jul-Aug; max 1100, an unusually high count, Aug 4 ED (FS). Sanderling: first 45, Jul 21, ED (FS). WILSON'S PHALAROPE: one, Aug 12, ED (DG). Northern Phalarope: one adult female Jul 21 ED (FS); one Aug 12 (DG) and two Aug 14, ED (JB, RW).

Bonaparte's Gull: one Jul 29, early date;—four Aug 4, and three Aug 12 (one spring plumage) ED (AA, DG). Caspian Tern: 16 including 5 imm Aug 12 ED. Black-billed Cuckoo: nest with three eggs Jun 3 (AA); reported more common Camp Drum this year; also seem common in area s. of Wat in Towns of Rodman and Lorraine.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Ruby-throated Hummingbird: two young in nest Jul 27 Wat. Red-headed Woodpecker: several reports at or near PRGMA thru period including one imm Jul 27; also near Oxbow, Clayton, and elsewhere n. Jeff Co. Eastern Kingbird: seemed numerous thruout Jeff Co and top of THP by mid-Aug Traill's Flycatcher: nest three young Wat (AA); common, Town of Lorraine. Horned Lark: often overlooked as summer resident—seen Jun 4 near Stony Cr, Jul 2 near Wat (DG). Eastern Bluebird: none at Black River or Adams Center where it nested 1965; two pair nested near Brownville (Biggers); pair seen near Harrisville; pair near Pitcairn; male several times PRGMA (AA); Jeff Co population has not recovered since decline 1960. Loggerhead Shrike: Jun 18 and later PRGMA. Starling: flocking in huge flocks with icterids Aug.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow Warbler: five simultaneous nestings in one field carefully observed, only three successful (AA). Cerulean Warbler: Jun 18 PRGMA (DG); three different singing males in PRGMA vicinity (AA). Northern Waterthrush: nest with four large young near S Edwards, St Law Co Jun 15 (AA); near Wash Pk Aug (DG). Louisiana Waterthrush: Aug 1 Wash Pk (DG). Mourning Warbler: Jul 3 Wash Pk (DG)—new station. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Jun 18 Wellesley Is (Chamberlain fide Brown); there are no verified reports for this species in Region.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle: very large mixed flocks observed early Aug. Brown-headed Cowbird: reports of eggs in nests of Field Sparrow and Hermit Thrush (AA); baby cowbirds seen begging from Chipping Sparrow and Red-eyed Vireo foster parents (DG). Cardinal: pair brought young to feeders Aug 4 (AA). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: seemed numerous this year (AA). Indigo Bunting: several seen. Purple Finch: near Wash Pk Jul 3; near Rodman Aug (DG). Grasshopper Sparrow: near Wat Aug 6 (RW). White-throated Sparrow: two ED Jul 7 (FS).

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