

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

This summer seemed more humid and rainy than average. Three rainstorms could be classed as "gully washers" and these together with frequent rains throughout the period made a wet nesting season.

Pesticides seem to be driving many of our birds such as Whip-poor-wills and Ospreys toward extinction. Francis Singer has been conducting a study of Osprey nests in northern New York. He states that of 16 active nests 4 were successful. Reasons for low success were not entirely due to failure of eggs to hatch because of pesticide content, but this appears to be the major cause. Mr. Singer's Raven re-reports are encouraging. We may have a former resident return to build up a significant population.

Baltimore Orioles seemed exceptionally scarce. Wood Thrush numbers seemed very high. Boreal Chickadees were reported from some new low elevation areas and in greater numbers than last year. Hummingbirds and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks seemed to be up in numbers from last summer and unusually common.

The Saw-whet Owl is notable. They are probably more common in the mountains than is thought, but there are too many evergreens to attempt a search, so, except for the rare occasions when one is heard calling, they are seldom noted.

Observers: GC—Geoffrey Carleton; GTC—Greenleaf T. Chase; DC—Dorothy Crumb; GOS—Genesee Ornithological Society; FL—Ferdinand LaFrance; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; TM—Ted Mack; RM—Robert McKinney; JP—James Patterson; MR—Margaret Rusk; WR—William Rutherford; FS—Fritz Scheider; RMS—Robert and Mary Sheffield; FJS—Francis J. Singer.

Abbreviations: BTP—Brown's Tract Ponds; Ind L—Indian Lake; L—Lake; LL—Long Lake; LSL, MSL, USL—Lower, Middle, Upper Saranac Lake; Mad—Mada-waska; PS—Paul Smiths; P—Pond; RL—Raquette Lake; RR—Raquette River; Sab—Sabattis Breeding Bird Survey, Margaret Rusk; Spec—Speculator Breeding Bird Survey, Fritz Scheider; TL—Tupper Lake; WP—Weller Pond.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: several Jun 14–22 LL, MSL, WP (RMS); one young raised St Reg L (WR); 1 Jun 26 Black P (GOS); 2 Jun 27 Sab (MR). Pied-billed Grebe: unreported. Great Blue Heron: 4 Jun 22 WP (RMS); 4 Jun 26 Mad (GOS). Green Heron: 1 Jul 3 Ind L (RM). American Bittern: 2 Jun 6 Spec (FS); several Jun 14 RR (RMS); 2 Jun 26 Mad (GOS). Canada Goose: 2 Jun 19 TL (RMS). BRANT: 31 Jun 6 Spec (FS). Black Duck: max 8 Jun 6 Spec (FS). Wood Duck: 1 Jun 6 Spec (FS); 1 Jul 3 Abanake L (RM); 1 Jul 25 Vanderwacker Stillwater (TM). Ring-necked Duck: 1 Jun 25 Saranac R (RMS). Hooded Merganser: single birds seen throughout area. Common Merganser: 1 Jun 27 passed summit of Whiteface Mtn (GOS); max 17 Jul Goodnow Flow (TM); 8 Aug Piseco L (DM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: active nest with 2 young Jun Low's Estate (FJS); 1 Jun 18 Mad (DC et al); 4 Jun 25–27 PS area (GOS); one defending nest Jul Round Mtn (GC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Jun 25 Franklin Falls (RM). Cooper's Hawk: 1 Jun 27 Adirondack Loj (GOS). Red-tailed Hawk: max 2 Jun 26 Mad (GOS). Broad-winged Hawk: max 2 Jun 28 Chubb R (GOS); single birds seen throughout area. BALD EAGLE: 2 pair Jul (FJS). GOLDEN EAGLE: 2 May & Jun (Gary Lee); 2 Jun 12 (Craig Ferris); 1 Jul 10 (WR). Osprey: several Jun 26–28 USL (GOS); 1 Jun 26 Saranac Inn (GOS). PEREGRINE FALCON: 1 Jun 17 Paradox L (FJS). Sparrow Hawk: 2 Jun 25–28 Wilmington area (RM); 1 Jun 26 Brandon Rd PS (GOS); 1 Jul 22 Brandon (JP, TM). Spruce Grouse: 3 Jun 18

Mad (DC et al); 1 Jun 26 Mad (GOS); 1 Jun 27 Mad (GOS); GTC found no brood activity this year and believed the rain responsible. Ruffed Grouse: 5 Jun 25 USL (GOS); max 6 Aug 1 L Clear (TM). American Woodcock: max 3 Jul 22 Brandon Rd PS (JP,TM). Common Snipe: several Jun 14-17 RR (RMS); a few throughout area. Spotted Sandpiper: 1 Jun 22 PS (TM); 1 Jun 25 LSL (RMS); 1 Jun 28 USL (GOS). Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Jul 24 Newcomb (TM). Ring-billed Gull: max 70 Jun 27 Wilmington (GOS). Mourning Dove: pairs at Elizabethtown and Reber (GC). Great Horned Owl: a few most areas. Barred Owl: widely reported. Screech Owl: no reports. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Jul 17 Chubb R (Thomas H. Davis, Jr.).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: WHIP-POOR-WILL: 1 Jun 15-17 RR (RMS); this bird has become extremely rare and is absent from areas it frequented ten years or more ago. Common Nighthawk: breeding birds on old burns PS (TM). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: good numbers throughout area. Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Jun 19 Newcomb (TM); 4 Jun 12-25 RR to MSL (RMS); 1 Jun 27 Chubb R (GOS); 1 Jun 27 Sab (MR). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: abundant throughout. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 Jun 24 WP (RMS); 1 Jun 27 Chubb R (GOS); 2 Jul 22 BTP (FL). **NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** 1 Jul 22 & 23 BTP (FL). Great Crested Flycatcher: good numbers. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: June 6 Spec (FS); 8 Jun 18 Mad (DC). Traill's Flycatcher: max 6 Jun 6 Spec (FS). Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 13 Jun 25-27 PS area (G. Perrigo). Cliff Swallow: widely reported; max 32 Jul 22 RL (FL). Gray Jay: max 17 Jun 26 Mad (GOS); 1 Jul 23 BTP (FL). **RAVEN:** 7 sightings and 1 nesting (FJS). Boreal Chickadee: widely reported in good numbers and seen in several low altitude areas; common in high peaks. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 25 Jul 22 Mad (JP,TM). Winter Wren: fairly common as usual. Long-billed Marsh Wren: a few in the larger cattail marshes. Brown Thrasher: scattered reports. Wood Thrush: max 27 Jun 6 Spec (FS); numbers continue high in all areas. Hermit Thrush: scarce in some areas but not in others; 7 Jun 6 Spec (FS); 5 Jun 13-25 LL to MSL (RMS); 5 Jun 18 Mad (DC); 7 Jul 21-23 BTP (FL). Gray-cheeked Thrush: of 6 peaks over 4,000 feet climbed the first week of July each had exactly two singing birds at noon (TM). Veery: max 28 Jun 6 Spec (FS). Cedar Waxwing: max 40 Jun 6 Spec (FS), down 20 birds from last year.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: 3 to 6 a day in most areas. Red-eyed Vireo: max 81 Jun 6 Spec (FS). Black-and-white Warbler: max 15 Jun 6 Spec (FS). **TENNESSEE WARBLER:** 1 singing male Jul 3 Ind L (RM). Nashville Warbler: max 30 Jun 27 Wilmington (GOS). Parula Warbler: max over 10 a day Jun 13-25 LL to MSL (RMS). Magnolia Warbler: max 28 Jun 6 Spec (FS). Blackburnian Warbler: numbers seem high, max 18 Jun 6 Spec (FS). Blackpoll Warbler: abundant breeder throughout high peaks; GC found a singing male July 18 on Mt Jo at 2,800 feet, the lowest altitude record he has for this bird on territory. Ovenbird: max 23 Spec (FS), down 10 from same count last year. Northern Waterthrush: max over 10 a day LL to MSL (RMS). Mourning Warbler: 6 Jun 6 Spec (FS); 4 Jul 3 Ind L (RM). Canada Warbler: max 25 Jun 6 Spec (FS).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Baltimore Oriole: max 3 Jun 6 Spec (FS); 1 Jun 18 LL (RMS); no other reports. Rusty Blackbird: max 3 Jun 26 Mad (GOS). Scarlet Tanager: common. Evening Grosbeak: a few breeding birds; 1 feeding 2 young July 3 on Cedar R (RM). Red Crossbill: 2 Jun 29 Mad (GOS). Vesper Sparrow: max 2 Jun 27 Vermontville (RM). Lincoln's Sparrow: fewer birds this year, max 5 Jun 26 Mad (GOS); one unusually far south in a tamarack bog at Ind L (RM).

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