

FALL REPORT RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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The summer months of 1973 were hot and dry. Extremely dry conditions prevailed along Lake Ontario in Jefferson County and at lower elevations in the St. Lawrence River Valley. Tug Hill and higher elevations did not lack the rainfall to as great a degree and temperatures were not as high.

Lake Ontario water levels dropped about 18 inches during the period and exposed much shoreline area that had been under a high water situation. This no doubt accounted for the shorebird observations at El Dorado.

Noteworthy observation for the period were Common Loon with young, Double-crested Cormorants on Lake Ontario, increases in waterfowl produced locally, Osprey sightings and some excellent shorebird observations. The two sightings of Short-eared Owl at such a late date are also a pleasant surprise for the period. Decreases in small land bird numbers tends to indicate losses on wintering grounds or unsuccessful nestings. At this time, a choice would be entirely speculative.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 2 adults and 2 young recently hatched July 26 Pine Lake eastern Lewis County; 3 August 7 Cranberry Lake (Clinch). Pied-billed Grebe: 1 adult with 7 young 14 Perch River Wildlife Management Area (PRWMA) (Belknap). Double-crested Cormorant: 18 nesting July 21 Little Galloo Island (Cameron). Canada Goose: brood production appears up at PRWMA and Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area (WHWMA). Mallard production of local birds up over previous years. Gadwall: numbers on WHWMA still increasing. Wood Duck: local production on PRWMA and adjacent wetlands very high this year.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: seemed scarce; saw none until August 13 (Belknap). Goshawk: sightings at Wellesley Island during the period. Osprey: 2 adults through period near Theresa; 1 adult July 21 near New Bremen; nesting success poor in Theresa area possibly one bird fledged from one of three nesting sites (LaFave). Ruffed Grouse: production up in certain locations over last year. Sora: 1 each on July 12 and August 14 PRWMA (Belknap). Semipalmated Plover: 2 August 9 El Dorado (ED). Ruddy Turnstone: 4 August 9 ED (Walker). **WHIMBREL:** 1 August 9 ED (Walker). Greater Yellowlegs: 5 August 9 ED. Least Sandpiper: 1 August 9 ED. Stilt Sandpiper: 1 August 9 ED. Ring-billed Gull: production in Henderson Harbor area appears up over last year. Bonaparte's Gull: 2 August 9 ED (Walker). Mourning Dove: numbers increasing as more and more lands are converted to corn silage in the Jefferson County area. Black-billed Cuckoo: more common than usual due to high numbers of Fall Webworm with abundant nests and caterpillars in evidence. Screech Owl: heard through period in Henderson area (Chamberlaine). **SHORT-EARED OWL:** 1 June 18 Ashland Wildlife Management Area near Three Mile Bay (Cameron); 1 July 14 Chaumont area (Walker); both very late dates.

GOATSUCKERS—WAXWINGS: Chimney Swift: not as abundant as previous years. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: numbers down from last year. Pileated Woodpecker: sightings through period. Red-headed Woodpecker: numbers seem down in Henderson Area. Horned Lark: more than previous years. Tree Swallow: less numerous than previous years. Bank Swallow: numbers down. Barn Swallow:

numbers down. Purple Martin: numbers down. Eastern Bluebird: 1 June 2 near Osceola. Cedar Waxwing: not as common as last year.

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Red-eyed Vireo: abundant this year. Warbling Vireo: more common than last year in Henderson area. Bobolink: not as abundant as previous years. Meadowlark: in some localities abundance is up. Redwinged Blackbird: population is down; summer flocks developed much earlier than previous years perhaps due to dry condition. Baltimore Oriole: numbers appear to be down over past two years. Common Grackle: about same levels as previous years; summer flocking earlier as noted in Redwings above. Brown-headed Cowbird: numbers down. Indigo Bunting: seemed quite numerous this year (Belknap). Purple Finch: very common in the Henderson area (Chamberlaine). Pine Siskin: 12+ June 2 and 3 Henderson. American Goldfinch: not as common as previous years. Chipping Sparrow: numbers down. Song Sparrow: numbers as usual.

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