

VIREOS—WARBLERS: YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: 1 Coles Creek June 14 (JAV). Nashville Warbler: 1 Coles Creek June 22 (JAV). Yellow Warbler: more numerous than usual in Henderson area. Canada Warbler: 2 Brasher Iron Works June 3.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: very high numbers thru late August. Northern Oriole: more in Henderson than previous 2 years. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: numbers up in much of Region. Purple Finch: abundant all summer on lake plain. Savannah Sparrow: down—down—down (LBC). Vesper Sparrow: a few more than last year but down. Chipping Sparrow: seemed above normal numbers? **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** 1 ED Aug. 7 (F. Scheider).

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

Lake Champlain was lower than normal which encouraged shorebirds to stop. Much of the country seemed to complain of drought but perhaps all their rain fell in our mountain areas. If this was a drought year, I believe I'll tie my canoe to the back porch when they predict a rainy spell. It rained day after day during much of the period. Apparently the mountains caught the rain before it could reach the more eastern regions.

One week of July was hot, but there were killing frosts in some areas at some time during each of the three months of the period, as those trying to raise squash in their gardens can verify. This probably had little effect on migrant birds but the overabundance of rain may have adversely affected some breeding birds. Some ground nesting species such as White-throated Sparrow and Winter Wren were greatly reduced in numbers. A cheerful note was the fair numbers of Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, and Osprey. Two late Wilson's Warblers were noted and hopes for a breeding pair were expressed. Gadwall was added to the Essex county list of breeding birds. The good finds also included Long-tailed Jaeger.

Abbreviations: Aus. Pt—Ausable Point on Lake Champlain in Clinton County; E'town—Elizabethtown; Four Bros—Four Brothers Islands in Lake Champlain; Ham—southern Hamilton County; PS—Paul Smiths; Platts—Plattsburgh; NBBS—Newcomb Breeding Bird Survey June 30 Alice Jones & Helen Manson; Spec BBS—Speculator Breeding Bird Survey June 14 Fritz Scheider & Dorothy McIlroy; Underwood Breeding Bird Survey June 27 Alice Jones & Helen Manson.

Contributors: BA—Bud Albee; KB—Ken Berlin; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; DCa—David Capen; DC—Dewey Clark; JC—Joan Clark; CD—Charlie Delehanty; DeS—Dr. & Mrs. Bruno DeSimone; BD—Bonnie Drinkwine; LE—Lang Elliott; RH—Robert Hagar; BH—Betty Hedges; HK—Hal Klein; FLA—Ferdinand LaFrance; ES—Esther MacCready; KM—Ken McDermott; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; GM—Gordon Meade; JP—John (Mike) Peterson; WP—William Peterson; JR—Jerry Rosenband; WR—William Rutherford; FS—Fritz Scheider; R&MS—Robert & Mary Sheffield; CS—Carole Slatkin; PT—Pat Tabor.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 32 reported, with 5 noted as immatures. In addition BH found a dead immature at Raquette Lake. This species has not been faring well in New York because of increased human activity on area ponds and lakes. Write to Judy McIntyre, Dept. of Biology, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210 for report forms if you see loons and wish to help by submitting needed observations. Double-crested Cormorant: 45 Four Bros. June 11 (mob) but not nesting. Green Heron: 3 empty nests Aus. Pt. July 3 with 2 dead young on ground (PW); 2 Chubb River July 31 (KM) plus several at usual places.

Great Blue Heron: 12 nests Arietta (*fide* DM). Cattle Egret and Black-crowned Night Heron at Four Bros (mob); 1 of latter at Lewis July 27 (GC) was an immature. American Bittern: widely reported. Canada Goose: Tupper Lake resident flock now stands at 19. Brant: 8 flying north over Keene June 3 (GC). Mallard: one female with 14 young Spec BBS. Gadwall: mated pair Chazy Landing June 11 (PW); pair with young Four Bros June 18 (DCa) constitutes a new nesting species for Essex County. Wood Duck: female with 20 young Platts June 5 (PW, HK); several others with young reported. Ring-necked Duck: max 6 Saranac River Aug. 15 (GM). White-winged Scoter: 1 Four Bros June 11 (mob). Hooded Merganser: female and 9 young PS June 25 (PW, TM); female and 4 young St. Regis Pond July 15 (JP, WP); number of breeders is low this year. Common Merganser: female with 9, female with 5, female with 21 Piseco Lake July (DM); each family distinguishable by size of young. Several other reports of good broods.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 13 Essex July 7 (JR, CS); 1 Madawaska Aug. 7 (GM) was unusual. Several Sharp-shinned Hawks but only 2 Cooper's Hawks which were a pair Ham (DeS). Red-shouldered Hawk: 3 noted, one of which was eating a Veery atop a power pole NBBS. Bald Eagle: 2 Northway Exit 33 June (BD); 2 adults Essex July 10 (BA); 1 immature Ham Aug. 13 (DeS); 1 adult Franklin Falls Aug. 15 (Richard Carden). Marsh Hawk: 1 Whallonsburg Aug. (CS); 1 Madawaska Aug. 3 (KM). An adult Merlin tried for a sandpiper at Westport Aug. 4 before crossing the lake (JP, JR, CS). This species is regular in the Champlain Valley which may be used as a travel route. Virginia Rail: 1 Raquette Lake July 11 (BH). Sora: 1 Lake Alice (PW); 1 Essex Station (GC); both June 11. Ruddy Turnstone: 2 Platts June 5 (PW, HK); 1 Westport Aug. 2 (EM, JP). Upland Sandpiper: 13 in one field Platts Aug. 6 and good numbers elsewhere. Spotted Sandpiper: 23 together Platts July 14 (PW). Red Knot: 1 Westport Aug. 30 (CS, EM, GC, JP) a good find. Baird's Sandpiper: 2 Westport Aug. 22-24 (GC, EM, JP, PT). Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 Westport July 30 (GC, EM, JP); 2 there Aug. 22 (GC). **LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** George LaBar of University of Vermont sighted it June 7 from a research vessel near Four Bros. It was 100 feet away and had dark back and top of head but light under chin. Two tail feathers were half the length of body. It flew low to water and finally settled on it. **ICELAND GULL** (*Larus glaucooides kumlienii*): July 3 at Four Bros a Herring Gull sized gull with no black wing tips was harrassing a Herring Gull. Iris was light. Good color slides show the light mantle with small amount of dark gray on ends of outer primaries and white tip on tenth primary (JR, photos EM). Bonaparte's Gull: all summer Platts (PW); 1 in summer plumage St. Regis Pd. July 18 (JCa, EM, JP). Black Tern: 3 Tupper Lake July 2 (CD), only report.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 June 7 hit by a car at Gabriels and fed caterpillars a few days during convalescence but died after release (LE); 1 Port Douglas June 20 (RH); 1 Wadhams July 21 (DA, PT). Long-eared Owl: DeS had one early in season Ham, a good find. Juvenile Saw-whet Owls at Auger Lake (DC, JC); Essex (JPa); and E'town (GC). Whip-poor-will: good numbers at Malone (LE). Common Nighthawk: 1 Tupper Lake July 31 (KM); 1 on ground at Brandon Burn July (WR); 20 migrants PS Aug. 29 (WR); 1 migrant PS Aug. 31. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: male feeding young at nest NBBS; 1 Little Clear Pond July 18 (WP); plus usual places. Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: pair nesting at Ferd's Bog (FLa); pair July 27 Chubb River (KB) is good because they seem to have been absent there for a decade.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: a few noted. Alder Flycatcher: excellent numbers. Gray Jay: a few at usual places. Common Raven: 5 nests located now and more birds being seen at new locations. One of the St. Regis Mtn ravens has been daily coming within four feet of a jogger for some reason. This is near the Rockefeller gate (Kirk Peterson). Clinton County seems to have a first record for the species with one croaking just north of Ausable Forks Aug. 7 and 13 (Charles Mitchell). Warren County is in Region 8 and can claim a raven (SBBS). Eaton lists it as a rare winter visitant there. GC saw 3 Tahawus and 2 Aiden Lair July 23 while PT had 1 Schroon Lake July 30; max 7 Underwood BBS. New York now has ravens. Boreal Chickadee: plentiful. Winter Wrens are lowest

in at least 8 years, really down. Chipmunks kill the young and wet weather doesn't help either. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 Ham (DeS)—scarce inland. Mockingbird: 1 Tupper Lake June 13 (CD). Swainson's Thrush: numbers greatly improving. Eastern Bluebird: 2 PS early June; a few Brandon Burn; pair at Piseco Lake where not seen before (DM). Two houses at Tupper Lake taken from bluebirds by Tree Swallows (CD). Several reports from Newcomb. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 with fledged young Platts July 2 (PW); pair with 3 young Westport (Richard G. Sherman *vide* GC); a cheerful note.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 Ham (DeS); 1 migrant Platts June 5 (PW); 1 SBBS; 1 all summer Lake Alice (mob). Philadelphia Vireo: 1 NBBS; 1 Saranac Inn Aug. 5 (KM); rare but occurs every year and has nested. Warbling Vireo: 1 Keene June 3 (GC) was unusual there. Tennessee Warbler: 1 St. Regis Pond July 16 (EM, WP); 1 early migrant E'town Aug. 11 (GC). Nashville Warbler: numbers very low for this rather common breeder. Northern Parula: scarce except R&MS had several Middle Saranac Lakes. Pine Warbler: 2 Lake Pleasant June 14 (FS, DM); 2 Saranac Inn Aug. 2 (KM). Wilson's Warbler: 1 male Brandon Burn June 26 was singing (GM); 1 NBBS. These are more often seen as Champlain Valley migrants in May. There was a major flight of fall warblers in mid-August with about 100 in one group Raquette Lake Aug. 16 (BH).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbird: scarce. Red Crossbill: 1 Lake Kiwassa Aug. 7 (GM). Rufous-sided Towhee: a few, one Tupper Lake breeding area is down to one bird (CD). Lincoln's Sparrow: plentiful.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The weather through the summer of 1977 was rather variable, tending, however, to be on the cool side. Temperatures ranged from a low of 37 F (2.8 C) on June 9 to 96 F (35.5 C) on July 19 & 21. With rain falling on eight of the twelve weekends, some people are wondering if there ever was a Summer of 1977 at all.

Rarities were rare indeed. They include Yellow-crowned Night Heron, a couple of Bald Eagles, and nesting Barn Owls. More importantly, however, is the continued monitoring of breeding populations through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys. Ten such surveys are reported here as follows:

Route Name	County	Date	Observer
Catskill	Greene	June 5	J. Bush
Plattecove	Greene	June 8	J. Bush
Duanesburg	Schenectady	June 18	R. Guthrie
North Creek	Warren	June 21	R. Guthrie
Hope Falls*	Hamilton	June 27	R. Stone
South Horicon	Warren	June 28	R. Stone
South Berne	Albany	June 30	K. Able
Warrensburg	Warren	July 1	R. Stone
Medusa	Greene	July 2	J. Bush
Cobleskill	Schoharie	July 4	K. Able

*Although actually a few miles outside of Warren County, Hope Falls is within the same physiographic ecosystem and is included here for comparisons.