

most observers saw none of the three species for the summer. Field Sparrow: down on six of the ten BBS where regularly present; count numbers range from one-eight/BBS; is this species joining the grassland sparrows in the pattern of declining numbers or is it showing only temporary losses because of the recent severe winters? White-throated Sparrow: expanding in southeastern Oneida and southwestern Herkimer Co. outside the previously recognized and mapped areas for the Region; numbers in the THP, however, appeared slightly decreased (only six-12/day) this summer; one Jul. 29 SP dunes is a very early fall migrant but is in keeping with the numerous early migrant warblers of that same date.

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The Editors note with regret that Fritz Scheider is stepping down as the Editor of Region Five, this being the last issue to contain one of his regional reports. His careful and good-natured analyses of local conditions have been among the best this journal has received, and should serve as a model for future contributors to these pages. —Eds.

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Summer of 1978 is best characterized as hot and very dry. Some portions of the Region suffered extreme drought with streams drying up completely and Lake Ontario dropping to very low levels. Temperatures ranged from 98° F (36° C) to 45° F (7° C) with some days where temperature differences in twenty-four hours was only 25° F from a high of 96° F. Rainfall for June was normal, July below normal and August normal. August's rain all came in the last week of the month. Although the high temperatures made birding a bit uncomfortable, the numbers and varieties around this summer made most trips afield well worthwhile.

Highlights for the period included some unusual observations of some most unusual species. Many new records were set and proof of breeding species established, during the period. For starters a White Pelican showed up at Wilson Hill on Aug. 9—probably one of the Montezuma birds? The St. Lawrence River provided a Red-necked Grebe summer record and the Galloo Island Double-crested Cormorant colony zoomed to 192 active nests, possibly at the expense of the Black-crowned Night Heron colony. Great Blue Herons on Ironsides Island did well with a total of 280 active nests. Cattle Egret breeding in the Region was proven with nests, eggs and young at Galloo Island—it had been expected by some due to previous summer records in the Ellisburg area.

Waterfowl made a fair showing with some interesting observations. The Black Duck is being "absorbed" by the Mallard along the St. Lawrence River. Our second most common breeder along the St. Lawrence River is now the Gadwall—a totally unknown species just a few short years ago. Wood Duck production was way up, even with the very dry conditions. A pair of Ruddy Ducks at Wilson Hill all summer was frustrating when no young could be found. Accipiters and

Red-shouldered Hawks remain in trouble. The increase in Bald Eagle sightings confounds the mind and there was some improvement in Marsh Hawk sightings. Gray Partridge still remain in low numbers and very little was heard from the D.E.C. Turkey releases on Fort Drum. Perhaps the next period will prove successful reproduction on the Turkey trap and transfer program in Jefferson County. Shorebirds were at their best with the very low lake levels on Lake Ontario. Some of the better sightings included a Whimbrel, Willet, and Short-billed Dowitcher all at El Dorado. Warblers made a fair showing with the highlight being the Golden-winged, Blue-winged, and "Brewster's" all at Dry Hill, with the "Brewster's" singing the song of a Blue-winged.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: scattered pairs and singles in breeding and non-breeding plumage along the St. Lawrence R west of Morristown throughout the summer; no successful breeding noted although the presence of a minimum of ten pairs suggests it was attempted; two pairs between Coles Creek and Moses Power Dam; exact status of the river population is uncertain and should be investigated (Gerry Smith). **RED-NECKED GREBE** two in almost full breeding plumage near Hill Island Bridge in Ontario June 7 and one there on June 11—first summer record for St. Lawrence R—late migrants? (Smith). **Pied-billed Grebe:** very scarce—max one or two per day primarily from the marshes around Goose Bay and Chippewa Bay—St. Lawrence R. This species is in trouble throughout upstate (Smith). **WHITE PELICAN:** Wilson Hill Aug. 9 (Sal Cozzolino, mob); may be one of the Montezuma birds? **Double-crested Cormorant:** on Little Galloo Island 192 active nests June 25; in 1974 there were 22 nests—incredible! Probably the only solvent cormorant colony between the Atlantic Coast and Lake Huron; one to three per day on the St. Lawrence R including at least two adults and two different immatures (Smith); two El Dorado Aug. 25. **Great Blue Heron:** 280 nests at Ironsides Island St. Lawrence R; an excellent nesting year. **Green Heron:** three to seven per day St. Lawrence R. **Cattle Egret:** Little Galloo Island May 28, five adults—two nests with adults incubating; June 25 three nests as follows: one with five eggs—unsuccessful; one empty nest with two young in quill feathers; new nest with two eggs; first known breeding in Region. May explain past occurrences of birds in Ellisburg area in previous summers. **Black-crowned Night Heron:** Little Galloo Island 77 nests—a decrease from last year's high of 121 nests; decline may be due to nest sites being destroyed by whitewash of cormorants and fallen nest trees (Smith). **Least Bittern:** one Upper and Lower Lakes Aug. 10 (Pat Riexinger). **Am. Bittern:** two per day in marshes of Goose Bay and Chippewa Bay St. Lawrence R. **Canada Goose:** scattered pairs on St. Lawrence R west of Wellesley Isl mainly breeding on small islands throughout; average two to six per day west of Coles Creek—15 to 25 per day eastward. **Brant:** small numbers two to ten per day along St. Lawrence R. till June 14 (Smith). **Mallard:** the most common breeding duck on St. Lawrence R.; probably not as successful inland due to the dry summer. **Black Duck:** has virtually disappeared as a breeder west of Waddington on St. Lawrence R.; in western sectors most sightings involve one per day at scattered intervals east of Coles Creek; a few breeders persist but many pairs in this area are mixed Mallard x Black—only one brood of "pure" Blacks was noted the entire season (Smith). **Gadwall:** the second most common breeding dabbler on the river and a frequent nesting species on small islands throughout the entire river; appears to breed on many of the same small islands as Mallards but with slightly different timing schedules. **Pintail:** six El Dorado Aug. 25. **Blue-winged Teal:** birds started moving south by mid-August due to cool temperatures. **Am. Wigeon:** four pairs Wilson Hill June 1; eight Wilson Hill June 13; seven Wilson Hill June 20. **Wood Duck:** excellent production this year. **Redhead:** 14 July 3. **Ring-necked:** one male Coles Creek Aug. 3. **Canvasback:** one male

July 3. Gr. Scaup: one immature. Wilson Hill June 20; flocks of ten to 20 in the vicinity of Black Ant Island St. Lawrence R. until early July. Lesser Scaup: four immatures Wilson Hill June 11; three immature same location June 13; one immature and two male adults Wilson Hill June 20; three to four with Greaters vicinity of Black Ant Isl. until early July. Com. Goldeneye: one Wilson Hill Aug. 3. Ruddy Duck: pair at Wilson Hill June 1 and 11; male at Coles Creek June 16; one male July 3—no young seen (Joe VanRiet). Red-breasted Merganser: scattered groups of one to three per day at various locations throughout St. Lawrence R. summering.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: many observations throughout the summer—a common sight in Jefferson Co. Sharp-shinned Hawk: no summer reports. Cooper's Hawk: no summer reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: no reports. **BALD EAGLE:** one immature Perch R June 22 (Mike Townsend) this was a wing-tagged bird and probably a Montezuma bird; one adult Fox Island Lake Ontario Aug. 15; one adult Lakeview Aug. 27 (Ivy Benzdykt); numerous other unverified reports. Marsh Hawk: one Smithville June 10; one Wilson Hill June 13; one Henderson July 23; one El Dorado Aug. 15 and 21; one French Creek Aug. 22; several pairs noted throughout the St. Lawrence R during the summer—only healthy breeding population in upstate New York. Osprey: many observations in Adirondack portions of Region; a few scattered sightings along eastern Lake Ontario shore and St. Lawrence R. Am. Kestrel: about normal numbers. Spruce Grouse: one male Grass R St. Lawrence Co. July 19 (Stu Brown). Ruffed Grouse: numbers are still above normal. Gray Partridge: one Three Mile Pt. June 4; only report. Turkey: one report all summer from Fort Drum releases. Semipalmated Plover: three El Dorado Aug. 2; 12 same, Aug. 15; six same Aug. 25. Black-bellied Plover: two Dexter Aug. 21. Ruddy Turnstone: one El Dorado July 7; 25 same Aug. 15; four same Aug. 25. Com. Snipe: two El Dorado Aug. 15. **WHIMBREL:** one El Dorado July 10 (Smith). Upland Sandpiper: none reported—this species is in trouble. **WILLET:** one El Dorado July 15 (Dorothy Crumb). Greater Yellowlegs: two El Dorado Aug. 21; one Ray's Bay Aug. 25. Lesser Yellowlegs: three El Dorado July 7; 100 same July 10; 12 same Aug. 15, eight same Aug. 25. Pectoral Sandpiper: four El Dorado Aug. 15. Least Sandpiper: three El Dorado Aug. 15; six same Aug. 21. Short-billed Dowitcher: one El Dorado July 7; six same Aug. 15; four same Aug. 20, six same Aug. 25. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 250 El Dorado Aug. 15; some color-dyed birds reported—data sent to Feds. Sanderling: ten El Dorado Aug. 15. Great Black-backed Gull: two Coles Creek June 19; one El Dorado Aug. 21. Herring Gull: 93 nests on Little Galloo Island; St. Lawrence R. reproductive success was terrible (Smith). Ring-billed Gull: 77,000 nests Little Galloo I. (Smith); tremendous numbers inland to feed on cut hay fields and plowed fields—seen in Lewis Co. and probably interchange between Black R. Valley occurs. Bonaparte's Gull: three El Dorado Aug. 21. **FORSTER'S TERN:** one immature El Dorado July 10 (Smith); one same location Aug. 15 (Crumb). Com. Tern: four July 7; six Aug. 15; three Aug. 21; seven Aug. 25 all El Dorado. Caspian Tern: 15 El Dorado Aug. 15; six same Aug. 21; 14 same Aug. 25. Black Tern: two El Dorado July 7; 16 same Aug. 15.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: numbers about the same as last year. Black-billed Cuckoo: one Dry Hill June 16 and 24; one El Dorado July 7; one same Aug. 15; high caterpillar year. Great Horned Owl: thru period. Com. Nighthawk: 12+ Watertown Aug. 23—probably in migration—numbers are still low from a few years ago. Chimney Swift: not in previous numbers in the Henderson area. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: not in normal numbers in Henderson area—extreme drought? Red-headed Woodpecker: one Henderson July 9; one El Dorado Aug. 15; a little improvement from last year. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: brood seen June 19. Hairy Woodpecker: numbers in Henderson and vicinity way down. Downy Woodpecker: numbers in Henderson down.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: numbers about normal. Great Crested Flycatcher: about normal numbers. E. Phoebe: numbers still down but a little improvement. Alder Flycatcher: one Dry Hill June 15 and 16; one Wilson Hill June 20. Least Flycatcher:

four Coles Creek June 19 (Van Riet). E. Wood Pewee: about normal numbers. **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER**: one El Dorado Aug. 15 (Crumb). Tree Swallow: in normal numbers. Bank Swallow: may be decreasing and bears watching. Barn Swallow—numbers still down in Henderson and vicinity. Cliff Swallow: 978 nests counted on three Massena area dams on July 1 (Van Riet); formerly a seldom-reported species. Purple Martin: in Henderson area numbers still down. Blue Jay: in Henderson area numbers are up. Black-capped Chickadee: not in normal numbers in Henderson and vicinity. White-breasted Nuthatch: numbers in Henderson down. Red-breasted Nuthatch: not in normal numbers. Brown Creeper: very few reported. House Wren: in normal numbers if not a little above normal. Carolina Wren: no reports. Long-billed Marsh Wren: about normal numbers. Mockingbird: none reported. Gray Catbird: thru period. Am. Robin: seems to be up in numbers in much of the Region. Hermit Thrush: one Coles Creek June 16. Veery: 22 Wilson Hill June 13; 14 Coles Creek June 16; 57 Coles Creek June 19. Cedar Waxwing: not as common as last year—smaller flocks. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports—this species has just about disappeared from the Region.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Black-and-white Warbler: two June 3; one June 19. Blue-winged Warbler: one Dry Hill June 24 (Walkers). Golden-winged Warbler: one Dry Hill June 15 (Walker). **"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER**: one singing Blue-winged song Dry Hill June 3 (Walkers). Nashville Warbler: two Coles Creek June 19; one Wilson Hill July 4 (Van Riet). Yellow Warbler: 30 Coles Creek June 19. Yellow-rumped Warbler: three July 4. **PINE WARBLER**: one Coles Creek June 19 (Van Riet); seldom reported in Region. Mourning Warbler: one Wilson Hill June 11. Common Yellowthroat: 16 Coles Creek June 19.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: started southward migration before end of period. E. Meadowlark: may be a slight increase from previous numbers. Common Grackle: very high reproductive success in Henderson area; one young "silver" in color seen at feeder in July. Brown-headed Cowbird: numbers in Henderson area are way down from last year. Cardinal: none in the Henderson area; Watertown city population about normal. Evening Grosbeak: bird banded April 17, 1976 in Watertown captured and released on Feb. 3, 1978 at Natchitoches, Louisiana—first known bird to go that far southwest; bird banded at Jay, Oklahoma, retrapped Watertown; the first Oklahoma banded Evening Grosbeak to be recovered anywhere (Clinch). Purple Finch: a few all summer. **HOUSE FINCH**: pair at feeder all summer—by early July their young came with them—first evidence of breeding in Watertown (Clinch). Savannah Sparrow: still in trouble. Vesper Sparrow: none reported—another species that has problems. Chipping Sparrow: seemed more common than two previous years. White-throated Sparrow: found breeding on Stony Point next to Lake Ontario—usually found at higher elevations such as peripheral Tug Hill and east of I-81. Swamp Sparrow: nine Coles Creek June 19.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

This summer season was unusual in that it was drier, with about 40 days of temperatures over 80° F. Some years there are only one or two hot days. Lake Champlain may have some nice shorebird flats exposed for fall.