

kirk Shores State Park July 19, and one in cent. Oswego Co. Aug. 12; Ovenbird: max 25 Fairdale June 17 (MSR); Louisiana Waterthrush: one Chittenango Gorge July 30 (MacS), and one at the mouth of Nine Mile Cr. Onon L July 25; Yellow-breasted Chat: one at Pompey June 26, 27 (DWC); Hooded Warbler: one to three/day Oswego Co. lake plain; Canada Warbler: max 12 Tug Hill Plateau Aug. 5.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: max 150 cent. Oswego Co. Aug. 12; Orchard Oriole: one Town Island Rd., Kirkville, two adults and two young last seen June 14; Scarlet Tanager: max 13 Old Forge BBS June 27; Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 26 cent. Oswego Co. Aug. 12; Indigo Bunting: max 18 N. Wilmurt BBS June 25; Savannah Sparrow: max 8 Deer Creek area July 8, very low numbers; Grasshopper Sparrow: six birds for the period from three separate localities: Syracuse Airport, Town of Redfield, Camden area; Henslow's Sparrow: max 8 Bolivar, DeWitt Marsh area Aug. 5 (KC); Vesper Sparrow: a total of seven birds from six localities in the Region continuing to show a steady decline; Chipping Sparrow: max 37 McKeever BBS June 23; Field Sparrow: max seven Kasoag BBS June 10 (MSR); Swamp Sparrow: max 27 July 7.

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REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

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Summer of 1979 could be called cool. Although highs of low 90° temperatures were recorded, records for lows were broken. On June 13th a low of 39° F (3° C) was recorded. On June 25 a low of 33° F (1° C) was recorded and on July 4 a cool record 40° F low for that date broke a 1927 record. Rainfall was light for June and July. Heavy rain in the beginning of August and mid-August made up the deficits in total rainfall. Lake Ontario water levels dropped during the dry spell but not as low as last year. The dry summer conditions again favored abundant fruit production in almost all wildlife food species and cone production was also up. Indications of an early Fall were evident.

Positive trends for the period are: increases in Turkey Vulture; Bald Eagles all over; improvements in Marsh Hawks and Upland Sandpipers; excellent shorebird reports; multiple Short-billed Marsh Wren sightings; a Loggerhead Shrike nest and some excellent grassland sparrow records.

Negatives for the period include: no Sharp-shinned or Cooper's Hawk sightings; low numbers of American Kestrels; almost nonexistent phoebes, Horned Larks, Vesper Sparrows and low numbers of White-throated Sparrows. Additionally, there are as yet unexplained "local" lows of certain species. Why are cowbirds low in the Henderson area? Perhaps the dry summer weather?

Rarities for the period and there were more than normal included: Great Egret, Mute Swan, Stilt Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Barn Owl, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, Grasshopper Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow.

Contributors: John Belknap; Agnes Blake; Stewart Brown; Richard Brouse; Lee Chamberlaine; Frank Clinch; Tim Dawson; Nick Leone; Joe VanRiet; Bob and June Walker.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: one Wilson Hill June 2; six St. Lawrence River near Long Sault Island June 2; one immature El Dorado Aug. 19; Adirondack production about normal—there is some concern for potential loss of habitat from acid rain problem at higher elevation ponds. Horned Grebe: one El Dorado Aug. 4 (nearly spring plumage); one El Dorado Aug. 5 (summer plumage). Pied-billed Grebe: none reported. Double-crested Cormorant: four Massena June 2; eight El Dorado June 3; 14 Lakeview June 7; 17 El Dorado Aug. 25; no data on Little Galloo Isl. production but sightings indicate another excellent year. Great Blue Heron: sightings indicate another excellent production year. Green Heron: much improvement in Henderson area—seen daily. Cattle Egret: no info on Little Galloo production and no inland sightings reported. **GREAT EGRET:** one El Dorado Aug. 4 (N. Leone and Walkers), one Wilson Hill July 1 (J. VanRiet). Black-crowned Night Heron: 12 Cape Vincent breakwall June 28; 43 around Cornwall Is. St. Lawrence River June 30; no data on Lake Ontario Islands production. Least Bittern: one Wilson Hill June 30 (J. VanRiet). Am. Bittern: none reported—bears watching. **MUTE SWAN:** one El Dorado Aug. 4 (N. Leone and Walkers)—seen thru period. Canada Goose: production at Perch River may be down—eagle harassment may be a factor? Mallard: as common as ever. Black Duck: five El Dorado Aug. 5; no improvement. Gadwall: six El Dorado Aug. 2; three El Dorado Aug. 17. Pintail: none reported. Green-winged Teal: one female with eight young near Sears Pond on Tug Hill June 30 (L. Chamberlaine); two El Dorado Aug. 7. Blue-winged Teal: 85 El Dorado Aug. 2; 41 El Dorado Aug. 7; very successful year. Wood Duck: excellent production. Com. Goldeneye: one male Wilson Hill June 2 (J. VanRiet). Hooded Merganser: none reported—a species which needs more field work to determine status. Red-breasted Merganser: one female with seven young Moose River Road, Lewis Co. July 6.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: very, very common this year—17 Henderson July 6, 18 near Redwood July 8, one with blue wing tag and number near Mannsville July 12 (Fred Russell)—tagged as an immature at a large sanitary landfill in Dade Co., Florida Jan. 28, 1978—seen at banding location on Nov. 4 and Nov. 10, 1978—the sighting at Mannsville supports hypothesis that urban vultures in Dade Co. are northern migrants (pers. com. Sheila Gaby); seven Westcotts Beach State Park Aug. 10, many other individual and multiple sightings. Goshawk: none reported. Cooper's: none reported. Red-tailed: numbers are down. Red-shouldered: none reported. Broad-winged: none reported. Bald Eagle: one immature at Perch River June 1 feeding on probably a large fish; later two immatures and possibly three were seen at Perch Lake (L. Chamberlaine and S. Brown); one adult near Gouverneur along Oswegatchie River July 30 (J. Belknap)—the same bird (probably) was reported from this area just a year ago. Marsh Hawk: one male near Sears Pond June 23, one female near Sears Pond July 24, one female El Dorado Aug. 26, seen at eight locations in Massena area June-July. Osprey: three (two adults, one immature) on nest in Indian Lakes area July 28 (N. Leone), one El Dorado Aug. 4, a pair on Grass River in Massena area Aug. 6. Am. Kestrel: four (three young of the year) Sears Pond July 24; three El Dorado Aug. 2, five near Rodman Aug. 25; numbers way down—more seen in Tug Hill than Lake Plain areas. Ruffed Grouse: numbers not down as thought—another high year. Virginia Rail: two Beaver Meadows near Watertown July 11, one same July 14. Am. Coot: one Robt. Moses Dam June 2. Semipalmated Plover: ten El Dorado Aug. 4; 13 El Dorado Aug. 26. Ruddy Turnstone: 20 El Dorado Aug. 4, 22 same Aug. 2, 24 same Aug. 5, 20 same Aug. 26. Am. Woodcock: local production about normal. Upland Sandpiper: at seven locations in Massena area June 5—five of these on Hopkinton Breeding Bird Census (J. VanRiet); three near Sackets Harbor June 19; one Henderson June 27, one Chaumont June 28, three Chaumont June 29, one near Sackets Harbor June 23, one Baggs Corners near Dexter July 26, one Antwerp Aug. 6, unbelievable improvement. Solitary Sandpiper: one El Dorado Aug. 12. Lesser Yellowlegs: 30 El Dorado July 27, 43 same Aug. 2, 20 same Aug. 19. Red Knot: two El Dorado Aug. 2, one same Aug. 26. Pectoral Sandpiper: two El Dorado July 27, two same Aug. 4. Short-billed Dowitcher: one El Dorado July 27, two Perch River Aug. 2, six El Dorado Aug. 2, 21 same Aug. 12. **STILT SANDPIPER:** one El Dorado July 27, one

same Aug. 4 (Leone and Walkers). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 300 El Dorado July 27, 200 same Aug. 4. Sanderling: 25 El Dorado Aug. 2, five same Aug. 26. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**: two El Dorado July 27 (Walkers and N. Leone), three same Aug. 4, one same Aug. 7 (R. Brouse), one same Aug. 12, one same Aug. 19 (R. Brouse). Great Black-backed Gull: one immature El Dorado Aug. 4, four same Aug. 12, three same Aug. 26. Herring Gull: may be decreasing on Lake Ontario? Ring-billed Gull: equal to or exceeds last year's production. Bonaparte's Gull: 17 El Dorado Aug. 2, one same Aug. 4, 120 Robt. Moses Dam Aug. 27. Com. Tern: three El Dorado Aug. 2, four same Aug. 8, four same Aug. 26. Caspian Tern: 15 El Dorado Aug. 2, six same Aug. 4, 16 same Aug. 5, three Three Mile Point Aug. 12, ten El Dorado Aug. 12, 15 same Aug. 19, 14 same Aug. 26. Black Tern: three Perch River June 9, 65 Cornwall Island June 30, five El Dorado Aug. 7.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: appears on the increase. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Dry Hill June 9 (Walkers), one Three Mile Point Aug. 19. Black-billed Cuckoo: one Dry Hill June 9, one Brownville June 9. **BARN OWL**: one near Watertown on Martin Road June 10 (T. Dawson). Com. Nighthawk: about 50 Watertown in migration 7:45 pm Aug. 20 (A. Blake and F. Clinch). Chimney Swift: numbers in Henderson down. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: increased somewhat from last year. Com. Flicker: numbers down. Pileated Woodpecker: may be up in numbers? Red-headed Woodpecker: two El Dorado Aug. 26 (R. Brouse). Hairy Woodpecker: numbers down. Downy Woodpecker: numbers down.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: about normal numbers. E. Phoebe: very, very low in numbers even at the small bridges and stream locations where you always see them. Alder Flycatcher: two June 6, two June 9. Willow Flycatcher: one Brownville June 6, one Dry Hill June 9 (Walkers). E. Wood Pewee: may be down slightly? Horned Lark: none reported. Tree Swallow: normal numbers. Barn Swallow: down in Henderson area. Cliff Swallow: 1200 nests at the three dams in Massena June 30—an increase of 20% over last year (J. VanRiet). Purple Martin: down slightly in Henderson area. White-breasted Nuthatch: still down in Henderson and vicinity. Red-breasted Nuthatch: none reported. Brown Creeper: numbers down. House Wren: excellent year—numbers up. **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN**: one Haverstock Road Massena June 2 (J. VanRiet), one Ives St. Rd. near Beaver Meadows Marsh July 14 (N. Leone), two same July 16, three same July 21, two same July 27, one 1/4 mile south of Perch River on Route 12 Aug. 2, two near Beaver Meadows Aug. 4 (all N. Leone). Mockingbird: none reported. E. Bluebird: one Robt. Moses State Park June 3 (J. VanRiet), one on the Hopkinton Breeding Bird Census, one Black River June 9 (Walkers), nesting pair Brasher Iron Works June 12 (J. VanRiet). Cedar Waxwing: very very abundant this year. Loggerhead Shrike: one near Gouverneur June 14 (J. Belknap), pair nesting at Haverstock Road raised one young (J. VanRiet).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: two Inman Gulf (near Rodman) July 4 (N. Leone). Red-eyed Vireo: down very slightly. Warbling Vireo: down in Henderson area—may not reflect rest of Region. Warblers: Blue-winged: one Dry Hill June 6 and one same June 9 (Walkers). Golden-winged: three Dry Hill June 9 (Walkers). Nashville: one El Dorado Aug. 19 (R. Brouse). No. Parula: two Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area June 23 (Walker and Leone). Yellow: very abundant this year. Yellow-rumped "Myrtle": as common as ever if not more so. **LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH**: one Inman Gulf July 4 (N. Leone), one same Aug. 11 (Leone). Mourning: four males Inman Gulf July 4 (N. Leone). **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT**: two Dry Hill June 9 (Walkers).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: heavy migration movement beginning about Aug. 8; very common this year. E. Meadowlark: increase in Henderson area noted. No. Oriole: good year—in good numbers. Brown-headed Cowbird: in very low numbers in Henderson. Cardinal: becoming more common along Lake Ontario shore. Purple Finch: in lesser numbers than usual. House Finch: five (male and four young) Frank Clinch Feeder Haley St., Watertown, June 21 (F. Clinch), one male Haley St., Watertown, June 27 (N. Leone), seven

(four young, two adult males and one adult female) same June 27 (N. Leone). Am. Goldfinch: normal numbers. Savannah Sparrow: none reported—usually common in Henderson farmlands. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: two Perch River June 9 (Walkers), one Immaculate Heart School, Watertown, July 16 (N. Leone). HENSLOW'S SPARROW: two Perch River June 9 (Walkers), one near Beaver Meadow July 16, two Immaculate Heart School July 16, five near Beaver Meadow July 21, one same July 27, one same Aug. 4, five Ives Street Rd. Aug. 12 & 13, two same Aug. 22 (all Leone). Vesper Sparrow: two singing males on Hopkinton Breeding Bird Census (VanRiet), one near Henderson June 24, very very low numbers. Field Sparrow: in lesser numbers. White-throated Sparrow: in low numbers—a few on Stony Point—a population separated by normal higher elevation populations. Song Sparrow: numbers down slightly.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE MACK

The weather was rather cold in June with little rain. Lack of rain could be beneficial to nestlings. Some nights brought frost right thru the first week of July when two inches of snow fell on Whiteface Mountain. A local wit said he missed summer last year since it fell on a Saturday when he was out of town. We fared better this year, although my garden was planted four times before the frosts stopped. The last three weeks of July were actually hot. August brought much rain and as usual a cooling feeling of fall by the middle of the month.

The high point of the summer was a banding expedition to Four Brothers Islands in Lake Champlain led by Mike Peterson and made possible by the generosity of Richard Kixmiller who supplied transportation. Volunteers and banders braved stinging nettles, noxious odors, and airborne bird feces to help band 56 Black-crowned Night Herons and 50 Herring Gull chicks. Island C held all the Ring-billed Gulls. 500 chicks were banded there in about an hour. Their defense was to run under nettles and then to regurgitate and excrete dead fish on their captors. The herons hid in nettles and bit on occasion.

Mike Peterson passed on an interesting theory about the Herring Gull defense that is worthy of note. Herring Gull chicks on Monomoy and in other locations run from danger at an early age. They don't on Four Brothers even when practically adult size. These birds were all hidden in thick vegetation to the point that those in grass had the grass grown right over the bird in a thatch. Only the head must have moved in weeks. When returned to the place where found the birds did not run. They usually didn't struggle even when held for banding. Their survival technique was to hold still at all times so that they remained hidden. Mike mentioned that eggers used to plunder the islands and this adaptation may have been the only way a few of the birds managed to survive. This seems to be a good technique there while a Monomoy chick is probably better off to run into a poison ivy tangle.

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