

(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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LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: at least three young were on Upper St. Regis Lake; two young were on Sand Lake near Piseco Lake; and adults were noted on Long Lake, Bridge Brook Pond near Tupper, Harris Lake at Newcomb, and Eighth Lake as well as both Ausable Lakes. TC and GR found an adult on Lake Colden July 25. Two Double-crested Cormorants were at Four Brothers June 23. An inland Green Heron was at Chubb River. Three pair of Cattle Egrets had nests with eggs or young at Four Brothers on Island A June 23. Two Snowy Egrets were at the same site but nesting could not be proven. An American Bittern frequented Tupper Marsh and one was at Madawaska. Big Brook near Long Lake also had one. 14 Mallards were at Seventh Lake, some being too young to fly. Adults were at Piseco and Tupper. Two Gadwalls were at Four Brothers June 23. Five Green-winged Teals were at Madawaska July 27. Tons of silt from the prison construction at Ray Brook cannot be helping the vegetation at Oseetah Marsh where Ring-necked Ducks breed. Hopefully the idea of a sewage lagoon next to the brook will be abandoned or we will further degradate a prime habitat. It isn't mandatory that the word "develop" be synonymous with the word "destroy." Somebody with power has to give a damn. The Adirondack Park Agency is working on this. A female Common Goldeneye with eight flightless young was on Bear Pond June 20 (TM, WR). Several females were seen on ponds from Paul Smiths to Saranac Inn. About thirty Hooded Mergansers were seen on various ponds near Paul Smiths. 28 Common Mergansers were on Upper Saranac Lake July 29. They prefer lakes while the Hooded likes smaller water.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: In July, Major Day Sr. spotted a Turkey Vulture south of Malone. 15 were at Whallonsburg in early Aug. (CS). A Goshawk was at Saranac Inn July 26 and two immatures were at Jay Aug. 9. Sharp-shinned Hawk: eight reported from Indian Lake, Onchiota, Saranac Lake, etc. A Cooper's Hawk was seen sitting in a tree at the usual place at the start of Madawaska Rd. (McD). Red-shouldered Hawk was not reported. Marsh Hawk: one Madawaska July 27 with a large snake; one Tupper Aug. 12 and one near Piseco in late Aug. Osprey: Whallonsburg, Tupper Lake, Onchiota, Upper Saranac Lake, Eighth Lake, Lower Ausable Lake, and Ray Brook impoundment all had summer reports as well as the more usual areas. Am. Kestrel laid the first egg in a Wood Duck box at Whallonsburg and the young were about ready to leave in early Aug. (JP, WP, CS). Turkey was reported from Jay and two Champlain locations. Com. Snipe were indeed common at Big Brook in late June (R & MS). Westport had two Semipalmated Plovers Aug. 19 and a Black-bellied Plover the next day. An Upland Sandpiper was at a Westport field July 15 (TC). There were quite a few Spotted Sandpipers. A Solitary Sandpiper was at Lake Placid July 23 and later several were in Champlain Valley. GC had a Pectoral Sandpiper at Westport Aug. 14. There were two Baird's Sandpipers there on the 19th (EJ, JP). Westport had a Sanderling July 30 (GC). From six on Aug. 14 the Bonaparte's Gulls at NW Bay built up to 44 on the 18th (GC). Six Com. Terns were at Tupper June thru Aug. 13 (CD). Black Tern: 5 adults at Tupper Aug. 3 (McD).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Long Lake June 20 (R & MS); one Paul Smiths June 21 (TM); one Elizabethtown during much of July (JP); one Tupper Aug. 18 obligingly stayed still at 50 feet (CD). Black-billed Cuckoos were widely noted, even one at Little Long Pond in the canoe area June 20 (TM). JP banded a few in the Champlain Valley. A Great Horned Owl and four Barred Owls were at Speculator June 26 (FS, DM). Whip-poor-will: one calling June 29 at Paul Smiths (TM), the first heard here in ten years; two were at the village of Street Road near Ticonderoga July 13 (FL). Com. Nighthawk: two reports of one over the Tupper Lake Grand Union; at least three pairs spent the summer on Brandon Burn at Paul Smiths; a flight of about twenty was headed south over Paul

Smiths in mid-Aug. (WR). Chimney Swifts at Tupper ranged from seven July 28 to 120 Aug. 2 (McD). AB had a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Seventh Lake that paid considerable attention to an orange life jacket hanging in a tree. It must have looked like some sort of bonanza to a small bird into flowers in a big way. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: a female at Ferd's Bog Aug. 22 and 26 (AB).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: number high. E. Phoebe: about 14 reported. There could be more if nests were checked and the cowbird eggs or young destroyed. Phoebe eggs are white. Throw out the larger mottled egg that is usually there. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three vocalizing near Saranac Inn in late July (McD); four Mt. Colden July 25 (TC, GR) and one on Wright Peak July 29 (TC); a transient banded at Essex Aug. 18 (CS); one Ferd's Bog Aug. 22 (AB); plus eight other reports mostly from the High Peaks. They are there but are often overlooked or overlistened. Olive-sided Flycatchers were easy to find. Essex had a Horned Lark with young Aug. 7 (FE, KM, JP). Rough-winged Swallow: one at Speculator June 26 (FS, DM); one at Tupper Lake and one at Upper Saranac Lake July 23 (both McD). Gray Jay: one at 3000 feet near Panther Gorge leanto and one on Algonquin July 18 (both TC); one was at Ray Brook July 24 thru Aug. 2 (WP); two at Ferd's Bog Aug. 22 (AB). Com. Raven: 26 individuals from Paul Smiths to Newcomb, the High Peaks and Elizabethtown, which seemed like the same birds were not being recounted. Boreal Chickadees were easy to find both in the High Peaks and in the lower elevation muskeg habitat. McD had 13 at Madawaska one July day. House Wren: four Underwood June 25 and four Speculator June 26. There was even one at Madawaska and three at Indian Lake. Their numbers are high. Winter Wren: max ten Newcomb June 27 (AJ, HM). Brown Thrasher: max seven Tupper June 24 (CD); one at Piseco where not often found. Gray-cheeked Thrush was reported from several high peak summits by TC. Veery: max 46 Speculator June 26. E. Bluebird: pair nested at Tupper, one at Underwood; four at Brandon Burn; six at Onchiota, six at Keene Valley, and two at Newcomb. JP banded a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher near Elizabethtown Aug. 17. TC saw 40 Golden-crowned Kinglets Aug. 9 near Sno-bird leanto in the High Peaks and 60 Ruby-crowned Kinglets July 29 on Wright Peak. Ruby-crowns were also seen in July at Onchiota, Madawaska, Bay Pond, and Ferd's Bog. Cedar Waxwing: max 31 Speculator June 26.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: A Yellow-throated Vireo was at Speculator June 26 (FS, DM), a good find. Red-eyed Vireo: max 115 Speculator June 26. Philadelphia Vireo: one Underwood June 25 (AJ) and one Newcomb June 27 (AJ, HM); one Ferd's Bog Aug. 27 "with very yellow breast and belly and no wing bars" (AB). Warbling Vireo: one Newcomb June 27 (AJ). This species tends to stay near villages. Black-and-white Warbler: max 12 Newcomb June 27 (AJ, HM). A Golden-winged Warbler female was carefully identified at Onchiota July 25 (McD). Gray back, yellow on forehead, wide yellow wing bar, distinct face pattern in gray noted. This is a Regional rarity. Tennessee Warbler: there were six near Elizabethtown from July 21 to Aug. 17 of which JP banded five. Magnolia Warbler is doing well. R Mc had 20 at Indian Lake June 29 and was not doing an official breeding bird survey. TC reported a few Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers below Panther Gorge leanto about June 8. A female Cape May was at Lake Placid dump July 22 (McD). A male Bay-breasted was at Floodwood July 30 (McD). TC found good numbers of Blackpoll Warblers in the higher elevations. It is good to get reports from climbers. Pine Warbler: three at Upper Saranac Lake July 23 (McD). More than usual Northern Waterthrushes were noted. There was even one at Madawaska July 27 (McD). About a dozen Mourning Warblers were heard or seen which is good. Canada Warbler numbers are good.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: This has been the best year in at least ten for Northern Orioles. Most places had one or two and some had many. 18 were banded by JP at Elizabethtown and CS banded 17 near Whallonsburg. Six were at Street Road July 13. Quite a few Rusty Blackbirds were seen including a report from Long Lake. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 15 Speculator June 26; 15 Street Road July 13 feeding on mulberries (FL). Indigo Buntings are the highest in numbers in at least ten years from Speculator to Indian Lake to Paul

Smiths. Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches are in good numbers. A female House Finch was banded Aug. 13 near Whallonsburg (CS). Several small groups of Pine Siskins were seen. Red Crossbills were seen or heard in July from Paul Smiths and Onchiota to Ferd's Bog. White-winged Crossbill: two males, one singing and several other individuals flying were at Chubb River July 21 (mob); one Haystack Mt. Aug. 9 (TC). Rufous-sided Towhee: none at Tupper where there is usually one or two but AJ found one near Adirondack Loj and RMc had one at Indian Lake June 30. The Champlain Valley is more to their liking. Vesper Sparrows were in fair numbers. They have been hard to find in the last few years. Field Sparrows are very scarce. They were absent from some areas that had them last year.

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REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The weather for the Region varied for the period as much as the Region's physiography does. July precipitation in amounts of six inches (15+ cm) fell in areas of higher elevations of Albany, Greene, and Rensselaer Counties. However, most of the Region received three inches (7.6 cm) or less, and the City of Albany had about one inch (2.5 cm) for July. The temperatures varied even more dramatically. A warm start for June was thwarted by a very late frost in widely separated locations later in the month. A low temperature of 28° F (-2° C) was recorded on June 26 in Washington Co. On the other extreme, the high temperature for the period came from both southern Rensselaer Co. and Saratoga Springs with vigor, melting 102° F (39° C) on July 14. The first "cold" front came through the area on July 18, and with it came the first fall migrants, including some recently fledged Swainson's Thrushes into the Hudson Valley. Did they come all the way down from the mountains, or did they originate in the lowlands nearby?

Favorable trends noted from the reports received are the continued comeback of the two smaller accipiters and the Red-shouldered Hawk. Also encouraging is the widespread repopulation of Turkey in the Region, as evidenced in part by the record take by hunters during the Spring season which ended in early June. On the topic of mixed blessings is the woeful loss of our white ash trees along the bottomlands. This loss should, however, provide ample nest site opportunities for Red-bellied Woodpeckers. The apparent spread of the mysterious maple wilt through our sugar maples should likewise benefit the Red-headed Woodpeckers in the uplands. Finally, the spread of the practice of early June mowing of hayfields as advocated by agricultural advisors such as Cornell Cooperative Extension, will most likely abet the decline of the grassland sparrows such as Vesper, Henslow's, Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows, as well as Bobolinks, and perhaps Short-billed Marsh Wrens.

Contributors whose observations are reflected, with thanks, in this report are: Ken Able, William Able, Arlene & Tom Brown, Jim Bush, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Juanita Cook, Rena Dodd, Kate Dunham, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, William Gorman, Elisabeth Grace, Monte Gruett, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Carolyn & Ron LaForce, Bob Marx, Tom Palm-