

firmed on six including Pompey (DWC), our first nesting in the southern highlands. Red Crossbill: one report only in early June from Herkimer Co. Grasshopper Sparrow: at an all time low, reported from only four sites, none in Atlas blocks. Henslow's Sparrow: similarly scarce, reported from about six sites, nesting confirmed in one of the three blocks in which it was found.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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Summer of 1980 initiated the Breeding Bird Atlas Project and some rather good observations Regionwide. Whether the hours afield or a development of a keener eye and greater awareness was the result of the Atlas Project, I am not sure. Many of the observations were in field work other than Atlas blocks.

The weather was not overly hot and some sections of the Region experienced a semi-drought condition. When rain did occur, the result was a deluge. On July 20, an overnight rainfall dropped two plus inches of rain in Watertown. Maximum temperature for the period was in the low 90's, while the coolest periods were in the low 70's. Lake Ontario water level dropped for the period but lake level at the end of the period was above the previous year.

On the positive side: cormorants are still increasing; Turkey Vultures continue to increase; Marsh Hawks show great improvement; Gray Partridges in Massena show some improvement; Upland Sandpipers show great improvement or better coverage; Ring-billed Gulls had an excellent nesting year; Caspian Terns are increasing in occurrence at El Dorado; Short-eared Owls seemed to be everywhere there was a wetland; Loggerhead Shrikes showed vast improvement with two positive nesting locations; increasing House Finches and some excellent grassland sparrow observation.

Negatives for the period include the following: a decrease in Black-crowned Night Herons; Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks still low; Common Terns still decreasing; Black Terns in trouble; Common Nighthawks still low; sapsuckers still in low numbers and White-throated Sparrows still low.

Rarities for the period included the following species: Piping Plover; Wilson's Phalarope; Short-eared Owl; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Tufted Titmouse; Short-billed Marsh Wren; Loggerhead Shrike; Grasshopper Sparrow; Henslow's Sparrow; and Lincoln's Sparrow.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: Adirondack and Indian River Lakes area nesting success was down from last year's; one St. Lawrence River (hereafter SLR) June 4; three SLR June 10; pair Upper and Lower Lakes July 20. Pied-billed Grebe: 46 including young Wilson Hill July 31 (J. VanRiet). Double-crested Cormorant: five to six per day El Dorado in late June—

rapidly building to 28 to 38 per day with 50% being Hy Birds (?)—80 max. at El Dorado by July 10 and remained thus through late July; eight Eisenhower Lock area Aug. 1; one east of Sheik Island—SLR Aug. 31; population still building. Great Blue Heron: a very good year—numbers up. Green Heron: occurring in above average numbers. Cattle Egret: one near Chaumont, July 29—probably from Little Galloo Island; one Croil Island—SLR Aug. 8—a new bird for the Massena area (J. VanRiet). Great Egret: one lower pool Perch River Aug. 1 (R. Adams). Black-crowned Night Heron: numbers way down in Massena area (J. VanRiet); numbers also down in Henderson and El Dorado areas (L. Chamberlaine, G. Smith). Least Bittern: one Wilson Hill June 17 (J. VanRiet); one Upper and Lower Lakes June 17, 18 & 19; nest with five eggs Upper & Lower Lakes June 28—first verified breeding record for St. Lawrence Co. (K. Crowell); one Crooked Creek Marsh, Town of Hammond, St. Lawrence Co. (G. Smith). Am. Bittern: one Wilson Hill July 19 & 31—numbers down (J. VanRiet); frequently heard at Upper and Lower Lakes (K. Crowell); three in Clare June 12 & 13; numbers in Henderson may be down? Mute Swan: one El Dorado Aug. 17 (G. Smith); same Aug. 23; this is probably same bird as seen at El Dorado late last fall. Canada Goose: production at known breeding locations up; one at El Dorado late June thru July—non breeder. Mallard: everywhere. Black Duck: still holding on and maybe a little improved. Gadwall: 25 El Dorado July 3 with two to ten per day for rest of July. Pintail: one female El Dorado July 18. Green-winged Teal: two to five per day, mostly males at El Dorado from July 3 on. Blue-winged Teal: very common on larger wetlands along Lake Ontario; increasing along Lake Ontario at end of period. Am. Wigeon: adult with young seen at Perch River (C. Devan). No. Shoveler: five males Croil Island—SLR June 3. Wood Duck: second to Mallard in frequency as breeder in Jefferson Co. Redhead: six July 1; 44 July 14; 90 July 31; 300 Aug. 16—all Wilson Hill. Ring-necked: two pair Wilson Hill June 17 thru 26; Upper & Lower Lakes birds on June 19; two groups of eight Wilson Hill July 31. Canvasback: one Wilson Hill June 26. Lesser Scaup: one female Wilson Hill June 29. Com. Goldeneye: one female east of Sheik Island—SLR July 28. Bufflehead: female at El Dorado July 3 thru 7. White-winged Scoter: three near El Dorado Aug. 23. Hooded Merganser: one Wilson Hill (female) on July 21. Com. Merganser: 31 SLR (Long Sault to Cornwall Bridge) Aug. 10; six same Aug. 31.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: more and more common along the Lake Ontario plain—ten Henderson Pond June 6; two Sears Pond-Tug Hill Plateau June 18; report of blue-streamered bird in area in June but no number reported on the streamer. Goshawk: one male calling at Brandy Brook near Waddington in June. Sharp-shinned: one Grantville-St. Lawrence Co. July 9 (J. VanRiet). Cooper's: one Perch Lake June 7 chasing blackbirds (S. Brown); one near Henderson Aug. 20 (L. Chamberlaine). Red-tailed: numbers seem a little down. Red-shouldered: none reported. Broad-winged: four Inlet-Oswegatchie River Aug. 7. Marsh Hawk: great improvement—many observations—young and adults. Osprey: one Perch River June 8; one Oswegatchie June 13; one Morristown June 15. Am. Kestrel: summer population was down from the previous summer. Ruffed Grouse: the crash may have come? Gray Partridge: two E. Bangor June 7; three Three Mile Point July 12; a covey at Reynolds Plant and a covey at Robt. Moses Park, numbers slightly up in Massena area. Virginia Rail: one Winthrop area June 7; one Wilson Hill June 17. Com. Gallinule: two Wilson Hill July 31; many through period at Perch River. Am. Coot: two singles Wilson Hill July 19; three same July 31; four same Aug. 12—no evidence of breeding. Semipalmated Plover: 12 El Dorado July 30; six same Aug. 11. **PIPING PLOVER:** one El Dorado Aug. 9 (G. Smith). Killdeer: broods everywhere, excellent nesting year. Ruddy Turnstone: arr. El Dorado July 24; 40 El Dorado Aug. 3; two El Dorado Aug. 17. Am. Woodcock: may be an increase from last year. Com. Snipe: one El Dorado Aug. 3; two El Dorado Aug. 17. Upland Sandpiper: either a tremendous increase or better coverage by observers; pair with young Haverstock Rd.—Massena in June; singles and pairs on lake plain thru. Spotted Sandpiper: 12 El Dorado July 30; 15 El Dorado Aug. 9; four El Dorado Aug. 17. Solitary Sandpiper: two El Dorado Aug. 9. Greater Yellowlegs: two El Dorado Aug. 17. Lesser Yellowlegs: 19 El Dorado July

30; 26 same Aug. 3; 40 same Aug. 9. Red Knot: two El Dorado July 30; three Aug. 3. Least Sandpiper: five El Dorado July 30; 15 same Aug. 3; 15 same Aug. 17. Stilt Sandpiper: one El Dorado July 30 (G. Smith). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 390 El Dorado July 30; 500 same Aug. 3; 300 same Aug. 9; 250 same Aug. 17. Sanderling: one El Dorado Aug. 3; eight same Aug. 8. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**: one El Dorado Aug. 23 (R. & J. Walker). Great Black-backed Gull: one adult El Dorado Aug. 3; one imm. El Dorado Aug. 9; 41 Long Sault to Robt. Moses Dam Aug. 10; five El Dorado Aug. 17. Herring Gull: 50 Long Sault to Robt. Moses Dam Aug. 10. Ring-billed Gull: an excellent production year at Little Galloo based on the observations on uplands around Henderson; 6000 pairs on Strachan Island (J. Van Riet); four cripples at Robt. Moses Dam on Aug. 10 probably caused by hail storm on July 11 (J. VanRiet); 2500 El Dorado July 30. Bonaparte's Gull: five (three adults and two imm.) Robt. Moses Dam; 15 same July 31; 95 same Aug. 9. Com. Tern: about 180 nests counted this season from Waddington to Massena-SLR, numbers increasing; decreasing in Eastern Lake Ontario area. Black Tern: "not a single bird" in Massena area (J. VanRiet); nest with three eggs Upper & Lower Lakes June 19 (K. Crowell); Lakeview birds seem to be holding their own and Perch River may be slightly improved. Caspian Tern: 21 El Dorado Aug. 9, increasing at El Dorado area.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: everywhere on the lake plain. Black-billed Cuckoo: fairly common this summer along Lake Ontario and SLR. Long-eared Owl: one found dead in Massena area June 1 (J. VanRiet). **SHORT-EARED OWL**: one Ashland Wildlife Management Area near Three Mile Bay June 5 (S. Brown); one near LaFargeville June 9 (S. Brown); two Watertown Airport near Dexter June 10 (S. Brown); four Ashland WMA June 11 (E. Smith); two Watertown Airport June 17; one Gunns Corners June 23 (R & J Walker); three Black Lake July 29-30; are they increasing or better coverage? Whippoorwill: numbers down in Massena area (J. VanRiet); heard Clare June 13 and Pierrepont June 17 (K. Crowell). Com. Nighthawk: pair over Massena thru period—a few in Watertown. Chimney Swift: numbers in Henderson area were slightly down from normal numbers. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: numbers were above normal. Pileated Woodpecker: one near Mannsville Aug. 2. **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**: one imm. eating wild apples on tree in Henderson Aug. 16—previous day a north wind was experienced. Red-headed Woodpecker: one near Brownville June 22 (S. Brown); two Clayton Aug. 2 (R. Brouse); one near Clayton Aug. 28 (R. Brouse). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: numbers down on lake plain.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: very, very common this year. Great Crested Flycatcher: in normal numbers. E. Phoebe: numbers up—every bridge in northern New York has a pair. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Sevey's Corners, June 21 (R & J Walker). Willow Flycatcher: one Jefferson Community College June 13; one Black Lake July 21; one or two upstream of Inlet on the Oswegatchie River Aug. (A. Brayton); not a single bird heard in eight blocks (J. VanRiet). Alder Flycatcher: very common in Massena area; several upstream from inlet along the Oswegatchie Aug. (A. Brayton). Horned Lark: six at Wagstaff June 28 (very rare breeder in northern New York). (J. VanRiet); a few in Henderson in July but very few. Tree Swallow: one albino at Wilson Hill July 1-6 (J. Van Riet). Cliff Swallow: 1010 nest funnels below the Robt. Moses Dam. Boreal Chickadee: two June 21 Sevey's Corners (R & J Walker); several at Sevey's Aug. 8 (A. Brayton). **TUFTED TITMOUSE**: a pair reported at Montario Point by Lorna McLeod during the breeding season (*vide* R & J Walker); one at DeGrasse June 13 (K. Crowell). Red-breasted Nuthatch: three including adult feeding young Chases Lake June 29; small migration movement noted the week of Aug. 15 at Jefferson Community College. Brown Creeper: adult with young Canton June 22 (K. Crowell). House Wren: very common this year. Winter Wren: one heard singing Henderson Harbor lake shoreline July 13. Long-billed Marsh Wren: six heard at Wilson Hill on June 17—increasing; in good numbers along Lake Ontario wetlands. **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN**: one singing male Louisville Landing July 9 (J. VanRiet); two Philadelphia Fish & Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey (R. Long); one Ogdensburg BBS (R. Long). Mockingbird: pair near Brownville Aug. 1 (S. Brown). Gray Catbird: in normal num-

bers. Brown Thrasher: numbers in Henderson area seemed down. Am. Robin: superabundant this year. Hermit Thrush: heard at Wilson Hill June 4 and Brasher Center June 25. E. Bluebird: nest with unsuccessful brood Canton June 3; nest with successful brood Pierrepont (K. Crowell). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one in migration and feeding in Honey Locust, Henderson Aug. 24—photographed (L. Chamberlaine). Golden-crowned Kinglet: feeding young Wilson Hill June 4. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: four Sevey's Corners June 21. Cedar Waxwing: numbers up everywhere. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: two birds near Watertown June 5 and thru—searches for nest were unsuccessful, adjacent road project may have disrupted nesting? one near Copenhagen June 12 (R & J Walker); pair with two young near Morristown Center, St. Lawrence Co. June 29 (R. Long); single adult near Brier Hill July 8 (R. Long); pair with unsuccessful nesting near Omar, Jefferson Co. July (R & J Walker).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: seven singing along 1.5 miles of lower Crooked Creek, Town of Hammond, St. Lawrence Co. (G. Smith); one singing male Kringpoint State Park July 8 (J. VanRiet). Solitary Vireo: pair Sevey's Corners June 21. Red-eyed Vireo: in normal numbers. Warbling Vireo: about normal numbers. Golden-winged Warbler: three resident males with adjoining territories Pierrepont (K. Crowell); one adult male in full plumage at boat launch site Inlet, near Wanakena on Oswegatchie River Aug. 8—seemed part of a mixed flock of migratory birds that fed in the brush and trees (A. Brayton). Nashville Warbler: one near Cranberry Lake State campsite in heavy brush Aug. 7 (A. Brayton). Magnolia: common at Sevey's Corners—adult feeding young Aug. 8. Black-throated Blue: a pair Brasher Center State Forest June 25. Yellow-rumped Warbler: nesting at Brasher Center and Wilson Hill. Pine Warbler: probably nesting at Wilson Hill and Brasher Center (J. VanRiet); at least six singing males in Jacques Cartier State Park for the period (R. Long); one male resident in Canton June 1-24; two others nearby June 22 (K. Crowell). No. Waterthrush: one Brasher Center June 2; one Grantville June 13. Mourning Warbler: one Brasher Center June 2; one in Waddington and Massena thru June (J. VanRiet); one Aldrich June 12 & 13; one Fine June 13 (K. Crowell); two Sevey's Corners June 21.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: very, very common. No. Oriole: good production year. Com. Grackle: excellent production year. Brown-headed Cowbird: numbers in the Henderson area still down. Cardinal: first recorded nesting for Canton area on June 18, 3 eggs laid and nest deserted on June 23 (J. Green). Evening Grosbeak: three heard and seen overhead Henderson July 23; two heard and seen overhead Henderson Aug. 6 (L. Chamberlaine). Purple Finch: numbers up from last summer. House Finch: a pair at Dry Hill June 14 thru July 4 (R & J Walker); continues to increase in Watertown, max. at feeder of ten, one known successful nesting (F. Clinch). Am. Goldfinch: numbers may be up. Savannah Sparrow: still problems but some improvement in Henderson and vicinity. **GRASSHOPPER SPARROW**: singing at Gunns Corners near Watertown June 23; two same location June 30; several in Chaumont July 20 (R & J Walker). **HENSLOW'S SPARROW**: one Gunns Corners June 23; four to six same location June 30; several in Chaumont July 20 (R & J Walker). Vesper Sparrow: only one singing male heard for the season (J. VanRiet); no birds in Henderson area—very, very scarce. Field Sparrow: numbers seemed above normal on lake plain. White-throated Sparrow: numbers in Massena area still down; Jefferson Co. and Tug Hill numbers down; confirmed breeding in Town of Morristown, St. Lawrence Co. (R. Long). **LINCOLN'S SPARROW**: one Sevey's Corners carrying food June 21 (R & J Walker). Swamp Sparrow: in good numbers in Lake Ontario wetlands. Song Sparrow: numbers may be slightly down but not significantly.

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