

some. Nineteen species of warblers were reported, including the following: Golden-winged Warbler: locally very common, 15 males in three miles on Burns Rd., Theresa 9 July (RL); no others reported, none at past sites in Pierrepont (KC). Cerulean Warbler: one Burns Rd., Theresa (RL). Louisiana Waterthrush: two adults feeding two FY plus one FY Cowbird at Washington Park near Adams 22 July (RW). Mourning Warbler: singles DeGrasse and Fine 12 July.

TANAGERS-SPARROWS: Scarlet Tanager: pair Pierrepont 11 June; three DeGBBS. N. Cardinal: two Potsdam thru (SDeG); pair and one FY Canton; several in Massena, but no confirmed breeding. Indigo Bunting: ten Canton 2-6 July; ten Clare 3 July; three DeGBBS 12 July. Field Sparrow: two DeGBBS, DeGrasse and Fine. Vesper Sparrow: singing males in three locations, Morristown. Henslow's Sparrow: one S male PBBS, 1.5 mi. N of Philadelphia on Rt. 26, 3 July (RL). Confirmed breeding in Canton for all common Icterids except E. Meadowlark. Bobolink: moving south after 20 July (LC). Purple Finch: six Canton thru, decrease (MEH); six Potsdam thru; one Clare 3 July; one DeGBBS Aldrich, Fine. House Finch: ten Canton, increased (MEH); one male Morristown 5 July (RL); increasing in Henderson, outnumber Purple Finch which is also up (LC).

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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We now have so many Atlas records that presenting reports in the accustomed format (species, number, place, date, observer) is impossible for all but a few rare birds. Happily though, we can now begin to present some preliminary figures showing the number of blocks in which a species has been found and how many of those are Confirmed records, as well as a few of the most recent locations from 1983 field work.

Locations, however, pose a growing problem, even without the Atlas. Of the Spring Season report, a reader observes, "Even I, as a resident of the Adirondacks, don't know where many of these places are." Nor, at times, does the editor. Known locations, whose names have become familiar to birders (Ferd's Bog, Madawaska), are avoided by birders in search of virgin blocks, of increasingly remote areas with no ornithological history. This year the Gray Jays were found at sites where the largest villages or landmarks in the blocks were Augerhole Falls, Black Brook, Cranberry Bog, Derrick, Duane Center, Hayes Brook, Indian Lake, Lake Eaton campsite, Panther Pond, Vermontville, and West Branch bog. Locating each by township or county, assuming the research could be done, would only take space, since each will appear as a symbol on the final species map and many will not be revisited by birders until the next Atlas anyway. If a sense of cartographic mystery prevails, at least the place names cited convey a sense of previously unexplored diversity, of the adventure of the Atlas experience.

By the reporting deadline, green data sheets had been submitted for more than half of the 689 blocks in this region. With the approach of the final year of Atlas field work, less than 100 blocks remain with no coverage. Perhaps 12,000 records were submitted, although many represent upgrades of previous records to a higher breeding code, or several encounters with a species in the same block. Some observers also perversely insist upon incorporating all previous records for a block on their green sheet. Almost 5,000 records were obtained by a dozen blockbusters who covered approximately a hundred blocks. The goal of 76+ species has now been reached in 115 blocks, and 86% of all blocks in the region have now obtained at least some coverage.

The weather, if observers took much note of it, was generally dry and warm. There were exceptions. Cloudbursts over much of the region during June often caught field workers out in remote parts, causing extreme discomfort. High winds and even tornados passed through the region on 8 August, downing trees all along the Clinton-Essex line, and dashing a Bonaparte's Gull from the sky, through tree branches, and onto the ground near Port Douglas along the Champlain shoreline.

A total of about 197 species was reported, of which all but eight are considered breeding birds for Atlas purposes, assuming that all verification reports stand up to scrutiny. Rarities include Tricolored Heron (a first not only for this region of NYS, but also for the State of Vermont), White-eyed Vireo in Franklin Co., a long-awaited first Cerulean Warbler, and a host of others no less important to our growing understanding of regional and state birdlife. Highest credit goes to the Brooklyn observer whose willingness to bushwack a dense alder stand alone and slog a sphagnum bog in a remote corner of western Franklin Co. led to the discovery and documentation of a pair of Palm Warblers, the fourth new breeding species for the state since 1980. Finally, if the boreal reports tantalize, contact a coordinator of Region 5, 6, 7, or 8, remembering that a block *anywhere* in the state pushed to the levels of adequate coverage (76+ species, 38 Confirmed [CO]) will yield its own exciting rewards.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loons have now been reported from 149 blocks, CO in 61, and some blocks have several lakes with nesting loons; downy young were found along L. Champlain this summer as far north as Point au Roche. By contrast, Pied-billed Grebe is scarce: nine blocks, two CO thus far, with only one young reported this summer from Chazy Landing (MG). This was the summer of the Double-crested Cormorants: 55 Four

Brothers Island 12 June (JP), 250-300 there the evening of 14 Aug (LS), 35 Plattsburgh 27 Aug (MG), and even two on L. Colby 30 Aug (DY). With 214 nesting trees tagged, 432 nests counted, and the colony only partly surveyed, Valcour I. may have one of the largest populations of Great Blue Herons in the state (CM). Snowy and Cattle Egrets in Clinton Co. may nest on the Sisters Islands in VT. A **TRICOLORED HERON** at Chimney Point, VT, 15 Aug flew across the Champlain narrows at Crown Point into Essex Co., NY (GC, RH). About 100 pairs of Black-crowned Night-Herons nested on the Four Bros., and breeding is suspected near Point au Roche. Mute Swans raised young in Plattsburgh (CM), where there was a Brant 8 June (J & RH, D & JY). Canada Goose: nine CO blocks, added at Chazy, Hinchinbrook Brook, L. Alice. Wood Duck: 32 CO, added L. Durant, Lewey L., Madawaska. Green-winged Teal: two CO, added Raquette R. (CD). N. Pintail: first CO from Chazy Landing (MG). Blue-winged Teal: seven CO, added Tourville Rd. (DN, JP). Gadwall: one CO, pair added Chazy Landing. Am. Wigeon: two CO, pair added Chazy Landing. Male Greater Scaup and pair Lesser Scaup Chazy Landing 17-18 June (MG). Com. Goldeneye: eight CO, added Chazy and Tupper L. Bufflehead: male Chazy Landing 18 June (MG). Hooded Merganser: 50 CO, added Buck Pd., De Bar Pd., Follensby Jr. Pd., Grass Pd., Hayes Brook, Indian L., L. Alice, L. Durant, Paul Smiths, Rickerson Brook, Saranac R., Shingle Shanty Pd., Sly Pd., W. Branch Ausable.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vultures have now been recorded in 107 blocks, four CO; added at Azure Mt., Moriah, and Point au Roche. Interestingly, Hamilton Co. has only two PO, one PR, thus far. Osprey: 114 blocks, 33 CO; added Habroucks. The hacking of 23 Bald Eagles from Alaska in Franklin Co. was disrupted by an outbreak of avian pox, with some birds moved to Cornell and Delmar, then returned for release. Upon fledging, birds immediately set off on long distance journeys; some first flights were over 100 miles before landing. Adults were reported from Indian L., L. Durant, Lewey L., Oxbow L. Outlet, and pair Union Falls. A strong population of N. Harriers has been detected in northern Franklin Co. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 20 new records. Cooper's Hawk: eight new records. N. Goshawk: six new records. Red-shouldered Hawk: 16 new records. Broad-winged Hawk: 66 new records, including 20 new CO. Red-tailed Hawk: 37 new records. Golden Eagle: Wakely Mt. Am. Kestrel: 36 new records. Peregrine Falcon: a third hack site in Franklin Co. was added to those in Clinton and Essex and several subadults from previous years visited the last two sites. Spruce Grouse: now 13 blocks, four CO; brood Nehasane this summer (MB). More methodical spring searches and less dependence upon serendipity might improve the picture. Virginia Rail: now 21 blocks, six CO; chicks at Chazy Landing (MG) and Deadwater Pd. (MA, CW) this summer. Sora: 11 blocks, two CO; chicks Chazy (MG). Com. Moorhen; pair Chazy Landing 30 June (MG). Only 11 shorebird species, six of them migrants were reported—a poor showing. Lesser Golden-Plover: Gabriels 9 Aug (DY). Semipalmated Plover: arr Westport 30 July (GC, JP). Lesser Yellowlegs: two arr Chazy Landing 30 June, four there 9 July (MG). Solitary Sandpiper: Westport 4 Aug (JP). Up along the Canadian border, Upland Sandpipers have begun to turn up, sometimes in flocks of 8-12 or family groups, and there are now records from 23 blocks, including six CO. Semipalmated Sandpiper: two arr Chazy Landing 18 June, 20 there on 9 July (MG). Also Westport to 4 Aug (GC, JP). Least Sandpiper: three arr Chazy Landing 6 July (MG), also Westport 30 July (GC, JP). Bonaparte's Gull: Westport early Aug. Ring-billed Gull: 1,000 chicks banded Isl. C. Four Brothers, 12 June by High Peaks Audubon. Two band numbers were read with binoculars in May; one banded as an adult on the same island June 1981, the other banded as an imm in Ontario July 1979. Ring-bills from Champlain and the St. Lawrence range far inland, but what is the origin of birds in Hamilton Co.? Herring Gull: now 81 blocks, including 17 CO on interior lakes in Franklin and Hamilton Cos, plus the Four Brothers in Essex Co. Good numbers of Black Terns were at Chazy Landing, max ten on 30 June (MG).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: With a sense of regret akin to the loss of the America's Cup, we note that after four years of field work, keen Atlas observers not only recorded,

but also CO the first Rock Dove in Hamilton Co. at Indian Lake (M & RM); details will *not* be published elsewhere.!! Cuckoo ratio stands at 98 Black-billed (four CO); 28 Yellow-billed (one CO). E. Screech Owls were added at Hearts Bay, Hoffmeister, Piseco L., and Port Kent. Great Horned Owl: now 82 blocks, 12 CO; added Burke, Champlain, McDonald Pd., Saranac R. Barred Owl: 139 blocks, 12 CO; added Sable Mt. Long-eared Owl is being seriously under-recorded regionally, and perhaps statewide, due to observers' lack of familiarity with the three basic vocalizations; now recorded in only 17 blocks (one CO) after four seasons, the coordinator has shared in a disproportionate ten of these owls, which seem to turn up around conifer-lined lakeshores more often than not. N. Saw-whet Owl: 37 blocks, five CO. Com. Nighthawk: 34 blocks, three CO. The first Whip-poor-will CO came from Goose Pd.; only one of 72 records has come from Hamilton Co. Red-headed Woodpecker: 24 blocks, five CO; added Tourville Rd. Three-toed Woodpecker is now noted in 14 blocks, five CO, while Black-backed Woodpecker has been recorded in 51 blocks, 14 CO, in just this region; note too that many of these records involve pairs, family groups, or multiple sightings.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: 183 blocks, ten CO; added at Catamount Mt., Duane, Duck Pd., Goldsmith. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 63 blocks, seven CO; added Black Brook bog. Willow Flycatcher remains something of a mystery—almost the only species with no emerging coherent pattern, in spite of reports from Crown Point Penin., Devins Corners, Goodnow R., Guide Board Rd., Harkness, and Willsboro. Horned Lark is seemingly under-recorded, in only 23 blocks, nine CO. Gray Jay has now turned up in 35 blocks, 15 CO, in Franklin and Hamilton Cos. Given the amount of habitat and off-secretive nature of the birds, many more could be found; perhaps Clinton and Essex Cos. observers should check over their shoulders more frequently. A Franklin Co. Gray Jay used nest was collected, a first for NYS (DM, MM; deposited AMNH)! Com. Raven has been recorded in 134 blocks here and 21 nesting sites are known, located in all four counties. Lots of Boreal Chickadees remain to be recorded, even though already noted in 80 blocks, 24 CO, with still no Clinton Co. records. Sedge Wren still in only three blocks, but a second CO added at Mt. View, while there are 16 blocks with Marsh Wren, two CO. None of the 105 Adirondack breeding blocks with Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 11 CO, are in Clinton Co. Vast amounts of E. Bluebird habitat near the Canadian border go unoccupied, with no nest boxes in evidence. Gray-cheeked Thrush was located near Buck Mt., The Glen, Handsome Pd., Loon L., and Snowy Mt., and CO Bradley Pd. and Giant Mt., but is still being badly missed, with only 22 blocks, six CO, and a paucity of records from the High Peaks; shame on the Audubon chapter of the same name. European Starling: 281 blocks, 191 CO, 48% of blocks surveyed.

VIREOS-WARBLED: A singing male **WHITE-EYED VIREO** spent most of July in a thicket at the edge of a brook on Potter Rd., Alburg; white wing bars and yellow wash on sides of breast, song which continued over as long as 30 minute periods recorded on tape was played back and compared to all vireos. The match was excellent with White-eyed and none other (TP). Yellow-throated Vireo: 13 blocks, two CO, with records from Percy Campground and Perry Mills on the Canadian border. Philadelphia Vireo was CO this year at Hatch Brook Rd. (TD) and Piseco (A. Powers), with other sightings from Franklin Falls, G. Lake Rd., Moose Pd., Morehouse Rd., Hurricane Mt., Powley Place, Route 10, Spotted Mt., and Vermontville, for a current regional total of 25 blocks, four CO! Golden-winged Warbler: 13 blocks, one CO, all in Clinton and Essex Cos. Tennessee Warbler: suddenly 18 blocks, three CO, with new records from Augerhole Falls, Blue Mt. L., The Glen, Griffin, Martin Pd., Nehasane L., and West Branch bog. Cape May Warbler: inexplicably still not CO, although recorded now in 14 blocks; two were eating suet at a Tupper Lake feeder 30-31 Aug (CD), the observer noting that Yellow-rumped Warblers catch flies near the suet, but don't seem to fancy the suet at this time of year. Prairie Warbler: singing male Paleface 3-27 June, pair 5 June (AP, later GC, EJ, JP). Our regional candidates for

birds of the season are the **"YELLOW" PALM WARBLERS**: pair Black Brook bog 23 June (TS), nest located 6 July (DN, JP, TS; photos on file High Peaks Audubon); nest with one egg 8 July (TS), used nest collected 24 Aug (EJ, JP; AMNH 17922); first nesting record for New York State. Bay-breasted Warbler: still not CO although recorded in 18 blocks. Blackpoll Warbler: looking better, at 58 blocks, two CO; first Clinton Co. record from Lyon Mt. (BB, L & TO). **CERULEAN WARBLER**: singing male at Moriah 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. on 11 June (GC; also TB, NM). Louisiana Waterthrush: now 14 blocks, three CO, suggesting that a few observers are learning this bird of brooks, with records from all four cos. Wilson's Warbler: transient Saranac Lake 13 Aug (RH). Yellow-breasted Chat: Wadhams mid-July (DS).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: 85 blocks, 21 CO, seems fairly representative. Vesper Sparrow is being sadly overlooked by observers in northern farm country, based upon the experience of blockbusters, with records from only 57 blocks, 11 CO. Grasshopper Sparrow: only four blocks, first CO from Cadyville (BB, TO). Lincoln's Sparrow is the Region Seven success story, now recorded in 117 blocks, 36 CO (Bull noted just 14 breeding localities in this region). Rusty Blackbird: 68 blocks, 29 CO, following this summer; rather hard to find, easy to Confirm once located. House Finch: now 41 blocks, 14 CO, mainly in the Champlain Valley. Red Crossbill: 15 blocks, one CO. White-winged Crossbill: unconfirmed, only eight blocks. Evening Grosbeak: many 1983 reports of this widely-distributed species from the Sacandaga to Canada, from the Fulton chain to Champlain, and currently recorded in 108 blocks, 19 CO. Finally, House Sparrows are apparently much less widely distributed than starlings, having shown up in 162 blocks, with 94 of those CO.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

ED REILLY

June was warm and dry although there was a light frost on the ninth; July was generally warm and humid, and August was just a bit cooler. It rained on seven days in August, but there were occasional thunderstorms. Apparently the weather in July and August was uncomfortable for humans as we received fewer reports than usual—my own outings were restricted to short trips in my home area.

July is also a quiet month as most birds have stopped their territorial singing and August is worse, if possible. The woods and fields are not silent as there are various calls to be heard; birds and other animals must still communicate their alarms and let the others of the species know where the individuals are. Nests may still be located and even late reports are welcomed by the Atlas teams, so send them in. You may enjoy practicing nest identification using the newly published guide in the Peterson series.

Only 142 species were reported and many species which have been noted in the past summers apparently evaded our observers. A Short-eared Owl still lingers in the Ghent area according to Hugo and Barbara Gardina; Fish Crows nested near Castleton as noted by Paul Connor; Worm-eating Warblers appa-