

singles and only one site (n. of Little Falls) new. White-throated Sparrow: one near Jordan 28 June out of place. White-crowned Sparrow: Sheds 3 June (RK) record late. Orchard Oriole: nesting confirmed at new site n. of Skaneateles 28 June. Red Crossbill: four widely scattered reports of singles after 8 July.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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Once more regional reports seem to have been eclipsed – and rightly so – by heroic efforts to complete the Atlas. Thus much of our summer report consists of shorebird and waterfowl sightings from ElDorado Beach Preserve. In addition, we boast of one provisional regional first, one second sighting, two first breeding records, two species normally restricted to the Adirondacks, and two species well out-of-season. Weatherwise, in our Region, June was glorious. Temperatures ran a few degrees above normal and precipitation was one-third lower than normal. There were, however, two periods when night temperatures in the 30's and 40's must have had a severe impact on nesting. Monthly low temperatures (low 30's) occurred 1 June, followed by four cool days. Then ensued a week of warm weather with monthly highs reaching the high 80's on 8-11 June. The last third of the month was cool, especially 20-23 June. The Region was spared the flood-producing rains which fell elsewhere 17-18 June, but a front the 24-25th brought 1-2 inches of rain. July temperatures were about normal with monthly highs in the mid-80's occurring the 14-16th and lows in the mid-40's falling on the 25-26th. Precipitation was as much as two inches below normal. There were only three to six rainy days in July, with maximum rainfall of over an inch falling on 5 July. August was warm and rainfall was about normal with measurable precipitation falling on 18 days. On 11 August some localities received a cloudburst of almost three inches of rain.

Water levels were very high in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River in June and July, adversely affecting nesting of Common Terns and early migrant shorebirds. Flights in July were late and numbers low for most species. With receding water levels in August, flights were stronger and exceeded the poor ones of 1983. There were substantial movements of early migrants such as Eastern Kingbirds, *Empidonax* flycatchers and Yellow Warblers at ElDorado the last half of July. In addition to shorebird and waterfowl data compiled by Gerry Smith, detailed notes from Marilyn Badger in the Louisville-Massena area and Kevin Griffith for nine days (27 June to 4 July) in Canton, Clare, and Pierrepont allow comparisons of relative abundances of species which may be used in determining trends. Such comparisons will be made in the species accounts. A total of 161 species was reported for the period. With regard to species expanding ranges, we are alarmed at the breeding of Mute Swan in Jefferson Co. and the continued increase in Canada Goose populations. First nesting of House Finch in Massena

and possible nesting of Northern Mockingbird in Jefferson Co. are significant. Turkey Vulture is abundant in central St. Lawrence Co. Red-bellied Woodpecker and Tufted Titmouse were reported only from Henderson, and there were no Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Species for which there were few reports (not necessarily low populations) included accipiters, Whip-poor-wills and owls. There were no reports of Ring-necked Duck, Pectoral Sandpiper, or Scarlet Tanager. Concern was expressed for breeding levels of Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, and Blue-winged Teal. There were few boreal species reported, but Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Lincoln's Sparrow were noteworthy. Most species of Special Concern expected in the Region, including Sedge Wren, were reported. There were good reports for all grassland sparrows. Of particular significance were one or two migrant Peregrine Falcons, confirmed breeding of Loggerhead Shrike and Prairie Warbler on the New Limerick Cedars Preserve of The Nature Conservancy in Jefferson Co., second (?) regional sighting of Blue-winged Warbler and an American Tree Sparrow way out-of-season. A final rarity was a probable regional record for Sandhill Crane.

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Abbreviations: EDB-Eldorado Beach Preserve; Jeff. Co.- Jefferson County; PR-Perch River Wildlife Mgt. Area; St. Law. Co. - St. Lawrence County; SLR-St. Lawrence River; ULL-Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WBBS-Waddington Breeding Bird Survey, 13 June; WH-Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one PRWMA 3 July. Two adults in breeding plumage regularly noted on SLR from Morristown west; one pair with two chicks near Chippewa Bay SLR in June (KK); pair with three young ULL 18 July, first nesting at ULL (MEH, JW); pair with two, then one, young Rainbow Falls Reservoir, Colton (JIG); pair Payne L., Lewis Co. 18 July (JW). Pied-billed Grebe: six young with four adult PRWMA 9 July (LBC); two ULLWMA 3 July only reports; the current status of this species as a local breeder, particularly in the large marshes along L. Ontario, needs clarification. Double-crested Cormorant: one ULL (JVR) and 736 nests Little Galloo Island 27 July (DVW) is testimony to the astonishing growth of this colony during the last decade but 24 dead young, possibly the victims of human vandalism, is disturbing; 600+ mostly young Little Galloo on 10 Aug. (LBC). This species is now recorded daily in many L. Ontario and SLR areas; at EDB counts were 15-50 per day in June, 5-15 per day June-12 Aug., scarce thereafter at one to four per day thru; five PRWMA in Aug. (C. Dean) are noteworthy and uncommon inland. Least Bittern: one PRWMA 9 July (LBC), one ULL 3 July. Am. Bittern: two Louisville-Masena (MB) and one ULL (KLG) only reports. Great Blue Heron: Ironsides Island SLR colony now exceeds 600 nests (GRW), a crash in numbers nesting there is likely in the not too distant future due to heron-caused destruction of nest trees; most reports two to four per day in scattered areas. Cattle Egret: apparently still nesting on Little Galloo I. with five there 10 Aug. (LBC). Green-backed Heron: seemed scarce; two to four per day scattered locations; interesting report of one struck by a probable Goshawk in early Aug. at Canton (AG). Black-crowned Night-Heron: two to four per day EDB in June, few thereafter; 12 Little Galloo I. 10 Aug. Mute Swan: pair produced five young at PRWMA (C. Devan). Canada Goose: 184 banded PRWMA 5 July (LBC); five EDB 6 Aug., probably bred nearby. The ubiquitous presence of this species in pest proportions along the eastern SLR is testimony to the questionable wisdom of establishing artificial breeding populations in many areas. Wood Duck: poorly reported or scarce? Five to ten per day Henderson in

Aug. (LBC), one 18 Aug. EDB; pair Pierrepont 10 June only reports. Green-winged Teal: arr one EDB 30 July, five to ten per day EDB thereafter, max 20 EDB 6 Aug; not reported elsewhere. Am. Black Duck: two singles EDB prior to 20 July; one to five per day EDB thereafter, max nine EDB 9 Aug. Mallard: ubiquitous in suitable habitat; four to six per day EDB 1 June to 20 July; seven to ten per day there to 31 July, 30-80 per day EDB Aug. with max 105 on 14 Aug. No. Pintail: arr one EDB 14 Aug. then one per day thru. Blue-winged Teal: this is a species to watch closely in our area; Chamberlaine comments that they are not nesting in former numbers; at EDB none nested for the first time in four years of daily observations; post-breeding arr there three 28 July, numbers at EDB in Aug. of 15-40 per day are better than 1983 but a far cry from the hundreds of 1981-82; max at EDB are 65 on 20 Aug., and 66 on 24 Aug. Gadwall: fairly common breeder on many small islands throughout the SLR (GAS); three EDB 25 Aug. only other report. Am. Wigeon: two-five per day SLR between WHWMA and Massena during June-July; none elsewhere. Greater Scaup: one EDB 1-8 June is only report. Com. Merganser: 9-12 per day on three days between 18-31 Aug. only reports. Red-breasted Merganser: one ULL (JVR), tantalizing!

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: still increasing in lowland sectors throughout; two-four per day at many locations, max 17 Clear L., Jeff. Co. 12 June (RJW) undoubtedly near a roost. Osprey: pair nested at PRWMA (LBC) success of the attempt unknown; arr one 16 Aug EDB. Bald Eagle: the Jeff. Co. nest fledged two young including one blind in one eye; one bird present thru with the fate of the other unknown. No. Harrier: one to four per day throughout lowland areas in Jeff. and St. Law. Co.; subjective impressions indicate Jeff. Co. population is at least stable and may be increasing (GAS); arr one EDB dunes 10 Aug.; nest with three feathered young DeKalb in mid-Aug. (ER). Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk: none reported, probably due to secretive behavior rather than real scarcity. Goshawk: Canton 12 Aug. taking Rock Dove from barn (JSB). Red-shouldered Hawk: pair Winona, Town of Lorraine, Jeff. Co. (RJW) 4 June are probable breeders. Broad-winged Hawk: arr two imm. EDB 10 Aug. where they definitely do not breed. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** An extraordinary summer report is an imm at EDB 21 July (GAS). Much too early for a northern migrant, it must be assumed this was a wandering hacked bird perhaps from hatching program in southern Ontario as this program was the source of a bird "found dead" in DePeyster, St. Law. Co. this summer (LBC); the bands from this bird were turned in by an unknown person, suggesting that the bird was shot. Ring-necked Pheasant: two Massena 3 June. Gray Partridge: two Massena 17 June, 2 Massena 2 July (MB). Wild Turkey: one nest near Barnes Corners Lewis Co. (BS); only report. Virginia Rail: one Browns Corners near Alexandria Bay, Jeff. Co. 2 July; one ULL 2 July (KG); nine Massena 1 & 4 June (MB). Sora: one Massena 1 June only report (MB). Am. Coot: nine ULL 12 Aug. (MEH). Com. Moorhen: good numbers of young at PRWMA (LBC). **SANDHILL CRANE:** sighting near Chippewa Creek, Town of Hammond on five days 9-14 June, "call of the bird is loud enough to be heard in the house; it flies with neck outstretched" (A. Newell); one (same bird?) seen on Chippewa Bay Rd., Hammond, 20-22 July in field with small pond nearby by D. Morley and others (LBC), are there previous regional sightings? All the following shorebird data are from EDB by GAS unless otherwise noted. Black-bellied Plover: arr one 29 July, none thereafter until four 18 Aug. none thru, max 18 17 Aug. Killdeer: did not breed at EDB for the first time in four years, probably due to high water levels; arr two 22 July, two to four per day thru with max six to eight per day. Greater Yellowlegs; arr one 13 July, six singles thru 16 Aug. none thereafter; scarce as usual at EDB. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr one 6 July, late; total of four thru 20 July is very low; three to five per day thru 31 July; rapid increase in numbers to 12-25 per day; most of Aug. max 44 on 16 Aug. and 46 on 17 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: very scarce - adult 2 Aug. is only report. Spotted Sandpiper: only one/two pair breeding EDB where three to four usually breed, probably due to the impact of high lake levels; three to four per day thru 20 July; six to 12 per day 21 July-16 Aug; four to six per day thereafter. Upland Sandpiper: scattered reports of breeders at four locations. Whimbrel: one 22 July is only

report. Ruddy Turnstone: arr three 27 July late; two to three per day 27 July - 15 Aug.; generally a poor adult flight followed by a good imm flight. Red Knot: arr one 21 Aug.; one to three per day thereafter, all juveniles. Sanderling: arr six 29 July - late; most counts two to eight per day thereafter; max 14 on 12 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr one 21 July two weeks late, 40-100 per day first half of Aug., rapid increase to 200-350 per day thereafter; max 410 on 12 Aug. and 510 on 17 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr two 27 July is nearly a full month late, usually arrives by 1-4 July; two to eight per day thru 9 Aug., 10-15 per day thru 20 Aug., max 37 on 12 Aug. and 27 on 16 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: singles 12 and 25 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: one 18 Aug., one 25 Aug., two 26 Aug., one 28 Aug. are only reports. Pectoral Sandpiper: **none** for period extraordinary. Stilt Sandpiper: two per day 12 thru 16 Aug. only reports. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr one 28 July, one to four per day 12 Aug. thru max four 29 Aug. Com. Snipe: scattered breeders in several areas; singles at EDB mid-Aug. Wilson's Phalarope: one 12-14 Aug. and two 17 Aug. are only reports. Franklin's Gull: adult in partial breeding plumage EDB 6 Aug. (GAS). Little Gull: adult EDB 29 Aug. (GAS). Bonaparte's Gull: two 22 July and one there 1 July; none thereafter until two 29 July, two to ten per day intermittently thereafter until 23 Aug. 15-20 per day during the last week of Aug. Ring-billed Gull: evidence suggests a poor breeding year for Little Galloo I. birds (LBC, GAS); young of the year were late in appearing at EDB and generally were present in reduced numbers. Herring Gull: two to 12 per day along Lake Ontario. Great Black-backed Gull: two to six per day EDB thru. Caspian Tern: two to five per day June-July, numbers increasing to 10-20 per day in Aug.; max 25 on 20 Aug. and 33 on 26 Aug. Com. Tern: one to four per day June-July; increased numbers in Aug. with counts 10-20 per day to late Aug., max 56 on 26 Aug. Forster's Tern: one 6 Aug. Black Tern: one to two per day 1 June-20 July, none thereafter to 6 Aug., six to ten per day 7-14 Aug., none thereafter; small colonies persist at ULL and WHWMA.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: singles 23 June to 13 July from Risier, Depauville, Alexandria and Alex. Bay (RJW), and Clare 29 and 30 June (KG). Great Horned Owl: reports from Massena and Louisville in early July and a pair calling in Canton in mid-Aug. Com. Nighthawk: one Stony Pt. 25 Aug. Whip-poor-will: two Clare 13 June. Chimney Swift: gone 18 Aug. (LBC). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: pair Pierrepont June, others gone from Clare, Massena and Louisville. Red-headed Woodpecker: pair Ogdensburg early June (NS), pairs EDB thru (GS), singles Sacket's Harbor 7 June, Perch Lake 3 July, Lakeview WMA 8 July. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one Henderson 23, 26 July. Relative numbers of common woodpeckers recorded by MB and KG were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 13, Downy seven, Hairy three.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Sevey's Corners, Colton 2 June (MDiG). E. Wood-Pewee: "down from last year in Henderson" (LBC), eight adults, three FY Louisville in early July (MB); total of two 27 June to 4 July (KG). **YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER**: one Clare 28 June (KG) - unusual at low elevations during breeding season, listed as hypothetical in Region by Gordon. Least Flycatcher: 17 total (KG). Willow Flycatcher: no reports. E. Phoebe: 17 total (KG); "still reduced numbers" (LBC). Great Crested Flycatcher: three FY Potsdam 23 July; six total (KG). E. Kingbird: number strong throughout region flight of 110! EDB 16 Aug. (GS). Horned Lark: "a few in corn country of southern Jeff. Co." (LBC). All species of swallows were reported. Purple Martin: 70 with fledged young in Ogdensburg (MB) and 20 Waddington in June. Tree Swallow: albinistic individual observed several times Brown's Bridge, Colton, in mid-July (MEH). Tufted Titmouse: four young being fed by adults Henderson 26 June, two adults thru (LBC). Winter Wren: one Brasher Falls (JVR), unusual in SLR Valley; also from Parishville, Sevey's Corners and Blake Reservoir, Town of Colton; and Winona, Town of Lorraine, 4 June. Sedge Wren: one singing male Brier Hill 2 July, two territorial males near Hickory Lake, Macomb 30 June - all in uncut hay fields (RL). Golden-crowned Kinglet: four Clare 27 June (KG). Veery: less common than Wood Thrush in St. Law. lowlands, MB reports ten Veerys and 12 Wood Thrushes while KG found 16 Veerys and four Wood Thrushes

in foothills; in comparison KG found nine Hermit Thrushes. Am. Robin: partial albino (grayish-white) Heuvelton mid-June (HA). Gray Catbird: one "singing call of Whip-poor-will" Clear Lake, Alexandria 12 July (RJW). No. Mockingbird: pair nest building Town of Lyme, Jeff. Co. 23 June (RJW); probably first regional breeding record. Brown Thrasher: down from previous two years (LC), four WBBS, two (KG). Cedar Waxwing: increasing mid-June thru; nesting in Canton 4 July (KG). Loggerhead Shrike: none in previous breeding areas (RL); one Lyme 23 June (RJW); "pair raised one young" Limerick Cedars Preserve, Jeff. Co. (GS). Yellow-throated Vireo: one Sacket's Harbor 7 June (RJW); two feeding young ULL (JVR); adult FY near Hickory Lake, Macomb 27 June (RL). Warbling Vireo: down in Henderson (LBC); four WBBS. Warbling Vireo seems to be replaced by Red-eyed in forests of foothills — MB found one Solitary in Louisville and 26 Warbling and 20 Red-eyed along SLR, while KG found three Solitary and four Warbling to 40 Red-eyed in foothills. Eighteen species of warblers were reported. **BLUE-WINGED WARBLER**: one Depauville 26 June (RJW); may be first regional sighting since 1968 (Gordon). Does this mark the beginning of the invasion of our maturing old fields by this species and its replacement of the Golden-winged as has occurred to the south? Golden-winged Warbler: one Haight's Cors., Lorraine; one Pierrepont 6 June. **PRAIRIE WARBLER**: first regional record of breeding by a pair at Limerick Cedars Preserve, success unknown (GS). Canada Warbler: singing male Black Lake, DePeyster 8 June (RL). Relative numbers of all species recorded by MB along SLR and by KG in foothills respectively were: Yellow 145 (MB), 22 (KG); Chestnut-sided six, 35; Magnolia 0, 20; Black-throated Blue one, two; Yellow-rumped 0, six; Black-throated Green 0, 19; Blackburnian 0, 16; Black-and-white 6, 15; Am. Redstart ten, 13; Ovenbird two, seven; No. Waterthrush 0, 11; Com. Yellowthroat 45; 57.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: No. Cardinal: one Ogdensburg, seven Louisville-Massena (MB). Field Sparrow: 2 WBBS, eight Canton 27 June (KG). **AM. TREE SPARROW**: one Clare 28 June (KG), extraordinary! Field Sparrow: from Massena, WBBS, and Clare. Vesper Sparrow: one WBBS, at least three on territories near Pierrepont town dump (KC). Grasshopper Sparrow: adult with food for young Depauville 25 June, other singles Clayton 26 June; Strough's Crossing 10 July and Hyde Lake 11 July, both Town of Theresa; LaFargeville 14 July (all RJW). Henslow's Sparrow: one Wilkinson Rd., Canton on territory twice in July (JVR); singles Strough's Crossing 10 July, Hyde Lake 11 July (RJW). Lincoln's Sparrow: four Clare 28 June (KG), remarkable! Dark-eyed Junco: 18 including eight nesting Clare (KG). Purple Finch: 16 Pierrepont and Clare (KG), 2 adults, FL Ogdensburg 1 June to 15 July, three Canton thru (MEH); good number Henderson decreasing thru (LBC). House Finch: "explosion in Henderson, over 100 banded since June" (LBC), two pairs Potsdam began courting 16 May, males taking seed at feeder in July, eight young with 4 adults 5 Aug. thru (SRC); several resident pairs in Canton; first breeding in Massena (JVR). Evening Grosbeak: several Sylvan Falls, Parishville, breeding? (JVR); nine Clare 28-30 June (KG).

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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To the 30,631 regional Atlas records previously stored, more than twelve thousand (including upgrades to higher breeding codes), were added this summer. Green data sheets were received from more than 450 blocks, representing