

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

an area greater than the total blocks in at least three other regions of the state. Records were provided by assigned observers, over a dozen blockbusters, and the three DEC Adirondack loon survey teams operating from Newcomb, Saranac Lake, and Speculator. Canoeing the shorelines of about 200 lakes and ponds, the survey teams provided especially good information on loons and waterfowl.

Given the experience of the past five years, we can recognize how sketchy our picture of regional - and state - birdlife was prior to this monumental exercise. A review of the 1979 summer season report for this, or for that matter any, region is instructive. Red-shouldered Hawk was not reported in Region 7 in the year prior to the Atlas; since then, observers have noted Red-shoulders in 94 blocks, Confirmed them in 15. Even with data from BBS routes, some common birds fared poorly, as with, "E. Phoebe: about 14 reported." Since then, phoebes have been recorded in 373 blocks, or an average of 75 new blocks per year, a five-fold increase. One Yellow-throated Vireo and a single Golden-winged Warbler represented those species in summer '79, compared to 24 blocks and 16 blocks, respectively, since then, "About a dozen Mourning Warblers were heard or seen which is good." And it was, but no longer. Observers still seem to have trouble locating this skulker, but the 180 blocks represent a yearly average of 36, for a three-fold improvement over pre-Atlas days. "Field Sparrows are very scarce," was the 1979 assessment, based upon reports received; the 190 blocks in which they have since been recorded should provide some reassurance.

In spite of these gains, many species still remain little understood, and observers are increasingly sensitive to periodic fluctuations of certain birds. We also note that each year finds more observers getting a better grasp of the habits and habitats of several more elusive birds: Lincoln's Sparrows in '82, Tennessee Warblers in '83, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in '84, with resulting great leaps forward in the range maps. The gnawing question, as we await publication of the Atlas of breeding birds of New York State, is "what next?" Without the considerable incentives, psychological and financial, of an Atlas, a return to a much reduced effort seems sure. We hardly expect to hire float planes to visit remote wilderness lakes each year, as we did this summer. Certainly, even if the impetus could be sustained, the regional editor cannot continue to evaluate over ten thousand records annually for each nesting season. During 1985, some of the most experienced Adirondack-Champlain observers will be drawn by the Ontario Atlas to northern reaches of that province, and then over the following five years, to 1990, to Quebec province, or other states. Our regional burst has been glorious, but perhaps short-lived. A total of about 200 species was reported, of which all but eight are considered breeding birds for Atlas purposes. Rarities, of which there were many, included Tricolored Heron (the second in as many years), Franklin's Gull, and Caspian Terns. The summer weather was mostly moderate, with the usual aberrations that found observers in remote places drenched, forced to wade rivers and swollen dams, and huddled in the lee of rocky, windswept summits. By now, such meteorological events are expected, and only add flavor. The regional coordinator extends deepest thanks to all who took part in this remarkable Atlas experience. We've left a solid legacy to future students of Adirondack-Champlain breeding birds, and that we managed to enter all 689 blocks to obtain 100% coverage is an achievement in which we can all take pride. See you in Ontario, or Quebec, or wherever we can find virgin blocks and fresh field cards!

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loons were recorded in 218 regional Atlas blocks, Confirmed in 91, during the five-year Atlas. Recognizing that some blocks have several breeding pairs and that loons also nest in at least two other regions, this is in general agreement with earlier (1977-80) DEC estimates of a statewide population of 150-200 nesting pairs. Some of the 22 nests of Double-crested Cormorants on Islands A and B of the Four Brothers, L. Champlain, still had young 4 Aug., when an estimated 350-400 cormorants had gathered at the islands (LS). Other cormorant sightings included one on Clockmill Pd., Hamilton Co., 12 June (DEC); three flying into Allen's Bay, Clinton Co., 14 June (WK); and one on Mirror L., Essex Co., 29-31 Aug. (JH,NM). Another regional Great Blue heronry is located at King's Bay WMA (MG). One or two Great Egrets frequented the Allen's Bay area from late May through early July (WK), with three there 24 Aug. (LB); a pair was also at Chazy Landing 17 July (MG). [Note: On 17 June, three nests of Great Egret with young were found on Dickerson Island, near Dundee, Quebec, with seven still present 8 July.] Allen's Bay had a **TRICOLORED HERON** 5 June, for the second regional record. The same productive bay had Cattle Egrets from early May to 11 July, when five were present (WK). Two adult Black-crowned Night-Herons with three young were seen in a buttonbush swamp at Point au Fer 8 July (MG). On 27 June, along the Lake Shore Rd. at Chazy Landing, a No. Pintail with young, Gadwall with young, and two pairs of Am. Wigeons were seen (MG). Although Ring-necked Ducks again nested successfully at Tupper Lake Marsh and several other locations, a caution is raised since this species has only been Confirmed in 13 blocks in five years, compared with the 18 sites over a wider area published in Bull a decade ago. Female Com. Goldeneyes were on Kit Fox Pd. and Little Long Pd. 4 Aug. (SI, JP), and broods were reported from Follensby Jr. Pd. and Wolf Pd. (GM); in addition to the interior Adirondack population (7 CO blocks), this diving duck nests all along the Clinton Co. shoreline of L. Champlain (also 7 CO).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: About a dozen Turkey Vultures, an Osprey, and a Red-tailed Hawk were at the Palisades north of Westport 5 Aug., but the highlight of the boat trip was a female adult Peregrine Falcon dismembering prey on a snag at the top of this sheer escarpment along L. Champlain (G & GF, EJ, JP). A pair had first been spotted at the cliffs 27 July (PC, B & CG, MM) and the male seen 4 Aug. (JA, TR). Coincidentally, a banded imm, presumed Ontario-hacked, was seen just south of Westport this summer. Other adult Peregrine pairs seemed attached to sites at Catamount Mt., Chapel Pd., and Wilmington Notch, and although not confirmed during the course of the Atlas, nesting appears imminent. Spruce Grouse: now 18 blocks, five CO. Virginia Rail: 33 blocks, 9 CO. Sora: 16 blocks, 2 CO. For the second consecutive summer of high lake water levels, only 11 shorebird species, six of them migrants, were reported. Black-bellied Plover: two Allen's Bay 5 June (WK). Semipalmated Plover: Chazy Landing 21 June (MG); Westport 20 Aug. (GC). Lesser Yellowlegs: Chazy Landing 3 Aug. (MG). Solitary Sandpiper: widely reported from early July. Upland Sandpiper; now an unprecedented 42 blocks, 10 CO! Semipalmated

Sandpiper: Chazy Landing 21 June and 3 Aug. Least Sandpiper: five, Chazy Landing 3 Aug. (MG); four on a floating bog mat island on the Hamilton Co. side of Low's L. 17 Aug. (SI, JP). A juvenile **FRANKLIN'S GULL** at Westport 11 July provides a first regional and Adirondack Park record (GC, EJ). Bonaparte's Gulls arr. Monty's Bay 24 July; max 160 Westport 28 Aug. Two of the pink-bellied Ring-billed Gulls from Young I., Vermont, were spotted as far west as the Bellmont landfill in Franklin Co. on 2 June (NR), and there were numerous other sightings from Clinton and Essex Counties. A second-summer Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Port Henry 7 June, with Great Black-backed Gull nearby for comparison (GC, TB, NM). A lone Great Black-backed was seen from June thru 8 Aug. in northern Clinton Co. (CO). **CASPIAN TERNS** made a good showing, with one at Port Henry pier with a pack of Ring-bills 13 June (GC) for a second Essex Co. record, and three at Treadwell Bay 25 June (WK) and 26 June (SJ, WK) for the second Clinton Co. record.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Possible-breeding Rock Doves were noted in Hamilton Co. at Speculator and Wells. Great Horned Owl: 112 blocks, 12 CO. Barred Owl: 214 blocks, 12 CO. Short-eared Owl: one Deer Pond Marsh 23 July (CD). No. Saw-whet Owl: 58 blocks, 7 CO. Com. Nighthawk: 56 blocks, 6 CO. Whip-poor-will: only 2 of 97 blocks are in Hamilton Co. Red-bellied Woodpecker continued to be "seen off and on all summer" in Ticonderoga (DC). Red-headed Woodpecker: 31 blocks, six CO. Three-toed Woodpecker: 16 blocks, five CO. Black-backed Woodpecker: a satisfying 70 blocks, 17 CO.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: 257 blocks, 16 CO. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: the 101 blocks (up from 2 in 1980), with 13 CO, serve to define the general range, but unfamiliarity with song and call by observers leaves many blocks empty where the bird should occur. Horned Lark also remains under-recorded, at only 35 blocks, 12 CO. No. Rough-winged Swallow is undoubtedly more abundant than the 72 blocks, 17 CO, suggest. Gray Jay: 60 blocks, 25 CO, with the first Essex Co. record of the Atlas near Boreas Ponds (A & WC). Com. Raven was recorded in 181 blocks, with 32 nesting locations known in this region. Boreal Chickadees were not found anywhere in Clinton Co., although noted in 102 blocks in the other three counties, with 31 of those Confirmed. Finally, though, one of the 133 blocks with Ruby-crowned Kinglets is in Clinton Co., at Churubusco Bog, just a few kilometers below the Quebec border (DN, JP). The high-altitude Gray-cheeked Thrush surely occurs in more blocks, but the 29 where it was recorded over the past five summers will have to serve as indicators of the known range. European Starling: 352 blocks, 256 CO, 51% of blocks surveyed.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: 24 blocks, four CO. Philadelphia Vireo: an impressive 30 blocks, eight CO! Golden-winged Warbler; now 15 blocks, with the first Franklin Co. records added from the Towns of Brandon and Moira (JR, CS). Tennessee Warbler: now 22 blocks, 3 CO; two migrants Moriah 6 June; migrant Elizabethtown 25 Aug. (GC). Nashville Warbler: max 6 Elizabethtown 26 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: Moriah 4 June is considered a migrant (GC). Cape May Warbler was never Confirmed during the Atlas, although recorded in some 15 blocks; migrant Elizabethtown 25 Aug. (GC). Black-throated Green Warbler: presumed migrant Moriah 3 June (GC). Bay-breasted Warbler: 23 blocks, with an adult carrying food for young at West L., Canada Lakes, 10:15 a.m. on 29 June, for the long-awaited first - and only - CO of the NYS Atlas (GL); migrant Elizabethtown 25 Aug. (GC). Blackpoll Warbler: 82 blocks, 11 CO; found in Clinton Co. on Averill Peak (D & JC); at West L., Hamilton Co., Blackpolls were both visiting a nest site with food and building a nest near the FY Bay-breasted (GL). Black-and-white Warbler: max 5 Elizabethtown 25 Aug. (GC). Louisiana Waterthrush: several of the 20 blocks, seven CO, actually contain several territories. Mourning Warbler: 180 blocks, with 50 CO. Wilson's Warbler: male in a yard near Gibson Corners, Clinton Co., 12 June (PC) could have been a late migrant; male in a small area of black spruce and marsh just off the access road to Bartlett Carry Club, Franklin Co., 22 June (TD) is considered a breeding bird, as is a male in sedgy, grassy beaver meadow studded with black spruce on the southwest

side of the appropriately named Wilson Pond trail off Rt. 22, beyond Brady Pond, Hamilton Co., 10 July (SL, BR).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Clay-colored Sparrow: four blocks, none CO, although a singing male disturbed near Westville, northern Franklin Co., 27 June-2 July (JR, CS), now places this species in three contiguous blocks near the Quebec border in as many years. Although "Vesper Sparrows were in fair numbers," back in 1979, they were judged "hard to find in the last few years." Since then, vespers have been found in 75 Atlas blocks, CO in 14, despite the unfamiliarity of many observers with this sparrow and sketchy coverage of many blocks with suitable habitat. Grasshopper Sparrow: 12 blocks, 2 CO, provides a pleasant regional discovery. Lincoln's Sparrow: known from only 14 breeding locations in the region a decade ago, this species has been recorded in 163 blocks, 61 CO, from southern Hamilton Co. to the Canadian border; this remains the Region 7 success story. Rusty Blackbird: 89 blocks, 37 CO. House Finch: now 63 blocks, 24 CO, spreading toward the interior. The first bumper crop of white spruce cones of the Atlas gave the crossbill maps a much-needed final boost. Red Crossbill: 24 blocks, one CO. White-winged Crossbill: 18 blocks, one CO; this summer's records included a subadult male Mountain View L. 25 July, pair L. Clear Outlet 1 Aug., subadult male Madawaska disturbed by Gray Jays 21 Aug. (SL, JP), singing male Bloomingdale Bog 25 Aug. (A & WC, EJ, JP), and flock Helldiver Pd. late Aug. (GL). Evening Grosbeak: 157 blocks, 23 CO, with many of the 1984 records from eastern Hamilton Co. Finally, House Sparrows are still much less widely distributed than starlings, having shown up in 214 blocks, or 31% of those surveyed, with 141 of those CO.

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REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

The breeding range of the Yellow-throated Warbler made an amazing leap north this summer. Previously its range extended from the Gulf of Mexico to southern New Jersey, but in 1984 it was found nesting at two locations in mid-latitudes of New York. The Atlas project in its fifth and final year of field work has, with this bird, added a fifth new species to the breeding avifauna of the state. The Region 8 nest was found high in a White Pine in Cairo, Greene Co. in June and the birds continued to be observed through August.

The tiny hamlet of Harlemlville in Columbia Co. became a focus of attention for the region when a male Clay-colored Sparrow was discovered breeding with a Chipping Sparrow. Hybrid offspring were produced, straining our definition of the species concept once again. Two of the three eggs hatched and the young were banded.

Black-backed Woodpecker, a new regional breeding species, was added by Dick Guthrie while atlassing near Puffer Pond in Warren Co. Also in Warren Co. blockbusters recorded probable breeding for Philadelphia Vireo and Guthrie found Northern Parula along the Sacandaga River. Nesting Mourning Warbler in Columbia Co. is a first for that county. Olive-sided Flycatchers continue to be found by Atlas workers in the Catskills. A territorial male was observed in