

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Tug Hill Plateau 7 July, two or three near Hinckley Reservoir mid-July are at peripheral locations. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: present as far south as Gray, Herkimer Co.; at least one Nelson Swamp to 25 June (MSR), status uncertain; arr SP 15 Aug. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: one near Minetto 22 June (PDeB, mob) to 9 Aug, when accompanied by fledgling (DWC), is our first modern Regional nesting record; another near Bridgeport 11 June (DMO) is tenth Regional record. Bank Swallow: max 11,000 Clay Marsh 3 Aug. Barn Swallow: max 14,000 Clay Marsh 3 Aug. Com. Raven: nesting confirmed near Nobleboro, Herkimer Co., in June (FGS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: present in many low elevation pine plantations this summer; no evidence of an irruption by end of season. Carolina Wren: bird at StMC disappeared 7 July, then singles appeared irregularly at three Syr sites thru mid-Aug; family group near Brookfield (DWC) first confirmed Regional nesting since 1969. Winter Wren: very scarce everywhere. Sedge Wren: reported from four sites including one feeding young Clay (DWC) and one near Alder Creek (FGS) remote from most Regional reports. E. Bluebird: John Rodgers' bluebird trail in central Oswego Co. produced almost 500 fledged young this year, showing what dedicated management can accomplish. Brown Thrasher: scarce in western half of Region, evidently more numerous in the southeastern part.

VIREOS-WARBLES: Tennessee Warbler: last SSSP 2 June, arr Florence 27 July. N. Parula: found south to Nobleboro area. Magnolia Warbler: arr SP 24 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr Salmon River Reservoir 25 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr SP 31 Aug. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr SP 8 Aug, only obvious migrant. Pine Warbler: family group Battle Isle State Park (PDeB), new nesting locality. Bay-breasted Warbler: pair feeding young town of Webb 10 July (FGS) first confirmed Regional nesting since 1962. Blackpoll Warbler: several Granny Marsh 17 July (GL) of uncertain status. Louisiana Waterthrush: migrant SSSP 8 Aug (FGS). Hooded Warbler: two males near Nobleboro to early July (PDeB, DWC, FGS) evidently unpaired, first summer records from Adirondacks. Wilson's Warbler: arr SP 24 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Grasshopper Sparrow: widespread but scarce. Henslow's Sparrow: found at four sites only. Lincoln's Sparrow: found nesting in dry heath south to Hinkley Reservoir area (FGS). Orchard Oriole: male near Camillus 12 June (MSR) only report. Red Crossbill: occasional in ones and twos in conifers thru season. Evening Grosbeak: two sw of Minetto 9 Aug (DWC) and one E. Syr 24 Aug were the only reports away from known nesting areas.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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Farmers say that you can't count on three good crops—if it's a good hay year, it's too wet for the corn. June was cold and wet; July and August dry. Thus, it was a rough nesting season—at first too wet for swallows and then too dry for waterfowl. In fact, it was the third coldest June since 1890. Mean temperatures

were over 4° below normal and the monthly minimum on 7 June was in the upper 30's. Canton reported 18 days with measurable precipitation. July was also cool with temperatures 1-3° below normal. Maximum readings in the upper 80's occurred on the 26th followed by monthly lows in the lower 40's on the 28th. There were only ten days with rain and total rainfall was about half the normal for the month. August likewise had ten days with rain, but half of these came in the last week. Temperatures averaged below normal, but mid-month was warm with monthly lows occurring at the end of the second and fourth weeks. Late-summer seeds and berries were plentiful.

As usual, we devote much of this report to Smith's observations at ElDorado Beach Preserve on Lake Ontario. A total of 23 water birds, 19 raptors, 27 shorebirds and Larids, and 72 Passerines was reported for the Region for a total of 172 species. According to L. Chamberlaine, Eastern Wood Pewee, Warbling Vireo and Brown-headed Cowbird were down; while Ruffed Grouse, Gray Partridge, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Phoebe, wrens, and Northern Oriole showed gains. With regard to species expanding their ranges, Tufted Titmouse showed no gains, but Red-bellied Woodpecker bred and Northern Mockingbird was reported. House Finch populations are reaching pest proportions in Jefferson Co., and the species is reported widely in St. Lawrence Co. New York State "Species of Special Concern" which were not reported included Upland Sandpiper, Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrow, but see Spring Reports. "Good birds" included two reports of Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, several Little Gulls and two Loggerhead Shrikes. Our only true rarity was a well-documented Yellow-headed Blackbird.

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Abbreviations: EDB—ElDorado Beach Preserve; Jeff. Co.—Jefferson County; L. Ont.—Lake Ontario; NYSARC—report to New York State Avian Records Committee; PR—Perch River Wildlife Mgt. Area; SLR—St. Lawrence River; ULL—Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WH—Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: two sightings of one in basic plumage EDB 15 June (GAS) and near Grindstone I. SLR 17 June (GAS, KK); could have been a single northbound individual—very rare in summer. Com. Loon: scattered pairs and individuals present SLR as usual; confirmed nesting of a pair at Mosquito I., Eel Bay near Clayton SLR was unsuccessful; adult with half grown chick near Barnhart I., SLR 30 June (GAS, KK) indicates successful breeding—a rare event on the SLR; a pair produced two young at ULL (KC). Pied-billed Grebe: five Massena Area 13 July-31 Aug (MB), two ULL 31 Aug, and ad with young Norwood (JVR). Double-crested Cormorant: definitely increasing as a summer bird on the SLR; five to ten per day many areas June-Aug; maxs 25 near Barnhart I. 16 June and 24 near Clayton 5 Aug; 15-30 per day at EDB in June, two to eight per day July-Aug, maxs there 85 on 11 June, 70 on 19 June, a few counts of 26-28 per day July-Aug. Least Bittern: one Stony Creek near EDB, Town of Henderson, 8 July (LBC); many ULL (JVR); also near Morley and Norwood 14 June. Am. Bittern: four reports including five ULL 11 Aug (BPW). Great Blue Heron: one to four per day three in most areas; much more frequent within 25-30 miles of the massive Ironsides I. colony, which contained 621 nests 17 June (GRM, KK). Rapid deforestation of Ironsides because of heron-induced

deaths of nest trees is continuing at a rapid rate; it appears that the colony has nearly peaked and that a substantial reduction in size, due to lack of nest sites should occur over the next several years; previously unreported colony of 80 nests near Kindrew Corners, DeKalb. Green-backed Heron: seemed scarce EDB this year; one to four per day June, one to two per day July, singles only in Aug. Black-crowned Night-Heron: scattered reports of one to three per day eastern L. Ont. and western SLR areas; one ULL 11 Aug (BPW) is unusual. Canada Goose: virtually unreported as observers ignore the complacent breeding stock that now abounds lowland areas. Wood Duck: scarce; "few due to the dry summer" (LBC). Green-winged Teal: no evidence of breeding; arr two EDB 26 July, thereafter one to four per day to 22 Aug; 10-22 per day thru, max 26 on 31 Aug. Am. Black Duck: very scarce as a breeder everywhere; scattered singles only EDB June-July; max eight EDB 8 Aug; continuing increase of hybrids with Mallard evident at EDB (GAS). Mallard: ignored and unreported by most observers; the only data available are from EDB—one-two per day June-mid July (very scarce), two-six per day 17-28 July; 15-60 per day thru Aug. N. Pintail: all reports are from EDB—arr two 16 July; two per day to 20 July, four 40 six thru; max 12 on 31 Aug. Blue-winged Teal: slight increase from 1984 numbers at EDB but numbers still way down; none EDB until arr one 17 July; mostly four to six per day thru to mid Aug, 15-30 per day late Aug; few reports elsewhere. Gadwall: two EDB 28 June and two there 1-2 Aug are only on SLR reports; widely distributed as a breeder along the SLR with pairs present on many small inlets. Am. Wigeon: one EDB 18 July is only report away from eastern SLR breeding population centered at WHWMA. Greater Scaup: male EDB 3 June. White-winged Scoter: two 2 June Chippewa Bay SLR. Bufflehead: female SLR Massena 8 Aug (MB) is the only truly summering diving duck of the season. Hooded Merganser: female on a beaver pond near Barnes Corners, THP could be a breeder (LBC). Red-breasted Merganser: three EDB 28 June, two EDB 30 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one-two per day EDB three and seven-eight per day Jeff. Co. only reports; are they becoming so regular that observers no longer report them? Osprey: one EDB 14 June is a late spring migrant, none thereafter to one WHWMA 31 July; several singles in Aug. Bald Eagle: a previously unreported spring sighting at Montario Pt. near LWMA, Jeff. Co. on 4 May of a bird hacked at Tupper L. in 1983 (LM); only fall record is a migrating imm at EDB 31 Aug (GAS, LBC). N. Harrier: no data on breeding; arr one EDB 26 Aug, six there 31 Aug. Sharp-shinned Hawk: no reports of breeders; arr one EDB 13 Aug; max 11 there 31 Aug. Cooper's Hawk: one Canton 25 June (HV) and one Sears Pond 23 July are probable breeders; arr one EDB 26 Aug, max four there 31 Aug. N. Goshawk: one Osceola THP 4 July (LBC) is a likely breeder; one Raymondville (JVR). Broad-winged Hawk: no breeders reported; arr imm EDB 30 Aug. Red-shouldered Hawk: nesting Fullertown in early July (JVR). Red-tailed Hawk: only comment on breeders is from LBC "down"; a few migrants at EDB in late Aug. Am. Kestrel: few reports of breeders; arr female EDB 21 Aug, max 5 there 31 Aug. Merlin: two migrants EDB 29-31 Aug (GAS); one WHWMA 31 Aug (MB). Peregrine Falcon: an imm male probably EDB 8 Aug (GAS) was observed to capture a Semipalmated Sandpiper. Virginia Rail: three Massena area 3 June (MB). Sora: one Massena area 3 June (MB). Com. Moorhen: eight Grasse River near Massena 13 July (MB). Shorebird flights at EDB, the only known consistent concentration area in this Region were poor in July but excellent in Aug. Black-bellied Plover: arr 9 Aug, three to seven per day thru, max 12 on 30 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr one 12 July, one per day to 19 July, two to five per day to 28 July, increasing to 12 to 18 per day 6 Aug thru; maxs 23 on 6 Aug, 24 on 8 Aug, 22 on 25-26 Aug. Killdeer: none breeding at EDB for the second year in a row; arr three 23 June; one to two per day to 26 July; seven to 30 per day thru. Greater Yellowlegs: arr one 30 July (late), singles to 8 Aug; one to four per day thereafter. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr one 7 July (a week late); one per day to 13 July; five to 15 per day thru July, 15-40 per day to 8 Aug; 60-90 per day to 22 Aug; a surge 23-25 Aug provided maxs of 13-40; 60 per day thru; largest flight in five years

of daily coverage. Solitary Sandpiper: total of five 9-30 Aug; scarce as usual. Spotted Sandpiper: one to two per day June; two to three per day first week of July; four to eight per day to 19 July; ten to 15 per day to 19 Aug; three to five thru; maxs 21 on 30 July and 6 Aug. Whimbrel: none for the first time in five years of daily coverage. Ruddy Turnstone: arr one 21 July; one to five per day intermittently to 8 Aug and regularly to 19 Aug, 10-25 per day thereafter, max 43 on 24 Aug; good late Aug flight primarily imm. Red Knot: two to six per day from 19 Aug thru, max 7 on 27 Aug, all imm. Sanderling: arr one 16 July, few scattered one to three per day to 8 Aug, 15-25 per day after 12 Aug; max 36 on 23 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr one 12 July, four to eight per day to 19 July, 10 to 20 per day to 28 July, 50-100 per day to 7 Aug, 200-400 per day thereafter, max 540 on 23 Aug. W. Sandpiper: one or two per day 21-23 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr two 17 July (very late), two to nine per day to 8 Aug, 30-50 per day thereafter, maxs 114 on 23 Aug and 107 on 24 Aug; a superb and consistent Aug flight with the best counts for the five years of daily observations. White-rumped Sandpiper: one only 26-28 Aug, very scarce as usual. Baird's Sandpiper: singles 8 Aug. and 27-28 Aug., scarce. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr one 1 Aug, one to three per day to 20 Aug; six to ten per day thereafter; max 12 on 26 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: arr one 29 July; four 6 Aug; one to three per day after 9 Aug; max 5 on 27 Aug; a good flight. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr one 5 Aug (very late); one to two scattered dates to 14 Aug; one to six per day 15 Aug thru. Phalaropes: none; most surprising in light of the fine Aug shorebird flight. Little Gull: an unprecedented flight at EDB-ad 24 Aug, two ad 26 Aug; four ad and two imm 30 Aug; two ad and three imm 31 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: 12 Chippewa Bay SLR 2 June last spring migrants; arr one EDB 19 July, one to two per day intermittently to 29 July; two to ten per day to 19 Aug; ten to 20 per day thereafter thru maxs 58 on 23 Aug and 54 on 24 Aug. Ring-billed Gull: 135 nests on main Eaglewing I SLR near Clayton, Jeff. Co. (GAS, KK); 150-600 per daily EDB June and July; 50-150 per day Aug; max 800 2 July. Herring Gull: two to 16 per day thru; max 19 on 3 July. Great Black-backed Gull: one to ten per day thru, max 20 on 21 July. Caspian Tern: one to three per day 1 June to 19 July; five to ten per day to 10 Aug; ten to 14 per day thru, max 19 on 24 Aug. Com. Tern: one to two per day intermittently June; scarce; two to four per day 3 July to 8 Aug; two to six per day 23 Aug; eight to 15 per day thereafter; scarcity to mid Aug reflects continuing decline of the colony at Carl I., Sandy Pond; a max total of 595 nests were recorded in a total of 19 colonies along the international sector of SLR (GAS, KK, GRM). Forster's Tern: one 8-10 Aug. Black Tern: one to two per day, scattered in June and July; one to three per day intermittently to 26 Aug, max 6 on 15 Aug, very scarce.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Louisville 2 June (MB). E. Screech-Owl: two Henderson late Aug (LBC). N. Saw-whet Owl: one Louisville 1 June; one juv DOR west of Massena (JVR). Com. Nighthawk: six Massena 1 June and 5 July (MB). Red-bellied Woodpecker: imm Henderson 2 Aug. Loggerhead Shrike: one ad Long's Corners, Morristown 18 July, same location as two years ago (REL); one near Henderson Pd. 14 Aug (LBC).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood Pewee: singles Massena and Louisville thru. Purple Martin: 30 with FL Louisville 1 June and 31 July. Sedge Wren: one Louisville 13 July; also at Small Flats Rd, Richville (JVR). E. Bluebird: nesting Louisville 13 July.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Solitary Vireo: two Sears Pd. 23 July (LBS). Yellow-throated Vireo: Stockholm, Skinnerville, pairs DeKalb and Richville all in June (JVR)—not usually reported. Golden-winged Warbler: 12 singing males Indian Lakes district, Town of Theresa, Jeff. Co., early July; three families Rossie 7 July (REL). Mourning Warbler: one Tug Hill 30 June.

TANAGERS-SPARROWS: N. Cardinal: two pair Louisville 1 June, 31 Aug. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: excellent reproduction on Tug Hill, 20 feeding on Red Elderberry at Osceola 4

July (LBC). Dark-eyed Junco: two Osceola 4 July. Vesper Sparrow: pair Fullerville, Town of Fowler early June (JVR). **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: female carefully described Renshaw Bay Marsh, North Sandy Pond, Ellisburg 4 June, being harassed by Red-winged Blackbirds (LMcL, BR, NYSARC); male seen twice by fishermen on Montario Pt Rd, also Town of Ellisburg 15 June (LMcL), only other Regional record reported by Gordon is Lowville 1970. Purple Finch: "numbers somewhat up in Henderson" (LBS); fledglings Louisville thru. House Finch: "a pest in Henderson," 20 per day, 185 banded 2-15 Aug (LBC); 4 Louisville 2 July; also Skinnerville, North Lawrence and ULL (JVR); fledglings begging from parents in late Aug is first confirmed nesting for Canton (MEH). Red Crossbill: three fledglings Massena 15 June. Pine Siskin: White's Hill, Parishville (JVR). Evening Grosbeak: pair Cole's Creek Campground, Louisville early June (JVR); five Henderson 10 Aug, one DeFeriet 18 Aug, early!

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REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The season began with heavy rain and winds 31 May-1 June that hit the Four Brothers Islands, killing Ring-billed Gull chicks and crushing several incubating adults under fallen dead snags on Island C. Nippy Newcomb dropped to 30° F. on 4 June and 31° F. on 24 July! In fact, much of the early summer was cool and rainy throughout the Region. A drought then set in during August, dropping Lake Champlain water levels to just above 95', providing the maximum amount of exposed beach and mudflats for shorebirds, and yielding a few good finds.

One of the 16 young Bald Eagles from the Franklin County "megahack" program was found shot near Alexandria, Ontario, only ten days after release. The eagle was wearing a wing marker, leg band, and radio transmitter, but was out of radio contact when the bullet shattered its right radius and ulna. Taken to Dr. Edward Becker in Gunderland, the bird underwent three hours of surgery, but died on 1 September. Canadian authorities are investigating.

Passerines fared little better. Following spraying of the insectide Dibrom 14 in the Towns of Altamont and St. Regis Falls, local residents reported finding over one hundred dead birds in nest boxes. At Tupper Lake, Clarence Reandeau found over 70 dead—mostly Tree Swallows, Charlie Delehanty found 19 dead Tree Swallows and four dead Eastern Bluebirds, a neighbor found four dead Tree Swallows, and Betty Jay found two dead Tree Swallows, while Douglas Egeland of Dickinson Center was told by neighbors that they were finding dead