

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 Guilderland, 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

birds in their nest boxes. No direct causal relationship between spraying and deaths could be established by DEC Delmar lab, Hale Creek Field Station, or Ray Brook regional headquarters, but the department received not even a single report from unsprayed areas. Whatever the cause of the deaths, the Adirondack Park Agency charged the Duflo Spray Chemical Co. of New Bremen with illegally spraying wetlands near Little Wolf Creek and Raquette Pond, in violation of the Federal Wetlands Act, based upon sworn affidavits of residents.

A total of 1,110 chicks of three species were banded on the Four Brothers Islands between 8-17 June: seven Black-crowned Night-Herons, 1,000 Ring-billed Gulls, and 103 Herring Gulls. Thanks to "Return a Gift to Wildlife" funding, two High Peaks Audubon wardens assisted the wildlife manager in making regular patrols of the islands during June and July, monitoring boat traffic near the colonies and discouraging landings during the nesting season.

Contributors and initialed observers: Russell Bailey, Merry Baker, Greg Bigelow, Beverly Brown, C. Cahill, Geoffrey Carleton, Ann & Walter Chapman, William Cook, John Curtiss, Paul DeBenedictis, Charlie Delehanty, John Dennis, Joanne Duncan, Katherine Eagleson, Douglas Egeland, Wyn Frahn, Gregory Furness, Evelyn Green, Jennifer & Mark Gretch, Richard Guthrie, Jeff Herter, Gordon Howard, Anne Hungerford, Betty Jay, Elsbeth Johnson, Hugh Kingery, Gary Lee, Tony Leukering, Robert Lewis, Theodore Mack, Andrea Malik, Paul Martin, Norman Mason, Dorothy McIlroy, Robert McKinney, Michael Milligan, David O'Neill, Olive & Wes Paquin, John Peterson, Anne Powers, Clarence Reandeuau, Jerry Rosenband, D. Rosgen, Carole Slatkin, Timothy Sterrett, Langdon Stevenson, Jan Trzeciak, Joe VanRiet, Richard Whitaker, Hollis White, Henry Williams.

LOONS-DUCKS: An ad **RED-THROATED LOON** was resting on the south end of Mountain View L. inlet 4 June, flying south (!) at 8:20 p.m. that evening (JT). Two migrant Com. Loons were on Big Tupper L. 29 Aug (CD). L. Alice has good numbers of Pied-billed Grebes annually, with up to six adults this Aug (MG). By 2 June there were 80 Double-crested Cormorant nests at the Four Brothers Islands: 78 on Isl. A, two on Isl. B. More cormorants joined the nesting and loitering birds at this mid-lake staging area during the late summer, with the tally growing to over 500 birds by 28 Aug. A Least Bittern was at Fort Montgomery 21 July and three at Monty Bay 11 Aug (MG). Great Blue Herons were repairing old nests in Apr at King's Bay WMA, but deserted the heronry by June; other large heronries at Valcour I. and near Fish Creek were reported active. A Great Egret was at L. Alice 18 June (MG); sightings were also made in July on the St. Regis Indian Reservation. A Snowy Egret was on Isl. B, Four Brothers, 23 Aug (LS). Cattle Egrets were again reported from the Four Brothers after an absence of several years, but no nesting was confirmed this year. Island B had a single bird 8 June (JP), a pair 13 July (JD, RW), and on the evening of 28 Aug two flocks totalling 25 egrets came in to roost (LS); a feeding Cattle Egret was seen near Point au Roche 15 June and may have come from Young I. in Vermont. Most of the Black-crowned Night-Heron colony at the Four Brothers has shifted from Isl. A and B since the arrival of the cormorants over to the tops of tall white pines on Isl. D, where an accurate count is not possible; on 2 June there were only four nests on Isl. A, ten on Isl. B. The night-herons at L. Alice and Monty Bay (MG) are not unexpected, but an imm. at Mountain View L. in early July (AH, JT) was a great surprise. One of a flock of 12 Canada Geese at Chazy Landing 7 June wore a dark gray neck collar [JF33] from NJ. The municipal park flock at Tupper L. had 32 geese, down from 68 last year, and included a leucistic bird with wide white breast streak, pink bill, and *brown* head and neck (CD). Wood Duck: 120, L. Alice 27 Aug. Green-winged Teal: three, Chazy Landing 18 June. A large—and seasonally late—flock of 67 male, 20 female Mallards was at Chazy

Landing 18 June. N. Pintail: territorial female Chazy Landing 7 June, two there 18 June, one at King's Bay WMA 16 July. Blue-winged Teal: hen with seven young, Chazy Landing 18 June (MG). N. Shoveler: male stayed on Fourth L. (GL). Am. Wigeon: two, Chazy Landing 18 June (MG). Com. Goldeneye: hen with six young at Ft. Montgomery on L. Champlain 21 July (MG); hen with five full-sized young on Lower St. Regis L 16 Aug (TM). Predation of Com. Merganser ground nests on Isl. D of Four Brothers was explained when a red fox was sighted on the island 2 June (RW).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: A prescient Sharp-shinned Hawk perched on a Tupper Lake feeder 24 Aug. Near Elizabethtown a family group of Cooper's Hawks appeared in late July, while Peregrine Falcons fledged young at their cliff sites near Keene Valley and Wilmington. A flock of Wild Turkeys was reported from southern Hamilton Co. (GL). Virginia Rail: Jones Pd. in June (RM), Ft. Montgomery 21 July, adult with chick Monty Bay 11 Aug. Sora: imm feeding on Monty Bay mudflat 29 Aug. Com. Moorhen: two, Chazy Landing 16 July; two, Monty Bay 11 Aug. (MG). Semipalmated Plover: King's Bay had northbound birds 2-7 June, southbound birds 23-29 Aug, max five (MG), while the first southbound migrants arr Westport 3 Aug (GC, EJ, JP). Killdeer: max 14 King's Bay 30 July. Greater Yellowlegs: one King's Bay 30 July-23 Aug (MG); three Westport 31 Aug (EJ, JP). Lesser Yellowlegs: King's Bay 30 July-23 Aug, max five (MG); Paul Smiths early Aug (TM). Solitary Sandpiper: Chubb R 13 July (EJ, JP); King's Bay 16 July-1 Aug, max two (MG); Westport 13 Aug (GC, JP). Spotted Sandpiper: max three, King's Bay 30 July. Upland Sandpipers, already recorded in 44 regional Atlas blocks, were Confirmed this summer near Coveytown Corners and South Bombay, with other records added near Brushton, Burke, Ft. Covington, Moira, Wagner Rd., and Westville in northern Franklin Co. (JR, CS). Ruddy Turnstone: one Westport 27 Aug (GC, JP). Red Knot: one King's Bay 16 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: King's Bay 2-7 June northbound, 1-29 Aug southbound, max five (MG); two, Bulwagga Bay 27 July (GG, JP); two Westport 31 Aug (EJ, JP). Least Sandpiper: eight King's Bay 16 July-23 Aug (MG); arr Westport 25 July (GC, JP); max ten, Bulwagga Bay 27 July (GC, JP); eight Westport 31 Aug (EJ, JP). Pectoral Sandpiper: one Westport 27 Aug (GC, JP). Short-billed Dowitcher: two King's Bay 7 Aug. Com. Snipe: two King's Bay 30 July (MG). Ten Bonaparte's Gulls arr Westport 19 Aug, and by 27 Aug numbers had grown to over 100 (GC, JP). The Ring-billed Gull color-marking project produced a number of reports from Clinton and Essex Counties. Gulls with green bellies who picked up the dye on the Four Brothers Island C colony were sighted on the Boquet R. near Wadhams, Crown Point State Historic Site, King's Bay WMA, Moriah landfill, Saranac R. near Cadyville, Skyway Plaza in Plattsburgh, Willsboro farms and landfill, and Wilmington landfill; the last sighting was 17 July near Wadhams. Most of these locations also noted at least one of the pink-bellied gulls from Young I. (South Sister), Vermont. Com. Tern: one, Chazy Landing 18 June; five, Rouses Point 28 July (MG). Black Tern: three, Chazy Landing 16 July (MG); one, Long Lake 12 Aug (CD).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Owl reports, like those for many species, declined precipitously in the wake of five years of Atlas field work. E. Screech-Owl: two locations; Great Horned Owl: two locations; Barred Owl: nine locations; N. Saw-whet Owl: two locations, for a total of just 15 reported sites. In contrast, these same species were reported from a total of 426 blocks between 1980-84, and there were no reports this summer of Com. Barn-Owl, Long-eared, or Short-eared Owls. A Red-headed Woodpecker visited a Mountain View feeder in early summer (O & WP). A pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers were still feeding at least two nestlings at Ferd's Bog on the late date of 31 July, and a different adult male was also observed in the vicinity (DO). Black-backed Woodpecker: feeding young at the north end of Cedar Lakes in June (RM); Shallow L. 9 July (MM).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Willow Flycatcher: between Jay and Wilmington in June (RM). Young Great Crested Flycatchers left a nest box at Tupper Lake 7 July, where the

last Tree Swallow fledgling left its box 2 Aug (CD). Near North Hudson, both Cliff Swallows and Barn Swallows still were feeding nestlings on 19 Aug (MB). Gray Jay: adults with young, Sabattis Rd 29 June and 20 July (TL). The cattail marshes at Fort Montgomery and Monty Bay had large colonies of Marsh Wrens in July-Aug (MG). A family of Loggerhead Shrikes with two food-begging young was observed by blockbusters near Ft. Covington 22-26 June (JR, CS); this was only the second Regional Confirmed record since 1980.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: A Chestnut-sided Warbler was still feeding a fledgling on the morning of 19 Aug near Paradox (MB). Cape May Warbler: Sabattis Rd. 17 June (TL). Wilson's Warbler: transient at Tupper L 30 Aug (CD). Otherwise, there were no noteworthy sightings this summer, following the five full seasons of Atlas work.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Grasshopper Sparrow: distraction display near Moira in late June (JR, CS); this species has now been recorded in 12 regional Atlas blocks, Confirmed in three. A flock of 20 House Finches visited an Owls Head feeder 2 July-11 Aug (AH), reflecting the continued northward range expansion. At least some of the Atlas reports of crossbills and siskins date back to this past winter and spring, although sightings continued into the summer. Evening Grosbeaks were widely reported and may have nested in Champlain this summer, along the lake in the very northeastern corner of the state (J & MG).

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There is no **Region 8** report as *The Kingbird* has no Editor for Region 8 at this time.

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

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Several reporters who mentioned the long-standing drought also noted frequent rains which kept lawns and foliage in excellent condition. These rains also kept fruit and seed crops at high levels even following last year's bumper yield. The drought affected water supplies, and was largely due to a lack of winter snows.

June began colder than usual and continued below normal all month. July temperatures were quite normal. August was above normal, with temperatures reaching the mid-nineties by mid-month. Precipitation was below average for June and July but well above normal for August. The August rains did not raise municipal water supplies, and the appearance of Ashokan's East Basin was worrisome to say the least. Completely empty of water for the entire season,