

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: contrast "not in expected numbers with the number of tent caterpillars" (LBC) with one Clifton and one Colton 1 Aug, "I didn't see any cuckoos in my 2 months of working on Atlas in 85" -- are you having a tent caterpillar outbreak? (TL); M. Badger observed one of each species of Cuckoo in Louisville in June. Barred Owl: one Parishville 29 Jun, interesting in this foothill location. Short-eared Owl: nesting pair fledged one y on Grenadier I., SLR (GAS); also one Chaumont late Jun suggests breeding in this traditional wintering ground. Com. Night-hawk: none breeding on rooftops of Clarkson University, Potsdam, for second year; crows on roofs in good numbers probably destroy eggs and young (SC); only one or two in Watertown; three Massena 29 Aug; last Potsdam 23 Aug. Chimney Swift: down 50% in Jeff. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: abundant throughout. Red-bellied Woodpecker: just one Watertown all summer.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: E. Wood-Pewee: six Parishville 29 Jun is a good count. Willow Flycatcher: two WH 3 Jul (KG) is a significant sighting. E. Phoebe: numbers back up. E. Kingbird: down from last year (LBS); last Louisville 29 Aug. Horned Lark: pair rte 56 near Massena 18 Jun and 20 Aug, an uncommon breeder in StLa Co. Purple Martin: 30 Louisville 12 Jun; down in Henderson; last mid Aug, early departure. Tree and Barn Swallows: last Massena 27 Aug. Cliff Swallow: good numbers at Louisville and Potsdam shopping center all summer. Tufted Titmouse: three Henderson entire period. Brown Creeper: eight Kendrew Corners in Beaver flow. Golden-crowned Kinglet: four Parishville 3 Jul. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Louisville 23 Aug, early migrant? Hermit Thrush: three Louisville 17 Jun, two Parishville 29 Jun, an uncommon breeder. Wood Thrush: abundant. Cedar Waxwing: "everywhere".

VIREOS-WARBLED: MB reports Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird and Com. Yellowthroat "everywhere."

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: none Parishville BBS, but two Parishville 29 Jun (KG). Dark-eyed Junco: 20 Parishville late Jun, surprising at this elevation. Bobolink: overhead in late Jul, migrating? N. Oriole: a productive season. Am. Goldfinch: a good year with bumper thistle crop. White-winged Crossbill: male S. Colton 1 Aug. Evening Grosbeak: two males and six females eating grit in Cranberry Lake Inn parking lot 1 Aug.

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REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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A long-awaited shorebird, interesting open-country species, and a disproportionate number of tantalizing secondhand reports marked the summer of '87. The season was generally warm and dry, with several hot spells in midsummer. The first heat wave started 9 July and the continuing Bermuda high pushed thermometers to 91°F at Plattsburgh on 13 July, but by 15 July temperatures in the same city had dropped to 63°F. In the midst of this heat wave, Anne Hungerford and Jan Trzeciak found two *Stilt Sandpipers* in Basic plumage on a mudflat

pond where the abandoned D&H RR crosses Wolf Pond Road south of Mountain view on 12 July. This was a first record for the Adirondack-Champlain Region and Franklin County. Highs again reached 95°F at Elizabethtown 23-24 July.

On 17 August Plattsburgh reached 90°F, and much of the month was windy, making patrols of the Four Brothers Islands difficult. When rain finally arrived on 29 August, Elsbeth Johnson, Mike Peterson, and later Geoffrey Carleton, found seven shorebird species at Westport beach, including a **Stilt Sandpiper** in juvenile plumage. This second regional record was a first for the Adirondack Park and Essex County. On the same morning, Carleton found five larids there, including a **Little Gull** at the marina.

The rewards of "birding the border" are considerable, yet few observers are familiar with the expanses of extreme northern New York neighboring Quebec. Near Hogansburg, the two singing male **Clay-colored Sparrows** previously reported had been joined by a *third* singing male by 26 June. The following day, Joe VanRiet and Hollis White found *three* **Sedge Wrens** on the St. Regis Indian Reservation (plus one more in Quebec). White also watched the five previously reported Short-eared Owlets being fed by their parents 28 July.

Bird-banding operations were conducted on the Four Brothers Islands 6 and 20-21 June, with totals of 1,000 Ring-billed Gulls, 140 Herring Gulls, and one Great Black-backed Gull chicks banded. A Snow Goose was on Island "D" 10 June; this was the sixth record at the islands since 1954, between the extremes of 13 May-16 June. A Sanderling arrived at the islands 11 August.

Near Elizabethtown, a total of 72 individuals of 22 species were banded between 24-31 August, and included a dozen Black-throated Green Warblers.

Secondhand reports with few, if any, details are always frustrating, but this summer there were more than usual. We heard of the "great white heron" (great egret?) at Willsboro Point, the "yellow-crowned night-heron" (=Black-crowned?) at Monty Bay, the "golden eagles" (=Bald Eagles or Turkey Vultures?) at Paradox, the "eared owl" (Long-eared?) making strange calls at Westport, the "northern shrike" (Loggerhead, surely, if a shrike) near Teboville, and the "yellow-headed blackbird" near Lake Titus reported to a Syracuse columnist (B. Burtt). Most intriguing was the apparent albino male Spruce Grouse along the Blue Ridge Road, Essex County; the bird was pure white with red combs above the eyes. Perhaps this further clarifies the "willow ptarmigan" collected in Lewis County in May 1876 (cf Bull, *Birds of New York*, p. 209; 1974). Another observer disagreed, identifying the bird as a white domestic turkey, apparently out for a stroll in boreal forest. And so it went in the summer of '87. Something like 164 believable species, a dozen more than last summer, were reported.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: reports from 8 lakes and pds. Pied-billed Grebe: female with sixy Owls Head Pd 29 Jun-27 Jul. Black-crowned Night-Heron: ad Mt View Jul, unusual. Snow Goose: *intro*. Canada Goose: 125+ northbound Ticonderoga 15 Jun (KJ), late, 12 low over Chasm Falls, Fran, 23 Jul (SG), unexplained. Ring-necked Duck: only reports from Owls Head Pd and Tupper L.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: ad Owls Head first week Aug. Peregrine Falcon: ad male Moriah 13 Jun, two y Chapel Pd (one ad killed by auto), Henderson L 2 Aug. Wild Turkey: 11 eggs Cedar R Rd (coyotes got eggs c. 1 Aug). Semipalmated Plover: arr Point au Roche 20 Aug, last three Westport 29 Aug. Killdeer: max nine Westport 30 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: few Point au Roche 20 Aug only report. Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 Hulls Falls, Ausable R 26 Aug, Westport 27-29 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: n Fran 6 Jun, last Whallonsburg 28 Aug. Sanderling: *intro*. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr two Westport 28 Jul, max six there 29 Aug. W. Sandpiper: Westport 8 Aug (GC) a good find. Least Sandpiper: 2 arr Westport 2-8 Jul, max six there 27 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Point au Roche 20 Aug, max two Westport 29 Aug. **STILT SANDPIPER:** *intro*. **LITTLE GULL:** *intro*. Bonaparte's Gull: arr two Westport 28 Jul, max 16 there 30 Aug. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*. Herring Gull: *intro*. Great Black-backed Gull: *intro*.

PIGEONS- WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: four reports suggests rebound from recent lows. Short-eared Owl: *intro*. Red-headed Woodpecker: ad, juv Willsboro 25 Aug, only report. Three-toed Woodpecker: nest with young Ferd's Bog 19 Jun, juv with orange crown patch Adirondak Loj 14-16 July. Black-backed Woodpecker: two Brown's Tract Pd 4 Jul, nest Ferd's Bog where there were two ad and a juv 2 Aug; two Bloomingdale Bog 10 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Gray Jay: three y Ferd's Bog; ad Sabattis Rd 2 Aug. Com. Raven: max eight S. Meadow Brook 27 Jul, many reports. Boreal Chickadee: pair returned Newcomb feeder with y 2 Aug; many reports. **SEDGE WREN:** *intro*. Gray-cheeked Thrush: only reports Pillsbury Mt, Wakely Mt. Wood Thrush: late nest fledged Heart L 3 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo: Speculator BBS unusual. Philadelphia Vireo: banded Elizabethtown 25 Aug. Golden-winged Warbler: two pair arr Essex 9 Jun. Tennessee Warbler: arr Elizabethtown 11 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: Cheever 24 May, apparently late transient (GC). Black-throated Green Warbler: *intro*. **BAY-BREASTED WARBLER:** Bloomingdale Bog 9 Jun, Elk I 11 Jun, Sunrise Mt 16 Jun, and Moose R Plains 25 Jul probably all represent breeding birds; Boreas R Aug and Adirondak Loj 23 Aug are probable migrants.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** *intro*. House Finch: inland reports from Speculator and Tupper L. Red Crossbill: June reports from Elk L, Paul Smiths area, Speculator, and St Regis Falls a good showing. White-winged Crossbill: a few juv Owls Head 26 Jul, plus reports from Algonquin Mt, Bloomingdale Bog, Boreas R, the Cobbles, Ferd's Bog, Moose R Plains, Mt View, Rock L, Sabattis Rd Bog, and South Meadows reflect a good spruce cone crop; Christmas Bird Counters can anticipate a crossbill winter.

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