

max six. Henslow's Sparrow: four at two sites. Red Crossbill: last four Orwell 6 Jun. Pine Siskin: one-three in Tug Hill Plateau to 23 Jun, and remained Holland Patent to 7 Jun, Erieville to 4 Jul. Evening Grosbeak: one Old Forge 7 Jun, three Erieville 4 Jun; arr Old Forge area during Aug.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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Though not without its frosts and downpours, this will be remembered as a hot dry summer. Yet heavy rains in late July and August broke the drought and left a good crop of berries for the Fall. Beech mast looks good, but acorns are poor. June was not as dry in the North Country as elsewhere in the state but, on the heels of a dry spring, left water levels low and grasslands brown by late in the month. Temperatures bounced from below freezing readings on 10 and 29 Jun to the mid-90's on 15 and 16 Jun. Heavy showers occurred 22 Jun. What is the effect of such extremes on nestlings and fledglings? July temperatures averaged two to three degrees above normal, with even the Tug Hill Plateau experiencing the mid-90's during a heat wave the second week of the month. We escaped many of the severe thunderstorms passing through the state later in the month, and many areas ended July still deficient in rainfall. However, most locations received above average precipitation in August, with about 4 inches falling in northern St. Lawrence Co. from the 14 to 18 Aug. August temperatures were above normal, ranging from the mid-90's early in the month to the 30's on 22 Aug.

From the few reports I received, birding was ho-hum. Peter O'Shea reported a good complement of boreal species from southern St. Lawrence Co., including a male Spruce Grouse calling 22 May and 2 June in Sevey's Bog, Colton. Gray Jays were found regularly in the same location and Com. Raven as well as Winter Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet were "all over" towns of Fine, Clifton and Colton. Among migrant insectivores in four woodland locations in Parishville in early July, Kevin Griffith and Robert Oswald found 16 Least Flycatcher and Yellow-rumped Warbler, 14 Ovenbird, 13 Veery and 11 Red-eyed Vireo, and a variety of other species listed below. Hermit Thrush outnumbered Wood Thrush seven to four. Flycatchers and White-throated Sparrow seemed down from previous years. By contrast, in the lowlands Doug Kibbe found Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Common Yellowthroat to be the most abundant species with 20+ near Philadelphia 21-22 Jun.

Gerry Smith's shorebird sightings from El Dorado Shores are not yet available. Marilyn Badger reported arrival of Semipalmated Plover and Semipalmated Sandpiper at Robert Moses State Park on 18 Aug. My Breeding Bird Census at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA shows marked decrease in cattail following a 3-year management policy of lower water levels. Marsh Wren decreased 90%; Ring-necked Duck seemed down, but Pied-billed Grebe was all right - Kevin

Griffith reported 35 on 4 Jul!

Concerning species increasing in numbers, Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase in eastern Lake Ontario, with a maximum of 10 at Robert Moses State Park on 1 July. Canada Goose now outnumbers Mallard at Wilson Hill and Upper and Lower Lakes WMAs. Wild Turkey, a new species on the Waddington BBS, continues to increase. Turkey Vulture was frequent in the southern St. Lawrence Co. Towns of Fine, Edwards, Pitcairn and Piercefield for entire period. There were no sightings of Red-bellied Woodpecker or Tufted Titmouse. K. Crowell found two Willow Flycatcher in his BBC at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA and K. Griffith reported another on 4 July, but they are still outnumbered by Alders two to one. Marilyn Badger saw a N. Mockingbird in Louisville on 28 Jul. Lee B. Chamberlaine reports House Finch as the most common species in Henderson and vicinity; fledged young were reported from Massena. On the downside in at least some areas were cuckoos, Purple Martin, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Warbling Vireo and Indigo Bunting.

Of the rare and endangered species, Com. Loon was reported by three observers. K. Griffith spotted a Least Bittern at Upper and Lower Lakes. Lee Chamberlaine felt Black Duck was up, but K. Griffith found only one among 100 Mallard at ULL. Two or three pairs of Osprey nested at Peach River WMA, but with low success; a nest was seen on Massawepie Lake in Piercefield and another on the upper Osegoatchie R. in the Town of Fine. The Bald Eagle pair in Jefferson Co. fledged one young, and an adult and an immature frequented the Hawkins Pt area in July and August, most unusual for this season. N. Harrier was strong; but no Red-shouldered Hawk or accipiters were reported. One Upland Sandpiper near Philadelphia 21 June and one near Gouveneur were only reports. Marilyn Badger found 24 Com. Tern at Moses-Saunders Dam 3 Jun through 14 Aug. Lee Chamberlaine felt Black Terns were up, possibly concentrated by dry weather. There were also several at Upper and Lower Lakes. The only reports of Com. Nighthawk was two on 3 Jun and three singles in July and August from Massena-Louisville. There were several pairs of E. Bluebird in Pierrepont, but only one other report. Two Vesper Sparrows in Louisville 6 Jun was only grassland sparrow other than Savannah. Finally, Peter O'Shea saw a **Loggerhead Shrike**, our only rarity, "lying on Rte. 3 near Wanakena" 17 Aug; it flew away when approached. On 22 Aug, the "same shrike was noted lying injured on Rte 3 about 1/2 mile from previous site" and unable to fly. Four hours later it was gone.

A total of 127 species was reported including 14 waterfowl, 9 waders and rails, 13 shorebirds and gulls, 9 raptors, and 66 Passerines, of which 22 were warblers.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, John Barthelme, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Kevin Griffith, Douglass Kibbe, Peter O'Shea, Robert Oswald, Gerald Smith.

Abbreviations: MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; Pv - Parishville; RMSP - Robert Moses State Pk; ULL - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; SLR - St. Lawrence River.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: pairs on Streeter Lake, 5 Jun and Hitchins Pd, Colton entire period; one ULL 4 Jul; three WH 18-19 Jul. Pied-billed Grebe: *intro*. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*. Great Egret: one Canton 1 Jun (JB). Least Bittern: *intro*. Brant: five with Canada Geese in Louisville, no date. Canada Goose: *intro*. Wood Duck: numbers up or concentrated by drought (LBC). Hooded Merganser: brood on W Branch Osegoatchie R early Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: *intro*. Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*. Spruce Grouse: *intro*. Wild Turkey: two ad and a brood of juv noted in Parishville 5 Jul; *intro*. Virginia Rail: four ad and eight juv Rod & Gun Club Rd, Louisville; six ad and 16 juv RMSP by Eisenhower Lock, no date. Am. Coot: one WH 18 Jul. Semipalmated Plover: *intro*. Spotted Sandpiper: several Louisville, Madrid, RMSP. Upland Sandpiper: *intro*. Semipalmated Sandpiper: *intro*. Am. Woodcock: 26 between HP and WH 1 Jun (MB)! Caspian Tern: flights of two or three over Henderson daily; one RMSP 3 Jul. Com. Tern: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: singles Philadelphia 21 Jun and Waddington 7 Jun, only reports. Barred Owl: two Pv 2 Jul. Com. Nighthawk: *intro*. Whip-poor-will: three Massena 3 Jun; two or three Philadelphia 21 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Willow Flycatcher: *intro*. Purple Martin: 43 ad and 172 juv RMSP, Louisville and ten ad and 42 juv Massena, no date (MB). Marsh Wren: 20 ULL 4 July, but see *intro*. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: singing males in spruce swamp, Streeter Lake, Town of Fine. E. Bluebird: *intro*. N. Mockingbird: *intro*. **Loggerhead Shrike**: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Golden-winged Warbler: one Philadelphia 22 Jun. Nashville Warbler: one Pv early Jul. Yellow Warbler: 19 Pv early Jul. Chestnut-sided Warbler: eight Pv early Jul. Magnolia Warbler: two Pv early Jul. Black-throated Blue Warbler: two Pv early Jul. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 20 Pv early Jul. Black-throated Green Warbler: seven Pv early Jul. Blackburnian Warbler: four Pv early Jul. Pine Warbler: three Pv early July. Black-and-white Warbler: five Pv early Jul. Am. Redstart: three Pv early Jul. Ovenbird: 22 Pv early Jul. N. Waterthrush: one Pv early Jul. Mourning Warbler: one Pv early Jul. Canada Warbler: three Pv early Jul.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Vesper Sparrow: *intro*. Rusty Blackbird: eight Massena 22 Jul.

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REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Extremes of weather during the "greenhouse effect" summer of 1988 may have resulted in Osprey nest failures as well as setbacks to Bald Eagle restoration efforts; the Peregrine Falcon recovery went well, however. On the Four Brothers Islands, Lake Champlain, there was continued expansion of the cormorant colony, and it was an excellent year for night-herons on Island "B." Around the Region there were a number of interesting breeding records for rarities.

Lake Champlain stood at 96.54' on 1 June, having dropped 6°F to a chilly 49°F. The first ten days of the month were "May weather," Newcomb falling to 47°F on 10 June. A hot spell followed, with temperatures soaring to the 90's at mid month. Parts of the Champlain Valley recorded 2" of rain 25 Jun, and the month ended with badly needed showers. Early July was hot, then hotter, so that by 8 Jul, with Plattsburgh thermometers reading 94°F, Champlain had warmed to 68°F. The first real rain in two weeks fell on 14 Jul. The month closed with Plattsburgh at 95°F on 30 July. Early August was similarly scorching, Lake Champlain reaching a tepid 77°F by 1 August. The first significant rain in over a month fell overnight 20 Aug. More rain on 27 Aug finally began to recharge depleted