

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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Region Six includes several topographic regions, the Northern Plateau including the Tug Hill, the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence lowlands and the Adirondack foothills of southern St. Lawrence Co. Temperatures on the Tug Hill are several degrees lower and precipitation generally considerably higher than the rest of the Region. June and July were cooler than usual, 2-3° so on the Tug Hill, while August was warmer than normal. June was one to two inches wetter than usual but, unlike the rest of the State, July and August were drier than normal. Except for the first week of June, low temperatures were in the 40's while highs did not exceed 90. All three months were marked by several severe storms, especially 11-12 Jun, 23-24 Jul, and 13-14 and 28 Aug. No one commented on the weather and its effect on birds. Food crops appear fair to middlin' — few blackberries, apples or butternuts, but good beechnut and acorn crops.

Coverage this period was sparse, with only two reports from Lewis Co. and none for southern St. Lawrence Co. In spite of this lack of depth the species count of 132 was about average. It was comprised of 11 species of waterfowl, eight raptors, six waders and rails, 17 shorebirds, and 75 passerines. There were good numbers of N. Harrier, Am. Kestrel, Killdeer, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, E. Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, E. Kingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, and E. Meadowlark. All locally common woodpecker species but Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were reported. All flycatcher species but Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were reported, as well as all swallow species except Rough-winged. All five wren species were reported. Few thrushes were reported save good numbers of Veery and Wood Thrush near Louisville.

High brood success was noted for Great Blue Heron, Wild Turkey, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, and Com. Grackle. Populations of Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Mallard, Mourning Dove and House Finch continued to increase. Other range-expanding species reported (details in species accounts) included another Red-bellied Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Sedge Wren, and N. Mockingbird. Of special note is J. Spencer's report of the presumed first recent nesting of Com. Raven in Lewis Co. on east slope of Tug Hill.

The dearth of reports made it difficult to gauge population levels of

warblers. In northern St. Lawrence Co. on 9-10 Jun, Marilyn Badger sighted a total of one Black-throated Green, one Blackburnian, and eight Black-and-white Warblers, one Am. Redstart, 64 Ovenbird, and two N. Waterthrush; she also found one Nashville on 7 Jul and a Mourning Warbler on 1 Jun. Low populations were cited for Red-tailed Hawk, Least Flycatcher, E. Wood-Pewee, Barn Swallow, Warbling Vireo, Am. Redstart, and N. Oriole. There were no reports for a number of endangered or threatened species, including Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, or the grassland sparrows.

Breeding populations of colonial waterbirds on Little Galoo I and the St Lawrence R, as counted by the NYSDEC and USFWS, were reported for the first time in several years. Nests on Little Galoo included 4072 Double-crested Cormorant, up 55 from 1989; 23 Black-crowned Night-Heron, 84,230 Ring-billed Gull, 606 Herring Gull, and six Great Black-backed Gull. Gerald Smith estimated numbers of Caspian Tern, which first bred in 1986, at 640 adults and 240 chicks, double the 1989 levels. On the St. Lawrence River there were 566 Com. Tern nests, down a little from 600 last year but up from 522 in 1986. A survey of 26 Black Tern sites showed nesting of 214 pairs at 17 sites, primarily in Region 6 with the greatest numbers at Perch River WMA and Wilson Bay, T Cape Vincent.

Several early migrants, including Red-eyed Vireo and five species of warbler, were recorded at Cape Vincent on 29-30 Aug by Mary Wood. Lee Chamberlaine reported migration starting for Am. Robin, Bobolink and N. Oriole in mid Aug and Chipping Sparrow in late August.

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Abbreviations: MSD — Moses-Saunders Dam; OBBS - Ogdensburg BBS, 17 Jun; SLR - St. Lawrence River.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: pairs at Rainbow Flow, Colton and Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; y reported at Cole's Creek (R&SC), another case of breeding in SLR Valley. Pied-billed Grebe: singles Wilson Hill WMA 9 Jun and Macomb 6 Jul only reports. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*, continued increase with "groups of 20-30" on channel markers in SLR near Chippewa Bay. Black-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*, regular evenings Cape Vincent. Great Blue Heron: good production at Sulphur Springs rookery, T Hounsfield. Green-winged Teal: one MSD 12 Jul, only report. Am. Black Duck: two MSD 10 Jul, 11 Aug. Com. Merganser: max 25 MSD 14 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Cooper's Hawk: two single ad JEFF June; imm pursuing House Finch Henderson 24 Aug. Broad-winged Hawk: one Louisville 1 Jun only report. Gray Partridge: many reports from Cape Vincent area including two

coveys of 12 on 28 Jul. Wild Turkey: hens with poults near Henderson and Hammond in August indicate good year. Spotted Sandpiper: max 3 MSD 12 Jul. Upland Sandpiper: one Louisville 6 Jun, only report. Little Gull: ad MSD 8 Jul. Bonaparte's Gull: max 435 molting ad and ca. 15 juv MSD 14 Aug. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*, max 3000 MSD 8 Jul. Herring Gull: *intro*. Great Black-backed Gull: *intro*, max 12 MSD 14 Aug. Caspian Tern: *intro*, common off Fisher's Landing, T Alexandria Bay. Com. Tern: *intro*, max 100 MSD 14 Aug. Black Tern: *intro*.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: two OBBS, one Massena 10 Jul. E. Screech-Owl: one calling Cape Vincent 29 Aug. Com. Nighthawk: nesting on rooftops of Ogdensburg Psychiatric Center, last 15 Aug; four reports for Louisville, first and max three 8 Jun, last one 12 Aug. Whip-poor-will: at Limerick Cedars Preserve, JEFF. Chimney Swift: reported in small numbers from Henderson, Cape Vincent and Louisville. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: two males and three females at Cape Vincent feeder in mid June. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one Ogdensburg 25 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Willow Flycatcher: one OBBS. Least Flycatcher: numbers down, max six OBBS. Great Crested Flycatcher: abundant even in villages, ad with young Cape Vincent after 16 Jul. E. Kingbird: OBBS lowest in ten years; but LBC reports "very common". Purple Martin: "very few" in Henderson, only six to eight at Cape Vincent in Aug, 40 pair nesting in two houses owned by L. Dodge in Louisville. Cliff Swallow: max 500 MSD. **Com. Raven:** four nestlings at Whetstone Gulf, T Martinsburg (JS), first modern nesting from the Tug Hill. **Carolina Wren:** one singing Holmes Pt, Morristown, 1 Aug (RL), first StLA record. House Wren: feeding young in nest box late Aug at both Henderson and Cape Vincent. Winter Wren: one Stony Pt 2 Jul unusual location. Sedge Wren: one OBBS and two singing males same site 6 Jul. N. Mockingbird: one Cape Vincent 9 Aug; one singing Louisville July to mid Aug. Cedar Waxwing: fledged young July in Louisville, unsuccessful nesting in Cape Vincent July.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Solitary Vireo: singles Louisville 1 Jun and Massena 9 Jun suggest breeding. Warbling Vireo : outnumbered by Red-eyed Vireo near Louisville two to one. Magnolia Warbler: pair feeding three fledged y "in spruce tree in town" Louisville 10 Jun; arr Cape Vincent 29-30 Aug. Nashville Warbler: *intro*. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Cape Vincent 29-30 Aug. Blackburnian Warbler: arr Cape Vincent 29-30 Aug. Black-and-white Warbler: arr Cape Vincent 29-30 Aug. Am. Redstart: arr Cape Vincent 29-30 Aug. Ovenbird: *intro*. N. Waterthrush: *intro*. Mourning Warbler: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: none again. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Louisville 11 Jun. Pine Siskin: daily in Ogdensburg to 23 Jun; one Henderson 4 Jul. Evening Grosbeak: six Louisville 28 Jun; ad feeding y near Turin late July.

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