

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

Summer weather continued the trend of above average temperatures, although not to the same extent in Region 6 as further south. Precipitation was only slightly below normal. June temperatures were either side of normal, while rainfall was 2 inches lower than expected. July continued dry and warm. August was the warmest month, with temperatures 2° to 3° above normal. Water levels were low by late summer. Fruit and mast, but not cone, crops were good. Breeding began two weeks early, as did migration in late summer.

Observers commented on low numbers of both individuals and species. With regard to listed species, the only Endangered species reported was Bald Eagle. Osprey numbers seemed down, and there was only one Red-shouldered Hawk report. All three accipiters were reported. There were no reports of Sedge Wren or Grasshopper Sparrow. Both Least and American Bittern were reported. Lee Chamberlaine found no Upland Sandpiper at previously occupied sites in JEFF, but a pair was observed in Louisville on 1 Jun and in Lisbon on a BBS and a subsequent day, and Mary Wood saw two pair displaying near Cape Vincent. Both Black Tern and Com. Nighthawk numbers were down. Bluebird nesting was up, but if boxes are not well protected against predators, all is for naught. Golden-winged Warbler was widespread in appropriate habitat in northwestern StLA.

Numbers were up for both Green-backed and Black-crowned Night-Heron. There were also good reports for Black-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and Eastern Wood-Pewee. Numbers of Scarlet Tanager and Indigo Bunting were fair, with three to four reports. Peter O'Shea found Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers and Am. Redstart abundant in southern StLA, but Kevin Griffin found few in Parishville and Stockholm, where Yellow-rumped Warbler was by far the most abundant wood warbler.

A total of 148 species was reported, including five heron, 12 waterfowl, ten diurnal raptor, five galliform, four rail, ten shorebird, five gull, three tern, three owl, five woodpecker, eight flycatcher, six swallow, eight thrush and mimid, five vireo, 21 wood warbler, nine sparrow, and five blackbird species. Confirmed breeding records of interest were obtained for Great Blue Heron, Ring-necked Pheasant, Horned Lark and N. Oriole. My neighbor, Carol Streit, accomplished a successful cross-fostering of an orphaned E. Bluebird nesting by a Tree Swallow. Reports of species with expanding ranges were received for Mute Swan, Willow Flycatcher, **Carolina Wren** in JEFF, and N. Mockingbird.

The best rarity this season was a Regional first **Blue Grosbeak**, which on really blue days was seen in the same field with Blue Jay, bluebird, and Indigo Bunting. In addition to the **Carolina Wren** mentioned above, **Cerulean Warbler** was reported this season. A **N. Bobwhite** was seen and heard for several days in Potsdam 2-6 July. While undoubtedly an escape, the bird has probably overwintered for a year or two. A second N. Bobwhite was reported from Morley.

Contributors: Sue Adair, Marilyn Badger, Carol Budd, Richard Brouse, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Dorothy W. Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Bruce DiLabio, Nancy Eldblom, John Green, Michael Greenwald, Kevin Griffith, Paul Kelly, Deb & Steve Litwiler, Peter O'Shea, Michael Sheard, Brian Watson, and Mary Wood.

Abbreviations: CV - Cape Vincent; EDB - El Dorado Beach Preserve, T. Adams; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; ULL - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; SLR - St. Lawrence River; TMP - Three Mile Pt, Brownville.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: pair with one y ULL 2 Jul. Double-crested Cormorant: max 400 TMP. Great Blue Heron: approximately 1000 active nests Ironsides I. Least Bittern: five ULL 3 Jul. Am. Bittern: three ULL 3 Jul. Black-crowned Night Heron: max six CV 19 Jun. Mute Swan: two on Grasse R at Louisville 12-16 Aug, unusual and unwelcome in STLA. Com. Merganser: female, six y EDB 10 Aug; three Massena Pt 5 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: imm with orange wing tag ULL 2 Jul; two imm vicinity of T. Star Lake. Red-shouldered Hawk: Clifton 30 Aug. Ring-necked Pheasant: nest with 13 eggs Louisville. **N. Bobwhite**: *intro*. Little Gull: ad Bas MSD 25 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: 150 with three j MSD 5 Aug. Caspian Tern: daily TMP in Aug. Com. Tern: max 135 MSD 5 Aug. Black Tern: max three ULL 3 Jul. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 24 EDB 10 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: low numbers, max three EDB 24 Aug. Red Knot: one EDB 24 Aug, only report.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Barred Owl: several reports in St Law. Com. Nighthawk: max three Ogdensburg.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: common in boreal habitat s STLA. Willow Flycatcher: now regular ULL. **Carolina Wren**: "migrant" Henderson 14 Aug; singing male Lorraine 12-20 Aug. Winter Wren: singles Stockholm 30 Jun, Parishville early Jul. Horned Lark: two pair with y CV 5 Jun. Purple Martin: 40 pair Massena; 5-10 CV after fledging 15 Jul; otherwise sparse. N. Mockingbird: one Henderson 2 Jun, one Louisville early Jun. E. Bluebird: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLES: Yellow-throated Vireo: one Lorraine 31 Jul. Philadelphia Vireo: arr ULL 24 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr CV 29 Aug. **Cerulean Warbler**: one singing South Woods Road, T Macomb, (MG), local on mainland STLA; found regularly in the Thousand Ids on Oak I (SA).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Blue Grosbeak**: male n Lyons Falls 19 Jun-*ca* 4 Jul (Dean Ditomaso, DWC, PDeB, NYSARC). Indigo Bunting: three reports in STLA. Vesper Sparrow: one Parishville early Jul, only report. N. Oriole: nest with mother and four y brought down by a severe rainstorm 13 Jul, all perished.

RD 4 Box 97, Canton, New York 13617