

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

ROBERT E. LONG

The cold weather pattern which began in March continued throughout the summer as the North Country remained above the jet stream and experienced an "Alberta" Summer. June was two to three degrees below average throughout the area. On 16 Jun the low temperatures were 34°F at Wanakena and 39°F at Watertown. July deteriorated quickly as warm weather never came and rainfall dominated the weather for the remainder of the season. Defying geography, StLA was dryer and slightly warmer than JEFF. Watertown had temperatures four degrees colder than average in July and August in contrast to Ogdensburg, which averaged only one to two degrees cooler. Rain showers near Lake Ontario reminded one of lake effect snow showers as JEFF recorded precipitation in excess of six inches for July and August.

There were only a few negative results of the poor weather, the most obvious being the loss of the shorebird flight at El Dorado Shores due to flooding. Mallard duckling production was down fifty percent along the shores of the St. Lawrence River in the Morristown area and broods of Ruffed Grouse were markedly decreased in the Adirondacks, suggesting nesting failures. Most species, however, seemed to cope with the adverse conditions, with some differences

within the Region. Aerial insectivores, for example, fared better in the St. Lawrence Valley than in JEFF.

Lingering waterfowl made the news this summer at the Moses Power Dam as Greater Scaup and Bonaparte's Gull were present all summer, and a very late Brant was found on 6 Jul (BD). A puzzling report from the Moses Dam was "a second year gull on 6 Jun with white wings, about the size of a Great Black-backed Gull" (MB). Glaucous Gull first comes to mind but the extreme spring date for this species is 15 May. A gull fitting this description was photographed at a dump in central New York this winter and identified as a leucistic Great Black-backed Gull. Photographs of white-winged gulls seen out of season may be necessary for their accurate identification. However, the premier water bird of the season was a **White-winged Tern** that **nested** with a Black Tern at Perch River Wildlife Management Area, and was viewed by hundreds during its stay.

Turkey Vulture is now reported daily throughout the Region, this season including the Five Ponds Wilderness Area, Town of Fine. Bald Eagle was well represented with reports of a pair in Louisville (MB), an adult in Colton (DD), and five different immatures and subadults seen along Lake Ontario's shores (GS). Northern Harrier was hard to find away from the Henderson area. Both Northern Harrier and American Kestrel were missed on the open country Breeding Bird Surveys, and Peter O'Shea echoed the absence of kestrel in the Adirondacks. All three accipiters were reported but all contributors agreed that Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers were way down compared to the past.

While working on environmental studies for the U. S. Army at Fort Drum, Lee Harper and Tom Miller observed immature **Rough-legged Hawk** on a daily basis throughout the summer period from 1 Jun to 31 Aug. The numbers varied from two to a maximum of five on 15 Jun. Thereafter, only two birds were seen. This represents the first summering records of the species in New York State. Fort Drum, headquarters for the 10th Mountain Division, is situated on several thousand acres of rolling terrain with mixed hardwoods, open fields, lakes and marshes in JEFF and LEWI. The Rough-legged Hawk is a regular winter visitor to the inland areas of the state and is generally present from mid October until April. Previous extreme records for

the species are 20 Jun at W Martinsburg LEWI (*Kingbird*. 25-4: 225; 1975). Bull (1974. *Birds of New York State*. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY) lists the following extremes: Lyndonville 26 Jun 1965, Syracuse Airport 8 Jul 1969, near Watertown 9 Jul 1966, and Pompey ONON 21 Jul and 4 Aug 1969. Since most of Fort Drum is off limits to birders, we can only speculate about their regular occurrence on the base.

Common Nighthawk is rarely reported in the Region away from Ogdensburg. Is any one looking in the larger cities? Whip-poor-will, rarely reported, was found in good numbers at Massena by Marilyn Badger and in the Chaumont Barrens by Gerry Smith. Grassland species in general were poorly represented this year. Short-eared Owl was almost missed and there were only isolated reports for Upland Sandpiper, Sedge Wren, Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow. Another species of concern, Least Flycatcher was reported only from Massena in early June and from the Wanakena Breeding Bird Survey in the Adirondacks, where their numbers dropped by sixty percent. Common Raven is now extending its range into the Adirondack foothills and the Tug Hill. Peter O'Shea finds them "common in the Towns of Edwards and Russell", and the Walkers found two pairs with young at Whetstone Gulf in Lewis County. O'Shea's sightings from the Adirondacks provided the only reports of American Black Duck, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Boreal Chickadee, Swainson's Thrush and Rusty Blackbird. With the exception of Yellow-throated Vireo, which was missed, vireos and warblers were reported in good numbers. Twenty-two species of warbler were recorded during the breeding season, including **Worm-eating** and **Hooded Warblers**.

Fall migrants appeared in Cape Vincent after a storm with 65 mph winds (the remains of Hurricane Andrew) on 28 Aug. During the two days that followed, Mary and Brian Wood recorded Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Warbling and Philadelphia Vireos, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Black-and-white, and **Worm-eating Warblers**, Common Yellowthroat, and Wilson's Warbler.

Species unusual in the Region were **Great Egret**, **Am. White Pelican**, **Rough-legged Hawk**, **Little Gull**, **White-winged Tern**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Orchard Oriole**.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Sheila and Bob Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Nina Comins, Ken Crowell, Bruce Di Labio, Dean DiTommaso, Jim Farquar, Lee Harper, Paul Kelly, Steve and Debbie Litwhiler, Irene Mazzocchi, Thomas W. Miller, Paul Novak, Peter O'Shea, Robert Long, Martha Stickney, June & Bob Walker, C. Winter, Mary & Brian Wood.

Abbreviations: CV - Cape Vincent; HPt - Holmes Point, T Morristown, SLR; JCSP- Jacques Cartier State Park, T Morristown; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; PBBS - Philadelphia BBS 3 Jul (RL); PRWMA - Perch River Wildlife Management Area, JEFF; OBBS - Ogdensburg BBS 12 Jun (RL); RMPD - Robert Moses Power Dam; SLR - St Lawrence River; THSF - Tug Hill State Forest, LEWI; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area; WHWMA - Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area, T Louisville, StLA; WBBS - Wanakena BBS 2 Jul (RL); WGSP - Whetstone Gulf State Park, T Martinsburg, LEWI.

Summer reports: **Com. Loon:** max six pairs Cranberry L; pair with chick Huckleberry L StLA 25 Jun. **Pied-billed Grebe:** five PRWMA 7 Jul, four PRWMA 15 Jul, only reports. **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** one PRWMA 28 Jul (IM). **Double-crested Cormorant:** 5000 pair Little Galoo I; large groups LOL and SLR, max 500 Chaumont Bay to Lyme. **Am. Bittern:** reports from PRWMA and Massena only, max six PRWMA 29 Jun. **Least Bittern:** singles PRWMA 20 Jun, 1 Jul, max three 2 Jul. **GREAT EGRET:** singles T Henderson 9 Jul and Massena 6 Jun. **Green-backed Heron:** two T Henderson 10 Jun, four PRWMA 7 Jul, pair with two y HPt. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 20 ad. CV 16 Jul. **Mute Swan:** six-seven ad PRWMA 5 Jun to 15 Jul. **Brant:** *intro.* **Canada Goose:** max 150 RMPD 6 Jul. **Wood Duck:** six PRWMA 6 Jul, common on ponds in T Clifton, Fine and Colton. **Am. Black Duck:** pair on beaver pond Cranberry L Wild Forest 20 Jun. **Mallard:** *intro.* **Gadwall:** two pair WHWMA 5 Jun, one PRWMA 6 Jul, 19 RMPD 6 Jul. **Am. Wigeon:** 12 RMPD 6 Jul. **Ring-necked Duck:** ad male RMPD 30 Jul. **Greater Scaup:** ad males RMPD and Wellesley I. throughout the season. **Com. Merganser:** six females RMPD and nearby Grasse R 30 Jul-20 Aug.

Osprey: two active nests at PRWMA, max six there. **Bald Eagle:** *intro.* **N. Harrier:** reports from Chaumont (probably breeding), T

Henderson and Massena, scarce in StLA. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: pair with y Ogdensburg (PK), singles at CV 28 Jul and 15 Aug, Stony Pt T Henderson 6 Jul. **Cooper's Hawk**: single ad T Henderson 2 Jul, 7 Jul, 25 Aug, imm at feeder 28-30 Aug; one near Port Leyden LEWI 30 Jul, one at feeder Lorraine LEWI 7 Aug, one Wanakena 10 Aug. **N. Goshawk**: singles Antwerp 11 Jun, T Pitcairn 20 Jun, T Fine 3 Aug. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: pair with nestlings middle branch Grasse R T Clare. **Broad-winged Hawk**: one Massena 11 Jul, imm T Piercefield StLa, five ad Adirondack region of StLA, less frequent than in past years. **Red-tailed Hawk**: two pair nesting Massena 2 Jun. **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK**: *intro* **Am. Kestrel**: two pair Massena 17 Jun, pair with y Ogdensburg, max eight (four imm) T Henderson 21 Jul. **Peregrine Falcon**: ad Deferiet 3 Jun (TM); imm Ogdensburg early July (PK). **Gray Partridge**: five Massena 3 Jun, max 52 (four coveys) on back roads near CV, sign of good recovery since the March 1991 ice storm. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: three Massena 1 Jun, one Ogdensburg 8 Jun, only reports. **Wild Turkey**: hens with poults in T Louisville, Massena and CV. **Virginia Rail**: six T Louisville 1 Jun. **Sora**: singles PRWMA 7 Jul and Massena 1 Jun. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: one T Louisville 3 Aug, one PRWMA 15 Jul. **Solitary Sandpiper**: one Grasse R T Louisville 3 Aug, two near Diamond T Lorraine JEFF 21 Jul. **Spotted Sandpiper**: FL T Louisville and Morristown. **Upland Sandpiper**: four reports, max four Massena 6 Jun. **Least Sandpiper**: one MSD 4 Aug. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: one PRWMA 24 Jul. **Stilt Sandpiper**: one Massena 24 Jul. **Com. Snipe**: max 25 Massena 5 Jun. **Am. Woodcock**: max 20 Massena 5 Jun. **LITTLE GULL**: ad RMPD 30 Jul (BD). **Bonaparte's Gull**: present at RMPD from 6 Jul to 25 Aug, max 175 on 20 Aug. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 5000 RMPD 20 Aug. **Herring Gull**: max 40 RMPD 30 Jul. **Great Black-backed Gull**: 16 ad RMPD 25 Aug, two imm Morristown 15 Aug. **Caspian Tern**: 400 pair Little Galoo (GS), ad Canton 26 Jun (DD), unusual location. **Com. Tern**: max 100 Massena 1 Aug. **WHITE-WINGED TERN**: ad female PRWMA 23 Jun-21 Jul (mob), first Regional and third State record. **Black Tern**: max 50+ PRWMA 15 Jul.

Black-billed Cuckoo: one Pierrepont 3 Jun, one Harrisville 16 Jun, one CV 10 Jul, four individuals T Henderson 17 Jun-25 Aug. **E. Screech-Owl**: one ad and one imm CV 13 and 16 Jul. **Great Horned Owl**: reports from six areas, max three Massena 1 Jun. **Barred Owl**: eight reports, max three Antwerp 11 Jun. **Short-eared Owl**: two

Philadelphia 4 Jun. **Com. Nighthawk**: one road kill Sacketts Harbor Aug, max four Ogdensburg 15 Jun, last Star L 29 Aug. **Whip-poor-will**: ten Massena 7 Jun, 11 Chaumont Barrens 15 Jun. **Chimney Swift**: few reports, max 20 Massena 15 Aug (10 imm), last CV 28 Aug. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: good numbers from Ogdensburg and Massena only, max eight Ogdensburg. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one CV two days early Jun (NC), one near Woodville T Ellisburg JEFF 28 Jun (LC). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: ad T Henderson 15 and 26 Jun, ad feeding imm there 27 Jun; one PRWMA 29 Jun. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: pair Cranberry L Wild Forest 18 Jul, three imm THSF 26 Aug, max ten WBBS.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one THSF 26 Jul. **E. Wood-Pewee**: max 17 Massena 5 Jul. **Alder Flycatcher**: three WGSP 10 Jun. **Willow Flycatcher**: two OBBS, three near Diamond T Lorraine JEFF 21 Jul. **Least Flycatcher**: *intro*. **E. Phoebe**: max 11 T Louisville 1 Jun. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: max 20 Massena 1 Jun. **E. Kingbird**: max 20 Massena 7 Jun. **Horned Lark**: one Massena 20 Jul, only report. **Purple Martin**: high numbers along SLR, max 120 (80 imm) Massena. **Tree Swallow**: poor breeding JEFF but late numbers good, max 1000 Three Mile Pt L Ontario 7 Aug. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: two Massena 10 Jun, two HPt 15 Jul, three WGSP 10 Jun. **Bank Swallow**: max 60 Massena 10 Jun. **Cliff Swallow**: max 650 RMPD 20 Aug. **Barn Swallow**: max 170 RMPD 20 Aug. **Com. Raven**: *intro*. **Boreal Chickadee**: one Birch Pd, Five Ponds Wilderness. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: reports from CV, Massena, and Tug Hill, max eight THSF 25 Aug. **Brown Creeper**: four Massena 22 Jun, only report. **Winter Wren**: one HPt 15 Jun, one Natural Bridge 18 Jun, three reports from the Tug Hill, three WBBS. **Sedge Wren**: one PRWMA 22 Jul (TB, PN). **Marsh Wren**: four PBBS. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: three WBBS, pair with two y HPt. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: one CV 28-30 Aug, seldom found in migration. **E. Bluebird**: seven pair with 18 imm Massena, only two pair with second brood. **Veery**: max 40 Massena 1 Jun, 18 WBBS. **Swainson's Thrush**: common above 1300 ft elevation. **Hermit Thrush**: 15 WBBS, up 50% over previous three years. **Wood Thrush**: max 40 Massena 1 Jun, average numbers on the three BBS. **Gray Catbird**: max 27 Massena 19 Jun. **N. Mockingbird**: pairs with y Madrid and Massena, one pair PBBS. **Brown Thrasher**: five Massena 3 Jun, two OBBS only reports.

Solitary Vireo: three WBBS; THSF 10 Jun. **Warbling Vireo:** max 23 Massena 7 Jun, average numbers on three BBS. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr CV 30 Aug. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 103 WBBS, 40 Massena 6 Jul. **Golden-winged warbler:** two Pierrepont 3 Jun (KC), one PBBS. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Brewster's type Canton 26 Jun (DD). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr CV 30 Aug, early, seldom reported. **Nashville Warbler:** two THSF 26 Aug. **N. Parula:** one WBBS. **Yellow Warbler:** 50 Massena 6 Jul; 36 OBBS, average. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 14 Massena 6 Jun, 15 WBBS. **Magnolia Warbler:** one Massena 11 Jun, 3 WBBS. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** one Massena 1 Jun, two THSF 26 Aug, five WBBS. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 13 WBBS, eight THSF 26 Aug. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** nine WBBS. **Blackburnian Warbler:** one THSF 26 Aug. **Pine Warbler:** six Pleasant L T Macomb 5 Jul, five Massena 1 Jun, five JCSP 15 Jun. **Prairie Warbler:** 5 Limerick Cedars T Brownville Jeff 13 Jun. **Cerulean Warbler:** one River Rd DeKalb-Gouverneur 10 Jun (CW). **Black-and-white Warbler:** 15 Massena 5 Jun. **Am. Redstart:** 45 Massena 5 Jun, 28 WBBS. **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** one Harrisville 16 Jun; one CV 29 Aug, Regional firsts. **Ovenbird:** max 48 Massena 1 Jun, 16 WBBS. **N. Waterthrush:** five JCSP 15 Jun, four THSF 10 Jun. **Mourning Warbler:** two WBBS, three other singles. **Com. Yellowthroat:** 42 Massena 5 Jun, 34 PBBS, average. **HOODED WARBLER:** one Philadelphia 4 Jun (TM), at same site last year. **Wilson's Warbler:** arr CV 28-30 Aug. **Canada Warbler:** two Massena 5 Jun, imm THSF 26 Aug.

Scarlet Tanager: max eight Massena throughout season. **N. Cardinal:** max 40 Massena-T Louisville. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 25 Massena 6 Jun. **Indigo Bunting:** max 8 PBBS, two near Diamond T Lorraine JEFF. **Rufous-sided Towhee:** max 13 PBBS, nine Massena 5 Jun. **Chipping Sparrow:** max 200 per day Massena, **Clay-colored Sparrow:** one Sterlingville 3 Jun (TM). **Field Sparrow:** max 10 PBBS. **Vesper Sparrow:** one OBBS. **Savannah Sparrow:** max 18 PBBS, above average, 18 Massena 10 Jun. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** one PRWMA 22 Jul (TB, PN). **Henslow's Sparrow:** two Philadelphia 4 Jun; about ten Vaadi Road PRWMA 10-22 Jul (mob). **Song Sparrow:** 290 per day Massena. **Swamp Sparrow:** max 17 Massena 5 Jun. **White-throated Sparrow:** 46 Massena 5 Jun. **Bobolink:** max 60 Massena 6 Jun. **E. Meadowlark:** max 55 Massena 5 Jun. **Rusty Blackbird:** singing males Dog Pd T Colton early June. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** singing male

Massena early Jun (MS). **N. Oriole:** max 30 Massena-T Louisville 5 Jun. **Purple Finch:** max 50 per day Massena, 30 Ogdensburg 1 Jun. **House Finch:** "a favorite food of young Sharp-shinned Hawk" (PK). **Pine Siskin:** reports from T Henderson and Ogdensburg, imm Ogdensburg 19 Jul. **Evening Grosbeak:** pairs at feeders in T Henderson, CV, Lorraine and Massena in June and July, unusual.

2807 Citation Drive, Pompey, New York 13138