

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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The summer season began much like the spring , cold and wet. Temperatures were in the 40's during the first few days of June and water levels on Lake Ontario and the St Lawrence River were at record highs. However, after 10 Jun, conditions improved with sunny dry days predominating until the middle of August. Weekend birders were treated to nine straight weekends without precipitation. By the end of July, drought conditions were prevalent. The high water disrupted the Black Tern colonies at Wilson Bay Marsh and Lakeview WMA on Lake Ontario but no other breeding species were hampered. In fact, the drought caused water levels to drop to normal by mid August, resulting in a modest shorebird flight at El Dorado Beach for the first time in three years.

Positives for the season included significant increases in the colonies of Caspian Tern on Little Galloo Island and of Common Tern on the navigation buoys in the St. Lawrence River, improved numbers and breeding of Ruffed Grouse, the first Regional breeding report for **Carolina Wren**, an explosion of Sedge Wren in StLA. In addition there was an increasing number of reports of many species that are not always well represented in the summer report. These included American Black Duck, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Least Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Yellow-throated Vireo, Pine Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Bobolink. Negatives included few Bald Eagle reports, continued decline in American Kestrel, Gray Partridge, Upland Sandpiper, low numbers of Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Brown Thrasher and Indigo Bunting. Seldom reported migrants included White-winged Scoter, Whimbrel and Gray-cheeked Thrush.

Only two immature Bald Eagle were reported, which is quite low but an immature **Golden Eagle** seen by Lee Chamberlaine on 23 Jun in the Tug Hill in the Town of Montagne LEWI was unusual. Northern Harrier was well represented this year with over 20 reports in JEFF and StLA. American Kestrel was again sparse throughout the Region despite better coverage. A nest box program might be of help, as I have noticed that all the nesting sites around Morristown were in old barns which have fallen down.

The most unusual report for the season was the sighting of a Common Crane with a **Sandhill Crane**, first by Kathy Leconti-Lee in the Town of Lowville LEWI on July 2. The birds were seen by many others until 5 Aug at different locations both feeding and dancing. The Common Crane is a well known escape with a broken toe on its left foot but the relationship is unusual. We can only hope that the Sandhill Crane will find one of its own in future years, as Sandhill Crane is being seen more frequently in the Region.

Coverage of the Region was much better this year due to the efforts of Lee Chamberlaine, Marilyn Badger, Dave Prosser, Dean DiTommaso and Peter O'Shea. Lee's extensive coverage of the Henderson area and his many forays into the Tug Hill resulted in many interesting finds. His observations on flora and fauna are useful as well. Lee noted that White Pine on the Tug Hill are very heavy with cones, which may improve chances to see winter finches; *Microtus* populations are growing in Henderson and Three Mile Bay, good for hawks and owls, and a heavy loss of American Elm to Dutch Elm Disease may bode well for woodpeckers. Marilyn Badger patrols the Massena-Louisville area on foot, car and bike, logging large numbers of the more common species at their June peak, which is valuable data over time. Dave Prosser's many trips yielded Peregrine Falcon, Henslow's Sparrow, Sedge Wren and Prairie Warbler. Dean DiTommaso covered the grasslands in StLA, discovering over 30 Sedge Wren at eleven sites in the Towns of Morristown, Oswegatchie and Lisbon. Because of the cold May, hay fields were slow to grow and cutting was delayed. Some were not cut at all, providing good habitat for Sedge Wren as well as Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. In previous years there had never been more than three locations for Sedge Wren in this area. Dean's list also included Carolina Wren in Massena, Vesper Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird in Colton. His most unexpected find, however, was a singing male **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**. Peter O'Shea, our Adirondack observer, found both Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpecker and Ruby-crowned Kinglet this summer.

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Abbreviations: EDS - El Dorado Shores Preserve, JEFF; FrL - Francis L, T Watson, LEWI; FCWMA - French Creek WMA, T Clayton, StLA; HSUA - Henderson Shores Unique Area, T. Henderson, JEFF; HPt - Holmes Point, T Morristown, StLA; LWMA - Lakeview WMA, T Ellisberg, JEFF; LC - Limeric Cedars, T Brownville, JEFF; TLou - T Louisville, StLA; MC - Mill Creek, T Hounsfield, JEFF; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam, Massena; OBBS - Ogdensburg Breeding Bird Survey, 27 Jun (RL); PRWMA - Perch River Wildlife Management Area, JEFF; PBBS - Philadelphia Breeding Bird Survey, 25 Jun (RL); RMPD - Robert Moses Power Dam, Massena; SB - Sawyer's Bay, T Henderson, JEFF; SLR - St Lawrence River; THSF - Tug Hill State Forest, LEWI; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area, T Canton, StLA; WBBS - Wanakena Breeding Bird Survey, 24 Jun (RL); WdBBS - Waddington BBS, 23 Jun (KC); WBM - Wilson Bay Marsh, T Cape Vincent, JEFF; WHWMA - Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area, T Louisville, StLA.

Summer Reports: **Com. Loon:** pairs widespread; nested Coles Creek Marina, Potsdam. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 18+ (many imm) PRWMA 4 Aug; one at Indian Creek Nature Center, near Canton through June. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 5000 pair, Little Galloo I, no change, also nested on Gull I in Henderson Harbor and at PRWMA. **Am. Bittern:** PRWMA and Massena only, max three PBBS and PRWMA 4 Aug. **Least Bittern:** single Route 37 TLou 23 Jun (MB) **Great Blue Heron:** nests down by 25 percent Grindstone I due to tree loss from Beavers, March storm and general deterioration (GS). **Green-backed Heron:** reported Massena, T Henderson, PRWMA, Potsdam, numbers down (LC); three pair breeding at HPt. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 30 nests on Gull I, Henderson Harbor; ad EDS 27 Jun; two FCWMA 18 Aug. **Mute Swan:** nine ad PRWMA 13 Jul, no breeding, adverse weather. **Brant:** two RMPD 5 Jun (BDL), late. **Canada Goose:** max 180 PRWMA 29 Aug, few goslings due to poor weather (LC). **Wood Duck:** nested PRWMA, FCWMA, HSUA, Massena and Adirondack ponds. **Green-winged Teal:** one PRWMA 15 Aug (BDv). **Am. Black Duck:** pairs FCWMA, PRWMA and in Beaver ponds T Clifton, T Fine and T Colton; pair with 12 eggs T Louisville 17 Jun (MB); more than usual. **Mallard:** modest recovery in Morristown area but ducklings still down 25 percent. **Blue-winged Teal:** nested TLou, late max 12 EDS 25 Aug, 25 PRWMA 29 Aug. **Gadwall:** pair WHWMA 7 Jun, early max 40 RMPD 5 Jun, late max 165 WHWMA 12 Aug. **Redhead:** two males, one female RMPD 5 Jun, max 37 WHWMA 12 Aug. **Ring-necked Duck:** pair Grasse R TLou 20 Jun;

female with six downy y ULLWMA 30 Jul. **White-winged Scoter**: male RMPD 5 Jun (BD), late. **Hooded Merganser**: pair Grasse R TLou 29 Jul. **Com. Merganser**: pair with 5 y RMPD 6 Jun; female with 23 young SB 5 Jul; female with 17 young EDS 30 Jul.

Osprey: two active nests, three y PRWMA. **Bald Eagle**: *intro*; pair Grasse R TLou. **N. Harrier**: *intro* **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: singles Massena 2 Aug, T Henderson and Ogdensburg throughout period, one Colton 21 Jun. **Cooper's Hawk**: two T Pinckney LEWI 16 Aug, singles Canton 9 Jun, T Henderson 3-23 Jul, THSF 19 Jul. **N. Goshawk**: two Massena 6 Jul (GK) **Red-shouldered Hawk**: one Sears Pd LEWI 23 Jun; one T Clifton StLA; pair attacking Turkey T Fine (PO). **Broad-winged Hawk**: singles Massena 1 Jun, N Osceola 1 Jul; frequent in Adirondacks, imm conspicuous in early Aug (PO). **Red-tailed Hawk**: numbers increasing in Adirondack park. **GOLDEN EAGLE**: *intro*. **Peregrine Falcon**: ad T Rodman 6 Aug, StLA 15 Jul (DP). **Ring-necked Pheasant**: two Massena 28 Jun, only report. **Ruffed Grouse**: *intro*; ad, four y N Osceola 1 Jul. **Wild Turkey**: max 20 TLou 2 Jun, four Port Leyden LEWI 25 Aug. **Virginia Rail**: max six TLou 2 Jun. **Com. Moorhen**: five PRWMA 13 Jul, four y there 4 Aug, max 25+ there 29 Aug. **Am. Coot**: one PRWMA 29 Aug. **Com. Crane**: *intro*. **SANDHILL CRANE**: *intro*. **Black-bellied Plover**: arr EDS 28 Aug (RP). **Semipalmated Plover**: 10 EDS 28 Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs**: six MC 13 July, one Clayton 4 Aug, one Jamestown Falls Raquette R StLA 21 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr three MC 4 Aug, one RMPD 25 Aug, max six EDS 19 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper**: singles EDS 30 Jul, 16 Aug, 30 Aug; max six TLou 23 Aug. **Spotted Sandpiper**: bred Massena, EDS, T Henderson, MC, Morristown; max eight EDS 19 Aug. **Upland Sandpiper**: four reports from Massena, TLou, one LC **Whimbrel**: one EDS 16 Aug (GS). **Ruddy Turnstone**: singles SB 21 Aug, EDS 30 Jul. **Sanderling**: present EDS and SB 19-21 Aug, max 12 SB 20 Aug. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: one Massena 16 Jul; three EDS 21 Aug, one 28 Aug. **Least Sandpiper**: max 6 EDS 21 Aug. **Baird's Sandpiper**: one Massena 21 Aug (DD). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: four MC 13 Jul. **Stilt Sandpiper**: one TLou 23 Aug (DD). **Com. Snipe**: max nine OBBS. **Bonaparte's Gull**: imm EDS 30 Jul, five T Henderson 30 Jul, one Pt Peninsula 4 Aug, max 108 (6 imm) RMPD 8 Aug. **Herring Gull**: bred Rock I Cranberry L (PO); max 11 RMPD 5 Aug. **Great Black-backed Gull**: 18 ad RMPD 5 Aug, five imm Morristown 17 Aug. **Caspian Tern**: 896 nests Little Galoo (GS). **Com. Tern**: 650 nests, 80 % on navigation buoys, increase of 150 nests over 1992 (LH). **Black Tern**: *intro*, max 30+ PRWMA, up from last year; ten ad, three nests ULLWMA (KC).

Black-billed Cuckoo: pair Lowville 16 Jul; singles OBBS, Pt Peninsula 4 Aug, TLou 10 Jun; five individuals T Henderson 6 Jun-27 Aug. **E. Screech-Owl:** ad Ogdensburg 14 Jun, pair Cape Vincent. **Great Horned Owl:** imm Ogdensburg 18 Jul, family group T Henderson 2 Jul, max four TLou-Massena. **Barred Owl:** one T Fine 26 Aug. **Com. Nighthawk:** two pair Ogdensburg, one bird found injured; three ad, two FrL TLou-Massena 2 Aug (MB), 19 Watertown 30 Aug (RB). **Whip-poor-will:** four TLou 3 Jun, three HSUA 30 Jun, one Pierrepont 16 Jun. **Chimney Swift:** several T Henderson, PRWMA, Ogdensburg, HPt; max 30 (20 imm) Massena. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** good numbers from Ogdensburg, Massena and Adirondacks, recovery in JEFF "the most I have seen in years" (LC). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** one Old Rome Road JEFF 15 Jun. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** pair, two y at feeder 28 Jun till late Jul T Henderson. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** eight N Osceola 1 Jul, max 12 WBBS. **Three-Toed Woodpecker:** one Grass R near Massawepie T Colton StLA (PO). **Black-backed Woodpecker:** three seen in scattered spruce bogs Jun and Jul (PO).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: two FrL 16 Jul, one LWMA 11 Aug, common in Boreal swamps (PO). **E. Wood-Pewee:** max six Massena 1 Jun. **Alder Flycatcher:** singles T Lorraine JEFF 6 Jun, Sears Pd LEWI 23 Jun, PBBS; max 12 TLou 3 Jun (MB). **Willow Flycatcher:** singles Stony Pt JEFF 11 Jun, TLou 10-12 Jun, RMPD 16 Jun, OBBS. **Least Flycatcher:** five pair TLou 6 Jun, 12 N Osceola 1 Jul, max 15 WBBS, good recovery in Adirondacks. **E. Phoebe:** max ten PBBS. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** max 15 Massena 8 Jun, low numbers elsewhere. **E. Kingbird:** max eight Massena 16 Aug; numbers low until Aug when many observed on wires, down 50% on PBBS. **Horned Lark:** one WdBBS, only report. **Purple Martin:** max 48 Massena. **Tree Swallow:** more than last year; 15 pair TLou 11 Jul; max 3000 17 Aug. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** four Massena 4 Jun, one PRWMA 13 Jul. **Bank Swallow:** max 30 Massena 10 Jun. **Cliff Swallow:** max 350 RMPD 5 Jun. **Barn Swallow:** low numbers but doing well in StLA, particularly in farm country; three nests under the cliffs at HPt, max 44 OBBS. **Com. Raven:** three nests near Barnes Corners LEWI (GS); two imm on WBBS near Newton Falls, common on roadsides throughout Adirondacks. **Black-capped Chickadee:** max 230 Massena 3 Jun. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** reported TLou, T Henderson, HSUA, EDS and Tug Hill, max four Littlejohn T Worth JEFF 17 Aug. **White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 45 TLou 2 Jun. **Brown Creeper:** pair

Massena, only report. **CAROLINA WREN**: pair feeding y HPt 12 Aug, first Regional breeding record; singles Massena 22 Aug, Rays Bay T Henderson 15 Aug; pairs Clarks Pt T Henderson 19 Aug, Watertown all summer. **Winter Wren**: one T Henderson 27 Jun, two FrL 16 July, six N Osceola 1 Jul, max 11 WBBS. **Sedge Wren**: *intro*. **Marsh Wren**: 60+ PRWMA 4 Aug. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: one WBBS. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: singles Streeter Bog 15 Jun, Grass R. 2 Jul, both T Colton StLA (PO). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: singles Wellesley I SP 3 Jun (PD), T Lorraine JEFF 30 Aug (S&DL). **E. Bluebird**: 29 pair Massena-TLou area, many y, also bred T Watson, T New Bremen LEWI. **Veery**: max 23 Massena 6 Jun, 17 WBBS. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: one TLou 2 Jun (MB). **Hermit Thrush**: 11 WBBS, above average. **Wood Thrush**: max 45 eight locations Massena-TLou 1 Jun -13 Jun, scarcer elsewhere. **Gray Catbird**: max 71 from ten locations Massena 1-27 Jun. **N. Mockingbird**: singles Keener Hill Road T Martinsburg LEWI 20 July (BH), Ogdensburg 24 Aug (PK). **Brown Thrasher**: three Massena 5 Jun, three PBBS numbers low

Solitary Vireo: 11 WBBS, ten N Osceola 1 Jul, three TLou 10 Jun. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: singles Wellesley I SP 3 Jun (PD), N Osceola 1 Jul (LC), Grindstone I 12 Jun (RL). **Warbling Vireo**: max 18 six locations Massena-TLou 3-10 Jun; average numbers on PBBS and OBBS. **Red-eyed Vireo**: max 92 WBBS, 64 Massena 6 Jun. **Golden-winged warbler**: one ULLWMA 10 Jun (KC); two PBBS, two JEFF, LEWI 9 Jun. **Nashville Warbler**: one TLou 2 Jun, two WBBS. **N. Parula**: singles Grasse and Oswegatchie R T Colton and T Fine StLA (PO). **Yellow Warbler**: 74 Massena-TLou 1-10 Jun, 34 OBBS, average. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 31 Massena-TLou 6 Jun, 18 WBBS, 19 JEFF, LEWI 9 Jun (GS). **Magnolia Warbler**: two Massena 10 Jun, eight WBBS, two N Osceola 1 Jul. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: one N Osceola 1 Jul, two WBBS. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: ten WBBS, poor; four pair near HPt 3 Jun, two EDS 19 Aug. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: six WBBS and N Osceola 1 Jul, singles HSUA 12 Jun, FrL 16 Jul. **Blackburnian Warbler**: four T Lorraine JEFF 6 Jun, three near Sears Pd LEWI 23 Jun; one WBBS and Ogdensburg 4 Aug. **Pine Warbler**: 21 (six y) Massena-TLou 3 Jun (MB); four-five males Wellesley I SP 3 Jun; three Jacques Cartier SP 15 Jun, three FrL 16 Jul; three Grindstone I 12 Jun. **Prairie Warbler**: one LC 2 Jun (DP). **Cerulean Warbler**: one Grindstone I 12 Jun (RL). **Black-and-white Warbler**: 16 Massena 3 Jun, well reported from JEFF, LEWI, StLA BBS routes. **Am. Redstart**: 30 Massena 8 Jun, 24 WBBS, widely reported. **Ovenbird**: max 30 Massena 7 Jun, 17 Grindstone I 12 Jun, 16 WBBS and LEWI 9 Jun. N.

Waterthrush: 3 Jacques Cartier SP 10 Jun, singles HSUA 11 Jun, N Osceola 1 Jul, Massena 4 Jun. **Mourning Warbler:** four WBBS, two LEWI 9 Jun, one TLou 21 Aug. **Com. Yellowthroat:** 85 TLou 9 Jun, 60 Massena 4 Jun, 34 PBBS, average. **Canada Warbler:** singles Massena 4 Jun, HSUA 11 Jun, WBBS.

Scarlet Tanager: max 12 Massena throughout season, five PBBS, three Grindstone I 12 Jun, low numbers in JEFF, LEWI. **N. Cardinal:** max 24 Massena-TLou increasing in s JEFF. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 26 Massena 6 Jun, good numbers throughout. **Indigo Bunting:** max three PBBS, two TLou 2 Jun, scarce. **Rufous-sided Towhee:** max 14 Massena 3 Jun., eight PBBS. **Chipping Sparrow:** max 200/day Massena. **Field Sparrow:** max 14 PBBS, three Massena 17 Jun. **Vesper Sparrow:** two Morristown 16 Jun (DD), one Fort Drum Jun (LH). **Savannah Sparrow:** max 11 PBBS, above average, 18 Massena 10 Jun. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** pair FY TLou 8 Jun, pair Fort Drum Jun (LH). **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** one ULLWMA (DD, NYSARC), first Regional record. **Henslow's Sparrow:** two singing males Amend Road T Orleans STLa 20 Jul (DD), two pair Fort Drum Jun (LH), five PRWMA 17 Jun (DP). **Song Sparrow:** 300/day Massena. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** one T Colton 12 Jun (DD). **Swamp Sparrow:** max 30+ PRWMA 13 Jul. **White-throated Sparrow:** 35 WBBS, eight N Osceola 1 Jul, 24 Massena 3 Jun. **Bobolink:** max 110+ PRWMA 13 Jul, expanding in uncut fields. **E. Meadowlark:** max 38 Massena 5 Jun., numbers up on open country BBS routes. **Rusty Blackbird:** three T Colton 12 Jun (DD). **N. Oriole:** few reports, max three N Osceola 1 Jul, families more evident in Jul in T Henderson and HPt. **Purple Finch:** max 45 Massena-TLou 6 Jun, y at feeders T Henderson early July. **House Finch:** max 125 Ogdensburg. **Pine Siskin:** one Wellesley I SP 4 Jun (PD), only report. **Evening Grosbeak:** pair at feeder T Henderson 30 June, max 4 WBBS at Newton Falls, one Barnes Corners LEWI 28 Aug (GS).

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