

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The weather in Region 5 for the summer period was significant only in its lack of records, storms, or unusual occurrences. An average temperature of 69.3°F was recorded for the three month period. The highest temperature was 90°F recorded on 7 August, which was the only day with a 90 degree temperature recorded for the entire summer period. (The actual hottest day of the year was 19 May when a temperature of 91°F was recorded!). The lowest temperature for the period was 42°F on 1 June. June's average temperature was 68.2°F, with the highest temperature of 87°F recorded on 30 Jun and the low of 42°F on 1 June. July had an average temperature of 69.4°F with a high of 88°F recorded on 18 July and a low of 51°F recorded on 29 July. August data recorded a high of 90°F on 7 Aug and a low of 50°F on 31 August with an average temperature of 70.3°F. Overall, the averages, highs, and lows for the three months remained very similar. Rainfall totaled 9 inches for the period with August almost 2 inches below average - dry but not dry enough to reach into the top ten driest Augusts on record. June had 3.05 inches of rainfall and July had 4.24 inches reported.

Reports from birders in Region 5 were fewer as many took vacations, chased butterflies, and simply reduced their time spent birding after the rush of spring. An adult Common Loon was noted from the lower Salmon River Reservoir, Oswego County, but no evidence of breeding was seen. Two adult loons on small Quiver Pond in Herkimer County may represent pressure to find new nesting or feeding sites. A number of reports of Pied-billed Grebe using beaver flows was encouraging for that species, but Canada Goose has also found the same niche in the lower Tug Hill. Great Blue Heron continues to do well in two large heronries in southern Oswego County.

A pair of Peregrine Falcons, present in downtown Syracuse for a year, left in early June after what was thought to be an unsuccessful attempt to nest. Osprey successfully fledged five young from three nests in the Baldwinsville area and three young from two known nests at the Lower Salmon River Reservoir. In Pompey, Dorothy Crumb had a pair of Cooper's Hawks nesting in the same white pine for the second year. They used a different nest higher in the tree, fledging five young which remained in the vicinity through the season.

South winds at Derby Hill on first two days of June brought five Bald Eagles and over 500 Broad-winged Hawks plus an adult **Laughing Gull** on the 1st and a **Black Vulture** on the 2nd. The Laughing Gull was the second Regional summer record and the Black Vulture was the first summer record for the species.

Wild Turkey, ever on the increase in the Region, was widely reported throughout the summer period with a last hatch of eggs noted from a Jamesville cornfield on 26 July. The Spring shorebird flight continued through 10 June at Sandy Pond with several late and unusual birds noted. Delta Lake water levels remained high throughout most of the report period - resulting in improved shorebird habitat only at the end of August and few shorebird reports from the area. For the first time in many years, Black Tern nested in Sage Creek Marsh as a result of higher water levels in the marsh.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was more in evidence as reported by the Region's birders - possibly a good sign for that species or just the fact that more birders were actively seeking them out. From 18-31 Aug a total of 218 Common Nighthawks were seen migrating over Slocum Heights in Syracuse, a bit lower than recent averages, and few breeding nighthawks were reported by all observers. Gene Huggins reported a small southward range extension of Red-bellied Woodpecker from Oriskany Creek Valley to Pleasant Valley in the Town of Sangerfield. Red-headed Woodpecker observations continue to be few.

Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay and Boreal Chickadee, which are only found in the far northern fringe of the Region and require some effort to find, were all seen in a five minute period in a bog near the Rock Dam in Herkimer County. Cliff Swallow seems to be doing well along the north shore of Oneida Lake and eastward into Oneida County although some nesting sites may change from year to year and most colonies tend to be on the small side, about three to eight nests. Bernie Carr reported a pair of Eastern Kingbirds fledged three young on the south side of Syracuse in a residential neighborhood where kingbirds are normally very rare even as migrants.

In Oswego County 464 bluebirds fledged from John Rodgers' boxes, down from the 1995 number (570), probably due to the severe winter last year which hurt bluebirds in the wintering areas resulting in fewer nesting pairs. Tree Swallow mortality was higher - largely as a reflection of the late spring storms, snow and cold weather. Both Warbling Vireo and Cerulean Warbler at Quiver Pond in Herkimer County on 22 June were further into the Adirondacks than usual, while Pine Warbler reports appear to be on the increase from northern Oneida County in the lower Adirondacks. In Oneida County, Matt Perry noted 66 instances of neotropical species feeding young, 11 of those young were

Brown-headed Cowbird. Clay-colored Sparrow gave us two summer records this year and although no breeding was noted, range expansion seems to be indicated. There were no reports of breeding Sedge Wren or Henslow's Sparrow in the Region this year.

Observers reported 200 species and one hybrid for the summer, a good total for a season in which many birders pursue other activities. The highlights included **Black Vulture**, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, **Laughing Gull**, Little Gull, Prairie Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow and Orchard Oriole.

Contributors: Sue Adair, Bob Asanoma, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Bernie Carr, Lee Chamberlaine, Dorothy Crumb, Robert Evans, Natalia Garcia, Bill Gruenbaum, Gene Huggins, Mary Alice Koeneke, Andy Leahy, Gary Lee, Robert Long, David Nash, Wayne Powell, Greg Pryor, Bill Purcell, Paul Richardson, John Rogers, Marge Rusk, Jean Ryan, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Maureen Staloff, Judy Thurber, Judy Wright.

Abbreviations: CM - Clay Marsh, DH - Derby Hill, LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral, OneIL - Oneida Lake, OnonL - Onondaga Lake, Syr - Syracuse, UM - Utica Marsh, WDCr - West Dead Creek, Baldwinsville.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** last Spring OnonL 6 Jun; max 20 Beaver River HERK 9-11 Aug; one ad Lower Salmon R Res OSWE 24 Jul, no evidence of breeding. **Pied-billed Grebe:** one SSSP 12 Jun; three imm Amboy 18 Jul; ad with three imm UM 23 Jul. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 480 SPd 18 Aug. **Am. Bittern:** singles CM 5 Jun and 10 Aug; Beaver River 9-11 Aug, only reports. **Least Bittern:** max five UM 9 Jul; one UM 23 Jul; SPd 9&12 Aug. **Great Blue Heron:** 21 nests with 20 y West Monroe; 39 nests Mallory. **Great Egret:** spring birds did not persist; widespread reports of single birds after 18 Jul. **Green Heron:** max 27 CM 10 Aug. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one Kirkland 14 Jul, only report. **Mute Swan:** one of unknown origin Three Rivers GMA 17 Aug. **Green-winged Teal:** max eight Delta Lake 22 Aug. **Blue-winged Teal:** max 25 Delta Lake 19 Aug. **N. Shoveler:** one male OnonL 6 Jun, unusual. **Gadwall:** one LOL 5 Jun, only report. **Com. Goldeneye:** one male OnonL 12 Jun, late. **Hooded Merganser:** three females with 12 y reported. **Com. Merganser:** max 55 Verona 9 Aug. **Red-breasted Merganser:** last Spring three SPd 1 Jun.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **BLACK VULTURE:** one DH 2 Jun, eighth regional record and latest spring by 7 weeks. **Osprey:** five nests fledged seven y. **Bald Eagle:** max three DH 1 Jun; seven other individuals reported. **N. Harrier:** female with nesting material West Monroe 13 Jul; male dropped food to female at possible

nest site in Oneida 29 Jun; nine other individuals reported throughout Region. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: nested Kirkland, fledged two y; six individuals reported throughout Region. **Cooper's Hawk**: nested Pompey, five y fledged. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: one Sangerfield 17 Jul; two Kirkland 22 Aug; one Kasoag 22 Jun. **Broad-winged Hawk**: max 257 DH 1 Jun. **Merlin**: arr one female Delta Lake 29 Aug. **Peregrine Falcon**: pair in downtown Syr regular thru 2 Jun; one Syr. 4 Aug. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: max four SVB 19 Aug; few reports. **Wild Turkey**: widespread reports. **Virginia Rail**: max four UM 16 Jul. **Sora**: two UM 3 Jun, only report. **Com. Moorhen**: 2 ad with 4 day-old imm 8 Aug SPd; max nine UM 27 Aug. **Am. Coot**: one UM 3 Jun, only report. **Black-bellied Plover**: arr SPd 19 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover**: last spring three SPd 7 Jun; arr SPd 20 Jul; max eight SPd 17 Aug. **Killdeer**: max 89 T Lysander 4 Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr CM 3 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr UM 6 Aug; max 15 Delta Lake 26 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr and max ten WDCr 31 Jul. **Willet**: one flying over Oswego Harbor 4 Jun, unusual. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max seven SPd Jul-Aug. **Upland Sandpiper**: max 12 Syr Airport 1 Aug; last 29 Aug. **Whimbrel**: max two SPd 17 Jul; one SPd 24 Aug; **Ruddy Turnstone**: arr two SPd 20 Jul; max four SPd 24 Aug. **Sanderling**: arr and max 40 SPd 19 Jul. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: last spring migrants eight SPd 7 Jun; max 150 SPd 17 Jul. **Least Sandpiper**: last Spring two SPd 5 Jun; arr SPd 2 Aug; max 30 WDCr. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: last Spring one SPd 7 Jun; arr and only report one SPd 12 Aug. **Baird's Sandpiper**: arr two SPd 18 Aug; also two SVB 23 Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr one WDCr 29 Jul; max seven Delta Lake 29 Aug. **Dunlin**: last Spring one SPd 7 Jun. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: two SPd 23 Aug, only report. **Com. Snipe**: max five Holland Patent 5 Jul. **Am. Woodcock**: three individual reports 12 Jun - 17 Jul. **Wilson's Phalarope**: one f SPd 7 Jun. **LAUGHING GULL**: one ad DH 1 Jun, second Regional summer record; **Little Gull**: one 2nd year SPd 17 Aug; one juv SPd 26 Aug. **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr two SVB 13 Jul max 90 SVB 2 Aug. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 4000 SPd 19 Jul. **Caspian Tern**: max 81 SPd 5 Aug. **Com. Tern**: 60 OneiL nest island 13 Jul; max 88 SVB 2 Aug. **Forster's Tern**: one ad SPd 20 Jul, early. **Black Tern**: max 30 SPd 9 Aug; two pr breeding Sage Creek Marsh after several year absence.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Mourning Dove**: max 106 Syr Airport 15 Aug. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: max four Remsen 3 Aug. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: five reports, higher than usual; two Howland I 14 Jun; one Three Rivers WMA 17 Jun; one Baldwinsville 24 Jun; one Kirkland 22 Aug; one New Hartford 5

Jun. **E. Screech-Owl**: singles Howland I 3 Jul, Constantia 14 Jul, Baldwinsville 22 Aug. **Great Horned Owl**: singles Kirkland 25 Jun and 9 Jul, West Monroe 30 Jun, New Hartford 19 Jul. **Barred Owl**: pair Whiskey Hollow thru; imm Pompey 7 Jul; one Old Forge 28 Jul; one Beaver River HERK 9-11 Aug. **Com. Nighthawk**: max 73 Syr 19 Aug. **Whip-poor-will**: max six Constantia 26 Jun & 14 Jul. **Chimney Swift**: max 38 Harden Forest 24 Aug. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: max 7 New Hartford 23 Aug. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two Scriba 13 Jun; one West Monroe 25 Aug, only reports. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: max five Kirkland 18 Jun; one Pleasant Valley T Sangerfield, small southward range extension from Oriskany Creek Valley. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max eight McKeever BBS 16 Jun. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: two Rock Dam HERK 11 Aug, only report.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: arr two Labrador Hollow 24 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: last Spring SPd 5 Jun; arr SVB 19 Aug. **Acadian Flycatcher**: breeding pair plus second singing male Whiskey Hollow. **Alder Flycatcher**: max ten Alder Creek BBS 9 Jun. **Willow Flycatcher**: max 16 CM 12 Jun. **Least Flycatcher**: max 9 Dewitt Marsh 29 Jul. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: max ten Alder Creek BBS 9 Jun. **E. Kingbird**: max 17 SPd 18 Aug. **Horned Lark**: max four T Van Buren 12 Jul; two other reports. **Purple Martin**: max 35 ad & 15+ juv at one box SVB 13 Jul. **Tree Swallow**: max 220 SPd 12 Aug. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: max eight Hastings 10 Jul. **Bank Swallow**: max 350 at Oriskany colony 9 Jun. **Cliff Swallow**: max 55 West Monroe 19 Aug. **Barn Swallow**: max 1960 Clay Marsh 12 Aug. **Gray Jay**: two Rock Dam HERK 11&29 Aug, only site noted. **Fish Crow**: 2 ad & 2 juv Shop City Syr. **Com. Raven**: max five Bald Mtn. Old Forge 19 Jun; no reports away from Adks. **Boreal Chickadee**: one Rock Dam HERK 11 Aug; three Third Lake Creek HERK 29 Aug, only reports. **Tufted Titmouse**: max five New Hartford 12 Jul. **Carolina Wren**: singles SPd mid-Jul, Camillus Aug. **House Wren**: max 21 Alder Creek BBS 9 Jun. **Winter Wren**: one N. Syr 26 Jul, unusual location. **Sedge Wren**: migrant T Richland 7 Jun, only report. **Marsh Wren**: max 19 Clay Marsh 12 Jun. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: max 15 Remsen 21 Aug. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: max seven CM 2 Jul; arr three SPd 12 Aug. **E. Bluebird**: max 11 West Monroe 28 Aug. **Veery**: max 24 Kasoag BBS 22 Jun. **Swainson's Thrush**: one Rock Dam HERK, only report. **Hermit Thrush**: max 20 Constantia 26 Jun. **Wood Thrush**: max 15 CM 3 Jul. **N. Mockingbird**: max two Syracuse Airport 18 Aug; one mimicking at least 17 species Oswego 12:30 AM 2 Jul, scarce.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **Solitary Vireo:** max eight Alder Creek BBS 9 Jun. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** max six Howland I 7 Jul. **Warbling Vireo:** max 15 SPd 1 Jun; one Quiver Pond 22 Jun, unusual location. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Kirkland 31 Aug. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 81 McKeever BBS 16 Jun. **Blue-winged Warbler:** max six Sangerfield 26 Jul. **Golden-winged Warbler:** max three singing birds Noyes Sanctary early June. **"Brewster's" Warbler:** with Blue-winged mate feeding up to 3 very young fledglings 22 Jun Paris; **Golden-winged/Blue-winged:** pair feeding 3 fledglings 26 Jun New Hartford, seen chasing ad Brewster's, last year's y?, which would periodically beg to both parents. **Tennessee Warbler:** arr one Kirkland 25 Aug. **Nashville Warbler:** arr Whiskey Hollow 23 Aug. **N. Parula:** one pair breeding Whiskey Hollow, only site outside Adks. **Yellow Warbler:** max 65 SPd 12 Aug. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 14 McKeever BBS 16 Jun. **Magnolia Warbler:** max 12 Sangerfield 8 Jul. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max six Old Forge 28 Jul; arr T Western 12 Aug. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 20 Remsen 21 Aug. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** one Nelson Swamp 21 Aug, only report away from the Tug Hill or Adks. **Blackburnian Warbler:** max. 12 Remsen 1 Jun. **Pine Warbler:** two McKeever BBS 9 Jun; one Fulton 9 Jul; one Remsen 12 Aug, all away from traditional breeding sites. **Prairie Warbler:** two Parish thru Jun; one Utica 30 Jun; one Borodino 25 Jul, represent possible expansion into Region. **Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Verona 28 Aug. **Cerulean Warbler:** 5+ singing males Howland I, Toad Harbor and Whiskey Hollow; one Quiver Pond 22 Jun, unusual. **Black-and-white Warbler:** max five Remsen 21 Jun. **Ovenbird:** max 36 McKeever BBS 16 Jun; arr SPd 12 Aug. **N. Waterthrush:** max five SPd 12 Aug. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** max five New Hartford 21 Jun; pair Whiskey Hollow 26 Jun. **Mourning Warbler:** max six Whiskey Hollow 15 Jun. **Hooded Warbler:** max six Kirkland 28 Jul. **Wilson's Warbler:** last spring Nine Mile Point 1 Jun; arr Remsen 30 Aug. **Canada Warbler:** max five 21 Remsen Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager:** max 10 SVB 23 Aug. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 14 North Victory BBS 16 Jun. **Indigo Bunting:** max 15 North Victory BBS 16 Jun. **Clay-colored Sparrow:** one unmated male Beaver Lake thru Jun; one McKeever BBS 16 Jun, unusual. **Vesper Sparrow:** max four Howland I cornfields 13 Jun. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** max 12 Syr Airport 14 Jun. **Swamp Sparrow:** max 38 CM 7 Aug. **White-throated Sparrow:** max 33 McKeever BBS 16 Jun. **Bobolink:** max 30 Alder Creek BBS

9 Jun. **Red-winged Blackbird**: max 3500 CM 14 Aug. **E. Meadowlark**: max 26 Syr Airport 21 Jun. **Com. Grackle**: max 2667 CM 14 Aug. **Brown-headed Cowbird**: max 450 CM 10 Aug. **Orchard Oriole**: nest UM 30 Jun, m in first year plumage, parents fed 3 fledglings which left nest 1 Jul, only report. **Red Crossbill**: three imm Fabius 10 July where ad present since winter; five Remsen 16 Jul; 12 Hoffmeister 1 Aug. **Pine Siskin**: one feeder Nine Mile Point 6 Jul; one feeder Pompey 18-20 Jul, only reports. **Evening Grosbeak**: two Lake Julia 7 Aug, only report.

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