

REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

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June was hot, July cold and August warm - thus the summer. June temperatures were two and one half degrees warmer than normal with Wanakena at three degrees above normal in the Adirondack region. July was cool, one and one half degrees lower than normal throughout the Region. August was warm in the Adirondacks, two and one half degrees above normal at Wanakena, and one degree above in the Lake Plain and the St. Lawrence Valley. Rainfall was at normal levels in June, two to three inches above average in July, returning to normal in August. The St. Lawrence River was seven inches above normal by mid June and did not return to normal levels until mid August when the dams were opened at Massena. Breeding species had no problems with any of the weather factors, but the high water diminished the fall shorebird flight at El Dorado. Vegetation was again late due to the cool May, but thereafter fruit and cone production was outstanding. At the end of the summer, all viburnum and dogwood species were laden with berries, more than the catbird population could ever consume!

Double-crested Cormorant nesting pairs on Little Galloo Island increased from 7000 to 8400 despite reports of fewer bait fish. The cormorant is proving to be resourceful as it continues to establish itself in the Region. Little Galloo has been recognized as an Important Bird Area because of its numbers of breeding species. Other colonial waterbirds nesting on Little Galloo Island include Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, and Caspian

Tern. A pair of native swans, thought to be Tundra Swans last year, appeared at Perch Lake WMA and raised two young. DEC officials determined that the pair were **Trumpeter Swans** (NYSARC). Breeding Common Goldeneye on Picton Island in the St. Lawrence River near Clayton was a first breeding record in Region 6 and unusual in the St. Lawrence considering the boat traffic. A pair of Merlin with two young were seen by many in the Village of Potsdam in late August. Since no nest was seen, we will have to wait until next summer to see if they actually nest in Potsdam. Region 6 has had yearly surprises and this year **Black Rail** won the award. Discovered by Nick Leone at Perch River WMA on June 19 in a small area of cattail, this is a first for Region 6 (NYSARC). Black Tern pairs decreased at Lakeview WMA due to high water but increased at Perch River WMA where water levels are controlled. Elevated nesting platforms helped as well. Ravens, now common throughout the Adirondack and Tug Hill regions, appeared in several locations on the Lake Plain and the St. Lawrence Valley. Is this a further range extension? Some of the reforested areas in the Indian River Lakes district might be conducive to raven breeding. Raven expansion may not be over, stay tuned.

Grassland surveys were not as extensive this year due to the absence of Dean DiTomasso, but Nick Leone continued his night surveys of Henslow's Sparrow, demonstrating a large stable population in towns around Perch Lake WMA. In addition, Clay-colored Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow counts were impressive. Fort Drum was closed to birders most of the summer, but of the few reports made, a Region first male **Dickcissel** and 20 Upland Sandpipers at the Fort's airport were noteworthy.

Positives for the period included good numbers of Yellow-throated Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting in the Indian River Lakes area. Other species showing improvement were: Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Kingbird, Purple Martin, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark. Negatives for the period included poor counts of Barn Swallow, American Redstart and Song Sparrow. Rarities were: Great Egret, Red-tailed Hawk subspecies *kriderii*, Connecticut Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat.

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Abbreviations : AD - Adirondack Park; AWMA - Ashland WMA T Lyme & Cape Vincent JEFF; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; CV - Cape Vincent JEFF;

CB - Chaumont Barrens T Clayton/Lyme JEFF; Cr L - Cranberry L T Clifton STLA; ED - El Dorado Beach Preserve T Ellisburg JEFF; FL - Fledged y; FY - Feeding y; FCWMA - French Creek WMA T Clayton; THen - T Henderson JEFF; JEFF - Jefferson Co; LEWI - Lewis Co; LC - Limeric Cedars T Brownville JEFF; LG - Little Galloo I. T Hounsfield JEFF; TMas - T Massena STLA; TLou - T Louisville STLA; MM - Massawepie Mire T Colton/Piercefield STLA; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; OBBS - Ogdensburg BBS, 3 Jun (RL); Osw - Oswegatchie; PRWMA - Perch River WMA JEFF; PBBS - Philadelphia BBS 4 Jun (RL); PPT - Pillar Pt T Brownville JEFF; Pt Pen - Point Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; SLR - St. Lawrence R.; STLA - St. Lawrence Co; SLV - St. Lawrence Valley; SBSP - Southwick Beach State Park T Ellisburg JEFF; SS - Sulphur Springs T. Hounsfield JEFF; TH - Tug Hill - JEFF & LEWI Co; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; WBM - Wilson Bay Marsh T CV JEFF.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 12 PRWMA 11 Jun. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 20-40/day SLR T Morristown STLA. **Am. Bittern:** eight singles from six areas. **Least Bittern:** singles FCWMA, Jewett Cr CV and PRWMA. **Great Egret:** one near Winthrop T Stockholm STLA 30 Aug (SC). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two SBSP 11 Jun; three MSD eight Aug; two CV 13 Aug; two nests LG. **TRUMPETER SWAN:** pr with nest and two y PRWMA. Identified by DEC officials using taped calls near the nest. The Swans paid no attention to the Tundra Swan call, but the male came off the nest toward the boat when the Trumpeter call was made. The birds were also seen at close range for field marks which were sent to NYSARC. **Mute Swan:** max ten PRWMA 18 Jun. (RB). **Wood Duck:** breeding throughout; max 30 SS 29 Aug (RB). **Green-winged Teal:** one Stoney Pt Pd JEFF 3 Jun. **Am. Black Duck:** three T Mas 10 Aug; four WBM 20 Aug. **Blue-winged Teal:** three reports; max six PRWMA 11 Jun. **N. Shoveler:** three PRWMA 11 Jun; pr on a pond near WBM 14 Jun. **Gadwall:** pr Branche Rd CV 2 Jun; six PRWMA 11 Jun. **Com. Goldeneye:** f with six y off Picton I SLR T Clayton JEFF 5 Jul, first Region 6 breeding record(AH!) **Hooded Merganser:** pr on small ponds Clifton Fine area (PO). **Com. Merganser:** 16 Cr L 30 Aug (LC).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Osprey:** five reports of 16 ind; max nine PRWMA with y in two nests 11 Jun (MK). **Bald Eagle:** one ad PRWMA thru; one 2nd yr ED 2 Jul; one CV early Jun; one imm Parishville 24 Aug; one ad one imm ED 9 Aug. **N. Harrier:** reports from seven areas; six pr CV. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** seven reports of singles; one with a Barn Swallow in the talons CV 7

Jul. **Cooper's Hawk**: one took a young robin that was being fed by adults
 Then 18 Aug. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: one T Fine 1 Jun; one New
 Connecticut Rd T Antwerp JEFF 14 Jun. **Broad-winged Hawk**: pr Star L 20
 Jun; max six Cr L 31 Aug. **Red-tailed Hawk**: one imm Krider's subspecies,
 white head and tail, Lakeview WMA 3 Aug (GS!), very rare. **Am. Kestrel**:
 one FY TLou 1-Jul; pr T Edwards STLA; three pr CV; four pr THEN. **Merlin**:
 pr with two y in Potsdam late August (yard of Nancy Eldblom). No nest was
 located and feeding of young was not seen but plucking of prey for the young
 was observed (SC!); one ED 20 Aug (GM). **Gray Partridge**: one Mason Rd
 15 Jun; one ad nine y McKeever Rd 25 Jul; two ad 22 y Aug all CV. **Ruffed**
Grouse: broods Cr L Star L TMas. **Wild Turkey**: large numbers throughout
 the Region, possibly due to low fox and raccoon populations from rabies. **Sora**:
 two FL Rt. 37 TMass 15 Jul. **BLACK RAIL**: heard calling regularly at
 PRWMA from 11:00 P. M. to 3:00 A. M. 16 to 24 Jun. The rail was heard by
 many and seen at the edge of the cattail on Jun 21. Tape of call sent with
 NYSARC report. **Com. Moorhen**: FY TLou CV; max 12 PRWMA 18 Jun.
Black-bellied Plover: one ED 22 Aug; one Pt Pen 28 Aug. **Semipalmated**
Plover: arr 15 ED, four MSD 19 Aug; six ED 30 Aug. **Killdeer**: max 24
 TMas/TLou 22 Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr ED 19 Aug; one French Cr CV
 21 Aug; two PRWMA 25 Aug. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr 13 ED 9 Aug; five
 PRWMA 25 Aug; four ED 30 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper**: two French Cr CV 28
 Jul through 25 Aug; four ED 22 Aug; one inlet Osw R. T Fine 31 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: max six ED 22 Aug. **Upland Sandpiper** one ad 2 imm
 TLou 17 Jun; 40 ind from five areas; max 20 FD Jun. **Sanderling**: arr ED 19
 Aug (3); max 83 ED 30 Aug. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: arr T Clayton JEFF
 16 Jul (1); max 33 ED 29 Aug. **Least Sandpiper**: arr ED 19 Aug (12); five
 ED 30 Aug. **Am. Woodcock**: max 12 Mass 1 Jun. **Bonaparte's Gull**: six
 Sawyer's Bay THEN 11 Aug. **Ring-billed Gull**: 80,000 pr LG. **Herring Gull**:
 300-400 pr LG. **Great Black-backed Gull**: 10 pr LG. **Caspian Tern**: 400 pr
 LG numbers stable. **Com. Tern**: 594 nests on 24 sites (12 navigation cells, 12
 natural islands) 630 chicks banded, numbers stable. **Black Tern**: 100- 150
 WBM early Jun; 17 nests LWMA, 100 nests PRWMA; pairs at Indian Cr
 Nature Center Canton and TMas early June.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: eleven reports thru; max
 three AWMA 16 Jun. **E. Screech Owl**: pr two y CV 12 Jun. **Barred Owl**:
 four reports from AD. **Com. Nighthawk**: two CV heading north 1 Jun, late; ad
 with three FL TMas; three daily in Watertown. In years past two dozen could
 be heard in Watertown-Dick Brouse. **Whip-poor-will**: one TLou 1 Jun; one

CB at high noon 1 Jun (LC). **Chimney Swift**: two ad 10 FL TMas; max 18 CV 30 July. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: few reports. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two pr CV Village to 12 Jun one pr through Aug; one to two Mixer Rd T Ellisburg 5 Jun to 28 Aug. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: ad THEN throughout no y; one Oxbow T Antwerp 4 Jun. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: six Cr L 30 Aug; seen feeding on six Mt. Ash trees in T Fine; trees expired - Peter O'Shea. **Downy Woodpecker**: max 36 TLou 2 Jun. **Hairy Woodpecker**: max 28 TLou 2 Jun. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: two Wanakena 9 Jun; one Cr L 30 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: one Wanakena 9 Jun (RB). **E. Wood-Pee-wee**: reports increased from last year, ave numbers PBBS. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: one MM 30 Jun (JF). **Alder Flycatcher**: 12 P+OBBS; max 22 TLou 1 Jun. **Willow Flycatcher**: singles TLou 1 Jun, PBBS; three PRWMA 18 Jun. **Least Flycatcher**: FY TLou 20 Jun; two PRWMA 18 Jun. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: pr nesting Kelsey Cr Watertown; eight P+OBBS; max 28 TLou/TMas 14 Jun. **E. Kingbird**: 15/day TLou; max 24 P+OBBS above ave. **Horned Lark**: three reports all CV. **Purple Martin**: good numbers from SLV; poor from Lake plain. **Cliff Swallow**: max 200+ Long Sault Dam 18 Jun (MB). **Barn Swallow**: numbers still down 49% on BBS routes **Gray Jay**: three MM 30 Jun. **Com. Raven**: reports from THEN, Kring Point STLA and Indian Lakes STLA away from AD. **Brown Creeper**: one CR L 30 Aug. **Winter Wren**: singles Wanakena 9 Jun, Cr L 30 Aug. **Sedge Wren**: nine singing from six sites; new site Grenadier I L Ontario CV; less coverage this year. **E. Bluebird**: six reports. **Veery**: max 35 T Lou. **Hermit Thrush**: four TLou 2 Jun. **Wood Thrush**: max 55 TLou/TMas 1-10 Jun. **N. Mockingbird**: six reports, one CV, three THEN, two TMas. **Brown Thrasher**: three CV, six TMas, three PBBS.

WARBLERS-VIREOS: **Solitary Vireo**: two TMas 1 Jun. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: five T Rossie 12 Jun (NL). **Warbling Vireo**: max 22 P+OBBS, 20% above 10 yr ave; excellent numbers throughout (LC). **Red-eyed Vireo**: 20/day TLou. **Blue-winged Warbler**: one THEN 6 Jun. **Golden-winged Warbler**: max 21 Indian R Lakes area Oxbow to Rossie 4 Jun (RL). **Tennessee Warbler**: two CV 29 Aug. **Nashville Warbler**: three CB 1 Jun; singles Adams 9 Aug, Watertown 31 Aug. **N. Parula**: eight Cr L dam 10 Aug (LC). **Yellow Warbler**: 48 OBBS, 10% above 17 yr av. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: five PBBS. **Magnolia Warbler**: five CV 28 Aug. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**:

four Cr L 30 Aug. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: ten Cr L 30 Aug. **Black-throated-Green Warbler**: six Cr L 30 Aug. **Blackburnian Warbler**: four Cr L 30 Aug. **Pine Warbler**: ten TLou Jun. **Prairie Warbler**: five LC 18 Jun; one MM 30 Jun. **Palm Warbler**: seven singing MM 30 Jun. **Cerulean Warbler**: four Hard Flats Rd T Alexandria JEFF 7 Jun (GM). **Black-and-white Warbler**: max seven PBBS. **Am. Redstart**: 30/day TLou/TMas; numbers down. **Ovenbird**: 35 TLou/TMas; six OBBS. **Connecticut Warbler**: one CV 18 Aug (MW!). **Mourning Warbler**: one Star L 19 Jul. **Com. Yellowthroat**: 51 P+OBBS, 35% over ave. **Canada Warbler**: two Cr L 10 Aug. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one singing Morristown Center STLA 3 Jun (RL).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: nine T Hammond-Rossie 12 Jun; eight in AD. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: six Indian R lake area 14 Jun. **Indigo Bunting**: max 18 Hammond-Rossie 12 Jun. **DICKCISSEL**: male singing FTD Area 12C 12 - 19 Jun (JB, NYSARC). *Region 6 first*. **Chipping Sparrow**: 11 OBBS; 50/day TMas average. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: two T Orleans 10 Jun; two PPT 16 Jun; two FTD; one THen 5 Jun; one LC 10 Jun; single Oak Pt Rd T Hammond (NL). **Field Sparrow**: max six PBBS. **Vesper Sparrow**: FY TLou 1 Jul, three T Adams JEFF 3 Jul. **Savannah Sparrow**: numbers average on grassland BBS. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: FY TMas 1 Jul; six from THen and T Hounsfield 6 Jun; seven singing from freshly cut fields T Clayton 5 Jul.(NL). **Henslow's Sparrow**: night surveys totaled 72 individuals from several sites in JEFF. Concentrations at Bonney Rd and Perch Lake Rd-30, with an additional 12 from AWMA. (NL). **Song Sparrow**: numbers down 20% from ave on OBBS; scarce in CV; low numbers in Lake plain. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: sev MM 30 Jun (JF). **White-throated Sparrow**: max 35 TMas, up 10%. **White-crowned Sparrow**: one TMas 10 Jun; common on trail side Cr L 28 Aug (PO). **Bobolink**: 59 PBBS, 84 OBBS, highest numbers ever. **E. Meadowlark**: 24 PBBS; 22 OBBS, back to 17 yr ave. **Orchard Oriole**: pair with one y T Lyme JEFF 10 Jun (NL), third year in a row. **Purple Finch**: FY TMas 20 Jun; THen 2 Jul; CV 9 Aug, numbers up in THen. **House Finch**: hard to find in SLRV; low numbers in Lake Plain. **Red Crossbill**: two Salmon R rd T Montague LEWI 26 Aug; six FY Cr L 30 Aug. **Evening Grosbeak**: five T Mas 15 Jun; one Kring Pt SP 26 Jul; six Wanakena 9 Aug.