

REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

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After five months of above average temperatures, the North Country returned to average levels for the summer. Precipitation varied from moderately dry in the Lake Plain to drenching downpours in St. Lawrence County. Wanakena had six inches above the average for the first eight weeks of the period. Watertown had dry conditions until August when precipitation was two inches above average. The first hint of fall occurred on 19 August at Montague in Lewis County with the temperature falling to 33 degrees. By June, trees and shrubs were in full foliage, which hid much of the tree top damage wrought by the January ice storm. In the St. Lawrence Valley, American Elms 15 to 20 feet high were severely damaged and large numbers died. A contributing cause of this large loss could have also been Dutch Elm disease. The warmth of May encouraged early nesting and resulted in early departure for many species of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and swallows.

Double-crested Cormorant nesting pairs on Little Galloo Island IBA decreased from 7500 to 5900 pair. To make things worse, almost 1000 were killed by shotgun fire in July. This was the first episode of large scale killing of a protected species since the early 1900's. In addition to being a federal offense, it is distressing to imagine what will happen to the other nesters on the Island if there are more episodes of destruction. The need for wardens on Little Galloo is now clear. On a better note, the Caspian Tern colony is now at 1400 nests, a 50% increase in the last five years. Little Galloo is now attracting spring migrants otherwise often missed in the Region.

On 9 June Bob Miller found an impressive group including: **Snow Goose**, Brant, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Semipalmated Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper. The **Trumpeter Swan** pair nested for the fourth year in a row at Perch River WMA, producing six young. Grassland surveys by several observers turned up excellent numbers of Northern Harrier and the following sparrows: Field, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, and Henslow's. The Northern Harrier count was the highest ever reported, with 36 of the 40 reports from Jefferson County. Vesper and Grasshopper sparrow counts were highest on Fort Drum. Mickey Scilingo, working on Fort Drum, located nests for Upland Sandpiper and Short-eared Owl. Nick Leone continued his intensive survey of Perch River WMA and the surrounding grasslands for Henslow's Sparrow, with an all time high count of 122 males. Gerry Smith conducted all day counts in several towns of Jefferson and Lewis counties, producing high counts of Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, and brush species

such as Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat along with edge species such as American Redstart and Chestnut-sided Warbler. High counts of Yellow-throated Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Indigo Bunting were found in the Indian Lakes district in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties. Massawepie Mire was not covered, but at nearby Hitchins Bog in St. Lawrence, Leone, Lee Chamberlaine, and Bettye Hughes found six **Palm Warblers**.

Positives for the period included good numbers of American Kestrel in Jefferson County, Black-billed Cuckoo, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark. Negatives were low numbers of Broad-winged Hawk, Least Flycatcher, and Veery. Rarities were Oldsquaw and Bay-breasted Warbler.

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Abbreviations: AD - Adirondack Park; AWMA - Ashland WMA T Lyme & Cape Vincent JEFF; BMM - Beaver Meadow Marsh, Watertown; CV - Cape Vincent JEFF; CRM - Case Rd Marsh, T Lyme JEFF; Cr L - Cranberry Lk, T Clifton STLA; ED - El Dorado Beach Preserve; TEI-T Ellisburg JEFF; THen - T Henderson JEFF; FD - Fort Drum; Fr L - Francis Lk, T Watson AD LEWI; Hit B - Hitchins Bog, T Piercefield+Colton STLA; HP - Holmes Point, TMor STLA; IBA- Important Bird Area, National Audubon Soc.; JTSurv - JEFF Town Surveys by Gerry Smith; KC - Kelsey Cr, Watertown; LC - Limeric Cedars, T Brownville JEFF; LG - Little Galloo I, T Hounsfield JEFF; LitJ WMA - Littlejohn WMA, T Worth JEFF; TMas - T Massena STLA; TMor - T Morristown STLA; TLou - T Louisville STLA; OBBS - Ogdensburg BBS, T Osw, Mor, Hammond STLA 19 Jun (RL); Osw - Oswegatchie; PRWMA - Perch River WMA JEFF; PBBS - Philadelphia BBS T Philadelphia, Antwerp JEFF, T Rossie, Hammond STLA 16 Jun (RL); Pt Pen - Point Peninsula, T Lyme JEFF; SLR - St. Lawrence R; SLV - SLR Valley; SB - Sawyer's Bay, T Hen; SF- State Forest; TH - Tug Hill JEFF & LEWI; ULLWMA - Upper & Lower Lakes WMA, Twn Canton, STLA; WBBS - Wanakena BBS T Fine, Clifton, Clare STLA 17 Jun (RL); WMA - Wildlife Management Area; WBM - Wilson Bay Marsh, T Clayton JEFF; WHWMA - Wilson Hill WMA, TLou STLA.

LOONS-WATERFOWL

Com. Loon: pairs with one y each at ULLWMA and WHWMA 2 Jul.

Pied-billed Grebe: 5 reports, max several family groups PRWMA 19 Jul.

Double-crested Cormorant: 5900 n LG, 1000 killed by shooting Jul.

Am. Bittern: 8 reports from six areas.

Great Egret: 3 ad marsh Rt 420 Winthrop TStockholm STLA 8 Aug (SC); 1 PRWMA 24 Aug; 3 CRM 30 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 5 ad BMM 24 Jun; 1 ad Morristown Bay TMor 8 Jun, a first for T Mor (RL).

Turkey Vulture: numbers decreased in SLV from Alex Bay to Waddington less than one per day

(RL); 12 Then TEI 8 Jun (GS), numbers stable in AD (PO).

Snow Goose: arr 1 imm LG 8 Jun.

Canada Goose: quickly becoming a major nuisance in T Mor, several groups of 30-40 disrupting swimming at Jacques Cartier State Park.

Mute Swan: one PRWMA 20 Jun.

Trumpeter Swan: pair with 6 y PRWMA.

Tundra Swan: 2 PRWMA 27 Aug (RB), very early.

Brant: arr 1 ad LG 8 Jun.

Gadwall: 1 PRWMA 20 Jun; 10 PRWMA 27 Aug.

Am. Black Duck: pair & 8 eggs Coles Cr T Waddington STLA; 20 TLou 17 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: 5 reports, pairs TMas, FD, PRWMA, T Lyme JEFF; max 11 ED 22 Aug.

N. Shoveler: 1 PRWMA 20 Jun; 3 PRWMA 27 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: pair TLou 8 Jun.

Oldsquaw: 1 ad male SB 4, 7 Aug, probably an injured bird (GM).

Hooded Merganser: 8 near Rossie STLA 1 Jul; two broods T Fine STLA.

Com. Merganser: broods on Black and Rainbow reservoirs STLA AD; 2 female with 8 y Mosher Falls T Watson LEWI 9 Jun.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: several reports from nesting areas, no nest counts.

Bald Eagle: 1 ad Cary Falls Res T Parishville STLA thru (SC).

N. Harrier: 40 reports, 36 from JEFF, 4 STLA; in JEFF, 6 reports from PRWMA, 4 pr FD, 10 Perch River Grasslands IBA, 6 pair LC, 4 AWMA, 4 Indian R Lakes IBA, 2 T Clayton JEFF. Highest numbers ever reported due to improved coverage (NL, GS, MS, LC).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 7 reports, ad snaring female Purple Martin in mid air three feet above the observers head as the Martins departed from their house HP 23 Jul (RL).

Cooper's Hawk: 1 ad T El 1 Jun; 1 T Alexandria JEFF 23 Jul; 2 FD 9 Jul, 25 Aug; 2 TLou 30 Jun, 6 Aug.

N. Goshawk: nest in mature Red Pine plantation 1.5 mi NW of Barnes Corners T Pinckney LEWI (GS); 1 ad PRWMA 27 Aug (RB).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 pair Cr L STLA; one pair Grass R T Colton STLA; 2 Fr L 9 Jun.

Broad-winged Hawk: singles FD 2 Jul, Star L T Fine STLA, only reports.

Red-tailed Hawk: 7 reports from STLA, 1 Sevey Corners T Colton, 1 Cr L, unusual for the Adirondacks.

Am. Kestrel: 6 T Clayton JEFF 12 Jun; 8 PRWMA 23 Aug; 2 T Mor 15 Jun; 1 T Mas 6 Jun; 1 Hit B 5 Jun.

Gray Partridge: 2 reports CV 11, 13 Jun (JL).

Ruffed Grouse: numbers high, broods abundant in AD.

Wild Turkey: common everywhere after a mild winter and despite the ice storm.

Com. Moorhen: 13 Wintrop swamp T Stockholm STLA 7 Jun (SC).

Am. Coot: 1 Brownie Rd TLou 1 Jun (MB).

Black-bellied Plover: 1 ED 22 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: 50 ED 22 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: 1 FD 2 Jun; 25 Ad CRM 26 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 7 SB 6 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr BMM 14 Jul; 2 Town Barn Rd T Hen 3 Aug; single ED 31 Aug.

Spotted Sandpiper: 7 reports STLA+JEFF; max 8 ED 22 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 15 reports JEFF, 1 T Mas; max 6 FD 18 Jun; 3 nests FD (MS).

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 65 Ad LG 9 Jun.

Red Knot: arr 1 ad LG 9 Jun.

Sanderling: 9 SB 10 Aug; 7 ED 22 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 30 ad LG 9 Jun; 13 SB 10 Aug; max 50 ED 22 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: 3 SB 10 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 LG 9 Jun; 1 Pt Pen 11 Aug (NL, IM).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 3 LG 9 Jun; 1 Pt Pen 11 Aug; 1 BMM 22 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 4 Pt Pen 11 Aug; 1 ED 22 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: 1 ad alt plumage Pt Pen 7 Jul.

Caspian Tern: 1400 nests LG (GS).
Com. Tern: 568 Pt Pen shoal pre-migratory staging 11 Aug (IM).
Black Tern: 59 pair PRWMA, up 10% from last yr, 50% on artificial platforms (IM); 80 ad WBM 8 Jun; 225 Pt Pen shoal pre-migratory staging 11 Aug (IM).

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 18 reports thru.
Barred Owl: 1 FD 17 Jul.
Short-eared Owl: 2 nesting pair fledged 9 y from 13 eggs FD (MS); singles Wilder Rd TClayton 3 Jun, AWMA 8 Jun (NL).
Com. Nighthawk: 2 FD 7 Jul; singles from PRWMA, KC, TMas; dep 10 Potsdam village 27 Aug.
Whip-poor-will: reports from TLou, Stony Point THEN JEFF; max 3 LC 3 Jul.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 ad, 1 y FD 22 Jun; 1 ad PRWMA 5 Jul; 2 ad, 2 imm Woodville 23 Jul.
Black-backed Woodpecker: pair feeding each other on a Black Cherry tree AD, unusual to be feeding on other than a conifer (PO).

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 4 Hit B 5 Jun; 2 Wanakena AD 7 Jun; 2 Fr L 9 Jun (LC BH NL).
E. Wood-Pee-wee: max 19 Wellsley I T Clayton/Orleans JT Surv 11 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 3 Hit B 5 Jun; 2 Wanakena 7 Jun; 3 LitJ WMA 14 Jun.
Willow Flycatcher: reports from 5 towns JEFF, max 11 FD 9 Jun.
Least Flycatcher: very few reports thru despite good coverage of their habitat; max 3 WBBS 18 Jun.
E. Kingbird: max 62 TCV JTSurv 8 Jun, otherwise numbers low on many reports.
Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 PBBS 16 Jun; 1 TEI 1 Jun; max 9 T Theresa JTSurv 18 Jun.
Warbling Vireo: max 38 T Adams JEFF 1 Jun; 31 TEI JTSurv 1 Jun; 36 TLou/TMas 10 Jun.
Red-eyed Vireo: 82 T Thersea JTSurv 18 Jun.

Com. Raven: 6 FD 21 Jun; 5 Stony Pt THEN 14 Jun, only reports away from TH and AD.

Horned Lark: 3 FD 18 Jun; 2 FD 9 Jul.
Purple Martin: good numbers from SLV, max 86 several colonies Pt Pen JTSurv 7 Jul.

Tree Swallow: 273 Pt Pen 7 Jul flocking evident (GS); last 122 HP 30 Aug.

Tufted Titmouse: singles TMas 1 Jun, TLou 2 Jun.

Brown Creeper: pr Patterson Rd TLou 2 Jun.

Carolina Wren: singles TCV 1 Jun, KC 8-13 Aug.

Sedge Wren: 1 AWMA 8 Jun; 1 Co Rt 49 T Rutland JEFF 1 Jul; 3 Spile Bridge Rd T Osw STLA 27 Jun (NL+SB).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6 Hit B 5 Jun; 4 Wanakena AD 7 Jun.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 Hit B 5 Jun.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: 1 THEN 10 & 11 Jul; 2 FD 14 Jul.

Veery: max 15 TLou/TMas 15 Jun, low numbers elsewhere.

Swainson's Thrush: 2 T Highmarket 23 Jun (GS).

Hermit Thrush: max 20 T Theresa JTSurv 18 Jun, 14 T Highmarket LEWI 20 June.

Wood Thrush: max 18 WBBS 18 Jun, up 20%.

N. Mockingbird: 1 TLou 7 Jun; 1 T Alexandria JTSurv 17 Jun; 1 HP 17 Aug; 1 Fox Cr Rd TCV 5 Aug; 1 FD 4 Aug.

Brown Thrasher: max 15 TCV JTSurv 8 Jun.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: 3 TEI JTSurv 1 Jun.

Golden-winged Warbler: 7 PBBS 16 Jun; 8 T Theresa JTSurv; 8 TEI 1 Jun; 2 FD 2 Jun; 1 FD 1 Jul.

"Brewster's" Warbler: 3 TEI 1 Jun.

Nashville Warbler: 3 Hit B 5 Jun; 3 Wanakena 7 Jun; 2 LitJ WMA 14 Jun.

N. Parula: 4 Hit B 5 Jun; 1 Fr L 9 Jun.

Yellow Warbler: 270 TCV 8 Jun; 134 TEI 1 Jun, both on JTSurv; 53 OBBS 19 Jun; 35 PBBS 16 Jun; 37 FD 24 Jun, large numbers in good brush habitat.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 25 TLou/Mas 1 Jun; 23 T Pinkney LEWI 9 Jun; 7 TEI 1 Jun, low numbers in AD reports.

Magnolia Warbler: reports from Fr L & THSF LEWI, LitJ WMA, ED; 9 WBBS 18 Jun; max 10 Hit B 1 Jun.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 8 WBBS 18 Jun; 1 FD 25 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 12 WBBS 18 Jun; 10 Cr L 13 Aug.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 8 WBBS 18 Jun.

Blackburnian Warbler: 4 WBBS 18 Jun.

Pine Warbler: 6 T Theresa JTSurv 18 Jun; 5 Fr L 9 Jun.

Prairie Warbler: 6 LC 11 Jul; 4 FD 19 Jun.

Palm Warbler: 6 singing, 1 carrying food Hit B 5 Jun (LC BH NL).

Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 Mosher Falls T Watson LEWI 9 Jun (LC BH).

Cerulean Warbler: 3-4 T Theresa JEFF 1 Jul; 4 T Macomb STLA 22 Jun, all in Indian Lakes/Black Lk IBA.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 36 TLou/TMas; eight WBBS 18 Jun; singles from many Towns in JEFF survey.

Am. Redstart: 67 TEI 1 Jun; 68 T Theresa 18 Jun, both JTSurv; 42/day TLou/TMas; low numbers in AD.

Ovenbird: 37/day TLou/TMas; 30 TEI 1 Jun; 20 WBBS 18 Jun, average numbers.

Mourning Warbler: 3TH SF26 Jun, 3 Jul; 1 LitJ WMA 14 Jun.

Com. Yellowthroat: 90 T Theresa 18 Jun; 90 TCV 8 Jun, both JTSurv; 62 PBBS 16 Jun & OBBS 19 Jun; 37 FD 24 Jun, good numbers in brushy areas.

Canada Warbler: 2 Hit B 5 Jun; 3 WBBS 18 Jun; 2 Wanakena AD 7 Jun.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 3 WBBS 18 Jun; pr FY TMas 30 Jun; few reports.

E. Towhee: good numbers from many Towns in JEFF; max 40 T Hounsfield JEFF 16 Jun.

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Chipping Sparrow: 60/day TLou, TMas; max 68 Stony Pt area THEN 18 May.

Clay-colored Sparrow: sighted on several occasions FD; max 7 FD 2 Jun; 1 Pt Pen 6 Jun.

Field Sparrow: 10 PBBS 16 Jun; 17 FD 19 Jun; max 25 TCV 8 Jun, JTSurv.

Vesper Sparrow: 1-2 in 6 Towns JEFF; 7 sites FD; max 26 FD 22 June.

Savannah Sparrow: 24 PBBS 16 Jun & OBBS 19 Jun, average; max 195 TCV JTSurv; 150/day TLou/TMas; 75 FD 24 Jun, good numbers throughout.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 30 from 14 sites in 10 Towns JEFF; max in JEFF 11 T Pamela 2 Jul; 6 sites FD, max 14 FD 18 Jun.

Henslow's Sparrow: night surveys totaled 122 individuals from several sites in grasslands around PRWMA (NL); 3 sites, total 7 ind FD.

Song Sparrow: low numbers SLV but 3 very high Town counts JEFF, 175 TEI 18 May; 308 TCV 8 Jun; 143 THounsfield 16 Jun.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 Hit B 5 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: 40 T Highmarket LEWI 23 Jun; 14 WBBS; 28/day TMas.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 8 WBBS 18 Jun.

Indigo Bunting: 21 T Antwerp 20 Jun; 21 T Theresa 18 Jun; 14 PBBS 16 Jun, good numbers in the Indian Lakes IBA.

Bobolink: max 338 TCV JTSurv 8 Jun, bumper crops of y due to early nesting before the first hay cut.

E. Meadowlark: max 60 TCV JTSurv; above average on BBS routes.

Rusty Blackbird: 3 Hit B 5 Jun.

Purple Finch: 27 in road eating dirt Michigan Mills T West Turin LEWI 9 Jul.

House Finch: 44 TLou/TMas 9 Jun, only report.

Pine Siskin: 2 feeder THEN 15 Jun, only report (LC).

Evening Grosbeak: present thru in TMas/TLou, max 26 Jul 1 (MB).