

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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The first two weeks of June were warm, sunny and dry, a pleasant departure from the cold and wet conditions of May. Temperatures ranged from average to 1 °F below average in Watertown for the month. In the third and fourth weeks of June, rain resumed and there were several days of intermittent downpours. The St. Lawrence River Valley and western Adirondacks received the majority of the precipitation, 2"–3" above normal. July was similar to 2001, extremely hot and dry throughout the Region. Temperatures were 2°–2.5° above normal, with most large cities having at least one day over 90°. The Town of Colton, in the Adirondacks of St. Lawrence County, had the most days over 90° with nine. The hot and dry conditions persisted into August, with precipitation being 2" below normal throughout the area. The first cold wave occurred on 24 August and produced the first good wave of migrants.

The above-average precipitation during the latter half of June created flooding in many streams and marshlands throughout the area. The Robert Moses Power Dam in Massena was unable to discharge excess water for two weeks because of potential flooding of the commercial docks in Montreal. The Black River, which drains the Tug Hill, remained over its banks as well until mid-July. The reports of pairs of adult ducks in the rivers in late May and early June suggested flooded nesting areas. The only proof of poor nesting was a 50% decrease in the number of ducklings along the St. Lawrence River in the Morristown area during July. One

positive result was the reappearance of water in many of the creeks and marshes of St. Lawrence County, which had been dry for the past two summers. Berry and cone crops were plentiful during the month of June, while nesting was in full swing. The ensuing dry conditions during July, however, made aerial insects scarce. Swallows and martins began flocking together by the hundreds in mid-July and, like last summer, many departed the area by the end of the month. Despite the dry conditions, the watershed held up well as many of the flooded marshes and lowlands returned to their traditional levels.

The first ever record of **Brown Pelican** in Region 6 came on 7 August, when Gene McGory observed an immature bird flying past Sawyer's Bay in Henderson, Jefferson County. That bird was one of what may be as many as eight juvenile/immature Brown Pelicans that were observed in the Great Lakes area during the summer. At the end of the month, two **American White Pelicans** were found in the Black River Bay. This was just the second summer report in ten years, and only the fourth overall Regional report since 1990. Control measures of Double-crested Cormorants continued on Little Galloo Island this summer. Although specific numbers were not available, the number of nests oiled was similar to that from last year (about 5400).

An adult Trumpeter Swan with one juvenile was observed at Perch River WMA on 11 July. This sighting, coupled with some late information received last year, confirms breeding of this species here for the eighth consecutive summer. A new Bald Eagle nest, the third located in St. Lawrence County, was found with two young inside near Blake Falls Reservoir in the Town of Parishville. This now makes five known nest sites within the Region. A rare occurrence for the area was the discovery of an active Red-Tailed Hawk nest on state land near the South Branch of the Grasse River in the Town of Clare, St. Lawrence County, in June. Another rare discovery in St. Lawrence County was the covey of about a dozen Gray Partridges found on 20 August in the Town of Louisville, a place where they have not been seen in 20 years. This is far from the western Jefferson County locations where they are usually found, and the possibility exists that these are newly released birds.

Statewide counts of Black Terns were not conducted this year. Instead, the study focused on habitat and site suitability of selected historic and active nesting grounds, with the hope of developing management recommendations. Part of the study involved placing artificial nesting platforms at two sites in Jefferson County: Dexter Marsh and Perch River WMA. Of the ten platforms placed in Dexter Marsh, only two were observed to be used, while none of the 20 placed at Perch River were used. The annual pre-migratory staging counts conducted at Point Peninsula yielded a very low daily maximum of two birds on 29 July. Since 1991, the total was the second lowest counted there and continues an overall decrease in Black Tern numbers during the same time frame. As a result of these low numbers, other places were searched for staging terns and 29 birds were observed at Bass Island in mid-August. Hopefully, these studies will provide the information needed to restore and protect any remaining habitat for these birds.

The diversity of habitats within the Fort Drum Military Reservation continues to provide breeding grounds for a multitude of New York State's endangered, threatened and special concern species, including Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow, among others. The nine individual Sedge Wrens reported from six locations in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties is a good total compared with recent years. The high number of Bobolinks in the Louisville-Massena area is a good sign, as is the increase in the number of Cliff Swallows.

A total of 168 species was reported for the Region, including 13 waterfowl, 10 raptors, 10 shorebirds, 9 flycatchers, 22 warblers and 9 sparrows. Highlights not previously mentioned were Redhead, Merlin, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Gray Jay, "Brewster's Warbler", White-winged Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak. Regional lowlights included the absence of reports for Upland Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Horned Lark, Vesper and Grasshopper sparrows.

Thanks to Robert Long for his assistance with the weather data for the Region.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CL – Cranberry L, T Clifton, STLA; CV – T Cape Vincent, JEFF; ED – El Dorado Beach, T Henderson, JEFF; FD – Fort Drum; PRWMA – Perch River WMA, JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence R; TLou – T Louisville, STLA; TMas – T Massena, STLA; TTher – T Theresa, JEFF; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA, STLA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 12 Jun; ads with y CL Jul; 2 in alt plumage flying over T Lyme 11 Jul; 4 WHWMA 26 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: Alexandria JEFF 22 Jun; Hammond STLA 30 Jun; breeding FD; y CV 11 Aug; 2 WHWMA 29 Aug.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 2 Black River Bay JEFF 30 Aug.

BROWN PELICAN: Sawyers Bay Henderson JEFF 7 Aug; 1st Reg record.

Double-crested Cormorant: 80 SLR TMas 19 Aug.

American Bittern: TMas 1 Jun; several nesting reports from FD.

LEAST BITTERN: 3 FD 9 Jun; Stine Rd T Alexandria JEFF 22 Jun.

Great Blue Heron: small rookery with 12 nests FD 7 Jun; TMas 9 Jun; Massena Dam 9 Jun; TLou 12 Jun; WHWMA 20 Aug.

Great Egret: Rt 420 10 Jul; Rt 26 LEWI

29 Jul-1 Aug; Naumberg LEWI 1-6 Aug;
 Burrville T Watertown 15 Aug.
Green Heron: TLou 12 Jun; T Hounsfield
 JEFF 11 Jul; ED 11 Jul; FL CV.
Turkey Vulture: 9 Rt 56 TLou 1 Jun;
 SLR TMas 9 Jun; 4 TLou 18 Jul.
Mute Swan: bred along SLR.
TRUMPETER SWAN: 1 ad + 1 y
 PRWMA; 8th consecutive yr breeding this
 location.
Wood Duck: pr TLou 10 Jun, only report.
Gadwall: pr FD 1 Jun; SLR Massena 9
 Jun.
Am. Black Duck: pr TLou 15 Jul; ad + y
 CL Jul.
Blue-winged Teal: FL TLou 18 Jul.
Green-winged Teal: pr FD 1 Jun, 28 Jun.
Redhead: m Sawmill Bay Chaumont
 JEFF 9 Jul.
Hooded Merganser: ad + y CL July.
Com. Merganser: SLR Massena 9 Jun;
 ad fem + 1 imm ED 11 Jul; pr TLou 18
 Jul; 73 ED 25 Aug.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Brasher 9 Jun; TLou 18 Jul; pr
 Brasher Falls STLA; y in nest near CL 10
 Aug.
Bald Eagle: new nest with 2 y Blake Falls
 Res Parishville STLA; ad Wanakena Inlet
 CL Jul.
N. Harrier: TMas 9 Jun; pr Macomb
 STLA 30 Jun; Massawepie Bog STLA 30
 Jun; 2 reports of adults carrying food near
 FD.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: Rt 56 STLA 15
 Jun; ad with FL FD 30 Jul.
Cooper's Hawk: ad carrying food Black
 Ri JEFF 18 Jul.
N. Goshawk: imm Kelsey Creek
 Watertown 8 Jul; CO near Blake Res T
 Colton STLA 15 Jul; TTher 9 Jun, 28
 Aug.
Red-shouldered Hawk: FY FD 24 Jun.
Red-tailed Hawk: TLou 16 Jun, 18 Jul;
 nest with y near S branch Grasse Ri T
 Clare STLA, rare for area.
Am. Kestrel: 2 TLou 15 Jul; 6 Brownville

JEFF 3 Aug; 19 T Orleans JEFF 6 Aug.
MERLIN: Carry Falls Res Colton STLA
 23 Jun; T Clayton 11 Jul; Croghan LEWI
 12 Jul; migrant ED 25 Aug.
Gray Partridge: 12 in covey TLou 20
 Aug; not seen in this area for over 20
 years, possible new release.
Ruffed Grouse: 6 Rt 56 1 Jun; family
 group TLou 15 Jul.
Wild Turkey: 81 TMas/TLou 1 Jun; 5
 TMas 9 Jun; 13 y TLou 11 Jun.
Virginia Rail: 4 TLou 1 Jun.
Com. Moorhen: Rt 420 STLA 10 Jul; pr
 + 2 y Wellsley I SP 11 Aug.
Am. Coot: 2 Rt 420 STLA 10 Jul.
Black-bellied Plover: 8 ED 25 Aug, only
 report.
Semipalmated Plover: 4 Burrville T
 Watertown 15 Aug; 3 ED 25 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: 7 ED 25 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 9 ED 25 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: 4 Massena Dam 9
 Jun; 2 Burrville T Watertown 15 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 11 ED 25
 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 Burrville T
 Watertown 15 Aug.
Wilson's Snipe: 10 TLou/TMas area 1
 Jun.
Am. Woodcock: 2 TMas 9 Jun; ED 11
 Jul.
Bonaparte's Gull: 8 Raquette Ri
 S.Colton STLA 3 Aug, inland from usual
 migratory route along SLR.
Ring-billed Gull: 60 SLR 1 Jun; < 100
 dam area most of summer.
Caspian Tern: 8 ED 25 Aug.
Com. Tern: SLR TMas 9 Jun.
Black Tern: 2 Alexandria JEFF 22 Jun; 6
 TTher 30 Jun; 29 staging Bass I mid-Aug;
 very low overall.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 64 TLou 1 Jun.
Black-billed Cuckoo: TMas 1 Jun; FL FD
 21 Jun; Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: prs Black Pd
 WMA 28 Jun & Lakeview WMA 12 Jul,

both T Henderson JEFF.

Great Horned Owl: TLou 1 Jun; TMas 1 Jun; Massena Dam 2 Jun; y Chaumont JEFF 18 Jul.

Barred Owl: 1 report.

Short-eared Owl: FD 4 Jun, only report.

Com. Nighthawk: 4 FD 18 Jun.

Whip-poor-will: pr courting FD 18 Jun; TLou 15 Jul; Brasher Falls 18 Jul.

Chimney Swift: 9 TMas 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul; 12 TMas 28 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 6 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun; last 26 Aug.

Belted Kingfisher: TLou 1 Jun, 15 Jul; nest Wanakena area STLA Jul.

Red-headed Woodpecker: FD 2 Jun; FL CV Jul.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: nest Black Ri JEFF 18 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: pr TMas 1 Jun; pr TLou 15 Jul.

Downy Woodpecker: max 30 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 21 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun.

N. Flicker: max 10 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun.

Pileated Woodpecker: pr Rt 56 TMas 1 Jun; Kelsey Creek Watertown 28 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Wanakena area STLA Jul, only report.

E. Wood-Pewee: reports from TLou, TMas, Wanakena, Chaumont Barrens.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Wanakena area STLA Jul, only report.

Alder Flycatcher: max 20 TMas 9 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.

Willow Flycatcher: 2 in 2 places TLou 1 Jun, 15 Jul.

Least Flycatcher: max 10 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun.

E. Phoebe: max 25 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun.

Great Crested Flycatcher: FY TLou 18 Jul.

Blue-headed Vireo: Wanakena area STLA Jul.

Warbling Vireo: max 28 TMas 9 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: several m Washington P Lorraine JEFF 1 Jun; singing males TNC property Montague LEWI 13 Jun; all thought to be late migrants.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 90 TMas 9 Jun, good showing.

Gray Jay: Dead Creek Flow Trail T Clifton STLA 2 Jul, only report.

Com. Raven: pr Ironsides I SLR, unusual location; 6 Moon L TTher 5 Jun.

Purple Martin: 100s CV Jun-Jul; breeding WHWMA.

Tree Swallow: seemingly low numbers from TMas and dam area.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: Wanakena area STLA Jul; ED 11 Jul; only reports.

Bank Swallow: 100+ in colony SLR 9 Jun; FY there 1 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: 70 on nests TMas 9 Jun, continuing to increase locally.

Barn Swallow: max 30 TMas 9 Jun.

Black-capped Chickadee: 140 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun.

Tufted Titmouse: TLou 1 Jun, only report.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 to feeders TLou; Brasher Falls 10 Jul.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 40 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun.

Brown Creeper: pr TLou 1 Jun.

Carolina Wren: Sacketts Harbor JEFF 15 Jul, only report.

House Wren: max 18 TMas 9 Jun; FY TMas 15 Jul.

Winter Wren: Wanakena area STLA Jul.

Sedge Wren: T Antwerp JEFF 7, 18 Jun; T Rossie STLA 10 Jun; Belleville T Ellisburg JEFF 18 Jun; T DePeyster STLA 30 Jun; 2 PRWMA 11 Jul; pr McCormick Rd Oswegatchie STLA 13 Jul; seem to be increasing.

Marsh Wren: Wanakena area STLA Jul.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: ad on nest FD 8 Jun.

E. Bluebird: several prs TMas.
Veery: max 30 TLou 9 Jun.
Hermit Thrush: Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul; Wanakena area STLA Jul; only reports.
Wood Thrush: max 35 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun; Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul.
Gray Catbird: max 12 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun.
Brown Thrasher: 2 TMas 1 Jun; T Lyne JEFF 11 Jul; only reports.
Cedar Waxwing: 40 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun; 14 TLou 15 Jul.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: fem with y accompanied by m Golden-winged Warbler carrying food FD 1 Jul.
Golden-winged Warbler: males carrying food 25 Jun, 27 Jun, 1 Jul FD.
"Brewster's Warbler": fem paired with m Golden-winged Warbler FD 26 Jun; Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul.
Nashville Warbler: 6 Rt 56 STLA 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.
N. Parula: TMas 9 Jun; Sixberry L TTher 9 Jun; 6 prs Wanakena STLA Jul.
Yellow Warbler: 200 TLou/TMas area, excellent total.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 12 TMas 9 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Magnolia Warbler: 2 Rt 56 TLou 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul; ED 11 Jul.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: Rt 56 TLou 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: Wanakena area Jul.
Black-throated Green Warbler: Rt 56 TLou 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Blackburnian Warbler: Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Pine Warbler: 3 Rt 56 TLou 1 Jun.
Prairie Warbler: FY FD 25 Jun; FY Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul.
Palm Warbler: pr Hitchins Bog Colton STLA 11 Jun; migrant Holmes Pt Morristown STLA 23 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: 2 migrants T Clayton

JEFF 3 Jun.
Cerulean Warbler: 5 FD Jun.
Black-and-white Warbler: 6 Rt 56 TLou 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul; 5 singing m + 1 fem FY Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul.
Am. Redstart: max 60 TMas 9 Jun.
Ovenbird: 25/day TLou; several Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul.
Mourning Warbler: pr FY Onjebonge State Forest LEWI 8 Jul; Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Com. Yellowthroat: 14 TLou/TMas 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Canada Warbler: several pr FY FD Jul; Wanakena area STLA Jul.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 2 TMas 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul; 4 including FY Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul; WHWMA 29 Aug; TMas 30 Aug.
E. Towhee: 2 TMas 1 Jun; T Lyne JEFF 11 Jul.
Chipping Sparrow: max 50 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 m FD 4 Jun; 2 Van Alstyne Rd Clayton JEFF 15 Jun; Bishop Rd Macomb STLA 30 Jun.
Field Sparrow: FY Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul.
Savannah Sparrow: 10 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun; PRWMA 11 Jul.
Henslow's Sparrow: 2-3 Dog Hill Rd T Orleans JEFF 11 Jul; 3 m FD 18 Jul.
Song Sparrow: max 45 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun.
Swamp Sparrow: max 20 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun.
White-throated Sparrow: max 29 TLou 1 Jun; others Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Dark-eyed Junco: Wanakena STLA area Jul.
N. Cardinal: 36 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun; 4 pr TLou 15 Jul.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 19 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Indigo Bunting: Wanakena area STLA

Jul; PRWMA 11 Jul; ED 11 Jul; 2 pr TLou 15 Jul.

Bobolink: 200 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun; PRWMA 11 Jul; 18 TMas 15 Jul.

E. Meadowlark: 15 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun; PRWMA 11 Jul; FY TMas 15 Jul.

Com. Grackle: max 70 TMas 22 Aug.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 80+ TLou 29 Aug.

Baltimore Oriole: 14 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun.

Purple Finch: 11 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.

House Finch: 3 TLou/TMas area.

White-winged Crossbill: pr Massawepie Mire STLA 13 Jul; 10 Massawepie 20 Jul; 6 Hitchins Bog Piercefield STLA 20 Jul; T Clifton 8 Aug; unfortunately none CO.

Am. Goldfinch: max 30 TLou/TMas 1

Jun.

Evening Grosbeak: few TLou 1 Jun.

CORRIGENDA

The Kingbird 50 (4) 423 **Red-breasted Merganser:** FL Picton I SLR T Clayton JEFF (BH) should be **Com. Merganser.**

The Kingbird 52 (2) 170-173 **Disregard entire (winter) report.** It was a reprint of the previous winter's report [*The Kingbird* 51 (2) 623-626].

ADDENDUM

The Kingbird 51 (3) **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** m at feeder Buckton STLA May 2001.