

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Overall the season was warmer and wetter than normal. In June the temperature averaged 67.4° F, 1.6 ° above normal, and there was 6.57" of precipitation, 2.86" above normal. The average temperature for July was 74.5°, 3.6° above normal, with 4.28" of precipitation, 0.26" above normal. The average temperature for August was 71.4°, 2.2° above normal, with 6.36" of precipitation, 2.80" above normal.

Waterfowl breeding did not seem to be affected by the June rainfall, as wetlands and lakes were able to handle the water with little evidence of flooding. There was only one Snow Goose this season, and a late flock of Brant was seen in early June. Less common ducks for the summer were Northern Shoveler, Common Goldeneye, and Ruddy Duck. Common Loons apparently

had a good breeding season in the Adirondacks, and Pied-billed Grebes continue to have success on beaver ponds.

An American Bittern was seen several times at Nine Mile Swamp in Brookfield. They have not been reported at that location in some time. Great Egret was not very common this summer, and Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen at just two sites in June. A Glossy Ibis appeared on a flooded golf course in August after a torrential downpour but left the following day as the puddles dried.

Northbound raptors were moving well into June, and the August dispersal flight was observed at Derby Hill. The flights are dependent on south to southeast winds and do not occur otherwise. Only a few breeding locations for Merlin have been identified in the Region, but more are presumed based on the number of summer sightings. Peregrine Falcons successfully bred in Syracuse, but there was no success in Utica. Late-nesting American Kestrels fledged four young at a Dewitt industrial plant towards the end August.

An American Coot in Brewerton appeared to be a non-breeder. The only Sandhill Crane for the summer was a bird flying by Derby Hill, and there is still no evidence of breeding in Region 5. The four plus inches of rain on 22 August did create some short-lived shorebird habitat, but it also covered exposed shorelines on a longer term basis. There was high water on Lake Ontario, and it appears that the plan for Delta Lake is to maintain high water levels to at least Labor Day. A flooded field good for shorebirds in previous years is now overgrown, and our sod farm is going to corn to some degree. There was one Whimbrel plus a handful each of Ruddy Turnstone, Baird's Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher, but no Red Knots or White-rumped Sandpipers.

A Forster's Tern in August was a little earlier than usual. No lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen this season, and only one jaeger, likely a Parasitic, was seen from Derby Hill in August.

With the lessening of the tent caterpillar irruption cuckoo numbers were down, with Yellow-billed reported more than Black-billed. There was a single N. Saw-whet Owl outside of the Adirondacks. Common Nighthawks remain scarce in the breeding season. Red-headed Woodpecker continues to hold on but is not expanding.

Added proof of Common Raven success was the large number leaving the Oswego County landfill on an August evening. Large numbers of Purple Martins and Barn Swallows were seen over the marsh at Three Mile Bay WMA in August, when they were roosting along with Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Bobolinks. Late, but not unusual migrants included Olive-sided Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush which was heard during night migration, and Blackpoll Warbler. A Sedge Wren was in a likely breeding spot in the town of Manlius in July; the species is in decline but the less common field species are seldom searched for.

Tennessee Warbler, a species which can occur outside of the Adirondacks in summer, was found singing in an upland forest in Madison County. There were encouraging reports of Northern Parula and Black-throated Blue Warbler

at sites where they have not been for several years. A Prairie Warbler in southern Onondaga County was the only one reported, but there were very few bird reports from that area this summer. Clay-colored Sparrow was singing at three sites into mid June, but none seemed to persist. A Lincoln's Sparrow at the end of August was earlier than is typical. Dark-eyed Juncos were nesting in a hanging basket in an urban residential setting, while Orchard Oriole seems to be thriving in the Green Lakes State Park area and is likely prospering in other areas along the old Erie Canal corridor. Single sightings of Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were fortunate in a year with few finches in our area and a poor outlook for the winter.

The cone crop was poor, with very little production for all species except red pine. Beech production was hampered by the late frost at higher elevations, but birch, hickory, oaks, cherries, and apples all had good crops. Among the ample seed and berry crop observers sited were common elderberry, viburnums, hawthorns, and crabapples.

For the season a total of 201 species was found, one more than the recent 10 year average. Highlights include Black-crowned Night-Heron, **Glossy Ibis**, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Sandhill Crane, Whimbrel, Forster's Tern, Tennessee Warbler, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

DH – Derby Hill; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; LOL – Lake Ontario Littoral; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; SHF – Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SPd – Sandy Pond; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; VB – Van Buren; WH – Whiskey Hollow, T Van Buren; WM – West Monroe.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: VB 11 Aug.

Brant: 300 DeRuyter L 3 Jun, late.

Trumpeter Swan: Volney thru, mate lost in spring.

Wood Duck: max 285 WM 30 Aug.

Am. Black Duck: 5 Dolgeville 22 Jul; max 8 Jamesville Res 13 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: max 5 SPd 30 Aug.

N. Shoveler: max 3 OnonL 20 Aug; Syr 27 Aug, unusual summer.

Green-winged Teal: max 6 OnonL 20 Aug.

Com. Goldeneye: Oneil 28 Aug, unusual summer.
Com. Merganser: max 6 OnonL 30 Aug.
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 LOL 29 Aug.
Ruddy Duck: Beaver L 15 Aug (JB).
Com. Loon: successful breeding most HERK lakes; max10 Fourth L 16 Aug.
Double-crested Cormorant: to 200 per day LOL in Aug.
Am. Bittern: 2 Hubbardsville 31 Jul, uncommon there.
Least Bittern: Weaver L 30 Jun; Volney 19 Aug, only reports.
Great Egret: max 3 T Onondaga 27 Aug; 11 for season.
Green Heron: max 48 Volney 19 Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: Jordan 23 Jul, only report.
GLOSSY IBIS: Dewitt 25 Aug (TS, JB).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture: max 88 DH 2 Jun.
Bald Eagle: max 11 DH 2 Jun.
N. Goshawk: 3 reports.
Broad-winged Hawk: 24 DH 2 Jun; max 72 DH 14 Aug.
Red-tailed Hawk: 15 DH 2 Jun; max 34 DH 14 Aug.
Am. Kestrel: max 10 Salisbury 16 Aug; 4 y fledged Dewitt 28 Aug, late nesting.
Merlin: DH 20 Jul; family Sangerfield 22 Jul; 5 Aug reports.
Peregrine Falcon: 5 Aug reports plus continuing birds Syr & Utica.
Am. Coot: Brewerton 1 Jun, only report.
Sandhill Crane: DH 22 Jul, only report.
Black-bellied Plover: 5 SPd 2 Jun; 4 SHF 16 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr & max 3 SHF 15 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: 2 OnonL 6 Jun; arr Verona 16 Jul; max 11 SPd 30 Aug.
Killdeer: max 117 SHF 13 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 15 OnonL 6 Jun.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Eaton 8 Jul; max 6 Verona 9 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 9 SPd 18 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr DH 29 Jun; max 15 SHF 23 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: last T Geddes 19 Aug.
Whimbrel: FH 16 Aug (MS).
Ruddy Turnstone: max 4 OnonL 27 Aug; 2 SPd 30 Aug.
Sanderling: max 7 SPd 18 Aug; SHF 23 Aug, unusual there.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 22 OnonL 6 Jun.
Least Sandpiper: max 115 SHF 23 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr Verona 16 Jul; max 4 SPd 18 Aug; SHF after 17 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 6 Weaver L, T Warren 1 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr OnonL 20 Aug; max 6 SHF 23 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr & max 8 Verona 10 Jul; 3 other singles.
Bonaparte's Gull: 3 SPd 2 Jun; max 38 SVB 23 Aug.
Ring-billed Gull: max 1450 SHF 23 Aug.
Herring Gull: max 110 SPd 30 Aug.
Caspian Tern: max 132 SPd 2 Jun.
Black Tern: 4 SPd 2 Jun; 4 SPd 18 Aug.
Com. Tern: max 329 Oneil 23 Aug.
Forster's Tern: Oneil 31 Aug (DN).
jaeger sp.: DH 23 Aug.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 13 reports.
Black-billed Cuckoo: 8 reports.
N. Saw-whet Owl: VB 30 Aug.
Com. Nighthawk: WM 16 Aug; max 5 Palermo 19 Aug.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 9 DH 14 Aug, summer dispersal.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Vernon 17 Jun; Sandy Creek 5 July; 2 with y Lysander 22 Jul; FH 24 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Marcellus 10 Jun; Atwood 2 Aug; migrant calling SFNS 13 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 4 reports Adks.
Acadian Flycatcher: 5 reports WH thru June.
Least Flycatcher: max 6 Hastings 24 Aug.
Empidonax sp.: migrants widespread late Aug.
Com. Raven: 6 SVB 25 Jun; max 20 Volney 19 Aug.
Horned Lark: max 12 SHF 23 Aug.
Purple Martin: max 600 WM 12 Aug.
Bank Swallow: max 65 Skaneateles 22 Aug.
Cliff Swallow: max 6 per day.
Barn Swallow: max 850 WM 12 Aug.
Sedge Wren: T Manlius 15 Jul (BC).
Marsh Wren: Volney 19 Aug, poss new site.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 5 Marcellus 10 Jun.
E. Bluebird: 30 Thendara 17 Aug, good for Adks.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: 2 Hastings 2 Jun, night flight.
Swainson's Thrush: arr TR 21 Aug, early; SFNS 27 Aug.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: July 9 & 10 Lebanon SF (KC); arr Hastings & SFNS 27 Aug.

The Kingbird 2010 December; 60 (4)

Nashville Warbler: arr Hastings 24 Aug.
N. Parula: White L 27 Jun; arr SVB 20 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: arr SFNS 19 Aug.
Cape May Warbler: arr 2 Hastings 25 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Hastings & SFNS
20 Aug.
Prairie Warbler: Pratt's Falls 26 Jun.
Blackpoll Warbler: DH 25 Jun.
Mourning Warbler: SFNS 31 Aug.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Pulaski 17 Aug.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Marcellus 7 Jun;
Hastings 13 Jun; TR 7-15 Jun.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Syr 28 Aug.
Bobolink: max 240 WM 30 Aug.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 2800 WM 16
Aug.
Com. Grackle: max 2900 WM 30 Aug.
Orchard Oriole: max 13 GLSP 26 Jun,
increasing.
Pine Siskin: Salisbury 7 Jul, only report.
Evening Grosbeak: L Julia 27 Jun, only report.