

## INTRODUCTION

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Over a hundred and fifty years ago, a young man traversed the woodlands of the Adirondacks fueling his passion for conservation while searching for as many bird species as he could document. The task in hand was a passion of his, as it remains for many birders today. The man, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., was joined by his friend and colleague H.D. Minot on their quest to explore New York's great and rugged forest landscape of the Adirondacks. Together, they wrote their summer observations and subsequently identified over 97 species of birds between August of 1874 and July of 1877. They published their findings and conclusions in a pamphlet titled *The Summer Birds of the Adirondacks in Franklin County, New York*, with which we begin this special avian issue of the *Adirondack Journal of Environmental Studies*.

Roosevelt and Minot recalled the conditions of each of their sightings of a wide variety of birds, from Common Loons to a host of interior forest warbler species. They listened to the calls of thrushes in the day and the echoes of a variety of owls in the evening. Hiking in the St. Regis Lakes region, they commented on what they believed were common sightings as well as those rare to the area. They recounted the locations of breeding areas as well as stopover locations for birds passing through on their own journey.

As you enjoy this edition of AJES containing avian findings of today's scientists and reports on the conditions of today's Adirondack forests, you can travel back to the days of the nation's greatest conservation hero and relive his enthusiasm and love for nature. While some of the names may have variations from modern usage, the observations remain valuable. This edition of AJES is dedicated to the birder Teddy Roosevelt. Following his inspiration, let's ensure his sightings as well as ours today contribute to a better understanding of the avian world.

