

(PDeB, FGS); Scarlet Tanager: max 34 DH May 18, arr. May 3; Rose-breasted Grosbeak: record early arr. Apr. 22; Indigo Bunting: numbers down max ten DH May 20; Evening Grosbeak: departed on May 19, NMPT, (D. Muir); House Finch: two migrating at DH Apr. 21, 30-32 singing males in DeWitt, (B. Long); Purple Finch: max 100 LOL Apr. 26; Pine Siskin: scattered wintering birds till May 20; Rufous-sided Towhee: very scarce, max 22 LOL Apr. 7; Savannah Sparrow: max 19 LOL Apr. 12, arr. Apr. 1, Chittanooga (MacS); Grasshopper Sparrow: two singles, one near Parish, one at Griffis A.F. Base; Henslow's Sparrow: a total of seven, four at Toad Harbor, three at Bolivar; Vesper Sparrow: max ten LOL Apr. 22, arr. Apr. 1; Tree Sparrow: very poor spring flight, max 37 Higma Apr. 1, last May 1; Chipping Sparrow: max 38 LOL May 18; Field Sparrow: max 12 DH May 3; White-crowned Sparrow: one to four/day extremely low in numbers; White-throated Sparrow: max 190 LOL May 3 arr. Apr. 4, DeWitt (B. Long); Fox Sparrow: very low max 3 StMC Apr. 22 (PDeB); Lincoln's Sparrow: two/day; Swamp Sparrow: very scarce, max 15 Scott Swamp, Fox Ridge May 5; Song Sparrow: max 95 Higma, FH Apr. 1; Snow Bunting: max 180 s. Madison Co. Mar. 12 (GC).

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## REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Spring of 1979 presented some real challenges to the serious birder. Weather, and/or the birds, were not very cooperative at times, but persistence eventually paid off. March was generally wet with temperatures below normal. However, on March 23 a high of 72° F. (22° C.) and heavy winds the following day opened up Lake Ontario bays and harbors as well as the northeastern shore. April started out with a bang when the "Big Wind Storm" hit on April 6th with considerable lakeshore and St. Lawrence River damage. A severe snowstorm on April 9th only dusted our area but hit other parts of the state hard. Rain and cool weather continued through April and May except for a warm week in early May when high 80's were experienced and then back to cool and rainy through the period.

Concern for some species which continue to decline is increasing. These species include Pied-billed Grebe, Am. Bittern, Redhead, Canvasback, Common Tern, Black Tern and Vesper Sparrow. Newcomers to our "alert" list are Green Heron, Am. Kestrel, E. Phoebe, E. Wood Pewee and White-throated Sparrow.

Improvements were noted in Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk and Loggerhead Shrike, E. Bluebird, and the Little Galloo Island Ring-billed Gull colony continues to expand.

Rarities for the period were many and included Common Eider, Bald Eagle, Purple Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Great Gray Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, House Finch, and Grasshopper Sparrow. An exceptional flight of shorebirds was recorded by Tom Carrolan at El Dorado on May 30th—a miserable day, when he saw a total of 3225 shorebirds in a two

hour period. Joe VanRiet in Massena had some excellent raptor and warbler observations along the St. Lawrence River and the Walkers picked up some excellent observations right in their own backyard—as usual. Each contributor had his own “gem.”

Contributors for the period were: Ivy Benedykt; Richard Brouse; Stewart Brown; Stuart Cameron; Tom Carrolan; Lee Chamberlaine; Frank Clinch; Wm. Gordon; Daphne Hamilton; Lloyd Higgins; Joe Lamendola; Nick Leone; Wm. Pesold; Jim Spencer; Joe VanRiet; Bob and June Walker and Louis Wallace.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Com. Loon: about normal numbers. Horned Grebe: one Wilson Hill Apr. 22. Pied-billed Grebe: nesting only at Wilson Hill in Massena area Apr. 24. Double-crested Cormorant: one El Dorado May 14; one El Dorado May 28; 36 El Dorado May 30; 40 El Dorado May 31; encouraging numbers. Great Blue Heron: three Stony Point Apr. 1; 30+ Sulphur Springs rookery Apr. 12. Green Heron: not in normal numbers? Black-crowned Night Heron: Four Polly's Gut May 13—thereafter regularly; four El Dorado May 28; more than usual in Henderson Harbor. Am. Bittern: only two heard all season—Massena (J. Van Riet); species bears watching. Canada Goose: very abundant Massena—broods everywhere; hatching success at Perch River lower pool down? Brant: 70 Massena May 28 (J. VanRiet). Mallard: as common as ever. Black Duck: no improvements. Gadwall: six Perch River May 1; two El Dorado May 14. Pintail: three Perch River May 1. Green-winged Teal: two Perch River May 1. Blue-winged Teal: everywhere on potholes and flooded fields. Am. Wigeon: four Perch River Apr. 15; four same Apr. 17. No. Shoveler: no reports; Wood Duck: normal numbers. Redhead: none reported. Ring-necked Duck: 30-40 Perch River Apr. 9; 25 Perch River Apr. 17; three Upper and Lower Lakes May 21—no young seen. Canvasback: eight Robt. Moses Mar. 1 thru 10 (J. VanRiet). Bufflehead: 10-20 per day Wilson Hill in Apr. **COMMON EIDER:** one female El Dorado May 14—observed through scope at close range while resting on a rock-long frontal shield and heavy barring on body observed (R. & J. Walker). White-winged Scoter: two El Dorado May 13 (R. Brouse). Hooded Merganser: arrived Mar. 29 Massena area. Com. Merganser: six Three Mile Pt. Apr. 28. Red-breasted Merganser: three Massena area Apr. 25.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: three Massena area Apr. 23; 11 Henderson in one tree—early evening May 14; one Perch River May 29. Goshawk: nests in Region indicate later hatchings than normal (J. Spencer). Sharp-shinned: nine Massena area Apr. 23; two same Apr. 24; two same Apr. 26 (J. VanRiet). Cooper's: two Massena area Apr. 26. Red-tailed: four Black River Bay area Apr. 9; 11 Massena area Apr. 26; rather few residents Massena (J. VanRiet). Red-shouldered: one Massena area Apr. 26; one Thompson Park May 19. Broad-winged: 60 Massena area Apr. 26; one Thompson Park May 19. Rough-legged: one Three Mile Pt. May 2. **BALD EAGLE:** three (two adults, one age undetermined) Cary Falls Reservoir-Raquette River feeding on deer carcass (L. Wallace); one adult El Dorado Apr. 13 (W. Gordon); one adult Black River Apr. 13 (I. Benedykt); one adult Three Mile Bay Apr. 26 (Lloyd Higgins)—seen again on May 2, 7 and 11 (mob). Marsh Hawk: many observations—improving—pairs nesting at Robt. Moses Park and Wilson Hill. Osprey: one Chaumont River Apr. 14; two Massena area Apr. 23; four Massena Apr. 26; one Watertown May 1. Am. Kestrel: numbers down? Ruffed Grouse: numbers may be down? Virginia Rail: Perch River May 14. Com. Gallinule: Apr. 24. Am. Coot: one wintered in Norwood area—photographed (Mar. 1); one Wilson Hill Apr. 26 (J. VanRiet). Semipalmated Plover: eight St. Lawrence River May 28; 48 summer plumage El Dorado. Black-bellied Plover: one Wilson Hill May 27; 16 (summer plumage) El Dorado May 30. Ruddy Turnstone: two St. Lawrence River May 28; 145 (summer plumage) El Dorado May 30. Am. Woodcock: first Mar. 23. Com. Snipe: first Apr. 22. Upland Sandpiper: two Apr. 26; two old River Road Massena May 13. Spotted Sandpiper: May 19. Greater Yellowlegs: May 17. Lesser Yellowlegs: May 17; two El Dorado May 30. Red Knot: 222 (all summer plumage) El Dorado May 30 (T. Carrolan). **PURPLE**

**SANDPIPER:** one (mostly winter plumage) El Dorado May 30—NYSARC report filed (T. Carrolan). White-rumped Sandpiper: two (summer plumage) El Dorado May 30. Least Sandpiper: 14 El Dorado May 30. Dunlin: three May 27; eight May 28 St. Lawrence River; one El Dorado May 28; 36 El Dorado May 30. Short-billed Dowitcher: two St. Lawrence River May 27; six (summer plumage) El Dorado May 30. **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** one El Dorado May 30—NYSARC report filed (T. Carrolan); this location is where previous sightings have occurred. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2012 El Dorado May 30 (T. Carrolan). Unidentified shorebirds: 700 El Dorado May 30, weather that day was heavy rain (T. Carrolan). Great Black-backed Gull: 24 in Massena area near end of period; four El Dorado May 30; and one adult in Ring-billed Gull colony on Strachan Island St. Lawrence River. Herring Gull: less than 20 Massena area at end of period; eight El Dorado May 30; becoming scarce. Ring-billed Gull: four arrivals in Massena Mar. 3; 1000 Strachan Island St. Lawrence River Mar. 21; 5000 or so pairs—same at end of period—a few hatchlings by May 28; indications are that Little Galloo Island population is increasing—inland visits in Henderson and vicinity show many many more birds. Bonaparte's Gull: one Robt. Moses Apr. 25. Com. Tern: three colonies in Massena area in good shape—about 150 to 200 nests—three eggs per nest May 28 (J. VanRiet); two El Dorado May 30. Caspian Tern: none reported. Black Tern: none seen in Massena—common about 15 miles downstream in Quebec; arrived Perch River May 14 and may be decreasing at this location?; 20 Lakeview May 17—this population seems stable.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Mourning Dove: normal numbers. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Dry Hill May 23 and 30 (R. & J. Walker). Black-billed Cuckoo: arrival Perch River May 29. Snowy Owl: one Iroquois Dam Mar. 9; one Three Mile Bay Mar. 31; one Three Mile Bay Apr. 7; one Copenhagen Apr. 19. Barred Owl: indications from three carcasses found this past winter are they may have starved? **GREAT GRAY OWL:** one Depauville Mar. 1 (D. Hamilton & King); one Depauville Mar. 2 (F. Clinch & King); one Pillar Pt. Mar. 3 (Watertown Times); one Depauville Mar. 9 (R. & J. Walker); one Depauville Mar. 10 (S. Brown); one Brasher on the Helena Rd. Mar. 17 & 18 (Riggs & Ferguson); one Winthrop on the Potsdam Rd. Mar. 18—photo (B. Dendler); one Colton-Reihl Rd. Apr. 5, photo (R. Randall); note: the Pillar Pt. bird was injured and was sent to Albany for successful rehabilitation. **LONG-EARED OWL:** one Watertown Mar. 8 (S. Brown). Short-eared Owl: one Sulphur Springs Apr. 9; one Ives St. Rd. Apr. 17. Whip-poor-will: arrival Massena area May 16. Com. Night-hawk: arrival Massena May 10. Chimney Swift: in Massena May 17. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: numbers up? Pileated Woodpecker: pair at Robt. Moses Apr. 25. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Wilson Hill May 19; one Rutland same date. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: pair at Wilson Hill Apr. 22.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** E. Kingbird: arrival Massena May 5. Great Crested Flycatcher: arrival Watertown May 1. E. Phoebe: one Blake Sanctuary Apr. 3; numbers *way down*. Alder Flycatcher: one Watertown May 18; arrival Massena May 18; two Dry Hill May 31. Least Flycatcher: May 13. E. Wood Pewee: May 24; numbers down? Horned Lark: numbers still down. Tree Swallow: first in Henderson Apr. 1; arrived Massena Apr. 18. Bank Swallow: abundant at eroded banks along St. Lawrence River. Rough-winged Swallow: first Sackets Harbor May 14. Barn Swallow: first Apr. 20; arrived Massena Apr. 25. Cliff Swallow: abundant in Massena area. Purple Martin: numbers in Henderson and vicinity down. White-breasted Nuthatch: only two locations Wilson Hill and Robt. Moses in Massena area—numbers down? (J. VanRiet). House Wren: first May 2. Winter Wren: one only Robt. Moses May 9. Long-billed Marsh Wren: first at Perch River May 14. **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN:** one singing near Reynolds Aluminum Plant Massena (J. VanRiet). **MOCKINGBIRD:** one Watertown vicinity May 18 arrival Massena area May 16. Gray Catbird: arrival May 9. Brown Thrasher: first Apr. 24. Wood Thrush: first May 9. Swainson's Thrush: one Watertown-Thompson Park May 16. Veery: first May 8. E. Bluebird: five Theresa Mar. 21 (S. Cameron); two Brownville Apr. 13; pair Perch River Apr. 21—nesting? one Wilson Hill May 27; pair at Helena on Smith Rd. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 24 Blake Sanctuary Apr. 3; one Dry Hill Apr. 20. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: none reported? Water Pipit: 30 Adams Cove May 7; 18 near

Wilson Hill May 12. Cedar Waxwing: 35 Watertown Mar. 30. No. Shrike: last on Apr. 9—impaled a mouse on a thorn. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one Haverstock Rd. near Reynolds Plant Massena May 30-31 (J. VanRiet).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: Yellow-throated Vireo: two Blake Sanctuary building a nest on May 19 (R. & J. Walker). Red-eyed Vireo: first May 12. Warbling Vireo: first May 8. Black-and-white Warbler: May 5. Golden-winged Warbler: Wilson Hill May 12; one Blake Sanctuary May 13 (N. Leone). Tennessee: Massena area May 10 thru 19; two Thompson Park May 17 & 18; six Thompson Park May 19; eight to ten Thompson Park May 28. Nashville: Massena area May 10 thru 12. No. Parula: one Washington Park May 18. Yellow: May 8. Magnolia: Massena area May 12 thru 28; one Thompson Park May 18. Cape May: two only in Massena area May 14; four Thompson Park May 19; two Thompson Park May 28. Black-throated Blue: missed in Massena area. Yellow-rumped: two Apr. 1. Black-throated Green: May 12 thru 20. Blackburnian: three Thompson Park May 18; May 19-20 in Massena area. Chestnut-sided: May 12 in Massena. Bay-breasted: one Thompson Park May 18; May 10 thru 26 in Massena area. Blackpoll: missed in Massena area; May 28 El Dorado. Pine: Apr. 22 in Massena. Palm: none reported. Ovenbird: May 12. No. Waterthrush: one Blake Sanctuary May 19. **LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH**: one Washington Park May 18 (R. & J. Walker). Mourning: one Blake Sanctuary May 19; one Wilson Hill May 28. Com. Yellowthroat: May 9. **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT**: two Watertown Sportsman's Club—Dry Hill May 17 (R. & J. Walker); one same May 18 (F. Clinch & W. Pesold). Wilson's Warbler: May 9 in Massena area. Canada Warbler: one Blake Sanctuary May 19. Am. Redstart: May 12.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS**: Bobolink: in normal numbers. E. Meadowlark: three Woodville Mar. 4. Red-winged Blackbird: 50 Dry Hill Mar. 2. No. Oriole: first May 8; numbers seem up from previous two years. Rusty Blackbird: none reported. Com. Grackle: first on Mar. 12. Brown-headed Cowbird: in numbers in Henderson area Apr. 21. Scarlet Tanager: first May 12. Cardinal: one male Robt. Moses Park Apr. 25. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arrived May 9. Indigo Bunting: none reported—missed in Massena area? Evening Grosbeak: last on May 23. Purple Finch: a few but may be down? **HOUSE FINCH**: pair daily at feeder Watertown—both males—one banded (F. Clinch). Pine Grosbeak: five Brasher Mar. 17. Am. Goldfinch: 15 Henderson Mar. 15. Rufous-sided Towhee: first Apr. 23. Savannah Sparrow: first Apr. 24; in low numbers. **GRASSHOPPER SPARROW**: one Bradley St. Rd. Watertown May 18; Perch River May 19 (R. & J. Walker). Vesper Sparrow: one Robt. Moses Apr. 18—only one seen in Massena area; none in Henderson area. Dark-eyed Junco: heavy movement Apr. 1; last date May 14. Tree Sparrow: three Henderson Apr. 16; six Dry Hill Apr. 17; last on May 1—very very few. Chipping Sparrow: first Apr. 25. Field Sparrow: first Apr. 23; numbers down. White-crowned Sparrow: May 12 very few compared to previous years. White-throated Sparrow: Apr. 15 in Henderson—numbers way down. Fox Sparrow: three Wilson Hill Apr. 22—seldom reported. Swamp Sparrow: first Apr. 25. Song Sparrow: first in Massena area Mar. 25. Snow Bunting: last on Mar. 1.

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## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

This was a mild spring for the most part. The ice went out of Upper St. Regis Lake on April 22, and, as usual, the day the ice went was also the day the loons