

REGION 5 — ADIRONDACK

April was about average in temperature. May was definitely cooler than normal. A 26 day period without rainfall in late April and early May kept vegetation retarded — lilacs are just past their prime as I write this on June 17.

Killdeer—None seen in central Adirondacks this spring.

Olive-sided Flycatcher—This bird is again scarce in Saranac Lake area this year. Its numbers have been down for three years now.

Brown Thrasher—Reported at Tupper Lake by Dr. Kingsbury May 15, 18 and June 4. This is a rare bird in the central Adirondacks.

Philadelphia Vireo—Reported May 18 and 23 at Tupper Lake by Dr. Kingsbury. Seldom reported here in spring.

Warbler—Several observers have commented on the scarcity of Warblers in this area. This spring, such reports come from Essex and Keeseville. I have personally noted total absence of Black-polls this spring—same report from Tupper Lake. The latter also reports no Bay-breasted, Palm and Mourning. There were relatively small flights on the nights of May 9-10, 10-11 and 17-18.

Evening Grosbeak—Most of winter population gone by late April. A few birds still around at end of May.

Season has been otherwise normal.

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REGION 6 — MOHAWK VALLEY

March weather was about average, but April was warmer and May colder than usual, both months having considerably greater than average rainfall. Ponds and marshes had high water, and flooding of Vischers Ponds by the Conservation Department gives indications of a change to greater numbers and variety of shore and water birds. A wave of shore birds here was unusual in spring.

Vischers Ponds contributed three very unusual records: A Glossy Ibis was seen here May 17, 18 and 19 (Moore et al), first record. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron here on a May 24 Convention field trip was the second local record, and a rare male European Widgeon spent at least fourteen days here, first seen April 6 (Stone). The first authenticated local record of Tufted Titmouse was obtained near Delmar March 31 (Mrs. Grace).

Loons — Ducks:

One Holbaell's Grebe April 12 at Tomhannock Reservoir. A scarce Double-crested Cormorant was seen on the May 17 Century Run. Mute Swan, previously reported, was seen repeatedly at Scotia Channels through April 13. Two rarities at Vischers Ponds, Gadwall April 13 to 20, and two Shovelers May 18 (Stone). Two male Barrow's Golden-eyes at Saratoga Lake March 13, apparently becoming less rare. Flocks of White-winged Scoters at Niskayuna and Alcove Reservoir May 18 (Tucker).

Hawks — Owls:

Turkey Vulture was seen May 17; seldom-recorded Pigeon Hawk at Ravena May 18 (Tucker). Only two records of American Coot, April 13 and May 25. Semi-palmated Plover seen May 17 and 25, irregular in spring. First record of Ruddy Turnstone since 1933, five on May 25. Upland Plover was reported May 4 at Sparrowbush Road (Tucker). First spring records of Red-backed Sandpiper May 24 and 25, and also first spring record of Dowitchers, flock of twenty-one on May 18 (Stone). Bonaparte's Gull, scarce, May 24; and several Black Terns May 25.

Swifts — Shrikes:

Olive-sided Flycatcher, a rare transient, recorded May 30 at Karner. Cliff Swallows have become relatively common in various areas. There was a good flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches.

Vireos — Warblers:

Worm-eating Warbler is present at both Ravena and Indian Ladder. Both Blue-winged and Brewster's Warbler were seen May 17; Tennessee and Cape May Warblers were abundant the two middle weeks of May. Palm Warbler was unusually scarce this year, only one record. One Chat was reported, May 17.

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

Orchard Oriole, a rare summer resident, was seen near Ravena May 11 and 17. Two records of Cardinal, a male at Altamont, and a female previously reported at Loudonville stayed on to March 12 (French). May 17 was the last recorded date for Evening Grosbeaks. Two hundred Red Crossbills were seen at the Helderberg Escarpment March 7 (Kennedy).

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