

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK

Both April and May were cold and wet in the Adirondack region. The snow-storm which struck the central Adirondacks on March 30th continued through April 3rd and established the extraordinary temperatures of 11, 15 and 10 degrees below zero on April 3, 4 and 5 at Saranac Lake. Over in the Champlain valley, only some 40 miles east but more than 1000 feet lower, low temperature of the month was 28 degrees. This weather caused great hardship for many species. Road shoulders were crowded with Robins, Song Sparrow, Goldfinches, etc.; many were killed by cars, seemingly too weak to get out of the way. On April 3 Killdeer were seeking food on the main road through Trudeau Sanatorium amid traffic and within 20 feet of main buildings. However, the ice went out of the lakes about April 18th. In late April and early May the water run-off was heavy and streams and lakes became unusually high. Lake Champlain water line about 10 feet higher than usual. May was one of the coldest and rainiest for many years. The average minimum daily temperature at Saranac Lake was only 30.2 degrees. A phenomenon of note is the extremely heavy hatch of tent caterpillars throughout the Adirondacks this year with very extensive defoliation in many areas. So far there have not been reports of any unusual numbers of cuckoos.

LOONS — DUCKS: Loons appeared (April 14) at Tupper Lake and Saranac Lake almost simultaneously with the break-up of ice in the lakes (April 18). An unusual record was a **Horned Grebe** in Racquette River near Tupper Lake, April 15 to 20. **Canada Geese** moved through the Champlain Valley to as late as May 24 (Leo Provost). (A belated report has been received of the successful nesting of Canada Geese with three goslings at Cedar Lake, Hamilton County in 1953 (G. T. C.). Another report of **Brant** in Lake Piseco near the end of May (G. T. Chase). Dr. Kingsbury supplies an interesting record of **Green-winged Teal** at Tupper Lake April 12 to May 1. This is an uncommon duck in Adirondacks. The **Ring-neck Duck** appears to again be starting off for a good nest year in central Adirondacks.

HAWKS — OWLS: **Goshawk** has been reported nesting near De Bar Mt. (G. T. C.), Racquette Lake and Big Moose Lake (W. Spofford). The cold, damp spring gives concern for the success of **Ruffed Grouse** nestings. Eaton (1909) did not list the Virginia Rail for Franklin or Hamilton counties and doubted if it bred in the Adirondack region. Either it has extended its range or previously was overlooked for each year I now receive reports of this species in marshy areas (e. g., in flooded beaver meadows) around Tupper Lake and Saranac Lake. (G. T. C. at Two Bridge Brook and Cold Brook, Essex County). Neither did Eaton (1909) list the **Florida Gallinule** for Essex Co. but said it was a "neglected species" in the Hudson-Champlain valley and undoubtedly nested in all large marshes in the state. This is probably true, certainly along Lake Champlain, and a definite record is a bird found dead near Essex May 6 (Marion Mason). The number of singing **Woodcock** "on territory" in Saranac Lake-Lake Placid region is normal (G. T. C.). **Wilson's Snipe** also "on territory" at Wilmington (G. T. C.) and Tupper Lake (M. K.) from mid April on. Three **Yellow-legs** (? sp.) seen April 28 at Tupper Lake (M. K.) is a rather uncommon record. No **Cuckoos** yet reported despite the heavy tent caterpillar infestation.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: The birder in the Adirondacks can readily find all the resident flycatchers of our state except the Acadian. **Wood-Pewee** and **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, arriving this year May 28-30 in all areas, signalled the end of migration. **Carolina Wren** was seen by M. C. Mason in 1952. The same species appeared again at her feeder at Essex on April 24. **Brown Thrasher** appeared April 23 at Keeseville (T. Lesperance) and later at Essex but records for interior valleys are lacking. **Cedar Waxwings** were late in arriving in numbers, May 29 - June 1 at Tupper Lake (Agnes Amstutz) and Saranac Lake.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: **Philadelphia Vireo** seen May 30 at Tupper Lake (A. A.). We need careful observing to determine if this species remains to breed in the Adirondacks. The first heavy warbler wave came May 2-3, another May 18-19. Lesperance at Keeseville says he has never seen as heavy a flight of warblers as occurred this May along Lake Champlain. Two reports of **Yellow-breasted Chat** came from Wilmington (G. T. C.) and Crown Point (Lucien Lambert). These are exceptional records and it will be interesting to see if the species is establishing itself this far north.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: It is the impression of Meade (Saranac Lake) and Lambert (Crown Point) that **Baltimore Oriole** is definitely present in greater numbers this spring. One can speculate that this may be correlated with the

caterpillar plague. **Evening Grosbeaks** have remained again in Saranac Lake-Tupper Lake area through May and probably are breeding as in the past several years. A not frequent record for the northern New York area is that of a **Towhee** near Keeseville on April 29 (T. L.). Several observers have commented on the smaller numbers of **White-throated Sparrows** in Adirondacks this spring.

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REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

The spring of 1954 was in general cool and wet. Beginning with a snowstorm in early April, the season continued generally slow through May. Large waves of migrants were almost completely lacking, and by far the greater proportion of the birds arrived late, although a few individuals of most species arrived at nearly the normal date. Several flocks of Brant were seen on May 8, indicating an unusual flight. Otherwise, there were few unusual records, and migration was dispersed over a long period. Nesting too appeared to be slow, with many resident pairs arriving late.

LOONS — DUCKS: Numbers of loons and grebes were poor, with only one record of Horned Grebe, none of Loons or Holboell's Grebe. Two American Egrets seen on May 27 at Hudson (Madison) indicate continued northward movement of this species. Waterfowl, however, were present in good numbers, with the Brant, noted above, representing the most interesting occurrence. Flocks were observed on the same day at three widely separated points, indicating a general movement into the area on that day. Fourteen Whistling Swans appeared at Vischer's Ponds on April 14 (Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Foote). Canada Geese were seen in good numbers, and large flocks of Mallards, Blacks, Pintails, Ring-necked Ducks, Scaup and Goldeneye were reported through March and early April.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Turkey Vulture was seen at Karner on May 30 (SBC trip). This species is now seen almost every year. Madison recorded a Bald Eagle at Selkirk (Albany Co.) on May 27. Pigeon Hawks were seen on several occasions in early April. No reports were received of Broad-winged Hawks. A White-rumped Sandpiper was seen at Vischer's Ponds on May 31 (Hallenbeck). Turrentine and Stone saw four Bonaparte's Gulls and nine Common Terns on the Mohawk River on April 17.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Pileated Woodpeckers are becoming more common, with records from several counties, including some seen in villages. Least Flycatchers seem unusually common. Wood Pewees arrived rather late, the earliest record at hand being May 23. Swallows are present in usual numbers. The local colonies of Cliff Swallows and Purple Martins are again occupied. A Tufted Titmouse at Cohoes in early April indicated continued northward invasion of this species. Thrushes were generally late and scanty in numbers. Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked were reported May 16 and 25 respectively. Two spring records of the Pipit March 7 (SBC trip) and May 23 (French) are unusual occurrences.

WARBLERS — SPARROWS: Warblers continued to migrate well into June. Indeed, the first movements of appreciable numbers of Blackpolls and Tennessees did not occur until nearly June 1. The Worm-eating Warbler is again present at Indian Lodder. Both Pine and Prairie Warblers were present in the pine barrens into mid-June, evidently breeding, with the latter being by far the more common. Nothing of special interest was noted with regard to blackbirds and sparrows. Purple Finches, abundant during the winter, have continued in some numbers into the spring season, and are evidently nesting in several localities. Evening Grosbeaks were last seen in early April.

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REGION 9 — HUDSON - DELAWARE

April was warmer and drier than usual; May, chillier and wetter. Marked waves of migrants reached the area in the latter part of April, a week to ten days ahead of time. Birding in the normal range of the peak migration in May was correspondingly poor.

LOONS — DUCKS: In Rockland County, the usually common herons were all scarce this spring. However, other sections report no notable change, and the Rockland situation may be local.