

migrant reported May 20. Tree Sparrow: many small flocks (16-65) lingered in wet brushy areas thru the last two weeks of April; last seen on May 6 at Clay Swamp. The tardiness of the above two species probably resulted from the prolonged cold spells of April. Chipping Sparrow: extremely poor flight with comparable count 1/4 to 1/10 of last year's figures. Field Sparrow and Towhee: the flight of Apr 28 brought hundreds of these birds down over the area; both were noted feeding on shoreline wrack (Oneida Lake) and on open lawns. White-crowned Sparrow: from Apr 21 (near Rome) to May 30, Syracuse; outstanding numbers thru the first two weeks of May with 150+ on May 12 as peak figure. White-throated Sparrow: Burt's banding shows a better flight than '55 but lower numbers than '54; peak numbers on May 8. Fox Sparrow: small numbers thru April; flight of Apr 28 left stragglers to May 1, the departure date. Lincoln's Sparrow: first report, one trapped and banded on May 9; about 10 birds reported to last date, May 20 with 3/day as peak count. Lapland Longspur: a single report, five in spring plumage with a large flock of Horned Larks and three Snow Buntings near Baldwinsville on Apr 8, the last date for both those winter visitants.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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The first of April brought spring-like weather and the snow began to melt at last. Winter had lasted to the end of March. The month of May was nearly four degrees below normal and the rains were frequent. These weather conditions delayed the development of some species of plants and insects much more than others. Warblers that usually feed in the tree tops were forced to look for food nearer the ground where they were more easily seen. Less foliage on the trees also helped observers. Many birds arrived late this spring, but a few were seen about the usual time. No doubt these same conditions also help to explain why so many people saw Scarlet Tanagers the latter part of May.

LOONS — DUCKS: The last half of April saw a good flight of Loons (Belknap). An American Egret was seen at the edge of Grasse River in front of Dr. Langdon's house on Apr 25. Egrets are more likely to be found in this region after the breeding season, although one was seen a few years ago near Potsdam about Apr 10 (Nichols). Canada Geese appeared early in April and stayed late. A flock of about 70 geese flew over Watertown May 5. The only Whistling Swans reported were seen by Evans near the outlet of Stony Creek in southern Jefferson County. Greater Scaup stayed as late as May 12, the latest on record (Nichols).

HAWKS — OWLS: Pigeon Hawk stayed until May 13 (Nichols). The earliest report of a Killdeer was Apr 4, although they are often seen two or three weeks earlier. Sora Rails were seen at Beaver Meadow May 18. Among the birds reported by David Gordon of Carthage are: Wilson's Snipe and Upland Plover Apr 28, Solitary Sandpiper May 5, Spotted Sandpiper and Pectoral Sandpiper May 12. The Solitary Sandpiper stayed until May 21 (Nichols). A Snowy Owl stayed for a week near Watertown and was last seen May 18 (Belknap).

SWIFTS — WARBLERS: The first Chimney Swift was seen in Watertown May 12 and Nighthawks came the next day. Tree Swallows appeared the first week in April in spite of adverse weather (Belknap) and on time (Nichols). Barn Swallows reached Madrid Apr 13, three days earlier than any previous record (Nichols). L. Blake of Potsdam has one pair of Bluebirds but says they are about as scarce as last year. Nichols says that they have been rare this year as last and mentions their inability to compete with Starlings. Joseph and Agnes Blake noted that the warblers came about on time but stayed late. They saw and positively identified: Black and White, April 28; Black-throated Green, May 11; Wilson's, May 17;

Canada, May 22; Prothonotary and Blackburnian, May 20; Chestnut-sided, May 12 and May 20, Parula, May 22. On May 25 they identified the Blue-winged, Golden-winged and Brewster's Warblers and they saw Yellow-breasted Chats on May 11. All of these birds were either seen near Watertown or at their camp near Clayton. A Wilson's Warbler was seen May 19 (Gordon) and one was found dead in Watertown. Among the warblers reported by Gordon are: Nashville, May 12; Canada, Magnolia and Bay-breasted, May 19; Parula, May 20; and Black-poll June 3. He mentions that many of these were seen feeding near the ground as were three Cerulean Warblers near Watertown. Cape May Warblers appeared May 15 and stayed until May 27; Canada Warblers arrived May 16 (early). Nashville Warblers stayed until May 21 and Tennessee Warblers until June 1 (late dates, Nichols).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Baltimore Orioles were first seen in Carthage May 11 and in Watertown May 13. Redwings were about a month late in reaching Madrid, and Meadowlarks were also late. A Rusty Blackbird was seen May 5 (Gordon). Scarlet Tanagers were first seen May 14. There were many reports of these birds being seen and they were seen in many places. Probably the conditions for seeing them were better than usual as it does not seem possible that there is the increase the number of records might seem to indicate. The number of Evening Grosbeaks coming to feeders began to decrease about the first of May and very few came after May 11 to May 15. However, two males were still coming to the feeder of Louise Blake near Potsdam (June 5). Perhaps their mates have nests near. Pine Siskins were seen near Clayton May 22 and a small flock stayed near Potsdam for two weeks. A heavy flight of White-crowned Sparrows occurred between May 1 and May 21. Juncos were seen from late April to May 23 which is late (Belknap).

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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April, the coldest in 32 years, was followed by the coldest May on record. These probably will also be noted as two of the rainiest months. There were only 13 clear days during this period and the rainfall was fantastic. Snow fell on May 4 to a depth of one inch. Again on May 11 it adorned the trees but melted at ground level. Near freezing temperatures held back the development of insects to the point where only the barest minimum were available and our bird friends had to work hard to find even these few. It forced the top level feeding species down to ground level where what little sunshine we did have encouraged some insects to develop. Stream edges were overrun with species normally found in tree tops and at hilly or mountainous elevations. Here the early hatches of aquatic insects provided the bulk of food during this period.

Scarlet Tanagers seemed to be hurt the most and many perished. Possibly other species also died, but the bright red of the Tanager caught the eye and many were brought to me for identification and for mounting. Many of the early birds moving into this area somehow found sufficient food to maintain themselves, but as they tried to move further north they met even colder conditions and returned. This only aggravated the circumstances since the area already was holding more birds which had followed the first wave. We therefore had a tremendous population of birds in an area with inadequate food. It made for a birder's dream come true; their preoccupation in finding food made the shiest species as friendly as the family canary. Tanagers could be approached to within five feet and leaning against a tree