

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

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There can be no doubt that we had a precocious spring, at least here in the North Country. Premature budding, followed by real cold snaps right up until the end of the period, left the birder as well as the birds utterly frustrated. Although there was snow on the ground until late April, there were days during the middle of that month when 70 degree temperatures were not uncommon.

There was a dearth of warblers, tanagers, and thrushes this spring. In the Keeseville area there were so few warblers that for days in a row they were absent from the listings. There were no so-called peak days. Further inland the flights appeared to be better, with more species being reported. I am grateful to my correspondents in that area, for without their reports there would be little to say at this time.

Loons — Owls: A few flocks of geese were seen or heard, but there was not an above-average number of reports this spring. Of the several species of waterfowl that wintered in the area (Lake Champlain never did completely freeze over during the winter), a few began moving inland in April. A few species were noted at Fish Creek campsite by Apr 23 (Amstutz) and as early as Apr 9 at Tupper Lake (Delehanty).

The Pigeon Hawk, Marsh Hawk, and Osprey were recorded at Sunmount on Apr 17, and a Bald Eagle was there on Apr 24 (Amstutz). While at Keeseville from Apr 1 to Apr 20 I recorded the Sharp-shinned Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk. There were no reports of Cooper's Hawks or Goshawks throughout the area.

The killdeer arrived at Sunmount on Apr 24 (Amstutz). The Spotted Sandpiper and Solitary Sandpiper were at Keeseville on May 3 and 11 respectively. A Common Snipe was recorded on Apr 24 (Amstutz). The Mourning Dove was seen on Apr 4 at Sunmount (Amstutz).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The Least Flycatcher was noted at Sunmount on May 18, and the Wood Pewee was there on May 21 (Amstutz). At Keeseville I saw the Phoebe on Apr 13 and the Eastern Kingbird on May 11. Bank Swallows had arrived at Keeseville by Apr 13, and Purple Martins were there by May 4. Tree Swallows were at Tupper Lake by Apr 18 (Delehanty).

Veeries had arrived at Tupper Lake by May 20, and Catbirds had arrived a bit over a week earlier (Delehanty). The Hermit Thrush and Wood Thrush were recorded at Sunmount on Apr 24 and May 10 respectively (Amstutz). Bluebirds were at Keeseville by Apr 22, and the Brown Thrasher arrived on schedule on Apr 24. A shrike was seen on Apr 9 (Amstutz).

Vireos — Sparrows: Red-eyed Vireos put in an appearance on May 20. As previous mentioned, there were few warbler reports, but a few of the recorded arrival dates follow: Yellow Warbler (May 9), Yellowthroat, Redstart, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided and Ovenbird (May 7), Magnolia Warbler (May 18), and Cape May Warbler (May 21).

Bobolinks were seen at Keeseville late in the period, and Baltimore Orioles had arrived there by May 10.

Evening Grosbeaks were present at Tupper Lake until May 4 (Delehanty) and at Sunmount until May 22 (Amstutz). At Keeseville many large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks remained until early May when they apparently moved inland. No Pine Grosbeaks were reported in the region. Purple Finches were reported on several occasions in late April and early May. Pine Siskins were observed on Apr 25 at Tupper Lake (Delehanty).

Vesper Sparrows and Fox Sparrows were at Tupper Lake on Apr 8, and the Savannah Sparrow was there the following day (Delehanty). Chipping Sparrows had returned to Keeseville by Apr 22. There were several reports of White-crowned Sparrows.

Keeseville