

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

After the long winter, spring with its mid-summer temperatures burst forth upon us and just seemed to make the foliage ooze out all at once. Since then and until now there has been adequate rainfall and cooler temperatures, and the season has passed normally. (T.L.)

After such a hard winter an amazing number of species arrived early. Warblers seemed decidedly fewer in number in the Saranac Lake area and also in the nearby Montreal area. Both Veery and Wood Thrush have been seen here in good numbers but they have not been heard singing as much as usual. Catbird, Brown Thrasher and Bluebird have stayed with us. (H.D.)

Abbreviations: ELA — Elizabeth L. Anderson; HD — Harriet Delafield; D — J. Delahanty; K — J. Keji; TL — Thomas Lesperance; L — Lake; Am — American; R — River; nos — numbers; Rd — Road.

All birds reported by Harriet L. Delafield were seen within a ten-mile radius of Saranac Lake unless otherwise stated. Likewise, records by J. Keji are from Ray Brook area and records from J. Delahanty are from the Tupper Lake area.

Loons—Ducks: Common Loon: quite common throughout the area in suitable habitats. Pied-billed Grebe: one Apr 1, (D). Holboell's Grebe (see note at end of report): one May 12, (D). Great Blue Heron: one May 2 (K); one May 9 (D). Am Bittern: two Apr 19, (D); heard May 6 (K). Little Green Heron: one May 6, and a pair May 14 (D). Canada Goose: Apr 3 (first) (D); 16 May 6 (K). Black Duck: seven Apr 4 and six Apr 5 (HD); Apr 14 (D). Pintail: Apr 26 (D). Blue-winged Teal: May 13 (D). Green-winged Teal: Apr 28 (K). Wood Duck: May 13 (D). Green-winged Teal: Apr 28 (K). Wood Duck: May 13 (D). Ring-necked Duck: Apr 11 (D); two pair on Jones Pond May 4, 9, & 11 (HD). Canvasback: May 5 (stayed about two weeks) (D and many others). Scaup: May 12 (D). Common Goldeneye: Apr 11, (D). Bufflehead: Apr 17 (D). Hooded Merganser: Apr 16 (K); one May 5 Raquette R (HD); a pair May 9, Mt. Pond (HD). Common Merganser: a pair on Saranac R near Ausable Forks, Apr 27 (HD).

Hawks—Owls: Cooper's: Apr 16 (K). Red-shouldered: a pair May 4, Mt. Pond (HD). Broad-winged: Apr 29 (K); one May 4 (HD). Bald Eagle: Apr 5 (K); eagle activity is not reported as common or frequent in the Tupper area this year. Marsh Hawk: one Apr 7 & 10 (HD). Osprey: one May 3 (K); one Apr 12 (K); Joe Hart reports one killed, we have not seen the one over the Saranac R near our house (HD). Peregrine Falcon: Apr 3, Cranberry L. (W. Brockner). Sparrow Hawk: Apr 2 (K); Apr 5 (HD). Ruffed Grouse: normal, (HD). Spruce Grouse: one May 16, Santa Clara Rd (Joseph W. Hart, rep. HD).

Killdeer: Apr 9 (D); until Apr 19 (HD); one May 19, Moira (HD). Am Woodcock: two May 2 (ELA); 10 May 3 and 12 May 6, apparently normal (HD). Common Snipe: two heard, May 6 (HD); Apr 22 (D). Spotted Sandpiper: May 13 (D); May 7, Keeseville on shore of Ausable R along with a Solitary Sandpiper (TL).

Herring Gull: in nos around Ausable Forks Apr 27; three over our river early in May (HD). Common Tern: often seen at Rouses Pt. Black Tern: two May 13 and one May 21 (uncommon) Rouses Pt. (D).

Goatsuckers—Shrikes: Chimney Swift: May 13 (first) (HD). Belted Kingfisher: from Apr 15 on, occasional (HD). Yellow-shafted Flicker: Apr 17 (first) (HD); Apr 17 (D). Pileated Woodpecker: Apr 23 to May 2 (K). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr 23 (K); one May 9 (HD); May 12 (D). Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: normal (HD); low in numbers (D). Eastern Kingbird: May 5-12 (D); May 7-29 (K); May 19, Santa Clara Rd (HD). Great Crested Flycatcher: May 5-12 (D); May 7-29 (K). Eastern Phoebe: Apr 14 (first) (HD); May 5-12 (D); May 7-29 (K). Traill's Flycatcher: May 7-29 (K). Least Flycatcher: May 7-29 (K); eight May 16 on, (HD). Eastern Wood Pewee: May 7-29 (K); May 27 (HD). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 7-29 (K); good nos from May 16 on (HD).

Tree Swallow: Apr 15 (first), three at nest house Apr 21, pair nesting early May (HD). Bank Swallow: May 3 (K); normal nesting numbers on Bloomingdale

Rd (HD). Barn Swallow: Apr 20 (first) (HD). Blue Jay: three at feeder Apr 11, pair from then on (HD). Gray Jay: two May 19 Santa Clara Rd (HD). Common Crow: normal (HD). Black-capped Chickadee: normal (HD). White and Red-breasted Nuthatch: feeder people worried because of lack at feeders—perhaps, a good food supply in the woods is the answer, there seems to be good nos in the woods. Brown Creeper: one Apr 11 and one May 4 (HD); normal throughout the area (D). Winter Wren: one Apr 29 (K); two May 4 and one May 5 (HD). Marsh Wren: Apr 29-May 13 (D). Catbird: Apr 27-May 13 (D). Brown Thrasher: Apr 27-May 13 (D); May 2-31 (K); May 16 one for remainder of period (more thrashers and catbirds in the area than in last five years) (HD).

Robin: Apr 27-May 13 (D); May 2-31 (K); good nos (HD). Wood Thrush: May 2-31 (K); May 2 (HD). Hermit Thrush: Apr 27-May 13 (D); May 2-31 (K); May (HD). Swainson's Thrush: two May 2, some from then on, (HD). Veery: Apr 27-May 13 (D); May 2-31 (K); one May 17 (good nos from then on) (HD). Eastern Bluebird: May 2-31 (K); two May 27 (continued through period) (HD). Water Pipit: May 2 Gabriels (David Young, rep. HD); four May 9 and 15 May 10 (HD). Cedar Waxwing: one Apr 27 (HD). Starling: normal (HD). Solitary Vireo: one May 4 (K); one May 9 (ELA, HD). Red-eyed Vireo: May 20 (K). Warblers: Black and White: Apr 27-May 31 (D); Apr 29-May 31 (K); back May 9 (HD). Nashville: Apr 27-May 31 (D); Apr 19-May 31 (K). Parula: Apr 29-May 31 (K); May 27 (HD). Yellow: Apr 27-May 31 (D). Magnolia: Apr 29-May 31 (K); two May 16 and two May 24 (HD). Black-throated Blue: Apr 27-May 31 (D); Apr 29-May 31 (K); normal nos heard, none seen (HD). Myrtle: Apr 27-May 31 (D); Apr 29-May 31 (K); six May 4 (HD). Black-throated Green: Apr 27-May 31 (D); Apr 29-May 31 (K); three May 9, good nos from then on (HD). Blackburnian: Apr 27-May 31 (D); one May 9 and a pair May 24 (HD). Chestnut-sided: Apr 27-May 31 (D); Apr 29-May 31 (K); one May 15 (HD). Blackpoll: Apr 29-May 31 (K); May 24 (first and only one) (HD). Palm: Apr 27-May 31 (D). Ovenbird: Apr 29-May 31 (K); six May 16, fair nos thereafter (HD). Northern Waterthrush: Apr 27-May 31 (D); one seen and heard May 16 (good nos thereafter) (HD). Yellowthroat: Apr 27-May 31 (D); Apr 29-May 31 (K); May 19 Santa Clara Rd (HD); May 23, good nos to end of period (HD). Wilson's: one May 24 (HD). Canada: Apr 29-May 31 (K); one May 24 (HD). Am Redstart: Apr 29-May 31 (K); one Apr 16, good nos since (HD). House Sparrow: normal, (HD).

Bobolink: one May 13 and nine May 16, good nos since, (HD). Eastern Meadowlark: back by Apr 5, first song Apr 13 (HD). Red-winged Blackbird: 25 Apr 8, last large no at feeder May 1, eight males and 15 females (HD). Baltimore Oriole: one May 19, Town of Santa Clara; pair May 20 Denny Park — female gathering nesting material (HD). Common Grackle: normal (HD). Brown-headed Cowbird: 100+ Apr 6, an albino in this flock; up to 30 on lawn through May 1 (HD). Scarlet Tanager: May 7-31 (K); May 23 (picked up a dead one), good nos since (HD). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 7-31 (K); one Santa Clara Rd and a pair May 26 on Maryland Ave (HD). Indigo Bunting: Apr 5-May 31 (D). Evening Grosbeak: 31 Apr 2, 30 Apr 23, 10 May 1 and five pairs May 7, and thereafter (HD); Apr 5-May 31 (D). Purple Finch: Apr 5 on, (D); May 7-31 (K); small nos through Apr and May (HD). Pinesiskins: Apr 5-May 31 (D); 15 May 4 (last) (HD). Am Goldfinch: Apr 5-May 31 (D); May 7-31 (K); May 16 and since (with us all year) (HD). Red Crossbill: May 7-31 (K). Rufous-sided Towhee: May 7-31 (K).

Sparrows: Savannah: Apr 1-May 31 (K); Back by Apr 5 (HD). Vesper: Apr 1-May 31 (K); back by Apr 4 (HD); Apr 5-May 31 (D). Slate-colored Junco: nos way off, no large flocks seen by or reported to me (HD). Tree: Apr 5-May 31 (D); Apr 1-May 31 (K); fewer than spring of '62, two to four seen regularly through Apr and one May 6 (HD). Chipping: Apr 5-May 31 (D); Apr 1-May 31 (K); back by May 8 (HD). Field: Apr 1-May 31 (K); Apr 5-May (D); one May 3 (one or more since) (HD). White-crowned: Apr 1-May 31 (K); Apr 5-May 31 (D); one May 6, eight May 8, six May 16, one May 24 (last) (HD). White-throated: Apr 5-May 31 (D); Apr 19, seven May 2, nine May 3, six May 12 and ten May 16 (HD). Fox: one Apr 1 and one Apr 5 (HD); Apr 1-May 31 (K); Apr 5-May 31 (D). Lincoln's: Apr 1-May 31 (K). Swamp: Apr 1-May 31 (K); Apr 5-May 31 (D). Sing: Apr 1-May 31 (K); Apr 5-May 31 (D); normal (HD).

Re: Holboell's Grebe . . . Quotes

"The bird was seen through 7x35 glasses at distances of 75-125 feet by Mrs. Chas. Chapman and Mr. & Mrs. Lucien Martin. It was described in detail, as the observers had ample time to study it. Dr. Kingsbury, Agnes Amstutz and I returned to the same spot next day but were unable to find it. The Chapmans and the Martins are reliable observers, I consider this an authentic sighting (D).
Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

April was a very dry month, with only 1.14 inches of precipitation at Albany during the month — less than that of any April of the previous 20 years. Temperatures averaged less than a half-degree from normal, with a high of 70° on Apr 20 and a low of 23° on Apr 1 and Apr 9. The month was also unusually windy, which completed the drying process. May was also extremely dry. Precipitation totalled 1.90 inches at Albany, 1.57 inches below average. Temperatures averaged 56.6°, or 1.3° below normal. There was a late freeze on May 24, when many plants and trees were set back, losing some or all of their new leaves.

Landbird migration proceeded fairly normally through the first part of April, but the cooler weather towards the end of the month slowed the appearance of most species. During May it seemed most species appeared in numbers 4-7 days behind usual. Because of the lack of stormy and rainy weather, there were only three noticeable "waves". The first of these occurred April 20, following a particularly warm night with southerly winds. Many waterfowl (e.g., Horned Grebe, Gadwall, Canvasback, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Bonaparte's Gull) were first reported, or increased greatly in numbers, following this weather pattern. A number of other birds (e.g. Osprey, Virginia Rail, Myrtle Warbler, Palm Warbler, various swallows) also appeared.

The major landbird "wave" of the season occurred May 4-5, when many warblers, thrushes, vireos, and other migrants were first noted, or first appeared in numbers. The temperatures for May 4-5 averaged about 5° above normal, and winds averaged below 10 m.p.h., being generally westerly. The preceding five days had been quite windy and slightly colder than average. Another, less-noted wave occurred May 20-21, with numbers of later migrants appearing. More than the usual number of shorebird reports were received, due no doubt to the prolonged drought which had exposed feeding and loitering areas for these birds.

Hawks are being reported in very low numbers for the second successive year in our area. There seems evidence of a drastic decline in the population of both migrating and breeding hawks encompassing all species excepting Sparrow Hawks and possibly Broad-winged Hawks in Region 8. This may be related to reported difficulties encountered by Ospreys and Bald Eagles. Comments on this subject from other observers would be appreciated.

Rare or unusual species reported during the period included Red-necked Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Snow Goose, Shoveller, Ruddy Duck, Goshawk, Black Rail, Black-bellied Plover, Caspian Tern, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Abbreviations used: Alan Devoe Bird Club — ADBC; Greene County Bird Club — GCBC; Schenectady Bird Club — SBC; arr — arrived; BCM — Black Creek Marsh; br — breasted; ck — creek; com — common; cr — crowned; L — Lake; max — maximum; nr — near; pr — pair; Res — Reservoir; R — River; Nisk WW — Niskayuna Wide Waters; Sar — Saratoga; Sta — Station; thr — throated; W Res — Watervleit Reservoir; w — winged; Visch Fy — Vischer Ferry; Tomh — Tomhannock.

Observers: GB — Guy Bartlett; JHB, BB — James & Barbara Bush; JC — Juanita Cook; PE, GE — Paul & Georgia Erlenbach; MFW — Mabel French; MK — Marcia Kent; HK — Mrs. Harry Ketcham; HM, MM — WN — W. Niefus; ER — Eleanor Radke; EMR — Edgar M. Reilly, Jr.; ERus — Emmy Rusack; WBS — Walton Sabin; BRS — Benton Seguin; RS, MLS — Robert & Mary Lou Shedd; FS, MS — Fred & Myra Smilow; WS — Walter Smith; CT — Catherine Thorne; DJT — Donald Tucker; BW — Beverly Waite; PPW — Peter Wickham; TZ, MZ — T. & M. Zaph.