

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The April weather was generally fair with temperatures above normal and this continued well into May. Birds arrived in this region at their usual time or in some cases a little earlier. Temperatures for the last half of May dropped below normal and there were frequent rains.

The biggest surprise was the number of Cerulean Warblers seen, and the probability that they are nesting here. Several Red Crossbills visited Allen's feeder frequently in late April and early May.

PRGMA is used for the Perch Lake Game Management Area in Jefferson County.

Loons — Ducks: Double-crested Cormorant: as numerous as last year, about 19 active nests noted May 21. Great Blue Heron: more nests this year at PRGMA. Cattle Egret: only one reported, near PRGMA May 11. Black-crowned Night Heron: colonies larger on all islands visited (Allen). Canada Goose: A very good flight. Largest count at PRGMA was 5,000 Apr 6. Geese were reported to be damaging the grass or grain crops along the banks of Black River in Lewis County in April. Several were heard flying as late as May 17. May be nesting at El Dorado, Bass Island and again at PRGMA. Mallard: Nests on Bass and Gull Is. Pintail: 30 at PRGMA Apr 4 and a pair nesting there. Redhead: at PRGMA in early May. Ringed-necked Duck: 20 at PRGMA Apr 18 and a pair there as late as May 24.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: one in road near Edwards eating a dead woodchuck May 10, four near Redwood May 23. Goshawk: nesting again in Lewis County (Walker). Broad-winged Hawk: pair in woods near South Edwards May 10. Bald Eagle: adult at El Dorado May 2. Osprey: pair at PRGMA in late Apr, one at Natural Bridge May 10 and a nest at Grass Lake. Bobwhite: seen around Watertown, but these are probably birds that escaped this spring. Turkey: seen on Wellesley Is. Black-bellied Plover: six at El Dorado May 30. Ruddy Turnstone: many at El Dorado May 30. Common Snipe: Apr 12. Upland Plover: five near Henderson Apr 19, early. Spotted Sandpiper: May 9, PRGMA. Solitary Sandpiper: May 16, Sulphur Springs. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr 18, PRGMA. White-rumped Sandpiper: one at El Dorado May 21. Dunlin: six at PRGMA May 12. Short-billed Dowitcher: at El Dorado May 21-30. Sanderling: El Dorado May 21. Herring Gull: nesting colonies are about the same size as last year. Ring-billed Gull: nesting colonies increasing in size each year. Caspian Tern: two at El Dorado May 21, not surprising now that we know they are breeding on Pigeon Island, a Canadian Island in Lake Ontario. Mourning Dove: seem to be more numerous each year. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: May 13, Burrville. Black-billed Cuckoo: about as numerous as other years.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: Red-headed Woodpecker: first May 8, several seen including two in Lewis Co. Kingbird: May 9. Great Crested Flycatcher: first May 8. Rough-winged Swallow: May 2. Bluebird: an increase in the number of these birds reported, largely due to people who have read of the scarcity of this species. Nests in boxes at Black River and Brownville. Warbling Vireo: May 3.

Black-and-white Warbler: Apr 19, Watertown. Golden-winged Warbler: May 24 (Belknap). Orange-crowned Warbler: one seen. Parula Warbler: seen by three observers. Cape May Warbler: May 5. Cerulean Warbler: first May 9 at PRGMA, later at three more places in the vicinity of Watertown. Some of the Cerulean Warblers were found in the same places several days later so they may be nesting. Black-poll Warbler: May 17. Ovenbird: May 10. Redstart: May 8. Scarlet Tanager: May 7.

Evening Grosbeak: seen in fairly good numbers at feeders until late Apr, but only a few in May, last at Allen's feeder May 15. Redpoll: 200 at

PRGMA Apr 4. Red Crossbill: 18 at Allen's feeder Apr 22 to May 28. Tree Sparrow: last at Allen's feeder Apr 21, but reported by others in early May. 173 Haley St., Watertown

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

Mr Kampf of the Ray Brook weather station tells us that temperatures ranged widely in April 1964. A record low of -5° on April 5 was preceded by 8 inches of new snow on April 3 and three inches more on April 4. Most of this snow was gone by April 8. Temperature high was 71° on April 28 and 29. Precipitation and wind were about average for the month.

May temperatures were close to normal with light frost on the 15th and moderate frost on the 21st. Temperature high was 83° on May 25. Precipitation was above normal; 1.35 inches of rain fell overnight on the 15th. Winds were considerably stronger than normal; gusts up to 60 mph on the 9th and 30 mph on the 10th and 20th.

Two records of Snow Geese are unusual in the Saranac Lake area. We were extremely disappointed at not finding an active Goshawk nest. The lack of at least one Bald Eagle at Tupper Lake is also something to be alarmed about.

Mrs. McIlroy's observations at Piseco Lake were made between May 28 and 31. She notes: "Spraying the shore of Piseco Lake has certainly cut the insect population to a small fraction of its former numbers, so that even assuming that the spray itself did not affect the birds, the insect population would not support the numbers of breeding birds that used to be present."

Observers and initials: AA — Agnes Amstutz; EA — Elizabeth Anderson; ED — Ethel Dyer; HD — Harriet Delafield; JD — Mrs. John Delahanty; JH — Joseph Hart; JK — Joseph Keji; MK — Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury; DMCI — Dorothy McIlroy.

Abbreviations used: B — Brook; L — Lake; P — Pond; R — River.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: pair Rainbow L and Duck P (JH); L Colby May 28 (HD); four Tupper L Apr 18 (AA, MK); two May 3 Rollins P (AA). Pied-billed Grebe: seen Apr 26, May 8 & 12 Tupper L (MK); two May 11 Tupper L (AA). Great Blue Heron: one Apr 15 Ray B (JK); one Apr 25 thru May 3 Tupper L "scarce" (AA); one May 7 Saranac L (HD). Green Heron: one May 13 Tupper L (AA, MK). American Bittern: one Apr 26, four May 8, two May 12 Tupper L (MK); one May 18 Saranac R (HD). Canada Goose: 65 Apr 27 Ray B (JK); JD reports small flocks at Tupper L from Apr 2 to May 26; at least one pair put out by the Conservation Dept in 1963 on the Raquette R has nested and brought off a brood; 50 Apr 12 L Flower (JH, HD); 73 Apr 20 Debar (JH); 12 L Champlain May 11 (JH). **Snow Goose:** two L Flower Apr 12 (JH, HD); six immatures in a rye field Gabriels May 20 (EA, HD, D Young). Mallard: pair Apr 30 Saranac R (EA, HD); pair May 15 Oseetah L (JH). Black Duck: reported in small numbers from Ray B, Tupper L and Saranac L; six pair May 15 Oseetah L (JH). Pintail: four Apr 25 Tupper L (JD). Green-winged Teal: pair Apr 30 Ray B (JK). Blue-winged Teal: pair nesting Saranac R (EA, HD). Wood Duck: four Apr 19 Tupper L (MK); two May 2 Tupper L (AA); five May 11 L Alice (JH). Ring-necked Duck: ten Apr 17 Tupper L (MK); 13 pair May 15 Oseetah L (JH). Lesser Scaup: 30 Tupper L Apr 17 thru 20 (AA, MK); four Apr 21 L Colby (HD). Common Goldeneye: small numbers seen by MK Apr 4 thru 26 Tupper L; one female May 10 St Regis Falls (EA, HD). Bufflehead: 30 Tupper L Apr 25 and 26 (AA, MK); three pair L Flower Apr 25 (EA, HD). Hooded Merganser: small numbers, Tupper L after Apr 12; pair, L Clear Apr 21 (HD). Common Merganser: one to nine Apr 4 thru 19 Tupper L (MK); one male, Rocky B, Upper Chateaugay (JH); Piseco L, late May (DMCI).