

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).

Hawks — Owls: Sharp-shinned Hawk: Apr 30, one carefully identified Forestdale Rd, NE of Franklin Falls (EA, HD). Broad-winged Hawk: reported from Tupper L, Saranac L and Ray B; nest in Birch tree Ray B, May 21 (JK). Golden Eagles: one May 20, site undisclosed for conservation reasons (JH). Bald Eagle: no reports, JD says "this is the first year in several that I haven't seen the Bald Eagle". Marsh Hawk: one Apr 6 West Chazy (HD); one Apr 18 Tupper L (JD); one May 1 Ray B (JK); pair over Saranac R May 4 (HD). Osprey: one or two, Tupper L, Apr 12 thru 26 (AA, JD, MK); one May 12 Ray B (JK); encouraging numbers around Saranac L, at nest near Rainbow L May 20 (EA, HD). Sparrow Hawk: sparse reports early April, Tupper L, West Chazy and Saranac L. Ruffed Grouse: heard drumming Apr 15 thru May 17 Ray B (JK); two May 2 Tupper L (MK). Killdeer: one May 11 Tupper L (AA); one Apr 3 and May 12 Saranac L (HD). American Woodcock: two May 3 Tupper L (MK); singing ground survey seems to show normal numbers around Saranac L and Franklin Falls (EA, HD, JH). Common Snipe: one to five seen off and on from Apr 18 to May 12, Tupper L (AA, MK); heard May 1 Ray B (JK); one May 18 Saranac R (HD). Spotted Sandpiper: one May 12 Rocky B, Upper Chateaugay (JH). Solitary Sandpiper: one May 10 (AA) and one May 13 (MK) both at Tupper L. Herring Gull: seem less numerous this year, Tupper L (JD); one Apr 15 Ray B (JK); 15 Apr 9, Cadyville (HD). Black Tern: three May 26 Tupper L (JD). Mourning Dove: two Apr 6 Tupper L (AA); one Norman's Ridge May 12 (EA, HD).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: one Apr 27 thru month of May, Tupper L (AA). Common Nighthawk: two May 15, Tupper L (JD); one May 24, Saranac L (JK). Chimney Swift: back to Ray B (JK) and Saranac L (HD) by May 6; May 8, Tupper L (MK); Piseco L, late May (DMcI). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: first May 16, courtship flight May 26, Ray B (JK); good numbers reported in Saranac L area after May 12 (ED). Belted Kingfisher: two Apr 17 Tupper L (MK); one Apr 15 Ray B (JK); four Apr 30 Saranac L (HD); late May, Piseco L (DMcI). Yellow-shafted Flicker: Apr 15 seems to have been day of return in Ray B area (JK); Saranac L (HD); Tupper L (JD) late May Piseco L (DMcI). Pileated Woodpecker: one May 8 Tupper L (MK); Piseco L (DMcI). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr 15 Ray B (JK); Apr 18 Tupper L (MK); Apr 24 Saranac L (HD) Piseco L (DMcI). Hairy Woodpecker: seems normal in all areas. Downy Woodpecker: same as Hairy. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one Apr 23 Azure Mt.; one May 4 Debar (JH). Eastern Kingbird: May 12 Saranac L (HD); May 22 Ray B (JK); no reports from Tupper L though this bird seems more numerous this year in Saranac L area and north (HD). Great Crested Flycatcher: one May 8 Ray B (JK); one May 15 Tupper L (AA); one May 17 Saranac L (EA); May 24 Jay (HD); Piseco L (DMcI). Eastern Phoebe: one Saranac L (HD) and Ray B (JK) Apr 15; two Tupper L May 3 (AA); Piseco L (DMcI). Traill's Flycatcher: two May 24 near Jay (EA, HD); Piseco L (DMcI). Least Flycatcher: common in all areas after May 3. Eastern Wood Pewee: May 28 Ray B (JK); two May 30 Tupper L (AA); Piseco L (DMcI). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 18, Tupper L (AA); Ray B (JK) and Piseco L (DMcI). Tree Swallow: one Apr 10 Tupper L (AA); four Apr 15 Saranac L (HD); Apr 27 Ray B (JK); Piseco L (DMcI). Bank Swallow: Apr 29 Ray B (JK); 40 May 3 Tupper L (AA); 20 May 6 Saranac L (HD). Rough-winged Swallow: May 3 thru 26 Ray B (JK). Barn Swallow: Ray B Apr 19 on, "our commonest swallow" (JK); five Apr 25 Tupper L (AA); two Apr 26 Saranac L (HD); Piseco L (DMcI). Cliff Swallow: 30 May 3 Tupper L (AA); May 6 & 7 Ray B (JK). Gray Jay: one May 10 Tupper L (AA). Blue Jay: normal all areas. Common Crow: no very large numbers reported but noted in all areas. Black-capped Chickadee: normal throughout region, nest Apr 17 Ray B (JK). Boreal Chickadee: Apr 4 & 5 Ray B (JK). White-breasted Nuthatch: normal throughout region. Red-breasted Nuthatch: normal. Brown Creeper: one Apr 18 Tupper L (AA, MK); one Apr 21 Saranac L (HD); Piseco L (DMcI). House Wren: one May 3 Tupper L "few this year" (AA); no reports from other areas. Winter Wren: one Apr 22 thru May 8 Tupper L (AA, MK); one May 7 Saranac L

(HD). Catbird: normal in all areas after May 12. Brown Thrasher: May 3 Ray B (JK); May 5 Tupper L (AA); pair Saranac L after May 7 (HD). Robin: good numbers reported in all areas. Wood Thrush: seem down in numbers. Hermit Thrush: also down in numbers. Swainson's Thrush: one May 29 Saranac L (HD); Piseco L (DMcI). Veery: most numerous thrush of this period, back May 8 Tupper L (AA) and Saranac L (HD); May 18 Ray B (JK). Eastern Bluebird: pair nesting, Tupper L Apr 10 (AA); one May 26 Saranac L (HD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: small numbers Apr 18 thru 25 Tupper L (AA, MK). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two Apr 18 to May 12 Tupper L (AA, MK); Apr 23 Ray B (JK). Water Pipit: late April and early May at Gabriels "flocks smaller than in past four years — 30 as compared to 100 or more" (David Young); two Horseshoe Pond May 15 (AA). Cedar Waxwing: May 23 Ray B (JK); six May 28 Saranac L (M Muncil); Piseco L (DMcI). Starling: normal.

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireo: one Apr 28, nest May 7 Ray B (JK); two May 8 Tupper L (MK); Piseco L (DMcI). Red-eyed Vireo: back early May all areas. Warbling Vireo: one May 8 Tupper L (AA, MK). Black-and-white Warbler: May 3 Ray B (JK); one May 8 Tupper L (MK); none heard at Piseco L (DMcI). Nashville Warbler: good numbers. Parula Warbler: excellent numbers; abundant Piseco L (DMcI). Yellow Warbler: reported from all areas. Magnolia Warbler: a few through May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: good numbers. Myrtle Warbler: "not so common this year" Ray B (JK); April 26 Tupper L (MK); normal throughout Saranac L (HD); Piseco L (DMcI). Black-throated Green Warbler: good numbers thru May. Blackburnian Warbler: May 7 Saranac L (HD); May 11 Ray B (JK); May 12 Upper Chateaugay (JH); May 18 Tupper L (MK); Piseco L (DMcI). Chestnut-sided Warbler: good numbers from May 6. Bay-breasted Warbler: one May 16 Osgood R (EA, HD). Ovenbird: fair numbers after May 6; Piseco L (DMcI). Northern Waterthrush: May 2 Saranac L (HD); May 12 Tupper L (MK). Mourning Warbler: one early May Tupper L (AA). Yellowthroat: good numbers after May 6. Wilson's Warbler: one May 12 Tupper L (MK); one May 26 Ray B (JK). Canada Warbler: back by May 12. American Restart: back by May 10.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: Tupper L May 12 (AA); Ray B May 17 (JK); Saranac L May 27 (HD). Eastern Meadowlark: two Apr 5 Ray B (JK); four Apr 6 Saranac L (HD); six Apr 10 Tupper L (JD). Red-winged Blackbird: normal throughout region. Baltimore Oriole: May 3, good numbers Tupper L (AA); May 11 Saranac L (HD); May 21 Ray B (JK). Common Grackle: common. Brown-headed Cowbird: 50 Apr 4 some through May Saranac L (HD); all period Ray B (JK). Scarlet Tanager: May 3 Tupper L (AA); Piseco L (DMcI). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one May 6 Ray B (JK); May 8 Tupper L (MK); two May 11 Saranac L (ED); Piseco L (DMcI). Indigo Bunting: May 17 Ray B (JK); early May Tupper L (AA). Evening Grosbeak: small flocks throughout period in all areas. Purple Finch: few in tri-lakes area all period; "abundant" Piseco L (DMcI). Common Redpoll: four Apr 4 Saranac L (ED). Pine Siskin: May 28 Tupper L (AA); Apr 18 Ray B (JK); Apr 11 Saranac L (HD); Piseco L (DMcI). American Goldfinch: a few reported from all areas except Piseco L. Red Crossbill: Apr 8, 17 & 29 (no numbers given) Ray B (JK). Rufous-sided Towhee: one Apr 27 Saranac L, this bird was convincingly described to me by Mrs. J Schmidt (HD); one May 6 Ray B (JK); one May 15 Tupper L (AA). Savannah Sparrow: three Apr 20, eight May 3 Ray B (JK); two Apr 26 Tupper L (MK); one May four Saranac L (HD). Vesper Sparrow: six Apr 18 Tupper L (AA); Apr 19 Ray B (JK); Apr 27 Saranac L (HD). Slate-colored Junco: no large number reported from any area. Tree Sparrow: two Apr 18 Tupper L (AA, MK); 15 Apr 27 Saranac L (ED). Chipping Sparrow: one Apr 15 Saranac L (HD); one Apr 18 Tupper L (MK); Apr 28 Ray B (JK). Field Sparrow: one Apr 11 Tupper L (JD); three Apr 16 Ray B (JK); one Apr 21 Saranac L (HD); Piseco L (DMcI). White-crowned Sparrow: good numbers Tupper L May 10 thru 18 (AA); small numbers May 5 thru 21 Ray B (JK); one to four May 4-11, Saranac L (HD). White-throated Sparrow: one Apr

16 Saranac L (HD); ten Apr 18 Tupper L (AA); Apr 15 Ray B "not as common as last year" (JK); Piseco L (DMcI). Fox Sparrow: Apr 8 thru 16 Ray B (JK); one May 1 Tupper L (AA); gone from Saranac L May 4 (ED). Lincoln's Sparrow: May 8 & 12 Ray B (JK). Swamp Sparrow: Tupper L, Saranac L and Ray B after Apr 18. Song Sparrow: one Apr 2 Saranac L (EA); throughout period Ray B (JK); one Apr 11 Tupper L (MK); Piseco L (DMcI). Snow Bunting: flock of 20 Apr 6 Tupper L (AA).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

This spring was once again quite dry. Precipitation at Albany totaled 2.17 in. during Apr and 1.31 in. for May, 0.60 and 2.16 in. below normal, respectively. Although Apr, with an average of 45.7°, was very close to the normal in temperature. May was a warm month, with temperatures averaging 61.7°, 3.8° above normal.

Ducks and geese were observed in average numbers early in the period. An unusual number of species were recorded well into May, although some observers felt the bulk of the waterfowl left a little earlier than usual. The very dry conditions prevailing in May made the spring shorebird flight in Region 8 an outstanding one.

Despite a series of pleasant days at the end of Apr and the beginning of May, the bulk of the landbirds did not appear until May 6-10. Observers reported good numbers of many species on May 9 and 10 especially. It seems likely that a storm passing south of the Region at the beginning of May held back many migrants for a few days, as birds usually appearing first in very early May were reported generally 3-4 days later this year. Few "waves" were noted after that culmination on May 9-10, as days continued to be sunny and pleasant, and the birds were not detained.

The spring migration of warblers was generally disappointing. Despite the wide variety of species reported, most observers saw few individuals, even of some rather common species. Although this was very likely due partly to the lack of rain or even cloud cover on many nights, still even nesting warblers seemed less common in a number of local areas.

An interesting result of the influx of finches over the past winter was the number of late records of these birds; especially noteworthy were the many reports of lingering Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills.

Unusual or rare species reported during the period included Red-thr Loon, Cattle Egret, Brant, Snow Goose, Shoveller, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, King Rail, Iceland Gull, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, Brewster's Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole and Dickcissel. In addition, a House Finch was recorded in the Region for the first time, and two sandpipers which were probably Baird's Sandpipers were reported.

Abbreviations used: arr — arrived; BCM — Black Creek Marshes; br — breasted; Co — County; Colu — Columbia; com — common; cr — crowned; L — Lake; LK — Lisha Kill; max — maximum count; n — necked; Nisk — Niskayuna; nr — near; NWW — Niskayuna Wide Waters; pr — pair; R — River; Res — Reservoir; SCR — Stony Creek Reservoir; SL — Saratoga Lake; Tomh — Tomhannock; thr — throated; w — winged; WR — Water-vliet Reservoir.

Observers: ADBC — Alan Devoe Bird Club; GCBC — Greene County Bird Club; SBC — Schenectady Bird Club; GA — Gus Angst; GB — Guy Bartlett; TB, AB — Tom & Arlene Brown; LB, VB — Lee & Virginia