

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

DAVID C. GORDON

April 1-2 and April 29-30 were warm in Watertown but most of the weather on dates between was cool to cold with much wind and 15 days of rain totaling 3.62 inches—above normal.

It was the coldest May in 50 years with an unofficial high in the low 80's May 1 and an unofficial low of 28 on May 6 with frost on the ground. The average daily temperature was 48.9 degrees, 6.6 degrees below normal. A wet snowstorm whitened the ground on the night of May 7. Cold weather prevailed until May 13. A lull of milder temperatures ended May 28 and May finished with cool weather. The wettest May in three years was recorded with 3.71 inches on eleven days. There was still much snow in the woods on THP May 13.

Cold, wet weather at crucial times during spring migration slowed the movement of most species so the arrival dates were much later than normal but in some cases made better observations possible. A few early dates are misleading where they were apparently ahead of schedule, because cold temperatures settled in after the first arrivals and the main body of migrants came much later. Unless there are other comments, dates given below are arrival dates.

Rarer species for the Region include: Cattle Egret, Brant, Snow and Blue Goose, Bald Eagle, Ruff, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow. Scarcer than usual were the Marsh Hawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Long-billed Marsh Wren and Bluebird. Missed entirely were the rails, some shorebirds, some warblers and Rusty Blackbird. Several warblers and shorebirds were recorded later than at any time in more than a decade.

Localities: BCW—Brookside Cemetery, Watertown; ED—El Dorado; Jeff—Jefferson County; PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area; SL—St. Lawrence County; SB—Sherwin's Bay; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; Wat—Watertown; WC—Watertown Center.

Observers: AA—Arthur Allen; JB—John Belknap; FC—Frank Clinch; DG—David Gordon; RW—Robert Walker.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Pillar Pt Apr 14; ED Apr 22. Horned Grebe: Adams Cove Apr 24. Double-crested Cormorant: 15-20 occupied nests Gull Is. May 27. Green Heron: May 12. **Cattle Egret**: first reported Pillar Pt. May 14; one imm seen SB May 23 (FC, RW). Black-crowned Night Heron: over 50 nests on Gull and Bass Is. May 27. Least Bittern: PRGMA May 23 (RW). Amer. Bittern: Apr 29. Canada Goose: over 400 PRGMA May 6; over 40 in flight Mich. Mills, THP May 13; two PRGMA May 27. **Brant**: nine PRGMA Apr 23 (AA). **Snow Goose**: one Apr 15-20 PRGMA; 15 imm May 6-10 ED (DG, AA). **Blue Goose**: one PRGMA Apr 2 (Gaskin); one PRGMA Apr 15 (DG). Pintail: last Apr 29. Blue-winged Teal: Apr 15. Green-winged Teal: last Apr 29—seemed scarce. Amer. Widgeon: May 6. Shoveler: Apr 19-23. Ring-necked Duck: last Apr 29. Greater Scaup: last Apr 22. Common Golden-eye: last Apr 22. Bufflehead: last Apr 22. Oldsquaw: last Apr 22. Hooded Merganser: last May 6. Red-breasted Merganser: several ED Apr 22.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: one May 24 near Oxbow (AA). Red-shouldered Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk: both May 7 near S. Edwards, SL Co (AA). Rough-legged Hawk: last Apr 14. **Bald Eagle**: two adults near Jeff—SL Co

line Apr 11 reported to JB; two adults ED May 7 fide Brown; one adult ED May 10 (AA). Osprey: pair at nest Yellow L May 24-30 (AA, JB). Common Gallinule: Apr 14. Amer. Coot: May 21. Amer. Woodcock: Apr 4 (AA). Common Snipe: May 6. Upland Plover: May 7, 14, 21. Spotted Sandpiper: May 6. Solitary Sandpiper: Apr 21. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr 29. Lesser Yellowlegs: May 6. Pectoral Sandpiper: May 10. Dunlin: May 6. Short-billed Dowitcher: 34 ED May 27 (DG). Semipalmated Sandpiper: May 27. **RUFF**: first known Regional record near Castorland, Lewis Co May 22, a male (JB) breast and upper belly black; lower belly white; back of head, back of neck and upper back solid buffy orange; remainder of underparts mottled. Sanderling: May 20.

Great Black-backed Gull: May 27 Gull Is. Common Tern: May 6. Caspian Tern: Apr 22. Black Tern: May 6. Black-billed Cuckoo: May 21. Snowy Owl: one Chaumont Apr 8; two near Pillar Pt Apr 14, last one Pillar Pt Apr 24 (JB). Short-eared Owl: two Pillar Pt Apr 14 (JB).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: May 29. Chimney Swift: Apr 26—early. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 20. Flicker: Apr 2—not common until much later. Red-headed Woodpecker: one May 27 (FC) only report—seem rare this spring. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr 15. Eastern Kingbird: May 6. Crested Flycatcher: May 19. Traill's Flycatcher: May 28. Least Flycatcher: May 15. Eastern Wood Pewee: May 23. Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 27 PRGMA (DG). Swallows: Tree Apr 2, Bank Apr 29, Rough-winged May 13, Barn Apr 15, Cliff May 14. Purple Martin: Apr 29. Red-breasted Nuthatch: May 1. House Wren: May 10. Winter Wren: May 6. Long-billed Marsh Wren: May 27. Catbird: May 14. Brown Thrasher: Apr 23. Wood Thrush: May 12. Hermit Thrush: May 14. Swainson's Thrush: May 19. Gray-cheeked Thrush: May 23 near Wat (AA). Veery: May 14. Eastern Bluebird: one Apr 5, three Apr 16 (RW); five May 7 (AA). Golden-crowned Kinglet: Apr 14-29 WC (DG). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr 14-29 WC. Water Pipit: May 14 (FC). Cedar Waxwing: Apr 16. Loggerhead Shrike: May 12.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated May 21, Solitary May 7, Red-eyed May 14, Warbling May 15.

Warblers: Black-and-white: May 3. Golden-winged: pair May 21 (AA). Tennessee: May 19. Nashville: May 7. Yellow: May 3. Magnolia: May 20. Cape May: May 13 (JB). Black-throated Blue: May 7. Myrtle: May 7. Black-throated Green: May 7. Cerulean: May 21 three locations. Blackburnian: May 14. Chestnut-sided: May 14. Bay-breasted: May 27-28. Blackpoll: May 27-28. Ovenbird: May 14. Northern Waterthrush: May 7. Mourning: May 19; new station near Wat May 21-30. Yellowthroat: May 14. Wilson's: May 21-28. Canada: May 20. Amer. Redstart: May 14.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 16. Baltimore Oriole: May 14. Scarlet Tanager: May 18. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 12. Indigo Bunting: May 21. Evening Grosbeak: pair at feeder Apr 7 (AA); flock S. Edwards May 7 (AA). Purple Finch: first report Apr 5, next report not until May 7. Pine Siskin: Apr 23 BCW (AA). Amer. Goldfinch: summer plumage May 1. Rufous-sided Towhee: May 3. Savannah Sparrow: Apr 29. Vesper Sparrow: Apr 22. Slate-colored Junco: Apr 14-29 WC. Tree Sparrow: last May 3 (JB). Chipping Sparrow: Apr 21—early (AA). Field Sparrow: Apr 16. White-crowned Sparrow: May 4-24. White-throated Sparrow: Apr 15. Fox Sparrow: Apr 14-May 9. Lincoln's Sparrow: one banded May 27-28 (FC). Swamp Sparrow: May 6.

Please have summer reports in by August 21.

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