

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

April 1967 was not a dramatic one. It was cloudy, wet and windy with temperatures averaging a fraction above normal. The thermometer reached a record-breaking 79 degrees on the second. Wind velocities were below normal, snowfall was about eight inches and precipitation levels were about normal.

May was very dramatic indeed. Dramatically cold, dramatically late snowfall (May 23), dramatically late foliage growth and, on the good side, dramatic displays of Aurora Borealis. Bob Kampf, of Ray Brook, in his May weather summary, suggests that these unusual conditions could have been caused by "heavy solar storm activity."

As might be expected, this weather had strong effects on bird migrants. Some observers saw very few warblers and then only one or two at a time; others found frozen or starving birds; the lucky people had the experience of seeing many species which had come down from the higher cold air to get some food and rest in the sun-warmed air near the ground. One non-birder friend was quite impressed by having, "My woods full of those bright-colored birds. I don't know what you call them."

Greenleaf Chase informs us that there have been at least two attempts at nesting by Golden Eagles in the Adirondacks this Spring. A bird is known to have been on the nest at the site in the Eastern Adirondacks from April 26 to May 25. Unfortunately the nest was deserted by June 12.

At the second site, in the Central Adirondacks, the birds had nested for many years on cliff ledges. This year, for the second time, they tried a tree nest—perhaps because the cliff nests had been molested by humans. They appeared in March to work on a nest started last fall. The female was seen for about five weeks before deserting the nest during the third week in May. Let us say then, that Golden Eagles are still trying the Adirondacks. Let us hope that with the help of ornithologists and conservationists, they may soon succeed.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; EB—Elisabeth Barnet; MB—Marion Brogan; CC—Creta Chase; GTC—Greenleaf T Chase; ED—Ethel Dyer; HD—Harriet Delafield; BF—Bill Frenette; JH—Joseph Hart; GK—Grace Kains; JK—Joseph Keji; MK—Marguerite Kingsbury; RM—Ruth Meier; IW—Isabel Williams; FW—Fred Wardenburg; DY—David Young.

Abbreviations: Aus M—Ausable Marsh; B—brook; P—pond; RB—Ray Brook; SL—Saranac Lake; TL—Tupper Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one L Durant May 29 (MK); pair May 1 Square P, pair May 2 Duck P and McKenzie P, pair May 7 St Regis P (JH); Essex Apr 30-May 5 (FW); L Clear May (MOB). Horned Grebe: Essex Apr 30-May 5 (FW). Pied-billed Grebe: one Apr 19 Aus M (JH). Great Blue Heron: five Apr 5, five May 5, three May 22 Aus M; three nests, two active birds Apr 18 Oseetah, one Apr 14 Jones P, two Apr 19 Kings Bay (JH). American Bittern: one Apr 14 Barnum P Outlet (JH); two May 6 Turtle P (MB); one May 23 Saranac R (EA). Canada Goose: one ADK Loj Apr 1, 500 near Chazy Apr 4 (JH); 49 Apr 2, five large flocks Apr 21 TL (RM); three flocks in night Apr 26 SL (GTC); 40 Apr 19, 75 Apr 27 SL, eight May 19 Lewey L Campsite (EA&HD); 35 SL Apr 30 (LR Kains). Snow Goose: one immature LP Apr 21, 30 Cooperville Apr 27 (JH); five RB May 22 (B Brune).

Mallard: four Apr 7 Aus M, two Apr 14 Jones P, two Apr 14 Barnum P Outlet (JH). Black Duck: normal reports of small numbers from all areas. Pintail: pair Apr 4 Aus M, Apr 19 Kings Bay (JH). Green-winged Teal: two Apr 19 Aus M,

two May 4 Twin Ponds (JH); pair May 8 "in snowstorm like last year" RB (JK). Wood Duck: four Apr 7 Aus M, ten May 22 Aus M (JH); two first week in May Turtle P (MB). Ring-necked Duck: seven Apr 7, 16 males two females "probably not nesting", Apr 19, seven May 8 all Aus M, 25 males Apr 19 Catfish Bay (JH); pair Long P May 13, two TL marshes May 19 (EA&HD). Common Goldeneye: five Apr 7 Aus M, pair Apr 19 Catfish Bay (JH); Essex Apr 30-May 5 (FW); two males Apr 29 TL (MK). Bufflehead: Essex Apr 30-May 5 (FW); five Apr 29 TL (MK). Hooded Merganser: pair Apr 14 Barnum P Outlet, one Apr 19 Aus M (JH). Common Merganser: three Apr 7 Franklins Falls, pair Grass P May 22 (JH); Essex Apr 30-May 5 (FW). Red-breasted Merganser: Essex Apr 30-May 5 (FW).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: one Apr 30 Vermontville (ED). Red-tailed Hawk: one Apr 4 Aus M, one Apr 20 Loon Mt (JH). Broad-winged Hawk: one Apr 19 near Chazy, one May 16 Deer P (JH); two Apr 19, one Apr 20 thru May 30 RB (JK); one Apr 28, 30 and May 31 SL (HD). **Golden Eagle:** one Cat P TL Apr 17 (GTC)—see introductory remarks. Bald Eagle: Apr 1 vicinity L Titus (Carl Pru, NY Conservation Dept fide BF); one Apr 18 Meecham L (GTC). Marsh Hawk: one Apr 19 RB (JK); male Apr 13 thru May 4 SL (HD). Osprey: one Apr 20 RB (JK); one Moira Apr 16, pair Quebec B May 3, one May 4 Twin P, one nest active May 18 Oseetah (JH); one Kiwassa Outlet May 13 (ED); one May 20 Little Long P (GTC). Sparrow Hawk: one Apr 4 Kings Bay, two Apr 9 Kings Bay (JH); one Apr 3 thru Apr 25 SL (HD).

Ruffed Grouse: very few reports, no egg dates. Common Gallinule: one May 22 Aus M (JH). Ring-necked Pheasant: same female as all winter seen thru Apr 28 SL (EA&HD). Killdeer: early Apr Gabriels (DY); thru May 21 SL (GK); May 27 TL (MK). American Woodcock: U.S. Fish & Wildlife survey shows normal numbers all areas. Common Snipe: two Apr 19 Aus M (JH); two May 4 TL (MK); heard May 5 SL (EA&HD). Spotted Sandpiper: Essex Apr 30-May 5 (FW). Solitary Sandpiper: one between Fork L Campsite & Blue Mt L Club (EA&HD). Herring Gull: small numbers SL, TL and Essex. Black Tern: four TL May 2 (MK). Mourning Dove: one Apr 13 and May 4 SL (HD); one Gabriels Apr 7 (DY); two Vermontville Apr 29 (ED); one Apr 20 Loon Mt (JH).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Chimney Swift: first May 1 RB (JK); ten May 19 SL (HD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one May 17 SL (CC); one May 21 & 28 RB (JK). Belted Kingfisher: one Apr 4 Wickham M (JH); one Apr 9, three May 20 RB (JK); pair Saranac R May 16, one Lewey L Campsite May 19, one Chubb R May 25 (HD). Yellow-shafted Flicker: Essex Apr 30-May 5 (FW); early one Apr 1 SL (GK); Apr 14 RB (JK); Apr 27 TL (RM). Pileated Woodpecker: one Apr 7 Aus M (JH); one Little Long P May 20 (GTC). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** studied within a few yards Lewey L Campsite May 22 (EA&HD). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Apr 11 RB (JK); one Apr 24 SL (HD). Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, small numbers all areas. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one May 7 Green P (JH).

Eastern Kingbird: two Long L May 22 (EA&HD); four May 30 RB (JK). Eastern Phoebe: one Apr 1 SL (GK); several nesting pairs reported in SL area. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Mt Pisgah May 1 (EA&HD). Least Flycatcher: one May 6 RB (JK); two Rt 30 Hamilton Co May 19 (EA&HD). Eastern Wood Pewee: one Kiwassa Outlet May 13 (ED); one May 29 & 30 RB (JK). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one May 29 RB (JK). Horned Lark: one SL golf course (fide HD). Tree Swallow: back all areas mid-Apr. Bank Swallow: one May 6 RB (JK); back May 18 TL (MK). Rough-winged Swallow; May 13 RB (JK). Barn Swallow: back late Apr to early May all areas. Cliff Swallow: one May 1 RB (JK); seven Saranac Inn May 13 (HD).

Blue Jay: good numbers still around but not as obvious as in winter. Common

Crow: thru period all areas. Black-capped Chickadee: normal. Boreal Chickadee: one Donnelly's Corners Apr 20 (GTC); one May 18 RB (JK); two to three thru May 24 SL (EB). White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches: normal. Brown Creeper: Apr 13 thru May 31 RB (JK); Apr 1 thru May 20 SL (GK). Winter Wren: one Apr 5 RB (JK); one Forest Home Rd May 5 (HD). Catbird: one RB May 17 (JK); nesting pair after May 23 SL (EA). Brown Thrasher: Apr 26 thru period SL (HD); one May 23 RB (JK); one May 31 Bloomingdale (IW). Robin: 28 Apr 22 vicinity SL (HD); 25 Apr 26 RB (JK); big flock Vermontville Apr 29 (ED). Wood Thrush: two Apr 30 Franklin Falls (EA&HD); one Apr 30 TL (RM); good reports from then on. Hermit Thrush: four May 8 RB (JK). Swainson's Thrush: May 23 RB (JK). Veery: many reports from first week in May thru period. Eastern Bluebird: Apr 30 RB (JK); May 29 TL (RM); arrived Vermontville May 18, nest built May 21, egg May 25 (Tyler). Golden-crowned Kinglet: two Apr 18 RB (JK); two May 13 and 14 SL (HD). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Apr 26, three May 16 RB (JK); one May 1 SL (HD). Starling: 20 to 50 thru Apr all areas; 200 May 8 SL (ED).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: one May 30 RB (JK).

Warblers: Black-and-white: one May 16 Turtle P (MB); May 17 RB (JK); May 20 Little Long P (GTC); four SL May 30 (EA&HD). Nashville: May 17 RB (JK). Parula: May 23 RB (JK); two Forest Home Rd, SL May 31 (HD). Yellow: May 19 and 29 RB (JK); May 20 Little Long P (GTC); four May 22 Aus M (JH). Magnolia: May 16 RB (JK); Chubb R May 25 (HD). Black-throated Blue: May 17 and 20 RB (JK); May 20 Little Long P (GTC); May 31 Forest Home Rd (HD). Myrtle: many reports from all areas except TL. Black-throated Green: often numerous from the middle of May on, this year only two reports, May 20 Little Long P (GTC); May 23 RB (JK). Blackburnian: May 16 RB (JK); May 30 SL (EA&HD). Chestnut-sided: May 18 RB (JK); May 20 Little Long P (GTC); May 31 SL (HD). Blackpoll: two May 26 SL (ED). Ovenbird: May 15 RB (JK); May 17 Paul Smiths (HD); four Buttermilk Falls and Route 30 Ham. Co. May 19 (EA&HD); May 29 SL (GK). Northern Waterthrush: May 13 Forest Home Rd (HD). Yellowthroat: from mid-May on all areas. Canada: May 20 Little Long P (GTC); May 23 SL (HD); May 29 RB (JK). American Redstart: May 20 RB (JK) and Little Long P (GTC); pair L Clear May 21 (EB).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: many everywhere but RB as usual. Bobolink: May 6 L Colby (fide EB); four May 30 RB (JK). Eastern Meadowlark: Apr 3 SL (HD); three North Hudson Apr 8 (EA); Vermontville Apr 29 (ED); RB Apr 30 (JK). Red-winged Blackbird: few large numbers reported; 50 Apr 20 SL (GK); four females plus 20 males Apr 23 SL, males seemed to be singing special welcome song (EA). Baltimore Oriole: May 17 SL (CC); May 18 and 29 RB (JK). Common Grackle: thru period. Brown-headed Cowbird: thru period. Scarlet Tanager: May 23 RB (JK).

Cardinal: heard and seen Ticonderoga Apr 24 (MK); male Turtle P May 6 and 9 (MB); pair thru May 31 Bloomingdale (IW). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: good numbers from mid-May thru period. Indigo Bunting: one May 27 SL (GK). Evening Grosbeak: 50 Apr 4 "dwindling" to eight May 18 RB (JK); six to eight pair thru period TL (RM); 18 Apr 3 to two pair May 22 SL (EB). Purple Finch: 75 Apr 18 TL (RM)—only large number reported though there are reports of a few from other areas. Pine Siskin: few Apr 14 thru May 31 RB (JK). American Goldfinch: this little finch does its best to console us for the lack of other finches. Red Crossbill: a few to May 26 RB (JK). Rufous-sided Towhee: one May 8 SL (EB); one May 8 RB (JK); one for a few days around May 27 TL (RM).

Sparrows: Savannah: first Apr 11, max 11 Apr 19, RB (JK); pair May 1 SL

(HD). Vesper: Apr 13 thru period RB (JK). Slate-colored Junco: no large flocks reported, small numbers all areas. Tree: last seen Apr 15 TL (RM), Apr 30 RB (JK), May 8 SL (GK). Chipping: Apr 16 TL (RM); four Apr 22 RB (JK); two Apr 22 SL (ED). Clay-colored: one May 20 thru 23 carefully studied at feeder, Gabriels (DY). Field: back by Apr 7 SL (HD), Apr 29 TL (MK), May 6 RB (JK). White-crowned: May 2 thru May 24, eight May 14 SL (HD); "fewer" May 18 TL (MK); six May 19 RB (JK); six May 14 Moira (Orcutt). White-throated: good numbers all areas. Lincoln's: one May 28 Hart L Rd near SL (MK). Swamp: one Apr 30 SL (HD). Song: first Apr 6 TL (RM); good numbers all other areas.

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REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

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Once again April and May were cold months. Apr was the more "normal" of the two, with temperatures averaging (all weather data taken at Albany) 43.5°, 2.7° below average. The high temperature of 71° occurred on Apr 1. The only other days the temperature reached even 65° were Apr 2 and Apr 30. Precipitation totaled 3.69 inches, 0.92 in. above normal. May was extremely cold, averaging 50.4°, 7.5° below average. It was consistently cold as well; only *three* days (May 1, 2 and 19) were not below the normal average temperature for that date. The high temperature was a mere 81° on May 19, and on only five other days did the temperature reach 70°! Precipitation totaled 3.36 in., 0.11 in. below normal.

The cool weather during Apr did not appear to hinder the appearance of most early Apr species (e.g., the sparrows) but those species of landbirds expected in very late Apr or early May were generally delayed. The low numbers of many species—even by mid-May—were unprecedented in my experience. "Waves" of some importance occurred on May 1, May 5 and 6, and May 13 and 14, but these were dwarfed by that on May 18, when a real flood of warblers and vireos finally appeared. After May 20, when another impressive wave occurred, the latter part of the month was not distinguished by waves so much as a continuous flow of birds into and through all areas.

Upon reflection, the lateness of appearance and especially abundance of many small passerines was almost certainly tied to the lack of the usual foliage and (consequently) insects expected at their usual arrival dates. This lag seemed generally about two weeks through almost all May. Incredibly enough, more than half the deciduous trees in the Taborton area in eastern Rensselaer County were not yet in leaf on May 27. The acute food shortage for the insectivores was also noted in numerous reports of warblers feeding on or next to the ground and in at least two reports of birds eating fruit-tree blossoms.

Unlike the previous few years, the shorebird movement was disappointing. Very little was observed during the last two weeks of May, at what should have been the peak of migration. This seemed primarily because there was little suitable shorebird habitat discovered in Region 8 this year. Those shorebirds which were seen—mainly in the first half of May—suggested that their migration was not noticeably slowed by the cold weather.

Other points of interest for the period were: (1) a continued increase in records of rails and gallinules; (2) a continuing very low population of cuckoos (both species); (3) a marked influx of Purple Finches including several House Finches.

Other rare or unusual species recorded included Snowy Egret, Mute Swan, Snow Goose, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane, Dowitcher, White-rumped Sandpiper, Red-headed Woodpecker, Orange-crowned Warbler, and a probable Yellow-throated Warbler.