

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

For about three weeks the weather was warm with little rain. Foliage came out earlier than usual, and the migration of some birds was early. The latter part of April and most of May brought cooler weather and frequent rains. Warblers seemed to be late and in smaller numbers than most years.

The list of unusual birds is rather long and includes Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Blue Goose, Blue Goose hybrid, Mute Swan, Whistling Swan, Stilt Sandpiper, Barn Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue-winged Warbler and Golden-winged Warbler.

Abbreviations: ED—El Dorado; PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area which now includes about 7,000 acres, near Watertown; WHGMA—Wilson Hill Game Management Area; SLC—St. Lawrence County.

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

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one ED May 4. Horned Grebe: May 5 SLC. Double-crested Cormorant: only a few at Gull Is. about six May 30, several nests, some probably old ones (JB). Great Blue Heron: Apr 6; 24 nests PRGMA Apr 20, down from 37 last year, but nesting not fully underway. Green Heron: May 3. Black-crowned Night Heron: nests on Gull and Little Galloo Is. May 30 (JB). SNOWY EGRET: WHGMA first week in May, seen by Benson (LC). CATTLE EGRET: May 7–13 PRGMA. American Bittern: May 2. Glossy Ibis: four May 4–14 PRGMA (RW, mob). MUTE SWAN: two until Apr 6, one thru May 31 PRGMA, origin of these birds not known. Whistling Swan: two imm PRGMA Apr 4–19 (mob). Canada Goose: 2000+ Scotts Corners, Henderson, Apr 16; 4000–5000 over Smith Rd Town of Henderson in evening Apr 17; about 5000 PRGMA Apr 17, also Henderson Harbor and Black River flats near Lowville; some nesting in area. Brant: six May 30 ED (DG). Blue Goose: Apr 17 PRGMA (DG), one paired with male Canada Goose WHGMA (LC). Blue Goose X Canada Goose hybrid: Apr 12 PRGMA, white-headed, white-necked, size of Canada Goose same description *Kingbird* 16(4). 212–213 (DG). Gadwall: pair Apr 15 Sherwin's Bay. Pintail: thru May 18. Green-winged Teal: Apr 6. Shoveler: Apr 6 thru May 30. Redhead: Apr 6. Canvasback: Apr 6. White-winged Scoter: one female May 30 ED—very late (DG).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: four Millsite L Apr 14; one May 5 Edwards; two May 15 SLC. Sharp-shinned Hawk: Apr 17. Broad-winged Hawk: May 5 S Edwards. Rough-legged Hawk: May 7—very late (JB). Virginia Rail: May 22 (AA). Common Gallinule: Apr 19. American Coot: May 3 (AA).

Semipalmated Plover: May 13–31 ED. Black-bellied Plover: two Henderson May 31 (Houghton, FC). Ruddy Turnstone: ED May 30–31. American Woodcock: Apr 2 (AA). Common Snipe: Apr 10 (LC). Upland Plover: Apr 14 (AA)—very early. Spotted Sandpiper: May 4. Solitary Sandpiper: May 12. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr 6, May 4. Lesser Yellowlegs: Apr 12, May 4. Pectoral Sandpiper: Apr 15. White-rumped Sandpiper: May 18 (DG). Least Sandpiper: May 18 Dunlin. May 18. Short-billed Dowitcher: May 18. STILT SANDPIPER: May 6 PRGMA—beautifully barred, close range (AA)—first spring date for Region. Semipalmated Sandpiper: May 13 thru May 31. Sanderling: May 30.

Glaucous Gull: two ED Apr 16. Great Black-backed Gull: late dates Apr 15, 16, May 4, 18. Herring Gull: large concentrations of all gulls in late spring probably attracted by greatest killoff of alewives known, beaches and waters of Lake Ontario littered with tons of dead fish (DG). Ring-billed Gull: number of nests on Gull Is. way down from 12–15 years ago, colony on Little Galloo looked as large as ever

May 30 (JB). Bonaparte's Gull: late dates May 4, 18 and max three May 30-31 at ED. Common Tern: May 13 ED. Black Tern: May 6; numbers at PRGMA have increased as more land has been flooded.

Black-billed Cuckoo: May 27 (AA). BARN OWL: the desicated remains of one were found trapped inadvertently in the Vaadi barn, PRGMA Jun 7 or 8. The trap had been set in late winter for coons and later forgotten. The remains weighed about six ounces, or not more than a third of the weight of a live owl. The owl must have been caught earlier and starved. There is nothing to indicate nesting in this area. Snowy Owl: one near West Wood Corners (Rt 11 west of Evans Mills) throughout period, still there May 30 (and in Jun) (JB). Barred Owl: Apr 20 S Edwards (AA).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Common Nighthawk: May 24. Chimney Swift: May 3 (AA). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 21. Belted Kingfisher: Apr 6. Yellow-shafted Flicker: Apr 6. Yellow-shafted X Red-shafted Flicker hybrid: first two live hybrid flickers observed in Region at close range thru 7x50 binoculars, both males, black moustaches, only red visible in tails, both red and yellow feathers in wings seen on both surfaces as they fanned tails and opened wings repeatedly while chasing each other and perching in trees PRGMA May 31 (see *Kingbird* 18: 86-87, May 1968). Pileated Woodpecker: one found dead at Boon St. school, Watertown had been injured by flying against some object like a window early May. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: May 12 Watertown Center—first Regional record and most northern record for state (DG). Red-headed Woodpecker: May 11. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr 7.

Eastern Kingbird: May 5 (RW). Great Crested Flycatcher: May 12. Traill's Flycatcher: May 30 (AA). Least Flycatcher: May 11. Wood Pewee: May 27—late. Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 25 Upper Whetstone Park, Lewis Co. Bank Swallow: Apr 15. Rough-winged Swallow: Apr 15. Barn Swallow: Apr 17. Cliff Swallow: May 4. Purple Martin: May 3. House Wren: May 4. Winter Wren: Apr 13. Long-billed Marsh Wren: May 30. Mockingbird: near Antwerp (JB). Catbird: May 10. Brown Thrasher: Apr 21. Wood Thrush: May 10. Hermit Thrush: Apr 8. Veery: May 11. Eastern Bluebird: May 12; best distribution of breeding birds is in Natural Bridge-Harrisville-Pitcairn area. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Apr 13. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr 10-May 4. Water Pipit: May 4 ED. Loggerhead Shrike: in Stony Point-Dexter section.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: May 31 PRGMA (DG). Solitary Vireo: May 4. Red-eyed Vireo: May 12. Warbling Vireo: May 4.

Warblers: Black-and-white: Apr 20. GOLDEN-WINGED: May 11 near Gouverneur, previously seen May 1964 (JB). BLUE-WINGED: May 18 Middle Roads Woods near Watertown, only recent record (DG). Tennessee: May 19. Nashville: May 5 (AA). Yellow: May 8. Magnolia: May 15. Black-throated Blue: May 12. Myrtle: Apr 6. Black-throated Green: May 4. Cerulean: May 19 (DG). Blackburnian: May 15. Chestnut-sided: May 11. Bay-breasted: May 31. Blackpoll: May 26-31. Ovenbird: May 11. Northern Waterthrush: May 5. Mourning: May 19. Yellowthroat: May 12. Canada: May 15. Am. Redstart: May 11.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 10. Western Meadowlark: reported singing on Danely Rd near ED (Hughes, Houghton). Baltimore Oriole: May 8. Rusty Blackbird: Apr 20-21. Scarlet Tanager: May 15. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 11. Indigo Bunting: May 18. Pine Siskin: May 5 SLC. Goldfinch: first in spring plumage Apr 27. Red Crossbill: ten Apr 3 Hammond SLC (RW). Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr 13. Savannah Sparrow: Apr 5. Vesper Sparrow: Apr 6. Tree Sparrow: last Apr 15. Chipping Sparrow: Apr 13. Field Sparrow: Apr 6. White-crowned Sparrow: May 3-23. White-throated Sparrow: Apr 7. Fox Sparrow: Apr 6. Swamp Sparrow: Apr 6.

173 Haley St., Watertown 13601