

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

April started out cold with light snows as usual, but soon warmed up enough to make itself something of an historic month. Peepers were heard on April 4. On April 13 the temperature ranged between fifty-four and seventy-four degrees and on April 14, between sixty-eight and seventy-two degrees. On April 19 one expert announced that the month was "warmer than any April since 1941."

There were some high winds: gusts of sixty to seventy miles per hour on April 9 and up to fifty miles per hour on April 24. The early part of the month was dry but a heavy rain on the twenty-second made buds pop and grasses shoot.

Despite these records neither resident nor migrant birds returned particularly early.

May was relatively cold. There was frost on May 6, 7, and 27. On May 9 signals went out for "high fire danger" and the temperature reached sixty-two degrees. From then until the end of the month the weather was chilly and damp with temperatures mostly in the forties and fifties.

The event of greatest interest is the Common Raven's nest. There were three young; two, at least, reached the flying stage—there will be more details in the next issue of the "Kingbird".

The fact that the Woodcock Singing-ground Survey routes have been "randomized" makes the American Woodcock population of the area less easy to assess as most co-operators were unable to find time to run their established routes—some with data going back twenty years or more—as well as the arbitrary routes now assigned to them.

The Red-headed Woodpecker report is of interest as is the fact that there are four Mockingbird reports: the largest number for Region 7 in any period that we have noted.

No spectacular spring warbler migration waves were reported.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; EB—Elisabeth Barnet; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; GTC—Greenleaf T Chase; ED—Ethel Dyer; HD—Harriet Delafield; JH—Joseph Hart; RH—Robert Hager; JK—Joseph Keji; MK—Marguerite Kingsbury; RM—Ruth Meier; HT—Helen Tyler; IW—Isabel Williams; DY—David Young.

Abbreviations: Aus—Ausable; B—brook; LP—Lake Placid; M—marsh; RB—Ray Brook; SL—Saranac Lake; TL—Tupper Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: two May 12 Little Tupper L (MK); two Duck P near Loon L late May (GTC); two May 31 Sabattis (RM). Great Blue Heron: one Apr 22, two May 26 RB (JK); one Chazy Landing May 15, one Polliwog P near Saranac Inn May 24, one Bloomingdale May 27 (EA&HD). Green Heron: one May 9 and 13 RB (JK). American Bittern: two May 11 RB (MK); one King's Bay May 15 (EA). Canada Goose: two Apr 14 TL, 100 Apr 20 RB (MK); 400 in several Vs Apr 27 Elizabethtown (GC); heard Apr 19, 20 May 1 SL (HD). Mallard: one West Canada Creek, Hamilton Co May 1 (EA&HD). Black Duck: two Saranac R near SL Apr 3 (HD); two Apr 8 and May 4 RB (JK); two Apr 14 TL and Little Tupper L (MK). Pintail: Chazy Landing May 25 (HD). Green-winged Teal: two pair Apr 20 RB (JK). Wood Duck: eight Apr 7, two Apr 21 Ticonderoga (MK). Ring-necked Duck: four TL and Little Tupper L Apr 14 (MK). Lesser Scaup: thirteen Apr 14 Little Tupper L (MK); three pair L Champlain near Ingraham May 15 (EA&HD). Common Goldeneye: two May 12 TL (MK). Bufflehead: four male, two female Apr 14 TL (MK); pair Wawbeek May 1 (EA&HD). Hooded Merganser: two pair either side of Franklin Falls Apr 3 (EA&HD). Common Merganser: one pair downstream from Franklin Falls Apr 3,

pair Wawbeek May 1 (EA&HD); two pair Apr 27 thru May 8 RB (JK); five TL and Little Tupper L May 12 (MK).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: one Vermontville April 30 (ED); one Morehouse May 1 (EA&HD); two eggs Jay nest Apr 20 (RH). Red-tailed Hawk: one Jay Range area May 3 (GTC). Red-shouldered Hawk: two playing L Colby outlet May 21 (HD), nest Wickham Marsh May (GCT); one Keene May 28 (HD). Broad-winged Hawk: two Apr 21 thru period RB (JK); one SL May 24 (HD). Golden Eagle: one hunting near Mt Van Hovenberg May 28 (GTC). Marsh Hawk: one Bloomingdale Apr 3, one near L Clear May 22 and 24 (HD); one Apr 7 south of Westport (MK). Osprey: one Aus R, Clintonville May 3 (JH); one SL May 6 (GTC); one Saranac Inn May 6 (HD); one May 10 and 30 RB (JK). Sparrow Hawk: pairing May 3 SL, one May 7, 8, 10 and early June SL (HD). Ruffed Grouse: one or two seen SL, TL, RB, and near Derrick Apr 14 thru May 19. Killdeer: one SL Apr 3, one West Chazy May 12, pair Chazy Landing May 15, one on way to Derrick May 23 (EA&HD); one SL May 25 (ED); one Apr 3 thru May 11 RB (JK). American Woodcock: one Apr 22 RB (JK); one May 9 TL (RM); one Coreys Apr 14 thru May 19 (MK); three SL May 10 thru 17, one L Clear Junction May 23, four Bloomingdale May 27 (EA&HD). Common Snipe: three Apr 14, five May 14 TL (MK). Spotted Sandpiper: one May 18 RB (JK); two May 25 RB (MK). Herring Gull: two Bloomingdale Apr 3, two SL Apr 9, two King's Bay May 15 (HD); two May 2-30 RB (JK). Common Tern: three King's Bay, one Chazy Landing May 15 (EA&HD). Black Tern: three King's Bay May 15 (EA&HD); three TL May 27 (MK). Mourning Dove: two Apr 23 thru period SL (EB); one May 13 and 25 RB (JK&MK); one May 27 Bloomingdale (HD). Great Horned Owl: one Mt. View near Plumadore Range May 10 (GTC).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one May 18 and occasionally since, TL (RM). Chimney Swift: one to six May 3 thru period RB (JK); seven May 20 SL (HD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one May 14 thru period TL (RM); one May 19 and 28 RB (JK&MK); one SL May 30 (HD). Belted Kingfisher: two Apr 8 thru period RB (JK); one May 31 Sabattis (RM). Yellow-shafted Flicker: small numbers arr Apr 17 SL (HD) and Apr 8 RB (JK). **RED-HEADED WOOD-PECKER:** one May 20 Keene (GC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Apr 8 RB (MK); one May 3 SL (HD). Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: small numbers all areas. Eastern Kingbird: one May 11 SL, one May 15 Ingraham (EA&HD); one May 8 LP (MK); one May 18 RB (JK); one May 26 TL (RM). Great Crested Flycatcher: one May 18 LP (MK); one May 23 near Derrick (HD). Eastern Phoebe: first SL Apr 3 (HD); Apr 2 RB (JK). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one singing May 25 RB (MK). Traill's Flycatcher: one singing RB May 30 (JK). Least Flycatcher: first May 10 RB (JK); May 15 TL (MK); May 21 SL (HD). Tree Swallow: one Apr 7, five eggs May 21 Vermontville (HT); back Apr 10 SL (HD); Apr 12 RB (JK); RM was not in TL in April but saw two birds May 9 on her return. Bank Swallow: six May 1 thru period RB (JK). Rough-winged Swallow: one early May RB (JK). Barn Swallow: back late Apr to early May all areas. Cliff Swallow: back SL early May (HD); May 8 RB (JK); May 12 Little Tupper L (MK).

Blue Jay: quiet, but two to ten present all areas thru period. **COMMON RAVEN:** northern Adirondacks, one adult May 27 (GC); two adults and nest May 28 (GTC) —see introduction. Common Crow: small numbers all areas thru period. Black-capped chickadee: same as Blue Jay. Boreal Chickadee: one Apr 1 SL (EB). White-breasted Nuthatch: contrary to some opinions, this is the more common feeder bird of the two species in the higher Adirondacks; in an ordinary day's concentrated birding there will be more Red-breasted Nuthatches seen, maybe even three or four to one, but the Red-breasteds will be found in the woods more often than in the clearings. Brown Creeper: one or two thru period, one nest found RB (JK). Winter

Wren: one Saranac Inn May 6, one St Hubert's May 29 (HD); one Apr 22, May 8 and 19 RB (JK&MK). *MOCKINGBIRD*: one Sabael May 1 (HD); one May 12 Little Tupper L (MK); one May 12 SL (RH); one May 14 SL (MK). Catbird: one May 10 thru period RB (JK); one or two May 21 thru period SL (HD); May 30 TL (RM). Brown Thrasher: one May 2, pair May 9 SL, one near Derrick May 6 (HD); one May 2-22 RB (JK); one May 11 TL (RM). Robin: common all areas, 50 Apr 15 RB (JK); fledgeling May 26 SL (Parker). Wood Thrush: first heard May 10 TL (RM), RB (JK), SL (HD); May 28 Elizabethtown (HD). Hermit Thrush: one RB Apr 18 (JK & MK); two Saranac Inn May 8, one Bloomingdale May 27 (HD). Swainson's Thrush: one May 11 and 19 RB (MK). Veery: about ten days late returning but many reports after second week in May. Eastern Bluebird: one May 6 SL (HD); one Moffitsville May 12, one near L Clear May 22 (EA); one Wilmington May 30 (Baker); pair Vermontville May 22 (HT); one May 16-22 RB (JK); two May 18 LP (MK). Golden-crowned Kinglet: one or two Apr 3 thru May 14 RB (JK). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr 19 thru May 18 RB (JK). Water Pipit: a few early birds in Apr, main flocks up to 80 mid-May Gabriels (DY). Cedar Waxwing: six May 30 TL (RM); 12 May 30 RB (JK). Starling: not such large flocks as 1967 but nesting birds all areas.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: one Apr 21 thru May 14 RB (JK). Red-eyed Vireo: one May 9 and 18 SL (HD); one May 18 and 22 RB (JK); several May 25 RB (MK). Warbling Vireo: one Chazy Landing May 15 (HD).

Warblers: Black-and-white: one May 1 Elizabethtown (GC); one May 11-21 RB (JK). Tennessee: one singing May 13 RB (MK); one May 21-25 RB (JK). Nashville: Apr 30 thru period RB (JK&MK). Parula: one Apr 30 and May 15 RB (JK); one May 18 SL; two L Colby Outlet May 22 thru period, one Keene May 28 (HD). Yellow: one May 18 RB (JK). Magnolia: one May 18-22 RB (JK); two SL to L Clear May 22, one near Derrick May 24, one Bloomingdale May 27 (HD). Cape May: one May 14 and 18 RB (JK). Black-throated Blue: one May 10-19 RB (JK&MK); one Ampersand Bay May 10, one on way to Saranac Inn May 22 (HD). Myrtle: Apr 21 thru period RB (JK); May 4 thru period SL (HD). Black-throated Green: May 10 thru period RB (JK); on way to Saranac Inn May 22, Osgood R at Mt P May 23 (HD). Blackburnian: May 10 thru period RB (JK&MK); near Derrick May 24 (HD). Chestnut-sided: May 11 thru period RB (JK); May 16 thru period SL, Cascades May 28 (HD). Bay-breasted: two May 21 RB (JK). Palm: one May 4 RB (JK). Ovenbird: four to eight singing in ordinary day's birding RB and SL areas May 10 thru period. Northern Waterthrush: one May 13 on RB (MK); two, way to Saranac Inn May 22 thru period; one Osgood R at Mt P May 23 (HD). Yellow-throat: the most common warbler all appropriate areas mid-May thru period. Wilson's Warbler: one L Clear airport May 18 (RH); one Osgood R near Mt P May 23 (HD). Canada: one May 18 thru period RB (JK). American Redstart: May 21 thru period SL (HD); May 23 thru period RB (JK); not as many reports as other recent years.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: small numbers all areas. Bobolink: one May 10 TL (RM); three LP May 18 (MK); two McMasters near L Clear May 22 and thru period, pair May 25 SL (HD); two May 22 RB (JK). Eastern Meadowlark: two to four average day's birding suitable areas RB, TL, SL and Saranac Inn. Red-winged Blackbird: small flocks early Apr, displaying and pairing Apr 23, many pairs in marshy areas thru May. Baltimore Oriole: one May 15 TL, two May 19 SL (MK); one May 16 RB (JK); one Ingraham May 15, one Kiwassa May 18, one Bloomingdale May 26, one Keene May 28 (HD). Rusty Blackbird: two singing SL Golf Course Apr 20 (MK). Common Grackle: thru period, flocks of 25 plus early Apr RB (JK); one to four thru period SL (HD). Brown-headed Cowbird: thru period, 14 displaying Apr 22 SL (HD). Scarlet Tanager: one or two May 10 thru 21 RB (JK). Cardinal: one female Bloomingdale Apr 3 (IW). Rose-breasted Gros-

beak: very good numbers thru period all areas after mid-May, six May 19 RB (MK). Indigo Bunting: one May 29 SL (Kains). Evening Grosbeak: last large number 40 plus RB May 4 (JK); small numbers suitable habitat thru period. Purple Finch: one to two singing males all suitable habitat thru period. Pine Siskin: up to ten thru period RB (JK); two, one singing, Apr 3 Bloomingdale (HD). American Goldfinch: small flocks RB, SL and near Derrick thru period (JK&HD). Red Cross-bill: thru period, 45 plus May 30 RB (JK). Rufous-sided Towhee: one May 13 thru period TL (RM); one Apr 4, 5 and 6 SL (RH); one Apr 30 RB (JK).

Sparrows: Savannah: Apr 18 thru period RB (JK); May 10 thru period SL (HD). Vesper: one Apr 7 south of Westport (MK); one Apr 15-22 RB (JK); one May 18 SL (HD). Slate-colored Junco: no large flocks, few reported thru period RB and SL. Tree Sparrow: last Apr 22 SL (EB). Chipping: good numbers last week in Apr thru period all areas. Field: arr Apr 20 RB (JK); heard May 12 SL, May 22 near L Clear (HD). White-crowned: fewer than last four years, one to three stayed May 9-22 SL (HD); one May 9 Westport (GC); five May 20 RB (JK); six one day mid-May Vermontville (HT). White-throated: from mid-Apr thru period all areas, 29 singing May 29 on three-mile stretch of trail. Fox: one first two weeks of Apr western outskirts of SL (EB); one Apr 5 eastern outskirts of SL (ED). Lincoln's: one May 9 Elizabethtown (GC); one May 28 RB (JK). Swamp: three May 12 RB (JK); two May 15 TL (MK). Song: common early Apr thru period all areas.

Please have summer reports in by Aug 25.

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REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

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The first three weeks of April were warm and dry, with the temperature soaring to 83 degrees on two consecutive days, April 13 and 14 (weather data taken at Albany). A rainfall of 2.01 inches on Apr 24 ushered in a week of cooler, wetter, cloudier days. On more than half of the 30 days the thermometer climbed to 65 degrees or above. The average temperature was 48.4 degrees, 2.1 degrees above normal. May was cooler and wetter than normal, with the average temperature about three degrees less than the May norm, and rainfall about one inch over normal. Almost two inches of the rain fell on a single day, May 29.

The long, unusually warm period the first three weeks of April appeared to speed the migration of water fowl, for these were conspicuously absent in any large numbers for any appreciable length of time. Horned Grebes were not seen after Apr 27; Pied-billed Grebes were unreported in May in the northern areas of the Region, although a few were reported from the southern areas. There were no Goldeneyes after Apr 13; with the exception of a few isolated individuals, the following were not seen after Apr 20: American Widgeon, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Hooded Merganser, and Common Merganser.

The early warmth produced foliage at an unusually early period—perhaps two weeks earlier than normal. With this condition existing, many observers were expecting an early migration of all passerines. However, this was a spring of paradox; some species that were scheduled to arrive early came earlier than usual, while those scheduled to come late, came later than usual. Phoebe and Tree Swallows were notably early and nested early; Purple Finches and Slate-colored Juncos passed through in large numbers about ten to 15 days sooner than usual; White-throated Sparrows were early, also. The lingerers included the Swainson's Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Myrtle Warbler. Most warblers arrived about the usual dates—in greatly reduced numbers. Many other species arrived about on schedule, although there were a few conspicuously early individual birds, including a Solitary