

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

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The Hilltop Weather Station at Ray Brook sends us a record which uses the word "uneventful" for the overall picture of the month of April. We find that we cannot go along with that. Bob Kampf of the weather station records five and one-half inches of snow for the month. He does not mention the fact that four inches of this total fell on April 19th. This fact seemed to make quite a difference; certainly in our feeder-bird population.

The telephone rang all the day of April 19th. An interesting note was the overlapping of sparrow species; Tree Sparrows staying on until the Chipping and Field arrived so that we had all three in our box at one time. Even one birder who is particularly pre-occupied with the larger raptors was impressed enough to call in about 150 Slate-colored Juncos and 30 Purple Finches in his yard on this one day. All-in-all April 19th, 1969 was memorable to say the least.

For May Mr. Kampf, of the above-mentioned weather station, became a little more loquacious. Ordinarily we look down on a river valley when weather conditions are unfrozen but this year we looked down on a lake. Mr. Kampf explains this phenomenon: "Snow never completely left the ground from Nov 8 through mid-April and there was virtually no frost in the ground, hence most of the snow soaked in. Add this to the 6.07 inches of rain for May and you have the highest ground water table situation in many years."

These watery conditions made the mosquito, Black Fly situation a bane to humans but a fine thing for avifauna. Whip-poor-wills were more in evidence than usual, nighthawks came early. Swallows were a little late because of the cold but when they came they were plentiful.

Our main rarities for this period were Least Tern; Turkey Vulture; Kentucky Warbler and the gratifying numbers of Slate-colored Juncos, mostly migrants but some residents. Many observers were away during the rather late warbler migration so that picture is not complete though it seems clear that Myrtles at least were down in numbers.

Mr. Frank Schetty's observations at Elk Lake were taken on May 10 and 11. He did not try to estimate numbers as his time was so limited. Where I put the sign & between observers observations were not made simultaneously, where I put a comma between observers they were together at time of observation.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; CC—Creta Chase; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; GTC—Greenleaf T. Chase; ED—Ethel Dyer; HD—Harriet Delafield; JK—Joseph Keji; MK—Marguerite Kingsbury; RM—Ruth Meier; HMH—Howard and Margaret Read; FS—Frank Schetty; HT—Helen Tyler; IW—Isabel Williams; DY—David Young.

Abbreviations: B'dale—Bloomingdale; Cr—Creek; E'town—Elizabethtown; L—Lake; LP—Lake Placid; M'ville—Morrisville; P—Pond; RB—Ray Brook; SL—Saranac Lake; SR—Saranac River; TL—Tupper Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: resident pair Duck P near Loon L May 7 (GTC); one L Clear Apr 20, one TL Apr 28 (RM); one Elk L May (FS); one Jones P near Gabriels Apr 29 (HD). Great Blue Heron: four in flight Apr 10, one May 31 RB (JK); one SR near B'dale May 25 (MK); one SR M'ville Apr 23 (HMR); one Fish Cr Ponds May 31 (RM). Green Heron: one SR M'ville May 5 (HMR). American Bittern: one RB May 25 (MK). Canada Goose: 60 & 40 two flocks Fish Cr Ponds Apr 28, 500 to 1000 Kings Bay Apr-May, 500 max Apr-May, 20 resident L Alice May 16, 10 or more in flock of other waterfowl Scomotion Cr N. of Plattsburgh May 9 (GTC); 80 May 3 SL (EA,HD); 110 RB Apr 29 (MK);

two fair-sized flocks TL Apr 29 (RM); eighteen M'ville Apr 29 (HMR). Mallard: pair SR M'ville Apr (HMR); two pair Scomotion Creek May 9 (GTC); two pair L Colby May 18 (EA,HD). Black Duck: seven Scomotion Cr May 9 (GTC); one Elk L May (FS); two SR near B'dale Apr 19; pair Jone's P Apr 29 (HD); eight SR M'ville Apr 13 (HMR); pair May 14-21 RB (JK). Green-winged Teal: one male Ellenburg Depot on pond off Route 11 May 17 (HMR). Wood Duck: four Apr 11, one male Apr 30 SR M'ville (HMR); three Scomotion Cr May 9 (GTC). Ring-necked Duck: small numbers TL thru period (MK); two males, one female L Champlain (Valcour area) (HMR); two Fish Cr Ponds Apr 20 (RM); six Scomotion Cr May 9 (GTC); two pair L Colby outlet May 16 (EA). Scaup: six Apr 5 off Northway near Plattsburgh (HMR). Common Goldeneye: nine wintered on SR M'ville, left mid-Apr (HMR); few Fish Cr Ponds Apr 20 (RM); 10 Westport May 9 (GC). Bufflehead: few Fish Cr Ponds Apr 20 (RM); six Westport May 9 (GC). Hooded Merganser: pair Apr 11 SR M'ville (HMR); pair Apr 17 RB (JK); pair W. Branch Ausable R Wilmington Apr 25 (GTC).

TURKEY VULTURE: "Apr 13 one only circling at 100 to 150 feet; head and neck plainly visible; contrasting grey and black wings—near Saranac R M'ville." (HMR).

HAWKS—OWLS: Red-shouldered Hawk: two M'ville, two Cadyville Apr 6 (HMR); two Apr 27 SL (HD). Broad-winged Hawk: Apr 8 thru Apr M'ville, Peru area (HMR); one May 15 thru period RB (JK&MK); one Apr 25 Chapel P, one Forest Home Rd near SL May 1 (HD). Golden Eagle: one Apr 25 hunting over Norman's Ridge near Vermontville (GTC); one May 21 eastern Essex Co, apparent migrant (GC). Marsh Hawk: one Apr 22 Plattsburgh airport (HMR); pair Mt. Pisgah Apr 30 (HD); one May 5 Malone (MK). Osprey: one Apr 25 SR at SL (GTC); one May 2 RB (MK), one May 21 RB (JK); two May 1 thru 6 M'ville, one May 6 Cadyville (HMR). Sparrow Hawk: Apr 14 thru period Peru, Peasleeville area (HMR); one LP May 17 (MK). Ruffed Grouse: TL Apr 20 (RM); two Apr thru May M'ville (HMR); one May 1 thru 16 RB much drumming heard (JK). Killdeer: one W. Chazy Apr 2 in snow (HD); one Apr 8 Malone, one Apr 20 TL (MK); one Apr 6, two to four thru period Peasleeville, Peru area (HMR). American Woodcock: average to slightly down "Singing Ground Surveys". Common Snipe: one Fish Cr Ponds Apr 28 (GTC); one May 2 SR near B'dale (MK); one Malone May 6 (HMR); one SR near B'dale May 15 (EA,HD). Spotted Sandpiper: common thru period M'ville (HMR); one May 10 SR at SL (MK). Solitary Sandpiper: two May 14 & 15, one May 20 RB (JK). Lesser Yellowlegs: one May 5 Crown Point (GC); one May 14 RB (MK). Herring Gull: Apr 6 thru period Peru (HMR). Ring-billed Gull: Elk L (FS); Apr 6 thru period M'ville (HMR). Common Tern: one May 9 TL (MK). **LEAST TERN:** one with Common Terns mile N. of Plattsburgh on Northway (GTC). Mourning Dove: two Sciota Apr 2 (EA,HD); one May 26 SR near B'dale (MK). Barred Owl: two Axton Landing, S. of Coreys (Harriestown) Apr 26 (HMR).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one heard M'ville May 4 (HMR); one heard and seen in car headlights May 14 SL (EA,HD); one heard May 17 TL (RM). Common Nighthawk: one May 29 SL (MK); one late May Plattsburgh (HMR). Chimney Swift: May 6 thru period small numbers RB (JK); ten SL May 14 (HD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: first May 15 SL (GTC); May 31 RB (JK); May 21 TL (RM). Belted Kingfisher: Apr 15 thru period RB (JK&MK); SR near M'ville Apr 15 thru period, four after Apr 15 Salmon R Peasleeville (HMR); one Keene Apr 25, one Jones P Apr 29 (HD). Yellow-shafted Flicker: back Apr 11 SL (EA); Apr 12 RB (JK); Apr 23 TL (RM); Apr 14 M'ville (HMR). Pileated Woodpecker: Apr 8, May 31 RB (JK). **RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:** one feeding tray Gabriels May 24 thru 29 (DY); one carefully identified Stony Cr Ponds

(Harrietstown) near Coreys (RM et al). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: back Apr 13 RB (MK); SL (HD); TL (RM); two Apr 25 Keene Valley (HD); one Apr 23 M'ville (HMR). Hairy & Downy Woodpeckers: normal all areas. Eastern Kingbird: three May 17 LP (JK,MK); two mid-Apr M'ville (HMR); one May 17 & 18 SL (EA); one May 20 TL (RM). Great Crested Flycatcher: May 12 thru period RB (JK). Eastern Phoebe: first Apr 26 SL (GTC); Apr 20 TL (MK); two Apr 5 M'ville (HMR); one Apr 6 SL (HD). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one SR near B'dale (MK). Trail's Flycatcher: one May 28 RB (JK). Least Flycatcher: back May 24 RB (JK). Eastern Wood Pewee: one May 27 thru period RB (JK); one May 30 Stony Cr (RM). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Fish Cr Ponds May 31 (RM). Horned Lark: one near Jones P Apr 29 (HD). Tree Swallow: two Apr 13, four Apr 30, at nest box May 1 SL (EA,HD); Apr 26 TL (RM) & RB (JK); Elk L (FS). Bank Swallow: May 1 thru period RB (JK); eight TL May 9 (MK). Rough-winged Swallow: one May 21 RB (JK). Barn Swallow: first two Apr 27 SL, Gabriels Apr 29 (HD); first Apr 28 TL (RM); May 2 RB (JK); five eggs June 16 Vermontville (HT). Cliff Swallow: Apr 17 SL, May 15 RB (JK). Blue Jay: good numbers all areas. Gray Jay: one S. if TL May 17 (RM). Common Crow: good numbers all areas from Apr 2 thru period. Black-capped Chickadee: our faithful year-round standby both in the woods and at feeders does not seem to have dwindled in numbers. Boreal Chickadee: one Apr 1 SL (ED). White-breasted & Red-breasted Nuthatches: seem to be maintaining numbers, former at feeders, latter in woods though this can be interchangeable. Brown Creeper: erratic both as to numbers and time of year, Keene Valley Apr 25 (HD), RB (JK), M'ville (HMR). House Wren: so happy to have this bird back on the list; one May 16 SL (ED); one May 17 RB (MK). Winter Wren: one Apr 25 Keene Valley (HD); one Apr 26 SL (GTC); one May 14 and 16 RB (JK&MK); Elk L (FS). **MOCKINGBIRD**: one carefully identified by JK and MK LP May 17; one back yard SL (GTC) May 22. Catbird: growing populations in RB and SL; none reported from M'ville or TL. Brown Thrasher: one Apr 25, two Apr 30 and May 1 SL (HD); one May 15 thru 25 RB (MK); one May 6 thru 16 TL (RM). Robin: 20 Apr 19, day of storm, SL (GTC); young out of nest May 29 RB (JK). Wood Thrush: first May 8 RB (JK); May 14 TL (RM); SL May 15 (HD); May 15 M'ville (HMR) seem a little up in numbers. Hermit Thrush: one Apr 21 SL (HD); one Apr 29 Fish Cr Ponds (GTC); one TL Apr 27 (RM); one May 17 RB (MK); Elk L (FS). Swainson's Thrush: one May 18 RB (JK); Elk L (FS). Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Fish Cr Ponds Apr 20 (RM). Veery: continuous commonest thrush in most areas, three M'ville May (HMR). Eastern Bluebird: late returning, arrived Keeseville Apr 17, two pair nesting M'ville May 18 (HMR); arrived SL May 21 (GTC); pair May 30, first egg June 6 Vermontville (HT); one LP May 31 RB (JK); one LP May 31 (MK). Golden-crowned Kinglet: Apr RB (JK); Elk L (FS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Apr 20 RB (MK&JK); one Keene Valley Apr 25, one way to Saranac Inn May 16 (EA,HD). Water Pipit: one May 17 E'town, one May 31 summit Catamount Mt (GC); numerous May 7 thru 31 "slightly later than usual" Gabriels (DY). Cedar Waxwing: four May 16 M'ville, four mid-May Peasleeveville (HMR). Starling: numerous all areas.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: first May 12 RB (JK); one way to Saranac Inn May 16 (EA). Red-eyed Vireo: first May 23 RB (JK); one Fish Cr Ponds May 31 (RM). Philadelphia Vireo: one May 17 LP, one May 25 RB (MK); one May 21 E'town (GC). Warbling Vireo: "Singing and seen; transient on mountainside" May 21 E'town (GC). Warblers: Black-and-white: May thru period RB (JK); one M'ville May 17 (HMR); Elk L (FS). Tennessee: two May 16 M'ville (HMR); one May 29 E'town (GC). Nashville: common from May 15 thru period RB (MK). Parula: one at stream on way to Saranac Inn where they usually nest May 16 (EA,HD); one May 21 E'town (GC). Yellow: one May 17 M'ville (HMR);

one May 30 LP (MK). Magnolia: one May 12, three May 27 RB (JK&MK). Cape May: one May 14 RB (JK). Black-throated Blue: first May 12 RB (JK); one way to Saranac Inn May 16 (HD). Myrtle: hope chose another fly-route as definitely down in numbers all areas reporting. Black-throated Green: first May 14, six May 17 (JK&MK); two way to Saranac Inn May 16 (EA,HD); Elk Lake (FS). Black-burnian: first May 15, five May 25 RB (JK&MK); one May 13 TL (RM). Chestnut-sided: first May 12, eight May 17 RB (JK); one May 16 SL (EA); one May 30 Stony Cr (RM). Bay-breasted: one May 17 M'ville (HMR); three May 20 RB (JK). Blackpoll: one SR near B'dale May 15 (MK); one E'town May 17 (GC); two RB May 28 (JK); one May 29 Stony Cr (RM). Ovenbird: first May 9 RB (JK); four SL May 16 (HD). Northern Waterthrush: first May 15 RB, one May 25 SR near B'dale (MK); one way to Saranac Inn May 16 (HD). *KENTUCKY* one singing and studied at 10 feet May 17 and 18 E'town (GC). Mourning: one L Clear June 1 (DY). Yellowthroat: one SL May 17 (HD); one May 14 thru period RB (JK&MK). Wilson's: female SL May 17 (HD). Canada: one E'town May 16 (GC); five RB to LP May 17 (MK). American Redstart: one May 15 SL (HD); two May 21 RB (JK); one May 29 TL (RM).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: fewer than past eight years. Bobolink: four LP May 17 (MK); one SL May 19 (EA,HD). Eastern Meadowlark: back all areas early Apr. Red-winged Blackbird: peak numbers, up to 1,000 West Plattsburgh Apr 2, males, females nearly two weeks later (HD). Baltimore Oriole: one May 8 RB (JK); one May 15 SL (GTC); one May 16 TL (RM); one May 17 LP (MK). Rusty Blackbird: five Little TL (MK) Apr 20. Common Grackle: six Apr 4 thru period RB (JK); common Apr 5 thru period M'ville (HMR); six Apr 19 SL (CC); Elk L (FS)—seem to be showing increase. Brown-headed Cowbird: peaks Apr 19 & 20. Scarlet Tanager: one SL May 12 (HD); three May 17 thru period RB (JK); pair May 17 thru period M'ville (HMR). Cardinal: one female SL Apr 11 & 17 (EA), and Apr 19 B'dale (JW); pair Port Henry May 16 (GC); one female first of species seen in RB Apr 26 (JK). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: two Apr 26 thru 29 B'dale (JW); one May 10 SL (ED); one May 9 RB (JK); one May 16 M'ville (HMR); four May 18 thru period TL (MK). Evening Grosbeak: large numbers fell off third week in Apr which is late, stayed even in M'ville until feeding was stopped May 6 (HMR). Purple Finch: reported up in all areas, 30 Apr 19 GTC's yard (CC). Common Redpoll: stayed very late, up to Apr 9 SL and RB. Pine Siskin: three May 8 thru 11 SL (GTC); six May 13 RB (JK). American Goldfinch: Not many winter birds but back first week in May in normal nesting numbers. Red Crossbill: one May 12 RB, small flock SL May 21 (JK). Rufous-sided Towhee: one SL Apr 19 (ED); one Apr 30 and daily since TL (RM). Sparrow: Savannah: eight Apr 28 RB (GTC); one Apr 12 SL (EA); three May 17 LP (MK). Vesper: one Apr 9 SL (HD); three LP May 17 (MK&JK); six Peasleeville May 24 (HMR). Slate-colored Junco: gratifying increase in numbers for spring migration; 150 SL Apr 19 (GTC); numbers up to 60 mid-Apr M'ville (HMR). Tree: stayed late, three SL Apr 19 (GTC); one May 1 SL (HD). Chipping: first Apr 13 SL (HD); arrived last week in Apr other areas. *CLAY-COLORED*: one feeding tray Gabriels May 10 thru 13 (DY). Field: first Apr 13 SL (HD), RB (JK); one at feeder Apr 19 & 20 M'ville (HMR). White-crowned: small numbers May 7 thru 21 SL (HD); May 5 thru 14 TL (RM); nine May 14 RB (JK). White-throated: 30 Apr 19 at feeder SL (GTC); large flock at feeder May 4 M'ville (HMR). Fox: four Apr 19 feeder SL (GTC); one Apr 8 thru 29, high three Apr 20 RB (JK). Lincoln's: one RB May 17 (MK). Swamp: one May 15 RB, two May 17 SR way from SL to B'dale (MK). Song: 20 SL feeder Apr 19, day of great storm (GTC); first Apr 2, three singing Apr 5 SL (EA,HD); numerous thru period M'ville (HMR); three TL Apr 15, more later (RM).

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