

ORIOLE: pair breeding at Martisco May 16 to period end (D. Muir); also adult male May 18 DH (G. A. Smith, mob) is first migrant recorded there. Rusty Blackbird: max 5000 Apr. 15 DH, reported in hundreds elsewhere thru Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr May 11 three DH, a bit early; numbers again, like 1974, not in until early Jun. with max a mere ten May 23. Evening Grosbeak: late Apr. flight with max 750 May 1 DH; last noted May 23 eight Snake Swamp west of Oswego. Purple Finch: aside from the Evening Grosbeak, the only local winter finch in numbers—30-35/day to mid-May. **RED CROSSBILL:** only report for spring two Apr. 13 SSSP (PAD, FGS)—a rare bird this season.

Savannah Sparrow: quite scarce this spring—max only 20 Apr. 24 DH; even scarcer were Vesper Sparrow with the max for that species only three Apr. 19 LOL, where formerly a common migrant. Dark-eyed Junco: a poor Apr. flight with max only 200 Apr. 6 Cayuga and Onondaga Co. roadsides following the early Apr. snowstorm. Chipping Sparrow: heavy Ontario lakeshore flight—200 May 15 DH but much lower numbers (12–25/day) away from there. White-crowned Sparrow: seemed quite scarce this spring—field max only 20 May 20 LOL; however, DWC banded 25 individuals frequenting her feeder in Pompey. White-throated Sparrow: numbers markedly depressed with no counts above a hundred—the max is a ridiculously low 85 May 11 DH, HG, Scott Swamp. Fox Sparrow: max 20 Apr. 3 Pompey (J. Hamel fide DWC), a snowstorm induced concentration; singles present to May 1 LOL. Song Sparrow: massive flight stalled locally by the early Apr. snowstorm—max 1176 Apr. 6 on cleared roadsides of Cayuga and Onondaga Counties; similarly “hundreds” of sparrows and even Lapland Longspurs noted at the scraped roadsides in Oneida County that same day (P. Paquette).

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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Spring of 1975 was a mixed bag of weather conditions—from snow to very hot summer conditions and back to cool rainy days.

On April 3rd considerable snow fell in the Region and snow depths on Tug Hill were five feet plus well into late April. May started out very hot and dry with wet and cool conditions for the last half.

Highlights of the spring season include some excellent waterbird and waterfowl observations; many good raptor sightings; two new regional records of gulls; warblers of great variety and good numbers and another regional first Orchard Oriole as well as some unusual sparrows to round out the report.

Rarities included Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Least Bittern, Snow Goose, Spruce Grouse, Glaucous Gull, Black-headed Gull, Laughing Gull, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Short-eared Owl, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Bohemian Waxwing, Cerulean Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Orchard Oriole, House Finch, and Henslow's Sparrow.

Observers: JBB—John B. Belknap; TLC—Tom L. & Cathy Carrolan; LBC—Lee B. Chamberlaine; RCW—Robert C. & June Walker; JAV—Joannes (Joe) A. VanRiet; mob—many observers.

Locations: DH—Dry Hill; ED—Eldorado; HH—Henderson Harbor; HP—Henderson Pond; LV—Lakeview W.M.A.; PR—Perch River W.M.A.; PTP—Pt. Peninsula; RMPD—Robert Moses Power Dam; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; SLR—St. Lawrence River; SNP—Snowshoe Point; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; TP—Thompson Park; WI—Wellesley Island.

Abbreviations: drk—dark; fem—female; imm—immature; lgt—light; pd—pond; pr—pair.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Apr. 27. **RED-THROATED LOON:** 3 May 3 ED (TLC) rare in Region. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** 1 May 16; 4 May 17 (2 in summer plumage) upstream RMPD (JAV) rare. Double-crested Cormorant: 3-5 May 17 SLR (JAV). Great Blue Heron: 9 Apr. 8 SNP. Green Heron: population in Henderson area up. **CATTLE EGRET:** 1 Apr. 22 Castorland-Lewis Co (Burrell Buffington). **GREAT EGRET:** 1 May 2 PTP (TLC). **LEAST BITTERN:** 2 May 11; 1 May 17 RMSP pd (JAV); 1 May 24 Black Crk near Hammond (JBB).

Canada Goose: 4000+ Apr. 10 near Belleville in cornfield; 5000 May 3 (JAV). **SNOW GOOSE:** 21 with 2 blue morphs Apr. 10 near Belleville (LBC); 1 Apr. 17 PR. Mallard: everywhere. Black Duck: 500+ Apr. 10. Gadwall: 6 Apr. 24 WH; 6 May 2 PR; 15 May 17 WH. Pintail: 100+ Apr. 10. Northern Shoveler: 6 Apr. 19 HP; 2 Apr. 19 RMSP pd; 3 May 2 PR. Wood Duck: everywhere. Redhead: 6 Apr. 16 WH; 40+ Apr. 21 LV (LBC); 2 May 17 WH. Ring-necked Duck: 60 Apr. 17 PR (RCW); 48 Apr. 18 HH (LBC); 4 Apr. 24 WH. Canvasback: 4 Apr. 16 HH; 1 May 2 PTP (TLC). Lesser Scaup: 5 May 3 SLR (JAV). Common Goldeneye: flocks of up to 20+ each moving over Apr. 16 SNP (LBC). Bufflehead: flocks of 25+ scattered in HH Apr. 16. Oldsquaw: 190 Apr. 12 SNP. Common Scoter: 1 pr. Apr. 3 WH (JAV). Hooded Merganser: 1 pr Apr. 9. Common Merganser: 11 May 17 SLR. Red-breasted Merganser: 18 May 17.

VULTURES—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 2 Apr. 12 near Adams. Goshawk: 1 fem Apr. 15; 1 May 1; 2 May 24 near nest w/2 young WI (TLC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Apr. 24; 1 Apr. 27; 1 Apr. 30. Cooper's Hawk: 1 Apr. 7; 1 Apr. 29. Red-tailed Hawk: more than in previous years (LBC). Red-shouldered Hawk: none reported. Broad-winged Hawk: 248 May 2 Ellisburg (TLC); 75 May 3 RMSP (JAV). Rough-legged Hawk: 4 drk phase, 1 lgt May 10 W Martinsburg (TLC); 1 May 22 Alex Bay (TLC) late. Bald Eagle: adult May 30 ED (RCW); only report for period. Marsh Hawk: 10 observations reported—up. Osprey: nests in Indian River Lakes active; 4 May 3 RMSP (JAV). A. Kestrel: numbers up—high microtus population LK Plain.

SPRUCE GROUSE: 1 male May 7 near Sampson Pond Outlet (Russell Biss). Ruffed Grouse: numbers still up. Ring-necked Pheasant: some broods seen probably released birds that overwintered. Gray Partridge: 2 Apr. 8 RMSP (JAV); 5 May 4 PTP (TLC); numbers still very low.

Virginia Rail: 5 observations of 11 individuals during the period. C. Gallinule: 7 May 17. Semipalmated Plover: 5 May 29 ED. Black-bellied Plover: 3 May 29 ED (TLC). Woodcock: nest w/4 eggs May 7 (JBB). Upland Sandpiper: more common than previous 2 yrs (LBC). Greater Yellowlegs: 2 May 17 WH (JAV). Lesser Yellowlegs: 6 May 2 PR. Knot: 1 in breeding plumage May 29 ED (TLC). White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 May 25 ED (RCW); 1 May 29 ED (TLC). Least Sandpiper: 38 May 14 Mill Creek (TLC); 3 May 17 WH (JAV). Dunlin: 2 May 21 WH (JAV). **GLAUCOUS GULL:** 1 2nd yr Apr. 22 WH; 1 2nd yr Apr. 25 RMPD both (JAV) late. Great Black-backed Gull: 4 Apr. 16; 4 May 17 SLR; 4 May 3 & 10 at ED. **BLACK-HEADED GULL:** 1 adult breeding plumage May 29 ED (TLC) details supplied—*Regional record*. **LAUGHING GULL:** 1 sub-adult May 10 to 14 ED (TLC); details supplied 3 other observers—*Regional record*. Bonaparte's Gull: 2 May 1; 6 May 17 SLR (JAV). Caspian Tern: 2 Apr. 20 ED (RCW) early. Black Tern: a few on HP this year (LBC).

Mourning Dove: population still seems to be increasing on LK plain. **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:** 1 May 31 TP (TLC). Black-billed Cuckoo: good numbers—tent caterpillar year. Screech Owl: 5 May 17 (TLC); other individuals thru period. Great Horned Owl: 9 individuals 6 reports for period. Snowy Owl: 1 Apr. 14 RMSP (JAV) late. **BARRED OWL:** 1 May 3

& 3 May 17 Brasher Center (JAV) not often reported. **SHORT-EARED OWL**: 1 May 4 PTP (TLC).

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Whip-poor-will: 1 May 9; 5 May 17 (JAV). C. Nighthawk: May 22 Massena. Chimney Swift: later arrival than normal and numbers up in Henderson area (LBC). Ruby-thr. Hummingbird: numbers up in Henderson area (LBC).

Pileated Woodpecker: 4 reports 4 individuals. Red-headed Wpk: 1 Apr. 27 Henderson early; seen at WH and 1 other location in St. Law Co (JAV). **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**: 1 fem Apr. 1 DH (RCW) very late.

Eastern Kingbird: later than normal. Great Crested Flycatcher: also late. E. Phoebe: numbers down—cold weather in Apr.? Alder Flycatcher: May 25 early. Willow Flycatcher: 6 individuals 5 reports (RCW) & (TLC) unusual for Region. Least Flycatcher: 4 May 17 (JAV).

Horned Lark: last group 12 Apr. 7. Tree Swallow: 3 Apr. 11—early considering cold weather. Bank Swallow: 18 May 17. Rough-winged Swallow: 2 May 3; 2 May 17 Alcoa Powerhouse ruins Massena (JAV). Cliff Swallow: more reports than usual; small colony DH (RCW). Purple Martin: late.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 20+ Apr. 15 THP Highmarket (LBC); 3 May 11 TP. Brown Creeper: 4 Apr. 30. House Wren: 6 May 17. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 4 May 17 WH first year heard there (JAV). Mockingbird: 5 reports 5 individuals—increasing? Hermit Thrush: 1 May 2 Watertown (TLC); 1 May 18 Chases Lk (TLC). Swainson's Thrush: 1 May 13 Denison Rd (JAV); 1 May 17 PR; 1 May 24 TP both (TLC). E. Bluebird: 2 May 24 Blake feeder (TLC); 2 May 28 Middle Rd (RCW); 2 May 31 near Limmerick (RCW); pr nesting in Potsdam (L. Gumaer).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: 2 May 5 SNP Rd (TLC); 1 May 11 (JAV) farthest north reported in Region. Water Pipit: 9 May 11 (TLC); 15 May 17 near Wilson Hill (JAV). **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: 2 Apr. 5; 11 Apr. 6 still on last year berries RMSP (JAV). Northern Shrike: 1 Apr. 5; 1 Apr. 8; 1 Apr. 11 all (JAV). Loggerhead Shrike: 2 Apr. 11; 1 Apr. 14 (JAV) 2 Apr. 20 near Henderson (LBC).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: 1 May 11 TP (TLC). Golden-winged Warbler: 1 May 20 DH (RCW); 6 males May 25 Muskalonge LK Rd (TLC); 1 May 25 Bonaparte LK Rd (TLC) no longer rare in region. Tennessee: 3 May 17 WH (JAV); 3 May 25 TP (RCW); 4 other individuals on single days. Nashville: 5 May 17 (JAV); 2 other reports 2 individuals. N Parula: 1 May 13; 2 May 17 (JAV). Cape May: 1 May 11 TP (TLC); 3 May 12 WH; 3 May 17 WH—both (JAV); 1 May 17 PR (TLC); Yellow-rumped: 5 Apr. 26 (LBC); 29 May 12 (JAV); 20 May 17 (JAV). **CERULEAN**: 8 male May 25 Muskalonge LK Rd (TLC); 1 same date TP (RCW). Bay-breasted: 3 May 21. Blackpoll: 2 May 21 (JAV); 2 May 22 (TLC); 1 May 28 (RCW). Pine: 1 May 14 & 17 Brasher State Forest (JAV); 1 singing male May 25 Muskalonge LK Rd (TLC). Palm Warbler: 1 May 3 ED (TLC) early; 1 May 17 WH (JAV) late. **LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH**: 5 May 18 Bear Gulf (TLC); 1 May 31 Washington Park (RCW). Mourning Warbler: 1 male May 31 TP (TLC). Wilson's: 1 May 17 (JAV). An excellent warbler year species and number wise.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: **ORCHARD ORIOLE**: singing imm male May 23 ED (Gates & Janet Wiesburg); May 29-30 mob—*Regional record*. Rusty Blackbird: 3 Apr. 19 Helena; 2 May 2 (JAV). Evening Grosbeak: 1 May 3 Brasher State Forest (JAV). Purple Finch: none in Henderson area this yr (LBC). **HOUSE FINCH**: 1 fem May 2 at Frank Clinch residence Watertown; seen again May 5 (mob). Pine Grosbeak: heard Apr. 15 THP Highmarket (LBC). Redpoll: 2 Apr. 11 last date. Pine Siskin: heard Apr. 15 THP Grasshopper Sparrow: 4 May 17 Rt. 12 (TLC); 1 May 31 PR (RCW). **HENSLOW'S SPARROW**: 2 May 17 Rt. 12 (TLC); 1 May 31 PR (RCW). Tree Sparrow: Apr. 27 last date. White-crowned: arrived May 4 in many numbers and moved on thru. Snow Bunting: last date 2 Apr. 12 late.

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