

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

April weather was normal. One snowstorm on the third and fourth indirectly killed early arrival sparrows, juncos, and some goldfinches. These birds flocked to plowed roads to scratch pits in frozen soil for weed seeds. Many were exhausted to the point of allowing a close approach and some small bodies lay about. Snow melted a little in afternoons until the ice finally went out on Lower St. Regis Lake on May 7.

May was quite warm and rather dry. The outstanding feature of the month was the total absence of many common birds for a week or more after the usual arrival time. Many observers asked where the Red-eyed Vireos and sapsuckers were but the birds suddenly appeared on territory in the usual numbers.

Black flies were not as bad this year in Paul Smiths and the area was not sprayed. Last year they were bad in spite of spray efforts that apparently killed birds if not flies. Unfortunately many other towns have sprayed heavily this year. Also DEC has sprayed several campgrounds for mosquitoes.

Observers: TB—Tom Barber; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; GTC—Greenleaf T. Chase; GH—Gene Hubsch; MK—Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury; DK—Don Knies; BMc—Betsy MacMillan; JMc—John MacMillan; CLM—Cathy Mack; TM—Ted Mack; NM—Norman Mason; mob—many observers; PM—Peter Merritt; CM—Charles Mitchell; JP—John (Mike) Peterson; SP—Sherry Peterson; WP—William Peterson; R&MS—Robert & Mary Sheffield; CS, FL etc—C. G. Spies, Ferdinand LaFrance, L. M. Holland, W. G. Holland, E. D. Treacy; PT—Pat Tabor; MLW—Maurice L. Ward; PW—Philip Warren; KW—Ken West.

Abbreviations: Au—Ausable Marsh, LC; BTP—Browns Tract Ponds; CL—Chazy Landing; ChR—Chubb River; CrPt—Crown Point; E'town—Elizabethtown; FourBros—Four Brothers Islands, LC; Good—Goodnow Flow, Newcomb; Jones—Jones P near PS; L—lake; LC—Lake Champlain; LP—Lake Placid; Mad—Madawaska near PS; Mor—Moriah; PS—Paul Smiths; Plat—Plattsburgh; P—pond; Ti—Ticonderoga; TL—Tupper Lake; Wad—Wadhams.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: most migrants were thru first 4 days of May; max 7 May 1 TL (MK). Red-necked Grebe: none; probably went thru fast in one or a few groups; this species is easily missed for this reason. Double-crested Cormorant: 5 individuals LC. CATTLE EGRET: 4 NESTING May 17 Four Bros (JP, PT). Great Egret: 1 Apr. 27 CL (CM). Black-crowned Night Heron: 40 nesting May 17 FourBros (JP, PT). Snow Goose: 1 Apr. 19 CL (CM). Gadwall: 1 Apr. 19 CL (CM), a rare bird. Mallard: 1 pair migrants on a beaver flow May 2 PS (TM), rare in this area. Pintail: 2 Apr. 19 Lewis (GC); 2 Apr. 19 CL (CM). Green-winged Teal: 1 pair May 29 Mad (MK). Northern Shoveler: 1 Apr. 19 CL (CM). Canvasback: 100 Apr. 14 Au (CM). Lesser Scaup: a few Apr. 19 CL (CM). SURF SCOTER: 3 May 11 Good (CLM, TM); a serious attempt was made to ignore these but they stayed all day; All were females. Red-breasted Merganser: pair May 17 FourBros (JP, PT); hard to find in this region.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first 2 Mar. 28 CrPt (JP). Cooper's Hawk: 1 Apr. 6 Wad (JP, PT); 1 Apr. 12 Whiteface Mtn (TM, JP, PT); 1 May 23 E'town (GH, JP, WP). Red-tailed Hawk: 4 migrating Apr. 6 ChR (JP, PT, TM). Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 May 3 BTP (CS, FL, etc.); 1 May 23 E'town (GH, JP, WP, PT). Broad-winged Hawk: 1 Mar. 30 Wad (SP, WP); 2 Apr. 10 E'town (GC); 1 Apr. 15 PS (TM); all sightings during deep snow time. Bald Eagle: 1 Apr. 12 Corey's; 2 Apr. Eagle L feeding on dog-killed deer; 2 Apr. Chaple P, all (GTC). Osprey: at least 13 seen, max 3 May 14 Jones (TM). PEREGRINE FALCON: 1 May 17 (JP, PT)—sideburns, heavy size, lack of sharp tail barring noted and bird seen

perched and flying. Common Gallinule: 2 May 4 Au (CM); 3 May 17 Ti (BMc), rare for region. **RUDDY TURNSTONE**: 2 May 20 Plat (PW), apparently a first record for region. Whimbrel: 12 May 16 Plat (GC, PW, mob). Upland Sandpiper: 6 May 20 Plat (PW, DK). Dunlin: 14 May 16 Plat (GC, PW). **ICELAND GULL**: 1 imm May 28 LP (MLW, later verified by JP)—first year bird, well described. Great Black-backed Gull: 2 May 3 on edge of ice Blue Mtn L (LMH, WGH, EDT). Black Tern: 3 May TL (MK); 3 May 17 Ti (BMc); 5 May 26 Ti (GC). **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO**: 1 May 13 Mor (TB), very rare. Great Horned Owl: 1 May 25 TL (Ruth Meier). Saw-whet Owl: first Apr. 2 PS (TM); several thru May PS (KW, TM); 1 May 17 Good (CLM, TM).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: 1 May 19 TL (Ruth Meier). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 female Apr. 12 Ch R (JP, PT, PW); 2 males May 3 BTP (CS, FL, etc.); 1 May L Clear (John Seaman). Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 May L Clear (GTC, later mob); 1 male, 2 females May 3 BTP (CS, FL, etc.). Gray Jay: 2 May 11 BTP (FL, PM). Common Raven: 3 cliff nests that are common knowledge; each had 3 young soon to leave nest about May 10 (GTC, TM, JP). Mockingbird: expanding its range; nesting pair May 15 Au (CM); 2 building a nest May 17 Plat (PW, mob); 6 May 17 Essex Co. (High Peaks Audubon); 1 May 19 Ti (BMc, JMc); 1 May 24 Gabriels (PW). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: numbers up, by late May most large tracts of black spruce or balsam had 2 or more singing males on territory. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 5 reports in May; this southern species may be expanding its range because it appeared last year in numbers. Water Pipit: 3 reports of 5 individuals, first 1 Apr. 5 Plat (PW, DK). Loggerhead Shrike: 2 Apr. 27 Plat (PW, CM), very rare.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 May 11 Mor (NM). **PHILADELPHIA VIREO**: pair building nest near Marcy Dam May 28 (MLW), well described, song compared to Red-eyed and recorded, nest 25 feet high in top of sugar maple; verified by JP. Tennessee Warbler: 1 May 29 Mad; 1 May 31 Heart L; both (MK). Cape May Warbler: in late May several pairs could be found on territory in most suitable areas of black spruce or balsam; difficulty in finding a nest contributes to lack of breeding records. Bay-breasted Warbler: not reported. Pine Warbler: 1 May 10 Mor (Helen Phinney); 1 May 12 Plat (CM). **PRAIRIE WARBLER**: 1 male BTP (CS, etc. except FL)—well described; there are 1955 and 1963 records of 2 pair at port Douglas (R. Herbert, W. Spofford, GC). Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 Apr. 27 Mor (TB, Kathy Collins); 1 singing May 25 Raquette L (Bruce Peterson), "many Northern Waterthrush singing nearby." Mourning Warbler: 4 or 5 noted in PS area.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: 1 Apr. 2 TL but soon died in snow-storm (Ruth Meier). **ORCHARD ORIOLE**: 1 male May 10 Ti (BMc, JMc, mob); 1 female May 20 CrPt (GC, NM); 1 imm male May 26 CrPt (GC), black throat. Northern Oriole: numbers up. Rusty Blackbird: max 12 May 3 BTP (CS, FL, etc.). House Finch: 1 banded Apr. 4 Essex (JP). Pine Grosbeak: 2 late birds Apr. 6 PS (TM). White-winged Crossbill: 2 pair with males singing Apr. 12 ChR (JP, PT, TM). Common Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1 imm May 11 BTP (FL, PM); in bog at 4 to 6 feet for 15 minutes; well described, bird on ground or creeping under grass at all times.

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