

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Spring of 1976 was indeed unique. Temperatures ranged from 14° F (-10° C) to a high of mid 80's F (30° C). March was March and April seemed like summer. May was back to winter with as much as 11 inches of snow falling in the May snowstorm which caused much tree and shrub damage.

Rainfall was above average for May and winter snows were gone over much of the Region by mid-April, except for the new snow in May.

Waterfowl nesting success may have suffered from high water during May with many nests being flooded out. Winter finches held on late and warblers in May were outstanding.

Outstanding observations were: Red-throated Loon, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler and a real gem, Clay-colored Sparrow.

Localities: LWMA—Lakeview WMA; PRWMA—Perch River WMA; PTP—Point Peninsula; ULLWMA—Upper & Lower Lakes WMA; RMPD—Robert Moses Power Dam; and, SLR—St. Lawrence River.

Contributors: Russell Biss, Matt Brown, Tom and Cathy Carrolan, Lee B. Chamberlaine, Tom Cutter, Charles Devan, Jeff Schaupp, Edward Smith, Robert C. and June Walker, Lou Wallace, Joannes A. VanRiet.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: good numbers thru period. **RED-THROATED LOON:** 1 Sackets Harbor May 4 (TLC). Horned Grebe: max 12. Double-crested Cormorant: 4 Snowshoe Pt. May 8 (TLC). **GREAT EGRET:** 1 ULLWMA May 16 (Russ Biss); new location for species. Black-crowned Night Heron: numbers in Henderson and vicinity up. **LEAST BITTERN:** 1 heard WHWMA May 16 (JAV); 2 LWMA May 24 (M. Brown).

Brant: 60 Croil Isl SLR May 25 (JAV). Snow Goose: (white morph) 10 PRWMA Mar. 28; 5 (4b 1w) PRWMA Apr. 20 (Brown & J. Schaupp); 20+(w) Chaumont Apr. 30 with 60+ blue morphs (E. Smith). Gadwall: 65 PRWMA Mar. 21; 12 Snowshoe Pt. Mar. 27. N. Shoveler: 30 max PRWMA Apr. 9 (TLC). Redhead 20 Snowshoe Pt. Mar. 27; 6 same Apr. 1; 6 PTP Apr. 10; 5 WHWMA May 1; 7 WHWMA May 16. Ring-necked Duck: 18 Snowshoe Pt. Mar. 27. Canvasback: 120 RMPD Mar. 23; 150 Snowshoe Pt. Mar. 27; 1 Clayton May 1. Greater Scaup: 150 max Pillar Pt. Apr. 4. Lesser Scaup: 30 max Showshoe Pt. Apr. 1. Bufflehead: 100 Black River Bay Apr. 10; last May 26—late. Oldsquaw: 120 max Showshoe Pt. Apr. 1. White-winged Scoter: 2 Payne Lk. Apr. 27 (C. Devan); last date May 21. Hooded Merganser: 2 pair Muskalonge Crk. Mar. 10. Com. Merganser: 20 May 22—late. Red-breasted Merganser: 1 May 16.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: becoming more common. Goshawk: 1 immature Henderson Mar. 8; 1 immature Rural Hill Mar. 20 both (TLC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Massena Apr. 21 (JAV); 1 Dry Hill Apr. 26 (RCW). Cooper's Hawk: none reported. Broad-winged Hawk: 7 Massena Apr. 22; 3 WHWMA May 1; 3 Alex Bay May 1.

Rough-legged Hawk: 25 PTP Apr. 11 (Matt Brown); last May 16. **BALD EAGLE:** 1 adult Carry Flow Reservoir Mar. 2 (L. Wallace). Marsh Hawk: courtship flight Mar. 25 (JAV); max 5 PTP Apr. 10; seems to be gaining. Osprey: numerous sightings throughout Region—also gaining.

Gray Partridge: still low. Virginia Rail: 1 PRWMA Apr. 24; 2 PRWMA May 2. Sora: 1 PRWMA May 2. Common Gallinule: LWMA Apr. 24 (T. Cutter). Black-bellied Plover: 1 Sackets Hbr. May 11 (TLC). Ruddy Turnstone: 3 WHWMA May 28 (R. Biss & C. Devan).

Am. Woodcock: Mar. 10. Upland Sandpiper: arrived May 1; not as prevalent as in early 70's. Solitary Sandpiper: 2 near Burrville May 15. Greater Yellowlegs: 1 near Lowville Apr. 18 (M. Brown); 20 PRWMA May 20 (TLC). Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 PRWMA May 2. Least Sandpiper: 1 May 15; 9 Mill Crk. May 22; 8 SLR May 25. Dunlin: 3 Croil Isl. May 15 (JAV); 1 same loc May 25 (JAV).

Glaucous Gull: 6 RMPD Apr. 13 (JAV). Iceland Gull: 1 RMPD Mar 9 (JAV); 1 Eldorado found dead Apr. 10 (TLC). Great Black-backed Gull: 1 LWMA Mar. 27; 25 Eldorado Apr. 10; 20 SLR May 29. Ring-billed Gull: thousands on SLR Massena Mar. 23 & 24; thousands in Henderson area April thru—tremendous numbers inland to feed on new-plowed land (LBC). Bonaparte's Gull: 5 Cape Vincent May 9; 1 Apr. 20 & 1 May 16 SLR. Common Tern: about 50 nests near Croil Isl SLR (JAV). Caspian Tern: 4 SLR May 1. Black Tern: 35+ LWMA May 30.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 May 30; maybe more summer records with high tent caterpillar numbers? Screech Owl: thru. Great Horned Owl: thru. Barred Owl: 1 response Brasher State Forest May 16 (JAV); 2 Camp Portaferry May 28 (TLC). SHORT-EARED OWL: 1 PTP Apr. 11 (M. Brown); 2 Pt. Salubrious May 30 (TLC). SAW-WHET OWL: 1 response Robert Moses St. Pk. May 15 (JAV).

Whip-poor-will: May 16 Brasher State Forest. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 3 Thompson Park May 16. Pileated Woodpecker: thru. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Stony Pt. May 8; 1 Henderson May 10—both (TLC); nowhere near as many as in 1971-72.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: 1 Wanakena May 28 (TLC). Willow-Alder Flycatcher: May 30—late. Horned Lark: 35 Mar. 17. Tree Swallow: Mar. 22; 110 Apr. 2. Rough-winged Swallow: Massena Apr. 20. Cliff Swallow: 13 Sackets Hbr. May 8 (TLC). Brown Creeper: Apr. 10. House Wren: 1 Dry Hill Apr. 21—early. Winter Wren: 4 Bear Gulf May 15 (TLC). Carolina Wren: bird that was at Snowshoe Pt. last summer and fall did not return. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 Redwood May 1; 2 PRWMA May 2—early (RCW). MOCKINGBIRD: 1 Watertown Mar. 26 (J. Schaupp); 1 Watertown Mar. 29 (M. Brown); 2 Limerick Cedars May 1 (mob). Hermit Thrush: May 5. Swainson's Thrush: May 25. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: 1 Wanakena May 28 (TLC). Eastern Bluebird: 1 Redwood May 1 (RCW); 1 ULLWMA May 26 (LBC). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: 1 WHWMA May 1 (TLC & JAV). Water Pipit: 5 PRWMA area May 8 (TLC). Northern Shrike: 1 adult Mar. 15—last.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: 1 Muskalonge Lk. Rd. May 23 (TLC). Solitary: May 16. PHILADELPHIA: 3 Thompson Pk. May 15 (TLC); max 12 Old Rome State Rd. swamp May 22 (TLC). Black-and-white Warbler: 1 WHWMA May 1. BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: 2 May 21 (TLC). Golden-winged: 3 Watertown Sportsmen's Club May 8; 6 thru Muskalonge Lk. Rd. (TLC). TENNESSEE: 1 Eldorado May 8; 45+ at one time Old Rome State Rd. swamp May 23 (TLC). Nashville: 1 Eldorado May 8. Magnolia: May 16. CAPE MAY: 2 Thompson Pk. May 5 (M. Brown). CERULEAN: 5+ males Muskalonge Lk. Rd. May 23 (TLC). Bay-breasted: 2 Blake Sanctuary May 15. Blackpoll: May 23—thru Old Rome St. Rd. PINE: May 16. LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: 6 Bear Gulf May 15 (TLC). Mourning Warbler: 2 Old Rome State Rd. swamp May 22 thru (TLC). YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: 1 male Thompson Pk. May 16-23 (TLC with J. Schaupp and M. Brown); few previous reports. HOODED WARBLER: 1 male Thompson Pk. May 16 (TLC with Schaupp & Brown). Wilson's: 2 Old Rome State Rd. swamp May 22; 1 Wanakena May 28.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: N. Oriole: more common in Henderson area than previous 2 yrs. (LBC). Rusty Blackbird: Mar. 29. Evening Grosbeak: small groups around thru. Pine Grosbeak: Mar. 22. Com. Redpoll: last Apr. 13. Pine Siskin: 4 airport rd. Brownville Mar. 14-21. Savannah Sparrow: Apr. 11. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: colonies 12+ pair largest PRWMA to Watertown & airport (TLC). HENSLOW'S SPARROW: colonies 12+ pairs largest same locations (TLC). CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1 male singing and sighted airport

rd. Brownville May 18-27 (TLC). White-crowned Sparrow: May 2. Swamp Sparrow: Apr. 15. Lapland Longspur: 11 Baggs Corners Mar. 17. Snow Bunting: 20 Baggs Corners Mar. 17; last Mar. 17.

Box 139, Henderson, New York 13650

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK—CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

Spring weather was variable. April had several unseasonably warm days. The birds were not fooled by this, however, and did not arrive too early for their own good. May was cold for the most part with 10 inches of snow closing the road between Lake Placid and Saranac Lake on May 19. The wet snow brought down newly leaved aspen and bent many red pines to the ground. Many balsams lost their tops.

I know of one Ovenbird and two Wood Thrush nests that were abandoned because of snow, but these were without eggs so the birds probably rebuilt a few days later when snow melted. Scarlet Tanagers were weak to the point of being unafraid of humans, but most made it by catching insects on the ground under evergreens. Woodcock also headed for these areas and to the spring seeps.

The Essex and Franklin County spring counts each had over a hundred species. These are fine tallies for the North Country. The help of each who took part was important and made these days successful.

Abbreviations: Cham—Champlain; Chazy Ldg—Chazy Landing; E'town—Elizabethtown; PS—Paul Smiths; Platts—Plattsburgh; Ti—Ticonderoga; Tup Marsh—Tupper Lake Marsh.

Observers: Deborah Anson, Teresa Anson, Helen & Robert Booth, David Cate, Geoffrey Carleton, Charlie Delehanty, High Peaks Audubon Society, Richard Guthrie, Robert Hagar, Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury, Hal Klein, Don Knies, Ferdinand LaFrance, Ted Mack, Margaret and Robert McKinney, John and Betsy MacMillan, Lawrence Master, Ruth Meier, Dan Nickerson, John M. C. Peterson, William Peterson, Pat Tabor, Phil Warren.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: good numbers of residents. Horned Grebe: first Feb. 22 Essex (DN). Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Whallon's Bay L Cham Mar. 27 (HiPkAu); 1 Tup L Apr. 15 (MK). Green Heron was seen at many Adirondack areas where it is usually absent. Cattle Egret is doing well on Four Bros Is. One found by RH May 2 was displaying for a white bleach bottle near Saranac L. CD saw one May 7 at Tup Marsh. American Bittern: good numbers. Canada Goose: large concentrations L Cham thru Apr. Brant: max May 9 Chazy Ldg 130 (H&RB). Several small flocks of Snow Geese were on L Cham. More inland Mallards showed up than usual. This would be a rare breeder if found on forest water where the Black Duck is to be expected. Usual numbers of Black Ducks breeding with 9 downy young swimming behind adult May 22 near PS; 8,000 transients L Cham Apr. 16 (JP,WP). Pintail: regular L Cham migrant with max 17 Essex Mar. 15 (HiPkAu). Green-winged Teal: 2 Essex Mar. 27 (HiPkAu); 2 PS Apr. 18. Northern Shoveler: regular L Cham with max 8 Chazy Ldg Apr. 15 (PW). Redhead: all season until May 15 L Cham (PW). Ring-necked Duck: 16 Tup Marsh Apr. 9 (CD) and several breeders near PS. Several Lesser Scaup seen with Greater on L Cham. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**: a female with bright orange bill, gray body and white neck ring was carefully documented Mar. 6 at Essex (DN, JP, GR, PT); a male Apr. 18 Chazy Ldg well described (Jan Parker). Scoter: 6 Lincoln P Apr. 19 (DN)—one was White-winged and the others not seen so well.