

Evening Grosbeak: last May 3. Purple Finch: fewer than previous year. **HOUSE FINCH:** 1 male and two females or immature males at window feeder—usually only one or two at a time during April—one male and one female or immature male banded Apr. 30—last seen May 1 (FAC). Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr. 21. Savannah Sparrow: Apr. 15.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: 1 Watertown Airport May 27 (FAC). **HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** 1 Watertown Airport May 27 (FAC). Vesper Sparrow: numbers down. Dark-eyed Junco: last May 1. Tree Sparrow: 14 Mar. 23; wave Mar. 25-27; last Apr. 1. Chipping Sparrow: Apr. 20; more common than last two years. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** 3 males Watertown Airport May 27 (FAC). Field Sparrow: 1 Apr. 12; 1 May 12 scarce here (Massena) (JAV). White-crowned Sparrow: 4 May 6; wave May 15; more in Henderson area than previous 3 yrs.—outnumbered white-throats 3 to 1 (LBC). White-throated Sparrow: Apr. 20 diminishing May 6. Swamp Sparrow: Apr. 21. Snow Bunting: 21 Mar. 23; last 4 Mar. 26.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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March was unseasonably warm with 55° F (12.7° C) on the 13th and a fantastic 60° F (15.5° C) on the 29th. This helped shut off the snow machines a bit sooner than normal. I suspect a few people were not entirely upset at this result. By April 17th the ice was gone from most of the lakes. There were no late storms to endanger migrants.

The number of Saw-whet Owls was noteworthy. They were throughout the area from Ferd's Bog in Hamilton County to Tupper Lake and the Champlain Valley. At least 15 individuals were calling in the Paul Smiths area in March and April. Sometimes more could be heard in an evening than Barred Owls—our most common species.

A fourth Raven's nest was finally located near where Glenn Perrigo saw a Raven vanish into the ledges above the West Branch of the Ausable River near Wilmington a few years ago. Another pair seems to have taken up housekeeping near Paul Smiths but the nest has not been located.

Ospreys are nesting at Ochre Pond and Bear Pond in the canoe area as usual. It is quite a sight to see them soaring against the ledges of St. Regis Mountain.

This May was the driest in 20 years so Lake Champlain was at low levels early. This should provide excellent shorebird stopover areas for late summer. It may have helped Clinton County reach 122 species for their May Big Day.

Two additional records for nesting Blue-gray Gnatcatchers indicate both a recognition of the gnat problem in this region and a likelihood that this species is going to increase its known breeding range to new northern limits.

The hunting fraternity has released some New York Turkeys at Willsboro. Another release at Ticonderoga indicates only hunters will be to blame if this new species takes hold in our area. Hopefully it will.

Sandhill Cranes wander on occasion. It was nice to have one visit this spring. All told, it was a good migration.

Localities: Chazy Landing; Four Brothers Islands in Lake Champlain; Paul Smiths; Plattsburgh; Saranac Lake; Ticonderoga; Tupper Lake.

Observers: Geoffrey Carleton; Mrs. Charles Chapman, Jr.; Dr. & Mrs. Alfred Decker; Charlie Delehanty; John David Delehanty; High Peaks Audubon Society; Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury; Hal Klein; Ferdinand LaFrance; Esther MacCready; Betsy & John MacMillan; Betty Martin; Norman Mason; Ruth Meier; Ray Payson; John (Mike) Peterson; Gary Randolph; William Rutherford; Chris Spies; Steve Sanford; Greg Smith; Phil Warren.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: Black Pd at PS is probably gone as a breeding place because a lean-to is located too close to the nesting island. No birds lingered there this year. Fishing pressure and subsequent human activity seems to increase every season. Increased use of the St. Regis canoe area islands as camp sites may well pose a problem for those birds. Nesting islands should be declared off limits to campers until the young are on the water. Red-necked Grebe: 2 Whallon's Bay L Cham May 3 (EM). Pied-billed Grebe: several L Cham Apr. 9 (mob). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Platts May 22 (PW). Great Blue Heron: many birds this year. Dr. Kingsbury watched one individual soar from tree top to the limit of vision on a thermal. American Bittern: 1 Tup L May 22 (MK); 1 Tup L May 22 (Mrs. Chapman); plus several L Cham. Canada Goose: 69 Chubb R Mar. 12 (PW *et al.*); breeding for fifth year straight at Four Bros; breeder at Tup L. Snow Goose: 43 Moriah May 3 (NM); 6 Chazy Ldg May 14 (PW,SS,RP). **GADWALL:** 1 Chazy Ldg Apr. 24 and 2 May 14 (PW,SS,RP). Pintail: max 33 Chazy Ldg Apr. 24 (PW). American Wigeon: max 170 Chazy Ldg Apr. 24 (PW). **EUROPEAN WIGEON:** 1 male seen at 50 meters thru a Balscope for 20 minutes; rufous head and gray sides clearly seen (PW). Northern Shoveler: max 10 Chazy Ldg May 14 (PW,SS). Redhead: 2 Chazy Ldg Apr. 9 and May 8 (PW,RP); 1 Essex Station May 14 (GR *et al.*). Ring-necked Duck: at least 15 pair noted on breeding areas. Hooded Merganser: at least 10 females on various snag-filled beaver flows and small ponds near PS in late May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: several L Cham; 1 PS in May seemed out of place (WR). 27 Sharp-shinned Hawks reported but only 2 Cooper's Hawks. 9 Red-shouldered Hawks noted. An early Broad-winged Hawk on Mar. 15 at Chapel Pd was reported with full details (Paul Bishop). Bald Eagle: 1 Tup L Mar. 21 (CD); 1 Crown Point Apr. 9 (NM). Several Marsh Hawks from Cham Valley and 1 transient at Gabriels. Osprey: several migrants—max 3 PS May 22. Spruce Grouse: 1 male Madawaska in April. **SANDHILL CRANE:** 1 seen in flight at 150 yards with 7 x 50 binoculars. Large gray bird with darker wing tips, lighter head and neck outstretched. It gave a guttural rattling call (SS). Virginia Rails and Soras increased from May 11 (EM,JP) with max 5 of former at Lake Alice May 22 (PW,HK). Common Gallinule noted in May at Ti (BM,JM). American Coot: 1 Platts May 24 (PW). Black-bellied Plover: 2 Platts May 22 (PW). American Woodcock were at Lake Clear Mar. 28 and John Parke had them at Essex Mar. 11. Ruddy Turnstone: 1 Platts May 22 (PW). Upland Sandpiper: 2 Wadhams Apr. 30 (Deborah & Teresa Anson); 3 pair Platts May 22 (PW). Dowitcher (sp): Four Bros May 19 (EM,JP). **GLAUCOUS GULL:** second year immature with Herring and Ring-billed Gulls so large size noted. Entirely white with large bill black on end and flesh color at base. Tail equal to wing tips but large size ruled out Iceland. No color in primaries in flight. This May 25 Platts sighting is a very late date. Black Tern: 2 Ti May 7 (BM,JM). Look at them because they are decreasing in the east by 12 percent a year (Chandler Robbins, Danny Bystrak, U.S. Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Lab).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: There are quite a few Whip-poor-wills calling at Malone; 6 there late May (Lang Elliott). Dr. Michael Kudish, a professional botanist, noted a Pileated Woodpecker eating bittersweet berries in Saranac Lake. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Lewis Apr. 12 (Mike McCasland); nest located Westport May 14 for Essex Co. first breeding record (Hi Peaks Aud); 1 Peasleeville May 19 (Judy Barker). Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: 2 digging nest hole at Ferd's Bog May 7 (FL,CS *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Good numbers of Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. Horned Larks arrived at Lake Clear Mar 3 (WR). Cliff Swallow widely reported but 3 known Bank Swallow sites are deserted. Gray Jay: 1 Ferd's Bog May 7 (FL,CS *et al.*). Winter Wrens seem scarce. Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes

are in good numbers. Eastern Bluebird: several reports with a max of 28 carefully identified in mid-Feb. at Crown Pt (Earl Davis). They take risks with our weather. Blue-gray Gnat-catcher: pair building a nest 8 meters up in vertical fork of tree over flooded land at Ausable River delta May 7 but later abandoned (HK,RP,SS,PW); pair building nest 7 feet up in 10 foot hawthorn near flooded land at Crown Pt on May 13. A third individual was nearby the next day (EM,JP). Water Pipit: 3 Westport May 7 (GC); 18 Keene May 15 (Hi Pk Au). Northern Shrike: several. Loggerhead Shrike: 2 Essex Apr. 15 as well as a Northern on same date (EM,JP).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Good year for Solitary Vireo. MK had a Philadelphia Vireo near Axton May 20 as well as Warbling Vireo. The former is scarce while the latter is most readily found in the villages. Yellow-rumped, Am. Redstart, and Blackburnian Warblers are common as usual in that order of abundance. Black-and-white, Nashville, N. Parula, Yellow, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, and Canada Warbler are in good but smaller numbers than the preceding. Pine and Bay-breasted were noted more than usual. Prairie Warbler at the usual Crown Pt place in May was the best warbler find. A territorial pair of Louisiana Waterthrush at Ausable Pt on L Cham thru period (SS,mob).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird arrived at Tup L Feb 22 and came in force with 45 Mar. 9 (CD). More Northern Orioles than usual were reported. Rusty Blackbird: max 6 Ferd's Bog (FL,CS *et al.*). Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted and Evening Grosbeaks in fine numbers. RM had an Evening with solid black on wings in place of the usual white. A March Cardinal Tup L was unusual (CD). House Finch continues to spread. PW had a pair in Platts at his house which is apparently a first Clinton Co. record altho Essex Co. has them. Pine Grosbeak: several reports in March. Pine Siskin: many but local. Red Crossbill: several Mar Ray Brook (GR); 2 Westport Mar. 30 (EM,JP); 3 Saranac L May 21 (MK). White-winged Crossbill: 3 Ray Brook Mar. 10 (GR); 2 Blue Ridge Rd Mar. 15 (JM). Vesper Sparrow: 5 reports PS to L Cham. Chipping Sparrow: Bob Hagar's 3 wintering chaps stayed thru to spring in good health except they disappeared for the Christmas count day.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Spring 1977 was characterized by early foliage and late migrants. It all began with a record warm spell followed by torrential rains in the second week of March. While April was more nearly normal, May was all mixed up. A heavy, wet snow smothered the Region on the morning of May 10. Up to 18 inches covered elevated areas such as Berne and Warrensburg; most localities had between 8 and 12 inches. The storm was particularly troublesome to the aerial insectivores but the treetop-foragers appeared to be undaunted.

Birding in the area was spiked a bit by a wager among a small group of birders for top lister. From one to five points were awarded to species according to their relative rarity. The indefatigable Ken Able took the pool with a tally of 193 species for the Region between Jan. 1 and May 31. Next year, 200 anyone?

A few trends are apparent from the reports submitted. Among these are: a general increase in the number and variety of waterfowl; a continued upswing in most raptor reports, especially species with recent problems, such as Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk and Osprey; a