

bers. Cardinal: five males, two with females in Canton; one in Massena Apr. 11. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arrived at Robt. Moses Park May 8. Indigo Bunting: arrived late at very end of period. Evening Grosbeak: 300 Robinson Creek-SLR Apr. 5; 300 Polly's Gut-SLR Apr. 8; last on May 13. Purple Finch: decreasing through period in Massena—increased through period in Henderson. House Finch: a few (up to 4-5) at a time all through period at Clinch residence in Watertown (F. Clinch). Am. Goldfinch: regularly at feeders and small flocks in early May. Red Crossbill: two Brasher State Forest May 3. Savannah Sparrow: arrived Massena area Apr. 17; more common in Henderson area. Vesper Sparrow: a total of ten in Massena area—in twos mainly Apr. 15-Apr. 26—poor (J. VanRiet); three Three Mile Point May 4; none in Henderson area. Dark-eyed Junco: max. in Massena 40 on Apr. 26; decreasing through. Tree Sparrow: three to six per day in Massena area Mar. 9 to Apr. 21; last May 15—very late. Chipping Sparrow: arrived Apr. 25—very numerous this year. Field Sparrow: passing through Massena area on Apr. 18—a rather rare breeder in Massena area (J. VanRiet); somewhat increased in Henderson vicinity from last year—common in this area. White-crowned: arrived in Henderson May 7—only in numbers along eastern Lake Ontario shore and inland for a mile; last on May 14—very rapid migration through Region. White-throated: arrived Apr. 8; some improvement in numbers from last year. Fox Sparrow: 20 Canton May 6; none seen in Massena area or Watertown. Swamp Sparrow: very common at Lakeview and vicinity. Song Sparrow: arrived Mar. 6 in Henderson; Mar. 21 in Massena area. Snow Bunting: max. 40 on Mar. 15—last seen Apr. 6.

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REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

There were no unusual weather conditions to affect birds, being quite an ordinary spring with conditions milder than usual. Some early arrival dates were noted. The ice went out of Lower St. Regis Lake late during the day on April 19 with loons arriving the next day.

The bare road policy for the Winter Olympics meant thousands of tons of salt on roads that are ordinarily very lightly salted and sanded. The plows threw salt spray up to thirty feet high, which killed foliage on roadside conifers. Large trees should recover but small ones are dead. Birds probably will not be harmed by this, and some woodpeckers may even benefit by new feeding or nesting sites if they are not hit by traffic. The highway departments will probably remove some trees, hopefully before they age enough to be actually occupied by cavity nesting species.

An excellent hawk watch at Coot Hill on April 19 recorded 102 hawks of eleven species. Braddocks Bay and Derby Hill make this look rather insignificant but we just do not have such concentrated flights as those locations.

Clinton County is receiving better coverage now. An adult male Golden-winged Warbler was at Lake Alice near Chazy. Six Blue-gray Gnatcatchers near Ausable Marsh were among the more southern rarities noted.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Betty Hedges had a Common Loon on Raquette Lake the day after ice went out at that location. Two were on Black Pond at Paul Smiths where they used to breed but the influx of fishermen seemed to be too much for them. They left after a few days. Three Double-crested Cormorants were at Crown Point May 10. Ferd's Bog had a Green Heron the same date. A Great Egret was at the state game area near the two Chazy Rivers April 18 and 20 (MG). A Least Bittern was at Ticonderoga Marsh May 17 (EJ, MP, D & JT). Am. Bittern: none at Tupper Marsh but several near Paul Smiths and other areas. Canada Goose: seven rested on frozen Raquette Pond March 21; nine returned to Raquette River at Tupper, down from twenty last year. One was on a farm pond at Whallonsburg May 17, and one was Mud Pond at Onchiota May 24. Perhaps these two were victims of lead poisoning. It only takes a few lead shot ingested to cause serious problems. Seven Brant were headed north near Ironville May 16. Several banders saw a pair of Gadwalls April 27 at Ti Marsh. Blue-winged Teal were noted at Tupper Lake May 24 (CD). They are rare inland away from farm country. Ring-necked Duck numbers are down in the Paul Smiths area. Tupper Marsh seems to have only two pair. Fifty Canvasbacks were at Port Henry in a lead about 200 feet long Feb. 29. These diminished to three individuals by Mar. 22. A few Com. Goldeneyes were scattered about the Paul Smiths area in May. Red-breasted Mergansers were seen along Lake Champlain from Mar. 17 to May 13.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 12 at the hawk watch Apr. 19 at Coot Hill. In addition to other migrants of that species in Champlain Valley there were two at Tupper Lake Apr. 21, one at Paul Smiths in April and another over Onchiota in early June. Goshawk: two Apr. 19 at Coot Hill; one doing a courtship flight Apr. 26 at Essex and one at Indian Lake May 25. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 16 reported. Cooper's Hawk: 10 reported of which GC saw four. Red-shouldered Hawk: seven reported but mostly as migrants. Resident birds are scarce. Charlie Delehanty had two adult Bald Eagles Mar. 27 and an imm. Apr. 12 at Tupper Marsh. There were four adults reported by a beaver trapper from the Raquette River below Tupper Lake. An adult was over Osgood Pond at Paul Smiths Apr. 15 (CC). One adult passed over Coot Hill Apr. 19. SSM saw an adult and an imm. at Lake Marion May 10. Eleven Marsh Hawks were seen from Gabriels and Tupper Lake to Whallonsburg where CS saw an apparently mated pair. Osprey: 11 were seen May 3 from Chazy Landing to Ausable Marsh. One has been at Tupper Lake and three early inland birds were at Paul Smiths Mar. 27 (WR). Nine others were seen including one at Chubb River nest May 25 (Hi Pk Aud). Merlin: one at Coot Hill hawk watch Apr. 19 (Hi Pk Aud); one near Essex Apr. 22 (J Pa); one at Moriah May 4 (GC). On Mar. 20 an imm. Peregrine Falcon swooped several times at an iced-in Mallard decoy near Whallonsburg (CS). Six Ring-necked Pheasants wintered at a Tupper Lake feeder. Virginia Rail, Sora, and Common Gallinule were listed for the May 17 Essex County Big Day count. A Semipalmated Plover was at Ticonderoga May 17 (EJ, MP, DT, JT) and another at Tupper Lake May 24 (CD). GC discovered a Black-bellied Plover at Westport May 21. These last two species are more apt to be encountered as fall migrants. Am. Woodcock was reported as scarce in the Champlain Valley and Tupper Lake, but Paul Smiths had quite a few. There were good numbers of Com. Snipe but they were not winnowing very much. You had to get out close to the habitat to find them. There were three Champlain Valley reports of Solitary Sandpipers and one was at Ferd's Bog on May 10 (FL, CS). Greater Yellowlegs were at Paul Smiths and Crown Point. A late Lesser Yellowlegs was seen by GC May 19 at Essex Station. A late Least Sandpiper was at Tupper Lake May 24 (CD). Four Semipalmated Sandpipers were with flocks of Least Sandpipers at Essex Station

May 19 (EJ, MP). Only report of Black Terns was one May 14 at Tupper and up to three there since (CD).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Two Great Horned Owls, one on a nest, were at Crown Point Feb. 20 (GC, NM) and two were calling at Westport Apr. 20 (EJ, NP). Barred Owls are common enough. Two Saw-whet Owls were calling at Paul Smiths in late April and early May. There were three Champlain Valley Whip-poor-wills. Six Com. Nighthawks were at the Brandon Burn. Two early Chimney Swifts were at Plattsburgh Apr. 24 (CM). An early Com. Flicker was at Tupper Apr. 6. Pileated Woodpeckers were in the usual one to three a day numbers. CS found a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers at Whallonsburg May 12. Charlie Delehanty had a problem feeding woodpeckers at Tupper Lake when a Black Bear discovered her suet feeder May 4. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one Lake Alice Mar. 29 (MG); two Ferd's Bog May 11 and digging a nest hole (FL, CS); one Onchiota May 24; one Chubb River May 25. Two Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were at Ferd's Bog May 10 (FL, CS).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: M & B McK found 12 Great Crested Flycatchers at Indian Lake May 24. The Franklin County Big Day count resulted in one Eastern Phoebe and one Eastern Wood Pewee for a party of three that ended up with 89 species. There seems to be a scarcity of these two birds unless they just were not calling. An extremely early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen and later compared to an Eastern Phoebe Apr. 8 at New Russia. Bird was not heard (KT, PT). Two were noted May 26 in the Seward Range (M & B McK). There were fair numbers of Alder Flycatchers. They tend to be overlooked or not heard. Olive-sided Flycatcher was in fair numbers. An early arrival was at Ferd's Bog May 11 (FL, CS). Purple Martin was on the Essex Big Day list for May 17. This species seems to be restricted to the Champlain Valley and lower elevations. Two Gray Jays ate part of a cheese and grape jelly sandwich at Onchiota May 24 as their reward for contributing to the Franklin Co. count. Com. Raven: Gabriels, Paul Smiths, Indian Lake, Raquette Lake, Tupper Lake, Essex and Moriah are some of the places this species was seen. You should be able to see and hear ravens any day at the Brighton Town Dump at Gabriels. On Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 9-5 you can drive in. This species has increased dramatically. Four migrant Com. Crows were over Moriah Feb. 14 (GC). This is one of the first signs of spring. Boreal Chickadees were at Onchiota and Ferd's Bog as well as the higher elevations. Two Tufted Titmice were at a Willsboro feeder through late Mar. (CF); one was at Pointe au Roche (MG); one at Plattsburgh (AM). Mockingbird: five were reported including one Apr. 14 at Crown Point (GC); one the same place at nest with eggs May 17 (EJ, MP, DT, JT); one Raybrook in late May (TM); and one in Elizabethtown May 20 (GC). An early Brown Thrasher was at Moriah Apr. 14 (MV). An early Wood Thrush was near the same village Apr. 12 (EJ, JT). The Champlain Valley and Tupper Lake had a few Eastern Bluebirds but none were found at Brandon Burn where they were in past seasons. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Ausable Point Apr. 19 (MG); a pair Apr. 27 and May 17 at Ti; pair building a nest May 4 and on it May 9; six individuals Ausable Marsh May 3 (CM, RP); pair at Willsboro May 22 (MP, mob). Water Pipit seems to have been unrecorded. A large flock of Bohemian Waxwings was at Beekmantown Mar. 23 (HK, KR).

VIREOS-WARBLED: GC found a Yellow-throated Vireo in the Champlain Valley May 17. FL and CS had 32 Solitary Vireos in an eight-mile hike near Ferd's Bog on May 10. Warbling Vireos were well represented in the Champlain Valley and at St. Regis Falls in May. There were plenty of Black-and-white Warblers. The Golden-winged Warbler at Lake Alice was seen on the early date of May 11 (CM, RP). The first Tennessee Warbler showed up May 11 at Crown Point (EJ, MP). 79 Yellow-rumped Warblers were at Ferd's Bog area May 10. HK had a female at Beekmantown Mar. 15. Three singing Cape May Warblers in spruce forest at Chubb River seemed to be on territory (EJ, MP). There were good numbers of Blackburnian Warblers. Eight Bay-breasted Warblers were at Indian Lake May 24 (M & B McK). The McKinneys also counted 15 Blackpoll Warblers in the Seward Range May 26.

Pine, Prairie and Palm Warblers seem to have been missed. On Apr. 21 No. Waterthrushes were at Auger Pond to set a new early date. MP found a Louisiana Waterthrush singing at an Elizabethtown brook from May 12 through 20. The Chapman family found a Wilson's Warbler at Newcomb May 17 and an ad. male was at Paul Smiths May 24 (DA, BG, TM). 12 Canada Warblers were at Indian Lake May 24 (M & B McK). DA found an early Am. Redstart at Paul Smiths on Apr. 27.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Two late female Bobolinks passed over Elizabethtown May 27 (GC, MP). Rusty Blackbird was reported from Chubb River and Ferd's Bog. An early Scarlet Tanager was at Moriah Apr. 16 (MV). Five Cardinals wintered at Tupper Lake feeders. There were a lot of Purple Finches in the Region. Three Pine Grosbeaks were at Franklin Falls Mar. 9. Red Crossbills were seen at the Chubb River. Rufous-sided Towhee was not reported on the Essex Co. count. Sparrows were scarce. Vesper Sparrow: one was at Tupper Apr. 12 and two were seen on the Essex count. Two Fox Sparrows were at Paul Smiths Mar. 27 (WR) and one was at Rouses Point Apr. 20. No others were reported. There are lots of Lincoln's Sparrows. A Song Sparrow banded Aug. 17 at Elizabethtown returned Apr. 21. Elspeth Johnson found a Lapland Longspur with about 25 Horned Larks at Essex Mar. 17.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

After the mild winter weather, spring came in rather harshly at first with a -20 F (-29 C) in central Saratoga County on March 2nd, and zero readings from the milder parts of the Region. The snowstorm on March 13th measured 17 inches in western Albany County and lesser amounts through the Region, approaching the total snowfall for the entire winter. A heavy rain on the 21st of March dropped nine inches of rain on the northern Catskills, yet less than a quarter inch fell in Washington County that day. The balance of the season was more pleasant, with above normal temperatures and ample rainfall. Spring bird migration started early and produced a few interesting early records. However, the mainstream of migration was about on time or perhaps a bit late. The unusual late season heavy snows in the south may have delayed northbound movement. Or was it Mt. St. Helen's fault?

The big birding event of the season, the annual Guy Bartlett Century Run, was a phenomenal success. Bob Yunick reports, "Perfect weather and the enthusiasm of 38 observers combined on May 17th, 1980 to produce a spectacular, all time record list of 180 species and one hybrid for the (Hudson-Mohawk) club's 35th consecutive Century Run . . . This year everything came together to crush the previous record of 168 species set in 1971 by 42 observers. Never before, in recent years, have so many rare species been recorded on a Century Run. Using those species that have been recorded in ten or fewer years as the criterion for rarity, there were eighteen species and one hybrid in that category . . . In addition there were a remarkable 33 species reported by one group only. That number exceeds the 30 seen by all groups." Rarities for the season