

Finch: arr DH 25 Mar. Pine Grosbeak: last four DH 16 Mar. Com. and **HOARY REDPOLL**: see introduction. Pine Siskin: arr about 10 Apr, then common but with much less display than in 1981 in Syr though nesting proven Syr and expected NPT; max 450 DH on 6 May. Red Crossbill: small flock Noyes Sanctuary on 30 Mar (DWC, PDeB), two near Georgetown, Madison Co, in mid-May (DWC). White-winged Crossbill: single DH 11 Mar, two at Coyle feeder in E. Syr 22-30 Mar. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr DH 17 Apr. Savannah Sparrow: arr DH 10 Apr, late. Grasshopper Sparrow: only report Syr airport 13 May. Henslow's Sparrow: only report Clay 30 May. Vesper Sparrow: arr LSB 11 Apr. Dark-eyed Junco: max only 45 LOL on 17 Apr. Tree Sparrow: last NPT 4 May. Chipping Sparrow: arr 18 Apr NPT. Field Sparrow: arr DeWitt 2 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: arr LOL on 6 Apr, last SP on 30 May. White-throated Sparrow: max 140 LOL on 6 May is low. Fox Sparrow: one to three per day 26 Mar-22 Apr. Lincoln's Sparrow: one to five per day 6-29 May. Swamp Sparrow: arr LSB on 11 Apr. Song Sparrow: arr LSB 14 Mar, max 140 n. Onon Co on 27 Mar. Lapland Longspur: two LSB on 11 Apr. Snow Bunting: last LSB on 13 Apr.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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In its vagaries, it was a typical North Country spring. March came in like a lion with a low temperature of -11° F. on the 4th. However, with a sudden thaw just over a week later the mercury reached the monthly high of 52° F. on the 12th. Ice went out of local streams in mid-March. The heaviest precipitation (.63 in.) fell on the 25th, followed by strong winds and flurries. Total precipitation for the month was 2.46 in. April was certainly epitomized by the third stanza of Robert Frost's "Two Tramps in Mud Time." The month began cold with a low of 6° F. on the 7th and flurries Easter, followed abruptly by a high of 74° F. on the 16th. The remainder of the month was cool but not particularly wet. The maximum rainfall was .49 in. on the 3rd, and total precipitation was only 1.40 in. There was a skim of ice on puddles the last day or two of April. Early May continued cool with morning frosts; readings of 31° F. occurred the 5th, 10th, 11th, and 18th. The remainder of the month was glorious with a high of 85° F. the 7th, followed by the heaviest rainfall of .78 in. on 8 May. There was only a trace of rain from the 10th to 28th and total rainfall for May was 1.32 in.

Winter visitors such as Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrikes and superabundant Com. Redpolls and Snow Buntings lingered into March. The mid-month thaw ushered in the usual influx of early migrants—Am. Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Am. Kestrel, E. Phoebe, and Song Sparrow, of which the Am. Kestrel and E. Phoebe were ahead of schedule. But what a premium there must be on early access to territories and mates to brave the spring tempests! Our Song Sparrow was singing in early April at 10° F. and somehow the E. Phoebe survived—but how? Robins and blackbirds were moving in late March and early April, in spite of the weather. Evening and a few Pine Grosbeaks reappeared in March; and Pine Siskins, virtually absent for the winter, were seen from mid-April to mid-May. Evening Grosbeaks and Dark-eyed Juncos moved through Canton in mid-April. Our Tree Swallows arrived right on schedule with the spring peepers

14 April. The May migration of long distance insectivores seemed abbreviated and somewhat sparse.

Looking over the list, good numbers were reported for Great Blue Heron, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Marsh Hawk and Am. Kestrel. Large inland movements of Ring-billed Gulls suggest high breeding populations at Little Galloo Island and elsewhere. Goatsuckers, swifts and kingfishers seem stable or up a bit, as do bark gleaners and borers (woodpeckers, nuthatches, and creepers). House Wrens are even more abundant than last year, and Brown Thrashers are widespread. Kinglets appeared early and numbers are up. Pine Warblers appeared early in unprecedented numbers. Yellow Warbler remains our most abundant species, in spite of being in trouble elsewhere. Bobolink populations appear good, and E. Meadowlarks are up. Total species for the region was 178.

On the negative side, there were no grebes other than Pied-billed. Reports for Black Duck and shorebirds were scant; there were none for Red-shouldered Hawk, cuckoos, Screech Owl or Loggerhead Shrike. Status of Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows, Purple Martin and E. Phoebe bears watching. Bluebirds appear scattered and there were few reports of Solitary and Yellow-throated Vireo. Many warblers such as Black-throated Green and Cape May seemed down. Ovenbirds seem low, and there were few reports of grassland sparrows. There were no reports of boreal residents—three-toed woodpeckers, Spruce Grouse, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadees—though this may reflect the distribution of birders rather than birds.

In addition to the Hawk-Owl and Hoary Redpoll, the few rarities were a probable Merlin from Potsdam, three Common Ravens at the Howard's Spa in the center of Canton, and new records for House Finch in Lowville (Lewis County), Henderson, and Potsdam. Other sightings of interest include nesting Bald Eagle, Great Egret, Bohemian Waxwing and Louisiana Waterthrush.

Abbreviations: MSPS—Moses Saunders Power Dam; PRWMA—Perch River Wildlife Management Area; ULLWMA—Upper and Lower Lakes, WMA (Canton); WHWMA—Wilson Hill WMA (Massena).

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: pair ULLWMA 20 Apr; one ULLWMA 12 May; one Trout Lake, Edwards 16 May; pair Three Mile Pt. 31 May (R & JW). Pied-billed Grebe: arr ULLWMA 20 Apr. Great Blue Heron: arr Canton 25 Mar; 6 Potsdam 19 Apr (V & SDeG). Double-crested Cormorant: 15 Sawyers Bay 10 May. Green Heron: two Canton 2 May; two Potsdam 4 and 31 May (V & SDeG); first at Henderson 20 May (LC). Great Egret: one Mud Lake near Gouverneur 6 May (H. Kring). Am. Bittern: arr Potsdam 17 Apr (DM); two WHWMA 30 Apr; four ULLWMA 12 May. Mute Swan: one PRWMA 15 Apr to 16 May. Whistling Swan: arr and max 25 Lakeview Pond 13 Mar (D. MacIntosh); three-10 14-23 Mar near Perch River and Clayton (P. Townsend, L. Gunn); singles 24 Mar Henderson Pond (LC) and near Ellisburg (S. Stevens). Canada Goose: arr Henderson 13 Mar; max 12,000 Henderson Pond mid-Apr; flocks of 200-300 till 2 May (LC); 1,000 Richville Flats 31 Mar (JB); 20 MSPD 24 Mar (RC); 40 Potsdam 24 Mar (V & SDeG). Snow Goose: 200 Pillar Pt 6 Apr (L. Gunn); 36 including one blue morph Henderson Pond 13 Apr (S. Stevens); three

PRWMA 11 Apr. Am. Wigeon: 40 PRWMA 17 Apr; one PRWMA 25 May. Puddle ducks—Mallard, Black Duck, Pintail, Blue-winged Teal—arr in Richville (JB), PRWMA and Canton 31 Mar-2 Apr. Pintail: one RMPD 24 Mar (RC). Black Duck: ten RMPD 24 Mar; five PRWMA 4 Apr; one W. Stockholm 23 Apr; one (nesting?) Pierrepont 25 Apr; one ULLWMA 2 May. Gadwall: WHWMA 17 Apr (BC); one PRWMA 11 Apr. Green-winged Teal: two W. Stockholm 23 Apr (RC). No. Shoveler: one MSPD 24 Mar (RC); pair PRWMA 20 May. One WHWMA 17 Apr (BC). Wood Duck: three Richville 11 Apr; pairs Little River, Boyden Brook, ULLWMA Canton 2-4 May; Beaver Lake 8 May (M & EH). Redhead: Richville Flats 31 Mar (JB). Ring-necked Duck: Richville 31 Mar; five ULLWMA 20 Apr; five PRWMA 15 Apr. Greater Scaup: one WHWMA 30 Apr (RC). Am. Goldeneye: four MSPD 24 Mar (RC); pair S. Colton 24 Mar (JG). Hooded Merganser: one MSPD 24 Mar (RC). Com. Merganser: MSPD 24 Mar. Red-breasted Merganser: two MSPD 24 Mar. Bufflehead: pair S. Colton 24 Mar (JG); one MSPD 24 Mar; three WHWMA 30 Apr (RC).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr Henderson 31 Mar; three WHWMA 17 Apr (BC); two W. Potsdam 18 Apr (DM); singles Canton 20 Apr, Edwards & Clare 24 Apr. Goshawk: at nest in Canton 4 May. Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles in Canton, Pierrepont, Potsdam and W. Stockholm 10-23 Apr; one Henderson 7 May. Cooper's Hawk: two Canton 28 Mar; singles Canton, Pierrepont 15 Apr; Canton 6 and 11 May; Henderson 3 and 22 May; Barnes Corners 3 May. Red-tailed Hawk: numbers up in both Jefferson and St. Lawrence Cos; one on nest Theresa 11 Apr (KC). Broad-winged Hawk: first 1 May Canton; five 4 May Pierrepont. Few reports—small flight? Rough-legged Hawk: six Henderson area 10 Mar, decreasing thru Mar; one Potsdam 23 Mar; both dark and light phase Theresa 11 Apr. Osprey: one Stony Creek Henderson 15 Apr (NL); pair over Little River in Canton 16 Apr; one ULLWMA 20 Apr; one thru PRWMA (SB); one Potsdam 16 Apr; one W. Stockholm 23 Apr; (RC); one Canton 5 May (BC). **MERLIN:** one perched in yard near Potsdam 5 Apr (S & VDeG). Am. Kestrel: arr Canton 16 Mar; abundant throughout area. **BALD EAGLE:** pair nesting again in Jeff Co; two eaglets by mid-May (LC). Marsh Hawk: one 29 Mar thru (V & SDeG); pairs seen Potsdam 8 Apr Langdon Corners, Canton and ULLWMA 15 Apr; aerial courtship W. Pierrepont 24 Apr, and Pierrepont 4 May; numbers up (LC). Ruffed Grouse: clutch Canton 27 Apr. Am. Coot: three ULLWMA 20 Apr. Killdeer: arr Canton 20 Mar. Black-bellied Plover: one ElDorado 22 May (R & JW). Am. Woodcock: very abundant in Canton late Mar; arr Watertown 3 Mar. Com. Snipe: arr Canton 15 Apr. Upland Sandpiper: two Watertown (near Blake Sanctuary) 2 May (NL); none Canton-Pierrepont. Spotted Sandpiper: arr Canton 4 May. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Canton 14 May. Greater Yellowlegs: one PRWMA 16 May (R & JW). Dunlin: five ElDorado 22 May. Short-billed Dowitcher: four ElDorado 22 May (R & JW). Glaucous Gull: four MSPD 24 Mar. Great Black-backed Gull: six MSPD 24 Mar; two WHWMA 30 Apr. Herring Gull: four MSPD 24 Mar; four W. Stockholm 23 Apr; many WHWMA 30 Apr. Ring-billed Gull: 25 Potsdam 26-28 Mar. Com. Tern: two WHWMA 30 Apr (RC); numbers up along Lake Ontario (LC). Black Tern: increased numbers at Lakeview WMA and PRWMA; feeding at Muskalonge Creek suggests breeding in Dexter Marsh-Black River Bay (LC); six to eight ULLWMA 12 May thru.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: abundant in St. Law Co; numbers up on Tug Hill Plateau (LC). Great Horned Owl: two Dry Hill 8 Mar (R & JW); two Madrid 22 Mar; singles Potsdam, Canton, Pierrepont 2 Mar, 14, 15, 26 Apr. Snowy Owl: two Evans Mills 16 Mar (SB). **HAWK-OWL:** one ULLWMA thru 15 Mar. Barred Owl: one captured pigeon in Village of Canton 5-6 Mar. Whip-poor-will: two Pierrepont 3 May; one Howardville Rd. (A. Rogerson) and Miner St. Rd (R. Taylor) Canton 3 May. Com. Nighthawk: one Watertown 17 May (N. Leone); center of Canton late May (JG); two Henderson 29 May. Chimney Swift: abundant Canton area 25 Apr thru; four Watertown 4 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Canton 13 May; one Potsdam 23 and 28 May. Belted Kingfisher: Canton and Potsdam 16 Apr thru. Com. Flicker: arr throughout region 15-16 Apr. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one or two males Henderson thru (LC). Red-headed Woodpecker: pair Brownville 28 May (SB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Pierrepont 17 Apr; pair Canton 26 Apr, courting 15 May (PVD).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: arr 7 May, abundant in area; incubating in Pierrepont 28 May. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Canton 7 May. E. Phoebe: arr Canton 25 Mar; incubating Pierrepont 19 May; usual numbers in Canton area; "only one during period—must be in serious trouble." (LC); one Watertown 14 Apr; two Potsdam 14 Apr. Least Flycatcher: abundant 11 May thru. E. Wood Pewee: arr late May. Horned Lark: very few after Mar (LC); one 20 May Canton. Tree Swallow: Richville 31 Mar—early (JB). Bank Swallow: arr Pierrepont dump 2 May. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Canton 14 May (BC). Barn Swallow: first Potsdam 16 Apr. Cliff Swallow: building nests 4 May Langdon Corners Canton. Purple Martin: four 30 Apr WHWMA (RC); nesting Canton area (M & EH). Blue Jay: moderate numbers reported (RC, S & VDeG, M & EH). **COM. RAVEN:** three Apr. Village of Canton (M & EH). Com. Crow: 25-50 Potsdam, Canton and Pierrepont thru Mar. Black-capped Chickadee: six-15 daily at feeders thru mid-Apr, then dispersal and pairing. Unbanded (migrant?) individuals appeared in mid-Apr. Tufted Titmouse: one previously banded at Henderson 11 Apr; pair 18 Apr second bird was banded, last seen 1 May (LC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: LC reports only one 1 May; four Canton 5 May (K. West). House Wren: abundant; arr Canton 29 Apr (JG). Long-billed Marsh Wren: arr PRWMA 17 Apr (LC); also reported from ULLWMA and WHWMA. Am. Robin: arr Madrid 13 Mar; 30 Potsdam 4 Apr (S & VDeG). Swainson's Thrush: one Thompson Park Watertown 29 May (R & JW). E. Bluebird: first two Dry Hill 25 Mar (R & JW); singles Potsdam 14 and 16 Apr, Pierrepont 14 Apr; three nesting pairs Pierrepont (M & EH). Veery: abundant mid-May thru. Golden-crowned Kinglet: first Canton 3 Mar (D. Newton); many sightings in mid-Apr; max 12 Canton 13-14 Apr (C. Balfanz). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Canton 10 Apr; two W. Stockholm 23 Apr (RC). **BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** 20-30 Dry Hill 23 Mar (R & JW). Cedar Waxwing: 500 Dry Hill 21 Mar; appearing elsewhere in late May. No. Shrike: one Pierrepont thru Mar (KC); two ULLWMA thru Mar (PVD); one Evans Mills 6 Mar (SB); two ULLWMA 21 Apr—late!—seen through scope (KC).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: one Louisville 7 May (RC). Solitary Vireo: one Canton 7 May. Red-eyed Vireo: arr Canton 20 May. Warbling Vireo: arr early May. Arrival dates for all warblers reported (Canton unless otherwise noted) were as follows: Black-and-white: 7 May. Golden-winged: 14 May. Nashville: 6 May. Yellow: 6 May. Cape May: 12 May. Yellow-rumped: W. Stockholm 23 Apr; last flock ULLWMA 12 May. Chestnut-sided: 14 May. Bay-breasted: Louisville 7 May—early (RC); Canton 18 May. Blackpoll: 21 May. Pine: 17 Apr; three or four per day thru. Ovenbird: 7 May. No. Waterthrush: 4 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: two "on territory" Washington Park, Watertown 22 May (R & JW). Mourning: two "on territory" near Diamond 29 May (R & JW). Com. Yellowthroat: 11 May. Wilson's: Watertown 22 May (R & JW). Canada: 18 May. Am. Redstart: 11 May.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr early May. E. Meadowlark: five Louisville 7 May (RC); "numbers down" (LC). Red-winged Blackbird: arr Dry Hill 12 Mar; Canton 17 Mar. No. Oriole: males arr Henderson 7 May (LC). Brown-headed Cowbird: arr Canton 14 Mar; numbers back up after three-year low (LC). Scarlet Tanager: arr 16 May. Cardinal: well established in Canton and apparently Potsdam; nesting in Canton (M & EH). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Canton 12 May. Indigo Bunting: first ULLWMA 18 May (J. Winterbottom). Evening Grosbeak: five-15 thru Apr; gone by end of May. **HOUSE FINCH:** pair Lowville 27 Mar (S. Parker); pair Henderson 30 Mar, three more 11 Apr (LC); six Potsdam mid-Apr (N. Eldblom); one to two Potsdam 21 Apr thru 7 May (S & VDeG)—all new records; three Canton Apr and May; possibly nesting (M & EH). Purple Finch: increasing late Mar thru; numbers very high in Henderson (LC); three to four per day Potsdam 28 Apr thru; fledged young Canton 31 May (M & EH). Pine Grosbeak: 10 Potsdam 12 Mar (RC). **HOARY REDPOLL:** one Dry Hill 3, 21, 31 Mar (R & JW); one Potsdam 12 Mar (RC). Com. Redpoll: ten to 30 Potsdam 12 Mar-14 Apr; max 114 Canton in Apr (M & EH); last one Henderson 25 Apr (LC). Pine Siskin: 25 Canton in Apr (M & EH); max Henderson 20 per day mid-May (LC); ten ULLWMA 17 May. Am. Goldfinch: at feeders thru. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr Canton 20 Apr. Savannah Sparrow: common 20 Apr thru. Vesper Sparrow: one Pierrepont 2 May (KC). Dark-eyed Junco: arr Canton 2 Apr; max in mid-Apr.

Tree Sparrow: last two Potsdam 25 Apr. Field Sparrow: arr Henderson 18 Apr; one Dry Hill 25 Apr, one Pierrepont 2 & 4 May. White-crowned Sparrow: first Henderson 6 May, max 30; also reported from Canton and Potsdam 8-23 May. White-throated Sparrow: arr Canton 2 Apr; max 10 Canton 20 Apr (M & EH), 20 Henderson 26 Apr (LC). Fox Sparrow: one at feeder Pierrepont 6-8 Apr. Song Sparrow: arr Canton 25 Mar. Snow Bunting: 20-30 Canton 1, 2, 4 May.

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REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Spring came gradually to the North Country this year. The ice went out of Lower St. Regis Lake at Paul Smiths on 27 April. A few slow moving streams were open prior to that day, so waterfowl were concentrated and easy to locate. Fish Creek is one of these streams and it makes a nice though short early season canoe trip.

There was a good flow of land birds with many arriving rather early. Yellow-rumped Warblers were widely reported in April. This seems to have been the year of the Hoary Redpoll. Several authenticated reports were received.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Pairs of Com. Loons were seen on Upper St. Regis Lake, St. Regis Pond, and Madawaska Pond. MG saw a pair of Horned Grebes on the early date of 25 March but reports the species as scarce. A flock of 20 Double-crested Cormorants passed the hawk watchers at Belfrey Mountain 15 Apr. Several were seen in no. Clinton Co. later. The first Great Blue Herons were one 13 Apr at Witherbee and one 17 Apr at Tupper Marsh. The first Green Heron was seen in no. Clinton Co 29 Apr. A Cattle Egret was at Briar Swamp in Clinton Co 1 May (HB, RB). Two Great Egrets were at Chazy Landing 16 May (MG). Am. Bittern: one at Tupper Marsh, two at Ferd's Bog, and four near Paul Smiths. GLOSSY IBIS: seven Chazy Landing 4 May and one 18 May (MG). A lone Canada Goose landed on the only bit of open water in Clinton Co 13 Mar (MG). 19 of this species arrived at Tupper 26 Mar. Snow Goose: three at Tupper 18 Mar, 15 at Chazy Landing 25 Mar, 26 landed on the snow at Brandon Burn near Paul Smiths 1 Apr; five passed Westport 4 Apr. There were 16 species of waterfowl at Chazy Landing in late Apr. Seven Gadwall were seen here. The first Pintail arrived 25 Mar (MG) at Rouses Point. One was at Tupper 20 Apr. 70 Green-winged Teal were at Chazy Landing 30 Apr and several were seen in the Paul Smiths area. A pair of Blue-winged Teal was at Ferd's Bog 8 May, which is an unusual location (CS, FL). A pair is at Tupper Marsh. Two drake EUROPEAN WIGEONS spent at least a month near Chazy Landing after arriving 22 Apr (MG). The same observer notes good numbers of Am. Wigeons, No. Shovelers and Pintails thru the period. Five early No. Shovelers were at