

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.

Dept. of Biology, St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York 13617

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

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.

Contributors: Merry Baker, Tim Barnett, Helen Booth, Robert Booth, D. & J. Bradley, Lois Brousseau, Ray Brousseau (RBr), Geoffrey Carleton, R. & B. Chartier, David Cilley (DCi), Dean Cook, Sid Couchey, Kenneth Crowell, Charlie Delehanty, William Frenette, Greg Furness, Mark Gretch, Robert Hagar, Elsbeth Johnson, Robert Kirker, S. Kopp, Dorothy LaCombe, Ignatius LaCombe, Ferdinand LaFrance, Bruce Landon, Joan McDermott, Ken McDermott, Ted Mack, Richard Marrus, Dan Nickerson, Louise O'Connell, Terry O'Connell, John Peterson, William Rutherford, Kathy Ann Scott, Carole Slatkin (CSI), Dean Spaulding, Chris Spies, M. A. Tebo, Alison Timmons, Don Timmons, Jan Timmons, A. Vaillancourt, M. Villeneuve, Cecelia Wojcikiewicz.

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

Chazy Landing 25 Mar. Early Wood Ducks were two pairs 24 Mar and six pairs 30 Mar at Bulwagga Bay (GF). A drake sat on the electric fish barrier dam at Bay Pond and was killed when the power was turned on. A pair of Redheads was at Rouses Point (MG), only report for this species. The same observer reports good numbers of Canvasbacks, both scaups, and Ring-necked Ducks in early Apr. Eight Ring-necked Ducks were at Tupper 30 May (KM) and CD had 44 there 23 Apr. A late Lesser Scaup was at Chazy Landing 25 May (MG). Two nest boxes were in use by Com. Goldeneyes 26 May at Kings Bay (MG). The canoe area had several late May females. Two Buffleheads were at Tupper 14 Apr and nine on 24 Apr (CD). 150 White-winged Scoters were at Chazy Landing 16 & 18 May (MG). Three nest boxes at the Little Chazy River had Hooded Mergansers in residence in May (MG). This species was also seen late in May at Bear Pond, Little Long Pond, and Green Pond in the St. Regis Canoe area. One was at Ferd's Bog 8 May.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Quite a few Turkey Vultures were seen. Among the sightings was one 31 Mar and two 15 Apr at Tupper; two 11 Apr at Bay Pond; and two 8 May at Ferd's Bog. Two or three Goshawks were in the Paul Smiths area. There were 13 Sharp-shinned Hawks and eight Cooper's Hawks reported. A Cooper's was near Bear Pond 15 May (KC). 20 Red-tailed Hawks were seen. Four migrant Red-shouldered Hawks were tallied. Better yet is the increase in resident birds. One was at Madawaska 29 May and five were near Floodwood 30 May, including three together in a display flight (KM). The last Rough-legged Hawks were two passing Coot Hill 25 Apr. Golden Eagle: one feeding on a dead deer at Tupper (NYSDEC); one migrant 25 Apr Coot Hill (JP, EJ). A Bald Eagle spent two weeks at Tupper Marsh from 12 Mar (CD). MG reports good numbers of Marsh Hawks from the Champlain Valley. A pair is still near Bay Pond as of 29 May and at least one is at Tupper Marsh as of 22 May. Osprey: nest in Clinton Co is occupied, so is Bear Pond nest and nest at Deer River Flow. A bird was at Brown's Tract Ponds 9 May; four at Floodwood 30 May; other reports may have been migrants but there were at least 11 others. **GYRFALCON:** one gray phase, good details 1 Mar Moriah (GC); a dark phase 5 Mar Ticonderoga (DC). Peregrine Falcon: one 25 Apr Coot Hill (JP, EJ). Merlin: one Belfrey Mt 15 Apr (GC, EJ, JP, DT, JT, AT). There were a few Am. Kestrels. A pair of Ring-necked Pheasants was in Moody 29 May. Lake Alice had ten Semipalmated Plovers 17 May and Chazy Landing had 30 25 May, both (MG). Early Killdeers were: one Rouses Point 14 Mar; three Tupper 25 Mar; and one Bay Pond 1 Apr with all the snow. A single Black-bellied Plover, rare as a spring migrant, was at Lake Alice 17 May (MG). There were plenty of Am. Woodcocks. One arrived at Tupper 31 Mar. Six Com. Snipes were noted from Mountain View to Ferd's Bog. Maybe they will be more easily seen and heard for the next period. An Upland Sandpiper was at Cadyville 25 Apr (TO, LO). There were several Spotted Sandpipers and Solitary Sandpipers at Ferd's Bog, St. Regis Falls, and Paul Smiths. A **RED KNOT**, a new species for Clinton Co was at Chazy Landing 16 May (MG). It was with 65 Short-billed Dowitchers. MG also had, on 25 May at Chazy Landing, about 50 Least Sandpipers, ten Dunlins, and 200 Semipalmated Sandpipers. On 17 May he tallied about 100 of the latter at Lake Alice. Several pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls were nesting at Four Brothers. This spring, 15,033 Ring-billed Gull nests with an average of three eggs in each were counted at Four Brothers Islands. Two early Bonaparte's Gulls were at the mouth of the Saranac River 18 Apr (TO, LO). Early Com. Terns were at Chazy Landing 18 Apr. On 9 May this area had Com. Terns, four **CASPIAN TERNS** diving with swept-back wings, and also Black Terns (MG, TO). This is the first Clinton Co record for Caspian Tern. No Black Terns were seen at Tupper.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: There were good numbers of inland Mourning Doves but no cuckoos yet. The **HAWK-OWL** at Keene left about 20 Mar. Screech, Great Horned, Barred, Long-eared, and Saw-whet Owls were heard in Mar and Apr in the Champlain Valley. McColloms had two pairs of Great Horned Owls. Saw-whet seemed scarce with only one heard at Rainbow Lake and none at Paul Smiths. One was at Ferd's Bog 7 May. A pair of Short-eared Owls was at Chazy Landing 19 Mar-24 Apr (MG, TO, LO). Whip-poor-wills were at Malone and Brandon Burn. Com. Nighthawk: six Brandon Burn; a few Plattsburgh; several Tupper Lake. Ruby-throated Hummingbird is here in good numbers. A Red-headed

Woodpecker was at Ferd's Bog 8 May (FL, CS) and one was at Moriah 17 May (GC). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: two Ferd's Bog; one Floodwood; one Madawaska; four Onchiota; one Marion Carry; one Tahawus; one Highlands at Willsboro; four Mountain View. On 22 May Ferd's Bog had a No. Three-toed making a nest cavity (RK).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: There are a lot of Great Crested Flycatchers but few E. Phoebe. Throw those Brown-headed Cowbird eggs out of any Phoebe nest you find!! KM found single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Ferd's Bog, Madawaska and Onchiota as well as several Alder Flycatchers. There are plenty of Olive-sided Flycatchers. 17 Apr brought early Purple Martins to Cadyville and Ausable Point. CD found a Gray Jay at Madawaska 29 May and two at the Sabattis Road 31 May. Bay Pond had two in Apr. Active Com. Raven nests were at Blue Ledge, Tahawus, Avalanche Lake, and Cliff Mountain. CD saw a raven chase a coyote out on the ice one day at Tupper. Ravens were seen at three Clinton Co locations: Lyon Mountain, Silver Lake, and Ausable Delta. There were loads of Boreal Chickadees. One was banded on the late date of 13 May at the Crown Point area where a flock of this species appeared 18 May (JP *et al.*). The Cadyville Tufted Titmouse disappeared 20 Mar (TO, LO). There was a titmouse at a Tupper feeder and two at Crown Point. Brown Creeper numbers are high. There were a few House Wrens and a high count of Winter Wrens was 12 from Ferd's Bog to Brown's Tract Ponds. Ausable Delta had an early Long-billed Marsh Wren 8 May (MG). There were single Mockingbirds at Bloomingdale, Elizabethtown, and Crown Point where one was banded, as well as Tupper. There were three early migrant Am. Robins at Essex on 12 Mar (SC) and one at Tupper 13 Mar (CD). Wood, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes were in good numbers. Veerys seem a bit scarce. There were about 25 E. Bluebirds reported. Gabriels has a few and a snag at Roiley Pond near Upper St. Regis landing has a pair. JP notes three Blue-gray Gnatcatcher territories on Crown Point, and Ticonderoga Marsh had a pair on 22 May (RM, JP). Ruby-crowned Kinglets arrived at Elizabethtown 16 Apr and at Kings Bay 17 Apr. Over 40 Water Pipits were at Cadyville 8 May (TO, MG). There were many No. Shrike reports in Mar. MG found a Loggerhead Shrike 14 Apr in no. Clinton Co where he had one last year. EJ and JP had one at Westport 25 Apr.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: GC found a Yellow-throated Vireo at Moriah 18 May. Lots of Solitary Vireos. CS and FL had 29 in two days, 8 and 9 May, at Ferd's Bog and Brown's Tract Ponds. Red-eyed Vireo was abundant. They don't seem to sing until close to June, while Solitaires start to sing in Apr. Lots of Black-and-white Warblers were present. A Golden-winged Warbler was at Lake Alice 16 May (MG). A "Lawrence's" Warbler was in Hamilton Co by the Kunjamuk 22 May (DCI, KS). A Tennessee Warbler was seen at Crown Point as a migrant (JP). Nashville and Yellow-rumped Warblers were abundant. No. Parula numbers are high. They are common, as are Magnolia Warblers. A Cape May Warbler was at Onchiota 30 May (KM). They have bred there before. CS1 had a flight of this species at Essex 16 May and a few were at Crown Point 22 May (RM, JP). There were three at Ferd's Bog 8 May and one at Ausable Point the same day. Bay-breasted Warbler was not mentioned. This was probably just not reported although they usually are scarce enough to be noteworthy. There were at least three Pine Warblers, usually scarce. A Prairie Warbler was at Crown Point on 9 May as were Palm Warblers, one of which JP banded. A Palm Warbler was at Ausable Point 1 May. There were a few No. Waterthrushes and DN had a singing Louisiana Waterthrush at Willsboro on 30 May. JP found one at Elizabethtown 29 Apr. Wilson's Warbler: one at Tupper 18 May (CD); one at Crown Point 22 May (RM, JP).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: GC had an early male Bobolink on 4 May at Moriah. Early E. Meadowlarks were one 28 Mar at Tupper, one 29 Mar at Wadhams, and one 1 Apr at Bay Pond where there were a few later. There is no report of their status in the Champlain Valley for this spring. CD saw a female Red-winged Blackbird groom a female Brown-headed Cowbird. This was seen to occur with two different individual female Red-wings. Inter-specific grooming is curious. No. Oriole: one at Tupper 10 May; one at Paul Smiths; four banded at Crown Point by JP. This is more of a Champlain Valley-St. Lawrence Valley species. There were Rusty Blackbirds in the canoe area and at Ferd's Bog. Indigo Buntings were

in good numbers near Mountain View and there were Purple Finches in abundance in the forest areas such as Paul Smiths. House Finch is being seen at Elizabethtown and Wadhams (GC, JP, DS). There were many late Pine Grosbeaks but the few at Essex 16 May were the last seen (CS1). CD has photos of this species feeding at a sunflower station. HOARY RED-POLLS were at feeders at Cadyville, Elizabethtown, Gabriels, Keene, Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake. The great influx of Com. Redpolls lingered into May with the last individual being seen 10 May at Tupper (CD). 21 Pine Siskins were banded at Crown Point (JP). A few White-winged Crossbills were seen. The last was a single at Tupper 10 Apr. Red Crossbills were at Lewis 31 May (EJ, JP). Vesper Sparrow is in residence in good numbers at Bay Pond and was fairly widely reported. Field Sparrow reports are better than in the past. Fox Sparrow: one at Paradox 19 Apr (MB) and one at Tupper 20 Apr (CD). There were plenty of Lincoln's Sparrows. Two were banded at Crown Point. Seven were at Ferd's Bog 8 May and they were noted in many other localities. Four Lapland Longspurs and about 50 Snow Buntings passed thru Clinton Co 6 Mar (MG).

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

Winter held a firm grip on Region 8 until 12 March when bright sunshine and warm air suddenly released the first flows of melting snow and spring migrants. 74 crows streamed past Columbia-Greene in blackbird formation that day and Killdeer returned to their breeding ground in Ghent on 13 March, exactly one month earlier than last year. Robins arrived in Schenectady en masse a few days later and by the 17th the annual endless procession of blackbirds could be viewed along the Hudson River at the Rip VanWinkle Bridge.

With a bleary-eyed inspection of the morning weather on 6 April one could have felt themselves to be taking the brunt of a belated April Fool's joke. But that was just the beginning of a storm of blizzard proportions that besieged our area for two days, dropped an average of 18 inches of snow, drove frenzied birds to feeders in desperation and littered the highways with those less fortunate. A month later heavy flights were noted with the hot weather of 11-13 May.

Highlights of the season include a Caspian Tern in Niskayuna, numbers of loons and grebes, Common Ravens nesting at Lake George, a resident Red-bellied Woodpecker at Ken Able's feeder, Prothonotary Warblers possibly breeding at Black Creek Marsh, both "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warbler reported, and Chimney Swifts returning on schedule to Lake Luzerne on 6 May for their annual welcoming celebration.

Among the 18 species reported only on the 15 May Century Run were White-rumped Sandpiper and Merlin. Upland Sandpiper and Worm-eating Warbler also made the list again, but among the missing were Short-billed Marsh Wren and Cerulean Warbler, so that the total count for the season was down from last year's 212 to 207. This report includes records from 12 groups, 11 from the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club and one from Schoharie Co.