

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Wanakena 17 May. Barred Owl: eight Wanakena 16 April. Com. Nighthawk: arr Massena 25 May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Henderson Mar-Apr still only report. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: abundant.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: E. Wood-Pewee: two Canton 23 May only report. E. Phoebe: up at last (LBC). Horned Lark: last Lisbon 23 Apr. Purple Martin: max 12 Louisville 12 May. Tufted Titmouse: pair Henderson only report. Winter Wren: arr one Wanakena 7 Apr, 15 singing males on 1/2 mi trail 25 Apr. E. Bluebird: pairs Brasher Falls, Louisville, Stockholm, BL; feeding young Pierrepont 11 May. Am. Robin: brood fledged Henderson 8 May. Water Pipit: arr three Fine 25 Mar, max 40 BL 4 May. Cedar Waxwing: 22 Henderson 3 May first since fall. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one Ogdensburg 26 Apr (PK).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: one Louisville 23 May. Tennessee Warbler: arr five Wanakena 16 May. N. Parula: arr three Wanakena 11 May. Cape May Warbler: several Canton 12 May. Palm Warbler: one Louisville 11 May. Cerulean Warbler: one singing male Wanakena 11-15 May (DG), unusual locale. N. Waterthrush: two Stockholm 16 May ONLY report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: none. Evening Grosbeak: max 150 Wanakena 21 Mar; increasing in Apr elsewhere. Field Sparrow: arr Henderson 8 Apr; good numbers in StLa, six ULL 31 Mar. Vesper Sparrow: several singing males at Pierrepont landfill after 21 Apr. Fox Sparrow: one Massena 22 May. Dark-eyed Junco: unusually high numbers in Apr. Snow Bunting: 300 Henderson 7 Mar. Rusty Blackbird: arr three Wanakena 25 Mar, at ULL 31 Mar. Com. Grackle: albinistic individuals Henderson and Gouverneur. Purple Finch: arr Henderson mid-Apr, numbers down; max 16 Louisville. Red Crossbill: max 20 Wanakena 29 Apr. White-winged Crossbill: one Wanakena 25 Mar. Pine Siskin: max 46 Massena 23 Mar.

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REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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A century-old record was broken on the Four Brothers Islands, good variety (188 species) and numbers of birds were reported seasonally throughout the Region, and Project BirdWatch and the call for *The Kingbird* arrival dates may have served to reawaken some interest in field birding. If the hawkwatching was slow, warbler-watching was fast and furious at times. The weather was, as usual, somewhat erratic, but generally favorable for both birds and birders.

The season opened with rain on 1 Mar, snow on 2 Mar, sunshine on 3 Mar. The two feet of snow in the woods began to thaw with a warming trend 6 Mar, but cold returned on 11 Mar. Another warm spell arrived 22-23 Mar, and 25 Mar saw the ice out at Essex harbor and Lake Champlain at 95.76' with a temperature of 40F. The month closed with rains that pushed the Boquet River over its banks and Common Redpolls back into feeders.

Steady rains from 3-7 Apr were followed by warm, sunny days 9-14 Apr, with a resultant snow melt from the High Peaks that pushed L. Champlain to a high of 99.47' at mid-month. The rest of the month was generally lovely and dry. There were four days of coverage on Coot Hill hawkwatch between 16- 27 Apr, and the total of 133 migrant raptors of nine species was low. The best day was 26 Apr, when 59 hawks fought their way past on adverse northeasterly winds. At 2:20 p.m. DST that day, Elsbeth Johnson and Mike Peterson observed the passage of a medium- sized, long-tailed, tan falcon. The tail was barred like that of a female Am. Kestrel, but the ground color was an unusually light creamy tan shade, while the face showed only a thin, single black sideburn. The bird appeared in all respects to be a female Eurasian Kestrel, a species which has been seen in the past by Montreal hawkwatchers, apparently having escaped from the raptor center in that city. Details have been submitted to NYSARC.

May weather was generally good, although the thermometer dipped to 24F at Elizabethtown 4 May and Tupper Lake had an inch of rain 27 May. By the end of the month, L. Champlain had dropped to 96.24' and warmed to 48F, allowing easier landings at the Four Brothers Islands. Loggerhead Shrike searches in northern Franklin Co., led by Paul Novak, again discovered just two nesting pairs near Ft. Covington in early May. By the end of the period, one nest had failed, but happily newly fledged young from a third nest were found nearby. Near Hogsburg, Hollis White discovered a Northern Harrier nest with five young, a Short-eared Owl nest with five young, and two singing male **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** sharing the same overgrown pasture.

During the period 28 Mar to 5 May, a total of 134 birds of nine species were banded near Elizabethtown; most abundant were 52 Common Redpolls and 48 Dark-eyed Juncos. Bird-banding operations then moved to Crown Point peninsula 8-13 May, where 400 individuals of 34 species were netted and released, the second-best totals in 12 consecutive years. There were returns of a Blue Jay banded in 1981, a Black-capped Chickadee from in 1985, and a Field Sparrow from last year. The four new species banded (Hermit Thrush, Solitary and Warbling Vireos, Savannah Sparrow) brought the all-time list to 70 species. Eight warbler species were netted, including a record 262 Yellow-rumped and seven (Western) Palm Warblers. Present from 12-13 May was a leucistic Yellow-rumped with pure white body, wings, and tail, the usual yellow spots on rump and breast, a brown head, and pink legs. Finally, on 15 May a Least Sandpiper was banded from a flock of 15 at Westport beach. Many of the other spring shorebird records came from a small pond that was drained near L. Alice, Clinton Co., and checked by Mark Gretch.

The sixth annual census of Ring-billed Gulls on Island C of the Four Brothers was conducted on 19 May by a team from High Peaks Audubon and the Adirondack Ecological Center at Newcomb. A total of 15,184 active nests were counted, or just 151 (+1%) more than the first census found in 1982. By late May, Double-crested Cormorants had constructed 159 nests on Island A, plus a few more on Island B. Colonial waterbird studies at the islands are a "Return a Gift to Wildlife" project.

The Four Brothers Islands were first visited by ornithologists a century ago on

22-23 May 1887, when Alvah H. B. Jordan and Augustus G. Paine of Willsboro compiled a list of 29 species. On the same dates in 1987, a centennial visit by a six-person team from High Peaks Audubon recorded 39 species, as well as the carcass of a Snow Goose. The highlight was an **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** sharing a shrub with three Wilson's Warblers on the morning of 23 May, following the passage of a severe overnight storm. Most encouraging is the fact that at least 15 of the species that now breed on the islands were not present a century back.

Special thanks are extended to the 22 active observers (two in Clinton Co., ten in Essex, nine in Franklin, and one in Hamilton) who contributed spring arrival dates for *The Kingbird*. Only six species were missed: Sora, Sanderling, Pectoral Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Willow Flycatcher, and Yellow-throated Vireo. New early arrival dates were set for ten species.

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Abbreviations: CL - Chazy Landing; CPP - Crown Point peninsula; FBI - Four Brothers Islands.

LOONS- DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr Elk L 20 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: six migrants Coot Hill 26 Apr, two CPP 10 May; *intro*. Least Bittern: female flushed from nest L Alice 23 May. Great Blue Heron: King's Bay heronry totally abandoned (MG), 22 Fish Cr heronry 22 Apr (CD). Great Egret: arr St. Regis Reservation 24 Apr. Snowy Egret: arr L. Alice 23-24 May. Black-crowned Night-Heron: nesting FBI 16 May, also seen Little Chazy R 26 May, King's Bay WMA 29 May, L Alice WMA 31 May (MG). Snow Goose: migrants 24 Mar-12 Apr, max 100 Elizabethtown 29 Mar; *intro*. Canada Goose: arr Clin and Fran 28 Mar, high max 6,000 Clin cornfields 5 Apr, 13 yellow neck collars reported. Mallard: 100 males King's Bay WMA 29 May. N. Pintail: max 100 CL 5 Apr. N. Shoveler: male CL 5-11 Apr, uncommon. Gadwall: pair CL 24 Apr, uncommon, pair FBI 16 May first sighting since pair found dead there in Oct 1985. Am. Wigeon: arr pair Raquette R 28 Mar, max seven Clin 11 Apr. Canvasback: three CL 5 Apr, uncommon in spring. Ring-necked Duck: L Alice heavily clogged with vegetation and no evidence this species still nests there.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr Coot Hill 16 Apr, max 13 there 21 Apr. Bald Eagle: ad Black Point Rd, n L George 2 Mar (JD,LM), Tupper L 18 Mar-27 May, two there 22 Mar (CD), feeding on dead deer on ice Bay Pd 26 Mar (BL), im and ad Mountain View dam 29 Mar- 21 Apr (AH, JT, m obs), adults frequenting Franklin Falls, im migrating n CPP 13 May (EJ, JP), but nesting not confirmed in recent years, in spite of increases. N. Harrier: max 3 Coot Hill 26 Apr. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 9 Coot Hill 26 Apr. Cooper's Hawk: Coot Hill 21 Apr only report. N. Goshawk: max 2 Coot Hill 16 Apr. Red-shouldered Hawk: max 2 Ferd's Bog 2 May. Broad-winged Hawk: max 23 Coot Hill 26 Apr and 27 Apr (all adults). Red-tailed Hawk: max 7 Coot Hill 26 Apr and 27 Apr. **EURASIAN KESTREL**: *intro*. Gray Partridge: two Champlain 13 Apr only report. Spruce Grouse: female and two males Boreal Heritage Preserve, Fran, 12 Apr (RB), male same

area 25 Apr (RB,KE,EJ,JP) in final year of radio-tagging research. Wild Turkey: two **Tupper Lake** late winter where deer were being fed grain (BD). Semipalmated Plover: max 9 L Alice 16 May. Greater Yellowlegs: migrant over Newcomb 12 May (AS) unusual inland, max 8 Ingraham, Clin mid-May. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 20 CL early May. Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 CL 10 May. Spotted Sandpiper: max 3 CPP 11 May. Upland Sandpiper: arr Hogansburg 21 Apr, one behind Newcomb school 2 May (AS) unusual location, several other sightings n Clin and Fran. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 7 L Alice 25 May. **WESTERN SANDPIPER**: ad nonbreeding plumage Westport beach 15 May (EJ), first spring record. Least Sandpiper: max 35 L Alice 16 May. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Short-eared Owl: arr Hogansburg 24 Apr, pair with displaying male 6 May (HW), *intro*. Whip-poor-will: arr CP10 May. Three-toed Woodpecker: Ferd's Bog 2-3 May only report. Black-backed Woodpecker: Ferd's Bog 2-3 May only report.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: FBI D 22 May (WP), unusual location. Horned Lark: Owls Head to 8 Mar. Gray Jay: ad Boreal Heritage Preserve 25 Apr, max 5 Ferd's Bog 2 May. Boreal Chickadee: reports from Elk L, Boreal Heritage Preserve, Ferd's Bog. Marsh Wren: max 30 territorial males Monty Bay to 31 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CPP 11 and 13 May only reports. N. Mockingbird: CPP 10-13 May only sighting. Bohemian Waxwing: two Chazy, Clin, 5 Mar (MG), max 200 south of Ausable Point, Clin, 16 Mar (BB). N. Shrike: last Owls Head feeder 19 Mar. Loggerhead Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Tennessee Warbler: banded CPP 12 May, max eight Cheever 24 May. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**: *intro*. Nashville Warbler: 4 banded CPP 9-12 May. No. Parula: transients CPP 10-13 May. Yellow Warbler: 12 banded CPP 9-12 May. Cape May Warbler: 4 banded CPP 12-13 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: singing males on territory Boreal Heritage Preserve 25 Apr, yet migrant waves did not reach CPP until 10-13 May (max 108 banded there 12 May); *intro*. Pine Warbler: max 6 males Brasher Forest, Fran, 21 Apr. (Western) Palm Warbler: *intro*. Bay-breasted Warbler: max 4 Tupper Lake 28 May. Blackpoll Warbler: max two Cheever 24 May and Tupper Lake 28 May. Black-and-white Warbler: banded CPP 12 May. Com. Yellowthroat: 4 banded CPP 12-13 May. Wilson's Warbler: *intro*. also Cheever 24 May, Elizabethtown 24 May, 28 May, Tupper Lake 28 May, for a total of seven birds at four sites, a good showing.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: last Owls Head 13 Apr. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: *intro*. Savannah Sparrow: 3 FBI D 22 May unusual. Fox Sparrow: Tupper Lake 2 and 9 Apr only report. Song Sparrow: max 30+ Raquette Falls 28 Mar. White-throated Sparrow: max 11 Ferd's Bog 2 May. White-crowned Sparrow: many transients CPP 11-13 May. Dark-eyed Junco: max 31 banded Elizabethtown 12 Apr. Snow Bunting: max 100+ n Fran 6 Mar, last 5 Owls Head 7 Mar. Bobolink: male FBI D 23 May unusual. Red-winged Blackbird: arr Owls Head 6 Mar, max 75 Moriah Center 11 Mar. Rusty Blackbird: six arr Raquette R 28 Mar, max 85 Hogansburg 23 Apr (HW) high. Orchard Oriole: subad male CPP 12 May. N. Oriole: 7 banded Crown Point 11-13 May. Pine Grosbeak: last 15 Chazy 6 Mar. Purple Finch: arr Paradox 28 Mar; bird banded Elizabethtown 29 Apr 1982 returned Apr 1983 and 5 May 1987. House Finch: Essex and Schroon Lake only reported locations. Red Crossbill: reports from Elizabethtown, Owls Head, Paradox, Point au Fer from 2 Mar-14 Apr, including a family of three (one j) at Paradox 15 Mar. Com. Redpoll: max 100 Owls Head and Mountain View, 51 banded Elizabethtown 28 Mar, last Elizabethtown and Owls Head 12 Apr. Pine Siskin: many arriving into mid-May. Evening Grosbeak: max 55 Owls Head 8 Mar, six banded Elizabethtown 5 May. House Sparrow: nest building in Malone street lamp and barn 24 Mar.

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