

Sandpiper: *intro*. Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Grass River, Louisville, 14 May only report. Am. Woodcock: very abundant; record numbers on USFWS counts. Iceland Gull: *intro*. Com. Tern: none? Black Tern: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: one Massena 31 Mar. Great Horned Owl: MB reports 14 between WH and Hawkin's Pt on 1 Mar. Barred Owl: in several areas of s STLA entire period (PO'S, less commonly reported than Great Horned). N. Saw-whet Owl: one Massena 16 Mar. Com. Nighthawk: *intro*. Whip-poor-will: one Fine 25 May only report. Red-bellied Woodpecker: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Horned Lark: none. Purple Martin: 40 pair Louisville. Gray Jay: two Sevey Bog, Colton, 3 Mar; three Windfall Rd, Grass R 5 Mar. Am. Crow: movement along L Ontario 5 Mar. Com. Raven: *intro*. Tufted Titmouse: *intro*. Golden-crowned Kinglet and Ruby-crowned Kinglet: movements 3 -4 May in both Henderson and Canton. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: *intro*. Swainson's Thrush: one Piercefield 26 May. Water Pipit: 10 Henderson 2 Apr. Cedar Waxwing: scarce. N. Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **White-eyed Vireo**: *intro*. Blue-winged Warbler: *intro*. Golden-winged Warbler: *intro*, also one near Lorraine 13 May (JF). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: *intro*. N. Parula: none reported. Wilson's: two SBSP 17 May, two Louisville 27 May

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: none reported. Am. Tree Sparrow: *intro*. Vesper Sparrow: *intro*. Fox Sparrow: one Canton 25 Apr (JG). White-throated Sparrow: arr Henderson 4 May, sparse. White-crowned Sparrow: very few after last year's high; three Louisville 27 Apr, one SBSP 17 May. Dark-eyed Junco: arr Louisville 21 Mar, sparse. Snow Bunting: *intro*. Rusty Blackbird: arr four Louisville 14 Mar, also six 25 Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: arr Henderson 6 Mar, exceptionally abundant in STLA. Com. Redpoll: *intro*. Pine Siskin: *intro*.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Migration was late. There were 80 species for which arrival dates were reported both last year and this. Of these, 51 species arrived later this year than in 1987, only 24 species were earlier, and 5 shared the same arrival date in both years. If waiting for arrivals was frustrating, there were some rarities like the **White-eyed Vireo** seen by Charlie Delehanty at Little Tupper Lake on 14 May to make the wait worthwhile.

March weather was erratic, dropping from the 40's at midmonth to -26°F at Owls Head 21 March. Wood frogs and spring peepers were calling 6 Apr at Elizabethtown, but April saw cold, south winds at midmonth that brought rain and mixed wet snow on 15 Apr, covering the lower mountains again and discouraging hawkwatchers. Newcomb was 22°F on 19 Apr, reflecting temperatures 10°F colder than normal for the season. A late snowstorm 21 Apr left 6 inches at Saranac Lake and 4 inches at Elizabethtown. Not until 5 May did the mercury climb into the 70's. May 6 was the warmest day in 7 1/2 months, with a high of 72°F at Ticonderoga, only 4 1/2 feet of snow left in the High Peaks, and Lake

Champlain warmed to 40°F. Yet there were nights of frost at elevations as low as Crown Point peninsula 8 May and at Elizabethtown 12 May. On 13 May, south winds of >50 mph swept up the Champlain Valley. Between the high winds, waves, and the rains that followed, the census of Ring-billed Gulls on the Four Brothers Islands could not be carried out for the first time in seven years.

Coot Hill hawkwatch received an unprecedented 24 days of coverage between 13 Apr and 14 May, thanks to an extraordinary effort by Elsbeth Johnson. A total of 627 raptors of all 15 hoped-for species were tallied, in spite of the delayed migration and often adverse conditions. The first Broad-winged Hawk did not appear until 22 Apr, and kettling numbers were delayed until 4 May, when a seasonal high of 64 were counted. The best day for numbers was 4 May, with 127 hawks. The first Golden Eagle, an adult, passed over on 4 Apr; the first Peregrine Falcon, described as a "Tundra" bird-of-passage, went through 25 Apr. On 3 May, an immature Golden Eagle at 12:45 DST was followed by an adult Bald Eagle 15 minutes later, and the sweep of rarities was completed at 2:45 p.m. when a Peregrine Falcon came over Bulwagga Mt. and did aerobatics near an Osprey before diving a thousand feet toward the valley floor at Crown Point. Numbers of Osprey seemed especially encouraging, with 83 passing the Coot Hill lookout between 20 Apr-13 May. We appreciate the dedicated effort that provided these records.

Passerines were similarly late arriving on Crown Point peninsula, where bird-banding operations were conducted from 6-16 May. The first week was marked by frosts, strong south winds, and sunny days, but few birds. The final total of 31 species (third best of the 13 consecutive years for this station) was due largely to warbler waves on the last morning, just before rains arrived. Not until the hawthorns leafed out at midmonth, and were as promptly munched by proliferating "little green worms," the staple of migrants, did the small landbirds consent to push northward in any numbers. New to the station were a male Mourning Warbler netted 14 May and a female Prairie Warbler banded 16 May, bringing the cumulative list since 1976 to 72 species, of which 24 are warblers. Other banding highlights included two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, a Northern Mockingbird, and two Lincoln's Sparrows. There were returns of a 1986 Blue Jay, 1982 and 1987 Black-capped Chickadees, and 1987 Brown Thrasher, Field Sparrow, and Northern Oriole.

This promises to be a good year for reintroductions in the Adirondacks. Bald Eagles were reported nesting at Franklin Falls and usurped the Osprey nest at Meacham Lake. New Peregrine Falcon eyries were located at Hurricane Mt. and Split Rock Mt.

Common Ravens are individually dominant over American Crows, but seldom attack them, and numbers of crows can dominate and harass ravens. The *Elizabethtown Post* of 2 May 1907 suggested that the origin of Raven Mountain's name derived from the many ravens there, but they were finally driven away by crows. Habitat changes and the extirpation of large mammalian predators may, of course, have prompted the final showdown and virtual disappearance of the raven for three-quarters of this century. Both species now coexist in this same area, but it was with a sense of *déjà vu* that this editor watched a crow repeatedly attack a raven, driving it off over Raven M. at 9:20 AM on 5 May 1988, over 80 years after the *Post* article, the north slope having been heavily logged during this decade. Moreover, during the following week, crows were seen chasing a raven westward across the open space of Crown Point peninsula

on three different days, a most unusual lowland penetration by Common Ravens, although they nest along the ridgeline bordering Lake Champlain. On the afternoon of 13 May, a raven braved winds and spray to cross Bulwagga Bay from Port Henry to the peninsula, where the local crows gave up their harassment of a Great Horned Owl to mob their larger corvid relation.

About 169 species were reported, but a number of relatively common species went unreported and missing Birdathon lists might have fleshed out the seasonal totals somewhat. A one-spot Birdathon on Crown Point peninsula yielded 60 species, while the team of Elsbeth Johnson and David Rutkowski managed a "Century Run" of 106 species in eastern Essex Co. 15 May.

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Abbreviations: CH-Coot Hill hawkwatch; CP-Crown Point peninsula.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: three Forestmere Pds FRAN 11 Apr only report. Horned Grebe: two Tupper L 1 May only report. Double-crested Cormorant: 16 migrants CH 22 Apr, 3 CH 8 May, 12 CH 12 May. Least Bittern: s Port Henry 2 May a good find (EJ). Great Blue Heron: six arr Ausable Pt 17 Mar. Snow Goose: ad, four imm Bulwagga Bay 12 Apr only report. Lesser Scaup: CP 6 May only report. White-winged Scoter: pr CP 30 Apr only report.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: Long L 13 Mar, Sabattis Bog 14 May, CP 26 May, *intro*. Broad-winged Hawk: *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: last CH 21 Apr. Golden Eagle: *intro*. Merlin: migrants CH 21 Apr, Point au Roche 26 Apr. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Spruce Grouse: several sightings Boreal Heritage Preserve. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: *intro*. Snowy Owl: last Elizabethtown 6 Mar. Short-eared Owl: Ausable Marsh 23 Apr a good find. Red-headed Woodpecker: only report T Crown Point 11 May. Three-toed Woodpecker: only report Ferd's Bog 30 Apr. Black-backed Woodpecker: Beaver L 29 Mar, pair Ferd's Bog 30 Apr-8 May, pair excavating nest hole Newcomb 18 May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Gray Jay: North Point Rd., Long Lake 13 Mar, Sabattis Rd. Bog 22 May provided only reports. Blue Jay: *intro*. Am. Crow: *intro*. Com. Raven: "military maneuvers" Owls Head 2 Apr, nuptial flight Elizabethtown 10 Apr, feeding young Moose River R.A. 6 May, *intro*. Black-capped Chickadee: *intro*. Boreal Chickadee: only report Sabattis Rd Bog 22 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: unbanded male CP 15 May, *intro*. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Tupper L 14 May the only migrant reported. N. Mockingbird: Long L 29 Apr, pr CP 15 May, Tupper L 25 May a wide showing. Brown Thrasher: *intro*. N. Shrike: killed Pine Siskin at Saranac L 16 Mar for last report. Loggerhead Shrike: pr Ft. Covington nested, but nest later failed; this appears to be the only nesting pair known in NYS.

VIREOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: *intro*, yellow spectacles, "white" throat, yellow sides, white eyes; seen at 25-30 ft. with 9x50 binoculars. Philadelphia Vireo: arr CP 11 May (JP). Prairie Warbler: on lower hillside of CH in trees and brush with juniper 27 Apr (EJ), *intro*. Palm Warbler: "Yellow" arr Elizabethtown 18 Apr, "Western" arr CP 10 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: four banded CP 16 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Elizabethtown 6 May. Mourning Warbler: *intro*. Wilson's Warbler: male seen CP 15 May only report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Field Sparrow: *intro*. Fox Sparrow: arr Owls Head 17 Apr,

last Elizabethtown 22 Apr only reports. Lincoln's Sparrow: *intro*. Snow Bunting: Marion R. 27 Mar last report. N. Oriole: *intro*. White-winged Crossbill: singles at Paul Smith and Vermontville feeders 18 Mar only reports. Com. Redpoll: max 100 Owls Head 26 Mar, last there 4 Apr. Pine Siskin: flocks of migrants CH to 6 May, dwindling numbers remained at feeders through May. House Sparrow: transient female at feeder 2.5 mi. ne Elizabethtown 17 Apr.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

LINDA ARMSTRONG

Plenty of sunshine and below normal amounts of precipitation during the early part of March enabled birders to shake the freezing winter blues and go outside looking for first arrivals. Sure enough, the first Killdeer arrived, followed closely by American Woodcock and Common Snipe. When the month closed with cold, nasty temperatures, we certainly wondered why the Tree Swallows didn't reverse directions and head back to warmer conditions. Then the first week of April brought smiles as above normal temperatures prevailed. The first Osprey arrived and many a yard was filled with the song of Ruby-crowned Kinglets. However, the wonderful weather was not to continue, and the remainder of the month was chilly. Although there were many, many days with some form of precipitation, the month totals was actually below normal. By the end of the month, Region 8 yards were filled with a mixture of winter and spring sparrows, and there were migrants to be found if birders looked hard enough. Of course May is the month of our primary migration activity. Precipitation totals for May were below normal, while temperatures were above normal with the warmest days at the end of the month. Unfortunately, reports from Region 8 observers do not illustrate a fun-filled migration for birders. In fact the most frequently reported total on a given day for a warbler species was one, only a single representative of a species had been found. There was not one single report of a tree 'dripping' with migrants.

During the spring season, Region 8 did experience a notable invasion of Pine Siskins and a few observers kept tallies throughout. Tom Palmer's yard in the Town of Florida supported a large flock and on one particular day 99 birds were banded. Alan Mapes reported flocks of up to 60 at Five Rivers, Barbara Putnam described flocks of 30 and more at feeders in Glens Falls, Laura Meade kept records of many flocks numbering up to 100 in various locations in the Hague area, and Linda Armstrong fed thistle seeds to flocks numbering close to 100 all season in Clarksville. Robert Yunick reported numbers banded in his Schenectady yard: 67 in Feb, 74 in Mar, 1999 in Apr and 1012 in May, along with 1100 recaptures. During April banding days in both Schenectady and Florida, birds were found with eggs in their oviducts. He reports this to be a first in his experience for the month of April. He then found the first young in his yard on 29 Apr and caught a record of 34 young of the year from 29 Apr to 19 May.