

Grasshopper Sparrow: only one report. Henslow's Sparrow: only report W Monroe 20 May. Fox Sparrow: arr 18 Mar, max 16 StMc and 15 NPT 18 Apr. Song Sparrow: arr Syr 5 Mar. Lincoln's Sparrow: only one reported. Swamp Sparrow: arr Peter Scott Swamp 2 Apr. Lapland Longspur: 60 DH 11-12 Apr. Red-winged Blackbird: arr Syr 6 Mar. **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: male Chittenango 17-25 Apr (mob, ph). E. Meadowlark: arr Erieville 17 Mar. Rusty Blackbird: arr Peter Scott Swamp 25 Mar. Com. Grackle: arr Syr 4 Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: arr 11 Mar. Orchard Oriole: males Oswego 15 May, LSB 20-21 May. Purple Finch: most reports during March. White-winged Crossbill: Booneville 1 May. Com. Redpoll: *intro*. Pine Siskin: last NPT 16 May; *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: *intro*, max six Pratt's Falls 29 Apr.

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REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

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This was a cool dry spring. Both temperature and precipitation for March and April were below normal, a trend which continued into May. The first week of March was cold with six inches of snow falling on 12 Mar. Red-winged Blackbirds arrived with the next mild weather on March 10 in Jefferson Co. and on 15 Mar in St. Lawrence Co. I was away in April, and spring waited for my return. The "early birds" seemed a few days late in the Canton area. Killdeer, E. Phoebe, Com. Grackle and Song Sparrow all arrived 20-27 March. We watched an Am. Woodcock peenting in a partially frozen roadside ditch on 27 Mar. Notable movements included large flocks of Com. Grackle in Massena on 14 Mar, flocks of mixed blackbirds in Canton 4-5 Apr and numbers of Dark-eyed Junco in Henderson on 6 Apr. Arrivals of long-distance migrants were telescoped into the balmy days of mid May. "Spot-breasted" thrushes and Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared first, followed by Great-crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo and Ovenbird, then Am. Redstart and Scarlet Tanager. As usual, Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers brought up the rear. The median arrival date for 24 species of flycatchers, thrushes and warblers was 12 May.

Were two reports of Com. Loon from Wilson Hill of migrants, immatures, or breeders escaping the effects of acid rain in the Adirondacks? Numbers were reported up for Osprey in St. Lawrence County. Lee Chamberlaine reports the most Turkey Vulture ever in Henderson. Peter O'Shea reports frequent sightings of Ruffed Grouse feeding on aspen catkins, for which it was a good year. E. Phoebe was reported up. It is a good year for E. Bluebird with four of 35 boxes occupied in the Canton area in mid May. Four out of five major contributors

reported Rusty Blackbird. Northern Oriole seemed to be everywhere in St. Lawrence Co. but was reported down in Henderson. What does it mean when two observers have conflicting impressions? Other negatives included low numbers of mergansers, goldeneye and gulls at Moses-Saunders Dam, poor hawk flights at Westcott's Beach SP, no Barred Owl in southern St. Lawrence Co., and no Vesper Sparrow in Jefferson Co. Winter finches continued scarce from the winter season.

A total of 167 species for the region including 28 waders and shorebirds, 20 waterfowl, 16 raptors; the 91 passerines included 28 vireos and warblers. Noteworthy sightings were two **Sandhill Crane**, **Little Blue Heron**, **Cattle Egret**, **Merlin**, **Sedge Wren**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, and Northern Mockingbird.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Dick Bartlett, Carol Budd, R & S Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Jim Farquhar, John Green, Lee Harper, Bob Henrickson, Kelly Kingsley, Debbie & Steve Lithuler, Anne Mastromarchi, Linda Murray, Peter O'Shea, Pat Sears, Andy Thurber.

Abbreviations: MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam, Massena; PR - Perch River WMA; ULL - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WH - Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: *intro*. Pied-billed Grebe: only grebe reported. Great Egret: one JEFF April. **Little Blue Heron**: one Massena 2 May (MB). **Cattle Egret**: one Massena 6 May (MB). Snow Goose: 23 Henderson 23 Apr. Green-winged Teal: pair Canton 14 Apr. Am. Black Duck: max 30 MSD 19 Mar; four reports of pairs STLA. Canvasback: three MSD 19 Mar.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: reported from several sites in STLA, including WH and from Rock Pd near Belfont LEWI. Bald Eagle: five imm, three ad by aerial survey of SLR 16 Mar (JF); one Rainbow Flow, Colton, 8 Apr; two ad Star L late Apr. Cooper's Hawk: one Thompson Pk 13 March, one WH 28 Apr, one Dear Creek Flow s STLA 14 May, only reports. N. Goshawk: one Village of Canton 6 Mar, one WH 5 May; one upper Oswegatchie R. Red-shouldered Hawk: singles WH 23 Apr and 8 May and Massena 5 May, only reports. Broad-winged Hawk: arr Canton 27 Apr early, but numbers down. Rough-legged Hawk: two dark morph JEFF 21 Mar; one Pierrepont 5 Apr. Merlin: one Louisville 15 Apr (MB), no details. Gray Partridge: two MSD 26 Mar, first report in some time. Virginia Rail: arr eight MSD 10 Apr, record early, good numbers. Sora: arr six MSD 24 Apr, early, good numbers. **Sandhill Crane**: one calling in flight T Orleans 5 May (DB); one along Black R LEWI in May (BH *fide* LBC), possibly first LEWI record. Am. Woodcock: *intro*. Iceland Gull: one MSD 19 Mar. Com. Tern: arr 200 MSD 30 Apr. Black Tern: 20 PR 13 May; 15 or so ULL late May.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Louisville 22 May, only report. E. Screech-Owl: calling in Oswegatchie. Short-eared Owl: one Tylerville 7 Mar. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Louisville 25 Mar. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Henderson March and April. N. Shrike: one with impaled chickadee T Clare 7 Mar; one Lorraine 12 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Purple Martin: max 43 pairs Massena 19 April. Gray Jay: T Webb near s STLA line (PO'S). **Sedge Wren**: one MSD 18 May (HB). N. Mockingbird: one Pierrepont 18 May (KC); one Lorraine 18 May (D&SL). **Loggerhead Shrike**: one W Potsdam in April (R&SC).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: arr Louisville 18 May, rarely reported. Golden-winged Warbler: Lorraine 19 May, few recent reports. Palm Warbler: one report only.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Vesper Sparrow: singing Pierrepont as usual, but LBC reports none. Am Tree Sparrow: last Henderson 28 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: one overwintered Louisville to 23 Mar Apr. Rusty Blackbird: arr 14 Louisville 27 Mar; max 45

in four flocks Louisville 18 Apr; Watertown 4 May; T Webb 27 May, breeders? Snow Bunting: max 300 Henderson 20 Mar. Purple Finch: max 60 Henderson 20 Mar, heavy movement to 13 Apr. Pine Siskin: max 28 Louisville 24 Mar, otherwise scarce. Com. Redpoll: two Louisville 8 Apr, only report. Evening Grosbeak: generally scarce, but large numbers at feeder in Lorraine in March with 68 on 20 Mar (JF).

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REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

In sharp contrast to the autumn 1988 report, there was no lack of hawkwatchers, warbler-watchers, or other birders across the Region this spring. Despite a late spring, with snow on Dix and the Great Range on 10 May, new 14-year records were set at Coot Hill hawkwatch and the Crown Point bird-banding station. Around the Region, there were rare visitants, migrants, and nesters. High Peaks Audubon marked the start of its eighth year of management of the Four Brothers Islands with the acquisition of a 19-foot marine workboat, "Four Winds," named after the islands' old 18th century French name: *Les Iles des Quatres Vents*.

The season's start was inauspiciously marked by frozen wells and water lines; the total annual snowfall at Elizabethtown by 1 March was a bare 17.5 inches. The average is 175 inches! The month began bitterly cold. By 7 Mar, when the sun was again close to its 1 Oct position, noontime temperatures remained below 0°F across the Region. There had been no daytime temperatures this cold since the turn of the century. Some "maple sugaring weather" followed, but the weather was erratic. Newcomb dropped to -15°F on 13 Mar, with Plattsburgh climbing to 46°F the following day. Elizabethtown was a balmy 72°F by 28 March, and Piseco had 0.7 inches of rain the next day. The month closed with 0.5 inches of wet snow, for a total of just 2.6" monthly precipitation, with 58% possible sunshine.

April began with Wood Frogs and northern lights, with Lake Champlain at 96.75' and 35°F; lower elevations had received just under 40 inches of seasonal snowfall and just over 4 inches of yearly precipitation (normal would be about 7 inches). Much of the month was cool, with snow flurries that made hawkwatching less than perfect. In spite of 2 inches of snow at Ray Brook on 10 Apr, total precipitation was only about 73% of normal at midmonth. After weeks of cold weather, April finally ended with two sunny, warm days.

May began with more than an inch of badly needed rain. Temperatures on 4 May ranged from 30°F at Newcomb to 70°F at Plattsburgh. Thanks to spring rains and melting snow, Lake Champlain rose to 98.72' and 42°F by 5 May. Spring was slow in unfolding, but unfold it did. By 17 May, the hawthorn groves on Crown Point peninsula were leafing out; each day thereafter, the little green worms doubled in size and the avian waves arrived to gobble them. Both reservoirs and mistnets were full, and all was well in the North Country.