

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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Without citing chapter and verse, suffice it to say the weather was cold and wet. Hopes were falsely elevated in mid March by three days of balmy weather and a burst of early arrivals; but hopes were soon dashed and Spring Peepers were not heard again until 19 Apr. Heavy rain on 17 Mar was followed two days later by temperatures in the 30s and snow on 26 Mar; snow also fell on 5-6 and 11-12 Apr. Temperatures did soar 27-30 Apr, with a max of 89° on 29 Apr, and Yellow Warblers were ushered back by opening leaves and trilling toads. The mercury next reached the 70s on 4 and 10 May, but sleet fell on 11 May and heavy rains on 20-21 May.

The weather was offset by both the number and extent of contributions. Marilyn Badger sighted 146 species and Mary Beth Wood was close behind. Cape Vincent looks like a hot spot for spring migrants. M. B. Wood sighted Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on 26 May, Winter Wren on 14 Apr, Yellow-throated Vireo on 25 May, and Lincoln's Sparrow on 17 May. In all 185 species were reported, including 26 species of waterfowl, 17 raptors, four rallids, 16 shorebirds, four vireos and 24 warblers.

Among lingering winter residents were a dozen Oldsquaw until 17 May at Cape Vincent, the last Rough-legged Hawk on 16 Apr, last N. Shrike on 3 Apr. Two White-winged Crossbill were in Canton on 26 Mar, and six Am. Tree Sparrow in Massena on 1 May. Bohemian Waxwing was in residence eating crab apples on the SUNY-Potsdam campus in Mar and on the St. Lawrence University campus in April, with a max of 150 seen by Mike Sheard in Canton 7 Mar. The last two were in Canton on 24 Apr.

The spring migration is difficult to summarize. There were no February early arrivals. Sheila Cerwonka writes, "Robins, Song Sparrows, Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Grackles descended March 16. The next day, we saw Kestrels, Meadowlarks, and male Cowbirds. These two days were unseasonable mild". Am. Woodcock, Com. Grackle and Song Sparrow in mid Mar seemed early, while arrival of E. Phoebe and Tree Swallow in late Mar and early Apr appeared to be delayed by inclement weather. In Apr and May neotropical migrants seemed right on schedule or even a tad early, from a burst of species the first week of May to Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers bringing up

the rear on 15 and 17 May, respectively. Pectoral, Least, and Spotted Sandpiper were all reported between 5 and 15 May. Among the more interesting migrants were Brant, Snow Goose, and several reports of Rusty Blackbird, seldom reported in spring, between 5 Mar and 17 Apr. Lee Chamberlaine reported maxima of 10,000 Canada Goose at Henderson Pond on 22 Mar; and of 20 Am. Black Duck, 1500 Mallard, and 60 N. Pintail all on 17 Mar. He also describes "literally thousands" of Am. Robin searching for food in woodlands and roadsides of Croghan on 12 Apr. Movement of both species of kinglet was reported 26-27 Apr. White-throated Sparrow was abundant during the last week of Apr and White-crowned Sparrow moved through during the last three weeks of May with a max of eight per day in Henderson.

Regarding range expanding species, Wild Turkey and Turkey Vulture continue to increase. Red-bellied Woodpecker departed Henderson 26 Mar, and one sighted by Paul Kelly in Lisbon on 22 Apr is the third St. Lawrence Co. record. A N. Mockingbird was reported from Lisbon 25 May, and a **Blue-winged Warbler** reported from Cape Vincent by Mary Beth Wood is a first or second record for St. Lawrence Co. Debbie Litwiler reports a N. Cardinal at Lorraine on the Tug Hill 19 Mar, "the first and only Cardinal we've seen in the four years we've lived up here, and we haven't seen it since". House Finch was reported in small numbers from everywhere but the Tug Hill.

Nesting of many species was late, and mortality due to cold rains may have been high. Among interesting nesting records reported by M. B. Wood were Great Blue Heron nest building at Sackett's Harbor on 7 Apr. She also reported two Red-tailed Hawk nests with young on 29 Apr, an E. Screech-Owl fledgling with much down on 28 May, two Great Horned Owl nests each with one young 29 and 19 May, Short-eared Owl, 13 Bank Swallow in a highway dept. pile of sand and gravel for winter roads, Purple Martin feeding young 31 May, and five pairs Horned Lark with first young 22 May, all near Cape Vincent. On 15 May 18 Purple Martin were found dead beneath nest houses and sent to DEC for analysis. Nest building was observed in Barn Swallow on 20 Apr, Am. Robin on 22 Apr, and Warbling Vireo and Yellow Warbler on 24 May. Marilyn Badger found House Finch eggs on 12 Apr; and fledged young were recorded for European Starling on 30 Apr, and for Com. Grackle on 30 May.

On the upside were E. Phoebe, Yellow Warbler, and Pine Siskin,

with numbers of 1-200 reported in Mar and Apr. Low grades were given to Blue-winged Teal, Broad-winged Hawk, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Warbling Vireo. Only one observer reported Redhead, N. Goshawk, cuckoos, E. Wood-Pewee, N. Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Indigo Bunting, and Field Sparrow. There were no sightings of Solitary Sandpiper, Barred Owl or pipits.

On the New York State list of endangered, threatened, and species of special concern was a pair of Bald Eagle at Perch River 14 Mar and one at Moses-Saunders Dam on 19 Apr. Three pair of Osprey nested at Perch River WMA, and Peregrine Falcon was reported near Massena by Bob Patterson on 10 Apr. At least five reports of Upland Sandpiper included a pair displaying at Cape Vincent on 6 May. There were 12 Black Tern at Perch River 12 May and others at Wilson Bay Marsh near Cape Vincent, but none from Upper and Lower Lakes or Wilson Hill WMAs. Com. Nighthawk at Ogdensburg was the only report, and Vesper Sparrow was at Cape Vincent on 6 May and the Pierrepont Colony on 14 May.

Another species of interest was a Cattle Egret. Many other "good birds" were sighted, but definitely rare were Marilyn Badger's possible light morph **Gyr Falcon** near Massena on 16 Apr and a male **Hooded Warbler** at the same locale on 14 May, probably a first Regional record.

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Abbreviations: CV — Cape Vincent; MSD — Moses-Saunders Dam; WBM — Wilson Bay Marsh, Cape Vincent; SLR — St. Lawrence River.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: three Upper and Lower Lakes WMA 20 Apr, unusual this far from SLR. Great Egret: one Gouverneur ca. 16 May. **Cattle Egret**: one in partial breeding plumage WBM. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one WBM 5 May. Canada Goose: *intro*. Brant: four Clayton 21 May. Snow Goose: three reports, max 75 at June LaVack's farm Gouverneur ca. 15 Mar and 4 Apr. Mallard: *intro*. Am. Black Duck: *intro*. N. Pintail: *intro*. Blue-winged Teal: three reports, max 14 Massena 1 May. Canvasback: 12 SLR 5 Apr. Greater Scaup and Lesser Scaup: max 300 SLR 15 Mar. Oldsquaw: *intro*.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: early arr on 5 Apr. Sharp-shinned Hawk: three reports. Cooper's Hawks: three reports. Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: three migrating over CV 14 Mar. Red-tailed Hawk: *intro*. Broad-winged Hawk: max 30 Southwick Beach 28 Apr. Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. **Gyr Falcon**: *intro*. Gray Partridge: three regularly Massena. Semipalmated Plover: one MSD 23 May. Greater Yellowlegs and Lesser Yellowlegs: three reports from StLA. Upland Sandpiper: *intro*. Pectoral

Sandpiper: two Massena 9 May. Bonaparte's Gull: one in breeding plumage CV 5 Apr. Caspian Tern: three reports. Com. Tern: max 18 MSD 22 Apr. Black Tern: *intro*.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one Louisville 26 May. E. Screech-Owl: *intro*. Great Horned Owl: *intro*. Short-eared Owl: two CV 29 Apr and 19 May. Com. Nighthawk: *intro*. Whip-poor-will: three Louisville 31 May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: *intro*. Horned Lark: *intro*. Purple Martin: *intro*. Tree Swallow: *intro*; numbers down in May due to cold weather (LBC). Bank Swallow: *intro*. Cliff Swallow: large colony at MSD with fledged young 24 May. Winter Wren: *intro*. Bohemian Waxwing: *intro*. N. Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo: one CV 25 May. Philadelphia Vireo: one Louisville 6 May. Warbling Vireo: *intro*. **Blue-winged Warbler**: *intro*. Golden-winged Warbler: *intro*. Palm Warbler: singles CV 27 Apr and Louisville 8 May. **Hooded Warbler**: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: *intro*. Indigo Bunting: one CV 17 May, only report. Am. Tree Sparrow: *intro*. Vesper Sparrow: *intro*. Fox Sparrow: one to two Lorraine 12-17 Apr. Lincoln's Sparrow: *intro*. White-crowned Sparrow: *intro*. Rusty Blackbird: *intro*. Com. Grackle: *intro*. Purple Finch: max 24 Lorraine 5 May. House Finch: *intro*. White-winged Crossbill: *intro*. Red Crossbill: several in flock feeding in woodland with 200 Pine Siskin, Clare 16 March. Pine Siskin: *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: numbers small and sporadic, but hundreds Theresa 30 Mar and Redwood 20 Apr.

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