

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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Another mild season! Temperatures for March and April were 2°-3° and 3°-5° above normal, respectively, and May also was balmy. Precipitation for March was about normal, but even on the Tug Hill, snowfall was only half the usual amount. April rainfall was about 30% higher than average. Heavy rainfalls occurred on 8-9 and 22 Apr. The most severe period followed the ice storm of 3-4 Mar, when a heavy coat of ice made three days of slim pickings for birds, although no one commented on any observed effects. Lee Chamberlaine predicts that the long term effects of so much damage to trees will be high tree mortality and more woodpecker habitat in coming years.

In response to the early spring, resident species and short distance migrants seemed to nest early. Late warblers, such as Bay-breasted and Blackpoll, were found well ahead of schedule. More impressive than any effect of the early spring was the low numbers of migrant insectivores. The Walkers report "warblers, kinglets, and thrushes were very hard to find. We did not observe any 'waves' and could find only one or two individuals of several warbler species." Lee Chamberlaine wrote, "The woods grow more silent as I put on years. Some (species) I no longer hear because they are not there. Others, although they are few, I cannot hear but I can see. The rate of loss accelerates (and) the warblers become rarer gems each year. Many species are way down, but only birders of the 1950's and 1960's would realize it: ducks, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, and tanagers." In addition to species mentioned above, Com. Raven, E. Bluebird, and Bobolink reports were up, while Green-backed Heron, E. Wood-Pewee, both kinglets and Warbling Vireo were thought to be down.

In spite of the dearth of numbers, an extraordinary number of species was recorded, 192. This included three species of grebe, five herons, 25 waterfowl, 14 diurnal raptors, 19 shorebirds, five owls, eight woodpeckers, eight flycatchers including all but the Yellow-bellied, all five swallows; four wrens lacking only Sedge Wren, eight thrushes, five vireos, 22 warblers; 13 sparrows, 7 blackbirds and six finches. The Region is finally obtaining depth of coverage with regular reports from most areas including Lewis Co. Particularly welcome is Bob and June Walker's thorough reporting of Three Mile Bay and the Limmerick Cedars-Chaumont Barrens area.

Waterfowl were well-reported. There were five reports of Snow Goose. Green-winged Teal was way up with eight sightings. Low numbers were indicated for Am. Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, N. Shoveler and Wood Duck. There was only one report for Redhead. The imm male **Harlequin Duck** seen at Moses-Saunders Dam since 9 Dec was last seen 3 Mar, and a Barrow's Goldeneye was found in early March. Among the rarities were an adult **Great Cormorant** well-described by Bruce Di Labio (first Regional record) and a first spring record of adult Little Gull, both at Moses-Saunders Dam on 3 May.

To summarize the raptor sightings, all three accipiters were reported. Paul Kelly had a Sharp-shinned Hawk "pretty much daily, feeding on Mourning Doves. In late winter I had about about 50 doves in my yard, but by the end of May they were down to twenty. I had several sightings of captures." Among the buteos, Broad-winged Hawk was scarce, and there were but two reports of Red-shouldered. However, Peter O'Shea thinks the latter have increased in s St. Lawrence Co, and wonders whether the decline in Broad-winged Hawk could be due to increasing numbers of Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawk. There were been several Bald Eagle sightings, and a Golden Eagle was reported. Osprey reports are up. Lee Henderson had a Merlin in his Henderson yard on 29 Apr carrying a small bird. Bob Walker photographed an imm dark morph **Gyr Falcon** at Pt. Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF, on 2 Mar; unfortunately it did not linger. Bob also reports that "a few weeks later an injured Gyr Falcon was found a few miles north of here (T Lyme) and a DEC officer turned it over to a wildlife rehabilitator. We examined it and believe it to be a different bird." As for owls, Mary Wood missed her E. Screech-Owl in May after seeing it regularly through March and most of April, until it appeared 31 May with three fledglings. There was a spat of late Snowy Owl sightings. Three Barred Owl were reported. Short-eared Owl remain numerous.

Among species expanding ranges, there were three reports of Great Egret, one in each county. Mallard continues to increase in numbers. Bob Hendrickson reported several waterfowl hybrids from LEWI, including Mallard X Black, Mallard X Wigeon, and an apparent Mallard X Shoveler; all were photographed or video-taped. Willow Flycatcher is well-established in STLA. The **Carolina Wren** present in Canton at the Sheards' feeder since January sang through March and was last seen 2 April, just before a severe wind storm. Three persons reported six

sightings of N. Mockingbird. Golden-winged Warbler was well reported, and the Walkers found a "Brewster's" hybrid singing a Golden-winged Warbler type song near Washington Park, T Lorraine, on 10 May, probably a Regional first.

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Abbreviations: CV - T Cape Vincent; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; PRWMA - Perch River WMA; PtP - Point Peninsula; SLR - St. Lawrence River; TMP - Three Mile Pt, T Lyme; ULL — Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WB - Wilson's Bay, Cape Vincent.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr pair ULL 18 Apr. Horned Grebe: one Massena 7 Apr. Red-necked Grebe: one TMP 21 Apr. **Great Cormorant:** *intro*. Great Egret: singles Russell 9 Apr, Turin 29 Apr. WB 15 May. Black-crowned Night-Heron: two WB, 23 Apr; one Southwick Beach 31 May. Mute Swan: five PRWMA 5 May, increasing? Snow Goose: 700 Henderson 17 Mar, early; four blue morphs in a flock of eight Ellisburg 20 Mar. Brant: one MSD 28 May (BMD), only report. Canada Goose: max 8000 vicinity of Henderson Pd, 16,000 Henderson-Ellisburg area 17 Mar; 3000 MSD 20 Mar. Mallard and hybrids: *intro*. Gadwall: max 42 MSD 28 May. Redhead: PtP 10 Mar. Canvasback: 24 TMP 16 Mar; two PRWMA 13 May, unusual here and late. Greater Scaup: max 18 WB 29 Mar; last one WB 8 May. Lesser Scaup: arr MSD 3 Mar, last 28 May. **Harlequin Duck:** *intro*. Barrow's Goldeneye: male off Three Mile Bay 2 Mar (B&JW). Oldsquaw: 66 displaying SLR at CV 26 Apr. Red-breasted Merganser: late max 12 MSD 3 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: pair at PRWMA nest 4 Apr; one carrying sticks at L Massawiepe, T Piercefield 20 May. Bald Eagle: ad, two imm near Hermon 7 Apr; one Cranberry L 22 May; pair on Raquette R in S Colton, where they have nested in recent years. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 14 total reported, max six Chaumont Barrens 7 May; *intro*. Cooper's Hawk: total seven in four reports. N. Goshawk: total four in three reports. Rough-legged Hawk: last, both dark-phase, Hopkinton 4 May and CV 6 May. Golden Eagle: imm MSD 7 Apr (J&NA). Merlin: *intro*. **Gyr Falcon:** *intro* (NYSARC). Ring-necked Pheasant: clutch of 13 eggs Massena 19 May. Wild Turkey: nesting mid-April T Louisville increasing LEWI. Am. Coot: one CV 1 May, only report. Bonaparte's Gull: arr and max 16 MAD 3 May. Little Gull: *intro*. Iceland Gull: last seven MSD 20 Mar. Com. Tern: max MSD 350 3 May. Black Tern : max 250-300 WB 5 May; 24 PRWMA 5 May. Solitary Sandpiper: only two or three T Lyme after 7 May. Upland Sandpiper: seven sightings by four observers, mostly JEFF. Short-billed Dowitcher: one CV 19 May.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: three singles after 19 May. E. Screech-Owl: *intro*. Snowy Owl: one Canton 9 Apr, one Madrid 23 Apr, ad male CV from March until 10 May. Barred Owl: reported from Colton, Piercefield, and

Louisville. Short-eared Owl: 14 near CV until late March. Com. Nighthawk: four reports; arr Ogdensburg 15 Apr, daily thereafter, record early. Whip-poor-will: max five Limerick Cedars and six Chaumont Barrens 29 May. Chimney Swift: arr early; max 50 Watertown 29 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr very early. Red-headed Woodpecker: one T Lorraine, Tug Hill, 8 May (D&SL), very unusual site.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Canton 29 May; abundant southern StLaw (POS). Willow Flycatcher: arr Brownville 21 May; two or three regularly ULL. Horned Lark: three CV "seen flying from road to grass with food in their beaks" 28 May, apparently feeding young (MW). Purple Martin: 40 pair breeding Massena 10 Apr; few elsewhere. Com. Raven: ad at nest with three y about to fledge, Whetstone Gulf, Lowville 28 May "No doubt same pair as reported last year" (RJW). Brown Creeper: only singles reported mid Apr to early May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Louisville 28 Mar; max 10 Eldorado Beach Preserve, T Adams 13 Apr. N. Mockingbird: one in Massena, five others n JEFF. Am. Pipit: none. Bohemian Waxwing: three reports; 40 Potsdam 6 Mar "gorging on crabapples as brilliant sun melted the thick coat of ice which had been present since 4 March"; max 54 MSD 3 Mar. N. Shrike: max seven vicinity of CV 30 Mar.

VIREOS-WARBLES: Yellow-throated Vireo: two Thompson P, JEFF 16 May. Golden-winged Warbler: *intro*. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: *intro*. N. Parula: one T Louisville 16 May, only report. Palm Warbler: singles T Louisville 29 Apr and Piercesfield 18 May, latter possible breeder? Bay-breasted Warbler: three reports, arr Watertown 25 Apr is early; max 5 T Louisville 15 May. Blackpoll Warbler: several reports; max three ULL 22 May. Prairie Warbler: two Limerick Cedars, three Chaumont Barrens (RJW), probably regular breeders here. Louisiana Waterthrush: one Washington Pk, T Watertown 22 May, first report in several years. Mourning Warbler: max six Little John WMA and other areas T Worth 22 May; also in suitable habitat in s StLA.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: mixed reports; three resident Pierrepont; max three CV 14 May. Am. Tree Sparrow: last T Louisville 24 Apr. Field Sparrow: arr CV 29 Mar; plentiful in abandoned fields in Pierrepont. Vesper Sparrow: one CV 6 May only report. Fox Sparrow: max four T Louisville 25 Apr. White-throated Sparrow: arr T Louisville 16 Apr, numbers low; breeding Chaumont Barrens. White-crowned Sparrow: arr six T Louisville 15 Apr, early; max 12 Lorraine 12 May, last 13 May. Dark-eyed Junco: arr Canton 27 Mar, abundant mid Apr; heavy movement Henderson 13 Apr, last 29 Apr. Purple Finch: good numbers after Apr 24, max 20 Ogdensburg 30 Apr; more nesting in Henderson; LBC "heard and saw male mimic other bird calls (Jay, etc)." White-winged Crossbill: female at feeder Lorraine 2-10 Mar. Pine Siskin: four at feeder CV 3 Mar and 14 May. Evening Grosbeak: max 40 Henderson 6 Mar, last 20 May.

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