

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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The spring of 1992 cannot be called a normal one. It seems as though winter didn't really start until March, when snow fell on 11 and 15-17 Mar. On 11 Apr, Ogdensburg got a 6 inch snow fall and on 17 Apr Tug Hill sections got up to 4 inches of snow. Frost occurred as late as 25 May, and strong winds from either the north or west across a cold Lake Ontario made it a very cool spring. Lack of good strong south winds slowed many migrants and made hawk watching a challenge. Rainfall was above normal since we had some downpours of 1 plus inch in March and April, while on 9 May Watertown recorded 2 plus inches of rain in four hours time. High temperature for the period was 81°F on 23 May at Watertown and the low was 0°F on 13 Mar at Canton.

Highlights of the season were spread across all groups. The small number of observers submitted some excellent reports resulting from intensive time afield. Bruce DiLabio, as usual, provided some excellent waterfowl, gull, tern and land bird observations at and around the Moses-Saunders Power Dam. He reported Red-necked Grebe, Barrow's Goldeneye, **Thayer's Gull**, Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, and **Bohemian Waxwing** at that location as well as a Golden Eagle in the Adirondacks. Peter O'Shea covered the Five Ponds Wilderness Area in the Adirondacks Forest Preserve and found Bald Eagle, Black-backed Woodpecker, Common Raven, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee and Eastern Bluebird. Mary and Brian Wood further demonstrated the importance for migrants of Cape Vincent, where the St. Lawrence River begins and Lake Ontario ends. It appears that at this location many of the species, which are not seen elsewhere or are using the Lake Ontario Plain as a migration route, regroup to move on northward. Mary saw 2000+ scoters flying north approximately 8 PM, first very high, then flying over Wilson Bay in the Town of Cape Vincent, they dropped down and skimmed the top of water. Their species list included Gray Partridge, Upland Sandpiper, Northern Mockingbird, Prairie Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, **Clay-colored Sparrow**, and Lincoln's Sparrow. By spending considerable time in the field in and around Massena, Marilyn Badger reported 154 species including 22 species of warblers, Tennessee, Nashville, Northern Parula, Pine, Palm, Northern Waterthrush and Wilson's among them. In Lewis County, Bob Henrickson found Horned Grebe,

Tundra Swan, Snow Goose, **Barnacle Goose**, Bald Eagle, White-rumped Sandpiper, Glaucous Gull and excellent numbers of waterfowl along the Black River in an Lewis County area that he basically has to himself.

The Colwell Hill observation tower site at Lakeview Wildlife Management Area provided some excellent raptor as well as migrant land bird observations such as Bald Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, and a **Sandhill Crane** as well as a variety of other raptors. The peak passage of Red-tailed Hawk came on a date when many other buteos were seen passing east of this location toward then Tug Hill. The maximum of two Broad-winged Hawk at Colwell Hill on 7 May makes it very evident that these birds move into Tug Hill as they depart OSWE and Derby Hill Observatory. This area deserves more attention in Spring as well as Fall. Waterfowl flights were the best in some time. The weather held the birds here, as ice did not go out till later than usual. The large wetland system at Lakeview Wildlife Management Area produced an **Eurasian Wigeon** and numbers of other waterfowl species. Raptors were held back by lack of strong south winds and at times dribbled through daily. Land birds, on the other hand, waited and then pushed through in good variety.

Black-crowned Night-Heron numbers were down, whereas American Bittern numbers are up from a few years ago. Wild Turkey is showing up in new locations, such as sightings in the Fine-Clifton area, Sevey's Corners in T Colton, and one near Big Otter L T of Greig LEWI - all Adirondack locations; a nest was found at Trout L State Forest T Hermon StLA but succumbed to an unknown predator. Mourning Dove is expanding its range into low elevations of the Adirondacks. Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow made good showings. House Wren, Brown Thrasher and Chipping Sparrow numbers were very high at Henderson Shores Unique Area and Limerick Cedars, but where the first of these species nests at these locations is unknown since nest cavities are very limited due to absence of larger trees with cavities. Eastern Bluebird seems to be increasing greatly, with many reports from all parts of Region. It was seen at four locations deep in the Forest Preserve StLA in wooded beaver ponds. Is this historical activity or new areas occupied to escape starlings? American Robin was reported in normal numbers if not up somewhat. Gray Catbird arrived in substantial numbers much later than normal. However, the numbers of some species remain low. Species scarcer than usual this season include Common

Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Eastern Wood-Pewee, all of the swallows, Marsh Wren, Veery, Wood Thrush, all of the warblers, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Vesper Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow. Brown Creeper did not show up in normal numbers in the Town of Henderson. Swamp Sparrow numbers were down even on the Tug Hill where they are very common. Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Field Sparrow came to feeders in early part of period, Indigo Bunting came to feeders in May, and American Goldfinch appeared in large numbers at feeders through the period.

The spring of 1992 was most rewarding even with the low numbers of many species. An outbreak of Forest Tent Caterpillar in southeastern Lewis County and heavy defoliation there may provide some opportunity for cuckoo and warbler observations this summer, but may also drastically reduce reproductive success as a result of increased predation and reduced food supply.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Sheila Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Bruce & Laurie Di Labio, Lee Harper, Bob Henrickson, Paul Kelly, Steve & Debbie Litwhiler, Gene McGory, Peter O'Shea, Bob & June Walker, Brian Watson and Mary & Brian Wood.

Abbreviations: CH - Colwell Hill at s end LWMA on Montario Pt Rd; CV - Cape Vincent, JEFF; DOR - Dead On Road; HSUA - Henderson Shores Unique Area (Stony Pt), T Henderson JEFF; LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral zone; LWMA - Lakeview Wildlife Management Area, JEFF; PRWMA - Perch River Wildlife Management Area, T Brownville, JEFF; RMPD - Robert Moses Power Dam and vicinity; SF - State Forest; SLR - St. Lawrence River; TH - Tug Hill; THWMA -Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area, T Montague, LEWI; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area; WBM - Wilson Bay Marsh, T Cape Vincent, JEFF.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** arr three 3 Mile Pt T Lyme JEFF 13 Apr; pair Streeter L T Fine. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr ULLWMA 8 Apr, where known nesters. **Horned Grebe:** one 3 Mile Pt 14 Apr; six Ridge Rd LEWI 24 Apr; one Grasse R StLA 20 Apr. **Red-necked Grebe;** two RMPD 27 Apr (BD). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr LWMA 8 Apr; max 500+ LWMA 19 Apr. **Great Blue Heron:** in groups of five to six CH Mar. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two ULLWMA 15 Apr; one WBM 28 May. **Tundra Swan:** two n of Glenfield T Martinsburg 24 Mar(BH); one LWMA 8 Apr (GM); one at Glenfield 16 Apr(BH). **Mute Swan:** two PRWMA 4 Apr; one Henderson H 10 Apr. **Snow Goose:** 2500 (18 Blue morph) along Black R LEWI 9 Apr; 1000 T Henderson 18 Mar; other smaller flocks reported. **Brant:** one LWMA 27 May (SDL). **BARNACLE GOOSE:** one Rt 12 near East Martinsburg 7 Apr (BH); perhaps an escapee. **Canada Goose:** 6000+ T Ellisburg 10 Mar; 20,000 on or around

Henderson Pd T Henderson 2 Apr. **Wood Duck**: ten 3 Mile Pt 1 Apr; 15 males WBM 18 May. **Green-winged Teal**: arr Henderson Pd T Henderson 10 Mar; max 67 Ridge Rd T Lowville 8 Apr. **Am. Black Duck**: 200+ T Ellisburg 18 Mar; 200+ T Henderson 3 Apr; 70 Henderson Pd 6 Apr. **N. Pintail**: 40 T Henderson 5 Mar; max 200 T Henderson 10 Mar. **Blue-winged Teal**: arr LWMA 6 on 29 Mar. **N. Shoveler**: three Henderson Pd T Henderson 6 Apr; eight Southwick Beach SP 21 Apr. **Gadwall**: four Southwick Beach SP T Ellisburg 21 Apr. **EURASIAN WIGEON**: one LWMA 8 Apr (BJW & GM). **Am. Wigeon**: 10 T Ellisburg 10 Mar; 30 LWMA 8 Apr. **Canvasback**: six 3 Mile Pt 11 Mar; three 3 Mile Pt 30 Mar; 14 RMPD 27 Apr. **Ring-necked Duck**: arr 3 Mile Pt 5 Mar; max 20 LWMA 9 Apr. **Greater Scaup**: 60 Henderson H 12 Apr. **Lesser Scaup**: 12 Mud Bay T CV 8 Apr; eight 3 Mile Pt 8 Apr. **Oldsquaw**: 150 CV 1 May; 204 SLR T CV to Tibbets Pt on 2 May, most in breeding plumage and calling (MBW). **Com. Goldeneye**: 740 RMPD 4 Mar; 130 Mud Bay T CV 8 Apr. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**: two males, one female RMPD 1 Mar (BD); male RMPD 4 Mar (BD). **Bufflehead**: max 40 Pt Peninsula 1 May. **Hooded Merganser**: max 100 Grasse R Canton 10 Mar; 30+ PRWMA 4 Apr. **Com. Merganser**: 380 RMPD 1 Mar; 60 Henderson H 13 Apr; pair PRWMA 31 May. **Red-breasted Merganser**: max nine RMPD 27 Apr; six 3 Mile Pt 1 May.

Turkey Vulture: arr Sackets H 16 Mar; max 83 CH 7 Apr. **Osprey**: three CH 7 May. **Bald Eagle**: ad LWMA barrier beach 4 Mar (LC); ad 15 Mar LOL (MBW); two n of Glenfield, one on 24 Mar other 26 Mar (BH); two ad, two imm Cranberry L feeding on roadkilled and coyote killed deer thru Mar (PO); four ad, four imm feeding on dead deer on ice Blake Res T Parishville (KC); two imm LOL mid Apr (MBW). **N. Harrier**: max 17 CH 7 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: max 21 CH 20 Apr. **Cooper's Hawk**: max eight CH 7 Apr; one at T Henderson feeder regularly killing finches and sparrows Apr & May. **N. Goshawk**: one CH 25 Mar; one killed Mourning Dove in Ogdensburg 8 Apr. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: one TH near Diamond T Lorraine 15 Mar; max 20 CH 7 Apr. **Broad-winged Hawk**: *intro*. **Red-tailed Hawk**: max 26 CH 7 Apr; one attempting to catch Mallards on water T Henderson 1 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk**: max five CH 20 Apr; last 20 May. **Golden Eagle**: imm near S Colton 18 Mar (BD); imm CH 7 Apr (LC). **Am. Kestrel**: max seven CH 20 Apr; many migrants 21-28 Apr (KC); increased predation at T Henderson feeder by them this year. **Merlin**: one T Ellisburg along S Sandy Creek 25 Mar (LC); one CH 7 Apr (LC). **Peregrine Falcon**: one CH 7 Apr (LC). **Gray Partridge**: five to six T Louisville StLA 10 May ;

pair T CV 15 May. **Wild Turkey:** *intro*; one Rosiere T CV 12 Apr. **SANDHILL CRANE:** one CH at 1522 hrs flying from ice on S Colwell Pd flying s and dropping into Cranberry Pd vicinity T Ellisburg 7 Apr (LC, ph, NYSARC). **Black-bellied Plover:** E Martinsburg T Martinsburg 21 Apr. **Killdeer:** 100+ T Henderson 13 Apr. **Upland Sandpiper:** two Chaumont Barrens T Lyme JEFF 11 May; one Sackets H 11 May; two near PRWMA 11 May (LC) and 31 May. **Least Sandpiper:** three Stone Quarry Rd T CV 20 May (MBW). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** E. Martinsburg T Martinsburg 23 Apr (BH). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** one Wilson Hill Rd T Louisville 28 Apr; two Grasse R StLA 13-14 May (MB). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** seven Potsdam 3 May (M. Mansky). **Am. Woodcock:** five doing courtship flight HSUA 19 May, late. **Bonaparte's Gull:** seven at Dadville T Lowville 16 Apr - unusual location; ad in Alt plumage SLR 20 Apr. **Ring-billed Gull:** 15,000+ T Henderson 10 Mar; 10,000 RMPD 27 Apr. **THAYER'S GULL:** ad RMPD 8 Mar (BD). **Iceland Gull:** max seven RMPD 1 Mar and RMPD 8 Mar (BD). **Glaucous Gull:** two RMPD 1 Mar (BD); one Reynolds Metals T Massena 4 Mar (BD); one Dadville T Lowville 16 Apr (BH). **Great Black-backed Gull:** max 190 RMPD 8 Mar. **Caspian Tern:** max 12 PRWMA 31 May. **Com. Tern:** max 27 RMPD 27 Apr. **Black Tern:** 30-40 WBM 21 May (GM); 50 WBM 28 May (BJW); 24 PRWMA 31 May (BJW).

E. Screech-Owl: one T CV seen off and on at roosting site entrance Apr and May (MBW). **Snowy Owl:** one taking gulls near Alexandria Bay mid May (LH); last near Canton 10 May (BW). **N. Hawk Owl:** one of the birds at DePeyster was seen on 10 Mar and departed on or around 23 Mar (BJW). **Barred Owl:** heard calling Leonard Pd T Colton 20 Apr (PO); another High Falls T Fine 4 May (PO). **N. Saw-whet Owl:** one DOR Potsdam 4 Apr (KC). **Com. Nighthawk:** a pair probably nesting on roof of St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, Ogdensburg 21 May (PK). **Whip-poor-will:** one heard calling HSUA 13 May (GM); two Limerick Cedars T Brownville 28 May (BJW). **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:** one 3 Mile Pt T Lyme JEFF 14 Mar (BJW); at least two pairs in T Henderson thru period (LC). **Black-backed Woodpecker:** one near Leonard Pd - Chandler Pd Wild Forest T Colton May (PO). **N. Flicker:** five over-wintered RMPD (BD); there were indications of a second wave of migrants in mid May much later than the first migrants. **Pileated Woodpecker:** pair flying over T Henderson 14 Apr; numerous reports around Region.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one heard Whetstone Gulf SP 22 May (BJW). **Alder Flycatcher:** 18 Massena 27 May. **Willow Flycatcher:** one Massena 20 May; one ULLWMA 22 May; one PRWMA 31 May; one 3 Mile Pt 31 May.

Least Flycatcher: many TH T Montague LEWI 15 May. **Horned Lark:** 300+ near Henderson 14 Mar. **Cliff Swallow:** 100+ Long Sault Dam SLR T Massena (MB). **Gray Jay:** four near Oswegatchie Plains T Fine 6 May (PO). **Blue Jay:** many moving thru T Henderson on 6 May. **Com. Raven:** feeding on deer carcasses Cranberry L, competing with Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk and chickadee in Mar (PO); pair circling and calling Trout Lake SF T Hermon (PO); one Whetstone Gulf SP 22 May (BJW). **Boreal Chickadee:** one heard Buck Pd T Fine 14 May (PO). **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** bird which wintered at T CV feeder still present 17 Apr. **CAROLINA WREN:** one Canton 4 May (KC). **Winter Wren:** one near Massena 21 Apr. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 20 near Massena 30 Apr; not many seen along e L Ontario where they are usually numerous in migration. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 15 near Massena 22 Apr; heavy migration in Canton in late Apr; low numbers along e L Ontario. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** one with Yellow-rumped Warbler T Henderson 2 May (LC), seldom reported. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** one THWMA 15 May (LC&GM). **Swainson's Thrush:** one T CV 6 May; 1 found dead CV under window 28 May (MBW). **Hermit Thrush:** one Whetstone Gulf SP 22 May; one heard T CV 23 May. **N. Mockingbird:** one singing 2 mi s Canton 4-5 May (Jeff Thayer & John Van de Water) ; one at feeder on Valley Road near T CV 23 Apr (MBW). **Bohemian Waxwing:** three RMPD 4 Mar (BD) ; 90 RMPD 8 Mar (MB); 42 RMPD 8 Mar with 70 Cedar Waxwing (BD). **Cedar Waxwing:** few early in period then increasing - a few in small early flocks seen in Henderson had red wax tips on tail feathers as well as wings; 30 T Henderson feeding on crab apples left from last fall 6 Apr. **N. Shrike:** last 8 Apr.

Solitary Vireo: 30+ THWMA 15 May. **Philadelphia Vireo:** one Potsdam 10 May (SC); one near Massena 22 May (MB). **Blue-winged Warbler:** two Fort Drum (KC). **Tennessee Warbler:** eight near Massena in May (MB). **Nashville Warbler:** three CV 2 May; one TH near Diamond T Lorraine 6 May; two T CV 12 May (MBW). **N. Parula:** one near Massena 20 May; one heard High Falls Truck Trail T Fine May (PO). **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 20 THWMA 15 Apr. **Magnolia Warbler:** two CV 12 May ; two near Massena 26 May; harder to find each year. **Cape May Warbler:** one CV 12 May; two Massena 19 May; one Massena 23 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** five CV 12 May three Whetstone Gulf SP 22 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 100+ T Henderson 2 May (LC). **Black-throated Green Warbler:** six Whetstone Gulf SP 22 May. **Blackburnian Warbler:** three THWMA 15 May. **Pine Warbler:** 10 near Massena 21 Apr (MB); one FY near Massena 26 May (MB);

one Sand Bay Rd T CV 27 May (MBW). **Prairie Warbler**: four-six Limerick Cedars T Brownville 18 May (MBW), two on 25 May (BJW); three to four Chaumont Barrens T Clayton 11 May (LC). **Palm Warbler**: two CV 2 May. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: one THWMA 15 May (LC); two near Massena 20 May (MB). **Blackpoll Warbler**: one Massena 23 May. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 12 near Massena 5 May. **Am. Redstart**: 20 near Massena 12 May. **Ovenbird**: ten 29 May. **N. Waterthrush**: three in narrow wetland TH SF T Pinckney 15 May (LC&GM); two Louisville 29 May. **Wilson's Warbler**: one near Massena 18 May (MB); one WBM 20 May (MBW). **Canada Warbler**: 11 near Massena 26 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last StLA 5 May. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: one seen and heard near WBM 18 May (MBW). **Vesper Sparrow**: one Paterson Rd T Louisville 30 Apr (MB), only report. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: one n of T Chaumont T Lyme JEFF 26 May (MBW). **Fox Sparrow**: one to two at feeder T CV 31 Mar-8 Apr (MBW); one TH near Diamond T Lorraine 13 Apr (SDL); one Canton 18 Apr; last near Massena 2 May. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: five to six in yard T CV 12 May (MBW). **White-throated Sparrow**: small flocks in T CV 2-18 May. **White-crowned Sparrow**: migration was fairly rapid, last 16 May. **Dark-eyed Junco**: heavy movement through Region 13 -20 Apr; one "Oregon" type T CV 14 Apr (MBW). **Lapland Longspur**: 55+ Ayles Rd T Henderson 14 Mar, 28 there 18 Mar, gone 19 Mar (LC). **Snow Bunting**: 10 at feeder in snow storm TH near Diamond T Lorraine 12 Mar (SDL); 500+ Ayles Rd T Henderson 18 Mar, gone 19 Mar (LC). **Rusty Blackbird**: two T CV 6 May (MBW). **Purple Finch**: 30+ T Henderson 6 Mar; 50+ T Henderson 7 Mar; 50 Massena 3 May ; numbers in T Henderson in late May indicate local nesting may be up. **House Finch**: max Ogdensburg 320 1 Mar (PK); first ever at feeders TH near Diamond T Lorraine 27 Mar (SDL); nest with eggs T CV 11 May hatched on 26 May (MBW). **White-winged Crossbill**: one female with Evening Grosbeak Ogdensburg 8-15 Mar (PK). **Com. Redpoll**: max 100 RMPD 1 Mar ; 30 near Massena 1 Mar; five to eight Massena feeders 14 Apr; individual birds T CV and T Henderson in Mar and Apr. **HOARY REDPOLL**: one Ogdensburg feeder 13-14 Mar (PK). **Pine Siskin**: max 14 near Massena 13 Apr; scattered groups and individuals at feeders thru period. **Evening Grosbeak**: max 40 near Massena 30 Apr ; other smaller flocks and individuals all season.

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