

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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The spring of 1995 was not normal by any means. With the winter of 1994-95 being the second warmest in 100 years in the US and the twentieth mildest in New York in 100 years, what else would one expect? However, an early and warm spring was not to be. March was sunny but cold, many days with north winds in the 10 to 15 mph range. Snowfall was minimal for March. The highest temperature was 60°F at 3 AM on 9 Mar, followed by freezing rain and snow. April was characterized by lots of NW, N, or NE winds, with highs in the 50s during the days and night time lows below freezing. There were almost no April showers and heavy frost occurred into early May. The April showers came in May. The warmest weather started on 29 May when it hit 80°F in Ogdensburg. Rainfall for the period was about two inches below normal and boaters were experiencing problems on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River before the end of the period due to low water. With Lake Ontario water remaining cold, northerly winds, and the lack of any southerly wind flow, the vegetation was farther behind than even last year. Some trees were still not in full leaf at the end of the period and many flowers were considerably behind schedule.

The weather delayed many species of birds but we did set new record early dates for Caspian Tern, Swainson's Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Northern Oriole. Waterfowl put on some pretty impressive numbers, with two Eurasian Wigeon and the first Regional *Tufted Duck*. Raptors were scarce, as expected from the winter period. Dean DiTomasso found a displaying *Spruce Grouse* at the Massawepie Mire in the Town of Piercefield in StLA. Woodpeckers were impressive. Black-backed Woodpecker was found in the Adirondacks as well as the boreal flycatchers, Gray Jay, and Boreal Chickadee. Swallow numbers generally were low. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher was again present in impressive numbers. Bluebird counts are still improving and Northern Mockingbird reports just about covered the Region. Warblers and vireos were fantastic as to variety and numbers with Leone, Hughes, and Emery working the migrant trap at Snowshoe Road, Stony Point, and DiTomasso finding nesting birds at Adirondack locations in StLA. Leone located two new breeding locations for Prairie Warblers on Fort Drum and an alvar grassland-limestone woodland area in the Town of Clayton in JEFF. He also found high numbers of Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows by surveying possible habitats and known habitats late at

night and early in the morning. Winter finches were very disappointing but better than the winter period at many locations. Crossbills and Pine Siskin appeared at several Adirondack locations.

Negatives for the period included low numbers of loons, raptors, Common Moorhen, owls, flycatchers, swallows, and some sparrow species.

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Abbreviations: CPWF - Chandler Pond Wild Forest, T Colton, StLA; CV - Cape Vincent, JEFF; EDP - Eldorado Beach Preserve, T Ellisburg, JEFF; LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral JEFF; LOTW - Lake Of The Woods T Theresa JEFF; MM - Massawepie Mire, T Piercefield, StLA; PRWMA - Perch River WMA, T Brownville, Orleans & Pamela, JEFF; PtPen - Point Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; SLR - St. Lawrence River; ULLWMA - Upper & Lower Lakes WMA T Canton, StLA; StPt - Stony Point, T Henderson, JEFF; TP - Thompson Park, Watertown; WBSP - Wescotts Beach State Park, T Henderson, JEFF.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** three PtPen 3 May; nesting LOTW 21 May (BH,TH); numbers down. **Pied-billed Grebe:** five Crystal L T Henderson 8 Apr; two pair PRWMA 30 Apr. **Horned Grebe:** two PtPen 8 Apr; three Sawyer's Bay T Henderson 29 Apr; pair Grass R StLA 7 May. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr PtPen 17 Apr. **Am. Bittern:** max five PRWMA 29 Apr; two Wilson Bay Marsh T CV 2 May. **Least Bittern:** one Route 37 Massena (MB). **Great Blue Heron:** 50-60 Sulphur Springs rookery 18 Mar; 920 nests Ironsides I StLA (*fide* GS). **Cattle Egret:** one Henderson Bay 25 May (JF). **Green Heron:** record early arr StLA 28 Apr (KC). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one T Hounsfield 2 May; one Watertown 12 May; 44 nests Gull I Henderson Bay 25 May (JF). **Tundra Swan:** max six PRWMA 14 Mar; one PtPen 19 Mar; two PRWMA 7 Apr; two imm Barnes Corners 22 Apr (GS). **Mute Swan:** max nine PRWMA 26 Mar. **Snow Goose:** arr ten Lakeview WMA 12 Mar; max 3000 Castorland LEWI 3 Apr (RH); last 40 Ellisburg 18 Apr; 35 Blue morph Castorland LEWI 24 Mar (RH). **Brant:** 150+ Tug Hill T Lorraine JEFF 20 May (DSL), only report. **Canada Goose:** heavy movement through 26-29 Mar; max 6000+ near Henderson Pd in Mar; last migrants 7 May; three goslings T CV 3 May (MBW), StLA 6 May. **Wood Duck:** pair checking cottonwood tree for nesting Henderson 29 Mar; 15 near Henderson Pd 8 Apr. **Green-winged Teal:** max 30 near Henderson Pd 8 Apr. **Am. Black Duck:** 200 near Woodville 12 Mar; female on nest, seven eggs MM StLA

27 May (DD). **Mallard**: max 500+ Woodville 12 Mar. **N. Pintail**: 30 PtPen 13 Mar; max 500+ Henderson Pd 8 Apr. **N. Shoveler**: numbers down LEWI (RH); four PRWMA 7 Apr; max 30 on 30 Apr. **Gadwall**: nine PtPen 19 Mar; 60 near Henderson Pd 8 Apr. **Eurasian Wigeon**: one Oswegatchie R near ULLWMA Canton 13 Mar (KC); drake near Castorland LEWI 27 Mar, 14 Apr (RH). **Am. Wigeon**: 40 near Henderson Pd 8 Apr; 10 PRWMA 30 Apr. **Canvasback**: 12 PtPen 18 Mar; 69 PtPen 20 Mar (BH&TE). **Redhead**: four PtPen 18 (MBW), 20 Mar (BH, TE). **Ring-necked Duck**: 39 EDP 13 Mar; max 212 Castorland LEWI 18 Mar (RH); 100+ PtPen 18 Mar (MBW); 175+ PRWMA 24 Mar, 12 on 1 May. **Tufted Duck**: male with raft of scaup Long Pt SP PtPen 1 Apr (NL, NYSARC), Regional first. **Greater Scaup**: max 5000+ SLR T CV 7 Apr; 2500+ Eel Bay SLR 7 Apr; 2000 PtPen 29 Apr (RB). **Lesser Scaup**: about 60 PtPen 1 May (MBW); eight SLR Grass Pt SP JEFF 4 May. **Oldsquaw**: max 94 Henderson Harbor 8 Apr; pair Wilson Bay 15 May (MBW), late. **Com. Goldeneye**: 100 PtPen 13 Mar; many PtPen 18 Mar (MBW); 40 WBSP 28 Mar. **Bufflehead**: eight Henderson Harbor 27 Apr; 36 around PtPen 1 May. **Hooded Merganser**: max ten PtPen 13 Mar, ten PRWMA 14 Mar. **Com. Merganser**: ten PtPen 13 Mar. **Red-breasted Merganser**: max 17 Pillar Pt 10 Apr; six Wilson Bay 27 Apr-10 May.

Turkey Vulture: two PtPen 26 Mar. **Osprey**: one Payne L T Antwerp JEFF 18 May; one MM 27 May; four pairs, females on nests, PRWMA 30 Apr. **Bald Eagle**: six reports of 14 birds, max five imm SLR, Eel Bay 25 Mar (BH&TE). **N. Harrier**: eight and pair in nuptial display T CV 15 Apr (MBW); pair mating StLA 18 Apr (KC); eight PtPen 26 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: about 12 observations, down from last year; daily visitor to feeders Adams (PK). **Cooper's Hawk**: reports down from last year; imm CV after 5 Mar. **N. Goshawk**: ad Clifton StLa 25 Mar (DD); one EDP Road 18 Apr (BH&TE). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: pair Horseshoe Pd T Piercefield StLA 20 May (KC). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 18 over CV 12 May (MBW). **Red-tailed Hawk**: numbers down. **Rough-legged Hawk**: last dark morph heading n 3 May (MBW). **Am. Kestrel**: pair mating Wilson Bay 27 Apr; numbers down (LC). **Merlin**: female WBSP 12 May (mob), only report. **Gray Partridge**: three reports T CV, max six, already in pairs, on 12 Mar (MBW). **Ring-necked Pheasant**: all reports released birds. **Spruce Grouse**: displaying male MM T Piercefield StLA 27 May (DD), a known location. **Ruffed Grouse**: one Black Pd WMA T Ellisburg JEFF 20 Apr. **Wild Turkey**: three EDP 27 Mar (PK), unusual location; reported CV area Apr & May (MBW), not in normal habitat; four near Sand Bay Road 10 May (MBW); numbers higher than usual LEWI (RH). **Virginia Rail**: widespread StLA early May, harder to find later (KC).

Sora: arr Massena 30 Apr. **Com. Moorhen:** one Wilson Bay Marsh 23-24 Apr, three there by 29 Apr, numbers down. **Am. Coot:** two PRWMA 24 Mar; one Mud Creek T CV 2 Apr; several PRWMA 30 Apr, numbers low. **Semipalmated Plover:** five EDP 20 May (RB). **Killdeer:** a wave of migrants 29 Mar; pair with three y 12 May. **Greater Yellowlegs:** max four T CV 28, 30 Apr. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** three Grass R Massena 1 May; three EDP 12 May (PK). **Solitary Sandpiper:** two Chase Mills StLA 13 May; one Watertown City 20 May. **Spotted Sandpiper:** four Sackets Harbor area 9 May; two EDP 12 May; five EDP 20 May; numbers low compared to a few years ago. **Upland Sandpiper:** max two near PRWMA 4 May; five other singles reported after 1 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** three EDP 20 May. **Least Sandpiper:** one Red L T Theresa 18 May; one T Henderson 20 May; four EDP 20 May (RB). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** one near Alcoa Plant Massena 16 Apr (MB); one T CV 16 May (MBW). **Dunlin:** two Red L T Theresa JEFF 18 May. **Com. Snipe:** flights StPt 27 Apr. **Bonaparte's Gull:** one Sawyer's Bay LOL 22 Apr (GM), only report. **Ring-billed Gull:** arr seven Henderson 10 Mar; thousands JEFF 13 Mar; very high numbers in May. **Herring Gull:** numbers decreasing. **Glaucous Gull:** one Moses-Sanders Power Dam 7 May (MB), late. **Great Black-backed Gull:** max 24 PtPen 19 Mar. **Caspian Tern:** record early arr two Southwick Beach SP 17 Apr (NL); bird carrying bullhead from Henderson to Little Galloo Is 19 Apr (LC). **Com. Tern:** two Fishers Landing SLR 4 May; two Henderson Harbor 12 May (GM); max 14 Wilson Hill WMA StLA 27 May. **Black Tern:** max 50 Wilson Bay Marsh T CV 20 May (MBW); two Beaver Meadow T Watertown 21 May.

Mourning Dove: pair fledged two y from two year old Am. Robin nest Henderson on 20 May (LC); Wanakena StLA 28 Mar (PO), increasing in Adirondacks. **Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Massena 21 May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Massena 25 May, only report. **E. Screech-Owl:** seen regularly at CV nesting site (MBW). **Great Horned Owl:** one EDP 18 Apr. **Snowy Owl:** one T CV 6-11 Mar (MBW); one T Lowville LEWI 11 Mar (BH&TE), only reports. **Barred Owl:** one Canton 1 Mar & 15 May; two T Rodman JEFF 17 Apr (*fide* Dave Larrabee). **Short-eared Owl:** 12 seen flying and sitting on ice SLR off Stony Pt Road T CV, then departing to hunt, 12 Mar (MBW); one T CV 12 May (MBW). **N. Saw-whet Owl:** calling Cranberry L, Inlet, Star L, Peavine Swamp and T Clare StLA through Apr (PO). **Com. Nighthawk:** arr mid May (PK), numbers very low. **Whip-poor-will:** three StPt 16 May, five on 20 May. **Chimney Swift:** numbers low Henderson. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** numbers high LOL, most homes have feeders now.

Belted Kingfisher: arr 24 Mar near Clayton; numbers up LOL. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** three singles after 19 May; two Fort Drum 29 May (NL). **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** two Henderson regularly through; one WBSP 8 Apr (mob); female at feeder CV 4-15 May, then male at feeder other end of village 15 May and female there 16 May (MBW). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** fewer migrants LOL (LC). **Black-backed Woodpecker:** one CPWF 9 Apr, 21 May (DD). **N. Flicker:** one wintered Massena (MB); migrants numerous LOL 20 Apr, heavy movement 23-27 Apr. **Pileated Woodpecker:** nine reports.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one LOTW 21 May (NL); one Streeter L T Fine StLA 28 May (DD). **E. Wood-Pewee:** late, numbers down. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** three MM 27 May; one Streeter L Bog T Fine StLA 28 May; max five CPWF 28 May (all DD). **Alder Flycatcher:** one Fort Drum 25 May; two Black R 26 May. **Willow Flycatcher:** one Black R 26 May; two Massena 26 May. **Least Flycatcher:** two Lakeview WMA 13 May; numbers down in Adirondacks (PO). **E. Phoebe:** numbers down. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** numbers up LOL. **E. Kingbird:** numbers down in Adirondacks (PO); numbers down LOL (LC). **Horned Lark:** max 50 T CV 2 Mar. **Tree Swallow:** numerous Henderson 2 Apr. **Cliff Swallow:** max 80 Long Sault Power Dam SLR StLA 7 May (MB). **Gray Jay:** four ad, two juv CPWF 21 May; two ad MM 27 May; two ad, two juv CPWF 28 May (DD). **Blue Jay:** no movement along LOL. **Am. Crow:** carrying nesting material 16 Apr. **Com. Raven:** one T CV 31 Mar (FM); one near Plessis 7 Apr (BH&TE); one Massena 11, 12 & 29 Apr (DD); one Black L StLA 21 & 29 Apr; one T Theresa JEFF 30 Apr. **Black-capped Chickadee:** one observed twice in two weeks to pick up cat hairs from lawn and carry them to and place in a bush (MW). **Boreal Chickadee:** one Peavine Swamp T Clifton StLA 9 Apr; max 11 CPWF 15, 23 Apr, two on 21 May (DD). **Tufted Titmouse:** one T CV 27 Mar (MBW); one StPt 19 May (NL). **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** two Lakeview WMA 13 May; migrants uncommon LOL. **White-breasted Nuthatch:** numbers low. **Brown Creeper;** numbers lower than usual Henderson, max four on 19 Apr; seven T Clayton 29 Apr. **Carolina Wren:** none. **House Wren:** pair CV 30 Apr; high numbers at Limerick Cedars Preserve T Brownville JEFF. **Sedge Wren:** one Perch L Road T Brownville JEFF 30-31 May (NL). **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** scarce LOL. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 60+ Wood Road T Clayton 29 Apr; two CPWF 28 May (DD). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** pair WBSP 1 May (NL); one StPt 2 May (NL); pair near Rodman 13 May (NL); one LOTW 21 May (NL). **Veery:** numbers very low. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** none. **Swainson's Thrush:** record early arr StPt 29 Apr (NL); two CV 23 May. **Hermit Thrush:** one wintered in a

wetland area StPt through 1 Mar (LC). **Wood Thrush**: still decreasing. **Gray Catbird**: numbers down in Henderson. **N. Mockingbird**: singles Massena 13 Apr (MB), Pierrepont 28 Apr (MG), Canton 6 May, T CV 15 May, ULLWMA 19 May (DD), Brantingham LEWI 17 May (RH); good numbers. **Brown Thrasher**: numbers down. **Cedar Waxwing**: max 75+ T Watertown 3 Apr. **N. Shrike**: last of three singles near CV 12 Mar. **European Starling**: more than usual, mild winter?

Solitary Vireo: one T CV 2 May. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: one WBSP 13 May; one CV 18 May; three Black L Road StLA 29 May. **Philadelphia Vireo**: one CV 16, 23 May (MBW); one T Henderson 18 May (mob). **Red-eyed Vireo**: arr late, numbers somewhat lowered. **Blue-winged Warbler**: two WBSP 12 May (NL); one WBSP 19 May (mob). **Golden-winged Warbler**: max eight LOTW 21 May (NL), six males T Macomb StLA 29 May (DD). **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: Brewster's type near Rodman 13 May (NL); Lawrence's type Colwell Pd Lakeview WMA 13 May (GM). **Tennessee Warbler**: max four T Henderson 16 May (NL). **Nashville Warbler**: max 24 Colwell Pd Lakeview WMA 13 May (GM). **N. Parula**: max four T Henderson 16 May (NL), three CV 16 May (MBW). **Yellow Warbler**: numbers down. **Magnolia Warbler**: three CV 16, 23 May. **Cape May Warbler**: one CV 20 May; singing male CPWF 28 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: four CV 23 May; scarce. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: small flocks CV 29 Apr; max 50+ Wilson Bay Marsh 2 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max eight T Henderson 16 May. **Blackburnian Warbler**: max eight T Henderson 16 May; three CV 23 May. **Pine Warbler**: two TP 2 May; max 16 Massena 13 May; two LOTW 21 May. **Prairie Warbler**: five Limerick Cedars Preserve 15 May; two Fort Drum 19 May, six at another site on 27 May (NL), probably a new nesting area; four Three Mile Creek alvar T Clayton 30 May (NL), probably a new nesting area. **Palm Warbler**: five or six singing males MM 27 May, late. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max three CV village 16, 23 May. **Blackpoll Warbler**: two StPt 24 May; two Limerick Cedars Preserve 27 May (LC). **Cerulean Warbler**: one T Henderson 16 May (NL); max five Hart Flats Road LOTW 21 May (NL); one Black L Road T Macomb StLA 29 May (DD). **Black-and-white Warbler**: max eight Blake Sanctuary T Rutland JEFF 21 May. **Am. Redstart**: max 34 Massena 13 May. **Ovenbird**: numbers normal but late. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: one LOTW area 22 May (NL). **Mourning Warbler**: number up in Adirondacks (PO).

Scarlet Tanager: max eight Blake Sanctuary T Rutland JEFF 21 May; numbers variable locally. **N. Cardinal**: at Fish Creek WMA and ULLWMA StLA (PO); about four pairs near CV village. **Rose-breasted**

Grosbeak: record early arr StLA 22 Apr (KC). **Indigo Bunting:** numbers down. **Rufous-sided Towhee:** numbers seemed down at some locations. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** 20 Henderson 8 Mar, last 15 Apr. **Chipping Sparrow:** large numbers StPt 27 Apr. **Field Sparrow:** numbers reduced at some locations. **Vesper Sparrow:** three Fort Drum 19 May; six at another site 25 May, max 16 at third site 29 May (NL). **Savannah Sparrow:** numbers down LOL (LC). **Grasshopper Sparrow:** seven reports, max 20 n Wheeler-Sack Field Fort Drum 29 May (NL). **Henslow's Sparrow:** five reports, max 12 between 11:30 PM-12:30 AM T Clayton, only four singing by day; 18 in night survey T Brownville 30-31 May, again many more than day time survey (NL). **Fox Sparrow:** one Barnes Corners 18 Apr (GS); one CPWF 23 Apr (DD), seldom reported. **Song Sparrow:** numbers down Henderson, LOL. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** one CPWF 21 May (DD); max eight singing males MM 27 May (DD). **Swamp Sparrow:** arr T CV 29 Mar; numbers may be reduced in some ares. **White-throated Sparrow:** 30 Old Swamp Road T CV 27 Apr; numbers down StPt. **White-crowned Sparrow:** arr T Henderson 10 May; last CV 20 May. **Dark-eyed Junco:** migrants numerous Henderson 16-19, 27 Apr. **Lapland Longspur:** two T CV 2 Mar; three T CV 12 Mar. **Snow Bunting:** 1200+ in four large flocks T CV 2 Mar (LC); max about 1500 almost in breeding plumage in three flocks there 11 & 12 Mar (MBW). **Bobolink:** five PRWMA 30 Apr; numbers up. **E. Meadowlark:** numbers up LOL. **Rusty Blackbird:** max 150 Dump Road T CV 9 May. **Com. Grackle:** nesting at CV village by 10 May. **Brown-headed Cowbird:** arr CV 19 Mar; numbers up Henderson area, max 45 at feeder 6 Apr;. **N. Oriole:** wintering bird taken inside house Henderson mid Feb to 17 Mar, when released, fed oranges and suet (*fide* Linda & Dick Esden); record early arr PRWMA 21 Apr (BH&TE); female feeding on black oil sunflower seed feeders regularly at Henderson (LC). **Purple Finch:** moving in numbers on StPt 27 Apr. **House Finch:** in low numbers Adams daily (PK); noticeable movement along LOL in Mar & Apr; nesting started 18 Apr with four y on 26 May; eye infection may have reduced their numbers - infections still seen only in this species so far; not as many as usual CV village (MBW). **Red Crossbill:** 25 NY Route 3 T Fine, T Clifton StLA 25 Mar (DD); MM 27 May, CPWF 28 May; max 30 Brantingham LEWI to 16 Apr (RH). **White-winged Crossbill:** six CPWF 23 Apr, one CPWF 21 May (DD). **Pine Siskin:** good numbers Brantingham LEWI Feb to early May (RH); one Canton 23 Mar; two Alder Acres T Lorraine Tug Hill JEFF 5 Apr (DSL); one Pierrepont StLA 8 Apr; one Adams 17-18 May; six CV village 19 May; max nine CPWF 28 May. **Am. Goldfinch:** 100+ at feeders Adams 30 Mar (PK); 60+ Henderson

feeder early May; 50 CV feeder to mid May. **Evening Grosbeak:** pair CV feeder 28 Mar; female Adams 28 Mar; two males Henderson feeder 21 Apr; male feeder CV 26 Apr; 139 StLA 13 May; one CPWF 21 May; one MM 27 May; pair Brantingham 30 May (RH). **House Sparrow:** y being fed on 29 May.

EXOTICS: Com. Shelduck: one with Canada Goose Belleville 25-27 Mar (*fide* Verna Docteur); one with Snow Goose Ellisburg 14 Apr (*fide* Irene Dillon, DEC), same 15 Apr (mob, ph).

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