

REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

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Spring 1997 was not cool but cold. All types of weather were experienced, including sleet, rain, snow, heavy snow, and threats of Nor'easters. When the sun did appear, it was under north - northwest winds or west off cold Lake Ontario. On 9 April it was down to 10° F in Henderson. On 4 May we hit the 50 degree mark and had trouble getting out of the 50's thru the rest of the period. On 8 May it was 30 degrees in Watertown. It was probably the third coldest May since weather records have been kept by the weather service.

Vegetation was very late and the later leafing species such as Black Locust, Black Walnut, some of the oaks, and many shrub species showed little signs of leafing out at the end of the period. Apples and black cherries bloomed very late and hummingbirds and orioles were quick to come to feeders, as were many other species such as Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings for black oil seed.

Although there was not a concentrated migration, as last year, species sort of dribbled through at about their regular times. Some excellent field work by devoted birders provided some good numbers and species diversity. Although weather conditions were adverse much of the time, the cold weather was of some help since blackflies which normally start biting at warbler migration peak were in lowered numbers or nonexistent, making birding a bit more bearable.

Leone and Hughes, with others at various times, found the Snowshoe Point area in the Town of Henderson again most rewarding for vireos, warblers and other species. Leone and Scilingo found grassland sparrows in good numbers around Perch River WMA and at Fort Drum. Badger and Cerwonka provided the arrivals and migration peaks in St. Lawrence County. Mueller and the Woods provided good information on the Cape Vincent area and vicinity. The

Brouses provided good sightings from the Watertown area as usual. DiTomasso found Adirondack specials at the Massawepie Mire - even Boreal Chickadees, which can be a real challenge. He also found Palm Warblers and a few winter finches on the breeding grounds. The other contributors filled in the blanks for many species. This editor only puts the field records together, the people in the field are the ones who write this report. I thank them for the time they take to write and summarize their reports.

Highlights for the period include: some excellent long-legged wader observations; good waterfowl variety, although numbers of dabbling ducks were down; a **Gyr Falcon** on Stony Point, which was not an easy find due to it's location - downhill from the road in a wooded area at the edge of Henderson Bay; excellent shorebird numbers and variety for spring time; an invasion of Short-eared Owls, with nesting birds at various locations; and excellent vireo and warbler variety. Negatives for the period are as follows: low numbers of Com. Moorhen and Am. Coot, low numbers of Barn Swallow, and low numbers of the spot-breasted thrushes.

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Abbreviations: CV - Cape Vincent; Hen - Henderson JEFF; MM - Massawepie Mire, Twns Colton - Piercefield STLA; PRWMA - Perch River Wildlife Management Area JEFF, Twns Brownville and Orleans; PtPen - Point Peninsula JEFF, Twn Lyme; SBSP- Southwick Beach State Park JEFF, Twn Ellisburg; SLR - St. Lawrence River; SnPt -Snowshoe Point JEFF, Twn Henderson; T - Town or Township; WBSP - Wescott Beach State Park JEFF, Twn Henderson; WISP -Wellesley Island State Park JEFF, Twn Orleans & Alexandria.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Red-throated Loon:** one SBSP 15 Apr. **Com. Loon:** arr PtPen 10 Apr, in lower numbers than usual. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr PtPen 28 Mar. **Horned Grebe:** arr PtPen 10 Mar (NL). **Red-necked Grebe:** one SnPt 19 Apr (NL); one WISP 20 Apr; one Black Lake STLA 22 Apr; last SnPt 17 May (NL). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Hen Harbor 6 Apr; arr PtPen 9 Apr; max est. 700 SnPt 26 Apr; numbers inland to Hen Pd and Crystal Lk in T of Hen for fish as Lake Ontario waters stayed cold and bait fish stayed in deeper waters. **Am. Bittern:** arr PRWMA 17 Apr; numbers are up in many locations. **Great Blue Heron:** arr Stony Pt T Hen 17 Mar; abundant this year. **Great Egret:** one Black Pond JEFF T Ellisburg 1 May (GS); one NYS Route 3 T Hen 6 May; one PRWMA 24 May (RB). **Snowy Egret:** imm SBSP 22 May (GS);

imm Lakeview WMA 25 May (GS). **Green Heron**: arr Hen 5 May. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: arr Beaver Meadow, JEFF T Watertown 15 Apr, probably nesting there; one T Hen 18 May. **Tundra Swan**: one Lakeview WMA 1 Apr. **TRUMPETER SWAN**: two arr PRWMA 1 Mar, left when it refroze and then returned. **Mute Swan**: two PtPen 12 Mar: PRWMA birds also present thru. **Snow Goose**: 600 Ellisburg 13 Mar; 4000+ over Hen 19 Mar: heavy movement thru area 24 - 26 Mar; 1600 Ellisburg 1 Apr; in very large numbers. **Canada Goose**: 6000 Ellisburg 1 Apr. **Wood Duck**: arr 20 PtPen 28 Mar. **Green-winged Teal**: arr 12 PtPen 28 Mar; max 40 T Hen 24 Apr. **Am. Black Duck**: 200 Ellisburg 1 Apr. **N. Pintail**: arr 110 PtPen 28 Mar; 170 Ellisburg 1 Apr. **Blue-winged Teal**: arr Sulphur Springs JEFF 26 Mar. **N. Shoveler**: arr one male PtPen 28 Mar; pair PRWMA 28 Apr - seen several times and may be nesting? **Gadwall**: arr PtPen 28 Mar. **Am. Wigeon**: arr 14 PtPen 28 Mar. **Canvasback**: five PtPen 28 Mar; max 50 WISP Eel Bay 14 Apr. **Redhead**: four PtPen 28 Mar; max 50 WISP Eel Bay 14 Apr. **Ring-necked Duck**: max 75 PtPen 28 Mar; 28 PRWMA 12 Apr. **Greater Scaup**: max est. 15,000 WISP Eel Bay 14 Apr; 2000+ PtPen 4 May. **Lesser Scaup**: one Long Pt SP PtPen 6 Apr. **Oldsquaw**: max 500+ Hen Harbor 4 Apr; last 10 SnPt 20 May. **White-winged Scoter**: three (1 male, 3 female) PtPen 28 Mar. **Bufflehead**: 25 PtPen 20 Apr; 35 CV 4 May. **Hooded Merganser**: arr four m PtPen 10 Mar. **Red-breasted Merganser**: arr PtPen 28 Mar.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Turkey Vulture**: arr two T Hendrson 19 Mar. **Osprey**: arr WISP 11 Apr; two nests Massawepie Lake STLA 20 Apr (DD). **Bald Eagle**: one ad PtPen 14 Mar; five imm WISP Eel Bay 20 Apr; imm Colwell Pd Lakeview WMA 22 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: one Hen caught a male Red-winged Blackbird and was actively plucking feathers when the blackbird got loose, was pursued, but finally escaped. I have never seen a bird escape after so many talon strikes and feathers removed (LC, ph). **Cooper's Hawk**: in good numbers in CV - low in other areas of Region. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: arr four PtPen 28 Mar. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr PtPen 21 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk**: max 40 PtPen 11 Mar; 1 JEFF T Hounsfield 11 Mar (LE); three Hen 19 Mar; last JEFF T LeRay 6 May. **Am. Kestrel**: in lower numbers than usual; more numerous in CV. **Merlin**: one SnPt 7 May (NL). **Peregrine Falcon**: one over Hen moving north 8 May (LC); one PRWMA circling and screaming in small kettle of other hawks 22 May (LC). **GYRFALCON**: one SnPt 16 Mar (NL, Dave Prosser, Robt Walker, ph, NYSARC). **Gray Partridge**: ten Favret Rd T CV 16 Mar; five Fix Creek Rd T CV 16 Mar; two Stoney Pt Rd T CV 18 Mar(NL); max 12 Millens Bay Rd T CV 19 Mar. **Wild Turkey**: five Lakeview WMA 6 Apr; can now be seen anywhere in the Region. **Virginia Rail**: arr JEFF T LeRay 16 Apr. **Sora**: arr Massena 20 Apr. **Com. Moorhen**: arr PRWMA 22 Apr, numbers down for the period. **Am. Coot**: arr one Wilson's

Bay T CV. in very low numbers from a few years ago. **Sandhill Crane**: pair flying low over Hen village heading north 29 May. late (LC). **Killdeer**: arr PtPen 23 Mar. **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr PRWMA 22 Apr. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr Mill Creek JEFF T Hounsfield 7 May; 15 Town Barn Rd Hen 15 May. **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr Hen 9 May; one Hen Boat Launch 20 May. **Spotted Sandpiper**: arr Mill Creek JEFF T Hounsfield 7 May. **Upland Sandpiper**: two Bonney Rd JEFF T Brownville 29 Apr; two NY Route 180 1 May; two Star School Rd JEFF 7 May; max three Fort Drum near airfield 31 May (mob). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: seven Hen Boat Launch 20 May. **Least Sandpiper**: 14 Hen 14 May; four Stony Creek Rd T Hen 19 May; max 40 Hen 20 May; 10 Town Barn Rd 20 May. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: one Old Rome State Rd T Hounsfield 10 Apr. a good find in spring. **Dunlin**: 14 Stony Creek Rd T Hen 19 May. **Com. Snipe**: arr PRWMA 1 Apr; very abundant at Fort Drum. **Am. Woodcock**: seven flushed Limerick Cedars 22 May after heavy rain the day before. **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr T CV 10 Apr. **Glaucous Gull**: one Moses-Saunders Dam STLA 2 Mar (MB). **Caspian Tern**: arr PRWMA 8 Apr. **Com. Tern**: two SLR CV 23 May. **Black Tern**: 20+ PRWMA 22 May; max 30 Wilson Bay Marsh 6 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: arr SnPt 29 May. **Great Horned Owl**: pair calling Hen 19 Mar; nest PtPen 28 Mar. **Snowy Owl**: imm fem Montario Pt Rd JEFF T Ellisburg 27 Mar; last one ad male Three Mile Bay JEFF 21 Apr. **Barred Owl**: two Massena 14 Mar; two answering each other Massena 10 May. **Short-eared Owl**: nine T Hounsfield 11 Mar (LE); two Pillar Pt JEFF 15 Apr; three PtPen 21 Apr; two Pt Salubrious 29 Apr; one Hen being harrassed by male N. Harrier 15 May; one near Bagg's Corner JEFF T Hounsfield 18 May - a possible nesting location; one Hardscrabble Rd PtPen 18 May; one JEFF T Pamelia 20 & 29 May; one Fort Drum 26-29 May; nest with nine eggs T CV in May. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: heard Massena 29 Mar; seen Massena 31 Apr (MB). **Com. Nighthawk**: one SnPt 24 May; one Hen Harbor 30 May; day time courtship flight Fort Drum 31 May (mob), numbers may be improving. **Whip-poor-will**: one calling Hen village 18 May; good numbers at Limerick Cedars. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two Mixer Rd Ellisburg 20 May (GM); one Fort Drum near airport 31 May (mob). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: one at Canton STLA at feeder till Apr. unusual in STLA; pair Hen 18 Apr; one Fort Drum 21 May; one PRWMA 22 May. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: calling male Irish Settlement Rd T Canton STLA 20 Apr (DD). not normal range.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **E. Wood-Pewee**: arr SnPt 25 May. **Alder Flycatcher**: arr six Massena 2 May. **Willow Flycatcher**: arr PRWMA 27 May; three Fort Drum 29 May. **Least Flycatcher**: arr SnPt 7 May. **E. Phoebe**: arr

PtPen 28 Mar. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: above normal numbers. **E. Kingbird**: arr SnPt 12 May. **Horned Lark**: max 66 CV 8 Mar; one Fort Drum 31 May. **Purple Martin**: max 25 Hen Harbor 11 May. **Tree Swallow**: arr 15 PtPen 28 Mar. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: arr SnPt 30 Apr. **Bank Swallow**: arr SnPt 6 May. **Cliff Swallow**: 200+ Moses-Saunders Dam STLA 8 May. **Barn Swallow**: arr Renshaw Bay JEFF T Hen 5 May; in low numbers at Fort Drum (MS). **Gray Jay**: two MM T Piercefield STLA 20 Apr (DD); three MM 25 May (DD). **Com. Raven**: one in village of Potsdam 7 Mar; one Fort Drum 23 May; four at High Rocks (Wehle Property - Hen Shores Unique Area) on Stony Pt JEFF T of Hen along Lake Ontario shoreline 31 May (GM). high cliffs of 40+ feet and possibility of a nesting site will be investigated; three Wilson Hill STLA 31 May (MB). **Boreal Chickadee**: two pairs MM 20 Apr STLA (DD). **Tufted Titmouse**: two Massena 1 Mar. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: below normal numbers. **House Wren**: arr SnPt 26 Apr. **Winter Wren**: a pair MM 20 Apr; one CV village 29-30 Apr. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: in fair numbers depending on location. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr Stony Pt T Hen 20 Apr; lower numbers than last years flight. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: one SnPt 7 May; two SnPt 12 May. **E. Bluebird**: in excellent numbers particularly in CV and vicinity. **Veery**: arr Washinton Park JEFF T Lorraine 22 May; in low numbers. **Gray-checked Thrush**: one Massena 28 May. **Swainson's Thrush**: one Massena 28 May. **Hermit Thrush**: arr SBSP 15 Apr. **Wood Thrush**: arr SnPt 8 May; in low numbers. **Gray Catbird**: arr SnPt 5 May. **N. Mockingbird**: one Deferno Rd JEFF T Clayton 18 May (GS); one Rt 56 near Massena 29 May; one Massena 31 May (MB). **Brown Thrasher**: arr Stony Pt T Hen 23 Apr. **Am. Pipit**: four Rome State Rd T Hounsfield 10 Apr. **Cedar Waxwing**: low numbers in Mar, increasing thru. **N. Shrike**: three (2 singing males) MM 20 Apr.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **Solitary Vireo**: arr Washington Park JEFF T Lorraine 26 Apr; more common than usual. **Warbling Vireo**: arr Hen 9 May; max 120 SnPt 12 May. **Philadelphia Vireo**: arr two SnPt 25 May (mob); one SnPt 27 May; one Morristown STLA 31 May. **Red-eyed Vireo**: arr SnPt 15 May; max 14 SnPt 25, 27 May. **Blue-winged Warbler**: one SnPt 13 May. **"Brewster's" Warbler**: one singing a Blue-Winged song WBSP 13 May (NL.BH). **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr SnPt 23 May; max two SnPt 25 May. **Tennessee Warbler**: arr two males SnPt 18 May (NL). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one SnPt 23 May (NL.BH. R. Walker). **Nashville Warbler**: arr SnPt 1 May; max 30 SnPt 13 May; two Chaumont Barrens 24 May. **N. Parula**: arr SnPt 13 May; max 12 SnPt 15 May; six SnPt 18 May; eight Eldorado Shores 19 May. **Yellow Warbler**: arr SnPt 6 May; numbers up from last year in Hen. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: arr SnPt 12 May; max 11 SnPt 27 May. **Magnolia Warbler**: arr SnPt 12 May; max STLA eight May 19 near Massena; max JEFF

three SnPt 27 May. **Cape May Warbler**: arr SnPt 13 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: arr SnPt 2 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: arr SnPt 22 Apr; max 700 SnPt 12 May (NL.BH); 200+ SnPt 15 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: arr SnPt 1 May; max 40 SnPt 12 May. **Blackburnian Warbler**: arr and max 10 SnPt 12 May. **Pine Warbler**: arr SnPt 24 Apr; max five m SnPt 26 Apr; three Fort Drum 31 May. **Prairie Warbler**: arr Limerick Cedars Preserve JEFF T Lyme 18 May; max nine Limerick Cedars 25 May; max two Chaumont Barrens Preserve JEFF T Clayton 24 May; two Fort Drum near NYS Route 3A (mob); locally abundant at Fort Drum (MS). **Palm Warbler**: one singing MM 20 Apr; 10 MM 20 Apr; four SnPt 1 May; max migrants 18 SnPt 12 May; max breeders 15 (12 singing males) MM May 24-25 (DD). **Bay-breasted Warbler**: arr SnPt 18 May; two Morristown STLA 31 May. **Blackpoll Warbler**: arr ten SnPt 25 May; very abundant; max 10 Morristown 31 May (RL). **Cerulean Warbler**: arr one SnPt 24 May; one SnPt 29 May. **Black-and-white Warbler**: arr SnPt 1 May; max 12 SnPt 12 May. **Am. Redstart**: arr SnPt 6 May; max 30 SnPt 25 May. **Ovenbird**: arr SnPt 3 May. **N. Waterthrush**: arr JEFF T Hen 30 Apr. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: one Washington Park JEFF T Lorraine 22 May (NL). **Mourning Warbler**: one male SnPt 25 May (mob). **Com. Yellowthroat**: arr WBSP 8 May. **Wilson's Warbler**: arr and max three (2 males & 1 fem) SnPt 12 May; last SnPt 25 May. **Canada Warbler**: arr SnPt 23 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: arr SnPt 13 May; max 12 SnPt 25 May. **E. Towhee**: arr Limerick Cedars Preserve JEFF T Lyme 22 Apr. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: max 75 Fox Creek Rd T CV 16 Mar; last Watertown 25 Apr. **Chipping Sparrow**: arr Stony Pt T Hen 21 Apr. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: two Fort Drum 31 May (mob). **Field Sparrow**: arr Stony Pt T Hen 21 Apr. **Vesper Sparrow**: arr PtPen 9 Apr; one Millens Bay Rd T CV 13 May; in low numbers. **Savannah Sparrow**: arr Chaumont 9 Apr. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr Smithville Rd JEFF T Hounsfield 2 May; max seven (four Dog Hill Rd. three Vaadi Rd) JEFF T Orleans 31 May (NL.BH); two Fort Drum 31 May where locally abundant (mob). **Henslow's Sparrow**: arr three Bonney Rd JEFF T Brownville 29 Apr; two Dog Hill Rd JEFF T Orleans 19 May; max five Dog Hill Rd one mile farther east 19 May (NL); three Fort Drum 31 May where very abundant locally. **Fox Sparrow**: one Watertown 31 Mar; one Waterown 17 Apr. **Song Sparrow**: arr Hen 25 Mar; not in normal numbers (LC). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: one CV 24 May. **Swamp Sparrow**: arr SBSP 16 Apr. **White-throated Sparrow**: max 60 SnPT 30 Apr. **White-crowned Sparrow**: arr Hen 1 May; last Hen 27 May. **Dark-eyed Junco**: one "Oregon" type SnPt 21 Apr (NL.BH); max 150 SnPt 24 Apr. **Lapland Longspur**: 18 Favret Rd JEFF T CV 18 Mar. **Snow Bunting**: max 300 PtPen 7 Mar; last PtPen 23 Mar. **Bobolink**: arr PRWMA 4 May; in large numbers. **E. Meadowlark**: arr PtPen 12 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird**: arr four WBSP 5 Apr; max 75 PRWMA 29 Apr.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Hen 1 May; at Hen feeder 6 May. **Purple Finch:** 30+ Hen feeder 14 Mar; no doubt nesting this year in Hen. **House Finch:** numbers down from the eye disease: Crowell had none at his home in Pierrepont STLA. **Com. Redpoll:** one Massena 5 Mar. only report. **Red Crossbill:** one fly-by Chandler Pond Wild Forest T Colton STLA 12 Apr (DD). **White-winged Crossbill:** three (one singing male) MM 4 Apr (DD); max 12 MM 25 May (DD). **Pine Siskin:** max six T Louisville STLA 13 Mar; one SnPt 22 May; two Hen feeder 19 May. **Evening Grosbeak:** five T Louisville STLA 2 Mar; two Alder Acres T Lorraine JEFF on Tug Hill 19 Mar (DD); one SnPt 24 Apr; one or two MM 4 Apr; max six Conifer STLA 25 May (DD).