

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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March 2002 was mild with temperatures 1°–2° F above normal. April was 1°–2° above normal as well, including a two day hot spell in the middle of the month with temperatures in the low 80°s throughout the area. In May a reversal of temperatures occurred, with a prolonged cold spell which did not break until the last few days of the month. May was actually the coldest of the three months and averaged 4°–6° below the norm. The coldest two day period for the season was 21–22 May, with the temperature below 29° throughout the Region. Rainfall in the area was 2"–4" above the norm in each month, with the greatest deviation from normal in May with 4"–6" above the norm. Migration was mixed because of the strange patterns of very warm fronts in March and April and the cold wave in May. Warm fronts in March brought numbers of sparrows somewhat early. The same occurred for some migrants in April. In general, despite the weather, most species were on time. By late May, rivers and marshes were flooded and the appearance

of pairs of American Black Ducks, Mallards, Blue-winged Teals and Northern Shovelers in the flooded lowlands of the Black River suggested that nesting failures had occurred.

The departure of Great Blue Herons from Ironsides Island on the St. Lawrence River was completed this year as none attempted nesting. The dispersal of the herons was throughout the Region, with no other new large nesting areas identified. However, there were several reports of one to three nests of the species on small islands in the river. The avian vacuum on Ironsides was quickly filled by a pair of Ospreys that built a nest and had two young by the end of the period. This is the result of an explosion of the Osprey population in the St. Lawrence River Valley in the past ten years. Within a radius of six miles around Ironsides, there are now 12 to 14 active Osprey nests, including those in Canada. In fact, the departure of the herons may be due in part to the presence of Ospreys landing near the colony in early spring. This was recently reported by year-round residents who have homes with a view of Ironsides Island. [Interesting speculation, but I have an Atlas Block with an Osprey nest in the middle of a heron colony, in the same tree with heron nests, for the past two years. RREditor]

Snow Geese made another big show in Jefferson County, with 15,000–20,000 landing in the fields of the Town of Hounsfield on 9 March and another flock of 15,000 further south in the Town of Adams on 13 March. They were landing on old corn fields and grassy areas to feed for a few days. The geese form a white carpet on the field as they pull up everything green in a day. On the plus side, when they take off the aerial formation is spectacular. On the negative side, the observer gets a good idea of what happens to a field when too many Snow Geese are pulling up all the vegetation.

With no other major birding events occurring and terrible weather in May (when everyone hopes for large migratory concentrations), the intrepid birders of the north country tried to make the best of it. On a positive note, two areas on Lake Ontario, which are not always checked, turned out to be good spots for migrants. Black Pond WMA, in the Town of Ellisburg, just south of El Dorado, proved to be a good area for terns, swallows and warblers such as Palm and Blackburnian, which were hard to find. Snowshoe Point, located in the Town of Henderson, north of Stony Point and along the approach to Henderson Bay, had a very interesting group of migrants, including Philadelphia Vireo, Swainson's Thrush, **Orange-crowned Warbler** and Bay-breasted Warbler. With all the warm weather (May excepted), "southern" species seem to be gaining in numbers and locations. This season there were reports of Red-bellied Woodpecker from six areas, including Brasher Falls in northern St. Lawrence County. Northern Mockingbird was found in four locations and Carolina Wren at three sites. Lingering winter species were also present this spring. Their final dates were: Snow Bunting, 24 March; Common Redpoll, 11 April; Pine Grosbeak, not until 3 May.

Rarities included: Red-necked Grebe, Great Egret, **Eurasian Wigeon**, Ruddy Duck, Sandhill Crane, Black-backed Woodpecker and **Orange-crowned Warbler**.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Blackstone Bay TMor; BKS – Blake Sanctuary T Rutland JEFF; BLP – Black Pd WMA TEL; CV – T Cape Vincent JEFF; FD – Fort Drum JEFF; FL – Fisher's Landing T Orleans JEFF; GPSP – Grass Pt SP T Orleans JEFF; KC – Kelsey Creek T Watertown JEFF; LC – Limeric Cedars T Brownville JEFF; PRWMA – Perch R WMA T Orleans JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri; SNP – Snowshoe Pt L Ontario T Hen; THEN – T Henderson JEFF; THoun – T Hounsfield JEFF; TLou – T Louisville STLA; TMas – T Massena STLA; TMor – T Morristown STLA; TPot – T Potsdam STLA; TTh – T Theresa JEFF; ULLWMA – Upper & Lower L WMA T Canton STLA; WATN – T Watertown JEFF; WB – Wilson Bay L Ontario CV; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA TLou; WISP – Wellesley I SP T Orleans JEFF.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: arr PtPen 11 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr PRWMA 8 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: 3 ULLWMA 5 May (JB).
Am. Bittern: PRWMA 6 May.
Least Bittern: arr TMas 6 May.
Great Blue Heron: arr TPot 24 Mar; no attempt to nest on Ironsides I.
Great Egret: arr Stony Pt THEN 17 May; Rosiere CV 18 Mar.
Green Heron: arr KC 30 Apr.
Snow Goose: 15,000-20,000 Old Rome St THoun 9 Mar; 15,000 T Adams JEFF 13 Mar.
Tundra Swan: last PRWMA 6 May.
Wood Duck: arr PRWMA 27 Mar.
Gadwall: arr TMas 14 Apr.
EURASION WIGEON: ad m FL 12 Mar; located again GPSP 16 Mar (MJ, fide NL).
Am. Wigeon: arr PRWMA 27 Mar.
Am. Black Duck: arr T Adams JEFF 13 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: arr SLR TLou 14 Apr.

N. Shoveler: arr PRWMA 1 May.
N. Pintail: arr THoun 11 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: arr FL 9 Mar.
Redhead: arr TPot 29 Apr.
Ring-necked Duck: arr FL 9 Mar.
Greater Scaup: 5000 WISP 17 Mar.
Long-tailed Duck: 20 SLR TMas 29 Mar.
Red-Breasted Merganser: arr BB 8 Mar.
Ruddy Duck: 2 TMas 29 Mar (TZ).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr ULLWMA 8 Apr.
Bald Eagle: pr ad n border FD 27 Mar; 2 ad PRWMA.
N. Harrier: many ad on grasslands of CV all winter into spring.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: KC 8 Apr, taking a robin; BKS 7 Apr, chasing a Pine Warbler.
Cooper's Hawk: ad KC 22 Mar, taking a Tree Sparrow.
N. Goshawk: ad TTh 15 May; ad TMas 22 Apr.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Eel Bay WISP 16 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr ULLWMA 14 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: last Weaver Rd T Lyme JEFF 24 Mar.

Am. Kestrel: several thru into spring in JEFF grasslands.

Virginia Rail: arr WATN 24 Apr.

Com. Moorhen: arr TLou 20 Apr.

Am. Coot: arr TMas 27 Apr.

SANDHILL CRANE: Kaiser Rd T Brownville 17 Apr (DG).

Killdeer: arr WATN 24 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr T Rutland JEFF 27 Apr.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr T Rutland JEFF 7 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr WATN 7 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr WATN 7 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr WATN 7 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr CV 18 May.

Com. Snipe: arr TLou 14 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: arr 40+ w and n edge of FD 28 Mar.

Caspian Tern: arr BLP 20 Apr.

Com. Tern: arr WHWMA 1 May.

Black Tern: arr 33 WB 17 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr TTh 19 May.

E. Screech-Owl: T Champion JEFF 21 Apr.

Great-Horned Owl: pr in duet near FD T Antwerp 22 Apr; TLou 14 Mar.

Barred Owl: TLou 21 May.

Long-eared Owl: near Evans Mills T LeRay JEFF 28 Mar-5 Apr (JB).

Com. Nighthawk: arr TMas 21 May; LC 29 May.

Whip-poor-will: arr TTh 15 May.

Chimney Swift: arr KC 13 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr KC 10 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 CV 31 May.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: reports from KC, BLP, WISP, Brasher Falls STLA, Black Ri JEFF.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: reports from

KC, PtPen, Red L JEFF, TLou.

Black-backed Woodpecker: fem TLou 21 Apr (MB, to NYSARC).

N. Flicker: TTh 21 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: arr SNP 16 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr TLou 24 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr TLou 25 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr TLou 6 May.

E. Phoebe: arr TLou 31 Mar, late.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr TMas 6 May.

E. Kingbird: arr PRWMA 7 May.

N. Shrike: WISP 17 Mar; last PRWMA 2 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr TTh 11 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr TLou, BKS 27 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr TPot, TTh 10 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr SNP 16 May; TLou 19 May; TPot 25 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr TTh 5 May.

Horned Lark: arr THoun 13 Mar.

Purple Martin: arr BLP 20 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr TPot 30 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr BLP 20 Apr.

Bank swallow: arr LC 6 May.

Cliff Swallow: arr TMas 15 May.

Barn Swallow: arr TLou 6 May.

Tufted Titmouse: TLou 12 Apr.

Carolina Wren: arr BB 10 Mar; w edge FD 26 Apr; TTh 7 May.

House Wren: arr T Pitcairn STLA 19 Apr.

Winter Wren: arr TTh 2 Apr.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr ULLWMA 8 Mar.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr TLou 11 Apr.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: arr T Rossie STLA 5 May; SNP 16 May.

E. Bluebird: arr BB 10 Mar.

Veery: arr T Pitcairn STLA 19 Apr.

Swainson's Thrush: arr SNP 17 May (NL).

Hermit Thrush: arr BKS 27 Apr.

Wood Thrush: arr TTh 5 May.
N. Mockingbird: reports from Chaumont
 JEFF. CV, FD, TTh.
Brown Thrasher: arr TLou 26 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: arr TMor 10 May.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: arr TTh 11
 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr TTh 11 May.
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:
 SNP 16 May (NL).
Nashville Warbler: arr TLou 4 May.
N. Parula: arr PRWMA 11 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr TTh 5 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr TLou 7
 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr TLou 12 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr TLou 19 May,
 only report.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr TLou
 9 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr TTh 21
 Mar.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr TTh
 5 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr BLP 11 May.
Pine Warbler: arr Felts Mills T LeRay 7
 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr TMas 21 May
Palm Warbler: arr BLP 11 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SNP 16 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr TTh 24 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Hard Flats Rd
 TTh 19 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr FD 18
 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr TLou 6 May.
Ovenbird: arr TLou 4 May.
Mourning Warbler: arr TLou 24 May.

N. Waterthrush: arr TMas 8 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr TTh 10 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr T Antwerp 17
 May.
Canada Warbler: arr TLou 18 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr TLou 7 May.
E. Towhee: arr BLP 20 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last 12 May.
Chipping Sparrow: arr TLou 14 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr TTh 19 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr PtPen 11 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr TLou 20 Apr.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr T Orleans JEFF
 7 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr LC 5 Apr.
Song Sparrow: arr BB, KC 10 Mar.
Swamp Sparrow: arr TLou 14 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: arr TLou 14
 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr TMas 7
 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr TLou 26 Mar.
Snow Bunting: last 52 PtPen 24 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr TMas 4
 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr SNP 16 May.
Bobolink: arr TLou 8 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr T Philadelphia JEFF
 28 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr TLou 31 Mar.
Com. Grackle: arr KC 3 Mar.
Baltimore Oriole: arr TLou 6 May.
Purple Finch: arr TLou 8 Apr.
Pine Grosbeak: last 6 TMas 3 May.
Pine Siskin: arr TLou 26 Apr.
Com. Redpoll: last 30 11 Apr.
Evening Grosbeak: 4 TLou 18 Apr.

