

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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March began as a continuation of February. Winter conditions, with temperatures below 32°F and snow storms, dominated the first two weeks. In addition to frozen ponds and small lakes, the St. Lawrence River had an ice cover of 3' and few rapids were open. As the Lake Ontario bays froze, most of the wintering diving ducks, swans and Canada Geese left the area. A major change in the jet stream at mid month allowed south winds to enter the east and real spring began. Temperatures in the 50's and 60's for seven days opened many bays in Lake Ontario as well as the St. Lawrence River. Almost all of the species of ducks arrived during the last ten days of March. Cold weather returned for the first two weeks of April, with temperatures averaging in the middle 40's. A surge of warm weather in mid April drove temperatures into the 70's and 80's, producing another flurry of migration. Most migrants in the first six weeks of spring were five to ten days late. Warblers, arriving in late April and early May, were on time. May was cool and cloudy but with no disruption of the late migration. Precipitation was within the normal range for the Region.

Weather conditions brought many changes in the spring migration of waterfowl. Only 200 to 300 Snow Geese showed up, down from the thousands in recent years. Since the winds were predominately from the northwest, perhaps the geese stayed

along the eastern sea shore. The delay of duck migration may have allowed larger groups to move once the conditions were right. Among the more numerous migrant groups were 700 Ring-necked Ducks and 150 Long-tailed Ducks at Fishers Landing on the St. Lawrence near the International bridge and 3000 Greater Scaup at Grass Point State Park, one mile south of the bridge, all on 26 March. During the north winds in April, large numbers of Fox Sparrows were recorded in Kelsey Creek (21) and on Point Peninsula (41 on 6 April), apparently held up by the bad weather.

This year, two new locations for watching migrants proved to be very fruitful during the few good south wind days in May. The first, Snowshoe Point, is a spit of land located just south and west of Henderson Harbor on the shore of Lake Ontario. Migrants following the shore turn east here and round the point to travel across the harbor or follow the shoreline. Nick Leone reported some interesting rarities from the point last year. This year, with more strong south wind days in May, Leone recorded large numbers of many species of spring warblers for the first time in the Region. Most notable were 100 Nashville, 5 Northern Parula, 1500 Yellow-rumped and 8 Blackburnian on 7 May. Altogether, 15 species of warblers and two of vireos were seen at Snowshoe Point on south winds in May.

The second location, Lonesome Bay Wild Forest, is in the Town of Hammond, St. Lawrence County, at the southern tip of Black Lake. Leone has checked the area in the past for Golden-winged Warblers and this year he found 14 on 14 May, along with 14 Cerulean Warblers and a Louisiana Waterthrush, which is very rare for the county.

Rarities: **Barrow's Goldeneye, Common Merganser x Common Goldeneye hybrid, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, "Lawrence's" Warbler.**

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLP – Black Pd WMA T Ellisburg; Chaumont – T Lyme JEFF; CI – Collins Landing SLR at Thousand Islands bridge T Orleans JEFF; CV – T Cape Vincent JEFF; ED – Eldorado Beach T El/T Hen JEFF; T El – T Ellisburg JEFF; FD – Fort Drum JEFF; FI – Fishers Landing T Orleans JEFF; GPSP – Grass Pt SP T Orleans JEFF; T Hen – T Henderson JEFF; KC – Kelsey Creek T Watertown JEFF; LBWF – Lonesome Bay Wild Forest T Hammond STLA; LC – Limeric Cedars T Brownville JEFF; LMWMA – Lakeview Marsh WMA T El JEFF; T Lou – T Louisville STLA; T Mor – T Morristown STLA; T Phil – T Philadelphia JEFF; PIPt – Pillar Pt T Hounsfield JEFF; T Pot – T Potsdam STLA; PRWMA – Perch Ri WMA T Orleans JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; SH – Sackets

Harbor T Hounsfield JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri; SNP – Snowshoe Pt L Ontario T Hen; T Th – T Theresa JEFF; TMP – Three Mile Pt T Lyme JEFF; ULLWMA – Upper & Lower L WMA T Canton STLA; WATN – T Watertown JEFF; WB – Wilson Bay L Ontario CV; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA TLou STLA; WI – Wellesley I T Orleans JEFF; WISP – Wellesley I SP T Orleans JEFF.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: arr PtPen 6 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr 8 ULLWMA 20 Apr.
Horned Grebe: arr ULLWMA 20 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: 3 ULLWMA 20 Apr.
Am. Bittern: arr ULLWMA 20 Apr.
Great Blue Heron: arr T Pot 23 Mar.
Great Egret: arr T Lou 25 May.
Green Heron: arr T Lou.13 May.
Turkey Vulture: arr T Clayton JEFF 18 Mar.
Snow Goose: arr 100 T Lou 23 Mar; 50 Canton STLA 17 Apr; numbers down.
Mute Swan: 1 WB 28 Apr.
Wood Duck: arr T Lou 27 Mar.
Gadwall: arr TMP 7 Apr.
Am. Wigeon: arr CV 23 Mar.
Am. Black Duck: arr 40 T Hounsfield JEFF 13 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: arr CV 23 Apr.
N. Shoveler: arr CV 23 Apr.
N. Pintail: arr T El 19 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: arr CV 23 Apr.
Canvasback: arr 1 Fl 26 Mar; last 2 PtPen 6 Apr.
Redhead: arr Fl 26 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 700 Fl 26 Mar.
Greater Scaup: 3000 GPSP 31 Mar.
Lesser Scaup: 20 TMP 7 Apr.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 150 Fl 26 Mar; last 9 SNP 14 May.
Bufflehead: arr 8 TMP 11 Apr.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: 1 Tibbets Pt CV 6 Apr (NL, RB).
COM. MERGANSER X COM. GOLDENEYE: single ad male Fl 1 Apr (NL).
Com. Merganser: 2 TMP 8 Apr.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr Fl 23 Mar; max 46 Fl 6 Apr.
Ruddy Duck: arr PRWMA 23 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr T Potsdam 24 Apr.
Bald Eagle: reports of singles and pairs between WI and Kring Pt SP SLR thru Mar.
N. Harrier: arr Chaumont 1 Mar.
Cooper's Hawk: nest T Canton 27 Apr.
N. Goshawk: imm WI 26 Mar, ad T Lou 26 May.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 3 T Th 19 May.
Rough-legged Hawk: last Chaumont 15 Mar.
Golden Eagle: FD 30 Apr.
Am. Kestrel: T Lou 20 Apr.
Virginia Rail: arr ULLWMA 30 Apr.
Sora: arr T Alex 19 May.
Com. Moorhen: arr T Lou 15 May.
Killdeer: arr CV 16 Mar.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr T Lou 25 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr CV 29 Apr.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr T Lou 25 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr T Lou 17 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: arr Chaumont 23 Mar.
Caspian Tern: arr TMP 1 May.
Com. Tern: arr T Mas 28 Apr.
Black Tern: arr 2 WB 1 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr T Th, T Lou 19 May.
E. Screech-Owl: Canton 15 Apr.
Barred Owl: T Lou 11 Mar.
Long-eared Owl: T Lou 29 Apr.
Short-eared Owl: arr T Brownville JEFF 18 Mar.
Snowy Owl: T Brownville JEFF 18 Mar.
Whip-poor-will: arr T Th 3 May.
Chimney Swift: arr T Lou 5 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr T Mas 4 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 FD 22 Apr.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr KC 18 Apr.
N. Flicker: arr KC 24 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr T Th 19 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr SNP 16 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr T Lou 25 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr T Lou 25 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr T Lou 8 May.
E. Phoebe: arr T Hen 26 Mar, late.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr T Lou 5 May.
E. Kingbird: arr SNP 14 May.
N. Shrike: ad T Lorraine 2 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr T Lou 10 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr T Lou 7 May.
Warbling Vireo: arr T Th 7 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr SNP 8 May; T Lou 15 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr SNP 8 May.
Com. Raven: nest with yg FD 22 Apr.
Purple Martin: arr ULLWMA 27 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr T Canton 3 May.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr WI 30 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr T Mas 9 May.
Cliff Swallow: arr 100+ at the dam intake T Mas 7 May.
Barn Swallow: arr T Lou 24 Apr.
Tufted Titmouse: 1 SNP 19 Mar.
Brown Creeper: arr T Lou 7 Mar.
Carolina Wren: 1 SNP 11 Apr.
House Wren: arr T Canton 19 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr T Th 17 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr PRWMA 4 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr SNP 19 Mar.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr T Lou, T Th 20 Apr.
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: arr LMWMA 14 May.
E. Bluebird: arr T Canton 16 Mar.
Veery: arr T Lou 12 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr T Lou 22 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr T Th 26 Mar.

Wood Thrush: arr T Th 5 May.
Gray Catbird: arr T Mas 5 May.
N. Mockingbird: 1 T Mas 11 May.
Brown Thrasher: arr T Th 30 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: arr T Lou 10 Apr.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: arr SNP 7 May; max 14 LBWF 14 May.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: T Th 19 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr T Lou 16 May; SNP 19 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr 100 SNP 7 May; 51 SNP 8 May.
N. Parula: arr 5 SNP 7 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr T Lou 7 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr SNP 7 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr SNP 7 May; max 14 SNP 20 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr SNP 5 May; max 5 SNP 8 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 5 T Th 24 Apr; max 1500 SNP 7 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr T Th 6 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 8 SNP 7 May.
Pine Warbler: arr 3 WISP 19 Apr.
Palm Warbler: arr T Lou 24 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SNP 12 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr SNP 20 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr T Th 19 May; max 14 LBWF 14 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr WI 30 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr T Lou 5 May.
Ovenbird: arr T Lou 4 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr SNP 8 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: LBWF 14 May, rare in STLA.
Mourning Warbler: arr T Lou 25 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr SNP 8 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr 3 SNP 20 May.
Canada Warbler: arr SNP 14 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr T Lou 10 May.
E. Towhee: arr TMP 8 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 17 KC 7 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr 2 KC 29 Mar.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr STPT 8 May;
1 m T Hen 20 May.
Field Sparrow: arr KC 6 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr T Lou 10 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr T Lou 5 May.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 7 T Hen 20 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr T Orleans JEFF
11 May.
Fox Sparrow: 21 KC 4 Apr; 17 KC 7 Apr;
max 41 PtPen 6 Apr, held up by bad
weather.
Song Sparrow: arr SNP 19 Mar
Swamp Sparrow: arr WI, T Lou 30 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: arr PtPen 6

Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr T Mas 10
May.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr T Lou 30 Mar.
Snow Bunting: last 200 SH 14 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr T Mas 4
May; max 15 SNP 7 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr T Lou 26 May.
Bobolink: arr Pyrites STLA 1 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr T Lou 18 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr T Th 23 Mar.
Com. Grackle: arr Chaumont 16 Mar.
Baltimore Oriole: arr T Lou 6 May.
Purple Finch: arr T Lou 3 Mar.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 4 T Lou 7 May