

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The three months that make up the spring reporting season were slightly cooler than normal. The mean temperature for March in Watertown was 30.0° F, which was 0.9° below normal; departures from normal for April and May were -0.5° and -0.1°, respectively. Mean precipitation for March (3.7") and April (4.0") was about 0.9" above normal for each month, but May was dry, as the 1.6" of rain Watertown received was 1.7" below average. The cooler temperatures early in the spring resulted in relatively high snowfall for the period, with 15" in March and 17" in April. 6-11 April was especially cool, with nights in the teens and twenties and light snowfall each day. The last snowfall of the season came on 16 April.

The cool, damp weather slowed migration and appeared to cause unusual high mortality among early-nesting insectivores. The mean arrival date for 80 species that I received good information for was 28 April, which is 3 days earlier than the historic mean, so at least some individuals of most species arrived at or before their normal arrival dates. Numbers of migrating birds were very low during much of April, however, and many species that typically arrive

early in the month remained scarce until the warm spell that began 19 April. The long string of cold nights that preceded this warm spell no doubt was responsible for numerous Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds found dead in nest boxes from starvation and hypothermia.

Waterfowl moved through the area in generally typical numbers with a few exceptions. As usual, Snow Geese were most prominent in western Jefferson County, with few reports from elsewhere in the Region. Nick Leone found several species of dabbling ducks, including Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged Teal, in good numbers in the Black River Valley, an area that is not well covered by birders. Nick also found two Barrow's Goldeneyes, one on Point Peninsula and one on the St. Lawrence River, which were the only rare waterfowl reported. Red-necked Grebes put in a good showing, including two birds at Upper and Lower Lakes on 22 May that MaryBeth Warburton and Joan Collins suspected to be a pair.

The highlight of the raptor migration was two Golden Eagles observed in St. Lawrence County during mid-April. Gerry Smith reported decent raptor movements in northern Jefferson County, including 12 Bald Eagles in a 3-day period between mid-April and mid-May. This area is worth monitoring because of the prospect for heavy wind power development. A pair of territorial Merlins was found in a residential neighborhood in Canton.

The same **Whooping Crane** from the eastern reintroduction program appeared in Lewis County for the third consecutive year. A radio signal from a transmitter attached to the crane placed it near Carthage on 3 April, but the bird did not stay in one place for very long, instead roaming around Lewis and eastern Jefferson County extensively, particularly favoring a remote area on the Tug Hill where it was still located at the end of May. Two Sandhill Cranes passed over Kelsey Creek on 28 March.

Ken Kogut and several DEC biologists observed four **Willetts** on a farm pond in Potsdam on 4-5 May. Willets are rare in Region 6, and nearly all of the Region's sightings have been from Lake Ontario. I received reports of Upland Sandpiper from only one location, a pair observed by several observers on Cape Vincent. Common in the Region just 5-6 years ago, Upland Sandpipers now require some effort to locate. Two Iceland Gulls along the Lake Ontario shoreline and a Glaucous Gull on the St. Lawrence River were an improvement over the awful winter for gulls in Region 6.

The only Snowy Owl reported for the period was of a bird that showed up for four days in Clayton. This continued the pattern of Snowy Owl reports from the winter, when few owls were present and even fewer stayed in one place for any length of time. The unusually large number of Short-eared Owls that wintered in northern Jefferson County raised hopes that at least one or two pairs would remain in the area to nest, but no indications of breeding behavior were reported nor were any Short-eared Owls after April. The detection of more than 50 Whip-poor-wills on two 9-mile long survey routes in western Jefferson

County shows that Fort Drum is hardly the only location in the Region with a large Whip-poor-will population.

As mentioned previously, the passerine migration seemed to stall during April, and many early migrants passed through in very low numbers until late in the month. On 22 and 23 April a massive wave of new arrivals was evident throughout the Region, and after this date migration seemed to progress more steadily. Among the highlights of the spring migration was the early arrival of Sedge Wrens in Canton and Fort Drum, where few to none appear until the summer during many years. Orchard Orioles at two Lake Ontario locations add further evidence that this species now occurs regularly in the Region. Small numbers of White-winged Crossbills and good numbers of Red Crossbills were reported from the northern Adirondacks throughout the period, although reports became rather infrequent during May as most birders focused their efforts on migrants elsewhere.

Excluding the Whooping Crane, I received reports of 206 species for the season. Other than the Willets and the introduced Whooping Crane, no true rarities were reported. Other highlights included good numbers of several southerly species that are scarce in Region 6, especially Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Northern Mockingbird, as well as the previously mentioned Orchard Oriole.

CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, Jeff Bolsinger, Dick & Marion Brouse, Carol Cady, Joan Collins, Ken Kogut, Nick Leone, Jerry & Judi LeTendre, David Prosser, Gerry Smith, Eve Sweatman, Bob & June Walker, Tom & Eileen Wheeler.

ABBREVIATIONS

BRV -- Black River Valley LEWI; CB -- Chaumont Barrens Preserve; CV -- Cape Vincent JEFF; FD -- Fort Drum Military Reservation; GPSP -- Grass Point SP JEFF; ICNC -- Indian Creek Nature Center, Canton STLA; KC -- Kelsey Creek Watertown JEFF; PtPen -- Pt Peninsula Lyme JEFF; PRWMA -- Perch River WMA Orleans JEFF; RMSP -- Robert Moses State Park Massena STLA; SLR -- Saint Lawrence River; ULLWMA -- Upper and Lower Lakes WMA Canton STLA; Snsh -- Snowshoe Pt Henderson JEFF.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 15,000 Ellisburg 28 Mar.

Mute Swan: max 38 PRWMA 17 May.

Wood Duck: arr CV 16 Mar.

Gadwall: max 14 ULLWMA 2 Apr.

Am. Wigeon: max 80 ULLWMA 7 Apr.

Am. Black Duck: max 40 RMSP 10 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr BRV 17 Apr.

N. Shoveler: arr PRWMA 10 Apr; max 22 BRV 17 Apr.

N. Pintail: max 493 BRV 17 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: arr Dekalb 29 Mar; max 967 BRV 17 Apr.

Redhead: max 20 CV 3 Apr.

Ring-necked Duck: max 329 GPSP 19 Mar.

Greater Scaup: max 3000 Eel Bay 9 Apr.
Lesser Scaup: max 6 CV 28 Mar; 6 ULLWMA 29 Mar.
Bufflehead: last ULLWMA 4 May.
Com. Goldeneye: last RMSP 5 May.
Barrow's Goldeneye: f GPSP 24 Mar; m PtPen 8 Apr.
Hooded Merganser: arr KC 16 Mar.
Com. Merganser: max 500 SLR Hammond 9 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 127 CV 28 Mar.
Com. Loon: arr CV 3 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr Canton 1 Apr.
Horned Grebe: 2 ULLWMA 21 Apr; 3 Morristown 22 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: Alexandria Bay 9 Mar; PtPen 8 Apr; ULLWMA 15 Apr; 2 BRV 17 Apr; 2 ULLWMA 22 May, late.
Am. Bittern: arr ULLWMA 21 Apr.
Great Blue Heron: arr CV 16 Mar.
Green Heron: arr Louisville 6 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: PRWMA 21 May.
Turkey Vulture: arr Alexandria Bay 9 Mar.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr ULLWMA 2 Apr.
Bald Eagle: 12 migrating over Limerick in 3 days mid-Apr.
N. Goshawk: FD 3, 9 Mar.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Wellesley I 28 Mar.
Rough-legged Hawk: last FD 21 May.
Golden Eagle: Canton 14 Apr; Gouverneur 19 Apr.
Merlin: GPSP 27 Mar; nesting residential area Canton late May.
Virginia Rail: arr ICNC 4 May.
Sora: Red Lake JEFF 19 May.
Am. Coot: arr CV 3 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: 3 KC 28 Mar.
WHOOPING CRANE: same individual from Florida/Wisconsin reintroduction various locations LEWI and S JEFF for 3rd consecutive year 3 Apr thru.
Semipalmated Plover: 2 ULLWMA 23 May.
Killdeer: arr Brownville 25 Mar.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr CV 7 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr BRV 17 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Canton 6 May.
WILLET: 4 Potsdam 4-5 May, very rare away from L Ontario (KK).
Spotted Sandpiper: arr Dekalb 8 May.

Upland Sandpiper: pair Cape Vincent late May, only report.
Least Sandpiper: 4 ULLWMA 25 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 7 ULLWMA 23 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr FD 2 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: arr KC 20 Mar.
Ring-billed Gull: arr Canton 3 Mar.
Iceland Gull: PtPen 8 Apr; CV 9 Apr.
Glaucous Gull: SLR Louisville 21 Apr.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 25 PtPen 8 Apr.
Caspian Tern: arr Sackett's Harbor 10 Apr.
Com. Tern: arr ULLWMA 2 May.
Black Tern: arr ULLWMA 4 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr FD 10 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Potsdam 20 May; ULLWMA 25 May; FD 31 May.
Snowy Owl: Clayton 8-12 Mar.
Short-eared Owl: several reports from winter roost sites N JEFF Mar and early Apr; none after late Apr.
Whip-poor-will: 20 on 9-mile survey route CB and 33 on Brownville route late May.
Chimney Swift: arr Canton 3 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr FD 10 May.
Belted Kingfisher: arr FD 1 Mar, early.
Red-headed Woodpecker: arr FD 25 Apr.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Hounsfield 5 Apr.
Black-backed Woodpecker: max 3 Massawepie Mire 19 May.
N. Flicker: arr FD 2 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Colton 26 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr Watertown 19 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr 2 Massawepie Mire 26 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr ULLWMA 20 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr ULLWMA 20 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr ULLWMA 4 May.
E. Phoebe: arr Canton 29 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr ICNC 4 May.
E. Kingbird: arr Canton 4 May.
N. Shrike: last FD 11 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Dekalb 8 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr FD 25 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr ULLWMA 4 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr SnsH 11 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Theresa 10 May.
Gray Jay: max 3 Massawepie Mire 26 May.

Horned Lark: max 500 n JEFF 9 Mar.
Purple Martin: arr Canton 22 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr GPSP 24 Mar; numerous reports of dead birds in nest boxes thru Apr.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Canton 2 May.
Bank Swallow: arr Watertown 26 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr RMSP 5 May.
Barn Swallow: arr Dekalb 20 Apr.
Boreal Chickadee: 2 Colton 6 May; Massawepie Mire 26 May.
Tufted Titmouse: Canton 28 Mar.
Carolina Wren: Morristown 22 Apr.
House Wren: arr KC 27 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr FD 3 Apr.
Sedge Wren: arr Canton 20 May; FD 21 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 2 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Watertown 3 Apr; probable nesting Massawepie Mire 26 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Dekalb 21 May; FD 23 and 24 May.
E. Bluebird: arr FD 2 Apr; several reports of dead individuals in nest boxes during Apr.
Veery: arr FD 10 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr FD 6 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr Hermon 6 May.
Gray Catbird: arr FD 9 May.
N. Mockingbird: CV 25 Apr; PRWMA 24 May; pr FD 28 May; Brownville 31 May.
Brown Thrasher: arr FD 23 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr Massena 10 Mar; max 5 FD 8 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr FD 9 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Potsdam 7 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr FD 10 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr Snsh 30 Apr.
N. Parula: arr Snsh 11 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr Canton 4 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Dekalb 8 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr FD 10 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr Potsdam 13 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr FD 9 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 50 Snsh 30 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Snsh 30 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Snsh 11 May.
Pine Warbler: arr Jacques Cartier SP 22 Apr.

Prairie Warbler: 5 m Limerick Cedars 20 May.
Palm Warbler: max 38 m on Massawepie Mire nesting grounds 26 Apr; 6 Snsh 30 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: PtPen 18 May, only report.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr FD 23 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Dekalb 8 May; 3 Theresa 28 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr Potsdam 29 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr Dekalb 8 May.
Ovenbird: arr FD 7 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr Theresa 2 May.
Mourning Warbler: arr FD 22 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr FD 4 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Potsdam 17 May.
Canada Warbler: arr PRGC 19 May.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr FD 9 May.
E. Towhee: arr Watertown 3 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last PRGC 21 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Canton 21 Apr.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr FD 9 May.
Field Sparrow: arr Brownville 8 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr FD 2 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr FD 11 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr FD 7 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr FD 7 May; 3 Orleans 24 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr FD 3 Apr; max 22 FD 6 Apr.
Song Sparrow: arr FD 14 Mar.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Colton 6 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr Wellesley Is. 9 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: arr ICNC 8 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Canton 6 May.
Lapland Longspur: 5 n JEFF 9 Mar.
Snow Bunting: max 765 CV 6 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Canton 5 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr Watertown 8 May.
Bobolink: arr Brownville 4 May.
Red-winged Blackbird: arr Gouverneur 13 Mar.
E. Meadowlark: arr Orleans 14 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr PRGC 27 Mar.
Com. Grackle: arr KC 12 Mar.
Brown-headed Cowbird: arr Antwerp 16 Mar.
Orchard Oriole: Three Mile Point 12-18 May (B&JW); PtPen 18 May (J&JL).
Baltimore Oriole: arr Canton 5 May.

Red Crossbill: numerous reports Colton
Mar and early Apr; pr with 2 y Low's Ridge
STLA 12 May.

White-winged Crossbill: 4 Colton 11 Mar.
Pine Siskin: numerous s STLA Mar and
early Apr.

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