

REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The stretch of wet weather extended into June, with rain on the 1st and 3rd, then a six-day stretch of rain between 7-12 June, followed at last by a week of fair weather. Temperatures rose to 86° at Plattsburgh on the 16th followed by more sunny, hot weather until five more days of rain dampened spirits from 26-30 June, with a total of 6" washing out roads in the Moose River Plains. July was marked by a mid-month heat wave, with temperatures as high as 90° between 14-16 July. Port Kent received 3/4-inch hail on the 25th and Plattsburgh a half-inch of rain the following day. Then on muggy 29 July, with thermometers reading 87°, a storm swept across the Region with 50-60 mph down bursts and 1" hailstones, flattening trees near Tupper Lake and elsewhere. By contrast, August was relatively uneventful; although Inlet dropped to 34° on the 13th. The season ended on a sunny note and a high of 68° at Plattsburgh.

Naturally, in the summer following six years of intensive field work for Atlas 2000, there were far fewer reports of many species. In spite of this expected decline, there were a number of rarities found, with the Chazy Rivers and Noblewood Park continuing to be especially productive. Chazy Rivers had a **Snowy Egret** linger between 31 July and 25 August, a Snow Goose summered over from 9 July-30 August, a total of 18 shorebird species that included up to four **Stilt Sandpiper** present from 25 July-28 August, plus Caspian, Common, and Black terns. Noblewood was another tern hotspot, with up to 28 Caspians on 29 July, **122 Commons** on 20 August, and 2 Black Tern the same day. A new nesting islet with 6-8 Black Tern was discovered at the mouth of the Raquette River on the Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve on 14 June, the first confirmed breeding in Franklin County in two decades. Elsewhere, a **Red Phalarope** on Sucker Bay of Raquette Lake on rainy, misty 8 June, feeding on a surface insect hatch with swallows, was only the second Hamilton County record and the first since Eaton's day. Just as unexpected was a record-early **American Tree Sparrow** that arrived at Cumberland Head on **12 August**, some 39 days

ahead of the previous NYS fall arrival date of 20 September; previous Regional arrivals in the four counties all fell between 10-15 October. Always a good find, a male **Clay-colored Sparrow** was singing in jack pines at Altona Flat Rocks 10 June.

Most intriguing, though, was a female-appearing **Pine Grosbeak** well-seen in Elk Pass (3400') on 22 August on the trail from Ausable Lakes to Nippletop. About a quarter-century ago, another single observer reported seeing a singing male of this species in Panther Gorge, just 4.5 miles west of Elk Pass and at the same elevation, but chose not to submit the record to NYSARC or have it published. No records of this boreal grosbeak were submitted on either NYS Atlas project, although the Quebec Atlas found it as far south as Notre-Dame-du-Non-Conseil, near Drummondville, and Sainte-Marguerite-de-Lingwick in the Eastern Townships. Although not known to nest in neighboring Vermont, this large finch reaches the extreme southern limits of its breeding range in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, where nesting is apparently sporadic.

Despite a recurrent infestation of Forest Tent Caterpillars, and of Fall Webworms later in the summer, cuckoos appeared to decline, with but a single report of each species. Several observers commented, however, on a bumper crop of wild foods in the Central Adirondacks heading into fall and winter. At Inlet there were lots of conifer cones, birch seeds, beechnuts, maple seeds, and berries, while Tupper Lake had a bumper crop of conifer cones and mountain ash berries. In spite of the ripening cone crop, only a few Red Crossbills had put in an appearance by season's end, while other finches appeared to move out or remain absent.

The seasonal total of 188 species was close to the 189 reported in the previous summer of '05. But, with Atlas 2000 at an end, some obvious breeding birds were not reported in Summer '06: Ring-necked Duck, Great Horned Owl, Willow Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Eastern Meadowlark, for example. No reports were received from the 2-4 June 4th Great Adirondack Birding Celebration in Franklin County or the 8-11 June 2nd Adirondack Birding Festival in Hamilton County. Assuming that lists were compiled for these birding weekends, a few more species might have been added. The organizers are kindly asked to submit June 2007 lists when available.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFR - Altona Flat Rocks; AMR - Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve; AP - Ausable Pt; BB - Bloomingdale Bog; BT - Brown's Tract; CH - Cumberland Head; CR - Chazy Rivers; FB - Ferd's Bog; FBI - Four Brothers islands; IL - Indian L; LL - Long L; LP - L Placid; NP - Noblewood P; PtF - Pt au Fer; SC - Scotion Creek; TL - Tupper L; WD - Wilcox Dock, Plattsburgh.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: ad CR 9 Jul thru (BK,CM), with 4 Canada Geese.

Wood Duck: dead hen Keene 21 Jun (J&PT) being interred by ~100 burying beetles.

White-winged Scoter: arr WD 29 Aug (J&RH).

Com. Goldeneye: hen Chazy 25-26 Jun (DF); hen & 3 y Willsboro Bay 30 Jul; NP 29 Jul-27 Aug, with max 7 there 12 Aug (MDM).

Spruce Grouse: BT early Jun (*vide* DC), no details.

Wild Turkey: hen on 10 eggs T Dickinson 29 Aug (MAM), record late NYS by 51 days.

Pied-billed Grebe: Cedar R Flow 13 Jun (GL); AP 20 Jun (E&HF); ad, 2 y CR 17 Jul-25 Aug (BK); SC 26 Aug (NO, MS), a good showing.

Double-crested Cormorant: 3499 nests FBI 1 Jun (DC), up from 2971 in '05; Beaver L, HAMI 7 Aug (GL), scarce inland.

Least Bittern: PtF 13 Jun (J&RH); Keene 14 Jun (J&PT); SC 26 Aug (NO, MS), an excellent showing for this rarity.

Great Blue Heron: 4 nests Wilmington heronry 11 Jun (C&KP); 20 FBI "D" heronry 23 Jul (MDM).

Great Egret: CR 9 Jul-14 Aug (BK,CM,MDM,DR); 4 FBI "A" & "B" 23 Jul (MDM); LaChute R 18 Aug (B&JA); NP 27 Aug (JH,MDM), increasingly common.

SNOWY EGRET: CR 31 Jul-25 Aug (BK,MDM), rare here.

Cattle Egret: FBI "B" 23 Jul (MDM), only report.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: ads & imm FBI 23 Jul (MDM); ad & 6 juv SC 23 Jul (NO,MS); 2 Clintonville 13 Aug (DR); 6 SC 26 Aug (NO,MS), normally scarce away from FBI, where there were 129 nests in May.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 5 of 7 TL area nests failed (BF); other reports from CR, Jay, Little Tupper L, Low's Ridge, Marion R, Raquette L, Raquette R.

Golden Eagle: Rt 11, T Burke 3 Jun (DF), a good find.

Am. Kestrel: 24 FRAN nest boxes resulted in: 14 empty, 4 failed (Raccoon scat on one), 2 fledged kestrels, 2 with Com. Grackle, 1 with House Finch, 1 with ant colony (MAM).

Merlin: BB, Chubb R, CR, Jay, Little TL, Paul Smiths, Raquette L, still increasing.

Peregrine Falcon: Keene failed, tried alternate eyrie; ad male Coreys 16 Jul; CR 5-14 Aug; Jay 25 Aug, incomplete report.

Virginia Rail: CR 28 Jun-2 Aug (BK); Lower Ausable L 4 Jul (J&PT); Peru 11 Aug (EF), always nice finds.

Sora: CR to mid-Jul (BK), only site reported.

Com. Moorhen: PtF 13 Jun (J&RH); CR 23 Jun-28 Aug (BK), several broods there.

Am. Coot: CR 29 Jun-31 Jul (BK), only report.

Black-bellied Plover: arr CR 10 Aug (BK); CR 25-30 Aug (BK,CM).
Am. Golden-Plover: arr CR 28 Aug (BK).
Semipalmated Plover: CR 19 Jul-30 Aug (BK), max 6 25 Jul; 3 NP 20 Aug (JH,MDM); NP 30 Aug (J&PT).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr CR 28 Jun (BK,MDM), early CLIN, to 30 Aug; max 10+ there 17 Jul (BK).
Lesser Yellowlegs: CR 23 & 28 Jun thru; max 89 CR 26 Jul (BK); 6 NP 27 Aug (JH,MDM).
Solitary Sandpiper: arr CR 25 Jul (BK); NP 30 Aug (J&PT).
Ruddy Turnstone: NP 26 Aug (MDM), a good find.
Sanderling: arr CR 10 Aug (BK); NP 27 Aug (JH,MDM); 2 CR 30 Aug (BK,CM); max 3 NP 30 Aug (J&PT).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: CR 19 Jul-30 Aug, max 35+ 25 Aug (BK); NP 20-30 Aug.
Western Sandpiper: CR 12 Aug (BK, CM), rare.
Least Sandpiper: CR 11 Jul-30 Aug; max 125 CR 13 Jul (BK); NP 20 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: CR 24 Aug (BK), an outstanding shorebird here.
Pectoral Sandpiper: CR 19 Jul-30 Aug; max 6 CR 27 Jul (BK); NP 20 Aug.
Dunlin: CR 5 Jun (BK), last.
STILT SANDPIPER: arr 4 CR 25-29 Jul (BK,MDM), early CLIN; CR 25 Aug (BK,CM); 4 CR 28 Aug (BK), two waves, apparently males in 1st, then females & y, based on juvs in 2nd wave.
Short-billed Dowitcher: CR 11 Jul-30 Aug (BK,CM,MDM); max 9 CR 27 Jul (BK), voice ID.
dowitcher (sp.): 10 NP 20 Aug (JH,MDM), in flight.
RED PHALAROPE: Sucker Bay, Raquette L 8 Jun (LB,KW), 2nd HAMI record & 1st since Eaton's day, sharing emergent insect hatch with overhead swallows.
Bonaparte's Gull: CR 28 Jun (BK); ad Little TL 23-24 Jul (J&TS), 6th HAMI record; Auger L 29 Jul (GH); NP 29 Jul thru, max 675 there 26 Aug (MDM); 8 Westport 24 Aug (JPRW).

Caspian Tern: 39 nests FBI "C" 1 Jun (DC); 2 Willsboro Bay 9 Jul (MDM); CR 13 Jul-17 Aug (BK,MDM); carrying food FBI "C" 23 Jul; 28 (13 juv) NP 29 Jul, with up to 16 present thru (MDM); Westport 24 Aug (JPRW); 9 (4 juv) CR 30 Aug (BK,CM).
Com. Tern: 2 ad feeding 3 juv CR 19 Jul-8 Aug (BK); NP 12-27 Aug, max 122 there 20 Aug (MDM); 100+ NP 24 Aug (JPRW), with 4-5 juvs wearing right-leg metal bands believed to be from VT colonies.
Black Tern: pr CR 12 & 16 Jun (BK,CM); PtF 13 Jun (J&RH); 6-8 nesting on islet at mouth of Raquette R, AMR 14 Jun (HW), 1st FRAN nesting since c. 1984 at TL; 2 juv NP 20 Aug (JH,MDM), encouraging.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 2 Low's Ridge 11 Jun (JC,FL), only report.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Elizabethtown 29 Jun (JP), only report.
E. Screech-Owl: CH 19 Jun (BK), only report, but surely more present.
Com. Nighthawk: max 65 Chesterfield-Peru 22 Aug (DR), feeding overhead at night; also AFR, Gadway Barrens, Jay, Peru, SC, & Willsboro Bay.
Downy Woodpecker: 2 variants Auger Pd 28 Jun (GH), red extending toward top of head.
Hairy Woodpecker: 2 variants Auger Pd Jun-1 Jul (GH), red from eye to back of head & red from bill to rear of crown. [See J.J. Audubon Plate 97, Havell CCCCXVII.]
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: pr FB 2-30 Jun (GL); Powley Rd 13 Jun (CF,WR), known sites.
Black-backed Woodpecker: FB, LL, LL, Mt. Marcy, expected locales.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-throated Vireo: singing male AFR 8 Jul (J&PT), only report.
Philadelphia Vireo: N-P Trail, LL 10 Jun (JC,PS); 2 Low's Ridge 11 Jun (JC,FL); Azure Mt 18 Jun (TW); Madawaska 3 Jul (J&PT), all good finds.

Gray Jay: FB 22 Aug & BT Stream 24 Aug (GL), only reports.
Tree Swallow: "seldom seen" TL (CD).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 7 Sagamore 25 Aug (GL), always scarce in HAMI.
Barn Swallow: "almost nonexistent" IL (C&RM).
Black-capped Chickadee: brood fledged LP nestbox 10 Aug (LM), record late Reg 7 & NYS.
Boreal Chickadee: Algonquin Peak, Hurricane Mt, Giant Mt, Mt Marcy, where expected.
Tufted Titmouse: Jones Pd, T Brighton 6 Aug (E&HF), unexpected FRAN location; Elizabethtown, New Russia, NP, Plattsburgh, Rugar Woods, all more expected locales.
Carolina Wren: Ray Brook 20 Aug (TC), rather unexpected; pr Ticonderoga 26-29 Aug (NC), known location.
Marsh Wren: SC 23 Jul & 26 Aug (NO,MS); BT 24 Aug (GL), only reports.
Bicknell's Thrush: Giant Mt; Hurricane Mt; Whiteface Mt, all known peaks.
N. Mockingbird: Keene Valley 29 Jun (J&PT), rather unexpected; PARC thru (EF,J&RH), a known location at former Plattsburgh AFB.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: BT 13 Jun (LB,R&SC); Dix Mt 9 Jul (DD); Giant Mt 14 Aug (RW), good finds, but still no NYS nest found.
N. Parula: Silver L Bog 18 Jun (BK), 1st Confirmed-FY CLIN.
Yellow Warbler: NP 20 Aug (JH,MDM), fairly late.
Cape May Warbler: TL 19 Jun (CD), only report.
Palm Warbler: several Low's Ridge 11 Jun (JC,FL); family Paul Smiths 8 Aug (BM).

Blackpoll Warbler: max 13 singing males Algonquin Peak 19 Aug (JH,MDM); also Dix Mt, Giant Mt, Hurricane Mt, Little TL; Whiteface Mt.
Wilson's Warbler: TL 25 Aug (CD), early transient FRAN.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

AM. TREE SPARROW: arr CH 12 Aug (BK), record early Reg 7 & NYS.
Chipping Sparrow: 2 leucistic LL Jul (PT), species ID by C.L. Wood, *Birding* Photo Quiz editor.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: m AFR 10 Jun (JH,MDM), singing in jack pines.
Savannah Sparrow: Inlet 28 Aug (GL), late HAMI, but probably occurs even later.
Dark-eyed Junco: Hoel Pd Jul (CD), nested in hanging petunia plant.
Rusty Blackbird: Vanderwacker Mt 8 Jul (WL); max 25 Keene 23 Jul (J&PT), only reports.
PINE GROSBEAK: female-appearing Elk Pass (3400') trail to Nippletop from Ausable L 22 Aug (RW), 1st published summer sighting in NYS, *intro*.
Red Crossbill: FB 14 Aug; Limekiln L & Moose R Plains 21-23 Aug (GL), hopeful signs.
Am. Goldfinch: ad Keene 6 Jun (J&PT), chasing Com. Raven that was carrying another goldfinch; ad m LP 6 Aug (LM), caught & killed by large Mink Frog while bathing in brook.
Evening Grosbeak: f recaptured Jenny L, WARR 18 Aug (RY), banded Elizabethtown 23 Oct '97, previously captured Jenny L '03 & '04, age now 9 yrs, 2 mos.

