

one Lisbon thru Mar; one Ogdensburg 8 Mar (NS); 5 Massena 17 May (MB). Brown Thrasher: arr Canton 30 Apr; very abundant. Cedar Waxwing: arr 12 Pierrepont 21 Apr. N. Shrike: one Lakeview WMA 20 Mar; one Pierrepont 23 Mar; one Henderson 25 Mar.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: arr Watertown 7 May. Philadelphia Vireo: one Thompson Park, Watertown 21 May (RW). Warbling Vireo: arr Massena 7 May, abundant. Twenty-two species of warblers were reported. Tennessee Warbler: one WH 14 May; one Canton 26 May. Nashville Warbler: arr Massena 7 May. Cape May Warbler: arr Massena 7 May; arr Canton 12 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: Massena 7 May; none Canton. Blackpoll Warbler: Massena 13, 14 May; Canton 29 May. Mourning Warbler: Massena 18 May. Com. Yellowthroat: arr Canton 7 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: Massena 8 May, abundant thereafter. N. Cardinal: five resident in Massena (MB). Indigo Bunting: singles Canton 13, 22 May, pair 17 May. Am. Tree Sparrow: 4 Pierrepont 20 Apr. Field Sparrow: one Pierrepont 2 May. Vesper Sparrow: one Pt. Peninsula 1 May. Fox Sparrow: arr Pierrepont 23 Mar, pair thru 21 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Watertown 7 May, max 10 per day mid-May; five Pierrepont 8 May. Dark-eyed Junco: max 15 at feeder in Pierrepont 21 Apr. Red-winged Blackbird: arr Canton 6 Mar. Flocks of mixed blackbirds first two weeks of Apr. E. Meadowlark: arr ULL 30 Mar, seem up this year. Rusty Blackbird: one Lisbon 29 Mar (JVR); two Pt. Peninsula 1 May (RW). **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** one Potsdam 31 May, singing (MDiG). Purple Finch: 12 Pierrepont 21 Apr; 75 (total count) Massena 1 May (MB). House Finch: at least two pairs in Canton in May (M & EH, KC). Evening Grosbeak: large flocks Canton 20-22 Mar; 30 Pierrepont 20 Apr; 55 Massena 1 May. Am. Goldfinch: abundant thru.

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REGION 7 -- ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Both adherents of the El Niño shifting ocean current theories and followers of the Mt. St. Helens-El Chichón-Kileuea volcanic ash and dust school of meteorology agreed that the weather continued unusual during the Spring 1983 season. The balmy winter held into March, which came in like a lamb before getting tough. By 8 March the Boquet River was largely open, but there was light snow on the 13th, and on 14 March Ray Brook was the coldest spot in the nation at +12^o, yet winter temperatures were still almost 7^o warmer than long-term averages at mid-month. Sap buckets were imitating Northern Saw-whets along back roads until a cold snap sent thermometers dropping to -4^o at Newcomb on the 25th. March hawkwatchers, those eternal optimists, had to settle for a single Common Raven headed north past Belfrey Mt. on the 12th.

Then came "Aprill whis his shoures soot," that more than pierced the drought of March to the root, as Chaucer put it. By the 25th it was the second wettest April on record. And it began snowing—nearly 16" in parts of the Region on 17 April, followed by a storm that added a record 20" on 19-20 April—only the fifth late April storm of this century at Plattsburgh. Striking at the height of migration for Fox Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos, the storm forced extraordinary numbers of these and other species into yards with feeders and out onto plowed road shoulders.

High Peaks Audubon has entered into a lease with The Nature Conservancy, accepting responsibility for management of the Four Brothers Islands, Lake Champlain, where there are large colonies of herons and gulls, as well as many nesting waterfowl, and purchased a 15' fiberglass boat with trailer to conduct management tasks. Meanwhile, Northern Adirondack Audubon plans to continue the census of Great Blue Heron nests on Valcour Island, Lake Champlain, begun by the NYS DEC. Audubon members watched lake water levels with more than usual interest, therefore, as the ice went out. On 1 April Champlain stood at 97.04', seasonally low due to lack of snow runoff in the Adirondacks and Green Mts. By 25 April the lake was 99.06' and rising, in the wake of the storm. Mother's Day was the 13th of 19 Sundays to see rain, and then on 9-10 May another snowstorm blanketed the Region, especially in the Malone area where temperatures fell to 30°. On 19 May Newcomb was 26°, the coldest spot in the nation. Rainfall totals were twice normal over much of the four county region. Champlain stood at 101.32' on 11 May, just short of the all-time record of 101.65', and was still above one hundred feet at the end of the month. Docks could not be installed and landing beaches on the islands were under water, but four management trips to the Four Brothers were carried out during May, thanks to the trailer and anchor and help of volunteers. Census lanes were surveyed and marked on Island C of the Four Brothers and the second census of Ring-billed Gulls carried out.

The shortage of south winds was cause for complaint. The only day of sustained hawkwatching was 23 April, when just seven birds of four species were spotted from Belfrey Mountain. Meanwhile, observers on nearby Coot Hill tallied 32 birds of eight species the same day, over six hours. Bird banding operations were conducted on Crown Point peninsula 12-16 May for the eighth consecutive year. A relatively low total of 51 individuals of 19 species, plus several returns, were netted. Highest total on the mid-May Birdathon was 84 species. In spite of all, a creditable list of 193 species, plus one morph ("Blue Goose") was reported for the three-month period.

Rarities include a record late Barrow's Goldeneye, a pair of Common Barn-Owls, and the Region's first Prothonotary Warbler. Special credit is due the Atlas observer whose penchant for wading icy brooks provided the first Confirmed record of Louisiana Waterthrush in Region 7 since field work began in 1980. His experience also provides a valuable lesson in the importance of starting Atlas field work early in the season and of working from the assumption that a bird might be a breeder, rather than a transient.

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LOONS-DUCKS: The first Com. Loon was on Tupper L. 15 Apr (MV), with subsequent reports of a mix of migrants and breeding birds from L. Clear, Lincoln Pd., Little Tupper,

Rouses Point, and Sperry Pd. Pied-billed Grebe: one Crown Point 6-14 May. Horned Grebe: three North West Bay 22 Apr, one Essex 29 Apr. Red-necked Grebe: two North West Bay 30 Apr (EJ, JP). Double-crested Cormorants began to gather at the Four Brothers again, with 14 there by 5 May; these are apparently non-breeding birds, although there are now nesting records from the Sisters Islands in VT waters in 1982 and 1983. Am. Bittern arr. Tupper L. 12 May, and Great Blue Herons arr Saranac L. and Tupper L. 12 Apr. Great Egret: two Briar Swamp, Clinton Co. 18 May. A Cattle Egret was at Tupper L 29-30 Apr (JW). Green-backed Heron arr Port Henry 1 May. Glossy Ibis: Gr. Chazy launch site 7 May Clinton Co. had Snow Geese by 24 Mar, with a huge flock of 1,200-1,500 birds seen 27 Mar (TO). Three Snow Geese, including one "Blue Goose," were at Chazy Landing 2 Apr, together with about 500 Canada Geese (TD); one Snow Goose was at Tupper L 3 Apr (AV). Tupper had a flock of 40 Canadas 14 Mar and the local flock there began to arrive 12 Apr. Wood Duck arr Tupper L 6 May. Green-winged Teal: three on Moody Pd. 29 Apr (D & MB). Am. Black Duck: arr Middle Saranac L and Stoney Creek Pd 10 Apr. Mallard: five nests found on Isl. D of Four Brothers 7 May. A male N. Pintail was at Plattsburgh 5 Mar, and two were at Tupper L 9 Apr. A male Blue-winged Teal was at Saranac L 4 May, with pairs of the latter at Essex and Westport 7 May. Eight N. Shovelers were along the Little Chazy R 27 Apr and up to a dozen were at Bud Gravelle's, Clinton Co, mid-Apr. Stoney Creek Pd. had a pair of Gadwalls 6 Apr for the second Franklin Co record (J & F Decker), while a breeding pair was at the Four Brothers 28 May. A large raft of Canvasback and Greater Scaup, plus a male Redhead, were off Wickham Marsh 5 Mar. Gr. Scaup Clinton Co to 15 May. Ring-necked Duck arr Tupper L 17 Mar, with other reports from the Kunjamuk, North West Bay, and Simon Pd. A pair of White-winged Scoters were south of Essex 23 Apr (RH). An adult drake BARROW'S GOLDENEYE was on North West Bay 22 Apr, in company with a male Com. Goldeneye when first seen (EJ, JP; later GC, NM). Bull lists previous late dates of 5 and 20 Apr for NYS, and this apparently constitutes a new late record for the state. Bufflehead turned up on interior waters as well as L. Champlain and L. George, with one at Tupper L. 17 Mar, three at Raquette Pd. 10 Apr, pair Kunjamuk 14 Apr, two Tupper L 18 Apr, five there by 6 May, Clinton Co to 16 May, and a male at Sperry Brook Marsh, Little Tupper L. through the late dates of 24-31 May (CD). Hooded Merganser: several pairs arr L. Alice 2 Apr. Com. Merganser: seven nest sites Island D by 7 May. Red-breasted Merganser: pair Westport 25 Apr, hen Four Brothers 7 May.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Osprey: Saranac Lake 12 Apr, on nests at Bay Pond and Chubb R in May. A max three Bald Eagles (two adults, one imm) were at Tupper L 11 Mar, with one or two birds thereafter until 30 Mar when the remaining adult was caught in a muskrat trap on Raquette Pd. Taken to Delmar by the DEC for x-ray examination, the bird was returned to Tupper L and released 4 Apr, after being fitted with bands and a transmitter; last Tupper sighting was 12 Apr (CD). This eagle then moved to nearby Low's L. and then over the Lewis Co. line 18 Apr to High Falls Pd. where the signal was lost (NYSDEC). Other Bald Eagle sightings included an adult Kirby Pt., Ticonderoga, 13 Mar (DC); one Oseetah L. early Apr (JS); two adults headed north at Moody Pd. 28 Apr (D & MB); adult Paradox late Apr (MB), and imm Crown Point 16 May (EJ, JP) and 22 May (GC) where carp were spawning in flooded fields. An imm Bald Eagle trapped in the Catskills during the winter and fitted with a radio transmitter spent several days at the end of May on Franklin Falls. And if these ten eagles whet the appetite, plans are set for hacking 22 young from Alaska in the Adirondacks this summer (NYSDEC). Red-shouldered Hawk was on nest near Willsboro 23 Apr. First Broad-winged Hawks passed Belfrey Mt. and Coot Hill 23 Apr, a nesting pair arr near Elizabethtown 28 Apr, the day following a record flight at Braddock Bay. Peregrine Falcon: Saranac Lake high school 14 Apr (TD) and flying with raven near Essex Co. hack site 21 May (DN). Plans call for release of 10 more falcons at the Clinton Co. site, plus six at the Essex Co. site this summer (NYSDEC). Gray Partridge: Lake Shore Rd. n. Clinton Co. 16 Apr. A male Spruce Grouse was seen along a private road at Upper Saranac L. prior to 21 May (*vide* TD). A flock of nine male Wild Turkeys were south of Champlain 5 Mar, a tom was gobbling near Elizabethtown 17 Mar, and another in n. Clinton Co 7 May. A presumed Virginia Rail gave the "kicker" call in answer to a tape at Sperry Brook Marsh, also heard 8 May Point au Fer swamp where many Com. Moorhens were seen. With lake levels high,

shorebirds were low, with a Black-bellied Plover at Indian L in late May (M & RM) and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs in the Champlain region mid-Apr to mid-May the only migrant species reported. Spotted Sandpiper arr L Colby 19 Mar. A displaced Bonaparte's Gull was in a field outside Lake Placid 28 May (LM). On 22 May the actual ground count of Ring-billed Gull nests on Isl C of Four Brothers tallied 17,347 active nests, up from 15,033 last year. Herring Gulls are distributed over all four islands and are now estimated at about 200 pairs. A large imm White-winged Gull was at Bud Gravelle's. Great Black-backed Gulls are now est. four to five pair, also distributed among all islands of the Four Brothers.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Two COMMON BARN-OWLS were perched along the Northway near the Elizabethtown-Westport exit at 8:00 p.m. on 12 May (EK, RM). An E. Screech-Owl was calling along Sabattis Rd. 21 May (CD). Great Horned, Barred, and N. Saw-whet Owls were calling widely, with reports of the last from Cadyville, Deer Lake, Elizabethtown, Lost Ponds, Paradox, and Tupper Lake. Short-eared Owl arr n. Clinton Co 27 Mar, same location 2 Apr and 22 Apr. Com. Nighthawk arr Newcomb 25 Apr. Whip-poor-will at Moriah 14 May. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird in the snow near daffodils 9 May at Tupper Lake was poignant (BL). Red-headed Woodpeckers were widely reported, with four at Bay Pond and singles at two Essex locations, Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake, and Westport. Black-backed Woodpecker: Deer Lake Bog during Mar (SD).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Larks were reported from Sugar Bush 13 Feb and Chazy Landing 2 Apr. Tree Swallows arr Elizabethtown, Inlet, and Saranac Lake 8 Apr, with 75 over open water at Tupper L 29 Apr. N. Rough-winged Swallow arr Saranac Lake 3 May. A pair of Gray Jays was seen at Lost Ponds 17 May and two adults feeding three downy-breasted young at Sabattis Rd. Bog 19 May, where two were seen on later days. Tupper is a tough place for an Am. Crow to make a living: 15 were surrounding a feeding Bald Eagle 9 Mar, and up to three later paid daily visits to a suet feeder (CD). Com. Ravens were flying with newly fledged young near the cliffs above Hadley Pd., Willsboro, 30 May—a new nesting site (D & JC). Some 20 Boreal Chickadees were at North Meadow 20 May (TD). Tufted Titmouse continues to be reported from settled areas like Ausable Point, Crown Point, Fort Ticonderoga, Moriah, Tupper Lake, as well as wilderness parts such as Adjidamo Flow and Gooseberry Mt. A Winter Wren was at Paradox by 21 Mar (MB) and a Marsh Wren at Sperry Brook Marsh 30 May (CD). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were at Point au Fer swamp by 16 Apr and migration through the Region seemed heavy. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher again returned to Crown Point peninsula. Four Veeries at Tupper Lake found bare places on the ground during 9 May snows. A Gray-cheeked Thrush at Elk L 31 May was presumed to be a migrant (M & RS). Am. Robin: 125 Saranac L athletic field 11 Apr. N. Mockingbird: reported from Wadhams in Apr and Bay Pond and Tupper L in May. A Water Pipit stopped off at Little Wolf Beach 23 Apr (CD), and up to seven were found at Saranac Lake high school 27 Apr-10 May, max 20 McMaster Rd. area 19 May (TD), Clinton Co 7 May. Cedar Waxwing numbers seemed to decline in Mar-Apr, then increase with the return of breeding birds in May. A Loggerhead Shrike at Saranac Lake 8-12 Apr was seen to swoop down and capture what looked like a shrew (TD), while another was near the Crown Point forts 14 May (TB, GC, JP, DR).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Arrival dates are admittedly of limited interest statewide, but at the end of cabin fever season North Country birders compete eagerly to turn up the first warblers and then await the results. Given the extreme weather conditions during May, observers may have been more discouraged than the new arrivals. Consider the male Blackburnian singing amidst big snowflakes near Paradox 9 May or the singing Solitary Vireo at Saranac Lake 10 May, with two inches of snow on the ground. The bulk of movement was, indeed, late this year, but the hardy forerunners were near usual dates and even a few early records were reported. Solitary Vireo: Paradox 29 Apr (MB). Yellow-throated Vireo: Moriah 10 May (GC), also from three other locations in the Champlain district on later dates. Warbling Vireo: Port Henry 8 May (TB, NM). Red-eyed Vireo: Wilson Pd 5 May (GL). Golden-winged Warbler: two singing males Willsboro 21 May (DN) and one at a previous Chesterfield Atlas location 29 May (D & JC). Tennessee Warbler: frequent, Saranac Lake 19 May, pair there 21 May (TD), wave of 25 at Moriah 24 May (TB). Nashville Warbler: Saranac Lake

7 May (TD). N. Parula: Tupper Lake 14 May (CD). Yellow Warbler: Ausable Pt. 4 May (TO). Chestnut-sided Warbler: Moriah 10 May (TB). Magnolia Warbler: Paradox and Tupper Lake 8 May (MB & CD). Cape May Warbler: Plattsburgh (TO) and Saranac Lake 10 May (TD), with numerous sightings there, as well as Lake Placid and Moriah. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Penfield Pd. 2 May (DR). Yellow-rumped Warbler: Inlet 28 Apr (GL). Black-throated Green Warbler: Elizabethtown 30 Apr (GF, EJ, JP). Blackburnian Warbler: Paradox 4 May (MB). Pine Warbler: Champlain Valley 14 May (GC, DR). Palm Warbler: Saranac Lake 6 May (TD, TK). Bay-breasted Warbler: migrants Cadyville 11 May (TO) and Moriah 18 May (TB), but a male foraging in spruces at North Meadow 20 May (TD), one at Sabattis Rd. 21 May (CD), and Cedar R area 28-30 May (M & RM) might have been on territory. Blackpoll Warbler: Elizabethtown 21 May (EJ, JP). Black-and-white Warbler: Paradox 2 May (MB). Am. Redstart: Paradox 6 May (MB). **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**: male North Country Comm. College, Saranac Lake, 6 May (KM, verification report on file)—constitutes a new species for Essex Co. and the Adirondack Park. Ovenbird: Elizabethtown 2 May (JP). N. Waterthrush: Port Henry and Moriah 1 May (GC). Louisiana Waterthrush: singing male arr Moriah 27 Apr (TB, NM), where a female was later seen. Atlas codes moved upwards as the male continued singing, a neighboring male from further down the same brook engaged in territorial chases, and the female kept flushing from the same stretch of streambank. Finally, after painstaking searches, on 29 May the female flushed off a nest with five eggs, to flounder in the brook in a dramatic distraction display. Nearby, the 1982 used nest was also discovered, and the '83 eggs hatched on 11 June, moving the record to CO-NY. Meanwhile, a male returned to an Elizabethtown brook for the fourth year of the Atlas on 3 May (JP), another at Cadyville 5 May (TO), and singing males have now been found at three locations in the same Atlas block near Willsboro (DN). This early-nesting species has been located in only eight Atlas blocks in this Region since 1980, suggesting that observers 1) avoid the white noise of rushing brooks, 2) don't know the song and habits, and 3) don't get out early in the season. Mourning Warbler: Indian Lake 28-30 May (M & RM). Com. Yellowthroat: Paradox 6 May (MB). Canada Warbler: Tupper L 24 May (CD). Yellow-breasted Chat: Saranac Lake 14 May (TD) and heard only Deerhead 22 May (DN).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: First male Indigo Bunting was at Keene 30 Apr (TH), and birds visited feeding stations at Keene Valley and Tupper Lake in early May. First pair of Rufous-sided Towhees at Wadhams 19 Apr (DS). Last report of Am. Tree Sparrow came from Newcomb 26 Apr. Chipping Sparrow arr Paradox 7 Apr. Several Field Sparrows were at a Saranac Lake feeder 23 Mar (TD). Four Vesper Sparrows were at the Saranac Inn golf course 14 Apr (D & MB) and a flock of 20 Savannah Sparrows was at Saranac Lake 14 Apr (TD). A phenomenal rash of Fox Sparrow reports accompanied the 19 Apr snowstorm, with sightings from Ampersand Bay, Bloomingdale, Elizabethtown, Gabriels, Keene, Lake Placid, Newcomb, Twobridge Brook, and Westport, max six Tupper Lake 24 Apr (CD), with the last at Saranac Lake 1 May (D & MB). Lincoln's Sparrow: Saranac Lake 7 May (TD), Tupper Lake 10 May (CD), two banded Crown Point penin. 13-16 May (JP). Swamp Sparrow: two Ampersand Bay 27 Apr (TD). White-crowned Sparrow: Champlain 4 May (MG), Tupper Lake 6-23 May (CD) and many other locations during the same period. Dark-eyed Juncos were already arriving in numbers when the storm hit, forcing birds into feeders; between 19-21 Apr a total of 96 banded near Elizabethtown (JP). Bobolink arr Newcomb 8 May (SB). A mixed flock of several hundred blackbirds near Wadhams had a few Rusty Blackbirds 24 Mar (GC), male L. Alice 10 Apr (MG), a pair nest-building Wilson Pd. 6 May (GL), and one near Paradox 15 May (MB). N. Oriole: Moriah 1 May (TB). House Finches were reported from Elizabethtown, Moriah, Saranac Lake, Westport, and Willsboro, and two males showed up in Tupper Lake for the first time 14 Apr (CD). A flock of a dozen Red Crossbills were feeding in white pines at Saranac Lake 14 May, with eight still there 16 May (TD). A lone Pine Siskin at Champlain feeder 9 May (MG). Saranac Lake also had several Pine Siskins 14-24 May (J & TD). Evening Grosbeak numbers declined, although there were reports of 100 at Tupper Lake 17 Apr, 20 at Keene until 1 May, four near Indian L.-Cedar R. 28-30 May, and a pair at Paradox through May.

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