

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Although only 30 observers submitted reports this fall, they enjoyed a number of good finds. They also had some good birding weather both early and late in the season, with a dismal October sandwiched in between. On 1 Sep, a lovely high pressure system sent the thermometer to 71°F at Plattsburgh, before plunging it to 33°F at Newcomb overnight. October, by contrast, was dull and dreary. For ten days, from 8-18 Oct, it was rainy and cloudy, with wind gusts to 80 mph on 18 Oct. That was followed by snow squalls and an earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale centered 105 miles nw of Montreal on 19 Oct. By 20 Oct, it was 29°F with frost in Plattsburgh, but finally turning sunny and clear for two days before returning to rain on 23 Oct. November was memorable for its warmth: 71°F at Plattsburgh on 2 Nov (21°F above normal), 74°F there on 3 Nov (a new record), and 73°F at Elizabethtown on 4 Nov. By 5 Nov, the high temperature reached a more realistic 41°F, however, and Ray Brook had 12 inches of snow by 8 Nov, with a low of 10°F at Saranac Lake the next day. Temperatures rose once again, however, to 62°F at Plattsburgh on 16 Nov and 68°F there on 28 Nov, when Lake Champlain stood at a high 98.35' and 45°F water temperature. The period closed with an overnight dusting of snow, followed by sunny skies on 30 Nov. The poor weather in October did serve to ground a number of birds, especially waterfowl, and provided several rarities. November's warmth encouraged a variety of species to linger rather late. There are notable occurrences throughout the species accounts, but here, first, are a few of the more dramatic finds.

Jan Trzeciak again carefully monitored Indian Lake in northern Franklin County and was rewarded with a **Red-throated Loon** in basic plumage on 12-24 Oct. She also had a Basic-plumaged **Eared Grebe** there on 23 Oct. Her other notable finds included 34 Double-crested Cormorant 23-24 Oct and all three scoter species during October.

If little Indian Lake had all this, what about L. Champlain? No problem. Geoffrey Carleton found a **Tundra Swan** on Bulwagga Bay on 12 Oct. Bob Hagar located a drake **Barrow's Goldeneye** on Whallon's Bay on 16 Nov, in company with Common Goldeneye, seen by Jeff Carleton later the same day. Meanwhile, up at the Lake Placid landfill, Hagar found a wayward first-year **Iceland Gull** on 24 Nov, while back

on Champlain Bill Krueger watched an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** from his home on the shore of Cumberland Head on 8 Nov.

Boreal birding was no less pleasant for Gary Lee, who had both Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, along with Gray Jay, at Uncas, HAMI, on 8 Nov. Feeder watchers had some fun, too. A **Carolina Wren** is rare anywhere in this Region, but one at the George Kaulfuss feeder in Lake Pleasant 2-3 Nov also provided an apparent first record for Hamilton County. Bob Hagar was no less pleased to have a **Brewer's Blackbird** visit his feeding station in Saranac Lake on 24 Oct, for only the second record for Essex County, the Region, and Adirondack Park.

All in all, it was an enjoyable season, with a respectable 155 species reported (and *no* European Starling or House Sparrow!). Oh, yes, before poring over the detailed species accounts for other nuggets, you might want to skip ahead to the end to savor a late summer season record from Greenie Chase, noted Adirondack ecologist. Such is the reward for maintaining a hummingbird garden in the midst of the Great North Woods.

Observers: Merry Baker, Tom Barber, Dirck & Mary Benson, Geoffrey Carleton, Greenleaf T. Ghase, Charlie Delehanty, William Endicott, Greg Furness, Bob Gillis, Robert Hagar, Candy & John Hess, Anne Hungerford, George Kaulfuss, Hal Klein, R. Koch, William Krueger, Gary Lee, Robert McKinney, E. & W. Mitchell, Mary Lou Morgan, John & Renate Parke, John & Susan Peterson, Langdon Stevenson, Pat Thaxton, Jan Trzeciak.

Abbreviations: Adk - Adirondacks; CH - Coot Hill hawkwatch; IL - Indian L, FRAN; TL - Tupper L.

LOONS-DUGKS: **Red-throated Loon**: *intro*. Com. Loon: max seven IL 12 Oct. Pied-billed Grebe: Malone 26 Oct, only report. Horned Grebe: arr six IL 23 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: NW Bay 7 Nov (GC), only sighting. **Eared Grebe**: *intro*. Double-crested Cormorant: arr L Abanake 1 Sep (RM); Crown Pt 1 Nov, late; *intro*. Great Blue Heron: two flying over Inlet 14 Nov, late. **Tundra Swan**: *intro*. Snow Goose: reported Elizabethtown, Keeseville, Malone, Mt View L, Terry Mt, a strong showing. Brant: singles TL 17 Oct and Ausable Pt 3 Nov. Canada Goose: max 1,500 Mountain View 9 Oct. Redhead: hen Malone Recreation P 26-27 Oct, only report. Black Scoter: arr IL 10 Oct; six Malone 26 Oct. Surf Scoter: max six IL 10 Oct. White-winged Scoter: max 100 IL 10 Oct; last five Malone 26 Oct. **Barrow's Goldeneye**: *intro*. Bufflehead: arr IL 23 Oct. Com. Merganser: max 300 IL 8-10 Nov, unusually high numbers away from L Champlain.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: Owls Head 12 Oct; ad causing panic among the ducks TL 13 Nov. Broad-winged Hawk: max 35 C H 21 Sep (PT). Rough-legged Hawk: arr IL 15 Oct, early; next Crown Pt peninsula 14 Nov. Am. Kestrel: two GH 21 Sep. Merlin: CH 21 Sep; L Alice 23 Sep. Peregrine Falcon: CH

21 Sep, obviously a good day for falcons there. Gray Partridge: one rescued from turkey pen IL Sep. Ring-necked Pheasant: three newly released hens followed observer as she went blackberry picking; one banded bird road-killed nearby the next day (JT); perhaps the DEC could save funds by releasing domestic chickens. Wild Turkey: seven still at Limekiln L HAMI 23 Sep (GL); two hens TL yard 21 Oct; tom & hen TL 24 Oct. Lesser Golden-Plover: eight L Clear 16 Sep (RH), only report. Greater Yellowlegs: one heard IL 31 Oct. **Iceland Gull**: *intro*. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: perched in Owls Head yard mid-afternoon 1 Nov (AH), rarely reported here. Long-eared Owl: calling Whallon's Bay Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: 2-3 tooting Owls Head Sep. Three-toed Woodpecker: *intro*; also Uncas 23 Oct. Black-backed Woodpecker: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Horned Lark: one Ft Covington 28 Oct, only report. Gray Jay: *intro*; also Uncas 23 Oct. Boreal Chickadee: Cedar R 9 Oct (GL), only report. Tufted Titmouse: transients Paradox 28 Sep-27 Oct; also Westport and Whallon's Bay in Nov more expected locales. **Carolina Wren**: *intro*. Marsh Wren: last Ausable Marsh 8 Oct (LS). E. Bluebird: dozen or so fighting Yellow-rumped Warblers Owls Head 6 Oct, unusual behavior; Rainbow L 3 Nov, late in Adk interior. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Cedar R early Sep; Chilson 13 Oct (GC), first Oct record for ESSE. Am. Robin: Elizabethtown-Wadhams Rd 16 Nov and Raquette L 22 Nov rather late for Adk. N. Shrike: arr Lake Placid 16 Nov; one Owls Head yard 27 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-rumped Warbler: Saranac L 8 Nov (RH), late. Black-throated Green Warbler: pair feeding three FL Owls Head 15 Sep. Pine Warbler: last Chilson 14 Oct (GC). Mourning Warbler: last TL 5 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Elizabethtown & IL 12 Nov. Field Sparrow: last TL 8 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: last Saranac L 17 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr Owls Head 12 Oct; last Inlet 11 Nov and Saranac L 13 Nov, late. Dark-eyed Junco: heavy movement Oct. Snow Bunting: arr Indian L, HAMI, 18 Nov and Crown Pt Peninsula 5 Dec. E. Meadowlark: Saranac L 11 Nov, late. Rusty Blackbird: Ausable Marsh, Saranac L, TL 6-12 Oct. **Brewer's Blackbird**: *intro*. Com. Grackle: Elizabethtown 12 Nov (J&SP), late; one with bad leg Owl's Head to 3 Dec. Pine Grosbeak: Seventh L 11 Nov, only report. Purple Finch: last at Inlet feeder 6 Nov. House Finch: Mineville, only report. White-winged Crossbill: Paradox 13 Oct, only report. Pine Siskin: max 20 overhead IL 4 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: max 65 TL 27 Nov; looks like a finchless winter!

ADDENDUM: subad male **Rufous Hummingbird** visiting flowers and perching on clothesline Saranac Lake, FRAN, yard 2 min., 15 Aug (GTC). R. A. Sloss has advised Carleton that he examined the Allen's (*Selasphorus sasin*), and Rufous Hummingbirds (*S. rufus*) in the AMNH, in response to Carleton's request. Sloss reports "None of the specimens of Allen's have completely rufous backs and very few of the Rufous have all rufous on the upper parts. Lacking any definitive evidence of immatures, I examined specimens collected in July, August,

September, etc. All Allen's had more or less green backs, and most Rufous had some green flecking or extensive green. Only a few specimens had all rufous backs, and I was unable to determine whether they were immatures." Both the September 1980 ESSE and August 1990 FRAN hummingbirds had brownish (not greenish or "bronzy") backs, *contra* NYSARC (1981) [*the available slide of the former indicates otherwise, and it is likely that the 1990 bird can only be called Selasphorus species; in hand examination is required to identify this difficult species pair — The Editor*].

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