

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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This was a generally cold season, with spring arriving quite late. On 16 Mar, temperatures dropped to -4°F at Ellenburg Depot. A warming trend began 5 Apr with highs in the 30's and reaching into the 50's by 9 Apr, but this was followed by 4 to 6 inches of snow on 11 Apr. The last significant snowfall came on 16 Apr, when 4 inches blanketed the Moose River Recreational Area. Temperatures rebounded to the 60's on 19 Apr and rose to 76°F at Elizabethtown on 21 Apr, a hot, muggy day. Rain and cooler weather followed 25-26 Apr, and the month closed cool and sunny, highs in the 50's. By 1 May, Lake Champlain stood at 98.8 ft. Air temperatures gradually rose during the first week of the month, from the 40's on 1 May to the 60's on 7 May. Hawthorns were still bare when the Crown Point banding station opened on 8 May, but leafed out over the next quite pleasant week, and by the time the station was closing on 18 May, the "little green caterpillars" had reached 1/2 inch in length. A cold front from the north that day brought a morning squall that grounded waves of warblers and other migrants. There was a 60°F drop in temperature at Inlet, from 85°F on 23 May to 25°F on 24 May. After the subsequent cold spell from 24-27 May and rain, hail and even sun on 28 May, the month closed with several lovely days, yet with a frost at Moose River Recreation Area on 30 May.

In spite of the delayed spring and delayed migration, a total of 194 species was reported by Regional observers, up from the 185 species noted in the much earlier spring migration of 1991. High Peaks Audubon hawk watcher Elisabeth Johnson was on Coot Hill for a shorter period of time than usual during April, yet she recorded an all-time record number of individual raptors at this site since coverage began in 1976. In 78 hours of coverage between 13-29 April she saw a total of 713 raptors of all 15 expected species.

The bird banding station at Crown Point State Historic Site was in operation for 11 days between 8 and 18 May. A total of 241 individual birds of 39 species was banded and released, the fifth best year for variety since 1976, helped perhaps by the new mistnets provided by a Club Grant from the Federation. As a reflection of the delayed migration, only nine warbler species were netted, and the most numerous bird was American Goldfinch,

with a record 90 banded. There were returns of 19 individuals of eight different species banded on Crown Point peninsula in previous years. The oldest was an American Goldfinch banded there in 1987, now at least five years, 11 months old. A highlight was a foreign retrap Yellow-rumped Warbler netted 18 May as the squall passed. Other avian highlights at Crown Point included a **Caspian Tern**, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, **Prairie Warbler** and Wilson's Warbler. Osprey were present almost daily, but the platform on Bulwagga Bay remained unoccupied.

Many more observers are sending in reports from the Ausable Point Wildlife Management Area, just south of Plattsburgh. Ted Mack had a number of good waterfowl there on 21 Mar, including Gadwall. On 14 May, Bill Krueger found a **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, a first record for CLIN. Krueger and Mitchell had an unprecedented Regional maximum of seven Yellow-throated Vireo there 17 May. Judy & Roger Heintz heard a singing male **Cerulean Warbler** at the Ausable River delta on 26 May; this is apparently the second Regional and Adirondack Park record, and the first for CLIN, but not unexpected in light of nearby nesting at Sandbar Refuge, VT, and Montgomery Sanctuary, Quebec. Finally, on the ridge just west of Ausable Point WMA, Dorothy and Ignatius Lacombe had a male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** appear at their Peru feeder with 20-30 Red-winged Blackbird at 8:45 AM on 13 Mar, another CLIN first. Other notable observations included Great Egret, late Bufflehead, Bald Eagle, early Red-shouldered Hawk, an infrequently reported American Coot, early Willow Flycatcher and American Pipit. We look forward to continued coverage of this obviously productive birding area.

At season's end, over two dozen observers were prepared to set out for higher elevations of not only the Adirondacks, but also (with the invaluable help of Hudson-Delaware editor John Askildsen) the Catskills to search for Bicknell's "race" of Gray-cheeked Thrush. Each hiker was provided with taped songs and calls, protocols, and field survey forms. The survey of this mountaintop thrush in New York and New England is a project of the Manomet Bird Observatory and Vermont Institute of Natural Science; the New York Coordinator is Mike Peterson of Elizabethtown. Those wishing to assist in learning more about what may become a "new" species in New York, and willing to climb to the summit of a mountain in 1993 (should the survey continue) are asked to contact this Regional editor in the coming months.

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Abbreviations: APt - Ausable Point WMA; CH - Coot Hill hawk watch; CPP - Crown Point peninsula; MRRRA - Moose River Recreation Area; TL - Tupper Lake.

Spring reports: **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr APt 1 Apr (RH) max three Peru 13 Apr (C&JH). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr APt 25 Apr. **GREAT EGRET:** one APt 14 May (BK); two Hogansburg 30 May (RH), probably from Nickerson I, Que, colony on L St. Francis. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two Hogansburg 30 May, unusual away from Champlain. **Snow Goose:** arr 12 Frontiertown 5 Mar; max 92 CH 15 Apr. **Canada Goose:** three nests Four Bros. I 13 May. **Green-winged Teal:** CPP 12 May, first record for site. **Mallard:** 35 active nests Four Brothers I 13 May, semicolonial nests on 6.2-acre Island "D" alone! **Gadwall:** two APt 21 Mar (TM). **Canvasback:** four APt 21 Mar, unusual in spring. **Oldsquaw:** pair Plattsburgh mudflats 11-12 Apr, rare in spring. **Com. Coldeneye:** max 1,000+ Port Kent late Mar. **Bufflehead:** one APt 6 May (SB), late; two TL 28 Apr, unexpected inland. **Red-breasted Merganser:** three APt 12 Apr, only report.

Osprey: on platform APt 7 Apr; 38 CH 14-29 Apr. **Bald Eagle:** pair Blue Mt L 11 Mar; pair Beaver L, MRRRA, 17 Mar; imm APt 15-18 Mar; two FRAN 23-30 May; ad TL 28 Mar; ad and imm TL from 30 Mar, last 11 Apr; Saranac L 7 Apr; ad Chateaugay Narrows 12 Apr; three CH 14-21 Apr; imm wearing metal band (right leg) and green color band (left leg) may have been banded in NJ or PA. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one APt 18 Mar (BH), early. **Broad-winged Hawk:** 308 CH 29 Apr, max 183 on 28 Apr. **Red-tailed Hawk:** 190 CH 14-29 Apr, max 86 on 14 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk:** leucistic bird Cumberland Head 24 Mar; last CH 14 Apr. **Golden Eagle:** FRAN 30 Mar; feeding on deer carcass with several Bald Eagle Follensby Pd late Mar; same Big Tupper L; two migrants past CH together 14 Apr. **Merlin:** Plattsburgh to 18 Mar; CH 15 Apr; Saranac Lake 22 May (D&MB),

late. **Peregrine Falcon**: at Wilmington Notch site by 9 Mar; four CH 14-29 Apr. **Spruce Grouse**: n side Big Moose L 9-11 May (HM, RO); MRRA 23 May and scat later found in vicinity (GL) suggests presence in areas of HAMI where unrecorded during the 1980-85 Atlas period. **Wild Turkey**: MRRA all spring. **Com. Moorhen**: Plattsburgh 20 Apr (J&RH); pond near Exit 28 I-87 15 May (LW); n FRAN 30 May (RH) an extremely good showing in this Region. **Am. Coot**: one APt 4 Apr (J&RH). **Black-bellied Plover**: on raft Moody Pd, Saranac Lake village, 24 May (D&MB), highly unusual. **Solitary Sandpiper**: Carpenter Flats and CPP 13 May; Elk L 27 May, good finds here in spring. **CASPIAN TERN**: one CPP 9-10 May (GH, MP). **Com. Tern**: n. FRAN 30 May, good find. **Black Tern**: n. FRAN 30 May, good find these days.

Black-billed Cuckoo: singing male CPP 15-18 May, new to site. **Snowy Owl**: last at Plattsburgh 26 Mar (WK); female TL village rooftop 27 Apr (CD, RH) only FRAN report from invasion; one on utility pole Spruce Hill between Elizabethtown and Keene 28 Apr (SG), only ESSE report of the invasion. **Barred Owl**: several TL feeders mid Mar; courting commenced Paradox 30 Mar. **Short-eared Owl**: two gatehouse Point au Roche SP 18-19 Apr (J&RH, HK, WK, CM), rarely reported here. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: calling Paradox by 11 Mar. **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**: *intro*. **Three-toed Woodpecker**: Ferd's Bog 30 May (GL) **Black-backed Woodpecker**: male Ferd's Bog 9-11 May, female Brown's Tract campground 9-11 May (HM); Brown's Tract Stream 24 May (GL).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Ferd's Bog 28 May (CL). **Willow Flycatcher**: arr APt 8 May (J&RH), early, unusual in Region. **Gray Jay**: Keese Mill Rd 9 Apr (WK); Ferd's Bog 28 May (GL). **Com. Raven**: eating hamburger thrown out of Keene Valley house 16 Apr; nesting upper dam Miner Institute, Chazy. **Boreal Chickadee**: reports from Brown's Tract Stream, Elk L, Keese Mill Rd., and N Meadow fairly representative. **Tufted Titmouse**: Ausable Chasm feeder after 4 May, only report. **Carolina Wren**: TL feeders 1-29 Feb, 22 Mar, rare in central Adirondacks. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: Plattsburgh 26 Apr; Wickham Marsh 30 Apr-9 May, max four there 8 May; pair nest-building CPP May; others APt and Carpenter's Flats, an outstanding showing. **N. Mockingbird**: left Chateaugay L 11 Mar; CPP 11 Mar, clearly unhappy at removal of thickets by OPR&HP staff apparently dictated by "Master Plan for Crown Point State Historic Site"; L Placid 30 May, a good find in interior Adirondacks. **Am. Pipit**: one APt 15 Mar (HK, WK, CM), a very early CLIN date. **Bohemian Waxwing**: 12 Peru 7 Mar (C&JH); max 24 Saranac L 31 Mar, last there 18 Apr (RH); last CH 23-27 Apr. **Cedar Waxwing**: flock of 12 Whallon's Bay ESSE 17 Apr, one with orange tail tip

(RH). **N. Shrike**: singing ESSE early Mar (JPa). **European Starling**: transient arr Elizabethtown 8 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: *intro*. **Philadelphia Vireo**: Lookout Mt 25 May (J&PT), only report and probably breeding. **Cape May Warbler**: N Meadow late May (WL), probably breeding. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: *intro.*; arr Wilson Pd HAMI 14 Apr. **Prairie Warbler**: a singing male CPP 13 May (MP, mob); singing male Paradox 13 May (MB). **CERULEAN WARBLER**: *intro*. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr Paradox 8 May (MB). **Wilson's Warbler**: feeding on little green worms CPP 18 May.

N. Cardinal: singles Paul Smiths 2 Apr, Elizabethtown 7 Apr, apparently wandering birds. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: last three Elizabethtown feeder 18 Apt. **Field Sparrow**: arr Peru 22 Apr. **Fox Sparrow**: arr Indian L HAMI 12 Mar; last Plattsburgh 26 Apr. **Snow Bunting**: last two MRRA 6 Mar. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: *intro*. **Rusty Blackbird**: pair Center Pd ESSE 14 May (MB) may have been breeding birds. **Purple Finch**: max 30 Paradox feeder 12 Mar. **Red Crossbill**: Dannemora 21 Mar (J&RH), only report. **White-winged Crossbill**: Ferd's Bog 30 May (GL), only report. **Com. Redpoll**: max 15 Keene 18 Mar, continued scattered reports, the last Inlet and Paradox 19 Apr. **Pine Siskin**: winter invasion continued, max 214 banded Elizabethtown 17 Apr, and a total of 384 banded there 20 Mar-6 May, many with cloacal protuberances and brood patches by mid Apr; gathering nest material Paradox 17 May. **Am. Goldfinch**: *intro*; similarly abundant, with 320 banded Elizabethtown 9 Apr-8 May. **Evening Grosbeak**: remained present through end of season, female with brood patch Elizabethtown by 25 Apr, undoubtedly breeding.

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