

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C PETERSON

September saw more warm, above average days than cold days, with monthly temperatures 1.4°F above average and a high of 77°F on 17 Sep. Monthly rainfall was 4.73", over 1.5 inches more than normal, but yearly precipitation was still 2.5 inches below normal. Inlet had snow flurries on 30 Sep. There was 0.1 inch of snow in the Champlain Valley, hardly enough to dust feeders, but the first September with measurable snowfall since record keeping began in 1894. October's weather was uneventful. November's rainfall was 3.67 inches, overly wet compared to the expected 2.8 inches, yet at the end of the month yearly rainfall was 29.89 inches, some 1.35 inches below average. The month was extremely overcast, with a dreary 24% of possible sunshine (30% is normal) and only six days with some sun. The dismal weather was brightened by reports of 173 species, seven more than last fall and 18 more than 1990. Between 11 Sep and 19 Nov, a total of 250 birds of 36 species was banded near Elizabethtown.

Geese provided a number of intriguing records. Among the 7-10 thousand Snow Goose at Point au Roche SP CLIN, fourteen yellow neck collars on white-morph adults were read and reported by Bill Krueger between 21 Oct-29 Nov. Three present 21 Oct were female Greater Snow Goose that had been banded 11-17 Aug 1991 near Bylot Island (northeast of Baffin Island), District of Franklin, Northwest Territories. Interestingly, the flock at Point au Roche contained several blue morph birds, as well, almost certainly Lesser Snow Goose. While checking the flock for neck collars on 27 Nov, Krueger and Charlie Mitchell identified an adult white morph **Ross's Goose**. Subsequently seen by Tom Barber, Dwight Cargill, and Mike Peterson, the goose remained through the end of the season. This appears to be the sixth record for New York State since 1983, but the first fall report, with all other sightings falling between 1 Jan-1 Apr. It is a first Regional and CLIN record, as well. Note that the known breeding grounds of Ross's Goose in the Districts of Mackenzie and Keewatin, and on Southampton Island, NWT, lie well to the *south* of Bylot Island. Elsewhere, a Brant was feeding on grass in the Tupper Lake municipal park with 75 Canada Goose, one of which had been banded near Philadelphia, PA, on 27 June 1991. A Canada Goose shot near Essex on 17 Oct hatched in 1986 or earlier and had been banded near Townsend, DE, 17 Feb 1988. Another Canada Goose shot near Westport 20 Oct was too young to fly when banded at nearby Dead Creek Refuge, VT, 18 July 1992. There were 40 Canada Goose with the Greater and Lesser Snow Goose and the Ross's Goose at Point au Roche. A maximum of 3,000 Canada Goose were at the Malone Recreation Park on 23 Oct.

In addition to the geese, there were other interesting Canadian visitors. A dark morph Rough-legged Hawk arrived at Westport 19 Nov. Bill Krueger observed a white **Gyr Falcon** cruising down the Champlain shoreline near Plattsburgh on 13 Nov, flying about ten feet over the water. Joan Mitchell reported a Snowy Owl on the CVP Hospital in Plattsburgh 12 Nov. At 9:30 AM on 18 Nov, William Brown spotted a **Northern Hawk Owl** perched along the Heart Lake Road, outside Lake Placid. Promptly verified by Bob and Charlotte Ladwig and Bob Hagar, and subsequently seen by at least a half dozen other birders, the owl remained along the same stretch of road through the end of the period. Bohemian Waxwing now has been reported in this Region during 12 of the past 14 winters. The first Northern Shrike was at Forestmere Ponds FRAN by 20 Oct, according to Jan Trzeciak. American Tree Sparrow arrived at Mountain View Lake on 26 Oct. Gary Lee reported Snow Bunting at Cedar River on 26 Oct; although there were ten reports, the largest flock was of 65 at Lake Placid, but a report from atop Wright Peak on 17 Oct by Candy and John Hess was noteworthy.

The origins of other Regional rarities were less certain. Was a September Great Egret a wanderer from the south, or from the Quebec colony to the northwest? All **Little Gull**, to date, had occurred as single birds along Lake Champlain. Thus, one seen at Ausable Point by Terry Hall, Judy and Roger Heintz, and Bill Krueger 25 Oct-15 Nov was not unexpected. But *six Little Gull* at the Tupper Lake municipal park on 9 Nov were unprecedented. Charlcie and Jack Delehanty had paid their usual visit to count geese and gulls; it was a sunny day and 300+ Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were resting on the ice. About 60 feet away were six small gulls (the length of a Blue Jay, chunkier, with black caps on their heads), closely bunched and also resting; they were gone later the same day. [These details are inclusive in themselves - *The Editor*.] Another unexpected find was the **Cerulean Warbler** on the Nathan Farb property on Stone House Road, Jay, 12 Sep. Seen by Barbara Johnston, Anne and Linwood Sherman, and Anne Straight, it provides only the second ESSE and third Regional record.

Finally, Double-crested Cormorant were still present at the Four Brothers Islands on 13 Oct. Rather surprising, however, was the number of inland cormorant sightings: Lewey Lake on 4 Sep, two at the Cedar River Flow on 5 Sep (both HAMI), Mountain View Lake on 6 Sep, three at Malone Recreation Park and five on Indian Lake 19 Oct, and the last on Rainbow Lake 31 Oct (all FRAN).

The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has published a *Birds of Crown Point State Historic Site* checklist, containing the 175 species recorded there. Copies are available to visitors at the site, or from this editor. Andrew Saunders has also revised the Newcomb-Long Lake checklist, and copies will be available at the Newcomb Adirondack Park Visitors' Interpretive Center.

Contributors: Ethel Baker, Merry Baker, Thomas Barber, John Brown, William Brown, Sue Capone, Dwight Cargill, Geoffrey Carleton, Walter Carstens, Dewey & Joan Clark, Charlcie & Jack Delehanty, Thomas Dudones, Greg Furness, Neil Gifford, Robert Hagar, Terry Hall, Judy & Roger Heintz, Candy & John Hell, Selma Isil, Barbara Johnston, Hal Klein, William Krueger, Charlotte & Robert Ladwig, Wesley Lanyon, Gary Lee, Theodore Mack, Larry Master, Robert McKinney, Charles Mitchell, Edith Mitchell, Joan Mitchell, John & Susan Peterson, Andrew Saunders, Anne & Linwood Sherman, Dean Spaulding, Langdon Stevenson, Anne Straight, John & Pat Thaxton, Jan Trzeciak, Margaret Tsuda, Denise Hollis White.

Abbreviations: APt - Ausable Point WMA; MRP - Malone Recreation Park; TL - Tupper Lake.

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** max 20 Port Kent 8 Nov (JB, TM), unprecedented number. **Com. Loon:** max 15 Corlear Bay ESSE 10 Oct. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max ten Cedar R 5 Sep (RM). **Horned Grebe:** max 20 APt 8-15 Nov. **Red-necked Grebe:** max seven L Placid 1 Nov (RH, TM); CLIN 5 & 14 Nov; three APt 15 Nov; a good showing. **Double-crested Cormorant:** *intro.* Great Egret: one CLIN 7 Sep (BK). **Snow Goose:** *intro.* **Ross's Goose:** *intro.* **Brant:** *intro.* **Canada Goose:** *intro.* **Mallard:** max 80+ TL 10 Nov. **N. Pintail:** drake Monty Bay 8 Nov (JB, TM). **Am. Wigeon:** two TL 10 Nov (CD), rare inland. **Redhead:** mouth Saranac R 31 Oct (J&RH), increasingly scarce. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 70 Monty Bay 8 Nov (JB, TM). **Greater Scaup:** max 8 TL 29 Sep. **Lesser Scaup:** max 20 Monty Bay 8 Nov. **Oldsquaw:** several reports CLIN, FRAN. **Surf Scoter:** two MRP 19 Oct; 2 L. Colby 31 Oct; drake Point au Roche I Nov (HK, WK, CM), second CLIN record. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 700 Monty Bay 19 Nov (C&JH). **Bufflehead:** max 22 Monty Bay 19 Nov. **Hooded Merganser:** max 300 Indian L FRAN 1 Nov. **Com. Merganser:** max 300 Indian L FRAN 1 Nov. **Red-breasted Merganser:** Point au Roche 28 Sep; two Indian L FRAN 1 Nov only reports.

Bald Eagle: ad TL 25 Sep (CD)-1 Oct (SC, TD); ad Mt View and Indian Lakes 28 Nov (JT), fewer than expected. **Rough-legged Hawk:** *intro.* **Golden Eagle:** nearly full ad being harassed by Com. Raven Cedar R early Sep (RM), only report. **Merlin:** APt 6 Sep (CM) and 11 Oct (LS). **Peregrine Falcon:** SUNY Plattsburgh administration bldg 20 Oct (J&RH), only report. **Gyrfalcon:** *intro.* **Ring-necked Pheasant:** only reports from Malone and TL Oct. **Ruffed Grouse:** "way down" HAMI (RM). **Wild Turkey:** two TL 14 Oct; three TL 5 Nov; Limekiln Road 20 Oct. **Black-bellied Plover:** arr Plattsburgh 17 Sep; max three there 6 Oct. **Lesser Golden-Plover:** arr Plattsburgh 20 Sep. **Semipalmated Plover:** arr Plattsburgh 23 Sep; max five there 5 Nov, late CLIN record. **Killdeer:** max 20 TL 7 Sep. **Greater Yellowlegs:** two Cedar R HAMI 22 Oct (GL) noteworthy interior sighting; Plattsburgh 14 Nov, late CLIN record. **Solitary Sandpiper:** last Saranac L Central Pd 1 Oct. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** Plattsburgh 14 Oct, exceptional find. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** Saranac L Central Pd 23-27 Sep unusual; max four Plattsburgh 20 Oct. **Dunlin:** five sightings Plattsburgh 8 Oct-1 Nov; max eight there 18 Oct. **Com. Snipe:** winnowing Owls Head 26 Sep. **LITTLE GULL:** *intro.* **Bonaparte's Gull:** max 70 Westport 13 Sep; many CLIN 8 Nov. **Great**

Black-backed Gull: Indian L FRAN 28 Nov (JT); L Flower dam FRAN 2 Dec (TD), unusual away from Champlain.

Rock Dove: dead AU banded racing pigeon McDonald's parking lot, Ticonderoga, 14 Sep released at Rochester, NY, in Worcester, MA, Homing Pigeon Club Futurity race. **Snowy Owl:** *intro*. **N. Hawk Owl:** *intro*. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** road kill CLIN 18 Nov. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** Ferd's Bog 4 Sep (GL); male Vermontville burn 5 Sep (LS).

Horned Lark: max 20 Westville 30 Oct (HW). **Com. Raven:** *ca.* 80 in paired display flights Altona Flatrocks CLIN after 23 Sep (NG); *ca.* 75-150 in paired display flights Rattlesnake Mt/Mt Discovery ESSE 27 Sep (SD, JP, D&HW); 26 in paired display flights Kate Mt FRAN 26 Nov (TM); truly spectacular! **Gray Jay:** one Rt. 28 Raquette L 15 Oct (TD); three Sabattis Road 10 Nov; three Saranac Inn feeder 27 Nov (CD). **Boreal Chickadee:** Ferd's Bog 4 Sep (GL); two Cedar R 5 Sep (RM); four Wright Peak 17 Oct (C&JH). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 10 Peru 3 Oct (C&JH). **E. Bluebird:** max 50+ Owls Head 8-9 Oct (JT); 25 Westport 27 Nov (DS), fairly late for so many. **Am. Pipit:** arr CLIN 20 Sep (WK); two Newcomb beaver pd 4 Oct (AS); two Saranac L 4 Oct (RH); summit Rocky Peak Ridge (4,300 feet elevation) 6 Oct (WL); max 20 Bombay 30 Oct (HW), an extraordinary showing. **Bohemian Waxwing:** arr CLIN 15 Nov. **Cedar Waxwing:** hatching year bird with *orange* tail tip banded Elizabethtown 12 Sep (JP); max 100+ Cedar R early Sep. **Northern Shrike:** *intro*.

Philadelphia Vireo: Plattsburgh 6 Sep (J&RH); banded Elizabethtown 16 Sep. **Pine Warbler:** last APt 13 Sep (J&RH). **Palm Warbler:** Yellow race Saranac L Central Pd 31 Oct (RH), only report. **CERULEAN WARBLER:** *intro*. **Wilson's Warbler:** Red R, MRRA, Hami, 15 Oct (GL), only report.

Rufous-sided Towhee: Inlet 21 Oct (GL), an unexpected locale for the only sighting. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** *intro*. **Field Sparrow:** transient Saranac L 6 Oct. **Vesper Sparrow:** max five Saranac L Central Pd 22 Oct; last there 31 Oct. **Fox Sparrow:** arr Elizabethtown (banded) 4 Oct; max four TL 25-27 Oct; last Saranac L 30 Oct. **White-crowned Sparrow:** max four TL 15 Oct. **Dark-eyed Junco:** max 200+ Indian L FRAN 20 Oct (JT); Oregon X Slate-colored hybrid family still at Inlet feeder Sep (GL); Oregon type with 15 Slate-colored Bloomingdale Bog 4 Oct (TD). **Snow Bunting:** *intro*. **Red-winged Blackbird:** Squaw L HAMI 17 Nov (GL), late away from feeders. **Com. Grackle:** max 50 TL 30 Oct; two Inlet feeder 20 Nov late. **Purple Finch:** short song Paradox 31 Oct; four-six TL 8-9 Nov, only reports. **House Finch:** Elizabethtown and Inlet feeders, where

unusual. **Red Crossbill:** Elizabethtown 30 Nov (JP), only report. **Am. Goldfinch:** feeding begging y TL 15 Sep; max 60 Port Kent 8 Nov; 11 banded Elizabethtown 30 Sep-19 Nov, only reports. **Evening Grosbeak:** 15 flying ne Elizabethtown 25 Sep; 13 TL feeder 13 Nov, only reports.

Discovery Farm, RR 1, Box 230, Elizabethtown, New York 12932