

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Although March began with a sunny, warming trend, it was only the lull before the storms. The month was the snowiest March ever, with 39.9 inches in the Champlain Valley (where 12.9 inches is normal). Although winter temperatures averaged normal, March was 4% colder than expected. The highlight was the Mother of All Storms, which began at noontime on 13 Mar. By 9:30 PM Crown Point had 14 inches of snow, winds were 45 mph, and drifts four feet high, all to the accompaniment of thunder and lightning. The storm left 26 inches of snow at Plattsburgh and up to 30 inches across the Adirondacks, making it the heaviest March snowfall on record, and third on the all-time list. As if to atone, the month ended with temperatures into the 70°F during the last weekend. April began with three days of wet snow that left 6 inches in northern CLIN on April Fool's Day, adding to the more than a foot of snow already covering the ground. Just as the ground was finally appearing, Inlet and much of the Region received 18 inches of fresh snow on 23 Apr. May was slightly warmer and drier than expected, with monthly precipitation exactly average. There was 32% of possible sunshine, with a high of 83°F on 9 May, several nights of frost, and a half-inch of rain on 24 May.

Arctic visitors continued a good showing into spring. Bill Krueger and others found a hen **Barrow's Goldeneye** at Cumberland Head 4-10 Apr. Krueger, Judy & Roger Heintz, Hal Klein, and Charlie Mitchell kept track of two **Gyr Falcon** at the mouth of the Saranac River: a gray-phase present from 7-25 Mar and a darker, brown bird there 8-29 Mar. Mark Gretch located a **Little Gull** amongst a flock of Bonaparte's Gull at Chazy Landing 12 May. A Snowy Owl was on the ice at Cumberland Head 4-6 Mar. The **Northern Hawk Owl** that arrived on the Heart Lake Road, Lake Placid, back on 18 Nov 1992 remained there until 4 Apr according to Bob Hagar, who notes that this provides a new late date for New York State. Hagar also had a flock of 14 Bohemian Waxwing there on 4 Apr, sharing the same quaking aspen with the Hawk Owl.

In spite of the heavy and late snowfalls, a total of 216 species was reported by Regional observers, a healthy gain over the 194 species reported last spring and notably higher than the 185 species recorded in the much earlier migration of 1991. Contributing to the totals were 594

individuals of 16 raptor species at Coot Hill hawk watch between 14 Apr and 6 May, including a **Mississippi Kite**. There were 19 shorebird species reported, most from CLIN, including a probable nesting pair of **Wilson's Phalarope** being closely watched as summer began. The Crown Point station banded 22 warbler species, and a **Worm-eating Warbler** was found just 32 miles east of where the first for the Region was banded on 10 May 1979.

The bird-banding station at Crown Point State Historic Site was in operation for 18 days, from 7-24 May. A record 854 birds of 62 different species were banded and released, breaking the old records of 603 individuals of 53 species set back in 1979. There were returns of 26 individuals of 13 species banded at Crown Point peninsula in previous years. The oldest return was a Field Sparrow banded 13 May 1988, and now aged at least 5 years, 11 months. A strongly melanistic Eastern Bluebird was banded on the evening of 10 May, and three (of the 42) Cedar Waxwings that were banded had orange, rather than yellow, tail tips. Prairie Warbler arrived at Crown Point 11 May, with birds banded 12-13 May. New to the station were Gray-cheeked Thrush (nominate *C. m. minimus*) banded 23 May and Northern Parula on 11 May. Noteworthy observations included several Bonaparte's Gull, singing Black-billed Cuckoo, and an immature Orchard Oriole. Features on the banding station appeared on WCAX, Burlington, evening news and in the Plattsburgh *Press-Republican*.

The American Goldfinch invasion continued, with another 610 banded near Elizabethtown in Mar and Apr, and another 188 banded at Crown Point during May, for a total of 1,773 banded in 1993. Previously banded birds retrapped near Elizabethtown originated in Ontario (1); Quebec (2 color-banded); Garland, NY (1); and Maryland (1). A female banded near Elizabethtown on 17 Mar and last retrapped there on 4 Apr was trapped and released by Donald Clark at Farmersville Station CATT on 9 May.

Finally, there were several other noteworthy wanderers. Bill Krueger and Charlie Mitchell had a **Glossy Ibis** in *Clin* 21-23 Apr. While she was crossing Lake Champlain on the Grand Isle-Cumberland Head ferry in the rain on 15 May, Pat Taber saw a large wader heading south in CLIN waters exhibiting, "large patches of black and white wings with large dark head and trailing feet and legs. It was a **Wood Stork**!" A Northern Flicker showing some traits of the Red-shafted races, probably a hybrid, was banded and photographed by Mike Peterson at Crown Point on 9

May. The Chipping Sparrow that wintered in Alt plumage at the Peru feeder of Candy and John Hess remained until 14 Mar. All in all, it was quite a memorable spring.

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Abbreviations: CPP - Crown Point peninsula; CHHW - Coot Hill hawk watch; CHd - Cumberland Head; GF - Gravelle Farm, CLIN; TB - Treadwell Bay; TL - Tupper Lake.

Spring reports: **Pied-billed Grebe:** six locations CLIN 10 Apr-26 May, a good showing. **Red-necked Grebe:** CHd 4-10 Apr; max seven there 7 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr CLIN 14 Apr; max 40 migrants CHHW 25 Apr; 8-10 frequenting Monty Bay for several months; 25-35 frequenting CPP May, but no nesting noted. **Great Egret:** HAMI 15 Apr (GL), first county record; King's Bay WMA 4 May (MG); CLIN 19-21 May (J&RH, BK, HK, CM); increasingly regular. **Glossy Ibis:** *intro*. **Wood Stork:** *intro* (NYSARC). **Snow Goose:** widespread, but short-lived migration noted 27-31 Mar. **Wood Duck:** drake overwintered CHd ferry dock 7 Mar (LA, RB, B K, CM). **N. Pintail:** melanistic bird Lake Shore Road CLIN 25 Apr (BK,CM). **N. Shoveler:** pair Monty Bay appeared to be nesting. **Gadwall:** two pairs Chazy Landing, pair Monty Bay from Apr (MG) suggest nesting. **Am. Wigeon:** drake arr Plattsburgh 28 Mar (TM); five Chazy Landing 16 Apr; one TL 26 Apr, a good showing. **Redhead:** eight Plattsburgh 28 Mar (TM), only report. **Oldsquaw:** HAMI 1 May (GL), rare inland. **White-winged Scoter:** four Ausable Pt 15 May (MG), only report. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** *intro*. **Red-breasted Merganser:** Plattsburgh and CHd 31 Mar-13 Apr; pair. L. Flower FRAN, 31 Mar-1 Apr, rare inland. **Ruddy Duck:** Chazy Landing 24 Apr (MG), rarely found.

Turkey Vulture: arr Clintonville 28 Mar (CM), early CLIN date.

Osprey: max 40 CHHW. **MISSISSIPPI KITE:** one CHHW 28 Apr (GC, EJ,!). **Bald Eagle:** max four CHHW; other reports from CHd and TL. **N. Harrier:** max 16 migrants CHHW and 15+ apparently nesting n CLIN Apr-May. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 44 CHHW "took a dive!" (EJ); could the decline in their spruce budworm specialist prey, from warblers to Evening Grosbeaks, be linked? **Broad-winged Hawk:** dark morph CHHW 24 Apr (EJ); late migrant ad CPP 17 May (JP). **Rough-legged Hawk:** last CLIN 24 Apr. **Golden Eagle:** three CHHW 14-24 Apr; imm Saranac L ESSE, 23 Apr (RH). **Merlin:** two CHHW 15 and 24 Apr, only reports. **Peregrine Falcon:** active near two nest sites Mar; pair in display flight CHHW 28 Apr (EJ, JP,D S), where six migrants were counted. **GYRFALCON:** *intro*. **Wild Turkey:** calling CHHW 14 Apr (EJ); max three feeder near TL golf course (CD); displaying tom Elizabethtown 17 Apr (J&SP); hen CPP 28 May (JP,WP). **Virginia Rail:** six CLIN wetlands a good showing. **Com. Moorhen:** Chazy Landing 21 May (MG), only report. **Am. Coot:** arr mouth Saranac R 4 Apr (BK), early CLIN date; Chazy Landing 30 Apr (MG). **Black-bellied Plover:** GF 18-31 May; max 10 there 30 May. **Lesser Golden-Plover:** GF 30 May, first CLIN spring record. **Semipalmated Plover:** GF 16-31 May; max 32 there 30 May. **Killdeer:** two eating stone flies on ice mouth Saranac R 27 Mar (TM). **Greater Yellowlegs:** GF 19 Apr-21 May; max 10 there 18 May; last 2 McBride Road 26 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** TB 15-21 May; max 12 there 17 May. **Solitary Sandpiper:** TB 11 & 16 May; max three McBride Road 26 May. **Ruddy Turnstone:** GF 23-30 May (HK, CM), rare. **Red Knot:** GF 30 May (BK), rare. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** GF 18-31 May; max 25 McBride Road 26 May, good numbers. **Least Sandpiper:** GF 16-30 May; max 32 there 30 May similarly good. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** GF 27, 31 May; max two there 31 May, late CLIN date. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** GF 18-31 May late CLIN date; max two there 18 May. **Dunlin:** TB 20-30 May, late CLIN date; max seven there 21 May. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** 19 GF 18 May; max 50 Chazy Landing 21 May (MG). **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** arr GF 18 May early CLIN date; pair there 18-31 May (Krueger!, mob). **LITTLE GULL:** *intro*. **Bonaparte's Gull:** arr four CLIN 21 Apr; several CPP 9-10 May; last CLIN 31 May (BK). **Great Black-backed Gull:** 20 on ice Port Henry 14 Apr (J&SP); GF 23 Apr-27 May, first CLIN spring record. **Caspian Tern:** CLIN 31 May (BK). **Com. Tern:** max 12 Chazy Landing 7 May. **Black Tern:** max eight Chazy Landing May; territorial s GF 23-31 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: singing CPP 22 May. **Snowy Owl:** *intro*.

NORTHERN HAWK OWL: *intro*. **Short-eared Owl:** Chazy Landing alfalfa fields 30 Apr (MG). **N. Saw-whet Owl:** Moody Pd, Paradox, Terry Mt in Mar. **Com. Nighthawk:** on tree limb s bank of Ausable R CLIN 30 May; Ticonderoga same date. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** CHd 10 May (BK), early CLIN record. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** male excavating nest Vermontville Burn 8 May; female Silver L Bog 20 May; female Ferd's Bog 26 May; nest there 31 May. **N. Flicker:** *intro*.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three-five per day Henderson L from 26 May (TB). **Alder Flycatcher:** Ellenburg 17 May (BK,CM), early CLIN arr. **Horned Lark:** many Pt au Roche 27 Mar; 12 L Placid 3-4 Apr; HAMI 1 Apr. **Gray Jay:** Moose R Plains deer feeding station Mar; Madawaska 6 May. **Com. Raven:** 12 Elizabethtown 1 Mar; eight there 20 Mar; 19 displaying in pairs there morning of 17 Apr; max 35 doing same 7:30 AM 5 May (J& SP, ph); see Fall '92 report for similar paired aerobatics over Mt Discovery and other sites. **Boreal Chickadee:** Golden L, Madawaska, Onchiota. **Tufted Titmouse:** four reports. **Sedge Wren:** arr Pt au Roche 10 May (BK), early CLIN; Bulrush 26 May (MG). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** CPP 6-13 May. **E. Bluebird:** still at CPP 3 Mar, where they overwintered; at nest box there 25 Mar; *intro*. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** *intro*. **N. Mockingbird:** reports from Ticonderoga expected, TL somewhat unexpected, but Calkin's Clearing (1,800' elev.) FRAN 31 May (TB) was a complete wilderness shocker. **Bohemian Waxwing:** *intro*. **Cedar Waxwing:** *intro*. **N. Shrike:** Plattsburgh 28 Mar (TM) only report.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr CLIN 2 May (J&RH). **Cape May Warbler:** in flock with Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers Duck Hole 28 May (TB). **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** male arr Paul Smiths 29 Mar (TM). **Pine Warbler:** arr Ausable Pt 19 Apr (CM), early CLIN date. **Prairie Warbler:** *intro*; also near Silver L Bog 20 May (BK,CM), first CLIN record; a good showing for this locally scarce warbler. **Palm Warbler:** arr CLIN 3 May; two Western race banded CPP 11-13 May. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** abundant migrant above 1,800' elev. Duck Hole area from 26 May (TB). **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** one Wadhams 11-12 May (DS), second Regional record. **N. Waterthrush:** arr L Alice 2 May (HK, BK, CM), early CLIN date. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Scofield Creek ESSE 8 May (MB), only report. **Mourning Warbler:** banded CPP 21 May (JP), where an uncommon migrant.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: eating suet Elizabethtown feeder 28 May (JP). **Chipping Sparrow:** *intro*. **Field Sparrow:** *intro*. **Fox Sparrow** six reports from 29 Mar-20 Apr, a strong migration here. **Lincoln's Sparrow:**

16 banded CPP, last 24 May, a late ESSE transient. **Snow Bunting**: last L Placid 3 Apr. **Rusty Blackbird**: max 20 Ausable Pt 13 Apr (D&JC); pair on territory Shattuck Clearing ESSE late May. **Orchard Oriole**: imm CPP 16 May (DS, RW). **Purple Finch**: max 35 Paradox 7 Mar. **House Finch**: two transient males Elizabethtown feeder 3 Apr. **Red Crossbill**: Elizabethtown 15 Mar; five Miner Institute 1 Apr; max 12 Crown Pt Center 20 Apr, only reports. **Pine Siskin**: female banded Elizabethtown 17 Apr 1992 found dead Humphrey Twp (Georgian Bay), Ontario, 23 Mar (JP); 350 banded Elizabethtown Jan-Apr. **Evening Grosbeak**: max 15-20 TL feeder 28 Mar; 35 banded Elizabethtown Jan-Apr; pair TL feeder 31 May.

Addenda: Canada Goose: neck-collared goose Pt au Roche 4 Dec 92 banded Maryland 14 Feb 85 (BK). **NORTHERN HAWK OWL**: Chasm Falls FRAN winter of 1929-30 (John Helms) is mounted specimen in Harrietstown Road residence of Richard & Carol Trudeall (daughter of J. Helms) of Saranac L (*vide* Robert Hagar).

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