

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Lake Champlain stood at 94.93 feet in early September, providing good mudflats for migrant shorebirds. Although Inlet had the first frost on 24 Sep, temperatures rose to unseasonable levels the same day at the Crown Point net lanes, where a brush-cutting detail was at work in preparation for the coming spring migration. Rain on 2 Oct fell as snow in the High Peaks. The first snowfall at Inlet was 10 Oct, with a major storm dumping 18-24 inches there on 1 Nov. Paul Smiths recorded 15 inches the same day. Seasonal temperatures remained above average, however, until dropping to single digits on Thanksgiving and 0°F the next day. By the end of November there was only a trace of snow left on the ground across most of the Region.

A total of 157 species was reported, lower than the last two years, but slightly above 1990. The total of 17 species of shorebird reported this fall is quite good. Between 4 Sep-30 Nov, a total of 368 birds of 38

species was banded near Elizabethtown; among these were 40 Black-capped Chickadee, suggestive of a flight year. On the "winter finch" front, there were good numbers of Pine Grosbeak for the first time in several years. Following Gary Lee's first bird near Red River in the Moose River Recreational Area 2 Nov, there were widespread sightings of these approachable finches from Newcomb, Paradox, Plattsburgh, and Tupper Lake. Of the max 11 banded near Elizabethtown on 15 Nov, ten had a wing chord of 107-112 mm, indicative of the more southerly race *P. e. eschatosus*; one bird was an indeterminable intermediate. Common Redpoll began to stage a similar invasion after Andy Saunders had the first at Newcomb 29 Oct, with subsequent reports from Beekmantown, Elizabethtown, Hogansburg, St. Regis Mountain, Tupper Lake, and West Chazy. The largest flock of 34 was at Saranac Lake on 20 Nov.

In addition to the usual migrant waterfowl and shorebirds detailed in this Fall report, a host of other arctic and subarctic species pushed southward, suggesting hard times in northern Canada. Mobbing crows alerted Mike Peterson and Dean Spaulding to an early gray *Gyrffalcon* over downtown Plattsburgh on 3 Nov, and Peterson had another gray *Gyrffalcon* fly over his woods and field outside Elizabethtown on 19 Nov. Gary Lee found the first *Great Gray Owl* at the inlet to Seventh Lake, off the Bug Lake trail, HAMI, on 16 Nov. Another was spotted perched along Route 28N near Newcomb on 29 Nov by Dean Spaulding. Bohemian Waxwing has appeared in all but two years since the winter of 1979-80, or 13 of the last 15 years. This fall these handsome birds were especially widespread. Following the arrival of the first flock of 20 spotted by Ted Mack at Paul Smiths on 2 Nov, there were Bohemian Waxwing reports from Elizabethtown, Newcomb, Ticonderoga, and Wadhams throughout the month, with a max 150 in a flock at Plattsburgh on 29 Nov. The first Northern Shrike arrived near Elizabethtown on 10 Nov. Snow Bunting arrived on the Crown Point peninsula 20 Oct, according to Greg Furness, then fluttered over Ausable Point, Blue Mountain Lake, Essex, Malone, Owls Head, and West Chazy, with max 50 at Marcy Field 6 Nov.

The last trip to the Four Brothers Islands, Lake Champlain, on 8 Sep noted 200 lingering Double-crested Cormorant, two Canada Goose, a transient Sharp-shinned Hawk, two Ruddy Turnstone, four Sanderling, a dead Herring Gull banded as a chick on Little Galloo Island, NY, on 17 Jun 1993 by Chip Weseloh of the Canadian Wildlife Service, as well as 16 adult and 2 immature Great Black-backed Gull.

The Common Raven show at Mt. Discovery, ESSE, resumed, with Tom Barber and this editor admiring 25 as they displayed over the rocky summit and down the cliff faces at 5 PM on 3 Oct, mostly in pairs, but with the occasional "odd man out" trying to break into the aerobatics of a twosome. At 6:30 AM on 4 Oct, there was a string of 35 ravens headed south from Mt. Discovery toward Raven Mt., across the Boquet River valley. Mike and Susan Peterson saw the last flight of five over Mt. Discovery on 14 Oct at 5:15 PM.

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Abbreviations: APt - Ausable Point WMA; CPP - Crown Point peninsula; TL - Tupper Lake.

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** Indian L 6 Nov (JT), with two Com. Loon for comparison. **Com. Loon:** L Colden 20 Oct, late for interior; 34 Treadwell Bay and 14 APt 30 Oct (BK), good numbers. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr Plattsburgh 4 Sep, with subsequent reports from APt, Malone, Westport, and Willsboro Bay, an excellent showing. **Double-crested Cormorant:** *intro*; last Rouses Pt 6 Nov (RM). **Great Egret:** Plattsburgh 3-25 Sep (BK, J&RH); CPP 17 Sep (GF), increasingly regular yet still exciting. **Snow Goose:** arr n CLIN 12 Oct (J&SP); max 4,000 Point au Roche 28 Oct (BK,CM), with a number of yellow neck collars read and reported from there. **Brant:** max and arr 12 Indian L FRAN 6 Nov (JT); imm eating grass daily Saranac L 7-17 Nov (RH). **Canada Goose:** *intro*; 6,000± Malone Recreational P 8 Nov (JT). **Gadwall:** four Plattsburgh 20 Oct (BK), uncommon. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 140 Moody Pd ESSE 7 Nov (RH) somehow managed to crowd onto this small village pond. **Greater Scaup:** arr APt 6 Nov (RM). **Lesser Scaup:** arr APt 19 Nov (RM). **Black Scoter:** ten Goodnow Flow 23 Oct (TM); 14 Indian L FRAN 6 Nov (JT), good inland finds. **White-winged Scoter:** 20 Goodnow Flow 23 Oct, ditto; Whallon's Bay 9 Oct and Plattsburgh 26 Oct more expected locations. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 70 APt 19 Nov. **Bufflehead:** max 60 Mt. View L 7 Nov. **Hooded Merganser:** max 100 Mt View L 8 Nov (JT).

Turkey Vulture: Malone 23 Nov (HW), late. **Bald Eagle:** ad Raquette R 22 Sep; ad TL Marsh 13 Nov; ad APt 22 Nov; two ad TL Marsh 27 Nov; ad Raquette R 28 Nov, a good showing. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** *intro*. **Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Whallon's Bay Road 5 Nov (RM). **Gyr Falcon:** *intro*. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** stocked birds Wadhams only report. **Wild Turkey:** 16 East Dickinson Oct (DL); 12 Cheever 2 Nov (GC), good numbers, but only reports. **Am. Coot:** Plattsburgh 15 Oct to APt 19 Nov. **Black-bellied Plover:** CPP 24 Sep (RM, J&SP, RW), new to Historic Site checklist. **Am. Golden-Plover:** Newcomb yard 2 Nov (AS), an even more unexpected find! **Semipalmated Plover:** APt 4 Sep (A&LS), last report. **Killdeer:** max 25 APt 3 Sep (D&JC); last TL 8 Oct (CD). **Greater Yellowlegs:** APt 6 Nov (RM), late. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** Plattsburgh 16 Nov (BK), CLIN record late by nine days. **Solitary Sandpiper:** last Plattsburgh 26 Sep (J&RH). **Ruddy Turnstone:** *intro*. **Sanderling:** *intro*; APt 2-3 Sep (D&JC); four APt 19 Oct (BK), CLIN record late by 26 days. **Least Sandpiper:** APt 4 Sep expected; three Newcomb L same day (TB) rather unexpected. **Baird's Sandpiper:** APt 2 Sep (DC) to 21 Sep (J&RH), max five on 4 Sep (A&LS). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** three on mud bars in a Newcomb beaver pd 9 Oct (AS), an extremely good find. **Dunlin:** arr King's Bay 9 Sep (BK), early CLIN record; last Plattsburgh 24 Oct (J&RH). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** last Plattsburgh 24 Oct (J&RH). **Bonaparte's Gull:** last 20 APt 31 Oct (CH). **Herring Gull:** *intro*. **Great Black-backed Gull:** *intro*.

Great Gray Owl: *intro*. **Com. Nighthawk:** three Schuyler Falls 2 Sep; Plattsburgh 7 Sep, only reports. **Three-toed Woodpecker:** Mohegan L 15-20 Nov (GL). **Black-backed Woodpecker:** Newcomb L 4 Sep (TB); Icehouse Pd 2 Nov; Mohegan L 15-20 Nov (GL).

Horned Lark: max 20 Malone 3 Nov (JT). **Gray Jay:** two Saranac Inn feeder 10 Nov (E&TB); Mohegan L 15-20 Nov (GL). **Com. Raven:** *intro*. **Black-capped Chickadee:** *intro*. **Boreal Chickadee:** reports from between Cliff and Redfield Mts, Helldiver Pd, Newcomb L, and Spruce L. **Carolina Wren:** two at feeders Saranac L after 25 Oct (RH). **Winter Wren:** Inlet 2 Nov (GL), late. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** nominate *minimus* banded near Elizabethtown 30 Sep (JP). **Hermit Thrush:** Limekiln campsite 6 Nov (GL), late for central Adirondacks. **Am. Pipit:** 12 CPP 7 Nov (DS). **Bohemian Waxwing:** *intro*. **N. Shrike:** *intro*.

Philadelphia Vireo: TL 13 Sep (CD); Plattsburgh 16 Sep (J&RH), good for a rarely reported bird. **Pine Warbler:** TL 15 Sep (CD), only report. **Palm Warbler:** Helldiver Pd 7 Sep (GL), only report. **Wilson's Warbler:** banded Keene Valley 4 Sep (WL); last Newcomb 19 Sep (AS).

Indigo Bunting: subad male Inlet feeder after 25 Oct (GL), exceptionally late. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr Owls Head 19 Oct (JT). **Chipping Sparrow:** alternate plumage Keeseville feeder 1-4 Nov (D&JC), possible western race. **Savannah Sparrow:** dark form Owls Head 19 Oct (JT). **Fox Sparrow:** arr two TL 30 Sep; last Terry Mt 11 Nov. **Snow Bunting:** *intro.* **E. Meadowlark:** Harkness 3 Nov (D&JC), late. **Com. Grackle:** Hogansburg 24 Nov (HW), late. **Pine Grosbeak:** *intro.* **Purple Finch:** two moving flocks St Regis Mt 24 Oct; occasional TL; only reports. **House Finch:** max ten Elizabethtown feeder 14 Oct (J&SP). **Red Crossbill:** two Forestmere Pds 13 Sep (JT), only report. **Com. Redpoll:** *intro.* **Pine Siskin:** max 40 Mt View 12 Nov, with scattered reports of 1-15 from Elizabethtown, Hogansburg, Inlet, and TL. **Am. Goldfinch:** max 56 Hogansburg 11 Oct (HW); female banded Elizabethtown 9 May 1991 returned 13 Nov (JP). **Evening Grosbeak:** 78 banded Elizabethtown 25 Sep-30 Nov, a relatively good showing after the decline of recent years.

Addendum: Sharp-shinned Hawk: one banded at Easton, PA, 24 Sep 1990 by Gerald Lehr was retrapped on Cedar R HAMI 15 Aug 1993 by Bob McKinney.

Corrigendum: The Worm-eating Warbler at Wadhams 11-12 May 1993 "was found just 3.5 [not 32] miles east of where the first for the region was banded on 10 May 1979."

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