

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Fall was cloudy, yet rather pleasant overall, with two inches of snow at Inlet on 5 Oct while Plattsburgh did not record a temperature below freezing until 17 Oct. Lake Champlain had dropped to 94.5 ft by 1 Nov. The first snow in the Saranac-Placid region fell the next day. It remained cloudy and rainy until mid Nov, with two inches of snowfall in the Adirondacks 22 Nov. By dawn on 23 Nov, Inlet had 18 inches of snow cover and a temperature of 0°F by midnight. Limekiln Lake froze 27 Nov, but the ice blew out with the wind and rain of the following day. Seasonal temperatures were above normal. Robins were "still flying around munching on Mountain Ash berries" at the end of the season, according to Gary Lee.

A respectable 166 species were reported, an improvement over last fall, but short of the 173 reported in 1992. Only 11 were shorebirds, a reflection of fairly high lake levels since the summer, but included a *Ruff*, or, more properly, an immature Reeve, a new species for the Region and CLIN.

Between 1 Sep and 23 Nov, a total of 221 birds of 38 species was banded near Elizabethtown. Bud Lanyon banded a downslope transient (Bicknell's) Gray-cheeked Thrush on Porter Mt. on 24 Oct, while a migrant *bicknelli* was banded by Mike Peterson near Elizabethtown 29 Sep. Mountain tops also provided a few other interesting birds, including Black-backed Woodpecker, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, American Pipit, Lapland Longspur, Red Crossbill, and Pine Siskin. Thanks to bird-banding operations and to observers seeking fall departure dates, a total of 21 warbler species was reported. Although there were a few obvious misses, there were also some nice finds: Orange-crowned Warbler, Cape May Warbler, *Prairie Warbler*, both "Western" and "Yellow" Palm Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler.

Krueger reported 48 black-on-yellow neck-collared "Greater" Snow Geese at Point au Roche 9 Oct-30 Nov, two of them previously seen in

1992 and another two in 1993; all are presumed to come from Bylot Island, N.W.T., Canada. The origin of four Canada Geese wearing black-on-white bibs at Westport 3-17 Sep is still unknown. Also noteworthy was a small Canada Goose and, although increasingly regular on Lake Champlain, Barrow's Goldeneye, and, perhaps rarest of all in this Region, *Ruddy Duck*.

Two Mute Swan along the Adirondack Northway (1-87) just s of the Champlain border crossing on 11 Nov were unclipped two-year old offspring of the swans at Champlain Valley Physicians' Hospital that escaped from owner Marcella White of West Chazy. Gretch had a similar experience with Champlain Valley Physicians' Hospital progeny at L Alice on 20 Nov 1983, when unclipped immatures escaped Miner Institute in Chazy. With the hospital continuing to give away cygnets and owners allowing them to fly freely, all of the recent Mute Swan records near Lake Champlain seem of dubious origin.

Arrivals of species from Canada, including Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Shrike, the aforementioned Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting, were generally seasonal. Bohemian Waxwing has now appeared in all but two years since the winter of 1979-80, i.e., in 12 of the last 14 winters. In spite of an excellent cone crop (hemlock, pine, and spruce), winter finches were slow in arriving. Only a few Purple Finch were noted. However, there were seven reports of Red Crossbill from three counties. Only three small flocks of Pine Siskin were found, and there were just two reports of Evening Grosbeak. Most numerous was American Goldfinch, yet the largest flock had only 30 birds.

The Thaxtons witnessed a surprised Northern Goshawk, probably pumping adrenaline as well as its wings, being chased by a Peregrine Falcon at Lake Colden on 14 Sep. The absurdity of the season, however, goes to the precariously balanced hen Wild Turkey feeding atop a six-foot pole feeder at Tupper Lake since 18 Nov and photographed by Delehanty. It's a tough world out there.

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Abbreviations: APt - Ausable Point WMA; CPP - Crown Point

peninsula; CR - Chazy Rivers; FBI - Four Brothers Islands; PtR - Point au Roche; TL - Tupper Lake.

Fall reports: **Com. Loon:** calling 8th L 30 Nov (GL), extremely late for interior. **Horned Grebe:** max 10 APt 19 Nov (C&JH). **Red-necked Grebe:** arr three APt 17 Nov (BK, CM). **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 40 CPP 11 Sep (Ja); last Monty Bay 26 Oct (BK). **Am. Bittern:** CR to 27 Sep. **Great Egret:** max *ten* Bombay FRAN 2 Sep (HW), but see also Addendum. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** imm FBI 3 Sep (RM), late. **Mute Swan:** *intro*. **Snow Goose:** *intro*. **Brant:** flock 5th L 27 Oct (GL); 50 Lower St. Regis L 1 Nov (TM). **Canada Goose:** *intro*; one, smaller than nearby Snow Goose, Point au Roche 12-29 Oct had stubby bill of one of the small races. **Gadwall:** CR 13 Sep; Westport 13 Oct, uncommon. **Redhead:** arr three Plattsburgh 30 Oct, scarce in recent years. **Oldsquaw:** arr three Plattsburgh 16 Oct, early. **Black Scoter:** Plattsburgh & PtR 21 Oct-6 Nov, max four on 6 Nov. **Surf Scoter:** Plattsburgh & PtR 29 Sep-21 Oct, max eight on 21 Oct. **White-winged Scoter:** Plattsburgh and PtR 15 Oct 24 Nov, max ten on 1 Nov. **Com. Goldeneye:** arr 30 Horseshoe Pd FRAN 12 Nov (TM). **Barrow's Goldeneye:** drake Plattsburgh 29 Oct (Hal Klein) and PtR 22 Nov (WK). **Bufflehead:** arr Horseshoe Pd 12 Nov. **Ruddy Duck:** hen Plattsburgh 30 Oct (J&RH, WK).

Bald Eagle: imm atop Trembleau Mt 8 Oct (WK, CM, LS); ad L Flower 28-29 Nov. **N. Harrier:** one at 4,926 ft Mt Skylight 15 Sep (J&PT). **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** ad male banded Elizabethtown 4 Oct (J&SP). **N. Goshawk:** *intro*. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** three Terry Mt 14 Sep (C&JH). **Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Westport 21 Oct. **Golden Eagle:** ad Keene 16 Oct (PT); max three Northwoods Club ESSE 10 Nov (LS). **Am. Kestrel:** one at 4,926 ft Mt Skylight 15 Sep (J&PT). **Merlin:** CR 7 Sep (HK, BK, CM). **Peregrine Falcon:** *intro*. **Spruce Grouse:** confluence Wolf Pd outlet and Indian R HAMI 21 Nov (GL), at s end of range. **Wild Turkey:** *intro*. **Am. Coot:** two CR 7 Sep (HK, CM), only report. **Black-bellied Plover:** max 3 APt 20 Sep (RM). **Greater Yellowlegs:** APt 20 Sep (RM). **Spotted Sandpiper:** two FBI 3 Sep (RM). **Ruff:** reeve Laurin's Farm 9 (BK) and 13 Sep (WK, CM). **Little Gull:** ad Monty Bay 15 Nov (HK, BK, CM), a good find. **Bonaparte's Gull:** last Westport 13 Oct.

Mourning Dove: max 37 TL feeder late Nov (CD), extremely high number for interior Adirondacks. **Snowy Owl:** arr Westville FRAN 23 Nov. **Com. Nighthawk:** six headed s St. Regis R FRAN 8 Sep (HW), only report. **Three-toed Woodpecker:** Killkare-Mohegan L Nov, only report. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** male Baxter Mt 11 Sep (J&PT); Killkare-Mohegan L Nov; orange-crowned male Long Pd FRAN 12 Nov (TM);

female Hurricane Mt 19 Nov (JP, DS); Beaver L trail MRRA 25 Nov; a good showing.

E. Kingbird: Saranac Inn 19-30 Sep (CD), late. **Gray Jay:** Raquette L 24 Oct; three visiting a Saranac Inn feeder after 12 Nov (E&TB). **Boreal Chickadee:** Feldspar Brook, Cedar L, Killkare-Mohegan, typical locales. **Tufted Titmouse:** transient near Elizabethtown 14-19 Oct; two Port Kent 8 Nov. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** *intro.* **Am. Pipit:** three at 4,926 ft Mt. Skylight 15 Sep (J&PT); CR 18 Sep and 15 Nov (HK, BK, CM), new early and late CLIN fall records. **Bohemian Waxwing:** arr Wadhams 14 Nov. **Cedar Waxwing:** 30 Cedar R 14-18 Nov (RM), in an aptly named locale but feeding in beech-birch; TL to 28 Nov; far more abundant than the previous species. **N. Shrike:** arr Wadhams 31 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: one TL 24 Sep (CD). **Cape May Warbler:** one APt 21 Sep (J&RH), CLIN late record. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** SUNY Plattsburgh campus 28 Nov (DS), late. **Pine Warbler:** Saranac L ESSE 24 Sep (RH); Corlear Bay 10 Oct (LS), Saranac L FRAN 23 Nov (GC), seldom reported. **Prairie Warbler:** one Plattsburgh on 1 Oct (J&RH), rare even in spring. **Palm Warbler:** "Western" race Wadhams 25 Sep and 19 Oct, "Yellow" race on 31 Oct (DS); two Hoffmeister 30 Sep; one at Plattsburgh 16 Oct; an excellent showing. **Wilson's Warbler:** singles Keene 22 Sep (WL), TL 25 Sep (CD).

Chipping Sparrow: TL to 4 Nov, late. **Vesper Sparrow:** last CLIN 18 Oct (J&RH). **Fox Sparrow:** TL 16 Oct, only report. **White-crowned Sparrow:** max three TL 9 Oct. **Lapland Longspur:** one Algonquin Peak at 5,114' 22 Oct (C&JH). **Snow Bunting:** arr Inlet 24 Oct; Indian L HAMI 6 Nov; max 15 TL 5 Nov. **Red-winged Blackbird:** TL 26-27 Nov, late. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr APt 13 Sep (BK), early CLIN; max 40 APt 8 Oct (LS). **Brown-headed Cowbird:** TL 25-28 Nov, late. **Red Crossbill:** several Baxter Mt. 18-20 Nov (SI). **Pine Siskin:** a flock Baxter Mt. 20 Nov (SI, DS). **European Goldfinch:** one at feeder Plattsburgh remained until 11 Nov (CM, *fide* BK). **Evening Grosbeak:** heard over Elizabethtown 21 Oct, Long Lake 29 Nov.

Addenda: **Great Egret:** max 60+ roosting on an island in a beaver pond near Moira FRAN in summer 1994 provide a new max for the Region and FRAN (Phyllis & Wayne Palmer, *The Conservationist* Dec. 1994), undoubtedly originated from the Dickerson I, Quebec, colony. **E. Screech-Owl:** red-phase Keene (about 1,500' elevation) 17-18 Aug (J&PT), unusual so high. **Gray Jay:** one seemed accustomed to hiker handouts Mt Marcy Mar 1992 (Mike Devlin), the most recent report of the High Peaks population.

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