

REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

John M.C. Peterson

Despite a few pleasant stretches, autumn was generally rainy, snowy, and cold. Inlet saw 33 cloudy days and 41 with some kind of precipitation. September began clear and cool, with first frost at Plattsburgh 11 Sep, but 65°F days at mid month. Lake Champlain stood at 94.32" and 65°F on 13 Sep. Late September saw an invasion of Gray Squirrel and a heavy flight of Compton's Tortoiseshell, but few Monarch. An explosion of Asian Ladybeetle began in early Oct. Heavy rain 5-6 Oct was followed by clear, warm days that led to Indian Summer 12 Oct, with Plattsburgh reaching a record 81°F on 13 Oct. By 16 Oct, there was snow on the High Peaks. A warming trend followed, with 36 mph winds at Plattsburgh on 20 Oct and a record 76°F temperature there on 21 Oct, when heavy rains at the Moose River Plains closed the recreation area for two weeks. Peaks were snow covered at month's end. November began with wet snow, and Inlet had another 4" on 4 Nov, the first to stick there for the season. 7-14 Nov was windy, snowy, blustery, and cold, with the 12th windier than the October storm in parts of the Region, and 7" of snow at Ellenburg Depot and Saranac Lake on 14 Nov. Another 2" fell in some places on 19 Nov.

Thermometers reached the 40's for the last time this season on 21 Nov. Hogansburg and the Canadian border towns had a heavy snow storm on 27 November, with only flurries to the south. By season's end, Red Squirrels had moved down out of the cone poor mountains to join their gray relatives in attacking feeders. In spite of the somewhat dismal weather and rising lake levels which covered mudflats and kept shorebirds to just 18 species, a record 186 species were reported, up from 166 last year and higher than the 173 reported in '92. Moreover, a number of permanent residents went unmentioned, including: N.Goshawk, Spruce Grouse, Three-toed Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, and N. Mockingbird.

An immature **Ross' Goose** was spotted among the 10-13 thousand Snow Goose at Point au Roche in mid November; observer Bill Krueger, who has found two adults in recent years, added that he "didn't realize how nearly white the immature is." Krueger continued his highly successful search for banded Snow Goose at this vital stopover, reading and reporting an incredible 97 black-on-yellow neck collar codes between 19 Oct and 30 Nov. A smaller number of Canada Goose wearing black-on-white neck bibs was also reported from Point au Roche and Westport; one at Westport 19-24 Nov had been banded at Dead Creek Refuge in Vermont 3 Jul 91 and previously spotted at Four Brothers Islands 3 Aug 94.

Bob and Bill Hagar came upon an immature Golden Eagle on Scarface Mt., ESSE, eating White tailed Deer entrails with three Common Raven where the buck had been killed and dressed two days before. All four falcons were sighted in Essex County.

Wild Turkey continues to establish itself, with six sightings distributed over all four counties, but the largest flocks having only 12-18 birds.

Rising lake levels eliminated most of the summer's excellent shorebird habitat, but observers still managed to locate 18 species. Notable was a **Western Sandpiper** at Ausable Point in September, while King's Bay had a White-rumped Sandpiper in October and four Baird's Sandpiper during September.

Good numbers of Great Black-backed Gull, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and both kinglets were reported. A pitiful berry crop was probably responsible for Eastern Bluebird moving out in late Oct, although a Hermit Thrush

lingered to mid Nov, and a few American Robin could still be found at the end of the season.

Although Bohemian Waxwing has appeared here in all but two winters since 1979-80, or 15 of the last 17 years, this was a remarkable fall for these sweetly trilling visitors. Bull (1974) provides a 7 Nov arrival date, with 15 Nov 1851 at Niagara Falls the earliest specimen. This year, Krueger saw three at Hudson Hall on the SUNY Plattsburgh campus on 30 Oct, with subsequent arrivals at Saranac Lake 3 Nov, Peru and Westport 4 Nov, and six of a flock of 20 feeding in a crabapple near Elizabethtown banded and photographed by the editor on 7 Nov. Thereafter, active observers were finding up to four flocks daily in the waxwings' favored haunts, generally feeding on buckthorn. Northern Shrike also came down early and in good numbers, with new early arrival dates set during Oct for Clinton, Essex, and Franklin counties.

The passerine migration was generally good, at least by recent standards. Bud Lanyon banded a Philadelphia Vireo on Giant Mt. in early September. An Orange-crowned Warbler was banded near Elizabethtown by Bob Wei in early Oct, with another seen at Tupper Lake by Charlcie Delehanty the same day. Both "Western" and "Yellow" Palm Warbler were unusually abundant, and Tom Dudones found a Wilson's Warbler at Saranac Lake High School in early September. Dudones reported Savannah Sparrow feeding newly fledged young in early September at Saranac Lake, where Bob Hagar had two linger into November. Dudones also indentified a Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco near Lake Colby, FRAN. Clinton Co. had a few rarely reported Lapland Longspur, while Snow Bunting was widely reported from late October.

Adirondack-Champlain birders await the arrival of winter finches each fall as a harbinger of the winter months to come. Their early observations promise a Pine Grosbeak-Common Redpoll Winter of 1995-96. First to arrive were the redpolls and the magic day was 12 November, when they simultaneously appeared at Hogansburg, Lake Placid, Plattsburgh, and Tupper Lake (which boasted the max. 125 in four roadside flocks, plus five at the Delehanty feeder). By the end of the month, Pine Grosbeak had been spotted at Inlet, Keene, Plattsburgh, and between Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake. Other finches were in short supply, with the only crossbills at Inlet. Notable, however, was American Goldfinch still feeding young at a Tupper Lake feeder in

November.

Contributors: Ethel & Tom Baker, Thomas Barber, Helen Booth, Walter Carstens, Charlcie Delehanty, J.D. Delehanty, Janet Downs, Tom Dudones, Jim Farrell, Greg Furness, Rich Gast, Mark Gretch, Robert Hagar, William Hagar, Terry Hall, Candy & John Hess, Anne & Jane Hooper, Selma Isil, Marshall Kinne, Hal Klein, Bill Krueger, Daphne Kutzer, Ignatius Lacombe, Wesley Lanyon, Gary Lee, Rich MacDonald, Theodore Mack, Harold McClain, Larry Master, Charles Mitchell, Edith Mitchell, Dan Nickerson, Wendy O'Neil, John & Susan Peterson, Mary Purcell, George Roberts, Dave Russell, William Rutherford, Nina Schoch, Dean Spaulding, Langdon Stevenson, John & Pat Thaxton, Frances & Newman Tryon, Jan Trzeciak, Robert Turck, Robin Ulmer, Robert Wei, Hollis White, Wayne Wilkins.

Abbreviations: Apt - Ausable Point WMA; BB - Bloomingdale Bog; CB - Cumberland Bay; KB - King's Bay; PtR - Point au Roche SP; SL - Saranac Lake; TB - Treadwell Bay; TL - Tupper Lake.

Fall Reports: **Red-throated Loon:** new regional max 11 Bog R inlet, TL, 7 Nov (TD). **Com. Loon:** one in basic plumage entangled in fishing lure and line n. Plattsburgh 21 Oct. **Pied-billed Grebe:** three Mt. View L 16 Sep; two Fish Creek Pd 5 Oct; one Webb Royce Swamp 27 Oct; two TL 1 Nov, exceptional. **Horned Grebe:** arr TL 1 Oct (EM), early. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr Indian L, FRAN Raquette L inlet and TL 31 Oct; max four Apt 22 Nov. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 50 Four Bros Isls 30 Sep (RM); five TL 7 Oct, unusual inland; imm successfully rehabilitated SL, banded and released Willsboro Pt 15 Oct (JP,NS). **Great Egret:** Plattsburgh 28 Sep (BK,CM). **Cattle Egret:** one Camp Dudley Rd, Westport 20 Oct (RT). **Snow Goose:** 10-13 thousand PtR 20 Nov (RH,TM); *intro.* **Ross' Goose:** one imm PtR 20 Nov. **Canada Goose:** *intro.* **Green-winged Teal:** hen SL High School pond 22 Oct (TD): two Westport 25 Oct (MG), uncommon. **Blue-winged Teal:** max 20 Westport 15 Sep (J&PT). **Gadwall:** two still at Four Bros 30 Sep (RM). **Am. Wigeon:** SLHS pond 23 Sep (TD), unexpected. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 22 Mountain View L 30 Oct. **Lesser Scaup:** max 29 Mt. View L 31 Oct-1 Nov (JT). **Oldsquaw:** Indian L, Mt. View L, TL sightings, all FRAN. **Black Scoter:** arr 30 Raquette Pd 19 Oct (CD); one Apt 14 Nov (BK). **Surf Scoter:** two PtR 16 Nov. **White-winged Scoter:** arr 11 Apt 10 (BK, CM); max 22 Indian L, FRAN 22 Oct (JT) ; TL 7-18 Nov. **Com. Goldeneye:** 28 Seventh L to 14 Nov (TD,GL), highly unexpected.

Bufflehead: arr four Mt. View L 16 Sep. **Hooded Merganser:** max 50 Indian L, FRAN 2 Nov; flock Fifth L to 23 Nov (GL), when it froze. **Red-breasted Merganser:** Seventh L to 14 Nov (GL); Crown Pt 30 Nov (GF). **Ruddy Duck:** four Raquette Pd, FRAN 31 Oct-2 Nov (CD,TD, RH), extremely rare here.

Osprey: last on small island Mt View L 1 Nov (JT). **Bald Eagle:** two imm TL 19 Sep; ad Mooer's Forks; ad Red Tavern Road 27 Sep; Sugarloaf Mt, FRAN, late Oct. **No. Harrier:** Wadhams 26 Nov (J&PT), late. **Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Schuyler Falls 30 Oct (CH). **Golden Eagle:** intro. **Merlin:** Ray Brook to 3 Sep (TD). **Peregrine Falcon:** still at Willsboro Bay eyrie 12 Oct (JP), seen atop cliff from passing Amtrak. **Gyr Falcon:** dark morph, intersection Cross & Lake Shore Rds, ESSE 23 & 26 Nov (DS). **Gray Partridge:** three Reynolds Rd, CLIN 16 Nov (GR), only report. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** bagged Essex day of DEC release, only report. **Wild Turkey:** max 18 Lewis-Wadhams Rd 17 Oct (RU); also Adk Loj Rd, Inlet feeder, old 190 near CLIN-FRAN line, TL, and Westport. **Com. Moorhen:** Apt 1 Oct (J&RH), unusual. **Am. Coot:** Apt 18 Nov; Plattsburgh 30 Nov, better than usual. **Black-bellied Plover:** arr Four Bros 30 Sep (RM). **Am. Golden-Plover:** arr three Westport 4 Sep (JP,DS)-5 Sep (DS), scarcer since Essex plowed fields became fallow. **Semipalmated Plover:** KB and Westport Sep. **Greater Yellowlegs:** unexpected at SLHS 22 Oct (TD); also KB and Westport. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 9 KB 12 Sep (BK), a high number here. **Solitary Sandpiper:** two SLHS 2-9 Sep; two Inlet 12 Sep, unexpected; Westport 4-25 Oct, less unusual. **Sanderling:** one Apt 14 Nov (BK), extremely late. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** KB and Westport Sep. **Western Sandpiper:** Apt 6 Sep (HK,BK,CM), seen well. **Least Sandpiper:** KB and Westport Sep. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** KB 12 Oct (BK,CM), rare here. **Baird's Sandpiper:** four KB 3-7 Sep (BK,CM,LS), rare. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** four KB 3 Sep (BK,LS)-9 Sep (J&RH); Westport 4 Oct (TD); max five KB 12 Oct (BK,CM), where last seen 24 Oct. **Dunlin:** KB, MB 3,31 Oct (BK,CM). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** KB 16 Sep (TD), only report. **Am. Woodcock:** New Russia 2 Nov (SI), late. **Little Gull:** ad TB 18 Sep (BK), early; also there 26 Oct. **Bonaparte's Gull:** max 120 Westport 4 Nov (RH,TM); six Four Bros 5 Nov (RM). **Ring-billed Gull:** eating highbush cranberries off bush at L. Flower boat launch 5 Nov (TD)! **Herring Gull:** one at Four Bros 5 Nov (RM) was only non-Bonaparte's species there...no Ring-billed or Great Black-backed gulls! **Iceland Gull:**

1st winter L. Flower from 25 Nov thru (RH), highly unexpected inland. **Great Black-backed Gull**: 100+ Westport 24 Nov (JP,RW). **Com. Tern**: three Four Bros. 5 Nov (RM), late. **Black Tern**: CLIN 10 Oct (J&RH), record late.

Snowy Owl: on Franklin Ave. chimney, SL, week of 27 Nov (*fide* RH). **N. Saw-whet Owl**: Newcomb L 16 Sep (TB), only report. **Com. Nighthawk**: 30 SL 5 Sep (RH), encouraging. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: Rutherford feeder, Bloomingdale 24-26 Oct (TD,RH,TM), a good find. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: male Bigelow Rd, Bloomingdale 9 Sep (TD); sev MRRA.

E. Wood-Pewee: Apt 6 Oct (BK,CM), late. **Horned Lark**: two TL 17 Nov (CD), scarce in Adks. **Gray Jay**: BB, Helldiver Pd; MRRA; two Saranac Inn feeder; Vermontville; fed out of hand Inlet-Shallow L trail 17 Nov (GL). **Boreal Chickadee**: Algonquin; Giant Mt; max 13 Hough Pk, Shallow L; Sugarloaf Mt; South Dix. **Tufted Titmouse**: Chazy; Inlet; Peru; Plattsburgh; TL; Westport; SL feeder 8 Nov (RH), first in 37 years, an exceptional showing from all four counties. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: Elizabethtown; Hogansburg; TL; and Wadhams feeders, where not regular. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: max 20 between Hough and S. Dix 27 Sep (DR). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: last TL 26 Oct (CD). **E. Bluebird**: last SL 26 Oct, contrasts strongly with 1994-95 overwintering flocks. **Am. Robin**: speckled juv Mt. View 25 Oct (JT), but generally scarce by Nov. **Am. Pipit**: six Reynold's Rd, CLIN 21 Sep (J&RH); SLHS 24 Sep (TD); one East Dix (4,012') 27 Sep (DR); New Russia 19 Oct (SI), a strong showing by a rarely reported bird. **Bohemian Waxwing**: *intro.*; many reports from Elizabethtown, Essex, Peru, Plattsburgh, SL, Wadhams, and Westport; max 300 Plattsburg 20 Nov (RH,TM), although four flocks Elizabethtown-Essex 24 Nov (DN,JP,DS) exceeded that. **Cedar Waxwing**: two TL 10 Sep (CD), only report of this fall '95 rarity. **N. Shrike**: arr Rand Hall, SUNY Plattsburgh 29 Oct. (BK); CLIN record; subsequent sightings from Inlet, Keene, SL, and Wadhams, with an estimated dozen birds reported from all four counties.

Philadelphia Vireo: banded Giant Mt. 6 Sep (WL). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: banded Elizabethtown 3 Oct (RW); seen TL same day (CD), rare here. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: max 42 Owls Head 16 Sep (JT); last Inlet 19 Oct (GL). **Pine Warbler**: last SL 9 Oct (TD). **Palm Warbler**: "Western" SL 26 Sep (TD); sp. PtR 27 Sep (J&RH)-28 Sep (BK); five "Yellow" Ray Brook 5 Oct (TD); sp. Apt 6 Oct (BK); "Yellow" BB

15 Oct (TD); both "Western" & "Yellow" New Russia 17 Oct (SI); *sp.* Helldiver Pd 20 Oct (GL); "Yellow" SLHS 28 Oct (TD), unprecedented total of nine reports, many specifying subspecies. **Ovenbird:** Plattsburgh feeder 21 Nov (CM), extremely late. **No. Waterthrush:** Taylor Pd 2 Oct (DK), late. **Mourning Warbler:** SLHS 9 Sep (TD), only report. **Wilson's Warbler:** SLHS 10 Sep (TD), only report.

N. Cardinal: pr Elizabethtown feeder 22 Oct (J&SP); 1,900' elev. Keene 22 Oct; 1,500' elev. Keene 26 Oct (RM); TL 24 Oct; Elizabethtown feeder early Nov (F&NT); Limekiln mid Nov (GL), all locations where normally scarce. **Eastern Towhee:** Saranac R, CLIN 10 Oct (BK,GR), good find. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr Hogansburg 25 Oct (HW). **Chipping Sparrow:** TL 5 Nov (CD); SL 26-29 Nov (RH), late. **Field Sparrow:** last Terry Mt 10 Oct (CH). **Savannah Sparrow:** feeding newly fledged young SL 10 Sep (TD); two SL 1 Nov (RH), late. **Fox Sparrow:** arr Plattsburgh 1 Oct (CM), early; also Elizabethtown, SL, TL, Wadhams, last Etown 15 Nov (MG), a good showing over a lengthy migration. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** max eight Elizabethtown 7 Oct (MG). **White-crowned Sparrow:** SL 29 Sep-9 Oct; TL 4-16 Oct, only reports. **Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco:** near L. Colby, FRAN 1 Oct (TD). **Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco:** 32 banded Elizabethtown 22 Oct (J&SP); 100+ feeding on small white moths on TL forest floor 28 Oct (JDD). **Lapland Longspur:** three North Farm Rd, CLIN 9 Nov (BK)-12 (J&RH), an excellent find. **Snow Bunting:** arr 20 Malone 30 Oct (HM); max 75 Hopkinton 14 Nov; others at Four Bros. 5 Nov (RM); Crown Point; Essex; Mineville; Speculator; TL; and Westport, suggesting a good winter ahead. **Red-winged Blackbird:** Nov sightings from Elizabethtown, Inlet, Keene, L. Durant, and TL, involving a total of 18 birds were exceptionally late. **E. Meadowlark:** Schuyler Falls 3 Nov (C&JH); Northway Exit 38 on 14 Nov (CM), both late. **Rusty Blackbird:** max 24 PtR 2 Oct (TH,HK,BK), where present 27 Sep-10 Oct (J&RH); also SL 9 Oct (TD). **Com. Grackle:** three TL 9 Nov; Elizabethtown 15 Nov; TL 29 Nov, all late. **Brown-headed Cowbird:** four TL 13 Nov; Inlet 16 Nov; four Keene 25 Nov, also late interior dates. **Pine Grosbeak:** arr eight Clinton Comm. College 20 Nov (J&RH); followed by Inlet, Keene, and SL-TL sightings. **Purple Finch:** three TL 30 Sep; two TL 25 Oct; Wadhams 25 Nov, or just one sighting per month. **House Finch:** TL feeder 27 Oct; transient male Elizabethtown feeder 15 Nov. **crossbill (sp.):** 12 Inlet 26 Nov, only report. **Com. Redpoll:** *intro*; arr

Hogansburg, Lake Placid, Plattsburgh, TL 12 Nov; subsequent sightings MRRA, SL, and Wadhams, suggesting a good winter. **Pine Siskin:** one Wadhams feeder; six Spruce Hill, Keene 4 Nov, only reports. **Am. Goldfinch:** 29 Elizabethtown 4 Sep-11 Nov; feeding begging yg TL feeder 10 Nov (CD). **Evening Grosbeak:** max 25 TL 5-6 Nov; only other reports from Elizabethtown.

Exotic: Chukar: one Willsboro feeder 26 Oct-4 Nov; two more at former missile base during same period (Henrietta Connor), origin unknown.

Addenda: Canada Goose: three with neck collars Westport Sep 1994 (MG,JP,DS), had been banded near Barnegat NWR, NJ Mar 1993 and Feb 1994; two with collars APt Oct 1994 banded PA Feb 1991 and MD Feb 1993. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** one Cumberland Bay 27 Jul 1995 (J&RH), 2nd Clinton Co. and 3rd regional record.

Discovery Farm, RR 1, Box 230, Elizabethtown, NY 12932