

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Snow, rain, and a late spring combined for a season of grounded migrants and a host of Regional rarities. A 5"-10" snowstorm on 8 March was the first meaningful accumulation in two months. The second half of the month was generally fair and cool, marred only by light wet snow, drizzle, and rain 20-21 March. Temperatures reached the 60's on 25 March, accompanied by thunderstorms across Clinton Co., but a series of clear nights provided striking views of Comet Hyakutake, with the added bonus of a lunar eclipse 3 April. Easter snows began 7 Apr, with 7" at Loon Lake 8 Apr, and continued through 10 April. After a 10" snowfall on Whiteface Mountain 17 Apr, a spring thaw began the next day, with Plattsburgh reaching 71°F on the 19th and Inlet in the 70's by Earth Day.

The melting snowpack and spring rains added to lake levels already high from the January thaw and flood. By 6 May, Lake Champlain stood at a near-record 100.12'. The Crown Point banding station opened 10 May on a weekend marked by rain and even snow on Mother's Day, with Inlet receiving 6" from the storm! Continued adverse conditions and the late spring contributed to some spectacular migrant fall-outs in the Champlain Valley. The season closed with Champlain at an even 100 feet, flurries at Lyon Mt. and the Champlain Valley on 29 May, and the last inch of snow falling on Long Lake 30 May! A total of 207 species was reported, up from 192 in '95, but short of the 216 in spring 1993.

Regional rarities included a grebe at Raquette Lake identified as **Clark's Grebe**, which, if approved by NYSARC, would be an addition to the NY State checklist, a Glossy Ibis and **Eurasian Wigeon** at Chazy River landing, **Little Gull** at Crown Point and **Thayer's Gull** at Lake Flower, **White-eyed Vireo** at Ray Brook, Connecticut Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow at Crown Point, and **LeConte's Sparrow** at Inlet. Birds like Great and Snowy egrets, Barrow's Goldeneye, Western and White-rumped sandpipers, Wilson's Phalarope, Caspian and Black terns, Bohemian Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Hoary Redpoll had to be content with spots on the second team in this remarkable season.

Winter visitants were in no rush to leave. Bohemian Waxwing lingered at Beekmantown to 20 Apr and Wadhams to 21 April. The last Northern Shrike reported was at Point au Roche 6 April. Common Redpoll stayed even later: Keene 2 May, Everton Falls 6 May, Inlet 8 May, Newcomb 11 May, and the last seen by Hollis White at Hogansburg and Charlcie Delehanty at Tupper Lake on 13 May. The last Hoary Redpoll was near Elizabethtown on 17 April.

The banding station at Crown Point State Historic Site, open from 10-27 May, managed to double the 20-year record of 853 individuals set in 1993 with an overwhelming 1,706 birds banded, including 22 different warbler species. The cold rains and snow of the first weekend grounded the 173 mostly adult male Yellow-rumped Warblers banded on Mother's Day and another 128 the next day. The second weekend began slowly, with warm south winds 18 May, followed by a major evening storm. Sunday the 19th was a lovely, hot day with a dozen warbler species banded fun in the sun. NOAA weather radio issued a special bulletin at 3 a.m. on the 20th of severe thunderstorms to the north, headed east across Clinton County, although Crown Point saw only heat lightning, strong winds, and warm (70's) temperatures. Despite a hazy, hot morning and sunny, hotter afternoon, Mike Peterson and Bob Wei banded 326 birds, including

16 species of warblers. A group of visiting British birders also spotted a **Connecticut Warbler** at midday. But the really BIG DAY was Tuesday, 21 May. With some of the 18 nets never opened and others furled early, Bob and Mike banded 349 birds (18 warbler species), with migrants dripping from the hawthorns. By the next day there were far fewer catches due to sunny, breezy conditions and many departed migrants, but still lots of female Yellow-rumped Warblers in the thickets. A singing male **Clay-colored Sparrow** found by Dan Nickerson was soon banded and released. By the final weekend, days were hot and banding had slowed. An adult male Sharp-shinned Hawk on 26 May was species # 70 for the season. Not only did some 30 species manage to break 20-year records, but many did so resoundingly. Other species of interest seen, but not banded, at Crown Point included Brant, late Greater and Lesser scaup, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Bald Eagle, Wild Turkey, **Little Gull**, Black Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Both Blue-winged and Golden-winged warbler type songs were heard.

Other noteworthy spring hotspots included the Chazy River landing area of eastern Clinton Co. and the Tupper Lake municipal park in southern Franklin County. These featured wading birds, waterfowl, and shorebirds for the most part, and passerines may have largely followed the Champlain Valley, since Delehanty had only eight warbler species at Tupper Lake by the end of May. The 20-21 May fallout also arrived on Monday-Tuesday, weekdays, which may explain why the event was noticed only near Crown Point peninsula. Heading the all-star line-up of spring birds was the lovely **Clark's Grebe** on Raquette Lake, first spotted by Derek and Pam Trivill of London, England on 13 May and located independently by Tom Dudones on 14 May at the outlet just north of the Route 28 bridge. [Ed: This congener of the Western Grebe is not on the NY State checklist and such status depends on NYSARC action.]

High Peaks Audubon, in cooperation with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, has color-banded 500 young Ring-billed Gulls from the Four Brothers Islands colony as part of a filtration avoidance plan for reservoirs serving the City and Westchester County. The gulls wear a numbered yellow plastic band on the right tarsus and metal USF&WS band on the left. Please report sightings, with the black-on-yellow band number, if possible, to wildlife manager John M.C. Peterson (address above, or telephone 518-873-2052). Note that the gulls are presently in immature, 1st-winter plumage.

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Abbreviations: AP-Ausable Point WMA; CP-Crown Point peninsula; CR - between the Chazy & Little Chazy Rivers; FB-Ferd's Bog; MRRA-Moose River Recreational Area; RB-Ray Brook; TL-Tupper Lake; TLP-Tupper Lake municipal park.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Horned Grebe:** TL 16 & 26 Apr (CD), unusual inland. **Red-necked Grebe:** record max 32 Port Henry 18 Apr (RM,JP); TL same day and Raquette Pd 11 May (CD), highly unusual inland. **CLARK'S GREBE:** 13 May Raquette L (D&PT, TD!), NYSARC), *intro*. **Double-crested Cormorant:** six flying over Raquette Pd 26 Apr (CD); six TLP 13 May (TD), unexpected inland. **Great Blue Heron:** Webb Royce Swamp heronry abandoned after Osprey pr usurped nest in middle of colony after their old nest tree came down. **Great Egret:** CR 29 Apr (Mr. & Mrs. Gravelle). **Snowy Egret:** CR & Riley Ck 4 - 31 May (WK, CM,GR); one CLIN 11 May (BB,AK), probably same bird. **GLOSSY IBIS:** CR 24 May (WK). **Tundra Swan:** imm CR 2 May (WK), a good find. **Mute Swan:** two Raquette R open water 3 Apr, later seen TL marsh (CD), may not be feral escapes from L. Champlain, although one at CP was probably from the three that wintered at McNeil Cove, VT, and these could be the missing two. **Snow Goose:** max 5,000 CR 1 Apr (WK). **Brant:** max 300 flying under CP bridge 20 May (DM); 200 Limekiln Rd 24 May (GL), also high; last among Canada Geese over CP 27 May (GL,JP). **Green-winged Teal:** L Durant and Seventh L 11 May (GL), a good inland find. **N. Pintail:** TL 18 Apr (CD), only report. **Blue-winged Teal:** pr TLP 29 May (TD). **Gadwall:** two TL 6 Apr (CD), a good find. **EURASIAN WIGEON:** CR 7 and 13 May (J&RH), the first in many years. **Am. Wigeon:** CLIN 22 Mar and pr AP 25 Apr, rather expected; but TL 16 Apr (TD) and 22 Apr (CD) a real prize. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 150 TL 3 Apr (TD), with 118 still there on Raquette R 6 Apr (CD). **Greater Scaup:** three Port Henry 18 Apr and nearby CP from 10 May, with record late drake last seen 24 May

(DN,RW); also inland at TL 7 Apr (TD) - 26 Apr (CD). **Lesser Scaup**: CP 11 May, with Greater. **Oldsquaw**: late drake CP swimming under CP bridge 16 May (SR). **Surf Scoter**: hen Cumberland Head 8 May (WK), only spring CLIN record. **White-winged Scoter**: TLP 23 Apr (CD); Cumberland Head ferry 11 May (H& RB); 13 headed s. CP 10 May; one CP 11 May (JP); last 25 headed n. CP 24 May (DN,JP,RW), an extremely good spring showing. **Com. Goldeneye**: max 400 Bulwagga Bay 18 Apr; Sunday Pd. FRAN 15 May (TD), late. **Barrow's Goldeneye**: drake AP 9 Mar (TM) 11 Mar (WK), now almost annual on L Champlain. **Red-breasted Merganser**: pr Moriah 18 Apr (RM,JP); drake and three hens Cumberland Head 26 May (WK), late CLIN by four days.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Osprey**: pr arr Webb Royce Swamp 6 Apr. in used Great Blue Heron nest by 13 Apr. female incubating to 28 Apr. **Bald Eagle**: at least three ads. & one imm TL area 11 Mar-26 Apr; AP 28 Mar; imm Wadhams 5 Apr harrassed by ravens; migrant Paul Smiths 1 May; late migrant immatures over CP 22 & 24 May. **Peregrine Falcon**: Apr-May reports from vicinity of known eyries in Chesterfield, Elizabethtown, Keene, Moriah, Westport, Willsboro, and Wilmington. **Wild Turkey**: reports from CP, Keene, TL, and Westport. **Virginia Rail**: TL marsh 11 May; RB marsh 19 May. Sora: L Alice 23 Apr (WK), early. **Com. Moorhen**: CLIN 5 May (WK). **Black-bellied Plover**: CR 24 - 31 May (H&RB, WK,CM); record max 30 on 24 May. **Am. Golden-Plover**: CR 26 May (WK,CM). **Semipalmated Plover**: CR 24-27 May, with record max 40+ on 26 May (WK,CM); four TLP 29 May (TD), rare inland. **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr AP 13-14 Apr (RM); two TLP 6 May, one 11 May (CD). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: TLP 27 Apr & 6 May (CD). **Solitary Sandpiper**: CP 11 & 14 May; 2 NCCC pond 18 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: TLP 17 May, with max 30 there 29 May (TD). **Western Sandpiper**: three TLP 29 May, an outstanding find. **Least Sandpiper**: two TL 5 May; max five TL 15 May (CD). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: TLP 29 May (TD), another great park bird. **Dunlin**: CR 24-31 May, with max 19 on 27 May (WK,CM); two TLP 29 May (TD). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: CR 24-31 May; max 34 there on 24 May (H&RB,WK,CM). **Com. Snipe**: arr L Alice 27 Mar (H&RB), early CLIN by 8 days. **Wilson's Phalarope**: male arr CR breeding grounds 8 May (WK), early by two days; two birds present on 26-27 May (WK,CM). **LITTLE GULL**: one with five Bonaparte's CP 15 May (GH,JP), first spring record. **Bonaparte's Gull**: TLP 23 Apr (TD) and 6 May (CD); max 15 CP 18 May (JP). **THAYER'S GULL**: 2nd yr L Flower, ESSE & FRAN, 26 Mar-1 Apr (TD, D&JW!); last seen 6 p.m. in snow squall on ice at boat launch;

if accepted by NYSARC this would be the first accepted Regional record. **Caspian Tern:** CR 2 May (WK), seven days early CLIN record and an excellent find. **Com. Tern:** max 9 CR 21 May (WK,CM). **Black Tern:** three flying s. Bulwagga Bay 11 May (JP); CR 20-31 May provides hope of nesting.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo:** CP 23-27 May (JPRW). **Barred Owl:** frequented TL feeder 12 Mar - 8 Apr. **Com. Nighthawk:** CP 21 May (DN), only report. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** chasing Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Pileated Woodpecker from its Keene sap wells 27 May!

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 2 banded CP 20-21 May; on territory MRRA 26 May. "**Traill's**" **Flycatcher:** 25 banded CP 16-25 May. **Least Flycatcher:** 40 banded CP 16-25 May. **E. Kingbird:** max 14 CP 11 May (J&PT). **Purple Martin:** two TL 11 May (CD), first ever seen there by experienced observer. **Tree Swallow:** 75 Raquette Pd 11 May, but only one TL nestbox active. **Bank Swallow:** Rugar Woods 1 May (WK), early. **Gray Jay:** one Baker feeder Saranac Inn 16 Mar (CD); FB 28 May (GL). **Com. Raven:** nesting in abandoned open pit iron mine Mineville with three yg end of May; new nest site Coon Mt May (MG). **Boreal Chickadee:** two Giant Mt 25 May. **Tufted Titmouse:** transient Elizabethtown feeder 17 Mar; Port Henry 18 Apr & 11 May; Elizabethtown 20 Apr. **House Wren:** 7 banded CP, high. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Fish Cr campground 15 May (TD), unusual; CP 26-27 May, late. **Swainson's Thrush:** 17 banded CP 19-27 May. **N. Mockingbird:** banded CP 20 May; Saranac Lake 25 May; Port Henry 30 May. **Am. Pipit:** TLP 5-22 May: max 12 there 11 May (CD). **Bohemian Waxwing:** intro; max 100 Essex 3 Mar (RM,JP); Beekmantown 20 Apr (HK); Wadhams 21 Apr (DS). **N. Shrike:** intro.; max 3 Essex 3 Mar (RM,JP); last Pt au Roche 6 Apr (HK).

VIREOS-WARBLED: **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** singing male along RR tracks at edge of RB Swamp 25 May (TD), an exceptional find. **Blue-winged Warbler:** song type CP 19 May (G& MC,JP). **Golden-winged Warbler:** song type CP 20 May (JPRW). **Tennessee Warbler:** CP 19-22 May, narrow window. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** Round-top Mt. Keene, 28 Apr (J&PT), early. **Nashville Warbler:** 18 banded CF 13-21 May. **N. Parula:** 4 banded CP 20-22 May. **Yellow Warbler:** 83 banded CP 11-26 May, remarkable. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 9 banded CP 19-21 May.

Magnolia Warbler: 51 banded CP 12-25 May. **Cape May Warbler:** CP 12-23 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 7 banded CP 20-21 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** incredible 694 banded CP 8-26 May, only hints at the numbers grounded there. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** 7 banded CP 12-21 May. **Blackburnian Warbler:** 4 banded CP 11-21 May. **Palm Warbler:** "Yellow" Elizabethtown 20 Apr (RM,JP); "Western" CP 12-15 May (JP). **Bay-breasted Warbler:** 22 banded CP 20-21 May, extremely narrow window, but excellent numbers. **Blackpoll Warbler:** 34 banded CP 21-26 May, still present 27 May. **Black-and-white Warbler:** 4 banded CP 16-23 May. **Am. Redstart:** 36 banded CP 16-22 May. **Ovenbird:** 3 banded CP 16-19 May. **N. Waterthrush:** 25 banded CP 18-24 May, extremely high. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** CP 20 May (DM,JP et mult. al.), a first for the State Historic Site. **Mourning Warbler:** 2 banded CP 21 May, still a new record. **Com. Yellowthroat:** 65 banded CP 15-27 May, tested the skill and patience of banders. **Wilson's Warbler:** arr Fish Cr 15 May (TD); 24 banded CP 18-27 May; Keene 27 May (RM,MP), a strong and long showing. **Canada Warbler:** 5 banded CP 20-21 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 10 males and two females TL feeder 16 May (CD), but widely reported from Regional feeding stations this spring. **Indigo Bunting:** 4 banded CP 18-21 May; also widely reported at feeders during May. **E. Towhee:** TL 4 May (CD); banded CP 18 May. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** last Hogsburg 4 May (HW). **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** singing male banded CP 22 May (DN,JP,RW), where one was present 2-10 June 1995. **LECONTE'S SPARROW:** Limekiln, HAMI, 21 Apr (GL), an extraordinary find. **Fox Sparrow:** Wadhams 5 Apr (DS) to Morrisonville 4 May (PJ), with other reports from Elizabethtown, Keene, Plattsburgh, and TL. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** TL 7 May; 12 migrants banded CP 19-24 May; on territory FB 28 May. **White-crowned Sparrow:** 24 banded CP 11-20 May, an exceptional showing. **Rusty Blackbird:** FB 28 May (GL). **Baltimore Oriole:** 31 banded CF 15-26 May; feeding on orange halves TL 15 May. **Pine Grosbeak:** Corey's 6 Mar; Keene 12 Mar; TL 14 Mar; last ten Indian Lake, HAMI, 18 Mar (GL). **Purple Finch:** arr Keene 22 Apr. **Com. Redpoll:** intro.; max 150 Elizabethtown 1 Mar-18 Apr; similar max 150 Inlet 14 Mar; last Hogsburg 13 May (HW) and TL 13 May (CD), with other May feeder reports. **Hoary Redpoll:** one - two Elizabethtown 1 Mar - 17 Apr (JP); Inlet 14 Mar (GL). **Pine Siskin:** only reports from Elizabethtown, Inlet, Keene, Saranac Lake, and TL. **Am. Goldfinch:** Wadhams thru, but arr nearby Elizabethtown 5 Apr. **Evening Grosbeak:** Wadhams thru, but first banded Elizabethtown 23 Apr as breeding birds began to return.