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As meteorologists had forewarned, a storm moving up from the Gulf of Mexico collided with a Canadian cold front in early March. Nor'easter 2001 arrived 5 March at about 7 a.m., with light, dry powder snow falling at about an inch per hour. By evening, Morrisville had received 16", and the snow continued to drift down at the same rate throughout the next day, not ending until 9 p.m. on 6 March, some 37-38 hours later. Spruce Hill, between Elizabethtown and Keene, had received 37.5", with most other areas also reporting close to three feet of snowfall. Add winds gusting to 25 mph, and the drifts were often incredible. This was the greatest March snowfall on record, and third on the all-time list, surpassing even the 30" "Mother of All Storms" in March 1993. Birds were walking to hanging feeders at snow level. Following a thaw between 16-19 March, a second nor'easter arrived at 11 p.m. on the 21st, dumping another foot of wet snow across the Adirondacks by the following noon. (One can only imagine how the American Woodcock at Auger Lake on the 21st and Port Douglas on the 24th felt. Temperatures dropped to -8°F at Newcomb on the 27th, before a third nor'easter struck 30-31 March, dropping yet another foot on a snow-weary populace.

Early April saw temperatures reaching 51° at Plattsburgh by the 5th, but with the greatest amount of snow on the floor of the Champlain Valley since at least 1894. Snow cover ranged from 4.5' at Chilson, to 4' at Inlet, 3' near Elizabethtown and 2' at Ellenburg Depot, even after the thaw. The Great Chazy River reached 10.5' on 10 April, 2' above flood stage, which is 8', but most rivers remained within their banks, thanks to a drought that continued throughout the month.

By 11 May, when the Crown Point banding station opened, there had been less than 1" of rain over the previous six weeks, and Lake Champlain was finally below flood stage of 100'. Rain finally fell all day on 12 May, bringing a fallout of migrants, especially Yellow-rumped Warblers, to the Crown Point banders. Although some showers followed, May was mostly sunny and dry. On 31 May there was still snow at higher elevations, with the last frost that same day. A foot

of fresh snow had to be plowed from Whiteface Memorial Highway at month's end.

Winter finches continued their nesting activities. A female Purple Finch on Terry Mt. was carrying nesting material and engaged in chases with a female White-winged Crossbill on 19 March, the earliest NYS record of breeding activity for the former species. A pair of Red Crossbills and juvenile were at Ferd's Bog 5 May. A female White-winged Crossbill was carrying nesting material 7 March at Bloomingdale Bog, where a used nest was collected 30 March. A pair of White-winged Crossbills at Burnt Hill Road, Saranac, 16 March and others at Terry Mt. 18-24 March provided the 2nd and 3rd Breeding Bird Atlas records for Clinton County. Meanwhile, both **Northern Hawk Owls** remained into March. Nancy Olsen last saw the owl at Northway Exit 39 (which she found 13 January) on 17 March, and she was also the last to see the Bloomingdale Bog bird (present from 30 December) on 19 March.

The Crown Point banding station on the grounds of the Historic Site was open for the 26th season between 11-28 May. Some 523 individuals of 57 species were banded. Most numerous was Yellow-rumped Warbler, with 166 banded; 87 of these were netted during the fallout on rainy 12 May. A Northern Saw-whet Owl banded 20 May was netted again 27 May with a developing brood patch. On 15 May, a Pileated Woodpecker was caught in a net designed for wood warblers. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was heard singing 12 May and a second-year male was banded on 14 May. Warbler variety was good, with 16 species banded, but the fair weather kept numbers low. There were 26 returns of 12 species banded at Crown Point in previous years. Making it to an age of 8 years and 11 months were a Gray Catbird, Baltimore Oriole and American Goldfinch, while an Eastern Kingbird made it to 7 years and 11 months. Double-crested Cormorants had 24 nests by 17 May, with more added by month's end. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers had at least three territories on the Historic Site. Intrusive green ash that are choking out the hawthorn groves were flagged for winter removal in hopes of maintaining at least a small portion of the thickets in the vicinity of the net lanes. The banding station was to be featured in a *Champlain 2000* segment on WCAX-TV Plattsburgh, as well as in a film to be aired by *National Geographic Today* on the Society's new satellite channel.

Regionally, a total of just 193 species was reported, up from last year's 181, but again less than the more expected 200+. Given the fair weather in April and May, plus Atlas 2000 activity, one would expect greater variety. But there were some noteworthy sightings, including 2 **Glossy Ibises** feeding in a flooded field along North Farm Road, Chazy, 18 April. New DEC potholes created along Riley Brook near Monty Bay had a **Wilson's Phalarope** 4 May and **five Hudsonian Godwits** the next day. The productive Chazy Riverlands had a **Marbled Godwit** on the Gravelle Farm 6 May and on the neighboring Laurin Farm 8 May.

Even with the record snows, Atlas observers continued to make exciting discoveries, with more to come.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt WMA; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Pt SHS; CR – Chazy Rivers; EH – Essex Harbor; FB – Ferd's Bog; SLB – Silver Lake Bog; SPB – Spring Pd Bog; SR – Saranac Ri; TL – Tupper L; WM – Wickham Marsh WMA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Pied-billed Grebe: AP 8-9 Apr (J&RH, NO); TL 21 Apr (CD), first seen there "in years."

Red-necked Grebe: Valcour 19 May (GW), late.

Double-crested Cormorant: 24 nests CP 15 May (J&SP), more added by season's end.

GLOSSY IBIS: 2 North Farm Rd, Chazy 18 Apr (MH), 5th CLIN record & same location where seen 21 Apr 1993 (BK, CM).

Turkey Vulture: TL 5 Mar (CD); Peru 14 Mar (GW), early.

Snow Goose: max 4500 CR 29 Mar (DH); 90 BB 1 Apr (LM), included 1 "Blue."

Brant: night migrants over CP 12 May (GL).

Mute Swan: 2 AP 9 Apr (NO).

Gadwall: 6 EH 6 Apr (JP, J&PT); 2 SR 6 Apr (NO), scarce here.

Am. Wigeon: AP 5-9 Apr (NO); CR 18 Apr (MH), also scarce.

N. Shoveler: arr AP 4 Apr (JC); pair SR

5 Apr (NO); 5 EH 6 Apr (JP, J&PT) ties ESSE max; ~20 CR 27 Apr (J&RH), a strong showing.

Green-winged Teal: max 11 EH 6 Apr; pair Keene Valley 4 May, unexpected Atlas Probable (J&PT).

Redhead: CR 15 Apr; pair there 21-26 Apr (BK, CM).

Ring-necked Duck: 27 EH 6 Apr; max 30 AP 9 Apr (NO).

Red-breasted Merganser: SR 2 Apr (J&RH); 4 EH 6 Apr (JP, J&PT); pair CH 15-30 Apr (BK); pair WM 20 Apr (JL); good numbers.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: ad & imm Inlet 9 Mar (GL); 5 TL 24 Mar (CD), on deer carcass; pair + 1, 2, & 3 yr olds Oseetah L 25 Mar (LL); one tried to take Canada Goose TL 24 Apr but fighting goose was dropped; also regular along Champlain into May.

Golden Eagle: found near death Hope Falls HAMI in Dec, rehabilitated, banded & released there Apr, tracked to lower Hudson Bay, Canada (MG).

Merlin: TL 17 Apr (RK), took Mourning Dove; Merrill 7 May (CH).

Peregrine Falcon: pairs Jay & Wilmington eyries 21 Mar (LL, MBW); Exit 31 Northway 6 May (MM); headed north CP 15 May (GH, JP, RW).

Ring-necked Pheasant: survived snows Chateaugay, Elizabethtown, Oregon Plains, Plattsburgh.

Spruce Grouse: hen SPB May (JO).

Semipalmated Plover: Riley Brook 10 May (BK), good in spring.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr TL 4 May (CD); max 8 TL 5 May (RH); CP 17 May (GL, J&SP).

Solitary Sandpiper: Keene Valley 18 May (J&PT), unusual inland.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: 5 Riley Brook DEC potholes 5 May (J&RH), 5th CLIN & Reg record.

MARbled GODWIT: Gravelle Farm CR 6 May (J&RH); Laurin Farm CR 8 May (BK, CM), *raddica* call heard, 2nd CLIN & Reg record.

Dunlin: 3 CR 13-15 Apr (BK, CM), early CLIN.

Am. Woodcock: arr Auger L 21 Mar (JC); Port Douglas 24 Mar (CH), despite snow depth!

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Riley Brook potholes 4 May (JC).

Com. Tern: pair CR 23 Apr-8 May (BK, CM).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: CP 17-22 May (GL, J&SP), only report.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: The Gulf 26 May (J&RH), a good find.

N. HAWK OWL: Exit 39 Northway to 17 Mar (NO); BB to 19 Mar (NO); owl at latter site mobbed by Com. Raven, Black-capped & Boreal chickadees, White-winged Crossbill 7 Mar (MB, GH).

Short-eared Owl: pair Essex 17 Apr (CS), doing display flights & locking talons.

N. Saw-whet Owl: banded CP 20 May (JP,DT), retrapped 27 May with developing brood patch; others heard Chilson, Inlet, Peru, Rand Hill, TL.

Com. Nighthawk: Miner Inst 24 May (NO), only report.

Three-toed Woodpecker: FB only reported location.

Black-backed Woodpecker: pair Terry Mt (E&HF), a good find; 4 others in known locales.

Pileated Woodpecker: banded CP 15 May (GH, GL, JP), noisy.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: banded CP 28 May.

N. Shrike: Inlet to 25 Mar (GL).

Yellow-throated Vireo: CLIN 2 May(J&RH); Chateaugay 6 May (MH); CP 23 May (JP, RW); an excellent showing for this local breeding rarity.

Gray Jay: pair BB 4 Mar (DW) *nest-building*, carrying twigs into black spruce; on same nest BB 28 Mar (DW), apparently unobserved by host of birders intent on N. Hawk Owl.

Am. Crow: carrying grasses L Placid 1 Apr (LM); 1 TL 6 Apr (CD) had been banded & wing-tagged (#31) Ithaca TOMP 13 Mar as part of West Nile Virus study (KM); feeding yg Plattsburgh 27 Apr (BK, CM).

Com. Raven: AP 24 Apr (BK), increasingly regular along lakeshore.

Horned Lark: max 200 Chazy 29 Mar (DH).

Boreal Chickadee: 4 reports, known locations.

Tufted Titmouse: Elizabethtown, Rugar Woods, Wadhams, Willsboro; a good showing.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: AP 2 May (MW); 5 on 3 territories CP 18 May (TB).

N. Mockingbird: Plattsburgh Mar (CM); CP 15 May (GL, J&SP), banded.

Am. Pipit: arr Chazy 29 Mar (DH);

Marcy Field 4 May (J&PT); max 10 TL 4 May (CD).

Bohemian Waxwing: Rt 22 CLIN 2 Mar (J&RH); flock Plattsburgh 20 Mar (CM); max 70 Chateaugay 22 Mar (MH); 6 Rand Hill 25 Mar; CH 9 Apr (NO), following winter absence.

Cedar Waxwing: max 30 Plattsburgh 24-25 Mar (NO), scarce after winter invasion.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: CP 12 May; banded CP 14 May (GH, GL, JP), 4th ESSE record, all CP.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 166 banded CP, 87 of those during 12 May fallout.

Palm Warbler: max 6 migrants WM 2 May (GW); "Western" banded CP 16 May; 5 territories of "Yellow" SPB 23 May (GL).

Bay-breasted Warbler: early transient banded CP 12 May; Bigelow Rd 17 May (MG), may have been on territory, but no details received.

Louisiana Waterthrush: singing male Big Brook, Willsboro 6 May (MM), good Atlas find.

Wilson's Warbler: transient CP 19 May (J&PT), only report.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr Keene 22 Apr 1999, 21 Apr 2000, 20 Apr 2001 (*fide* J&PT); global warming?

Lincoln's Sparrow: 7 banded CP 12-21 May.

Rusty Blackbird: transient AP 2 May (MW).

Purple Finch: fem Terry Mt 19 Mar (E&HF), carrying nesting material & engaged in chases with fem White-winged Crossbill, for earliest NYS probable breeding record [Bull & Meade provide dates of 13 May for eggs, 2 Jun for nestlings]; regionally more abundant thereafter.

Red Crossbill: pair & juv FB 5 May (WL).

White-winged Crossbill: fem BB 7 Mar (MB, GH), carrying nesting material; pair Burnt Hill Rd, Saranac 16 Mar, 2nd CLIN Atlas record (CH); Terry Mt 18-24 Mar, 3rd CLIN record (EF, CH); used nest left by predator collected BB 30 Mar (LM); FB 26 Apr (LH); 3-4000' Whiteface Mt 1 May (NO); plus other reports.

Pine Siskin: West Chazy in jack pine barrens 22 Apr (KA); Bear Pd HAMI 3 May (GL), with fledged yg; FB 5 May (WL); Willsboro Bay 5 May, with flight song & nest-building Noblewood P 6 May (MM).

Evening Grosbeak: flocks of 10-20 reported, plus returning pairs at feeders by Apr.

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