

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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In contrast to last year's wet weather, this summer was extremely hot and dry, with conditions rivaling the drought of '99. Although the western Adirondacks saw sporadic rainfall and a few downpours, most of the Champlain Valley and Adirondack transition on the eastern slopes of the High Peaks remained parched. A 12-14 June hot spell was followed by another from 25 June that saw Plattsburgh reach 90°F for the first time on the 27th. Inlet touched a low of 38° on 2 July, and, while 6" of rain fell there between 22 and 23 July, Plattsburgh was contrastingly sunny and in the 80°s on the 22nd, climbing into the 90°s the following day. In that city it was the 2nd driest July on record, with just 0.77" of rain (normal July rainfall in Plattsburgh is 3.52"). Early August continued sunny and hot, with thermometers reaching 93° at Plattsburgh on the 2nd and a sweltering 97° at Inlet the same day. Spectacular lightning storms, but little rain, moved across on the evening of 7 August, following a day that reached 95°. On 9 August Plattsburgh reached a

record 99°, the tenth day of the summer in the nineties. In spite of isolated light showers on the 16th, by 17 August most of the Region had seen no rain for 38 days and annual rainfall was running 7.37" below normal. Finally, at season's end, much of the area received a brief drenching from passing thunderstorms on the 28th. Champlain stood just above the 94' level, exposing many mudflats. Perhaps the most notable natural event, undoubtedly a by-product of the bumper mast crop in Fall 2000, was the *Peromyscus* rodent invasion of rural homes. A resultant invasion by winter raptors would be most welcome.

The new Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program conducted a census on 130 Adirondack lakes and ponds (not all in Region 7) on 21 July, counting 392 Common Loons (306 adults, 6 immatures, 59 chicks, 21 flying overhead). Contaminant sampling and banding was conducted in August, with 26 of the 30 captured receiving bands (four chicks were too small to band). Of the 126 Adirondack loons now color-banded since 1998, 42 returned this year, most on the territories where originally captured, but some on other bodies of water in the Park.

A record *nine* species of colonial waterbirds nested on Four Brothers. Since High Peaks Audubon assumed management in 1982, the original four species (Black-crowned Night-Heron and three gulls) have been joined by Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, **Great Egret**, Cattle Egret and **Glossy Ibis**. A total of 1220 birds was banded on 9 June: 47 Double-crested Cormorants, 40 Black-crowned Night-Herons, 1100 Ring-billed Gulls (1000 chicks + 100 color-banded adults) and 33 Herring Gulls. The 2001 census counted 2437 cormorant nests, up significantly from 1346 last summer and 1372 the previous year. One of the adults was apparently banded on Young Island, Vermont, suggesting that control operations there may simply be forcing birds to relocate over into NYS waters.

Six eaglets fledged from the eight known Bald Eagle nest sites. In Franklin County, one Brighton nest was apparently unoccupied and another there failed; Franklin fledged two young; no birds were on two nests in Harriestown, but a third fledged two eagles. The Santa Clara nest also failed. In Hamilton County, a nest in the Town of Long Lake fledged two more.

Peregrine Falcons enjoyed an even more productive season. The 17 active eyries, now in three counties, fledged a total of 20 birds and tied the record set in 1999, also a drought year. In Clinton County, one Black Brook nest fledged two, another nest one, while the Champlain site had a single adult. In Essex County, 13 eyries produced 17 young: two Chesterfield sites (pair at one, two fledged at the other), two Elizabethtown sites (one fledged, single adult at the other), Jay (three fledged), three Keene sites (three and two chicks fledged, adult at the third), Moriah (two fledged), North Elba (one fledged), two Westport sites (two fledged, territorial pair at the other) and Willsboro (one fledged). The Crown Point and Wilmington sites were inactive. In Franklin County, the sole site had only a single adult.

Rare transients included a **Greater Scaup** on Lake Algonquin 23 July, a **Whimbrel** at the Ausable River delta 7 August, single **White-rumped Sandpipers** at the Chazy riverlands 9 June and – most surprisingly – on a man-made pond at Inlet 29 July and three southbound **Pomarine Jaegers** passing Point au Roche 13

and 15 July. With only a sampling of Atlas reports available at season's end, noteworthy breeding birds included an Essex County **Sedge Wren** at Bloomingdale Bog, St. Armand, 2-18 June and an adult male second-generation backcross "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** found along the Trout River, Town of Moira, Franklin County, on 5 July.

By summer's close, a total of 187 species plus a hybrid had been reported, an improvement over 182 species the previous summer (and well above the 165 in 1999, just prior to the Atlas). The goal, of course, is to at least match the 202 *breeding* birds (179 Confirmed) recorded in Region 7 during the 1980-1985 Atlas project. But we're getting there, thanks to a great team.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CR – Chazy Rivers; FB – Ferd's Bog; FBI – Four Brothers Islands; LA – Lake Alice WMA; NP – Noblewood Park; PARC – former Plattsburgh AFB; PtR – Point au Roche SP; SLB – Silver Lake Bog; SPB – Spring Pond Bog; TL – Tupper Lake.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 392 on 130 Adirondack Park lakes & pds 21 Jul (ACLP), included 306 ads, 6 imm, 59 chicks, 21 flyovers; 42 previously color-banded ads returned, most where originally captured; *NB:* includes records from outside Reg 7. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 2437 nests (457 ground nests 1 "C") FBI 9 Jun, 47 banded.

Am. Bittern: 9 Atlas Notable Species Forms filed.

Least Bittern: 2 Black Bk North Hudson 12 Jun (AP), excellent Atlas find.

Great Blue Heron: 7 nests FBI "D" 9

Jun; 11 nests Murphy L HAMI heronry 20 Jun (DC, LK); 47 nests Moriah ESSE heronry 27 Jul (AP).

GREAT EGRET: ad FBI "B" 9 Jun; Trout Ri Moira FRAN 5 Jul (DN, JP).

Cattle Egret: 7 ads FBI "B" 9 Jun.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 40 banded FBI "B" & "D" 9 Jun; fratricide noted.

GLOSSY IBIS: ad FBI "B" 9 Jun; ad CR 7 Jul (BK, CM).

Turkey Vulture: 1 *hawking insects* TL municipal park 24 Jul (CD), "making great sweeping arcs close to the ground."

Canada Goose: gosling FBI "B" 9 Jun;

26 headed n. Keene 4 Jun (J&PT); many Atlas reports.

N. Shoveler: LA 18 Jul (NO), excellent Atlas find.

GREATER SCAUP: L Algonquin Wells 23 Jul (DC, LS), rare summer transient.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 6 FL from 3 of 8 known FRAN & HAMI nests (5 active); imm Westville 3 Jul (DN, JP), headed n. into Québec; 1-2 TL (SD).

N. Harrier: 10 Atlas Notable Species Forms filed.

Merlin: Keene 16 Jun (J&PT); nest with yg Elizabethtown 5 Jul (KG), nested Golden Beach campground; Sagamore (GL); Keeseville 6 Aug (DR); Champlain 9 Aug (SA).

Peregrine Falcon: 20 FL (3 CLIN, 17 ESSE) from 17 active eyries; The Gulf CLIN 1 Jun (J&RH); Plattsburgh Jul (NS); encouraging.

Ring-necked Pheasant: chicks Chateaugay 22 Jun (MH); male escorting ~15 yg Peru 30 Jun (EF); rare breeder here, although stocked annually.

Spruce Grouse: SPB 2 Jun (GL) & 9 Jul (WL); only reports received.

Wild Turkey: droppings Rondeau's Cold R hermitage (*fide* WB); 5 TL feeder (CD), now tame.

Virginia Rail: chicks Crown Pt 4 Jul (AP), Ticonderoga 29 Jul (SS), LA 3 Aug (NO), with other records from CLIN, ESSE, FRAN, a strong Atlas advance.

Am. Coot: CR 24 Jun (SJ, BK), a good Atlas find here.

Black-bellied Plover: CR 16 Jun (BK, CM), late CLIN.

Semipalmated Plover: last 7 CR 9 Jun (BK, CM); arr NP 23 Aug (MM).

Greater Yellowlegs: last 9 CR 9 Jun; arr 2 CR 7 Jul (BK, CM); NP 24 Aug (MM).

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 9 CR 7 Jul; max 15 CR 16 Jul (BK, CM).

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Burke &

Westville FRAN 3 Jul (DN, JP); Shanty Bk marsh HAMI 20 Jul (DC, LK); Mud Pd Outlet HAMI 9 Aug (SI, JP); a good showing from obscure areas.

Upland Sandpiper: Champlain 24 Jun (SA, RW), *only* report.

WHIMBREL: Ausable R delta 7 Aug (J&RH), an excellent accidental here.

Ruddy Turnstone: Wilcox Dock Plattsburgh 28 Jul (J&RH); NP 24 Aug (MM).

Sanderling: arr NP 23 Aug; max 3 there 24 Aug (MM).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 4 Westville 5 Jul (DN, JP); max 10 NP 21 Aug (MM).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: CR 9 Jun (BK, CM), late CLIN; Inlet 29 Jul (GL), 1st HAMI record; excellent finds.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr 3 NP 21 Aug; NP 23 Aug (MM); scarce transient here.

POMARINE JAEGER: lt phase PtR 13 Jul; 2 PtR 15 Jul (DH), southbound on L Champlain.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 9 midlake CLIN 15-16 Jul (DH); max 230 NP 21 Aug (MM).

Ring-billed Gull: 1000 chicks banded, 100 ads color-banded FBI 9 Jun.

Herring Gull: 33 chicks banded FBI 9 Jun.

Caspian Tern: CR 16 Jun (BK, CM), a good sighting.

Com. Tern: family group 2 ads, 2 imm CR 7 Jul; 5 ads, 3 imm there 10 Jul (BK, CM); max 12 NP 21 Aug, new ESSE record; 8 there 23 Aug (MM).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: Banker Rd 28 Jul (BK, CM), late CLIN; other Atlas reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 2 reports The Gulf & Moriah noteworthy.

E. Screech-Owl: 1-2 calling TL 10 Aug (JD), unexpected locale.

N. Saw-whet Owl: juv Furnace Bk CLIN (EF).

Com. Nighthawk: Peru 20 Jun (EF); TL 13 Jun-19 Jul (CD); only reports.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 in hot pursuit of male N. Cardinal Westport 25 Aug (SS).

Black-backed Woodpecker: nest with yg L Colden Jun (J&PT), plus other Atlas records.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: BB, Elk Pass, Giant, Scott Pd, SPB, many other Atlas locales.

Willow Flycatcher: FY Banker Rd 25 Jul (BK), first confirmed CLIN breeding.

Loggerhead Shrike: 2 Long L HAMI 21 Jul (JC!), NYSARC report submitted.

Yellow-throated Vireo: singing Crown Pt 23 May-18 Jun (AP); LA 6 Jul (NO), scarce here.

Philadelphia Vireo: Lewis Jul (DN); Saranac L Jul (TM), good observations.

Gray Jay: BB, FB, Madawaska, SPB, other Atlas areas, some ads with yg.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: nest in shale crevices FBI “A” 9 Jun.

Barn Swallow: 4 nests on shale ledges FBI “A” 9 Jun.

Boreal Chickadee: BB, FB, Helldiver Pd, Hurricane Mt, other Atlas areas.

SEDGE WREN: singing male BB St. Armand ESSE 2 Jun (WL) to 18 Jun (BM), rare here.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CR 12 Jun (BK), only report.

Bicknell’s Thrush: defending territory ~2900’ Scott Pd trail 14 Jul (J&PT), near-record low altitude; also reports from the Dixes, Jay Mt, Lyon Mt, Macomb, other peaks.

N. Mockingbird: Plattsburgh 7 Jul (NO); Peru 17 Jul (CH); PARC 11 Aug (NO), all CLIN.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: The Gulf 8 Jun (J&RH), should be more.

“BREWSTER’S” WARBLER: ad male

Trout Ri Moira FRAN 5 Jul (DN, JP), a lovely bird.

Tennessee Warbler: Sabattis 20 Jun (BP); “numerous” SLB 12 Aug (DR); 4 CLIN Atlas blocks (J&RH), only hint at what should be found.

Cape May Warbler: male Upper Works trail to L Jenny 16 Jun (J&PT); L Lila 24 Jun (JC); Elizabethtown 5 Jul (KG); good finds but still not confirmed breeding.

“Yellow” Palm Warbler: SPB 2 Jun (GL), feeding yg, only report.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Clinton SF 25 Jul (GW), apparently 3rd NYS Jul migrant.

Blackpoll Warbler: singing male 1600’ Jay Mt beaver dam 8 Jul (DN), near-record low altitude; Jay Mt summit, Dix, Giant, Whiteface mts, trail to Lost Pds, HAMI, and other high-elevation sites.

Louisiana Waterthrush: singing male Doyle Bk & N Branch Boquet R ESSE 7 Jun (JP, AP); 2 pr Dry Mill Cr CLIN 10 Jun (BK, CM, GW); Black Bk N Hudson ESSE 26 Jun (AP); an excellent showing.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Miner CLIN 30 Jun (NO, MS); Jay ESSE Jul (MK); n. FRAN Atlas blocks.

Red Crossbill: Peru 6 Jun (EF), only report.

White-winged Crossbill: 3 ESSE Atlas blocks 18-28 Jun (AP), only reports.

Pine Siskin: pr & FL Trout Pd Rd ESSE 7 Jun (JP, AP), feeding on hemlock; begging FL Elizabethtown 13 Jun (JP); 5 other ESSE Atlas blocks Jun (AP).

Evening Grosbeak: 5 Atlas blocks ESSE Jun (AP); TL 15 Jun (CD); Inlet mid-late Aug (GL), feeding on wild cherries.

ADDENDUM

Blue-winged Warbler: Willsboro 20 May 2001 (MM), 5th ESSE record and 1st away from Crown Pt State Historic Site.

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