

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The drought continued through autumn. September was warmer and drier than normal, with Plattsburgh reaching 85°F on the 7th and Morrisonville at 80° on the 10th, the seventh day to reach into the eighties. A week of lovely days followed. Finally, on 20 September the first steady rain in months fell during the evening. Month's end was cooler, with Saranac Lake dropping to 28° on the 27th, followed by a high of just 54° at Plattsburgh the next day, and Saranac Lake back down to 24° on the 30th.

Half of the days in early October saw temperatures in the 70's, and on the 14th a 20-acre forest fire broke out on Sunrise Mountain, between Whiteface and Lake Placid. Light snow began to fall in Saranac Lake on the evening of the 17th, and by the next morning the mountains were snow-covered. By the end of the month, this was declared the third driest year on record. There were a number of window strikes by Ruffed Grouse attracted to feeders by the absence of wild food.

On 13 November, Saranac Lake dropped to 5°, but throughout the month there were 16 days that reached 50° or higher. On 24 November for example, the high of 52° was 12 degrees above normal, and the next day Plattsburgh reached 67° amid rain and 45 mph winds. By the end of the month, annual precipitation was only 21.60", compared to the average 31.92", or more than 10" below normal. Lake Champlain stood at an extremely low 93.61'. The mice didn't mind, with 53 *Peromyscus* trapped in one farmhouse since mid-July. Perhaps the most interesting mammalian observation, however, involved bats. Debbie and Ed Kanze of Bloomingdale, Essex County, noted a Red Bat flying in daylight 3 November. At the time there was no snow cover and insects were still out, given the warm fall temperatures. These migratory bats should have been gone by October, so reports of several half-hardy bird species were perhaps not unexpected.

Double-crested Cormorants first nested on Four Brothers in 1984, and since the first nestling was banded in 1989, a total of 423 have left the islands wearing bands. On 2 September, the ninth recovery was made when a cormorant was caught by or due to entanglement in fishing gear at Currituck Sound, North Carolina, and released alive, the band removed. This bird had been banded 10 June 2000 by High Peaks Audubon Society. Except for one Mississippi recovery, all have been Atlantic coastal encounters: 2 Virginia, 3 North Carolina and 3 Florida, between 14 August and 18 February.

David Hoag estimated 45,000 Snow Geese at Point au Roche SP on the early morning of 25 October, "...larger than anything I've witnessed in Addison, Vermont, in its good years." This provides a new state maximum (spring or fall) for this attractive goose. Ring-necked Ducks were also noted in locally strong numbers, with 400 on Chasm Lake, 312 on Moody Pond and 150 on Hadley Pond, with the lake in Clinton County, while the ponds are on opposite sides of Essex County.

Shorebird variety, at just 13 species, was not great, given the amount of shoreline habitat available, but perhaps observers were busy with their Atlas 2000 records. The six larid species, however, included a **Laughing Gull**, only the 2nd record for the Region and Essex County. Warbler variety was also low at only 13 species. There were six reports of Bohemian Waxwings after the first arrived at Lake Placid 12 November, with the largest flock of 50 at Webb Royce Swamp on the 16th.

By season's end, an invasion of both Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls was underway, and Evening Grosbeaks were noted in larger flocks than those seen in recent years. Numbers of Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches began to thin, however, as the season progressed. Last winter's crossbill invasion was coming to an end, with no reports of Red Crossbill. Given the lack of a cone crop this fall, the few White-winged Crossbills were forced into feeders at Elizabethtown, Newcomb, Plattsburgh and Tupper Lake between 22 October and 29 November. The only similar appearance at Regional feeders took place following the Great Ice Storm of 1998.

A total of 156 species was reported, an improvement over last year's 143, but still well down from 171 in the Fall 1999 report, before the commencement of Atlas 2000. Perhaps if observers complete and submit their Annual Summary Forms by the deadline of **September 15th**, they'll have more time to devote to shorebirds and warblers in Fall 2002. One can only hope.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt WMA; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Pt peninsula; CR – Chazy Rivers; FBI – Four Brothers islands; KB – King's Bay; NP – Noblewood P; PtR – Point au Roche SP; TL – Tupper Lake; WB – Whallon's Bay; WM – Wickham Marsh; WRS – Webb Royce Swamp.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 3 CH 26 Oct thru (MD); 2 Mooney Bay 17 Nov (J&RH).

Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 AP 4 Oct (NO); 4 AP 8 Oct (J&RH).

Horned Grebe: arr WB 26 Oct (DN); max 14 AP 12 Nov (J&RH).

Red-necked Grebe: arr 2 NP 26 Oct (DN); WB 16 Nov (JP, J&PT)

Double-crested Cormorant: Currituck Sound, NC, 2 Sep, banded FBI 10 Jun 2000 (JP); Moody Pd “7-10 days” Sep (CD); Beaver L HAMI, Sep (GL), far inland.

Great Egret: 3 Ticonderoga ferry 4 Sep (SS); Scotion Cr 25 Sep (J&RH, NO).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: juv KB 5 Sep; 2 juvs KB 13 Sep (BK, CM), uncommon.

Snow Goose: arr 100+ CR 27 Sep (NO); max 45,000 PtR 25 Oct (DH); new NYS spring & fall, Reg 7, CLIN maxima; numerous other reports.

Canada Goose: arr 100s Westport 8 Sep (J&SP); “Richardson’s” race PtR 22 Sep (BK) & 30 Sep (DH); max 400 WM 22 Oct (DCR).

Brant: TL mun park 14-16 Oct (CD); Keene 16 Nov (RM), in country club swimming pool, taken to Ray Brook for rehab (NS).

Mute Swan: 2 AP 12 Nov (J&RH); 2 WM 14-16 Nov (PB, DR); AP 25 Nov (DCR).

Blue-winged Teal: CR 27 Sep (NO), only report.

Redhead: 10 WM 22 Oct (DCR), new ESSE max.

Ring-necked Duck: max 400 Chasm L CLIN, 29 Oct (NO); max 312 Moody Pd 6 Nov (HK), ESSE record; 150 Hadley Pd ESSE, 12 Nov (DR), excellent numbers.

White-winged Scoter: 15 NP 26 Oct (DN), nice find in a lovely new birding area.

Long-tailed Duck: CH 20 Oct (BK), only sighting.

Bufflehead: arr 15 WM 22 Oct (DCR);

max 50 Westport 16 Nov (JP, J&PT).

Com. Goldeneye: arr 2 WM 11 Nov; max 45 WM 17 Nov (DCR).

Hooded Merganser: reports from AP, Barber Pd, Fern L, Hadley Pd, NP, Westport, WM; a strong showing.

Red-breasted Merganser: NP & WM 26 Oct (DN); hen Essex 16 Nov (JP, J&PT), good finds.

Ruddy Duck: 6 WM 22 Oct (DCR), new ESSE max.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 1 Ticonderoga, 2 Ti ferry 4 Sep (SS); 1-2 TL Sep-Oct (CD), only reports.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr WB 2 Nov (J&PT), numerous thereafter.

Golden Eagle: imm Coon Mt 3 Nov (J&PT), migrant.

Peregrine Falcon: imm Keene 1 Sep (J&PT); Crown Pt Bridge Oct (VT RBA).

Ring-necked Pheasant: CH 28 Sep (NO), 1st in 20 yrs; TL 10 Oct (CD); 3 PtR 29 Nov (NO).

Ruffed Grouse: male Elizabethtown 28 Sep (JP), killed striking picture window; same farmhouse 17 Oct, another smashed out storm door. Delicious.

Wild Turkey: 15 Elizabethtown 13 Sep (JP); hen Ticonderoga 22 Oct (SS); Wadhams Nov (SJS); max 32 Inlet 22 Nov (GL); now “barnyard fowl” TL feeders (CD).

Com. Moorhen: juv CR 5 Sep (BK); CR 24 Sep (BK, CM); AP 4 Oct (NO), uncommon here.

Am. Coot: AP 4 Oct & 2 Nov (NO), only sightings.

Black-bellied Plover: arr KB 5 Sep (BK, CM); NP 19 Oct (JP, J&PT); PtR 22 Oct (J&RH).

Semipalmated Plover: 4 KB 10 Sep (BK); Long L 18 Oct (PG), 2nd HAMI record; last CLIN 22 Oct (J&RH).

Greater Yellowlegs: max 7 KB 10 Sep (BK); Long L 18 Oct (PG), 3rd HAMI record; CLIN 22 Oct (J&RH); 6 NP 26

Oct (DN).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 KB 10 Sep (BK); last NP 26 Oct (DN).

Sanderling: 6 NP 22 Sep (J&PT), also site of only Aug reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 12 KB 18 Sep (BK, CM), only report.

Least Sandpiper: CLIN 4 Sep (J&RH), only report.

Baird's Sandpiper: KB 10 Sep (BK), always a good find.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 KB 10 Sep (BK); max 19 KB 7 Oct (BK, CM); last NP 26 Oct (DN).

Dunlin: arr Plattsburgh Bay 23 Sep (BK, CM); max 7 NP 26 Oct (DN).

Com. Snipe: max 12 KB 18 Sep (BK, CM); 6 AP 12 Nov (JH), late.

jaeger sp.: small, trim ad midlake CLIN 25 Sep (DH), Long-tailed?

LAUGHING GULL: FBI 4 Nov (DM, JM, RM), typical half-cap winter plumage, 2nd Reg & ESSE record.

Little Gull: CLIN 19-21 Oct, 25 Oct (DH), flew back & forth across NY-VT line; ad CH 20 Oct (BK, CM).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 400 Port Kent 26 Oct (DCR), with 6 other reports from NP, Westport, WM 22 Sep-16 Nov.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 24 NP 19 Oct (JP, J&PT).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: Chateaugay 12 Nov (MB); Stafford Dr, PtR 26 Nov (J&RH, HK).

Black-backed Woodpecker: 4,100' Hough Mt 23 Sep (NO); L Placid 9 Nov (BM); fem Long L 16 Nov (JC).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: arr Miner Inst 29 Oct (NO).

Blue-headed Vireo: US 9 south 16 Oct (BK), late CLIN.

Gray Jay: BB 9 Oct (G&JA) & 22 Nov (WL); Long L early Nov (GL); FB 10 Nov (JC) & 16 Nov (JN), a good showing.

Com. Raven: 8 Hurricane Mt 16 Oct (KH), doing display flights.

Horned Lark: 3 Lyon Mt 1 Oct (NO), feeding on grit & seeds 3830' elevation; FBI "C" 4 Nov (DM, JM, RM), unexpected locales.

Black-capped Chickadee: Wadhams 18 Nov (SJS), captured & eaten by red squirrel at feeder.

Boreal Chickadee: BB; Hurricane Mt; Kempshall Mt; L Placid; McComb Mt; Pine Orchard, T Wells HAMI; Second Brother; Slide Mt; an excellent showing.

Tufted Titmouse: AP; Chilson; Rt 22 CLIN; Cook Mt; Newcomb (!); Port Kent; Rugar Woods; TL (!); WM; another excellent showing.

House Wren: Treadwell Bay 16 Oct (BK), late CLIN.

Marsh Wren: AP 27 Sep (BK, CM), only report.

E. Bluebird: max 25-50 Keene 11 Oct (G&JA); 30 AP 2 Nov (NO); others at Hadley Pd, Ticonderoga, Wadhams, Westport suggest abundance.

Gray-checked Thrush: Rand Hill 13 Oct (J&RH), an excellent find.

N. Mockingbird: pr PARC 20 Oct (NO); Plattsburgh Nov (H&RB), eating holly berries.

Eur. Starling: max 600 WM 22 Oct (DCR).

Am. Pipit: max 36 KB 18 Sep (BK, CM); last 12 KB 3 Oct (J&RH).

Bohemian Waxwing: arr L Placid 12 Nov (LM); 14 Paul Smiths 13 Nov (TM); max 50 WRS 16 Nov (JP, J&PT); 15 Keene Valley 16 Nov (RM); 4 Plattsburgh 18 Nov (J&RH); 24 Saranac L Nov (DK); suggestive of a good coming winter, if food supplies last.

WARBLERS

Pine Warbler: Peru 14 Oct (GW), late CLIN.

Palm Warbler: Plattsburgh 5 Oct (J&RH), only report.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 2nd & 3rd Brothers 7 Sep (J&PT), only report.

Ovenbird: max 8 Hadley Pd 1 Sep

(DCR), unusual.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: PtR 8 Oct (BK) & 10 Oct (E&HF), only reports.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Essex 2 Nov (J&PT); max 35-50 AP 20 Nov (JP, J&PT).

Field Sparrow: PtR 17 Oct (BK), only report.

Savannah Sparrow: WRS 19 Oct (JP, J&PT); apparent western subsp. Essex 21 Oct (J&PT).

Fox Sparrow: 1-6 TL 23 Oct-12 Nov (CD), only report.

Dark-eyed Junco: Keene 20 Oct (J&PT), all white tail.

Snow Bunting: arr 20 Miner Inst 30 Sep (NO); max 100 FBI 4 Nov (DM, JM, RM); 15 Cedar R Rd & 15 Indian L 17 Nov (DS), new max HAMI; others at Essex & Wadhams, a promising start.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Peru 19 Sep (GW), late CLIN.

Rusty Blackbird: 1 WRS 16 Nov (JP, J&PT) with flock of 50 Bohemian Waxwings.

Com. Grackle: max 125 TL 9 Sep (CD), ties FRAN record set by same observer at TL 2-3 Oct 1999.

Pine Grosbeak: arr 3 Forest Home Rd FRAN 4 Nov; max 24 Keene 18 Nov (J&PT); with other reports from AP, BB, CH, Elizabethtown, Inlet, Keene Valley, Keeseville, L Placid, Peru, Saranac L, Speculator, TL, Valcour, Westport, only a

hint of numbers undoubtedly present.

Purple Finch: scarce after Oct.

White-winged Crossbill: Newcomb feeder 22 Oct (AF); CH feeder 7-12 Nov (NO); 3 Plattsburgh yard 10 Nov (H&RB), feeding on birch buds; 6 Elizabethtown feeder 27-29 Nov (JP), 5 banded; other reports from BB, Rt 22 CLIN, L Placid in Nov.

Com. Redpoll: arr 8 Hadley Pd 28 Oct (DCR); widespread Nov; max 40 SLB 12 Nov (DCR).

Pine Siskin: max 50-70 L Placid feeder Sep (LM); numbers declined Oct-Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: max 20 Keene 3 Nov (J&PT); 18 Elizabethtown 16 Nov (JP), but Oct-Nov reports of “lots” & “large flock(s)” from Essex, FB, L Placid, Newcomb.

ADDENDUM

Blue-winged Warbler: CH 14-20 Aug 2001 (BK).

CORRIGENDUM

Golden Eagle: fem found near death Hope Falls HAMI, 23 Dec 2000 rehabilitated Northville, Bronx Zoo & Delaware Valley Raptor Ctr, PA, banded & released Hope Falls 29 Mar 2001, tracked by satellite transmitter to Canada 8 Apr, continued through Québec, then east to Labrador (MG).

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