

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Much of early September was sunny and lovely, with Plattsburgh experiencing a high of 83°F on the 15th. The remnants of Hurricane Isabel arrived on 19 September, with winds to 35 mph (plus SE gusts to 60 mph) and waves to 8 ft. on Lake Champlain. There were a few downed trees, a hundred people lost power, the Whiteface Mt. Memorial Highway was closed and there were several periods of intense rain during evening hours. The rest of the month was warm, with all-day rain on the 28th. Although 4 October saw a 51° high at Plattsburgh, there was snow at higher elevations that day. November saw more rain and snow, with over 1" of rain between 2-4 November and a 14" snowfall at Inlet on the 14th. Elizabethtown had only a dusting on the same day, although the higher elevations of the Jay Range were white.

As usual, most of the considerable variety in waterfowl and shorebirds came from the Champlain shore of eastern Clinton and Essex counties. This fall, however, the two western counties also made a few notable contributions. Hamilton County had an American Wigeon at Mud Lake, Surf Scoters on Lake Abanakee, a flock of Black Scoters on Long Lake, two Long-tailed Ducks and a Ruddy Duck on Abanakee and four not-so-Solitary Sandpipers along Mud Lake. Meanwhile, Franklin County had 30 Brant grazing in the Tupper Lake municipal park, a Lesser Scaup on Raquette Pond, late Red-breasted Mergansers at Lake Colby, a flock of 70 Killdeer in the Tupper Lake park in November and a **Red-necked Phalarope** swimming in the middle of Middle Saranac Lake. Sometimes life is good.

Once again, we owe a considerable debt to the dedicated lakewatchers in Vermont – Dave Hoag, Ted Murin and friends – for spotting pelagic birds in NYS waters of Lake Champlain. This year's highlights, detailed in the species accounts, included a **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** in the wake of Hurricane Isabel, three juvenile **Northern Gannets**, two juvenile **Parasitic Jaegers** and an adult and four juvenile (1st winter) **Black-legged Kittiwakes**. Perhaps next fall, observers might attempt similar efforts from Cumberland Head and Split Rock Point, communicating with the Grand Isle and Thompson's Point, Vermont, lakewatches on the opposite shores via sport radios.

Other rarities included a male **Dickcissel** among House Sparrows along Napper Road south of Westport and a pair of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** at Point au Fer. Note also the six reports of leucistic birds; seek and ye shall find. The total of 172 species reported broke the 1999 fall record, and is a considerable improvement over last year's 152 species. With the Fall Departure report now discontinued, the possibility also exists that observers failed to mention encounters with some common birds, especially passerines. We urge birders to continue to submit the Spring Arrival report. In closing, we also ask that Atlas

2000 volunteers mark 15 September on their 2004 calendars as the final deadline for submission of all Annual Summary, Casual Observation and Notable Species forms. The project coordinator and your regional coordinator thank you in advance for your cooperation!

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt WMA; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Pt; CR – Chazy Ri; FB – Ferd’s Bog; LL – Long L; NP – Noblewood Pk; PtF – Point au Fer; PtR – Point au Roche SP; SB – Sabattis Bog; SRP – Split Rock Pt; TL – Tupper L; WB – Whallons Bay; WM – Wickham Marsh.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: thousands CR-Rouses Pt 5-16 Nov (JP,UW); tens of thousands headed s. Wadhams 22 Nov (SS).

Canada Goose: leucistic goose Ausable Chasm 14 Oct (DR), dirty white with black bill, slightly whiter cheek patch; “Richardson’s” race PtR 1 Nov (SJ, BK).

Brant: arr 3-4 AP 26-27 Oct (BK, DR); 30 TL mun pk 2-7 Nov (CD), feeding on grass; Peru 17 Nov (EF), late CLIN.

Gadwall: drake Peru 4-7 Oct (EF).

Am. Wigeon: Mud L 9 Sep (GD), 2nd HAMI record.

Mallard: leucistic hen Mirror L 5 Nov (LL).

Blue-winged Teal: 3 Raquette Ri, TL 25 Oct (CD), only report.

Green-winged Teal: 15 L Alice 2 Oct

(NO), only report.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 WM 27 Oct (DR); 2 L Abanakee 7 Nov (M&WM); max 300 Highlands Forge L 27 Nov (DR), but see Fall 2002 numbers on same small lake.

Greater Scaup: 1100+ off WM 27 Oct-5 Nov (JP,DR).

Lesser Scaup: Raquette Pd 30 Aug-11 Oct (CD), always near shore.

Surf Scoter: 2 1st winter L Abanakee 7 Nov (M&WM), first HAMI report since Eaton!

White-winged Scoter: hen Westport 8 Nov (SO), a good find.

Black Scoter: 15-18 LL 24-25 Oct (BB, JC), record max HAMI.

scoter sp.: 12 Mirror L 3 Nov (LM)

Long-tailed Duck: 2 drakes, 1 hen PtR 1

Nov (SJ,BC); 2 juv L Abanakee 7 Nov (M&WM); max 7 Plattsburgh 15-22 Nov (J&RH, BK); a fine showing.

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 L Colby 23 Nov (CD, TD, RH), late inland.

Ruddy Duck: Mud L 9 Sep (GD), 1st HAMI record.

pheasant sp.: completely white-plumaged bird with red face Auger L woodlot Oct (*fide* JH), albino/leucistic Ring-necked?

Pied-billed Grebe: max 40 CR 13 Oct (AD), a remarkable number there.

Horned Grebe: arr 4 CH 26 Oct (NO).

Red-necked Grebe: arr 1-2 AP 24-28 Oct (BK, CK, DR), also WM & Plattsburgh to 16 Nov.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL: headed nnw toward Four Bros ~10:15 am 21 Sep (TM), sighted off Charlotte Town Beach, VT, after passage of Hurricane Isabel, 1st Reg 7 & ESSE record.

N. GANNET: juv n. of SRP 6 Nov (DG, DL, TM) heading e. 6:50 am before continuing southbound; juv n. of SRP 22 Nov (RL, TM, JO) heading s. past lighthouse 8:30 am; juv flying s. in both CLIN & VT waters off CH 2:20 pm Nov 24 (DH), 1st CLIN record; outstanding!

Great Egret: AP 22 Sep (CM), fairly late.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: widely reported from AP, LL, L Placid, Raquette L, TL, WM.

Red-shouldered Hawk: CP 6 Nov (BM), only report.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr CH 24 Oct (BK).

Golden Eagle: ad CP 6 Nov (BM), always a good find.

Am. Kestrel: AP 21 Sep (DR), catching dragonflies.

Merlin: Essex 20 Sep (J&PT); AP 21 Sep (DR), catching dragonflies; CH 10 Oct (BK).

Peregrine Falcon: AP 21 Sep (DR), not catching dragonflies; female NP 17 Oct (J&PT), flushing “peeps” and chasing Buffleheads & Bonaparte’s Gulls.

Am. Coot: 2 Plattsburgh 3 Nov (BK, CM), a good find.

Black-bellied Plover: 2 AP 24 Oct (BK, CM); last AP 6 Nov (BK).

Am. Golden-Plover: AP 11 Sep (J&RH); 4 CR 13 Sep (BK, CM).

plover sp.: many large plovers CR 13 Oct (AD).

Semipalmated Plover: 3 NP 7 Sep (J&PT); 2 CR 10 Sep (BK, CM); AP 11 Sep (J&RH); 2 Kings Bay 1 Oct (BK); a good showing.

Killdeer: max 70 TL 2 Nov (CD), a dozen still there 6 Nov.

Greater Yellowlegs: Essex field 20 Sep (J&PT); 7 AP 26 Oct (DR); last AP 4 Nov (BK).

Lesser Yellowlegs: NP 7 Sep (J&PT); AP 11 Sep (J&RH); max 28 CR 13 Sep (SJ, BK).

Solitary Sandpiper: 4 Mud L 10 Sep (GD), record max HAMI.

Spotted Sandpiper: Cedar L 11 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

Ruddy Turnstone: AP 26 Oct (DR), only report.

Red Knot: NP 5 Sep (P&PW), late ESSE, all prior county records 27-31 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: NP 7 Sep (J&PT); CR 10 Sep (BK, CM); only reports.

Least Sandpiper: NP 7 Sep (J&PT); 6 CR 10 Sep (BK, CM); only reports.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 Gilbert Cr marina 16 Nov (BK), late CLIN.

Baird’s Sandpiper: AP 1 Sep (J&RH), another good find.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 4 CR 13 Sep (SJ, BK).

Dunlin: 3 CR 2 Oct (BK); max & last 10 PtR 1 Nov (BK, CM).

Long-billed Dowitcher: juv CR 10 Sep (BK, CM), seen & heard.

Am. Woodcock: several L Placid 5 Nov (LM), fairly late.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: basic plumage Middle Saranac L 17 Sep (NK, SM, JHP), swimming in middle of lake,

close approach by canoe, 3rd FRAN & 11th Reg record.

PARASITIC JAEGER: dark-phase juv CH 4 Sep (DH), harrying a Ring-billed Gull, later seen e. of Treadwell Bay, 1st CLIN record; juv s. of Four Bros 11 Sep (RL, TM, JO), also chasing gulls.

Little Gull: ad CH 19 Oct (BK), a good bird.

Bonaparte's Gull: 3 Raquette L 4 Sep (D&DT), late HAMI; max 200 NP 7 Sep; 30 NP 17 Oct (J&PT); 15 WM 27 Oct (DR).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: 5 SRP 22 Oct (D&RL, SS, DS, AS), ad & 4 1st winter, 3rd Reg & ESSE records and an outstanding number here.

Com. Tern: 10 NP 5 Sep (P&PW); 2 NP 7 Sep (J&PT), where there were numerous Aug sightings, including 2 ads with a begging juv, and just 5 mi. ssw Four Bros, but where the annual census is no longer conducted by High Peaks Audubon.

Black Tern: 4-5 NP 5 Sep (P&PW), always a good find.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: 2 Little Ausable R 13 Sep (DR), gray & red phases.

Snowy Owl: Plattsburgh 24 Nov (DF), found emaciated in Wal-Mart parking lot, taken to Chazy rehabilitator but died 25 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 n. FRAN Nov (MM), struck & killed by motor vehicles.

Com. Nighthawk: 2 Fish Cr FRAN 2 Sep (CD), hawking insects.

Downy Woodpecker: family 4000' Mt Marcy 2 Sep; excavating hole Weston Mt 31 Oct (J&PT).

Black-backed Woodpecker: Connery Pd, FB, Wakely Mt, usual haunts.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: PtF 17 Sep (BK, CM), late CLIN.

N. Shrike: arr Inlet 14 Nov (GL); Webb Royce Swamp 27 Nov (DR).

Philadelphia Vireo: NP 20 Sep (J&PT), only report.

Red-eyed Vireo: CH 7 Oct (CM), late CLIN.

Gray Jay: FB, Pillsbury Mt, Raquette L, SB, usual haunts.

Blue Jay: 10 AP 21 Sep (DR), flycatching small moths.

Am. Crow: leucistic (white wings) L Placid to Sep (AH).

Tree Swallow: 3 over Marcy Field, Keene 2 Nov (J&PT), "No peachy rump patch to make them Cave Swallows." Previous ESSE departure date 17 Oct 1979.

Boreal Chickadee: BB, Blue Mt, FB, Hanging Spear Falls, LL, Pillsbury Mt, Slide, Yard Mt, usual haunts.

Tufted Titmouse: max 4 Plattsburgh 6 Oct (BK, CM).

Carolina Wren: CH 24-29 Sep (NO), only report.

Bicknell's Thrush: 6 Blue Mt 17 Sep (JC); last Wakely Mt 10 Oct (GD).

Am. Pipit: arr CR 13 Sep (SJ, BK); Peru 20 Sep (EF); 5 Connery Pd 6 Oct (WL); Inlet 13 Oct (GL), 5th HAMI record; max 60 Marcy Field, Keene 2 Nov (J&PT), with many Am. Robins.

WARBLERS

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Rand Hill 6 Nov (J&RH), record late Reg & CLIN.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Keene 2 Nov (J&PT), fairly late at higher elevation.

Palm Warbler: last CH 8 Oct (BK, CM).

Blackpoll Warbler: Rand Hill 18 Oct (J&RH), record late Reg & CLIN.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 6 Keene 2 Nov (J&PT).

Chipping Sparrow: Elizabethtown 3 Nov (JP); L Abanakee 7 Nov (M&WM), late.

Field Sparrow: TL 3 Nov (CD); L Abanakee 7 Nov (M&WM); Keeseville 8 Nov (JL), late.

Vesper Sparrow: 5 TL 4 Nov (CD), late.

Fox Sparrow: arr at 2900' on Weston Mt 31 Oct (J&PT); max 10 TL 4 Nov (CD);

Ray Brook 6 Nov (LL).

White-crowned Sparrow: arr TL 4 Oct-6 Nov (CD); Keene 5 Oct (J&PT); Inlet 13 Oct (GL); Westport 17 Oct (J&PT); L Abanakee 7 Nov (M&WM); a good showing.

Snow Bunting: arr 22 TL 4 Nov (CD) & 7 Paul Smiths same day (BM); max 140 L Abanakee 7 Dec (M&WM).

DICKCISSEL: male Napper Rd Westport 8 Nov (SO), with House Sparrows, 5th ESSE & 6th Reg record.

Red-winged Blackbird: leucistic male PtF 12 Oct (BK, CM), usual black body and red epaulet outlined in yellow, but crown, face & chin white with a few black splotches and a reddish wash around the dark bill and eyes, rear crown black with a few white spots, two irregular white bars flecked with black on nape.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: pr PtF 18 Sep (GP), 2nd CLIN record.

Rusty Blackbird: 4 L Abanakee 3 Oct (MM), only report.

Baltimore Oriole: Saranac L feeder mid-Nov (*fide* CD), late.

Pine Grosbeak: arr 5 overhead Nun-da-ga-o Ridge 31 Oct (J&PT), promising.

Purple Finch: only reports Paul Smiths & TL.

Pine Siskin: few L Placid early fall (LM); 6 WB 8 Nov (SO); max 25 TL 24 Nov (CD).

Am. Goldfinch: many late Oct-Nov; max 50-100 L Placid (LM); leucistic goldfinch Paul Smiths 13-14 Nov (BM), mostly white with yellow blush on head & neck, black primaries & rectrices.

Evening Grosbeak: max 30 Inlet 16 Nov (GL); other reports from FB, Keeseville, LL, TL.