

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Early March was relatively warm, with daytime highs in the 40s before dropping to a low of 17°F on St. Patrick's Day, then rising to a high of 66° on the 26th. Inlet still had 6" of snow cover at month's end, while the ground was bare at lower elevations. Early April was rainy, and Champlain rose from just over 96' in mid-March to 98.44' by 7 April. April 19th was the warmest day since 18 September 2003, with a high of 81° at Plattsburgh, winds of 30 mph and 3'-6' waves on Lake Champlain. May was mostly sunny and dry, and, in spite of heavy early morning rains on both 22 and 23 May, Champlain had dropped to 97.74' by the 31st.

Migration was early, as illustrated by Turkey Vultures at Tahawus 13 March, Wawbeck 24 March, Jay 25 March and Elizabethtown 27 March. A number of Regional and county early arrival dates were set, and, in spite of few northerly cold fronts to ground migrant waves, variety was exceptionally good. Nine of the 28 warbler species arrived in April, including a **Worm-eating Warbler** found in alders along the creek at the Saranac Lake high school on 30 April by Tom Dudones.

The banding station on the grounds of the Crown Point State Historic Site was in operation for 15 days, 9-24 May, for the 29th consecutive year. A total of 575 individuals of 52 species were banded, including 16 different warblers, among them two **Blue-winged Warblers** and an Orange-crowned Warbler. There were an additional 20 returns of 11 species banded at Crown Point in previous years. This past winter's green ash thinning project had an immediate positive impact on such species as American Woodcock, Brown Thrasher and Field Sparrow, whose territories had dwindled at this Audubon Important Bird Area in recent years. The banding and educational program is now a project of the Crown Point Banding Association, the current board of High Peaks Audubon having withdrawn sponsorship after nearly three decades. Visitors this year included 15 groups of 170+ students plus 28+ adult teachers/supervisors.

Last summer and fall we commented upon the numbers of **Caspian Terns**

frequenting Noblewood Park, just five miles SSW of the Four Brothers, concluding, "Whether they constituted a tenth colonial-nesting species at Four Brothers cannot be known, The Nature Conservancy being unable to provide for new management of the colonies and the 20-year census no longer done by High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc." This spring, three **Caspian Tern** nests with eggs were located in the Ring-billed Gull colony on Island "C" of Four Brothers on 28 May, and Matt Medler continued to sight adults almost daily at Noblewood Park from 22-31 May. Medler also added to the 2003 records of Common Terns at Noblewood between 22-30 May, with 15 on 29 May. This species was also a subject of speculation last year. In addition to the terns, Medler's almost daily surveys also turned up 11 shorebird species at Noblewood Park, including 7 Whimbrel on 23 May.

At the productive area between the Chazy Rivers, Suzy Johnson, Bill Krueger, Charlie Mitchell and the Booths were having similar success, with sightings of **Caspian**, Common, Arctic and Black terns. The two **Caspian Terns** seen there 11-25 May, probably originate on Young (*aka* South Sister) Island, VT, where they nested in 2000 and returned twice, but without results, while the Common Terns near Chazy undoubtedly originate from the 130 nests this year on Popasquash and Rock Islands, VT – across Lake Champlain from the Chazy riverlands, but some 40 miles NNE of Noblewood Park. These observers also located at least nine shorebird species, including 100+ Dunlin and three Short-billed Dowitchers 23 May, plus a late **Eurasian Wigeon** the following day.

Other notable finds included a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** along the Boquet River found by the Medlers and a male Wilson's Warbler singing and chasing a Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat at Bloomingdale Bog, St. Armand, Essex County, located by Larry Master on 29 May. A total of 207 species was reported, short of the 1997 record of 219, but still a fine showing.

Birds of Hamilton County, New York (1st Ed., 2004, 36 pp.), and accompanying *Birding Trail Map* by John M.C. Peterson & Gary N. Lee are now available free upon request from Hamilton County Tourism [P.O. Box 771, Indian Lake, NY 12842 / 1-800-648-5239]. Write or call for your copies today! The book lists 238 species, while the detailed county map provides written suggestions on "Where to Find Birds" for a dozen noted birding sites.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt WMA; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CP – Crown Point SHS; CR – Chazy Ri; FB – Ferd's Bog; IL – Indian L; LL – Long L; NP – Noblewood Park; PtR – Pt au Roche SP; SL – Saranac L; TL – Tupper L.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1000s heard over LL, L Placid, SL night of 25 Mar (JC, BM, L&PO).

Canada Goose: "Richardson's" CR 22 Apr (BK); 35 CP 19 May (GH, JP), fairly late.

Brant: CR 22 Apr (BK), early CLIN.

Gadwall: drake CP 13 May (J&SP), only report.

EURASIAN WIGEON: CR 24 May (BK), late.

N. Pintail: arr 2 AP 30 Mar (DR); pr L Adirondack HAMI 17 Apr (MM).

Green-winged Teal: arr L Abanakee 10 Apr (JE, MM), early HAMI; drake & 2 hens there 12 Apr (MM).

Canvasback: hen AP 5 Apr (DR), only report.

Ring-necked Duck: max 45 L Abanakee 10 Apr (JE, MM), HAMI record.

Greater Scaup: arr AP 5 Apr (DR); L Abanakee 10 Apr (JE, MM), early HAMI; SL 1 May (TD); pr CP 13 May (J&SP); 4 pr CR 24 May (BK), late.

Lesser Scaup: arr pr Essex 22 Mar (DR); drake CR 24 May (BK), late.

Long-tailed Duck: pr L Snow 17 Apr (MM), only report.

Bufflehead: arr 10 L Abanakee 10 Apr (JE, MM), early HAMI.

Com. Goldeneye: 15 NP 28 May (MM), late for a flock.

Barrow's Goldeneye: CH 20 Mar (J&RH), always a good find.

Ruddy Duck: subad drake Essex 22 Mar (DR), rare there.

Red-necked Grebe: 2 CH 14 Apr (MD), paddling north.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 4 AP 24 Mar (J&RH), early; Ausable Forks 28 Apr (PO); 250 CP 13 May (J&SP), but no nests; Blue Mt 16 May (JC); 20 Auger Pd 29 May (GH).

Great Blue Heron: NP late May (MM), carrying nesting material to Four Brothers colony.

Great Egret: NP 28-30 May (MM), 5 mi. from historic Four Brothers colony.

Turkey Vulture: arr 2 Tahawus 13 Mar (LL); 2 Wawbeek 24 Mar (TD); Jay 25 Mar (L&PO); Elizabethtown 27 Mar (JP), early.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 3 Oseetah L 21 Mar (LL) with NYS blue color-bands; many other reports.

Golden Eagle: ad N. Jay Rd 21 Mar flying NE; imm Jay 22 Mar vs. pr Peregrine Falcons; 2 subads Ausable R Jay 22 Mar (L&PO); imm Wilmington Notch 1 May (BM) attacked by Peregrines; imm CP 12 May (GH, GL, J&SP); a good showing.

Sora: CR 23 May (SJ, BK); more reports needed for Atlas.

Black-bellied Plover: arr 2 CR 13 May (BK, CM); NP 22-23 May (MM); max 12 CR 23 May (SJ, BK).

Semipalmated Plover: arr CR 11 May; 20 CR 15 May (BK, CM); max 32 NP 23 May, ESSE record; NP 28 May (MM), record late ESSE.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr CR 24 Apr (BK, CM); max 7 CR 6 May (BK); NP 22 May (MM).

Lesser Yellowlegs: CR 8 May (BK, CM), only report.

WHIMBREL: 7 NP 23 May (MM), 3rd ESSE record (last in spring 1969) and new county max.

Ruddy Turnstone: 5 NP 28 May; 4 NP 30 May (MM).

Sanderling: arr NP 15 May (MM), 1st ESSE spring record; CR 23 May (SJ, BK), 2nd CLIN spring record.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: NP 23 May; 4 NP 29 May; 2 NP 30 May (MM), late ESSE.

Least Sandpiper: arr CR 11 May; max 24+ CR 15 May (BK, CM); NP 29 May (MM).

Dunlin: arr 8 CR 6 May (BK); NP 15 May, early ESSE; 35+ NP 23 May (MM); max 100+ CR 23 May (SJ, BK).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 CR 23 May (SJ, BK), a good find.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 17 TL munic pk 12 May (CD); 3 NP 29 May; 5 NP 30 May; 7 Willsboro Bay 30 May (MM).

CASPIAN TERN: 2 CR 11-25 May (BK, CM); 2 NP 22 May (MM); 3 nests with eggs Four Brothers I "C" 28 May (DH), 1st documented Reg & ESSE nests; 1-3 NP 29-31 May (MM).

Com. Tern: arr 4 CR 11 May (BK, CM); NP 22 May; max 15 NP 29 May, ESSE maxima; 8 NP 30 May (MM), nearest known colonies are on Popasquash & Rock Is VT ~40 mi NNE of NP (Four Brothers are just 5 mi NNE of NP).

ARCTIC TERN: 2 Chazy Landing 17 May (H&RB), 2nd CLIN record.

Black Tern: 3 CR 6 May (BK), encouraging.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 11 May (GH, JP); Lost Nation Rd 17 May (BK), early CLIN.

E. Screech-Owl: McCollums 29 Mar (TD), gray-phase at noon; calling CP 10 May (GL).

Com. Nighthawk: over Plattsburgh Wal-Mart 21 May (NO); pr CH 30 May (BK), but now absent SL (TD).

Whip-poor-will: many singing Lewis 3 am 26 May (CS); also reported from CP, Peru, Trembleau Mt & Pt, Willsboro.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: Boquet R, Willsboro 30 May (DM, MM), 7th ESSE & 4th Reg during Atlas 2000.

Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: fem FB 8 May (JN ph) to 30 May (LM).

Black-backed Woodpecker: Chubb R; LL; Paul Smiths.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: Oseetah L 7 Mar (LL); imm Jay 9 Mar (L&PO); Beekmantown feeder; last SL 27 Mar (TD).

Philadelphia Vireo: singing transient male CP 11 May (JP, RW), only report.

Gray Jay: Bloomingdale feeder; BB; Bog R; Chubb R; FB; L Clear.

Am. Crow: Plattsburgh 27 Mar (J&RH), apparent case of schizochroism, black on head, back mottled brown with white, breast dark brown, undertail coverts very black.

Horned Lark: 10-20 Norman Ridge 13 Mar (TD); 7 AP 5 Apr (DR); 10 TL munic pk 20 Apr (CD).

Boreal Chickadee: Bloomingdale & LL.

Tufted Titmouse: pr Elizabethtown Mar-Apr (JP); PtR 8 May (BK, CM); CP 19-20 May (JP), only 2nd banded there.

Carolina Wren: pr Crown Pt village 2 Mar (LC), present 5 wks; Redford 15 Apr (DF).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CP 11 May (RW), only report.

Bicknell's Thrush: arr 5-6 Whiteface Mt 29 May (M&WM).

N. Mockingbird: magnificent mimic CP 11-16 May (GL, JP); less-talented m CP 19 May (JP).

Am. Pipit: arr 3 AP 5 Apr (DR); CR 6 May; max 40+ CR 11 May (BK, CM).

Bohemian Waxwing: flocks Akey Rd, CLIN, Bloomingdale, Elizabethtown, Jay, Jericho; max 50 Plattsburgh 2 Mar (EF); last Pt Kent 23 Apr (DR).

WARBLERS

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: 3 singing m CP 10 May (GL, JP, RW), 1 banded; f banded CP 12 May (JP), only 5 previous ESSE records 1981-2001.

Golden-winged Warbler: Ellenburg 18 May (J&RH), only report.

Orange-crowned Warbler: CP 10 May (JP), only 4th banded there.

Cape May Warbler: singing m Giant Mt 24 May (KA).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 127 banded CP 11-17 May (JP).

Prairie Warbler: m SL 1 May (TD); m CP 12 May (GL); excellent finds.

(“Western”) Palm Warbler: 5 banded CP 11-12 May (JP).

(“Yellow”) Palm Warbler: 2-4 singing m Paul Smiths bogs 29 Apr-29 May (BM, LM); many Bog R 8 May (JC); 3 BB & Madawaska 29 May (LM).

Bay-breasted Warbler: 2 transients banded CP 12 May (JP); singing m LL 12 May (JC); singing m Giant Mt 24 May (KA).

WORM-EATING WARBLER: SL 30 Apr (TD), in alders along creek at high school, 1st FRAN & 2nd Reg record.

Wilson's Warbler: transient banded CP 23 May (JP); singing m BB St. Armand ESSE 29 May (LM), chasing Yellow Warbler & Com. Yellowthroat, an outstanding find.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Field Sparrow: arr Plattsburgh 14 Apr (J&RH), early CLIN.

Vesper Sparrow: arr IL 16 Apr; max 12 IL 17 Apr (M&WM); 2 Elizabethtown PO 10 May (TD).

Savannah Sparrow: max 45 IL 17 Apr (M&WM).

Fox Sparrow: arr 2 LL 31 Mar (PG); 5 IL 5 Apr (DS); max 6 Pt Kent 5-11 Apr (DR); LL 13-18 Apr (JC).

Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 singing m Barnum Bog Paul Smiths 5 May (BM); FB 9 May (JN), 6 transients banded CP 11-14 May (JP).

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Jay 29 Apr (L&PO); SL 1 May (TD); Pt Kent 7 May (DR); 23 banded CP 11-15 May (JP).

Dark-eyed Junco: leucistic forehead Jay Apr (L&PO).

Lapland Longspur: 2 AP 5 Apr (DR), late CLIN.

Snow Bunting: BB 11 Mar (G,J&MT), only spring report.

Rusty Blackbird: arr IL 5 Apr (DS); TL 8 Apr; LL 10 Apr (JC); m SL 11 Apr (TD); TL 25 Apr (JC).

Purple Finch: max 66 TL 25 Apr (CD).

House Finch: arr 3 Inlet 5 Apr (GL), still uncommon HAMI.

Com. Redpoll: max 400 L Placid 8-10 Mar (LM); last 3 LL 19 Apr (JC).

Hoary Redpoll: 4 L Placid 8-10 Mar; max 7 same feeder 17 Mar (LM); LL 18 Mar; 2 same feeder 24 Mar (JC).

Pine Siskin: max 100 Berryhill Flow ESSE 18 Apr (WL), singing & feeding on hemlock cones; 44 TL feeder same day (CD).

Am. Goldfinch: many Wadhams 1 Apr (SS); 105 banded CP 10-23 May (JP), widespread.

Evening Grosbeak: max 50 Oseetah L 7 Mar (LL), others Jay, LL, Wadhams.