

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Autumn weather, commencing in September, was largely uneventful. The first frost hit Inlet on the 2nd. By early October, Lake Champlain stood at 97.02'. The coldest day in five months, since 28 April, finally arrived on 5 October. Many enjoyed a lunar eclipse on 27 October. Inlet experienced the first snowfall on 3 November, a day of 20 mph wind gusts across parts of the Region. Snow began to fall at Elizabethtown and lower elevations by 5 November, and Inlet received 2" on the 8th. The coldest morning at Inlet was 13 November, when thermometers dipped to 8° F, before a three-day warm stretch, with temperatures reaching 49° at Plattsburgh on 15 November, 48° on the 16th and 47° on the 17th. The season ended with high winds on the weekend of 27-28 November that downed trees over a wide area of the North Country.

Thanks to careful past attention to what were previously accepted as small races or subspecies of Canada Goose, a number of local observers were able to add Cackling Goose to their county and Region 7 lists as soon as the split was announced by the AOU (see *The Kingbird* 54 (3), p. 205). This fall the 7th through 9th records for Clinton County were located by Bill Krueger and Charlie Mitchell. The first Cackling Goose at Point au Roche on 14 October was smaller than the Snow Geese with which it associated, but larger than a Mallard. This "Richardson's" was shorter-necked than a Canada and had a tiny, stubby bill, its beige chest and flanks, lighter than those of a Canada, showing little contrast. One of two at Monty Bay 15 November had a white half-neck ring separating the black neck from beige chest, features of *B.h. hutchinsii*.

An earlier goose on Laurin's Farm near Chazy Rivers on 22 September was judged a "Lesser" Canada Goose, rather than a Cackling Goose. A noticeably small Canada Goose by pattern, this bird had a proportionately shorter neck and stubbier bill than any of the three Canadas with it, but was proportionately larger (especially the bill) than the "Richardson's" race described above. Krueger concluded, "I don't know whether this is *B.h. taverneri* or *B.c. parvipes*, so I have to be content with the old designation of 'Lesser' Canada Goose."

An equal challenge was posed to the same observers by an apparent hybrid Mallard at Chazy Rivers on 24 September. An all dark, nearly black dabbling duck, its head was darker than the rest, with a subtly lighter area in its cheek and a quite dark bill. There was a white patch, shaped like a rounded triangle, from the base of the foreneck to the upper chest about 3" on a side. The chest below the patch was very dark, tinged with chestnut, and showed hints of mottling. Dark scapulars gave the area usually purple in Mallard a delicately streaked look. Feet were blotchy orange and black, vocalizations those of a Mallard. Krueger concluded, "All in all, a very handsome bird. How about Northern Pintail for the other half?" Aren't waterfowl fun?

For the first time since a cleanup of PCBs 4-5 years ago, shorebirds returned to the Wilcox Dock area of Plattsburgh, and waterfowl were also present there in good numbers. As usual, other productive sites included the Chazy Rivers and Noblewood Park.

Meanwhile, the Vermont lakewatch provided new maxima for all three scoters and Long-tailed Duck in Essex County waters at Split Rock plus sightings of Parasitic Jaeger and **Long-tailed Jaeger** south of the Four Brothers in the same county.

Other rarities included a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Point au Roche, an adult **Ross's Goose** at Monty Bay, **Sandhill Cranes** in both Clinton and Essex counties, and a male **Red-bellied Woodpecker** at Noblewood Park. A total of 175 species was reported, breaking the fall record of 172 set just last autumn. Looking ahead, the Great Adirondack Birding Festival is scheduled for 2-5 June 2005, followed by the Hamilton County Birding Festival 17-19 June. Contact the Paul Smiths VIC [518-327-3000] or Hamilton County Tourism [800-648-5239] for information.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt WMA; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CB – Cumberland Bay SP; CR – Chazy Rivers; FB – Ferds Bog; IL – Indian L FRAN; LL – Long L; LP – L Placid; MB – Monty Bay; NP – Noblewood P; PtK – Port Kent; PtR – Pt au Roche SP; SRP – Split Rock Pt; TL – Tupper L; WD – Wilcox Dock; WM – Wickham Marsh.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES
GREATER WHITE-FRONTED
GOOSE: PtR 12 Nov (BK,CM), very
orange bill, probably Greenland *A.a.*
flavirostris.

Snow Goose: arr 17 CR 11 Sep (BK,CM);
max 10,000 MB 21 Nov (JH,MM);
numerous reports.
“Blue” Goose: reports from CH, Jay,
Malone rec park..

ROSS'S GOOSE: ad MB13 Nov (BK), always a good find.

Cackling Goose: PtR 14 Oct; PtR 12 Nov; 2 MB 15 Nov (BK,CM), 1 of latter apparent *B.h. hutchinsii*.

Canada Goose: thousands over Jay & LL late Sep-mid Oct, numerous reports.

"Lesser" Canada Goose: a smaller goose with 3 Canadas CR 22 Sep (BK,CM) could have been either a Cackling (*B.h. taverneri*) or Canada (*B.c. parvipes*) goose.

Mallard hybrid: CR 24 Sep (BK,CM), possible Mallard x N. Pintail.

Green-winged Teal: Mt. Van Hoevenburg 1 Oct (LM), only report.

Redhead: WD 8 Nov (BK), at site of previous PCB contamination & cleanup.

Ring-necked Duck: hundreds Miner Inst 28 Oct (NO,MS).

Greater Scaup: Plattsburgh 1 Sep (DW), early CLIN.

Lesser Scaup: sev Plattsburgh 18 Oct (J&RH).

Surf Scoter: arr 25 IL 11 Oct (JT); max 280 SRP 27 Oct (RL,TM,PR), exceptional.

White-winged Scoter: 966 SRP 27 Oct (RL,TM,PR), extraordinary.

Black Scoter: arr 3 IL 11 Oct (JT); max 4650 SRP 27 Oct (RL,TM,PR), unprecedented.

Long-tailed Duck: arr Plattsburgh 1 Sep (DW), early CLIN; max 478 SRP 1 Nov (RL,TM,PR); drake NP 7 Nov (JH,MM); 23 WD 8 Nov (BK,CM); WM 21 Nov (JH,MM); drake WD 26 Nov (NO); a superb showing.

Bufflehead: arr 33 PtK 31 Oct (DR); max 200 NP 7 Nov (MM).

Com. Goldeneye: arr 5 NP 16 Oct; max 1000 NP 21 Nov (JH,MM).

Hooded Merganser: max 152 IL-Mt View L 25 Oct (JT).

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 3 NP 7 Nov (MM); max 4 Mooney Bay 13 Nov (NO); 2 AP 18 Nov (BK,CM); a good showing.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Jay Oct (PO), riding ATV on lap & arm of driver; 2 TL

village 27 Oct (CD), crossing busy Park St.

Spruce Grouse: Vanderwacker Mt trailhead no date (BS).

Red-throated Loon: IL 11 Oct (JT), with 3 Com. Loons.

Com. Loon: max 25 WM 21 Nov (JH,MM).

Pied-billed Grebe: ad, 2 imm CR 11 Sep (BK,CM).

Horned Grebe: arr West L 13 Sep (GD); 4 PtK 31 Oct (DR); 8 NP 7 Nov (MM); NP 11 Nov (EF); Essex 14 Nov (NO); 59 WM, 17 AP 21 Nov (JH), total of 80 seen in CLIN & ESSE that day, a strong showing.

Double-crested Cormorant: Limekiln L 5 Sep (GL); Mt View L 11 Oct (JT), stayed several days, still unusual on inland lakes.

Great Egret: 2 CR 11-15 Sep (BK,CM), always welcome.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Redford 21 Nov (DF), late CLIN.

Bald Eagle: Eighth L, Jay, Newcomb, NP, PtK, Raquette Pd, Sagamore, TL Marsh.

Broad-winged Hawk: 41 Moose Ri Plains 10 Sep (GD), record max HAMI.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 47 Jay Oct (PO).

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Westport 13 Nov (WR).

Golden Eagle: imm Little Indian L mid-Oct (B&IK); ad Split Rock Mt 1 Nov (DR), dived on by Sharp-shinned Hawk & Merlin; subad Jay 1 Nov; 5 (3 ad, subad, unk) Jay 3 Nov (PO).

Peregrine Falcon: AP 27 Sep (DR); Crown Pt 3 Oct (MM), carrying avian prey; ad Willsboro Bay eyrie 15 Nov (JP); tiercel Beekmantown 17 Nov (BK,CM).

Com. Moorhen: CR 20 Sep (BK,CM), rarely reported.

Am. Coot: CR 20 Sep (BK,CM), a nice find.

SANDHILL CRANE: 2 PtR 6 Sep (BT), 2nd CLIN record; Champlain narrows s. of Ft. Ticonderoga 20 Nov (JP), flushed by Amtrak *Adirondack*, 1st ESSE & 5th Reg record and now reported from all 4 counties.

Black-bellied Plover: 2-3 MB 6-13 Oct (BK,CM); 4 PtR 18 Oct (P&LO); WD 22 Oct (BK,CM); 2 Plattsburgh 23 Oct (NO), a strong showing.

Am. Golden-Plover: 2 CR 6 Oct (BK,CM), only report.

Semipalmated Plover: WD 21 Oct (BK), 1st shorebird since PCB cleanup; Plattsburgh 22 Oct (NO).

Greater Yellowlegs: NP 8 Sep (MM); 4 CR 15 Sep (BK); Jay 30 Sep (L&PO); NP 16 Oct (JH,MM); WD 7 Nov (BK,CM).

Lesser Yellowlegs: CR 20 Sep (BK,CM), only report.

Solitary Sandpiper: 3 Jay 30 Sep (L&PO), only report.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 4 Monty Bay 15 Sep (BK); Plattsburgh 22 Oct (NO).

Western Sandpiper: Plattsburgh 7 Oct (BK), always an excellent find.

Least Sandpiper: max 21 MB 15 Sep (BK).

White-rumped Sandpiper: CR 22 Sep (BK), excellent bird.

Baird's Sandpiper: 2 CR 29 Sep (BK), late CLIN.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 CR 22 Sep; max 14 CR 21 Oct (BK).

Dunlin: 2 CR 22 Sep (BK,CM); 2-3 CB 18-21 Oct (J&RH,NO); max 46 CR 21 Oct (BK,CM); WD 9 Nov (BK); a great showing.

Wilson's Snipe: WD 23 Nov (BK,CM), late.

Parasitic Jaeger: 2 juv 6 mi. s Four Brothers 17 Sep (LH,RL,TM,JO), seen from VT.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: 5 mi. s Four Brothers 1 Sep (DH,TM), an excellent observation.

Little Gull: ad MB 7 Oct (BM), another good Champlain find.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 200 NP 24 Oct (L&PO), numerous sightings there & Westport.

Great Black-backed Gull: IL 11 Oct (JT), highly unusual inland.

Com. Tern: AP 25 Oct (BK,CM), only report.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: gray phase CH 26 Sep (SJ,BK); CH 14 Nov (SJ).

Snowy Owl: arr Malone airport c. 6 Nov (MH); Peru 26 Nov (D&RW), may bode well for winter.

Com. Nighthawk: Peru 6 Sep (EF), only report.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: m NP 16 Oct (JH,MM), 8th ESSE report.

Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: FB 18 Sep (GL); 3 [m, 2 f] FB 3 Oct (WL), family group?

Black-backed Woodpecker: BB, FB, Newcomb L, all usual locales.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Least Flycatcher: Keene 30 Sep (J&PT), late ESSE by 2 wks.

E. Kingbird: LL 3 Oct (J&PT), late HAMI; TL 3 Oct (CD), late FRAN.

N. Shrike: arr Jay 19 Oct (PO); other reports BB, Inlet, Leggett Rd CLIN.

Blue-headed Vireo: LL 17 Oct (JC), late HAMI; Plattsburgh 17 Oct (BK).

Gray Jay: BB, FB, Sagamore, Vermontville feeder, all known locations.

Com. Raven: max 40 Indian L to LL 24 Sep (JC); 22 Jay Range 1 Nov (PO), in display flights.

Horned Lark: arr L Pleasant 20 Oct (JC); Jay 22 Oct (PO); Essex 21 Nov (JH,MM).

Barn Swallow: West L 14 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

Boreal Chickadee: BB, Bigelow Rd, Blue Mt, Boreas R, FB, LL, Madawaska, Mt Van Hoevenburg, Sagamore, Wilson Pd.

Tufted Titmouse: BB, Keeseville, Newcomb, Oseetah L, Peru, Plattsburgh,

PtK, Sagamore-Uncas, TL, WD, with at least 29 individuals reported, a strong showing.

Carolina Wren: 2 Plattsburgh 18 Oct (BK); 2 CH 20 Oct-29 Nov (NO); PtK 10 Nov (DR); inside attic New Russia late Nov (ET); an outstanding season.

Marsh Wren: 2 imm CR 22 Sep (BK,CM), only report.

Veery: TL 17 Oct (CD), late FRAN.

Bicknell's Thrush: Blue Mt 10 Sep (JC).

Am. Pipit: 2 Helldiver Pd 19 Sep (WR); 10 CR 20 Sep (BK,CM); L Abanakee 21 Sep (DS); Jay 30 Sep (L&PO); more than average.

Bohemian Waxwing: arr 50 Essex 27 Oct (CS); 7 Jay 18 Nov (L&PO); welcome finds.

Cedar Waxwing: Essex 27 Oct (CS), with Bohemians; Inlet 25-27 Nov (GL).

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: Cedar L 14 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Sagamore 16 Sep (GL), 1st HAMI report.

Nashville Warbler: Wakely Mt 17 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

Blackburnian Warbler: West L 12 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

Palm Warbler: Madawaska 6 Sep (MM); NP 8 Sep (MM); BB 18 Sep (MB).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Cedar R Flow 17 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

Blackpoll Warbler: West L 15 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

Ovenbird: West L trail 12 Sep (GD), late HAMI.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr L Placid 10 Oct (LM), early ESSE.

Field Sparrow: max 10 Dannemora 16 Sep (J&RH).

Vesper Sparrow: Jay 18 Oct (PO), only report.

Fox Sparrow: arr Jay 18 Oct (L&PO); TL 28 Oct (CD); Hurricane Mt at 2500' 29 Oct (J&PT).

Song Sparrow: Inlet feeder 30 Nov (GL), late.

White-crowned Sparrow: Jay Oct (PO); Peru 11-13 Oct (EF).

Dark-eyed Junco: max 50 NP 16 Oct (JH,MM).

Snow Bunting: 4 summit 3694' Hurricane Mt 29 Oct (J&PT); Essex 21 Nov (JH,MM); 20-30 TL mun pk 27-29 Nov (CD).

N. Cardinal: Blue Mt L & Limekiln L 22 Oct (GL).

Red-winged Blackbird: 2 Inlet 21 Nov (GL), late.

Rusty Blackbird: West Canada Lks Sep (GD); Jay 30 Sep; Essex 24 Oct (L&PO); nice finds.

Pine Grosbeak: arr Inlet 25 Nov (GL).

Purple Finch: max 20 LL 3 Nov (JC); others Inlet, Keene, LP.

Red Crossbill: 8-10 Little Tupper L 27 Sep (BM), feeding on white pine.

White-winged Crossbill: BB 27 Nov (BM), only report.

Com. Redpoll: 50 LP 25 Nov (PO), only report.

Pine Siskin: max 150-200 LP feeder disappeared late Sep (LM), but 4 flocks flying SSE over LL 19-20 Oct (JC); 6 at 3000' Hurricane Mt 29 Oct (J&PT); 20 Jay 29 Oct (PO).

Am. Goldfinch: 50 LP Sep had declined to 20 by 1 Oct (LM); 20 LL 3 Nov (JC).

Evening Grosbeak: LL 11 Oct (JC) thru; max 70 Vermontville Nov (JK); others Chateaugay, Inlet, NP, Peru during Nov.