

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Inlet received 6" of snow on 3 December, and was a nipper -10°; on the 8th, but Plattsburgh was warm with 32 mph winds the same day. The ground was bare at lower elevations until 10 December, when 9" fell on Ellenburg Depot. A cold snap hit on the 20th, with Inlet -26°; in the morning, Saranac Lake only -18°; at noon, and Inlet back down to -25°; by evening, falling again to -26°; on 20 December and -25°; on the 21st. Another 6-10" of snow fell on the 27th. Most of December was dull, cloudy, and rainy, with 7.2 cm of rainfall (double the normal 3.5 cm) and the 50 cm of snow slightly above average. Temperatures were about a degree colder than usual, with nine subzero days at Inlet, and continued to yo-yo into January, with Plattsburgh a warm 60°; on 13 January and Lyon Mountain a frigid -21°; by the 18th. The remainder of the month saw subzero nights and days, with Saranac Lake recording -29°; on the 28th and Inlet -29°; and Inlet -30°; on the 28th, where there were 13 subzero days in January, seeing -30°; on the 28th. An inversion layer and smog were prevalent from 26 January until 7 February, when Plattsburgh reached a record 49°; degrees. A Nor'easter dumped 8-10" of snow on 10 February and temperatures bounced from 35°; at Plattsburgh on the 14th down to -18°; at Inlet on the 19th and -13°; at Saranac Lake on the 25th. Inlet had 11 subzero days in February, for a total of 33 days below 0°. The season closed with the impending arrival of a second Nor'easter.

The generally mild conditions early in the season led to a number of late departures, including Wood Ducks into January, a pair of Northern Pintail at Ausable Point on 24 December, a Common Loon on Long Lake on 2 December, Pied-billed Grebe at Ausable Point to 3 January, a Double-crested Cormorant at Cheever on 15 January, and five Great Blue Herons during December. Belted Kingfishers were still on the Saranac River near Saranac Lake and at Westport on 15 January, a **Hermit Thrush** was a surprise in Tupper Lake village on 16 December, and a Red-winged Blackbird lingered at Inlet from 14-15 December.

Several Carolinian species were also noteworthy during this rather mild winter. Three, perhaps even four, **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were reported from the Champlain Valley. Tufted Titmice were extremely numerous, with sightings of *at least 89* individuals only hinting at the numbers that were probably present, since half of these were found on the NYS side of the Ferrisburgh CBC (20) and within the Plattsburgh count circle (24). At least five **Carolina Wrens** were present, with reports from Essex, New Russia, Plattsburgh, and Westport, and even from the inland Goodnow Flow in extreme SW Essex County.

We commend The Nature Conservancy, owner of the Four Brothers in Essex County waters of Lake Champlain, and the Adirondack Nature Conservancy for their decision to deny permission to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to control Double-crested Cormorants on the islands this year. The proposed measures would have included disturbance, oiling of eggs, and shooting of adults. Instead, there will be a two-year moratorium on such activities

to allow the ANC and DEC to study the need and possible impacts of such measures. Since cormorants began nesting on the Four Brothers in 1984, the number of colonial waterbirds breeding on the islands has gone from four species, (three of those gulls,) to 11— and perhaps a dozen— species, including the only Great Egret, Glossy Ibis, and Caspian Tern colonies on Lake Champlain.

A total of 97 species were reported, respectable, but short of the record 109 species in Winter 2001-02. A gray-phase **Gyr Falcon** at Plattsburgh 12 February was a one-day wonder. Charlcie Delehanty and Tom Dudones located 448 individuals of 31 species on the first Tupper Lake CBC held on 18 December, with Charlcie starting things off with the rare December **Hermit Thrush**.

Contributors

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Abbreviations

AP - Ausable Pt WMA; BB - Bloomingdale Bog; CH — Cumberland Head; ECBC - Elizabethtown CBC 19 Dec; FCBC - Ferrisburgh CBC 18 Dec; LL - Long L; NP - Noblewood Pk; PCBC - Plattsburgh CBC 19 Dec; PtR - Pt au Roche SP; SLCBC - Saranac L CBC 2 Jan; TL - Tupper Lk; TLCBC - Tupper L CBC 18 Dec; WC - NYS Waterfowl Count 15-16 Jan; WD - Wilcox Dock, Plattsburgh.

WHISTLING- DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 7,000 Essex 5 Dec (DCR); 500 Inlet same day (GL); 1500 NP 12 Dec (MDM); last 2 WC, late here.
Canada Goose: red collar with white H5KO at WD 10 Dec (BK), banded St.-Paul I Emite, Quebec, on 10 Jul 02 when too young to fly.
Mute Swan: 5 Westport 26 Dec (J&PT), but only report.
Wood Duck: 2 SLCBC; WC, late.
N. Pintail: pr AP 24 Dec (DCR), late.
White-winged Scoter: 1 Willsboro Bay 15 Jan (GL,MDM,JP,RW), only report.
Black Scoter: 1 Willsboro Bay 15 Jan (GL,MDM,JP,RW), only report.

Bufflehead: max 199 WC, record number.

Barrow s Goldeneye: ad drake WD 8-13 Dec (BK,CM); ad drake Essex 12 Dec (MDM); max 4 WC.

Hooded Merganser: pr Saranac R, SL village 26 Jan (TD), record ate date.

Com. Merganser: Saranac R, SL 5 Feb (TD).

Wild Turkey: record high 41 ECBC, but 48 PCBC & 83 FCBC; Boynton Ave, Plattsburgh 8 Dec (BK), unusual in city; 19 wintered Inlet (GL).

Red-throated Loon: NP 12 Dec (MDM), always welcome.

Pied-billed Grebe: AP 18 Dec (JH)-
3 Jan (L&PO), late.

Horned Grebe: 30 NP 12 Dec, 52 WC,
max 58 NP 8 Jan (MDM), excellent
numbers.

Double-crested Cormorant: Cheever
15 Jan (DMR), record late ESSE.

Great Blue Heron: ECBC; FCBC; 2
PCBC; CH 17 Dec (BK); West Chazy
25 Dec (JM), exceptional Dec numbers.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 21 (15 ad, 6 imm) Bald
Eagle Survey 10-16 Jan; banded male 04
eaglet FRAN nest (LL) wintered
Mongaup Reservoir, SULL (NYSDEC).

N. Harrier: TL 4 Dec (CD), diving on
mergansers; pr Whallonsburg 5 Dec
(DCR); FCBC, 2 PCBC, a good showing.

Merlin: Lake Shore Rd, CLIN 1 Dec
(BK); Northway early Dec (DCR), killed
Rock Pigeon.

Peregrine Falcon: pr overwintered
Willsboro Bay eyrie Dec-Feb (MDM),
where ad was seen 15 Nov from
Amtrak *Adirondack* (JP).

GYRFALCON: gray-phase Plattsburgh
12 Feb (DF), always a good find.

Am. Coot: PCBC, only report.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 74 WC.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: gray-phase Avalanche
Pass (el. 3000) 22 Feb (J&PT), perhaps
the highest recorded elevation in NYS.

Long-eared Owl: calling Keene 3 Jan
(J&PT); calling Chazy early Feb (DF),
rarely reported.

Short-eared Owl: taken in at PtR early
Jan, rehabilitated Chazy (DF).

N. Saw-whet Owl: max 8-12 calling
males Dickinson Center early Feb
(MAM), record high FRAN & Region 7.

Belted Kingfisher: ECBC; FCBC;
SLCBC; Saranac R 15 Jan (LL); Westport
same day (GL,MDM,JP,RW), all late.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:
Riley Ave., Plattsburgh mid-Dec to Jan

(RB, PCBC); female Essex 28 Dec (DL),
9th ESSE record; one north of Essex
Dec (fide DL), may have been a different
bird; south of PtR Jan-Feb (JR),
unprecedented.

Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: FB Dec
(GL).

Black-backed Woodpecker: Bigelow
Rd; Cheney Pd trail; Deer Pd; Gabriels;
LL; Newcomb; Paul Smiths; Raquette
Falls; 3 SLCBC, usual haunts.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS:

N. Shrike: 14 reports.

Gray Jay: usual reports from BB;
Bloomingdale feeder; Brown s Tract
Stream; Paul Smiths; max 19 SLCBC.

Com. Raven: 3 PCBC; 6 TLCBC; 7
FCBC; 29 SLCBC; 45 ECBC; max 50
Sabattis 9 Jan (JC), on deer carcass.

Horned Lark: max 80 Peru 12 Dec
(DCR); 70 PCBC; also FCBC, Malone, &
Valcour.

Black-capped Chickadee: record 1014
ECBC; record max 1447 SLCBC,
amazing numbers.

Boreal Chickadee: BB; Blue Mt;
Brown s Tract Stream; ECBC; Hanging
Spear Falls; LL; Wilson Pd trail; max 16
SLCBC.

Tufted Titmouse: Akey Rd, CLIN;
Dickinson Center; 14 ECBC; record 20
FCBC; Keene Valley; 5 Keeseville; 4 L
Placid; 4 New Russia; NP; max 24
PCBC; 4 Peru; PtR; record 6 SLCBC; 3
TL.; but the reported total of 89 titmice
from 14 locations is probably only
suggestive of the remarkable northward
expansion in 2004.

CAROLINA WREN: Cumberland Head
2-26 Dec (NO); Essex Dec (DL); FCBC;
Goodnow Flow Dec; New Russia 6 Dec-
31 Mar (ET), again in attic; PCBC, a
remarkable expansion via the Champlain
corridor, but penetrating into the Adks.

HERMIT THRUSH: TL village 166
Dec (CD), flew across street & perched,
1st FRAN winter record and only

5th during Dec-Jan in Region 7.

American Robin: max 160 Westport 2 Jan (J&PT)

N. Mockingbird: 2 PCBC, still scarce here.

Bohemian Waxwing: 6 Chateaugay; 2 Hogansburg; 75 Keene; 60 Peru; 2 Pt Kent; 6 Schroon L; 15 Wilmington; max 150 Marcy Field, Keene 21 Feb (RM), the most abundant waxwing.

Cedar Waxwing: 12 CH; 8 Essex; 20 Peru; 20 Plattsburgh., but neither waxwing on any CBCs.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS:

Song Sparrow: Inlet feeder daily to 25 Dec (GL); SLCBC.

White-throated Sparrow: 6 PCBC, but only sightings.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 137 PCBC.

Lapland Longspur: 3 Pardy Rd, CLIN 20 Dec (BK), only report.

Snow Bunting: 50 NP; 60 FCBC; 200 Churubusco; 400 Peru; max 439 PCBC.

N. Cardinal: Inlet Dec (GL); pr LL Dec (DB); 14 SLCBC; male wintered TL (CD), still fairly scarce in Adks., but 11 ECBC, 17 FCBC, & max 58 PCBC typical of lower elevations.

Red-winged Blackbird: ECBC; 3 FCBC; Inlet 14-15 Dec (GL), uncommon in winter.

Com. Grackle: ECBC; SLCBC; TLCBC; max 3 PCBC, uncommon in winter.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Peru 11 Dec (EF); 11 PCBC; 6 TLCBC; max 75 Peru late Feb (EF).

Pine Grosbeak: Akey Rd, CLIN; ECBC; LL, Newcomb; Rand Hill, CLIN, but max 5 SLCBC, the largest number.

Purple Finch: max 24 PCBC, fairly scarce.

House Finch: max 114 PCBC.

Red Crossbill: 3 FCBC and 3 Westport 30 Jan (JN), possibly same birds; 2 No Luck Brook 30 Jan (GL), only reports.

White-winged Crossbill: heard Paul Smiths Dec; ECBC; 13 SLCBC; 3 BB 5 Feb (NO); 3 Paul Smiths same day (BM); max 20 Oregon Plains Rd, FRAN 12 Feb (MY).

Com. Redpoll: max 266 SLCBC, restricted to higher elevations, with just 3 ECBC and none FCBC & PCBC.

Hoary Redpoll: Newcomb 17 Jan (TW); LL 9-15 Feb (JC).

Pine Siskin: max 181 SLCBC, but like redpolls only 5 ECBC, one 1 PCBC, and none FCBC.

Am. Goldfinch: max 529 SLCBC, most abundant & widespread winter finch, with 262 ECBC & 332 PCBC.

Evening Grosbeak: max 130 Vermontville 12 Feb (MY), fairly widespread, from 89 FCBC to 87 SLCBC.

CORRIGENDUM:

The Summer 04 entry for **Bay-breasted Warbler** (54: 4, p. 360) should read: **Palm Warbler:** Sabattis Bog 27 Jun (BC); ad & 2 juv Paul Smiths 22 Aug (JH,NH,MM).

