

REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Saranac Lake was 0°F on 1 March and dropped to -9° by 7 March. Inlet received 15" of snow between 15-16 March. The month finished with Plattsburgh a sunny 64° on the 30th. Most of April was sunny and cool, but with Plattsburgh receiving an inch of rain of the 23rd and Saranac Lake soaked by 1.79" the same day. Yet by 23 April Eastern Bluebirds also had young in some nest boxes, thanks to the earlier fair weather. Early May saw mostly sun, with Plattsburgh enjoying a high of 76° on the 4th. Lake Champlain dropped to 96.99' on 7 May, down from the 98-ft. level at the end of February. Then the rains arrived. Commencing on the morning of 12 May and lasting until

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21 May, the Region was pelted by everything from sprinkles to downpours, as low pressure fronts settled over the Northeast. On 17 May a cold south wind began to bring the stalled migrants northward. At Crown Point, a heavy 5 a.m. shower on 18 May was followed by morning sun, a downpour with hail, and then more sun. By evening the banders had netted 220 birds of 28 species, including 15 warblers, in the best wave to hit the State Historic Site in a decade, since the great fallout of 20-21 May 1996. Despite southerly winds, the numbers of birds banded daily gradually declined as the sun finally reappeared. Newcomb and Saranac Lake had snow on 22 May. An afternoon deluge on 30 May drenched Newcomb with 2.3" of rain, dropped golf ball-sized hailstones on parts of the Region, and left 1,500 National Grid customers near Schroon Lake without power. The season ended with sun, followed by thunderstorms that pelted the Champlain Valley with 1" hailstones, breaking auto glass from Plattsburgh to Westport. From 96.80' on 13 May as the rains arrived, Champlain broke 97-ft. on the 17th, 98-ft. on the 21st, 99-ft. on the 23rd, and reached a high of 99.11' between 24-25 May, dropping back only to 98.83' at month's end. This was the wettest May on record.

Due to these record rains, nets at the banding station on the grounds of Crown Point State Historic Site were open two days fewer than planned, from 13-28 May, or a day less at either end. Operated by the Crown Point Banding Association through an agreement with OPR&HP and the Historic Site Manager, this was the 31st consecutive year of Crown Point banding and tied 1993 for the second best season for variety, with 63 species banded. Warbler variety was excellent. The 22 species, including Orange-crowned and Prairie warblers, tied for best with the great season of '96. The 870 individuals came in third, behind only 1996 and '97. There were returns of 16 birds of 13 different species, the oldest an American Goldfinch now at least seven years, 11 months old.

The CPBA proposal to clear green ash around the old Osprey platform was accepted and carried out by OPR&HP, and a pair constructed a nest for the first time ever. Much of the success of this year's banding is attributed not only to the weather, but also to the previous year's green ash thinning project in the hawthorn groves. Gov. Pataki is expected to unveil the birding kiosk and name the Historic Site a NYS Bird Conservation Area. Bobolinks were again found in the recently reclaimed "Bobolink Field" to the south, another CPBA habitat improvement proposal carried out by the staff. A Public Radio program recorded at the station, "Ring 'em & Fling 'em," can be heard on the Web at: www.lincolnpound.org. A second segment for a video of Audubon IBAs on the Lake Champlain Birding Trail was shot by Peregrine Productions. Since May 1976, a total of 13,442 birds of some 97 species (plus races, subspecies, color morphs, hybrids, and even a bilateral gynandromorph) have been banded on the grounds of the State Historic Site.

Other productive birding areas included Willsboro's Noblewood Park, the Saranac Lake high school, and the lakeshore farms between the Chazy Rivers, which hosted a number of notable species, including **Eurasian Wigeon** 18 April and **Laughing Gull** on 31 May. Elsewhere, there was a putative **Trumpeter Swan** at Tupper Lake from 13 March-1 April, four spring **Red-necked Phalaropes** north of Port Henry on 16 May, a **Northern Wheatear**

found by hikers above treeline on Mt. Haystack on 27 May, a serendipitous **Varied Thrush** accompanying a flock of American Robins in a Paradox yard on 25 May, a wayward **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Carpenter's Flats on 25 May, and an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** migrating with Common Grackles at Upper Jay on 20 April. If postings on Northern NY Birds chatline are to be believed, there were also a couple of pairs of eider (sp.?) at Tupper Lake on 2 April and a male Hooded Warbler at Lake Colby on 3 May. But with no details or even the names of observers, such postings are hard to consider as records. We're probably preaching to the choir here, but we urge that reports of regional rarities always be accompanied by full details. We also suggest that all observers print out a copy of the "List of Species to be Reported to NYSARC," available through a link on the NYSOA website, and submit reports as required.

Bill Krueger is congratulated on publication of his *Birds of Clinton County, 2nd Edition: First Supplement* (2006). The Supplement includes species reported since Mitchell & Krueger (1997) appeared, breeding status changes, races and subspecies, new birding areas, corrigenda to the 2nd edition, a list of species added since Warren (1979), and a table of extreme dates. Copies are available from William E. Krueger, 40 Colligan Point Road, Plattsburgh, NY 12901 (518-561-0917), and are *free* if picked up or \$5 by mail. All four counties in Region 7 now have reference works, three of them now in the current phylogenetic order and with the latest names of species. See above, at the end of the introduction of the winter season report, for details on how to order the recent *Birds of Franklin County, New York* (2006) and *Birds of Hamilton County, New York* (2004).

A total of 216 species was reported during Spring 2006, an improvement over last year's 207, but still short of the record 219 species located in 1997.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMR - Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve; AP - Ausable Pt; BBay - Bulwagga Bay; BBog - Bloomingdale Bog; CF - Carpenter's Flats, Ausable R; CH - Cumberland Head; CP - Crown Pt SHS; CR - Chazy Rivers; FB - Ferd's Bog; LP - L Placid; NP - Noblewood Pk; PtF - Pt au Fer; PtR - Pt au Roche; SL - Saranac L; SLHS - Saranac L high school; TL - Tupper L; WD - Wilcox Dock, Plattsburgh; WM - Wickham Marsh.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: Saranac R mouth 5-11 Mar (BK,CM), overwintered; max ~5000 CR 30 Mar (BK); 3 with yell & black collars CR 11 Apr (BK), banded Bylot I, Nunavut Aug 1995 & near Mt Thule, Nunavut Aug 2005.

Cackling Goose: WD 30 Mar (J&RH); 2 CR 10 Apr (BK), nice finds.

Canada Goose: 2 with yell & black collars Coll Bay 27 Mar (JP,ET), banded near Pyramid Hills, Quebec Jul 1997.

Brant: 200+ CR 20 May (BK,CM), max CLIN; ~125 over Sabattis Bog 25 May (JN).

TRUMPETER SWAN: apparent 2nd yr TL 13 Mar (CD)-1 Apr (J&PT, also JC,TD,BF,JM, E&TW), origin unk, details to be submitted to NYSARC.
Gadwall: arr 8 AP 16 Mar (BK,CM); 5 CP 25 Mar (MDM), early ESSE; 2 AP 27 Mar (DCR); BB 2 Apr (J&PT), a good showing.

EURASIAN WIGEON: CR, Gravelle farm 18 Apr (BK).

Am. Wigeon: arr AP 14 Mar (E&HF)-31 Mar (JL); pr TL 29 Mar (TD), early FRAN; BBay 2 Apr (J&PT).

N. Shoveler: arr 4 WD 30 Mar (J&RH).

N. Pintail: arr 9 AP 19 Mar (ET); pr TL 29 Mar (TD).

Green-winged Teal: pr TL 29 Mar (TD), early FRAN, others AP, CP, SL.

Redhead: max 12 AP 16 Mar (BK,CM); 10 m CP 27 Mar (JP,EKT), ties ESSE max; also BBay & Essex.

Ring-necked Duck: max 400 BB 2 Apr (J&PT), record high ESSE.

Com. Goldeneye: m BBay 13 May (MDM); f & 2 y AP 29 May (C&JH).

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 10 Westport 17 Apr (EKT); 3 BBay 13 May

(MDM); pr NP 28 May (MDM).

Red-throated Loon: basic L Eaton 7 May (PG), first HAMI record since Eaton's day.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr AP 17 Mar (BK,CM), others SL & Westport.

Horned Grebe: CH 11 Apr (SJ,BK), only report.

Red-necked Grebe: arr BBay 2 Apr (J&PT); max 5 NP 9 Apr (J&PT); 3 Raquette L 27 Apr (LB).

Am. Bittern: arr AP 9 Apr (J&PT), early CLIN.

Least Bittern: CH 8 May (BK), always a good find.

Great Blue Heron: AP 12 Mar (J&PT), early CLIN.

Great Egret: arr WD 31 Mar; Saranac R, SL 28 Mar (DC); AP 18 Apr (GD,JL)-30 Apr (PJ), headed to Valcour I; NP 13 May (MDM), near Four Brothers.

Turkey Vulture: arr 4 Ticonderoga 14 Mar (MDM), six other Mar reports Coot Hill, Essex, LP, Peru, Plattsburgh, Westport.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Essex 16 Mar (EDT), record early ESSE; m sky-dancing & pr on newly-cleared nest platform CP May.

Bald Eagle: max 5 Coot Hill 31 Mar (JH,MDM); Inlet feeder 6-9 Mar (GL); widely reported.

Golden Eagle: 2 ads Jay 11 Mar (PO); Inlet feeder 19 Mar (GL); ad Jay 30 Mar (PO), headed NE; E Br Ausable R 16 May (DCR).

Merlin: LP 29 Mar; 3 LP 31 Mar (PO); AP 2 Apr (DCR); Jay 24 Apr (PO); AP 4 May (MM); TL 15 May (RM).

Peregrine Falcon: CF, CH, Coot Hill, CP, Jay, Lincoln Pd, New Russia, Plattsburgh, but no FRAN or HAMI reports.

Virginia Rail: L Alice 27 Apr (BK,CM); WM 20 May (EDT), only reports.

Sora: PtF 30 Apr (BK,CM); WM 21 May (EDT), only reports.

Com. Moorhen: 2 AP 27 Apr (GD); 2 calling PtF 27 Apr (BK,CM), both early CLIN; CR 28 May (BK,CM).

Am. Coot: arr AP 15 Mar (GD,E&HF)-27 Mar, only location.

Black-bellied Plover: arr CR 31 May (BK,SJ).

Am. Golden-Plover: arr Little CR 20 May (BK,CM).

Gr. Yellowlegs: arr CR 11 Apr; max 12 CR 12 Apr (BK); SLHS 6 May (TD); SL 13 May (BM); Rt 22B 20 May (C&JH); WD 20 May (NO).

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr CR 30 Apr (BK,CM).

Solitary Sandpiper: Keene 9 & 20 May (J&PT); SLHS 17 May (TD); Ingraham 20 May (BK,CM).

Upland Sandpiper: 2 CP 12 May (B&KM), on parade ground British fort.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 CR 19 May (BK), only report.

Least Sandpiper: arr max 21 CR 19 May (BK).

Dunlin: arr CR 28 Apr (BK,CM); max 7 CR 26 May (BK).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr N Farm Rd 21 May (BK,CM), responded to tape; max 7 CR 26 May (BK), vocalized; 3 alt Jones Pd 28 May (BM), 2nd FRAN record.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: 4 n Pt Henry 16 May (MBW), 1st ESSE & Reg spring record.

LAUGHING GULL: alt CR 31 Mat (MDM), 1st CLIN & 2nd Reg record.

Bonaparte's Gull: 83 CR 9 May (BK), only report.

Caspian Tern: arr NP 21 May (EDT); max 6 NP 28 May (MDM), near Four Brothers.

Com. Tern: arr NP 20 May (EDT); max 3 CR 9 May (BK).

Black Tern: arr PtF 19 May (J&RH); AMR 24 May (HW).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 14 May (GL,JP); CP 20 May (EDT); Chilson late May (LC).

E. Screech-Owl: calling CP 15 May (GL); Putnam Pd 23 May (DT).

Long-eared Owl: T Dickinson 20 Apr (MAM), rarely reported.

Whip-poor-will: Cook Mt 18 May (NC), only report.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Willsboro Pt 20 Apr (RL), early ESSE.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: calling CP 27 May (JP).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr SL 3 Apr (BM), early FRAN; Keene 3 Apr (J&PT).

Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: f FB 13 May (SF)-17 May (SH), only site?

Black-backed Woodpecker: BBog, FB, Long L, usual sites.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Chilson 8 May (DMR), early ESSE.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr CP 18 May (JP); Jones Pd 27 May (BM); transient NP 28 May (MDM); Whiteface Mt 30 May L&PO).

Willow Flycatcher: arr NP 20 May (EDT); Banker Rd 28 May (BK,CM), only reports.

N. Shrike: Ellenburg Center 15 Apr (MM), late CLIN.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr SLHS 18 May (TD), a seemingly scarce bird.

Gray Jay: BBog, Moose R Plains, FB, Paul Smiths, usual locations; Cemetery Rd, Keene 11 Apr (J&PT), unexpected locale.

Am. Crow: 50 Inlet feeder 15 Mar (GL), on deer carcass.

Com. Raven: 6 same Inlet feeder 15 Mar; 2 CR 19 May (BK), bordering Champlain.

Horned Lark: 13 TL 31 Mar; 5 TL 20 Apr (CD).

Tree Swallow: arr Jay 29 Mar (PO); Rouses Pt 30 Mar (WF); Coot Hill 31 Mar (JH,MDM); max 100+ CH 17-24 Apr (NO); numbers down TL (CD).
Barn Swallow: arr SLHS 15 Apr (TD), early FRAN; numbers down TL (CD).
Boreal Chickadee: BBog, Brown's Tract Inlet, Harrietstown Marsh, Paul Smiths.
Tufted Titmouse: pr Elizabethtown 1-29 Mar (JP); pr Plattsburgh 7 Mar (BK); Ticonderoga 19 Mar-12 Apr (NC); AP 31 Mar (JL); New Russia (ET), all in valley & foothills.
Carolina Wren: Elizabethtown 1 Mar-7 Apr (JP), overwintered; Ticonderoga 19 Mar (NC), only reports.
House Wren: arr AP 9 Apr (J&PT), early CLIN by 2 wks; nesting in outgoing mail slot Wood Cliff, Plattsburgh (EF).
Sedge Wren: arr Peru 25 Apr (C&JH), early CLIN.
Marsh Wren: arr CLIN 5 May (J&RH); AP 24 May (NO).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr AP 4 May (MM); CP 17 May (JP); Ticonderoga 14 Apr (NC).
N. WHEATEAR: above treeline on 4960' Mt Haystack 27 May (G&MC, NYSARC), 2nd ESSE & 3rd Reg record, a superb find.
E. Bluebird: 36 eggs, 2 nestlings Essex nestbox trail 23 Apr (DL).
Bicknell's Thrush: each peak of Great Range 27 May (G&MC); 10 heard Whiteface Mt 30 May (L&PO).
Hermit Thrush: Jay 19 Mar (PO), 1st Mar record ESSE, perhaps also nearby on 8 Mar.
VARIED THRUSH: Paradox yard 25 May (LG-K, NYSARC), with flock of migrating robins, 1st ESSE & 2nd Reg record.
Gray Catbird: SLHS 16 Apr (TD), early FRAN.
N. Mockingbird: 3 Plattsburgh reports 7 Mar- 8 May; SLHS 21 May (TD), less expected site.
Brown Thrasher: arr Elizabethtown 30 Apr (JP); max 10 PtR 8 May (BK).
Bohemian Waxwing: max 80 CP village 27 Mar (JP,ET); at least 15 other reports of flocks of 20-50; 40 AMR 20 Mar

(HW), late FRAN.

Cedar Waxwing: max 20 CP & Jay, far less numerous than Bohemian.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: heard only E Br Ausable R 16 May (DCR).

Orange-crowned Warbler: SLHS 16 May (TD), 5th FRAN record; 2nd yr m banded CP 23 May (GH,JP,RW).

Nashville Warbler: Keene 21 Apr (J&PT), early ESSE.

Cape May Warbler: arr BBog 16 May (RM); 7 banded CP 18-23 May; Jay 24 May (PO); late migrant CF 27 May (BK,CM).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 411 banded CP 13-24 May.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: CF 25 May (BK,CM), 1st CLIN & 3rd Reg record.

Pine Warbler: TL feeder 12 Apr (CD), early FRAN.

Prairie Warbler: m CP 25 May (JP), 7th banded there since 1988.

Palm Warbler: arr "Yellow" BBog 16 Apr (JC); others Jones Pd, Paul Smiths, Sabattis Bog.

Wilson's Warbler: arr 2 banded CP 18 May; NP 20 May (EDT); SLHS 20 May (TD), a narrow migratory window.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: arr SL 3 Apr (BM), early FRAN.

Fox Sparrow: arr Elizabethtown 31 Mar (JP); max 8 TL 8 Apr (CD); ten other reports.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Speculator 4 May (PK), early HAMI.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 1000+ Long L 1-2 Apr (WL), ties HAMI max.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: ad m Upper Jay 20 Apr (PO), flying NE with flock of grackles, 4th ESSE record.

Orchard Oriole: imm & ad m CP 14-18 May (GL,JP,J&PT), both singing.

Pine Grosbeak: LP 4-25 Mar (LL), only report.

House Finch: leucistic finch with white head returned CH 6 May (NO) for 5th yr; max 5 banded CP 17-26 May.

Red Crossbill: pr Jay 24 Mar (PO), only report.

Com. Redpoll: max 170 New Russia 26 Mar (EKT); last Macomb SP 15 Apr (DCR).

Hoary Redpoll: 2 LP 28 Mar (LM), only report.

Pine Siskin: small numbers in all 4 counties.

Am. Goldfinch: only 39 banded CP; return 23 May now 7 yrs, 11 mo old.

Evening Grosbeak: max 100 Newcomb 13 Mar (ER).

EXOTIC:

Black Swan: free-flying imm Chapman Rd, Ft. Covington 24 May (HW).

ADDENDUM:

WOOD STORK: 2 Tarbell Rd, AMR c. early Jun 2001 (James Snyder, digital photo!), 1st FRAN record.