

REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

John M.C. Peterson

477 County Rte 8, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

jmcp7@juno.com

Early March was cold, beginning with a low of 0° F at Inlet on the 1st, then plunging to -43° at Saranac Lake on 6 March, -35° the following day, and -29° on the 9th. Temperatures then rebounded to a high of 60° at Inlet and Schroon Lake on 13 March, the thaw before the storm. The St. Patrick's Day storm dumped 13" of snow at Rouses Point and a foot over much of the Region. This was but a harbinger of what was to come. Following a pause of almost four weeks that saw temperatures in the 40s, the April Nor'easter of '07 struck. Snow began falling the morning of 15 April and continued for two days, burying Lake Placid and New Russia in a foot of snow. Nearly 4,000 residents were left without power, and shelters were opened in Crown Point, Minerva, and Schroon Lake. In yet another quick reversal, Plattsburgh thermometers rose from a high of 43° at storm's end on the 17th to a balmy 78° by 22 April. Late April was cloudy and rainy, early May sunny and cool. Warm weather then returned, with Schroon Lake 85° on 8 May and Ticonderoga and Westport reaching 84° the following day. The only significant rainfall of the month came on 15-16 May, grounding a major fallout of migrants at Crown Point, where 175 birds were banded on each of those days. The remainder of the month was sunny and warm, with only the isolated shower to forestall a summer drought. Lake Champlain stood at 95.96' at the start of the season, but melting snow and April showers pushed levels above the 100-foot flood stage for 18 days between 20 April to 7 May, reaching a high of 100.68' on 26 April, before dropping to 98.16' at season's end, as sun and wind evaporated the spring runoff.

Birders flocked to Ausable Point in hopes of seeing Clinton County's first **Tufted Duck**, present from 23-25 March. The only previous regional sightings were at Crown Point and Port Kent in the winter of 2002-03. Although few found this diving duck, all were treated to a remarkable experience. The bay north of the point was covered with rafts of waterfowl numbering in the

thousands during late March, with at least 27 species present, including **Eurasian Wigeon** and Barrow's Goldeneye.

The Chazy Riverlands were similarly rewarding from late April through May, with Brant, Great Egret, both Bald and Golden eagles, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Common Moorhen, American Coot, ten shorebird species (including Ruddy Turnstone on 28 May and White-rumped Sandpiper on 24 May), Little Gull, and three tern species among the highlights. The Golden Eagle was seen flying north on 18 May and landed briefly at the water's edge before continuing north; the white at the base of the tail and primaries marked it as an immature. By season's end, at least 500 northbound "peeps" were gathered on the mudflats.

When a connector road was built down the center of Cumberland Head, several areas of wetland were taken, but a mitigation area of similar size was carefully prepared as a replacement. Given the attendant difficulties of creating genuine wetlands, local birders were especially pleased to hear American Bittern and Sora calling from the new cattails this spring.

Crown Point State Historic Site has now been officially named a Bird Conservation Area by the State of New York, and four interpretive panels describing birdlife and bird-banding on the grounds have been unveiled. The banding station, operated by the Crown Point Banding Association through agreement with NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPR&HP), was opened for the 32nd consecutive season between 11-28 May. The 73 banded species broke the record of 70 set in the great fallout year of 1996, while Marsh Wren and Eastern Meadowlark brought the all-time list to 99 species banded since 1976. Warbler variety was superb, the 23 species (including **Blue-winged Warbler** and **Prairie Warbler**) breaking the old record of 21 warblers, set in '96 and tied last year. The 1,183 individuals rank third behind 1996 (1,706 birds) and 1997 (1,239 birds). The record number of nine Brown Thrashers, along with increased numbers of other birds of open thickets, suggest that the recent CPBA habitat improvement project is having a positive impact. The OPR&HP survey again found grassland birds in a recently-reclaimed field, and Ospreys again claimed the recently-cleared nesting platform on Bulwagga Bay. A proposal to thin invasive Common Buckthorn from thickets is now under consideration. Vermont Audubon completed a DVD on the Lake Champlain Birding Trail, with a major segment on Crown Point that aired on local television.

There were returns of 38 birds of 13 species banded at Crown Point in previous years, the oldest a Black-capped Chickadee and a Baltimore Oriole, each now at least seven years, 11 months old. A leucistic Yellow-rumped Warbler was banded 11 May. Species seen or heard, but not banded, include Bald and Golden eagles, Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos, Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Northern Mockingbird, and an adult male **Orchard Oriole** (with a female and immature male banded). After 32 years, a total of four Pileated Woodpecker, seven **Blue-winged Warbler**, nine **Prairie Warbler**, and

six **Orchard Oriole** have been banded at the Historic Site, among other highlights of the 14,625 birds banded since 1976.

Elsewhere, a **Black Vulture** was seen soaring over Ellenburg, Clinton County, on the evening of 17 May. Although the species is extending its range northward, so not entirely unexpected, the only previous Regional record was one found alive, but with an injured wing, near North Burke 10 November 1968, and housed through the winter (see *The Kingbird* 19:92-93, "Black Vulture in Northern Franklin County," by Harriet Delafield). Another southern bird moving northward is **Red-bellied Woodpecker**. Since the first Regional occurrence at Ticonderoga in 1984, penetration has largely followed the Champlain Valley, but interior sightings are now being added in the Central Adirondacks. This spring brought records from Seventh Lake and Moose River Plains in Hamilton County, as well as the Goodnow Flow in Essex County.

The web address is now <<http://www.adirondack.org/publications.php>> for *The Adirondack North Country Region Map and Scenic Byways & Birding Guide*. This superb reference locates and describes 72 birding sites around the Adirondack Mountains, Lake Champlain, Hudson River Corridor, and St. Lawrence River and Plains, as well as Lake George, Tug Hill, Eastern Lake Ontario, and the Mohawk Valley. We highly recommend this new resource to birders, and those wishing to place credit card orders may phone the Adirondack North Country Association at (518) 891-6200 during business hours. Although listed price for ANCA's Driving Tour Packet is \$4, the map with birding guide alone is available for a modest \$2 fee to cover postage & handling.

A total of 214 species was reported during Spring 2007, slightly fewer than last year's 216 and short of the record 219 species located in 1997.

CONTRIBUTORS

MaryAnne Allen, Thomas Armstrong, Thomas Barber, Mona Bearor, Joseph Brin, John Brown, Greg Budney, Bernard Carr, Laurel Carroll, Nancy Carter, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Joan Clark, Joan Collins, Kimberley Corwin, Woody Cyr, Charlcie Delehanty, John D. Delehanty, Diane Demers, Steve Faccio, Corey Finger, Elizabeth & Holland Fitts, Amy Freiman, Bill Frenette, Peter Galvani, Brian Glidds, Sherry Gordon, Barbara Kanatiiosh Gray, Beedy Gray, Richard Guthrie, Judith Heintz, Lona Helmecci, Candace & John Hess, Gordon Howard, Thomas Hughes, Suzy Johnson, Paul Johnston, Bill Krueger, Dayna LaLonde, Jory Langer, Linda LaPan, Julie Lattrell, Nancy Law, Gary Lee, Robert Lee, William Lee, Theodore Mack, Mark A. Manske, Lawrence Master, Brian McAllister, Melanie A. McCormack, Kevin McGann, James McGraw, Matthew D. Medler, Charles Mitchell, Charles Mitchell, Jr., Megan A. Murphy, Jeff Nadler, Sean O'Brien, Stan Oliva, Lydia & Paul Osenbaugh, John & Susan Peterson, Ellen Rathbone, Will Raup, George Roberts, Dana Rohleder, William Ruscher, Jr., Marge Rusk, Marilyn Smith, Bev Stellges, Kimberly Sucy, Eric K. Teed, John & Patricia Thaxton, Eve D. Ticknor, Yvette Tillema, Lyn Valenti,

ABBREVIATIONS

AMR -- Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve; AP -- Ausable Pt; BB -- Bloomingdale Bog; CH -- Cumberland Head; CP -- Crown Pt SHS; CR -- Chazy Rivers; FB -- Ferd's Bog; LP -- L Placid; NP -- Noblewood Pk; PS -- Paul Smiths; PtF -- Pt au Fer; PtR -- Pt au Roche; SB -- Sabattis Bog; SL -- Saranac L; TL -- Tupper L.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Brant: arr CR 12 May (BK, CM); max 60 CH 22 May (BK).

Gadwall: arr 4 AP 14 Mar; max 26 AP 26 Mar (DCR).

EURASIAN WIGEON: AP 23 Mar (NO)-26 Mar (PG, BK).

Am. Wigeon: arr AP 14 Mar (BK, CM); max 20 CR 14 Apr (DL).

N. Shoveler: arr pr NP 26 Mar (EKT); pr AP 28 Mar (PG); max 6 pr Chapman Rd, Ft Covington 2 Apr (HW).

N. Pintail: arr pr AP 14 Mar; max 300 CR 10 Apr (BK, CM).

Canvasback: AP 22 Mar (NO)-27 Mar (JB, TM).

Redhead: pr AP 14 Mar (BK)-3 pr 14 Apr (TM, SO); max 8 AP 19 Mar (BK, CM).

Ring-necked Duck: max 140 AP 14 Mar (DCR); 75 L Abanakee 8 Apr (MM), high HAMI.

TUFTED DUCK: m AP 23 Mar (BK, CM!)-25 Mar (JC, RG, BK, WL, CM, DCR).

Surf Scoter: CH 19 May (SJ, BK)-23 May (JM).

Long-tailed Duck: 3 Essex 14 Apr (SO, TM).

Bufflehead: 30 Little TL 3 May (MAM EKY), ties HAMI max.

Com. Goldeneye: max 3000 AP 14 Mar (DCR).

Barrow's Goldeneye: pr Willsboro Pt 11 Mar (RG); pr AP 13 Mar; m AP 14&16 Mar (BK, CM); pr AP 25 Mar (JL, CF, DCR, WR), a good showing.

Red-breasted Merganser: 6 AP 14 Mar (DCR), early CLIN.

Ruddy Duck: arr 4 m AP 28 Apr (J&PT)-30 Apr (BK, CM), high CLIN.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 2 L Abanakee 21 Apr (M&WM), early HAMI; Taylor Pd 13 May (L&PO), uncommon inland.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr AP 22 Mar

(NO), early CLIN; NP 26 Mar (EKT), early ESSE.

Least Bittern: PtF 10 May (BK), early CLIN.

Great Blue Heron: ~20 nests Monty Bay 20 Apr (BK, CM), new heronry.

Great Egret: arr Riley Brook 18 Apr; 2 CR 1 May (BK), only reports.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 7 Drum St, AMR 3 Apr (HW), early FRAN.

BLACK VULTURE: flying NE Ellenburg 17 May (EDT), 1st CLIN, 2nd Region 7 record.

Turkey Vulture: arr mouth Ausable R 10 Mar (J&PT); subsequent reports 20-31 Mar AMR, Jay, Keene, Rand Hill, Riverview, SL, Schuyler Falls, TL.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: on nest CP 26 Apr (TH).

Bald Eagle: regular along Champlain, with inland reports from Inlet, Mt Hopkins, TL.

Golden Eagle: SL 31 Mar (BM); imm Mt Hopkins 21 Apr (DD); imm Coon Mt 23 Apr (EKT); Essex 28 Apr (J&PT); ad CP 17 May (JP); imm CR 18 May (BK), encouraging.

Merlin: numerous reports around Plattsburgh, plus Little TL, Oseetah L, PS, TL.

Gyrfalcon: gray-phase ad Plattsburgh 8 Mar (BK), eating duck at mouth of Saranac R.

Peregrine Falcon: color-banded f Elizabethtown eyrie [*06 raven nest] Apr-May (EKT), one of 4 y Fairlee Cliff, central VT, 2002 (SF); others Coon Mt, CR, Whiteface Mt, Wickham Marsh.

Virginia Rail: PtR 6 May (BK, CM); PtF 18 May (NO, MS), only reports.

Sora: CH 19, 23 May (BK), new wetland mitigation area.

Com. Moorhen: 2 PtR 6 May (CM); 2 CR 25 May (BK), good finds.

Am. Coot: CR 31 May (BK), only report.

Black-bellied Plover: arr CR 14 May (BK, CM); max 26 CR 29 May (BK).
Semipalmated Plover: arr 5 CR 9 May (BK, CM), early CLIN; max 61 CR 31 May (BK).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr CR 25 Apr (BK, CM).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 arr CR 25 Apr; max 15 CR 10 May (BK, CM).
Ruddy Turnstone: max 25 CR 28 May (BK, CM), high CLIN.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 arr CR 9 May (BK, CM), early CLIN.
Least Sandpiper: arr 5 CR 9 May; max 125+ CR 31 May (BK, CM).
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr CR 24 May (BK, CM).
Dunlin: arr CR 5 May; max 18 CR 28 May (BK, CM).
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 9 CR 17 May; max 120+ CR 22 May, high CLIN (BK, CM).
Little Gull: imm CR 30 May (BK), 3rd Spring record CLIN.
Caspian Tern: arr CR 9 May (BK, CM); AP 17 May (GR); max 3 CR 24 May; pr copulating CR 28 May (CM).
Com. Tern: arr CR 9 May (BK); max 31 CR 19 May (BK, CM).
Black Tern: arr CR 9 May; max 2 CR 17 May (BK).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 14 May (GH).
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 25 May (JP); TL late May (BC).
E. Screech-Owl: calling Jay 14 Mar (L&PO), only report.
Com. Nighthawk: arr CP 18 May (TB); CP 22 May (JP); CP 27 May (GL); max 4 Gadway barrens 27 May (BK), no reports from cities & villages.
Whip-poor-will: arr Ticonderoga 23 May (NC); CP 27 May (JP); max 3 Gadway barrens 27 May (BK).
Belted Kingfisher: AP 3 Mar (TA), but present from 27 Feb; Ticonderoga 24 Mar (LC).
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: f Seventh L, Inlet feeder 4-13 Mar (SG, GL, SY, ph), 4th HAMI record; Goodnow Flow, Newcomb feeder Mar-Apr (AF), present since Feb; Willsboro Pt feeder 22-23 Apr (RL), pr in May; Campsite #38, Moose R Plains 12 May (WR, Jr.), 5th HAMI record.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr CH 24 Mar

(SJ, BK), early CLIN.

Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: f FB 23 May (GL), only report.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Inlet yard *with Red-bellied Woodpecker* 13 Mar (GL); others Boreas R, Chubb R, Connery Pd, FB, PS, Raquette L, Sabattis Rd, Vanderwacker Mt.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Willow Flycatcher: Keene 19 May (J&PT), early ESSE; Banker & Stetson Rds 19 May (BK), early CLIN.

N. Shrike: AP 17 Apr (DL, MAM), late CLIN; earlier reports AMR, AP, Boreas R, Inlet, Jay.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr CH 17 May (CH), only report.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Jay 9 May (PO), only report.

Gray Jay: Boreas R 11-13 Mar (MAM, EKT), unexpected; BB, Bloomingdale feeder, FB, PS, usual sites.

Com. Raven: max 31 Mt Hopkins 21 Apr (DD), 17 at one time.

Tree Swallow: arr 2 Elizabethtown 15 Mar (J&PT); AP 26 Mar (PG, DCR); AMR 27 Mar (HW), early FRAN; 50 L George 2-4 Apr (NC); clouds of 50-200 CP 18-21 May (GH, JP).

Boreal Chickadee: BB, Boreas R, Connery Pd, FB, Giant Mt, Indian L, expected sites.

Tufted Titmouse: AP, CH, CP, Elizabethtown, Terry Mt, Ticonderoga, Witherbee, expected sites.

Carolina Wren: pr Ticonderoga 3-6 Apr (NC), overwintered; Plattsburgh 15 Apr (CM); Spitfire Dr, Plattsburgh 19 Apr (EF), good finds.

Winter Wren: arr singing m Witherbee 29 Mar (MA), early ESSE.

Marsh Wren: arr CP 14 May (J&SP), 1st banded in 32 yrs.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Keene 1 & 19 May (J&PT); CP 19 May (G&MC).

Bicknell's Thrush: max 5 Porter Mt 19-20 May (MDM).

N. Mockingbird: Plattsburgh 22 Apr (CH); m CP 11-18 May (GL, EDT), only reports.

Brown Thrasher: 9 banded CP 13-26 May, highest in 32 yrs & ascribed to habitat maintenance.

WARBLERS

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: singing m CP 19 May (TB, G&MC, JP); m banded CP

24 May.

Tennessee Warbler: arr Hogansburg 9 May (HW), early FRAN; 9 banded CP 13-21 May.

N. Parula: Little TL 3 May (MAM, EKT), early HAMI.

Cape May Warbler: 18 banded CP 15-21 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 416 banded CP 11-21 May; leucistic m banded CP 11 May (WC, GL, JP), white on nape & wings [1 left, 2 right secondary coverts].

Black-throated Green Warbler: AP 23 Apr (BK, CM), early CLIN.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: m banded CP 16 May; f banded CP 25 May.

Palm Warbler: arr "Yellow" Keene 7 Apr (KC, J&PT), early ESSE; 5 "Western" banded CP 12-18 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr NP 10 May (MAM), ties early ESSE; 3 banded CP 16-20 May; Connery Pd 17 May (BM); Witherbee 19 May (CW); Raquette L 22 May (GL), a good showing.

Blackpoll Warbler: 18 banded CP 16-28 May, but no other reports.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr AP 30 Apr (BK, CM), early CLIN.

N. Waterthrush: Rock Pd outlet 4 May (MAM, EKT), ties early HAMI.

Mourning Warbler: arr Jay 11 May (PO), early ESSE.

Wilson's Warbler: Keene 12-13 May (SO, YT); 4 banded CP 17-24 May; CH 19 May (NO); CH 23 May, the 12-day migratory window wider than the 3-day passage of 18-20 May 2006.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr Terry Mt 28 Apr (*vide* CH); m banded CP 24 May, only reports.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 42 Inlet 8 Mar (GL), high HAMI.

Chipping Sparrow: SL 27 Mar (JH), early FRAN; Inlet 1 Apr (GL), early HAMI.

Fox Sparrow: Inlet 1 Apr (GL)-LP 19 Apr (LL); others Indian L, Keene, Plattsburgh, PS, Ticonderoga, Witherbee.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 5 banded CP 16-23 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Speculator 1 May (PK); Inlet 2 May (GL), both early HAMI; 3 banded CP 16-21 May; others CH, Elizabethtown, Keene, LP, PtF, Witherbee.

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: Inlet feeder 3 Mar (GL).

Snow Bunting: max 400 CR 4 Mar (PG); four other reports CLIN & ESSE to 13 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 Essex 28 Apr (J&PT); Keene, Sagamore, Vanderwacker Mt. in May.

ORCHARD ORIOLE: subad m & f banded CP 12 May; ad m present CP 18 May (EDT).

Purple Finch: 50+ Blue Ridge 11 Mar (MAM, EKT); 50+ SB 21 Mar (GB, MY), but absent at lower elevations until Apr.

Red Crossbill: max ~40 SB 1 Mar (LM); numerous Adirondack reports to late Apr, but absent at lower elevations.

White-winged Crossbill: max ~20 SB 1 Mar (LM)-21 Mar (GB, MY), with many Adirondack reports to late May, but similarly absent elsewhere.

Pine Siskin: max ~30 SB 1-21 Mar (GB, LM, MY), but generally absent.

Am. Goldfinch: max 170 New Russia 16 Apr (EKT); 63 banded Elizabethtown 1 Apr-10 May (JP); 155 banded CP 12-27 May, the most abundant and widespread finch.

Evening Grosbeak: "hundreds" Newcomb 12 Mar (ER), but nowhere else abundant.

ADDENDUM:

Wild Turkey: 104 Aikens Rd, T Dickinson Feb 2007 (Mark A. Manske), feeding on silage Keith Proper farm, until flock was reduced by a N. Goshawk; new max FRAN & Region 7.

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