

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Dry and sunny weather continued to prevail into the Summer season, with overnight lows of 32° at Inlet 6-7 June, but temperatures rose to 91° by 19 June, a day with afternoon thunderstorms and even a hurricane-strength wind gust of 74 mph at Malone. Plattsburgh hit 95° on 26 June, but Inlet had a low of 42° on 30 June, followed by 40° there on the 1st and 3rd of July. Thunderstorms were scattered across the Region during July, with 1.5" rain at Auger Lake 9 July and ½" hailstones at Ellenburg Depot the following day. By 11 July, Plattsburgh had received 5" of rainfall in less than a week. Saranac Lake saw 1.96" of rain between 19-20 July. Owls Head was drummed by 1.75" hailstones 27 July, with Elizabethtown and Port Kent struck by nickle-sized hail the same hot and humid afternoon. Malone and Plattsburgh were 90° on 2 August, a month that was sunny and warm with scattered rain and thunderstorms. A 3.2 scale earthquake on 29 August had an epicenter 8 miles NE of Tupper Lake. Lake Champlain stood at 98.08' on 1 June, dropped to 96.02' by 9 July, rose again to 96.58' by the 22nd during the rains of July, then fell to 95.55' by season's end, providing excellent shorebird habitat on beaches and mudflats along the lakeshore.

Notable records along Champlain were concentrated, as usual, at the Chazy Riverlands in Clinton County and Noblewood Park at the mouth of the Boquet River in Essex County, but with a few noteworthy finds at Ausable Point and Westport. Also worthy of mention is the completion of the \$35 million Superfund cleanup of PCBs and other paper mill contaminants at Wilcox Dock in Plattsburgh, where a grateful Great Egret turned up in early August. The farmlands between the Great and Little Chazy rivers provided interesting waterfowl records, e.g. Brant in mid-June, plus broods of Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, and Northern Shoveler, but the highlight was the first Regional summer record of **Ruddy Duck** on the Laurin farm 4-7 July. Rallidae included the only summer sightings of Sora, Common Moorhen, and American Coot. As always, the Chazy Riverlands were a magnet for shorebirds, with 15 species present, including a regionally rare **Stilt Sandpiper** in early August. This is the first site in the Region to host four tern species, with the first-ever Regional **Forster's Tern** on 6 July. To the south, Noblewood Park had ten shorebirds, including another **Stilt Sandpiper** in early August, plus as many as 20 Caspian and 30 Common terns. Westport, which has been largely bypassed by birders in recent years, regained its reputation as a shorebird hotspot with a Ruddy Turnstone and Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers, as well as a Caspian Tern feeding young.

The Central Adirondacks are not known for shorebirds, but Hamilton County produced an early Greater Yellowlegs at Lake Lila on 8 July and a first county record of **Whimbrel** at Inlet on 27 August. A **Black Tern** photographed on the Cedar River Flow 16 June was the first report from that historic Hamilton County site in 21 years. The same county had an adult **White-crowned**

Sparrow in the Moose River Plains on **13 June**, a late date for both county and Region. Both the Central Adirondacks and Adirondack High Peaks provided the expected assortment of sought-after boreal birds, but the number of peaks with Bicknell's Thrush was perhaps outshone by high-elevation reports of American Redstart from Phelps Mountain and Wright Peak.

A welcome addition to the growing library of recent works on Adirondack-Champlain birds is the tabloid-sized (11"x13") *Wild Neighbors: A Window on Adirondack Wildlife*, Saranac Lake: Adirondack Explorer, 2007. A compilation of wildlife articles previously published in the monthly *Adirondack Explorer*, the 124-page book includes 45 pieces on Regional birds by Phil Brown, Dave Capen, Mark Gretch, Edward Kanze, John M.C. Peterson, Alan Pistorius, Curt Stager, John Thaxton, and Alan Wechsler. Other articles discuss mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and resources. Retail price is \$17.50 from *Adirondack Explorer*; call (888) 888-4970 or (518) 891-9352.

Seasonal variety was good, with a total of 191 species reported during Summer 2007, better than last year's 188, but shy of the 192 species found during the Atlas summer of 2004. Once again, compilations were not received from the 5th Great Adirondack Birding Celebration in Franklin County or the 3rd Adirondack Birding Festival in Hamilton County. Organizers of future birding weekends are kindly asked to submit June 2008 lists when available.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMR - Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve; AP - Ausable Pt; BB - Bloomingdale Bog; CH - Cumberland Head; CR - Chazy Rivers; CRF - Cedar R Flow; FB - Ferd's Bog; IL - Indian L; LL - Long L; NP - Noblewood Pk; TL - Tupper L; WD - Wilcox Dock.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Brant: 2 CR 14 Jun (BK), late CLIN.

Am. Black Duck: max 40 NP 24 Aug (DL).

Blue-winged Teal: y CR 1 Jul (BK).

N. Shoveler: y CR 14 Jul (BK), scarce breeding duck.

Com. Goldeneye: f & 9 y CH 30 Jun (BK), f & y NP 27 Aug (J&PT), scarce Champlain nester; 8 TL 10-13 Aug (RM), where more expected.

Com. Merganser: f & 30 y CH Jul (NO), merged broods.

RUDDY DUCK: m CR 4-7 Jul (BK,CM,NO), 1st summer record CLIN & Reg 7.

Ring-necked Pheasant: CR 6 Aug (BK), only report.

Spruce Grouse: 3 Uncas Rd, Raquette L 10 Jun (JC), where reported early Jun '06.

N. Bobwhite: Jay 26-27 Jun (L&PO), 8 mi. from hunting club; Peru 19-21 Jul; calling Mineville 25-29 Jul (GF), all presumed escapes.

Com. Loon: CH 9-10 Jun (NO); 2 alt NP 4 Aug (MDM), plus numerous inland reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: 4+ CR 1 Jun-4 Aug (BK,CM); CRF 3 Jun (GL).

Horned Grebe: 2 Auger L 31 Aug (GH), early ESSE.

Red-necked Grebe: basic Rte 37, AMR 30 Jul (HW); 2 there 1 Aug, early FRAN.

Least Bittern: CR 16 Jul (BK), sole sighting.

Great Egret: WD 6 Aug (SJ,BK,GR), a benefit of \$35 million cleanup.

Green Heron: many AMR Jul (HW).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 ad, 6 imm Scotion Cr 14 Jun; 6 Scotion Cr 17 Jun (NO,MS), no reports from The Four Brothers.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: juv Cold R; ad Indian L, FRAN; 2 ads, juv L Lila; 2 fledged Moody; ads Osgood R; 2 Marion R; imm NP; Round L, only suggestive of numbers.

Golden Eagle: Keene 14 Jun, overhead.

Am. Kestrel: 5 of 24 FRAN nest boxes produced 18 chicks (MAM).

Merlin: CRF; Jay; LL; L Lila; Lincoln Pd; Moody; Mt Adams; NP; Plattsburgh; Red R; Riverview; Speculator BBS; TL Marsh; Whiteface Mt; White Pine Camp, reflect continued increase; dead m Elizabethtown 22 Aug, breast eaten.

Peregrine Falcon: black over green color-banded f Elizabethtown eyrie, fledged from central VT nest in '02 [see *The Kingbird*

Spring '07 report], struck & killed by motor vehicle at pond 2.5 mi east of eyrie 25 Jun, after killing a duck along Rte 9N; 3 y had recently fledged from nest.

Virginia Rail: 2-3 AP Jun-Jul (BK); 3 L Durant 2 Jun (JE,MM); L Lila 8 Jul (JC); CR 8 Aug (BK).

Sora: CR 7-8 Aug (BK), only report.

Com. Moorhen: 2 CR 1 Jun-4 Aug (BK,CM), nice find.

Am. Coot: CR 1 Jun & 6 Jul (BK,NO), nice find.

Black-bellied Plover: max 32 CR 1 Jun; 1-2 CR 4-14 Jun (BK); arr NP 30 Aug (MAMc).

Semipalmated Plover: max 14 CR 1 Jun; arr 2 CR 16-20 Aug (BK); 1-4 NP 21-30 Aug (DL,MAMc,EKT).

Gr. Yellowlegs: CR 6 Jul-20 Aug (BK,NO); arr 2 L Lila 8 Jul (JC,TW), early HAMI; max 10 CR 4 Aug (BK,CM); 2 NP 30 Aug (MAMc).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 CR 4 Jul-20 Aug; max 41 CR 4 Aug (BK,CM); 2 NP 12 Aug (JH,MDM); 5 NP 27 Aug (J&PT).

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 Marcy Dam 26 Jul (DD), on floating vegetation in middle of pd; 6 Chubb R 4 Aug (J&PT); CR 20 Aug (BK); max 7 E Branch Ausable R, Keene 28-29 Aug (J&PT); Westport 30 Aug (BE,DN), a strong showing.

WHIMBREL: Inlet 27 Aug (SR), on lawn Limekiln L Rd, 1st HAMI record.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr Westport 30 Aug (BE,DN), always a good find.

Sanderling: arr 3 CR 5 Aug; 2 CR 20 Aug (BK); max 6 NP 24 Aug (DL).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 21 CR 3 Jun (BK); arr 4 CR 7 Jul (BK,NO), early CLIN; CR to 25 Aug (BK,CM,NO); 2-4 NP 21-31 Aug (EKT,DN, J&PT).

Western Sandpiper: arr NP 31 Aug (DN).

Least Sandpiper: 4 CR 1-3 Jun (BK); arr CR 7 Jul-25 Aug (BK,CM,NO); 4 NP 8 Jul (JH,MDM); NP 23 Aug (J&PT); 2 Westport 30-31 Aug (BE,DN), low numbers.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 CR 5-20 Aug; max 4 CR 11 Aug (BK).

Baird's Sandpiper: arr Westport 30-31 Aug (BE,DN).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 CR 16 Jul (BK); 2 CR 11 Aug (BK,CM); max 3 Westport 30 Aug (BE,DN).

Dunlin: 2 CR 1-3 Jun (BK).

STILT SANDPIPER: arr CR 11 Aug (BK,CM), c. 9th CLIN record; juv NP 21 Aug (EKT)-22 Aug (LM), 3rd ESSE record. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** max 12 CR 1 Jun

(BK); arr 2 CR 4-20 Aug (BK,CM).
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 CR 12 Jul (BK); 10 LL 29 Jul (JC), 7th HAMI record; NP 4 Aug thru; max 540 NP 12 Aug (JH,MDM).
Great Black-backed Gull: TL 7 Jul (WR), unusual inland.
Caspian Tern: 2-4 CR 3 Jun-21 Aug; mate-feeding CR 11 Jul; ad & 2 imm CR 4 Aug (BK,CM); 15 NP 16 Jul (J&PT); max 20 NP 1-12 Aug (JH,MDM,J&PT); 1-4 NP 22-27 Aug (DL,LM,J&PT); ad Westport 30 Aug; ad feeding juv Westport 31 Aug (BE,DN).
Com. Tern: CR 6 Jul (BK,NO); 21 CR 12-23 Jul (BK,CM); 2-4 Essex harbor 1-15 Aug (BM); ad & banded rt leg juv NP 4 Aug (MDM), probably from VT isl; NP thru; max 30 NP 30 Aug (MAMc).
FORSTER'S TERN: nonbreeding ad CR 6 Jul (BK,NO), 1st CLIN & Reg 7.
BLACK TERN: CRF 16 Jun (GL, ph), last HAMI report there 16-20 Jun 1986; CR 17-18 Jul (BK,CM), ad feeding imm.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: NP 10 Jun (MDM); Witherbee 23 Jun-Jul (CW); Jay 3-21 Jul (PO); CH 30 Aug (BK).
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: CH 28 Jun (BK); Jay 21 Jul (PO), reflect forest tent caterpillar crash.
Com. Nighthawk: Ausable 8 Jun (DCR); Peru 9 Jun (EF); Jay 10 Jun (DP,DR); 2 Peru 20 Aug (EF); Plattsburgh 24 Aug (CM,CM Jr), encouraging.
Whip-poor-will: Ausable Forks; Chesterfield; Keeseville; Mooers; Peru; Pt Kent; Ticonderoga, a fairly strong showing.
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: f FB 1 Jun (GL)-18 Jun (PB), only location.
Black-backed Woodpecker: BB; Beaver Bk; Bigelow Rd; Browns Tract Stream; FB; Helldiver Pd; L Arnold; Red R; Rock Pd; Round L; South Inlet; Spruce Hill, expected sites.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max ~20 above 3,360' Gray Pk from L Arnold 26 Jul (DD), high ESSE & Reg 7.
Willow Flycatcher: 2-3 L Alice 2 Jun (BK); Scomotion Cr 17 Jun (NO,MS), only reports.
Yellow-throated Vireo: Silver L Bog 3 Jul (BK,CM), only report.
Philadelphia Vireo: singing m IL 9 Jun (JC); singing m West River trail, Ausable R 30 Jun; singing m L Everest 30 Jul (J&PT); L Lila late Jul (J&TS), good finds.

Gray Jay: BB; Beaver Bk Bog; FB; Helldiver Pd; Osgood R; South Inlet; Sumner Stream, expected sites.
Blue Jay: leucistic jay Auger L 6 Aug (GH), off-white to gray head & nape.
Boreal Chickadee: Bigelow Rd; Blue Mt; FB; Giant Mt; Gray Pk; Helldiver Pd; Kempshall Mt; LL; Lyon Mt; Pillsbury Mt; Sumner Stream, Whiteface Mt, all except Lyon Mt, CLIN, expected sites.
Tufted Titmouse: CH; Elizabethtown; Witherbee, seemingly under-reported.
Carolina Wren: Willsboro Pt (RL), nesting in door wreath on porch; CH 31 Aug (NO); singing m Westport 31 Aug (DN), all good finds.
Marsh Wren: Scomotion Cr 14 Jun; CR 6 Jul (NO); 2-3 Raquette R, AMR 25 Jul (HW); 3 singing m AP 29 Jul (J&PT).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Round L 4 Aug (WL), 3rd HAMI record.
Bicknell's Thrush: max 13 Blue Mt 7 Jun (JC); also Colden; Giant; Haystack, L Arnold; McKenzie; Noonmark; Phelps; Pillsbury; Santanoni; Snowy; Sunrise; Wakely; Whiteface by 15 Jun; Lyon Mt 5 Aug (GL), late CLIN.
N. Mockingbird: Ausable Forks 9 Jun (PO); L Alice 1 Jul (NO); Plattsburgh thru (JH).

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: m Speculator BBS 24 Jun (M&WM), near Camp of the Woods; singing m Opalescent R 7 Jul (J&PT), only reports.
Cape May Warbler: Sumner Stream 11 Jun (GL), only report.
Palm Warbler: Beaver Bk Bog; Paul Smiths; Sabattis Bog; Shallow L trail; South Inlet; Spring Pd Bog, typical of recent years.
Bay-breasted Warbler: Lost Pds 12 Jun (GL), only report.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 20+ above 2,758' L Arnold-Gray Pk 26 Jul (DD).
Am. Redstart: m at 3300' Phelps Mt 10 Jun (J&PT); 3 at 3650' Wright Pk 5 Aug (DD,DO), high elevations for this warbler.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: Heart L Rd 26 Aug (J&PT), only report.
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: ad Moose R Plains 13 Jun (RM), late HAMI & Reg 7.
Rusty Blackbird: Wakely Mt 9 Jun (CF,WR); Lost Pds 12 Jun (GL); BB 1 Jul (WR), feeding y Keene 21 Jul; max 75

Keene 28 Aug (J&PT), dropping into marsh in evening.

House Finch: CH; Ticonderoga, expected; singing m L Everest 15 Jun (J&PT), a surprise.

Red Crossbill: Baxter Mt; Giant Mt; Wakely Mt; Whiteface Mt, only reports in wake of invasion.

White-winged Crossbill: Marcy Dam; Mt

Colden; McKenzie Mt; Whiteface Mt, ditto.

Pine Siskin: ambushed while bathing, killed, & sometimes eaten by bullfrogs at L Placid stream during summer (LM); several of the killer frogs subsequently transplanted.

Evening Grosbeak: prs with y Elizabethtown, Redford, Witherbee feeders Jul-Aug; max 10 over Baxter Mt 20 Aug (J&PT), typical of recent summers.