

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

John M.C. Peterson

477 County Rte 8, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

jmcp7@juno.com

Pleasant weather continued into September, and, although Saranac Lake dropped to 30°F on the 5th and Lake Placid and Schroon Lake had a low of 33° on the 18th, much of the month was unseasonably warm. Saranac Lake had

rebounded to 90° on 7 September, Plattsburgh was 92° the following day, and Schuyler Falls thermometers read 91° by the 25th. Rains arrived at month's end, with 1.01" falling at Saranac Lake on the 28th. October brought more much-needed rain, especially at higher elevations, with 0.53" at Saranac Lake on the 6th and 1.05" there on the 23rd. Snow arrived on Election Day, 6 November, with three inches on Whiteface Mt. and two at Inlet. Temperatures fell to 11° at Saranac Lake on the 9th, then to 6° on the 11th. Mid-month brought a winter storm that left 4" of snow at Saranac Lake 15-16 November, and the temperature fell to +1° there on the 19th. Inlet was a subzero -2° on the 24th. The season closed with another snowstorm that left 6" at Duane and 3.5" at Schuyler Falls on 29 November. Lake Champlain stood at 95.53' on 1 September, continuing the drop that had begun in summer, before reaching a low of 94.75' on 17 October then rising rapidly to 96.72' by season's end.

Observers along Lake Champlain were rewarded with a variety of waterfowl, including such rarities as Cackling Goose at Beekmantown, Peru, and Point au Roche; Ross's Goose at Beekmantown; Tufted Duck at Noblewood Park; and the first regional Pacific Loon at Gravelly Point of Cumberland Head. Elsewhere, two records and a total six Sandhill Crane at Ft. Covington and Redford were unprecedented here. Relatively low lake levels provided mudflats for shorebirds, resulting in a godwit (sp.)—most likely Hudsonian—at Ausable Point and a juvenile Ruff at the Chazy Riverlands. Lake watches also produced Parasitic Jaeger and Long-tailed Jaeger off the Cumberland Head ferry dock, as well as an adult Black-headed Gull southbound at Chazy Riverlands.

The most notable invasive species was Bohemian Waxwing, whose numbers exploded after a record early Essex County sighting along the Middle Road, Willsboro on 28 October, which tied the Region 7 arrival date, and a record early Hamilton County arrival at Indian Lake on 3 November. By 13 November, a huge flock of ~1,000 had gathered along the entrance road to Ausable Point S.P., with a similar number reportedly seen by a kayaker at the opposite side of the park at the same time, a new maxima for Clinton County and Region 7 and perhaps even New York. Flocks varying in size from a few to more than a hundred waxwings were widely reported through the remainder of the Fall season. Another noteworthy invasion began with a report of Pine Grosbeak calling and singing at Raquette Falls in the Central Adirondacks on 2-3 October, a record early arrival for Franklin County and Region 7, and flocks of anywhere from 2 to 30 were widely reported thereafter. Other northern species began to appear in strong numbers: Northern Shrike, Snow Bunting, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak. A bumper crop of buckthorn, crabapple, and red cedar also attracted good numbers of Eastern Bluebird and American Robin. Several interesting reports came from alpine summits of Bicknell's Thrush, Orange-crowned and Bay-breasted warblers, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting. There were also a few early fall arrivals, a number of late departures, and a host of other interesting sightings. See the species accounts that follow for the solution to The Mystery of the Stick-carrying Bobcat.

A record 194 species were reported, demolishing the previous fall record of 175 species set in 2004. In addition to the 82 observers whose cumulative effort

made this seasonal record possible, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the thousands of contributors over the past quarter-century who have assisted this regional editor in reaching a benchmark of 100 consecutive seasonal reports. Our knowledge of the birds of the Adirondack-Champlain Region is much greater than a quarter-century ago thanks to your dedicated field work and care with records, and we're most grateful for your continued support.

CONTRIBUTORS

MaryAnne Allen, Thomas Armstrong, Thomas Barber, Laurel Carroll, Nancy Carter, Gary Chapin, Joan Collins, Sally Coyne, Anthony David, Charlie Delehanty, Susan Delehanty, Diane Demers, Adam Duerr, Don Fasking, Corey Finger, Elizabeth & Holland Fitts, Donna Fletcher, Bob Gillis, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Julie Hart, Thomas Haley, Judith F. Heintz, John Hershey, Gary Johnson, Suzy Johnson, Edward Kanze, Bill Krueger, Dayna Lalonde, Beverly LaMere, Jory Langner, Linda LaPan, Rodney LaValley, Gary Lee, William J. Lee, William Lenhart, Kathy Linker, Richard MacDonald, Mark A. Manske, Lawrence Master, Brian McAllister, William McCann, Melanie A. McCormack, David Medler, Matthew D. Medler, Charles & Joan Mitchell, Shaibal Mitra, Michael & Wanda Moccio, Megan A. Murphy, James Murray, Jeff Nadler, Daniel Ouellette, Lydia & Paul Osenbaugh, John Peterson, Ann Marie Pozzini, Emily Pugsley, Ellen Rathbone, Will Raup, Neil Reilly, Chris Roberts, Dana Rohleder, Peggy Rudis, Richard Scales, William Stahl, Eric K. Teed, Philip Terrie, John & Patricia Thaxton, Eve D. Ticknor, Jan Trzeciak, Margaret Tsuda, Mary Beth Warburton, John Waller, Scott Wilson, Uta Wister, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz, Nick Woodin, Lydia Wright.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Pt SHS; CR – Chazy Riverlands; FB – Ferd's Bog; IL – Indian L; LL – Long L; NP – Noblewood Pk; PtR – Pt au Roche SP; TL – Tupper L; WD – Wilcox Dock.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 30 CR 1 Oct (SW); 17 yellow neck collars read Beekmantown & PtR 17 Oct & 14 Nov (CF,BK); max 8000 PtR 11 Nov (AG,JL) or 7-10 thousand PtR 23 Nov (WS).

ROSS'S GOOSE: PtR 16 Oct-11 Nov (AG,BK,JL,PO); Pardy Rd, Beekmantown 14 Nov (CF), great finds amongst the Snows.

ACKLING GOOSE: 3 Eccles Rd, Peru 30 Sep (EF); PtR 17 Oct; 2 PtR 18 Oct, one with white neck ring (BK); Deyo Rd, Beekmantown 10-11 Nov (AG,JL,WL); 3

Moffitt & Pardy Rds, Beekmantown 14 Nov (CF), great finds amongst the Canadas.

Brant: Inlet 25 Nov (GL), fairly late HAMI.

Gadwall: pr AP 24 Sep (PO), only report.

Am. Wigeon: arr m NP 22 Oct (JP,EKT); 19 m Bulwagga Bay 2 Nov (MDM), high ESSE; pr Westport 13 Nov (JP,EKT); max 24+ KB 17 Nov (BK), a good showing.

Green-winged Teal: arr max 13 NP 15 Sep (J&PT); m Westport 22 Oct (JP,EKT); 4 NP 28 Oct (J&PT); 6 Rouses Pt 22 Nov (WS), also good.

Redhead: arr 5 Bulwagga Bay 28 Oct (MDM), always scarce ESSE.

Ring-necked Duck: arr f NP 22 Oct (JP,EKT); max 370 Lincoln Pd 30 Oct (EKT).

TUFTED DUCK: f NP 7 Nov (PO), blunted tuft, yellow eye, solid dk brn head, grayish-br flanks, dull bluish bill, and a superb find.

Greater Scaup: max 2000 Pt Kent 18 Nov (DCR).

Lesser Scaup: WD 19 Nov (NO), plus several mixed flocks.

scaup (sp.): 1000 mixed Greater & Lesser KB 19 Nov (BK).

Surf Scoter: arr f NP 7 Nov (PO); CH 15 Oct (SJ,BK), good finds.

White-winged Scoter: arr pr AP 30 Sep (RM); 12 IL, FRAN 7 Oct (JT); 12 CH 22 Oct (BK); 5 NP 28 Oct (MDM), ditto.

Black Scoter: arr 2 m IL 7 Oct (JT), early FRAN; 2 CH 9 Nov (GJ,BK); WD 30 Nov (BK), ditto.

Long-tailed Duck: arr max 30-40 Pt Henry 28 Oct (MDM); pr WD 30 Oct (BK); f NP 2-3 Nov (MDM); f WD 10-30 Nov; 4 there 30 Nov (BK), 7 Mt View L 19 Nov (MT), a good showing.

Bufflehead: arr 4 KB 16 Oct (BK); max 225 NP 28 Oct (MDM).

Com. Goldeneye: max 1000+ NP 28 Oct (JP,EKT), low by recent standards.

Red-breasted Merganser: 18 CH 24 Oct (BK), only report.

Red-throated Loon: CH 22 Oct (BK,CM), excellent find.

PACIFIC LOON: juv Gravelly Pt of CH 6 Nov (BK,CM), 1st CLIN & Reg 7 record.

Com. Loon: max 22 LL 30 Sep (PGT), high HAMI.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 juv L Adirondack 3 Nov (M&WM), late HAMI.

Horned Grebe: max 42 NP 3 Nov (MDM).

Red-necked Grebe: arr Raquette Pd 17 Oct (CD); 2 L Placid 21 Oct (LM); Westport 28 Oct (MDM); NP 29 Oct-3 Nov (MDM,EKT); Whallon's Bay 7 Nov (PO), Rock I Bay, TL 9 Nov (CD), a strong showing.

Double-crested Cormorant: yellow colored band on right leg from The Four Brothers sighted Hudson R, New Baltimore 20 Sep (RG); yell 7J8 color banded as ad The Four Brothers 2006, returned '07 (AD), sighted Robt Moses SP, SUFF 22 Sep (SM); max 50 CP 28 Oct (MDM).

Great Blue Heron: Bobcat carrying sticks below RR grade south of Ticonderoga 19 Nov was then seen actually to be dragging a dead Great Blue by the tarsi, through swale

along the Champlain narrows marshes (TH, Amtrak *Adirondack* engineer). It's a tough world out there.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: imm & ad Essex nest 4-12 Sep (J&PT); Fifth L 10 Nov (GL), fairly late HAMI.

Broad-winged Hawk: max. 58 Noonmark 16 Sep (MAM,EKT), 12:30-3 p.m.

Golden Eagle: imm Round Top Mt, Keene 20 Sep (J&PT); ads Jay 9 Oct & 10 Oct (PO); Bombay 20 Oct (MAM); Azure Mt 26 Oct (JC); AP 25 Nov (J&PT), a strong showing.

Am. Kestrel: m banded as nestling Moira 10 Jul found dead Camden, ONEI 14 Sep (RS); f sibling from same nestbox (MAM) found dead Greensboro, NC 15 Sep (JW), endorsing earlier southbound migration of females.

Merlin: AP, Champlain, Essex, Keene, Lost Pd, Lyon Mt, NP, PtR, Redford, TL, now typical.

Peregrine Falcon: Azure Mt, CH, Coot Hill, CP, Noonmark, NP, Plattsburgh, ditto.

Sora: CR 15 Sep (BK), rarely reported.

Com. Moorhen: juv CR 2 Sep-9 Oct; max 3 [2 ads, juv] CR 14 Sep (BK).

Am. Coot: AP 24 Sep-3 Nov (TA,PO); WD 1 Nov (BK); max 31 Bulwagga Bay 2 Nov (MDM), high ESSE.

SANDHILL CRANE: max 4 Ft.

Covington 8 Sep (AD), flying toward QC, 4th FRAN & 8th Reg 7 records, Regional maxima; 2 Redford 1 Oct (DF), 4th CLIN & 9th Reg 7 records, numbers unprecedented.

Black-bellied Plover: NP 2-30 Sep (EKT,J&PT); 2 NP 28 Oct (J&PT); PtR 6 Oct (BK); last CR 29 Oct (BK,CM).

Am. Golden-Plover: NP 11 Sep (LM, MAM), after none in summer.

Semipalmated Plover: CR 5 Sep (BK); NP 1-3 Sep (JH, MDM) 6 NP 6 & 17 Sep (MAM, EKT, J&PT); 6 PtR 19 Sep (BK), good numbers.

Killdeer: WD 19 Nov (NO); Altona 29 Nov (RL), fairly late.

Gr. Yellowlegs: 1-3 NP 6 Sep-3 Nov (MDM, J&PT); 4 KB 8-18 Sep (BK); WD 14 Sep (BK,CM); 2 PtR 6-18 Oct (BK), fairly typical.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Raquette R, LL 1 Sep (JC), 6th HAMI record since 1878; 1-2 NP 6-30 Sep (J&PT), where expected.

Solitary Sandpiper: 3 Westport 4 Sep (EKT); last KB 5 Sep (BK).

GODWIT (SP.): AP 28 Oct (MAM), dark

legs, long upturned pinkish bill.

Sanderling: 2 NP 11 Sep (LM); NP 9 Nov (JN) to 11 Nov (J&PT), late ESSE.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 7 NP 1 Sep (JH,MDM); NP 17 Sep (MAM,EKT), rather scarce.

Least Sandpiper: CR 2 & 11 Sept (BK); 1-3 NP 4-15 Sep (J&PT), similarly low.

White-rumped Sandpiper: ad NP 4-6 Sep (LM, J&PT), nice find.

Baird's Sandpiper: CR 2 Sep (BK); 2-3 NP 3-6 Sep (JH,MDM,EKT,J&PT), good finds.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 1-2 NP 17-19 Sep (MAM,JN,EKT,J&PT), only fall report.

Dunlin: CR 20 Sep; max 4 KB 16 Oct (BK); NP 6 Nov (CF,WR), usual wide window.

RUFF: juv m CR 2 Sep (BK), an outstanding find.

Short-billed Dowitcher: NP 9 Sep (MMc), only fall report.

Wilson's Snipe: 3 AP 3 Nov (TA), fairly late.

PARASITIC JAEGER: CH ferry dock 12 Nov (BK), 4th CLIN record.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: CH ferry dock 16 Nov (BK), 2nd CLIN record.

Little Gull: ads Gilbert Ck Marina 21 Sep; CH 22 Oct; 1 Nov (BK); 4 Nov (BK,CM), 20th-23rd CLIN records; NP 6 Nov (CF,WR), a strong showing.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: winter ad CR 17 Sep (BK), southbound, 2nd CLIN & 3rd Reg 7 record.

Bonaparte's Gull: max. 1200 NP 24-25 Sep (MMc,EKT), where present 1 Sep-13 Nov.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 26 NP 30 Sep (J&PT).

Caspian Tern: ad NP 2 Sep (JH,MDM), last report.

Com. Tern: 2-4 NP 6 Sep-7 Oct (LM,EDT); midlake CH ferry 28 Oct (HW), late CLIN.

Black Tern: NP 14-15 Sep (MDM,J&PT); juv NP 19 Sep (JN), last reports.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: gray-phase Keene 1 Oct; gray-phase Spruce Hill same date (J&PT); pr calling Mooers 15-30 Oct (CR), always welcome.

Barred Owl: leucistic owl Witherbee 8 p.m. 25 Nov (MA,CW), white with dark markings, brown eyes, viewed with light & scope.

Long-eared Owl: Raquette Falls 2-3 Oct (TB), rarely reported.

Short-eared Owl: Eccles Rd, Peru 5 Nov (E&HF); Bombay 24 Nov (HW), encouraging.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Keene 21 Sep (J&PT); Dannemora 30 Sep (JFH); Jay 25 Oct (PO).

Com. Nighthawk: Pt Kent 3 Sep (DR), only report.

Belted Kingfisher: Inlet 29 Nov (GL), late HAMI.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: LL 1 Oct (PGT), late HAMI; TL 6 Oct (CD), late FRAN; CH 4 Oct, Keene Valley 5 Oct, normal CLIN & ESSE.

Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: FB 9 Nov (*sic* GL), only report.

Black-backed Woodpecker: m Catamount Mt trailhead 1 Sep (DPM,MDM), rare CLIN; BB, Boreas R, Brothers, FB, Helldiver Pd, Oregon Plains Rd, known locales.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: transient Elizabethtown 8 Sep (JP).

N. Shrike: arr Peru 28 Oct (E&HF); ~22 subsequent reports, a strong showing.

Yellow-throated Vireo: NP 2 Sep (EKT), rarely reported.

Philadelphia Vireo: Nun-da-ga-o Ridge 3 Sep (J&PT); Giant Mt 5 Sep (MMc), nice finds.

Gray Jay: BB, Bigelow Rd, Bloomingdale, FB, Lost Pds, Paul Smiths VIC feeders, usual locales.

Am. Crow: max 1000 Essex 7 Nov (PO), high ESSE.

Horned Lark: 2 flocks IL 24 Nov (DS), uncommon HAMI; 6 N Farm Rd, Chazy (BK,CM), included leucistic lark, entirely cream-colored with areas tinted beige.

Boreal Chickadee: Armstrong, BB, Bigelow Rd, Bloomingdale, Brothers, Brown's Tract, FB, Giant Mt, Gothics, Nun-da-ga-o Ridge, Sawteeth, expected locales.
Tufted Titmouse: 4-5 AP, CH, Chilson, 4 Elizabethtown, Jay, L Placid, New Russia, NP, Peru, TL, Ticonderoga, now expected numbers.

Carolina Wren: CH thru (NO); Westport 28 Oct (MDM); Plattsburgh 13-30 Nov (CM), still good finds as invasion continues.

Winter Wren: Westport 13 Nov (JP,EKT), rare after September here.

Sedge Wren: 2 CR 15 Sep (BK), always an excellent find.

Veery: Plattsburgh 15 Oct (C&JM), late CLIN.

E. Bluebird: max 25 Peru 14 Oct (EF),

The Kingbird 2008 March; 58 (1)

several other flocks & individuals in lowlands.

Bicknell's Thrush: max 9 Armstrong-Wolfjaws 9 Sep, calling & singing, high ESSE; 3 Armstrong-Wolfjaws 16 Sep (DD); 3 Phelps Mt 16 Sep (J&PT); 2 calling Armstrong, Sawteeth 25 Sep (DD).

Am. Robin: max 50 Essex 3 Nov (MDM), several other flocks in lowlands.

Am. Pipit: 3 Inlet 4 Oct (GL), 7th HAMI record; 8 BB 8 Oct (BM); max 70 Beekmantown 16 Oct (PO); 25 Wadhams 22 Oct (JP,EKT); 2 Azure Mt 26 Oct (JC); 2 NP 28 Oct (MDM), an exceptionally strong showing.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: arr 49 Willsboro 28 Oct (MDM), early ESSE, ties Region 7 earliest arr date; 16 IL 3 Nov (M&WM), early HAMI; 17 banded Elizabethtown 12 Nov (JP); max 1000+ AP 13 Nov (PO), between entrance & Greenleaf T. Chase platform, with kayaker guide reporting an *equal number* on the Ausable R delta side of the park, high CLIN and Region 7; 40+ other reports, mostly from CLIN & ESSE, a record invasion winter. **Cedar Waxwing:** 2 Moriah 30 Oct (EKT); 2 Essex 13 Nov (PO,JP,EKT), the latter in mixed flock of Bohemians & Pine Grosbeaks.

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: Nun-da-ga-o Ridge 3 Sep (J&PT), nice find.

Yellow Warbler: NP 20 Sep (MDM), late ESSE.

Pine Warbler: Brown's Tract Pd 19 Sep (GL), late HAMI; NP 6 Nov (CF,WR), late ESSE, except for single Jan record.

Palm Warbler: "Western" & "Yellow" in mixed flock BB 27 Sep (BM); "Yellow" New Russia 2 Oct (EKT); also AP 30 Sep (RM); Keene Valley 5 Oct (J&PT); 4 BB 8 Oct (BM); Jay 10 Oct (PO), race not mentioned.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Nun-da-ga-o Ridge 3 Sep (J&PT); 4289' Gothic Mt 23 Sep (DD), apparently still on breeding grounds.

Blackpoll Warbler: The Brothers 23 Sep (J&PT); max 12 Armstrong & Upper Wolf Jay-Gothics ~4,150' 16 Sep (DD); last Sawteeth-Upper Wolf Jaw 23 Sep (DD), still on breeding grounds.

Black-and-white Warbler: Dannemora 30 Sep (JH), late CLIN.

Wilson's Warbler: The Brothers 23 Sep (J&PT), only report.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Inlet 8 Oct (GL), rare HAMI.

Chipping Sparrow: max 20 Inlet 16 Sep (GL), high HAMI.

Vesper Sparrow: Jay 9-10 Oct (PO), only report.

Fox Sparrow: arr Jay 17 Oct (PO); also Crown Pt, Elizabethtown, Essex, Noonmark, Peru, TL.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Dannemora 29 Sep (JKH); Inlet 30 Sep (GL), early HAMI.

Lapland Longspur: arr pr 3600' summit Jay Mt 7 Oct (J&PT), early ESSE.

Snow Bunting: arr 3556' summit Noonmark 21 Oct (MAM,EKT); max 1,000+ N Farm Rd, Chazy 25 Nov (BK,CM), high CLIN, over a dozen other reports.

Red-winged Blackbird: 50 Essex 7 Nov (PO); 1000s Westport 9 Nov (JN), 80 Essex 11 Nov (J&PT), late high numbers.

Rusty Blackbird: Little TL 6 Oct (WL); 6 Essex 7 Nov (PO); Jay 17-19 Nov (PO).

Com. Grackle: max ~80 Ticonderoga 30 Nov (NC), late high number.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max ~20 Ticonderoga 30 Nov (NC), late high number.

Baltimore Oriole: Sagamore 6 Sep (GL), late HAMI.

PINE GROSBEAK: arr Raquette Falls 2-3 Oct (TBV), early FRAN & Reg 7; 4 banded Elizabethtown 12 Nov (JP); ~30 other reports, mostly from CLIN & ESSE, a major invasion.

Purple Finch: notably scarce, a scattering at feeders.

House Finch: CH & Essex, only reports.

Red Crossbill: Bigelow Rd 11 Nov (AG,JL), only report.

White-winged Crossbill: Bigelow Rd 11 Nov (AG,JL); heard NP 13 Nov (PO,EKT), only reports.

Com. Redpoll: arr LL 28 Oct (JM); max 60 CR 24 Nov (BK); a dozen other reports, suggestive of invasion.

Hoary Redpoll: Mountain View 23 Nov (WM,JT), 8th FRAN record.

Pine Siskin: max 50 L Placid Sep-Oct (LM); others CH, Keene, Jay, Peru, New Russia, Ticonderoga, Witherbee..

Am. Goldfinch: many Essex 7 Nov (PO), otherwise irregular at feeders.

Evening Grosbeak: max 50 Elizabethtown 17 Oct (J&PT); 16 other reports, mostly at feeders.