

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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This season is being called The Summer That Never Was. A hard frost at Inlet 1 June wiped out some crops of berries, fruits, and nuts. Although the first week of June was mostly sunny and warm, the remainder of the month was cloudy, rainy, and cool. The same cool and wet trend extended into July, with 3" of rain at Inlet 11 July, a high of just 69° F at Plattsburgh 14 July, and 3" of rain at Rouses Point on 29 July, plus other scattered deluges across the four northeastern counties. Early August was sunny, hazy, and breezy, but remained cool until mid-month, when temperatures finally reached the 80s. Westport reached 92° on 16 August, and Plattsburgh was 89° the following day, highest temps of the season, but Inlet had another 3" of rain on 23 August, with over a foot falling during the month. Humidity was high, and many mornings were foggy, with or without the constant rains that fell on at least 35 days of the season. Lake Champlain stood at 97.24' on 1 June, but, instead of falling as usual, it rose with the summer rains to 97.40' by 6 August—over two feet above the 84-year median—before dropping to 96.56' at season's end, still an exceptionally high level that inundated shorebird beaches from July through August.

The relatively high water levels do not explain the late records of geese and shorebirds. Snow Geese were found at the Chazy Riverlands in all three

summer months, Brant lingered until 11 June, and Canada Goose migration extended until 20 June. Spring shorebirds are unusual enough in this Region, so sightings into June are especially noteworthy. Between 1-3 June, the Chazy Riverlands hosted Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper (100 peeps in all), an impressive 29 Dunlin, and eight Short-billed Dowitcher, while inland Oseetah Lake had a Sanderling on 8 June. Also notably late were 82 Bonaparte's Gull at Chazy Riverlands 24 June. **White-crowned Sparrow** was found at two northern Franklin County sites on 2 June and 11 August.

Among boreal species, there were welcome reports of Spruce Grouse and American Three-toed Woodpecker from new locations and the first report of Gray Jay from Chubb River Swamp since Geoffrey Carleton saw the last family group there in July 1961. No reports were received, however, of Ring-necked Duck or Common Goldeneye from Adirondack waters, and there were no encounters with Cape May Warbler. The finches were in short supply, with the exception of American Goldfinch, and most of those at feeders. There were just three reports of Red Crossbill and only a few chips from White-winged. In the wake of their winter invasion, followed by a brief flurry of spring nesting activity, most Pine Siskin moved on.

Looking ahead toward fall and winter, the summer crop of wild foods was less than promising. Conifer species that were heavy with cones in some areas were barren elsewhere, with a summary showing: eastern redcedar—no berries; northern white-cedar—heavy with cones; balsam fir—none to excellent; tamarack (eastern larch)—very few to excellent; white spruce—no cones; black spruce—none to excellent; red spruce—none to excellent, but spotty; red pine—holding '08 cones, some new; eastern white pine—dropped '08 cones, some new; birches—poor; Am. Beech—no nuts; northern red oak—a few acorns; apples—poor to abundant fruit; pin (fire) cherry—none; Am. mountain ash—loaded with fruit along lakeshores; staghorn sumac—spotty; boxelder—no seeds; dogwoods—poor.

The list of rarities was led by a wayward **Brown Pelican**, banded in Maryland in July '01, that visited Fourth Lake, Inlet 19-20 August (and Herkimer County waters of the lake to 21 August) and Lows Lake 22 August (and St. Lawrence County waters of that lake to 26 August), when captured and taken in turn to Tupper Lake, Ray Brook, and Newcomb, before being transported to Delaware, where the bird died 29 August. This represents a first record for Hamilton County and the Adirondack-Champlain Region, but—including human-assisted transport—the pelican toured six northern counties and three Regions during its brief eight-day visit. Noblewood Park hosted a **Whimbrel** and a **Baird's Sandpiper** during August. **Acadian Flycatcher** at Miner Flat Rocks on 18 July provided a first record for Clinton County and Region 7. Third and fourth Regional records for the hybrid "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** came from Essex County, with June reports from Elizabethtown and Westport. A **Nelson's Sparrow** at the always productive Chazy Riverlands provided a fourth Regional record. The singing male was located on 21 July and apparently lingering into early August, with two sparrows possibly present. An

adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** near the former Essex County Home in the Town of Essex was a late July surprise and the tenth Regional record. Despite this abundance of riches, only 182 species were reported, below the previous summer's 189 and well short of the record of 192 set in '04, an Atlas year.

Lost Pond Press, publisher of *Adirondack Birding: 60 Great Places to Find Birds* (2008), reports that its inventory is now exhausted, but copies are still available from the distributor, the Adirondack Mountain Club, at www.adk.org.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; BTS – Brown's Tract Stream; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Riverlands; CRS – Chubb R Swamp; FB – Ferd's Bog; FBI – Four Brothers islands; IL – Indian L; LA – L Alice; LL – Long L; MRP – Moose R Plains; PtF – Point au Fer; SB – Sabattis Bog; SC – Scotion Cr; SLB – Silver L Bog; SPB – Spring Pd Bog; TL – Tupper L; WM – Wickham Marsh.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: CR 20 Jun; max 6 CR 13 Jul (BK); CR 10 Aug (DH,BK), all late.

Brant: 6-7 Isl "A" FBI 2-7 Jun (LS); AP 11 Jun (DR), grazing on Rte 9 lawn, both late.

Canada Goose: 100 headed n. Witherbee 1 Jun (CW), 100 following day; 100+ headed n. T. Willsboro to 20 Jun (LS), also late.

Blue-winged Teal: 5 CR 25 Jul (DH), only report.

N. Shoveler: ad, 4 y CR 21 Jul (BK), rare breeder.

Spruce Grouse: f Blue Mt 8 Jun (CS); m Shingle Shanty Preserve 9 Jun (SL,RT); m Uncas Rd bog, T Inlet 2 Jul (JW), welcome reports.

Com. Loon: nest Indian L, MRP 9 Jun (GL), 1st since '02; 4 NP 11 Aug (EKT) & 22 Aug (J&PT); ad, juv CH 13 Aug (SJ,BK), shepherding call heard throughout; max 10 Limekiln L 22 Aug (GL).

Pied-billed Grebe: ad, y CR 7 Jul (BK); SC 8 Aug (NO); 2 ad, 4 y CR 9 Aug (BK,CM); basic NP 11 Aug (EKT); Little Weller Pd 18 Aug; 3

AP 22 Aug (J&PT), good numbers.

Horned Grebe: CH n.d. (NO).

BROWN PELICAN: banded ad Fourth L, Inlet **19 Aug** (SH, MMe, photo); e. Dollar I, Fourth L **20 Aug** (JL); Lows L **22 Aug** (JC,Jr., SN), near floating bog mat; 1st record HAMI & Reg 7; captured campsite 10 Lows L, STLA 26 Aug and transported to TL, FRAN and Ray Brook & Newcomb, ESSE; arr DE rehab ctr 28 Aug, died there emaciated 29 Aug; banded MD Jul '01, lived to age 8 yrs, 2 mos.

Double-crested Cormorant: 9 Auger L 2 Jun (GH); 2 Raquette L 10 Aug (GL), unusual inland; numbers killed by DEC unknown.

Least Bittern: heard SC 25 Jul (NO), nice find.

Great Egret: AP 6 Jul (NO); CR 7 Jul (BK); 2 CR 25 Jul (DH, BK); max 8 Hogansburg 30 Jul (HW); 2 CH 9 Aug (DH).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: SC 10 Jul & 8 Aug (NO); no FBI report.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 y in nest T Chesterfield 6 Jun (DR); nest T Morehouse (GL), new ESSE & HAMI sites.

Am. Kestrel: 7 of 35 FRAN nest boxes produced 28 y; 10 boxes failed, 9 empty, 6 Com. Grackle, 2 Eur. Starling, 1 box down (MAMA).

Merlin: Cedar R Flow; CR; Helldiver Pd; IL, FRAN; Inlet; LL; Lost Pd, MRP; NP; Plattsburgh; TL, only suggestive of range.

Peregrine Falcon: 10 of 16 ESSE aeries produced 20 y (EKT), despite unfavorable weather.

Virginia Rail: CR 20 Jun (BK); AP 6 Jul (NO), only reports in a non-Atlas summer.:

Com. Moorhen: ad, 2 y CR 21 Jul; ad, 4 y CR 10 Aug (BK), different family.

Black-bellied Plover: last CR 3 Jun (BK), molt incomplete.

Semipalmated Plover: last 2 CR 3 Jun (BK); arr NP 7 Aug (J&PT); max 7 NP 23 Aug (MDM); CR 23-30 Aug (DH,BK,CM), despite high water.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr NP 2 Aug (EKT); CR 23 Aug (BK,CM), sparse.

Greater Yellowlegs: CR 15 Jul-23 Aug (BK, CM), max 3, only location.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr CR 13 Jul (BK, CM); NP 29 Jul (EKT); max 32 CR 22 Aug (DH,BK).

WHIMBREL: NP 7 Aug (J&PT), 5th ESSE & 11th Reg 7 record since late July 1964.

Sanderling: Oseetah L, near Kiwassa L outlet 8 Jun (WS), 3rd FRAN record; 3 NP 29 Jul-2 Aug (EKT).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 10+ CR 1 Jun

(BK), 100+ peeps present; arr CR 28-29 Jul (DH,BK); 9 NP 29 Jul, 2 there 2 Aug (EKT); CR 20-28 Aug (BK); NP 23 Aug (MDM).

Western Sandpiper: juv NP 25 Aug (SP, photo).

Least Sandpiper: 2+ CR 1 Jun (BK), day of 100+ peeps; arr CR 29 Jul (BK); max 38 CR 20-30 Aug (DH, BK); 2 NP 23 Aug (MDM); NP 25 Aug (SP).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Sixth L 28 Aug (GL), 2nd HAMI record; CR 30 Aug (MAMc), nice finds.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: NP 23 Aug (MDM), well worth a NYSARC report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 CR 21 Aug (BK), only report.

Dunlin: 29 CR 3 Jun (BK), a good late number.

Short-billed Dowitcher: last 8 CR 1 Jun (BK); arr CR 25 Jul (DH,BK), always welcome.

Red-necked Phalarope: 3 CR 23 Aug (DH,BK,CM, photo), carefully identified.

Bonaparte's Gull: 82 CR 24 Jun (BK); max 150 NP 7 Aug (J&PT); 15-60 Pt Kent 10-12 Aug (DR), feeding on flying ants; 6 NP 22 Aug (MDM).

Little Gull: 2 Pt Kent 12 Aug (DR), feeding on flying ants; 2nd winter NP 22 Aug (MDM,PT), good finds.

Ring-billed Gull: banded FBI 12 Jun '99 returned Shelburne Bay, VT 15 Jun (TM), 5th return, aged 10 yrs; 30 Pt Kent 10 Aug (DR), feeding on flying ants.

Caspian Tern: CR 1 Jun; 2 CR 20 Jun (BK); 3 CH 24 Jun (SJ,BK,J&PM); 3 CR 13 Jul-25 Aug (DH,BK); 6 NP 7 Aug (J&PT); 12 NP 11 Aug (EKT); few CLIN 11 Aug (EDT); 2 ads NP 22 Aug (MDM), now typical locations and numbers.

Com. Tern: 3 NP 7 Aug (J&PT); ad, 2 banded y NP 11 Aug (EKT); 2 CLIN 11 Aug (EDT), also typical.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: BTS 1 Jul (GL), rare HAMI; CRS 8 Aug (J&PT).

E. Screech-Owl: LA 1 Jun (BK); Inlet 8 Aug (CB), rare HAMI.

Com. Nighthawk: 3 Pt Kent 10 Aug (DR), feeding on flying ants.

Whip-poor-will: Rand Hill; Rte 9N, Keene; Ticonderoga; Trembleau Mt; Witherbee, encouraging.

Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: 2 Donaldson Mt, FRAN 13 Jun (MR-T), only report.

Black-backed Woodpecker: BB; Bog L; BTS; CRS; FB; Icehouse Pd; LL; Minerva; MRP; Owls Head, FRAN; River Rd; Shingle Shanty; South Inlet; Uncas Rd, ubiquitous in boreal

habitat.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: FB; LL; MRP; Perkins Clearing; Silver L Bog; Vanderwacker Mt, typical sites.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Blue Mt; CRS; FB; Helldiver Pd; LL; Marion R; MRP; Osgood R; Pillsbury Mt; SB; SPB, widespread in boreal habitat.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: 2 Miner Flat Rock, T Altona 18 Jul (KA, MAMc, TM, EDT, J&PT, photo), 1st record CLIN & Reg 7.

Willow Flycatcher: True Brook Rd, T Saranac 24 Jun (CM), new CLIN location; AP 6 Jul (NO).

Yellow-throated Vireo: WM 1 Jun (KF), known site, but only report.

Philadelphia Vireo: CRS 8 Jun (BM); T Lake Pleasant 13 Jun (JC)-22 June (MMo); Dix Mt 28 Jun (RW); Hardy Rd, T Wilmington 28 Jun (DP, DR), Baxter Mt Rd, T Keene 1 Jul (J&PT), a good showing.

Gray Jay: CRS 8 Jul (BM), 1st there since 6 Jul 1965; also BB; Beaver Bk; BTS; FB; Helldiver Pd; Lost Pd, MRP; Osgood R.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max ~8 Carpenter's Flats 27 Jun (BK); 7 CH 22 Jul (NO).

Cliff Swallow: colony Rouses Pt Bridge 3 Jun (JO); nest-building nearby Ft Montgomery 13 Jun (M&WS); nesting Willsboro Pt (SP); feeding y Carpenter's Flats 27 Jun; CR 20 Jul (BK), fewer known sites.

Boreal Chickadee: BB; Blue Mt; CRS; Helldiver Pd; Icehouse Pd; LL; Minerva; MRP; Pillsbury Mt; Red R; SPB; Wakely Mt, all expected sites.

Tufted Titmouse: Elizabethtown; Inlet; Plattsburgh; Pt Kent; Witherbee, but surely more.

Carolina Wren: Plattsburgh 22 Jul (NO); ad, y Plattsburgh 23 Aug (CM), only locale.

Sedge Wren: 2 CR 13 Jul-24 Aug (BK), only report.

Marsh Wren: LA 18 Jul (J&PT); ad feeding y CR 20 Aug (BK); AP 22 Aug (J&PT); SC thru (NO).

Bicknell's Thrush: max 10 Pillsbury Mt 5 Jun (JC); also Blue Mt; Wakely Mt; Whiteface Mt, but surely other peaks.

Swainson's Thrush: 4 transients banded 660' Elizabethtown 25 Jul-17 Aug (JP).

Am. Robin: leucistic ad PtF 20-30 Jun (BK), 3rd yr in row, carrying food.

N. Mockingbird: downtown Plattsburgh 2 Jun (JH); LL 6 Jun (JC, CP), very rare HAMI;

Plattsburgh 25 Jun (EF), former Plattsburgh AFB 22 Aug (NO); now established in 4 parts of city – northeast & west ends, old & new areas of former AFB (JH).

Cedar Waxwing: albino Sabattis Rd 19 Jun (JC).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: m T Westport 22 Jun (MDM, EKT); Rte 9N, T Elizabethtown 28 Jun (DP, DR), excellent finds.

Golden-winged Warbler: 2 m T Westport 22 Jun (MDM, EKT); singing m Webb Royce Swamp 28 Jun (J&PT); ad NP 22 Aug (MDM), good finds.

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER: m T Westport 22 Jun (MDM, EKT), 2nd ESSE record; F2 backcross Rte 9N T Elizabethtown 28 Jun (DP, DR), 3rd ESSE & 4th Reg 7 record, superb finds.

Tennessee Warbler: Redford 30 Jul (DF), only report.

Palm Warbler: Beaver Brook; Osgood R; Paul Smiths; SB; SLB; South Inlet; SPB, between 6 Jun-1 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: m Osgood R 24 Jun (J&PT); summit 4857' Dix Mt 28 Jun (RW), good finds.

Blackpoll Warbler: late transient AP 2 Jun (KF); breeders Blue Mt; Cascade Mt; Pillsbury Mt; Wakely Mt, undoubtedly many other peaks.

CERULEAN WARBLER: LA 1 Jun (BK), 2nd CLIN & 6th Reg 7 record, present from 9 May '09.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

NELSON'S SPARROW: singing m, possibly 2 birds CR 21 Jul (BK), 3rd CLIN since '02, 4th Reg 7 since 1983; probable CR 28 Jul; heard only CR 3 Aug (DH).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Hogansburg 2 Jun (HW); Red Tavern Rd, T Santa Clara 11 Aug (JT), both late FRAN & Reg 7.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 8 banded Elizabethtown 21 Jun-31 Jul (JP), 3 pr Witherbee feeders, feeding y there 5 Jul (CAW), increasingly regular at feeders.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: ad m Rte 22, Whallonsburg, T Essex late Jul (ME), 5th ESSE & 10th Region 7 record since early Dec 1980.

Rusty Blackbird: pr FB 4 Jun (JN); calling T Keene 9 Jul (J&PT); Shingle Shanty Jul (SL), only reports.

Com. Grackle: max 50+ T Keene 23 Aug (J&PT), grounded by rain shower.

Purple Finch: 1-3 pr Witherbee feeders thru

The Kingbird 2009 December; 59 (4)

(CAW); 4 banded Elizabethtown 26 Jul-1 Aug (JP), widespread, but scarce at feeders.

House Finch: CH thru (NO); pr Witherbee feeder 4 Jun, first ever; m, 4 y there 22 Jun (CAW).

Red Crossbill: 4-5 Inlet Jun (JB, CW); flyover Owls Head E, T Elizabethtown 5 Jul (J&PT); several IL early Aug (DS), feeding on tamarack cones, only reports.

White-winged Crossbill: "some chips" heard MRP 11-15 Aug (WL), only report.

Pine Siskin: last 3 Witherbee 3 Jun (CAW); 4

banded Elizabethtown 6 Jun-15 Jul (JP); 1-3 Peru 11 Jun-8 Aug (E&HF); 4 Pt Kent 24 Jun (DR), only reports in wake of Winter/Spring 2008-09 invasion.

Am. Goldfinch: 58 banded Elizabethtown 6 Jun-31 Aug (JP); 21 Pt Kent 23 Aug (DR); up to 14 daily Witherbee (CAW), the most abundant finch at feeders.

Evening Grosbeak: small numbers & families IL; L Everest; LL; Peru; Rand Hill; Redford; TL; Witherbee; only flock Ingraham Pd Rd, T Belmont 11 Aug (JT).