

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Gary N. Lee

P.O. Box 302, 116 Limekiln Lake Road, Inlet, N.Y. 13360
eightacrewoodmouse@hotmail.com

The cloudy wet weather that was here all summer continued into the fall, with temperatures in the 40s and 50s most mornings in September. Highs reached 75°F in Saranac Lake and 77° in Plattsburgh on the 4th after starting in the low thirties. Then temperatures reversed themselves in these places on the 21st. There was frost in Saranac Lake on the 26th, with the temperature dropping to 24°, and at Inlet on the 19th and 20th. I was still cutting flowers for my table into November. There was a thunderstorm in Saranac Lake on 28 September which dropped an inch of rain. Snow on 30 September coated the High Peaks, with pretty fall leaves continuing below the snow line. October was cooler but still only a couple of mornings had frost. There was 2" of snow in Blue Mountain Lake on the 14th, but only flurries and dusting in Inlet. Nearly an inch of rain fell in Plattsburgh the 24th. A total of 3.76" of rainfall was recorded in Saranac Lake for the month. November had some cold mornings, many in the teens. A coating of snow fell over the entire area on the 6th, but Newcomb recorded only an inch, which was mostly gone in two days as temperatures rose to the high 60s

on the 8th and 9th. Nearly an inch of rain fell on the 14th, but the total for the month was only 2" in Saranac Lake. A cold rain the last day of the month, which turned to wet snow late in the day, pushed many lingering birds to feeders.

The water level on Lake Champlain was at 96.52' on 1 September and continued down to a low of 95.25' on 20 October. From there it rose gradually back up to a high of 96.95' at the end of November.

There was very little wild food in the woods, only a good crop of acorns in the Champlain Valley. There were no cherries and beechnuts, very few wild berries except for mountain ash along lake shores, and some seeds on striped maples and yellow birch, which kept goldfinch around. Evergreens were almost devoid of cones. Many of the berry eaters left early, and some of the bug eaters hung around with the moderate temperatures. About the only birds you could readily find on a walk in the woods at the end of the period were woodpeckers; mixed flocks of chickadees, nuthatches, and kinglets; and possibly a grouse flushing from eating buds in a yellow birch. Water birds came through in good numbers, but I think there are many more stacked up to the north of us yet.

The sixth great lake, Lake Champlain, is still a magnet for southbound water birds and shore birds. Some even wander from west of us, like the **Western /Clark's Grebe** found by Judith Heintz on 29 November at Ausable Point, only the third Clinton County record. The **Ross's Goose** and **Cackling Goose** found on Stafford Road, Beekmantown, on 2 November by Bill Krueger and Charles Mitchell were also good finds. Seeing over 100 Horned Larks on 11 November on North Farm Road and finding one Lapland Longspur among them was neat for Melanie McCormack. Dan Nickerson's 600 Black Scoters at Essex Ferry on 23 October must have been a thrill. A call from Nora Burke at the marina on Raquette Lake about a possible Willet that had been in her yard for a week had me out the door with camera and binocs and there in fifteen minutes. When I arrived, she said the bird was just at the launch site five minutes ago. Searching the shoreline I found her bird, an American Golden-Plover, on the front lawn not five feet from Route 28. I got some good pictures and left the bird where I found it. It stayed for three more days, a new bird for my Hamilton County list and only the second for the county, with the first at Little Tupper Lake on 14 September 1961.

Only 151 species were reported this season, far below the high of 194 set in 2007.

Retired Forest Ranger Robert Hendrickson passed away on 11 January 2010 after a battle with cancer. Bob, who lived with his wife, Leslie, in Brantingham, holds the list for the most birds seen in Lewis County. He worked several survey blocks in the first NYS Bird Breeding Atlas. He will be missed by the birding community in the Western Adirondacks.

CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Abrahamse, Mary Anne Allen, Jeffery Bolsinger, Sarah Conley, Charlotte Demers, Brian Davis, Elizabeth Fitts, Josh Frere, Larry Hall, Judith F. Heintz, Will Holmlund, Bill Krueger, William Labes, Robert LaCelle III, Gary N. Lee,

Lawrence Master, Brian McAllister, Melanie A. McCormack, Bob McGuire, Charlie Mitchell, Mike & Wanda Moccio, Dan Nickerson, Nancy Olsen, John O'Neil, John Peterson, Bill Purcell, Nancy Rogers, Dana Rohleder, Tanner Steeves, Eric K. Teed, John & Patricia Thaxton, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point; CB – Cumberland Bay; CR – Chazy Riverlands, ET – Elizabetown; EF – Essex Ferry; FB – Ferd's Bog; LP – Lake Placid; MRRA – Moose River Recreation Area; NP – Noblewood Park; PtR – Pt auRoche SP; PL – Piseco Lake; PLa – Plattsburgh; PK – Port Kent; PPl – Powley Place; PP – Putnam Pond; WD – Wilcox Dock; WP – Westport.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 2 PtR 2 & 12 Nov (BK), both had yellow neck bands; 1200 PL 15 Nov (MM); max 1000's Monty Bay 8 Nov (NO).

ROSS'S GOOSE: Stafford Rd, Beekmantown 2 Nov (CM), only report, great find.

CACKLING GOOSE: 2 Stafford Rd, Beekmantown 2 Nov (BK, CM), another great find.

Canada Goose: 900 Angleville 13 Oct (BP); max 7,500 WP 29 Nov (J&PT).

Brant: PL 29 Sep (CM); 67 Pl 3 Oct (BP).

Wood Duck: PP 19 Oct; PtR 26 Oct (NO).

Gadwall: 2 PL 13 Oct (BP).

Am. Wigeon: 5 WP 10 Oct (J&PT) only report.

Am. Black Duck: 6 Rt. 10 HAMI 29 Sep (JF, LH); 6 WP 23 Oct (DN); 6 PtR 1 Nov (MM).

Mallard: 30 WP 23 Oct (DN,EF); 50 WP 29 Nov (J&PT).

N. Shoveler: 7 CR 29 Sep (BK).

N. Pintail: 4 CR 29 Sep (BK); 1 AP 20 Oct (JH), nice finds.

Green-winged Teal: 2 CB 13 Oct (BP).

Redhead: 2 PL 2 Nov (BK, CM).

Ring-necked Duck: 6 PL 14 Oct (BP).

Greater Scaup: WD 1 Oct (BK); 300 PL 13 Oct (BP); NP 26 Oct (JB).

Lesser Scaup: 300 PL 13 Oct (BP); 700 PL 13 Oct mixed flock (BP); 1900 PL 14 Oct (BP); 3,000 PL 14 Oct (BK, CM).

Surf Scoter: 10 EF 23 Oct (DN), nice find.

White-winged Scoter: 4 PL 3 Oct (BP); 3 PL 4 Oct (BP); 3 NP 26 Oct (JB), also nice.

Black Scoter: 600 EF 23 Oct (EF); 275 EF 11 Nov (ET), high numbers.

Long-tailed Duck: EF 23 Oct (DN); PtR 24 Oct & WD 26 Oct (NO); 50 NP 26 Oct (BP).

Bufflehead: 33 NP 26 Oct (JB); AP 1 Nov (JH); PK 29 Nov (JH); 25 WP 7 Nov (J&PT).

Com. Goldeneye: 45 NP 26 Oct (JB); PK 29 Nov (DR); 113 WP 29 Nov (J&PT).

Hooded Merganser: 12 WP 10 Oct; 4 WP 29 Nov (J&PT); LP 5 Nov (LM); Fifth Lake 15 Nov (GL).

Com. Merganser: 6 PL 10 Sep (BP); 6 EF 23 Oct DN; 2 PLa 30 Sep (JF,LH); Wakely Pd 2 Nov, 4 Shallow Lake 15 Nov (GL); LP 5 Nov (LM).

Red-breasted Merganser: NP 12 Oct; 5 NP 29 Oct (JB,BP); 9 Saranac River 13 Oct (BP).

Ruddy Duck: Hoffmeister 7 Oct (LH), only other HAMI reports Mud L 9 Sep 2003 & Lake Eaton 22 Apr 2008.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Lake Alice 30 Sep (NO), 3 releases; Essex 18 Oct (J&PT).

Ruffed Grouse: Keene 15 Sep (J&PT); Powley Rd 21 Oct (LH); MRRA 26 Nov (GL).

Wild Turkey: French Rd 7 Oct (LH); 9 Altona 14 Oct (BP); 14 Inlet 30 Nov (GL).

Com. Loon: ad & 1 yng Sagamore L 6 Sep (GL), 1st report from there; 10 AP 27 Oct (JB); max 20 PtR 29 Oct (BK,CM).

Pied-billed Grebe: 7 AP 26 Oct (JB); 7 Wickham Marsh 29 Oct (NO); 8 AP 1 Nov (MM).

Horned Grebe: 77 NP 26 Oct (JB); 20+ AP 15 Nov (BK, CM); 3 CR 17 Nov (NO).

Red-necked Grebe: Wallon's Bay 23 Oct (DN); 2 NP 26 Oct (JB); PLa 6 Nov (JF,LH).

WESTERN/CLARKS GREBE: AP 29 Nov (JH), 3rd CLIN record.

Double-crested Cormorant: 32 Chellis Bay 13 Oct (BP); AP 1 Nov (MM).

Great Blue Heron: 3 AP 1 Nov (MM); LP 5 Nov (LM); Inlet 3 Nov (GL); AP 22 Nov (J&PT).

Turkey Vulture: Witherbee 21 Sep (MA,CW); Angelville & Ausable Chasm 13 Oct (BP).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: Round Lake near Little Tupper 3 Sep; Lake Everest near Wilmington 4 Sep (J&PT).

Bald Eagle: LP 11 Oct (BP); LP 5 Nov (LM); 2 WP 29 Nov (J&PT).

N. Harrier: Sacandaga L 13 Sep (SA) & 3 Oct (JO); Cumberland Head 3 Oct (SJ,BK); PL 13 Oct (BP); RT 9 & PtR Rd 5 Nov (BK,CM).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 Osgood & Jones Rd 6 Sep (J&PT); Bangor 14 Oct (BP); AP 1 Nov (MM).

Cooper's Hawk: CR 6 Sep (BK); PtR 13 Oct (BP); LP 5 Nov (LM); Peru 6 Nov (EF).

N. Goshawk: Inlet 18 Oct (GL), only report.

Broad-winged Hawk: Keene 5, 7 Sep; Madawaska 7 Sep; ET 8 Sep (J&PT); Witherbee 14 Sep (MA,CW).

Red-tailed Hawk: NP 3 Oct, Keene 12 Oct; Northway Keesville 22 Nov (J&PT); NP 26 Oct (JB); Pt R 1 Nov (MM).

Rough-legged Hawk: Exit 39 on I-87 6 Nov (BK, CM); I-87 28 Nov (NO); WP18, 29 Oct (J&PT).

Golden Eagle: Noonmark Mtn 16 Oct (ET), only report.

Am. Kestrel: Averyville 11 Oct (BP).

Merlin: CR 1 Oct (BK, NO); LP 11 Oct (BP); Belmont 17 Oct (NR); AP 1 Nov (MM,NO).

Peregrine Falcon: NP 12 Oct (BP); WP 7 Nov (J&PT).

Com. Moorhen: ad & 2 yng CR 1 Sep (BK).

Am. Coot: AP 20 Oct (JH).

Black-bellied Plover: NP 12 Oct (JB); Plattsburgh Bay 15 Oct (BK).

Am. Golden-Plover: Raquette L 9 Sep (GL), 2nd HAMI record, last was Little Tupper L 14 Sep 1961.

Semipalmated Plover: CR 1 Sep (BK); NP 12 Oct (J&PT).

Killdeer: 6 NP 3 Oct (J&PT), only report.

Spotted Sandpiper: small pond end of Jackrabbit Trail 5 Sep; Inlet Osgood Pd 20 Sep (J&PT).

Solitary Sandpiper: Ausable R, Keene 14 Sep (J&PT).

Greater Yellowlegs: 2 CR 1 Oct (BK, NO); Plattsburgh Bay 15 Oct (BK, CM); PtR 24 Oct (BK, NO); AP 27 Oct (JB).

Lesser Yellowlegs: CR 1 Sep (BK); PtR 24 Oct (BK, NO).

Sanderling: NP 12 Sep (J&PT), only report.

Least Sandpiper: CR 21 Sep (BK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: CR 21 Sep (BK); NP 18 Oct (J&PT).

Dunlin: 6 CR 1 Oct (BK, NO); PL 14 Oct (BP); max 38 Monty Bay 4 Nov (BK,CM).

Wilson's Snipe: NP 12 Oct (BP).

Am. Woodcock: Limekiln L 4 Oct; Golden Beach 9 Oct (GL).

Bonaparte's Gull: 18 Chellis Bay &, 17 NP 13 Oct (BP); 15 WP 3 Oct (J&PT); 6 PtR 24 Oct (NO).

Ring-billed Gull: 200 WP 3 Oct, 7 Nov (J&PT); 530 AP 27 Oct (JB); 50 AP 1 Nov (MM).

Herring Gull: NP 18 Oct (J&PT); 78 AP 27 Oct (JB).

Great Black-backed Gull: 22 NP 18 Oct (J&PT); CR 24 Oct (NO); WP 25 Oct (DN); 4 AP 1 Nov (MM).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Rock Pigeon: Deyo Rd. 13 Oct (BP).

Mourning Dove: Inlet 1 Nov (GL); 15 WP 22 Nov; 15 Wadhams 29 Nov (J&PT); 3-14 Witherbee 30 Nov (MA,CW).

E. Screech-Owl: Keene 20 Oct (J&PT).

Barred Owl: PP 19 Oct (MS, NO); Inlet 7 Sept, 4 Oct (GL).

Long-eared Owl: Witherbee 10 Oct (MA, CW).

N. Saw-whet Owl: Keene 11 Oct (J&PT).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Keene 3 Sep (J&PT); Sacandaga L 13 Sep (SA); Witherbee 19 Sep (CW).

Belted Kingfisher: 4 Osgood R 20 Sep (J&PT); PLA 30 Sep (JF, LH); PtR 13 Oct (BP); PP 19 Oct (MS, NO); Inlet 29 Oct; Wakely Pd. 2 Nov (GL).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: PL 6 Nov (MM), 2nd fall record CLIN, only report.

Black-backed Woodpecker: FB 12 Oct (BM); LP 5 Nov (LM); MRRA 22 Oct, 26 Nov; Browns Tract Stream 28 Sep (GL).

N. Flicker: 7 PP 9 Sep (JF, LH); ET 1 Sep (JP); Keene 12 Sep (J&PT); MRRA 1 Oct (GL).

Pileated Woodpecker: pr Keene 5-12 Sep (J&PT); PP 10 Oct (MS, NO); AP 20 Nov (DR); Inlet 7 Sept, 24 Nov (GL).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: ET 1, 2 Sep (JP); Wickham Marsh 29 Sep (NO); PL 7 Oct (LH); Ausable Chasm 2 Oct (BD).

N. Shrike: CR 27 Oct (JB); AP 22 Nov (J&PT).

Blue Headed Vireo: PPl 9 Sep (JF, LH); Keene 14, 20, 24Sep, 1, 4 Oct (J&PT); Inlet 27 Sep; MRRA 1 Oct (GL).

Red-eyed Vireo: Keene 6 Sep (J&PT), only report.

Gray Jay: Oregon Plains 10 Oct (BJ); 3 FB 12 Oct (BM); 4 Sagamore Rd 6 Oct; MRRA 26 Nov (GL).

Blue Jay: 17 Clarojast 13 Oct (JH); 30 Inlet 30 Nov (GL).

Am. Crow: 15 Hoffmeister 7 Oct (LH).

Com. Raven: 10 kettling Keene 17 Oct (J&PT); 2 Inlet 30 Nov (GL).
Horned Lark: 100+ CR 8 Nov (MM), nice find.
Black-capped Chickadee: 15 NP 16 Oct (JB); 30 Inlet 30 Nov (GL).
Boreal Chickadee: PP 9 Oct (NO, MS), new location; 3 Rooster Comb-Keene Valley 8 Nov (J&PT).
Tufted Titmouse: ET 11 Sep (JP); PL 19 Sep (CM); Cumberland Head 26 Oct (NO); 3 Inlet 5 Oct (GL); NP 12, 26 Oct (BP, JB); PL 15 Nov (MM); 2 Witherbee 30 Nov (MA, CW), spreading out.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 6 NP 26 Oct (JB); 2 Inlet 30 Nov (GL).
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 7 NP 26 Oct (JB).
Brown Creeper: 2 Powley Rd 13 Sep (SA); Inlet 27 Sep, 17 Nov (GL).
Carolina Wren: 2 FRAN 1 Sep (WH); WP 23 Oct (DN); AP 7 Nov (J&PT).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 4 Jackrabbit Trail (J&PT); 2 Inlet 27 Sep, 29 Oct (GL); 6 PtR 12 Oct (BP).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Keene 10 Oct (J&PT); 3 Pt R 13 Oct (BP).
E. Bluebird: ET 11 Sep (JP); 4 Keene 19 Oct (J&PT); NP 26 Oct (JB); Inlet 29 Oct (GL); AP 3 Nov (MM).
Swainson's Thrush: ET 1, 7 Sep (JP); Keene 1 Oct (J&PT).
Hermits Thrush: ET 3 Sep (JP); Keene 5, 14, 17, 21 Sep, 16 Oct (J&PT); Witherbee 4, 15 Oct (MA, CW); 3 AP 11 Oct (BP).
Am Robin: 105 Angleville & 45 PtR 13 Oct (BP); Inlet 26 Nov (GL).
Gray Catbird: Sacandaga L 13 Sep (SA); Sagamore Rd 6 Oct; Inlet 7 Oct (GL).
N. Mockingbird: PL 5 Nov (CM) only report.
European Starling: 450 Angleville 26 Oct (BP); Inlet 5, 7 Nov (GL).
Am Pipit: 45 Deyo Rd 13 Oct (BP); 5 CR 13 Oct (JH).
Bohemian Waxwing: 10 Paul Smith's 5 Nov (BM).
Cedar Waxwing: ET 11 Sep (JP); 22 Sacandaga R 13 Sep (SA); Ausable Marsh 26 Oct (JB).

WARBLERS

Nashville Warbler: Keene 17 Sep (J&PT); Clarojast 3 Oct (JH).
N. Parula: PPI 9 Sep (JF, LH).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: PPI 9 Sep (JF, LH).
Magnolia Warbler: Inlet 7 Sep (GL).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Keene, 5, 6 Sep, Jackrabbit Trail 5 Sep (J&PT); Inlet 7, 18, 27 Sep (GL); Clarojast 3 Oct (JH).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: MRR 1 Oct (GL); 10-20 Coon Mtn 10 Oct; Keene 18 Oct (J&PT); Clarojast 3 Oct (JH); 6 NP 12 Oct (BP).
Black-throated Green Warbler: Keene 5 Sep (J&PT); PPI 9 Sep (JF, LH); Inlet 7, 24 Sep; MRR 1 Oct (GL).
Blackburnian Warbler: Adirondack L 4 Sep (TS).
Pine Warbler: ET 11 Sep (JP).
Bay-breasted Warbler: ET 11 Sep (JP).
Ovenbird: ET 5, 8 Sep (JP); Keene 12 Sep (J&PT).
Mourning Warbler: ET 1 Sep (JP).
Com. Yellowthroat: Keene 5 Sep, 10 Oct (J&PT); Sacandaga L 13 Sep (SA); Sagamore 21 Sep (GL).
Canada Warbler: PL 30 Sep (JF, LH).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: PPI 3 Nov (LH); Inlet 8, 13 Nov (GL); WP 29 Nov (J&PT).
Chipping Sparrow: max 100 Keene 17 Sept (J&PT); 10 PL 7 Oct (LH); Inlet 1, 3, 6, 7 Oct (GL); 6 Econolodge, PL 13 Oct (BP).
Song Sparrow: Inlet 4, 31 Oct (GL); 7 PtR 13 Oct (BP); PtR & AP 1 Nov (JH).
Lincoln's Sparrow: Inlet 7, 23, 27 Sep, 16, 17, 19, 31 Oct, Browns Tract Stream 28 Sep (GL).
Swamp Sparrow: 6 PtR 3 Oct (BP); Browns Tract Stream 28 Sep (GL); Keene 10 Oct (J&PT).
White-throated Sparrow: 16 PtR 13 Oct (BP); Browns Tract Stream 28 Sept; Inlet 3-29 Oct (GL).
White-crowned Sparrow: Inlet 4-21 Oct (GL); 5 Keene 16 Oct (J&PT).
Dark-eyed Junco: 12 PtR 13 Oct (BP); Inlet 3-17 Oct (GL); many Keene 10 Sep, 1 Oct (J&PT).
Lapland Longspur: N. Farm Rd near CR 8 Nov (MM), great find among the Horned Larks.
Snow Bunting: 23 Morehouse 6 Nov (JF, LH); 11 NP 26 Oct (JB); 25 IL 30 Oct (M&WM); PL 24 Oct (NO).
N. Cardinal: FB 12 Oct (BM); PL 24 Oct (NO).
Red-winged Blackbird: 40 Angleville 13 Oct (BP); AP 1 Nov (JH); Inlet 7 Nov (GL).
Rusty Blackbird: 3 Sagamore Rd 6 Oct, Brooktrout L 12 Oct (GL); 8 AP 1 Nov (MM); 30 AP 7 Nov (J&PT); Wolf Lake-Newcomb 19 Nov (CD).
Com. Grackle: 15 ET 9 Sep (J&PT); 20 Inlet 21, 26, 31 Oct (GL).
Brown-headed Cowbird: Inlet 1 Oct (GL).

Purple Finch: Keene 16 Oct, 15 Nov (J&PT);
Clarojast 17 Oct (JH); Inlet 17 Oct (GL); NP 26
Oct (JB); Witherbee 29 Nov (MA, CW).

Pine Siskin: CR 27 Oct (JB); 3 Rooster Comb
8 Nov (J&PT).

Am. Goldfinch: Clarojast 17 Oct (JH), 7 NP 26
Oct (JB); 15 Keene Nov. (J&PT).

Evening Grosbeak: 4 & 5 Inlet 3 & 15 Nov
(GL); Keene 8 Nov (J&PT); 2-5 Witherbee 30
Nov (MA, CW); 40-50 LL 30 Nov (WL).

House Sparrow: Econolodge, PL 13 Oct (BP,
NO); Essex 5 Sept (LH).

===