

REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Gary N. Lee

116 Limekiln Road, Inlet, N.Y. 13360

Eightacrewoodmouse@hotmail.com

December started off with snow all day on the 1st. Eight inches fell in Inlet, but this quickly changed after a beautiful full moon in the west on the morning of the 2nd. Heavy rains followed that day and into the 3rd, with a high temperature for the month of 51° F in Saranac Lake and 59° in Plattsburgh occurring on that date. It snowed each day for the next week and a half, with 6" and 12" in Inlet on the 9th and 11th. A narrow band of lake-effect dumped over two feet on the west side of the High Peaks on the 11th, but only 8" in Saranac Lake, the most for them at one time the whole winter. Heavy rains fell over the Region on the 26th and 27th, with thunderstorms in Plattsburgh. A low temperature of -24° F was recorded in Saranac Lake on the 18th. Inlet had twelve days with 0° and lower. The bigger lakes were ice-covered by 20 December. January started with snowfall of less than 2" a day for fourteen of the first fifteen days of the month. A temperature of -18° was recorded on the 10th in Saranac Lake. Heavy rains again came across the Region on the 25th, with a high temperature of 53° in Plattsburgh and 51° in Saranac Lake. This quickly retreated to -25° on the 30th in Inlet, the low for the winter. Waterfowl Count Day for me on 16 January on Lake Champlain was the nicest day I ever recall for the Count. The temperature was up near 40° and there was very little wind. February was much the same, with 17 days with some snow in Inlet and Saranac Lake but less than 4" most of these days. Heavy rain and a high temperature of 42° occurred in Plattsburg on 25 February, but this was followed by heavy wet snow over the Region the next day that amounted to 17" on Willsboro Point. This quickly melted, and there was very little snow there at the end of the month. Many of these storms were Nor'easters which barely touched the Region. Total snowfall for Inlet was 48.5". There were not many sunny days, 46 days with some snow, three rain events, three days with freezing rain, and 33 mornings at or below zero.

Lake Champlain water levels were the highest at 97.0' on 1 December, down to 95.7' on 25 January, up to 96.8' on 28 January, down to 95.8' on 2 February, then climbed to 96.2' at the end of the season.

With all these passing fronts came peak wind gusts of 82 mph on 3 January, 77 on the 5th, and 46 on the 25th, all in Saranac Lake. It was a very cloudy, windy winter with very little snow accumulation. The front of 10-11 December brought snow from the west followed by cold from the north and pushed thousands of Canada and Snow Geese over the Region all day and night into the 12th; call it the "Grand Passage." This also brought a split from half-hardies to winter birds at most feeders. After this many people asked me: "Where are all the birds?" Without a cone, nut, or berry crop, most birds either never moved into the Region, or if they did, they didn't stick around.

The exception to this was the abundance of ducks on the open waters of Lake Champlain, as only a few bays froze and then not for very long. A Red-throated Loon was found on the Plattsburgh CBC and on the Waterfowl Count. Five Barrow's Goldeneye, two Pied-billed Grebes, and 14 Double-crested Cormorant were seen on the Waterfowl Count.

A decent assortment of half hardies was found this season, including: a Great Blue Heron all winter at the Inlet golf course, Belted Kingfisher at Inlet on 11 January and Ausable Pt. on 14 January, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Cumberland Head on 20 December and on the Elizabethtown CBC, Carolina Wrens spending part of the season at a Willsboro feeder, two Ruby-crowned Kinglets on the Saranac Lake CBC, a Northern Mockington in Plattsburgh on 19 December, two Field Sparrows on the Elizabethtown CBC, and a Fox Sparrow at Pt. Au Roche on 12 December.

Less surprising, but still interesting for the season were: 30 Bald Eagles counted during the aerial Eagle Survey of Lake Champlain, the lone Red-bellied Woodpecker all season at a Plattsburgh feeder, several reports for Northern Shrike, Tufted Titmouse and American Robin present all season, few Bohemian Waxwings, Cedar Waxwing all season with a high of 300 in Keesville on 7 February, and just three reports for White-throated Sparrow.

This was not a winter finch year. No Pine Grosbeaks, crossbills, or redpolls were reported thru the season. The only Pine Siskins were some seen during count week on the Saranac Lake CBC and the 40-50 that spent the winter at a feeder in Keene. Some Evening Grosbeaks were around, with 72 recorded on the Saranac Lake CBC and 40-50 at feeders in Long Lake all winter. American Goldfinch were at most feeders, with a high of 932 on the Saranac Lake CBC and 450 banded at Inlet.

A number of rarities were found. A **Northern Hawk Owl** spent the winter just outside Champlain, a 4th Clinton County record. Many birders came to see this and wandered on to the shores of Lake Champlain, where they found the best bird of the season, an **Ivory Gull** at Rouses Point from 21 February to 2 March, a first Clinton County record. This bird, first seen on the Vermont side of the lake on 19 February, moved to the New York side on the 21st where it was seen from the end of Stoney Point Road on Rouses Point. It fed on perch that the fishermen were leaving on the ice. At the Plattsburgh Marina there was a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on 9 January, a fourth Clinton County record. Finally, a **Tufted Duck** was found among about 3000 Greater Scaup on 19 February at Ausable Point, a second Clinton County record. It stayed through the end of the period. Not to be outdone by all these larger rarities, the passerine find of the season was a **Lark Sparrow** at a feeder in Peru from 30 December to 2 January, another first record for Clinton County and second for Region 7.

The season's total of 104 species is not a record, which is still the 109 species of '01-02, '05-06 and '06-07 winters, but shows that when birders get out there are birds to see. Many birders got out for the CBC's, the Waterfowl Count, Eagle Counts, and the Backyard Bird Count, which shows in this report in what was found. I would like to thank all who listed their finds on eBird, as many of these were used to assemble this report.

CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Abrahamse, MaryAnne Allen, Thomas Armstrong, Andrew Baksh, Susan Beaudoin, Chris Bennett, Shawn Billerman, Helen & Bob Booth, Becky Bosley, John Brown, Robin Brown, David Buckley, Tracey Busony, Bridget Butler, Doug Cameron, Gwendoline Canteenwalla, Una Creedon Carey, Jim & Joy Cayea, Shelly Cihan, Larry Clarfeld, Benjamin Clock, Joan Collins, Sara Conley, Fran Daby, Gary Daby Sr, Charlotte Demers, Mike DiNunzio, Julie Dumas, Susan Elliott, Keitha Farney, Todd Fellenbaurt, Elizabeth & Holland Fitz, Josh Frere, Peter Galvani, Betsy & Joe Giunda, Tom & Donna Gooley, Ed Grant, Denise Griffin, Benjamin Griffith, Larry Hall, Melissa Hart, Wesley Hochacka, Audrey Hyson, Penny Jacques, Susan Johnson, Tom Johnson, Bob Jones, Euclid Jones, Karen Joy, Debbie & Ed Kanze, Leslie Karasin, Bill Krueger, Bill Labes, Dayna LaLonde, Steve Langdon, Linda LaPan, Julie Lattrell, Liz Laundrie, Dan Lee, Gary Lee, Robert & Ruthann Lee, Tim Lenz, Michael Lester, Larry Main, John Marshall, Lawrence Master, Brian McAllister, Melanie McCormack, Matt Medler, Jim McGraw, Janet Mihuc, Charlie & Joan Mitchell, Charlie Mitchell Jr, Dan Nickerson, Sean O'Brien, Mary O'Dell, Stan Oliva, Nancy Olsen, John O'Neill, Jim Osborn, Dan Peters, Bryan Pfeiffer, Carol Pinney, Jay Powell, Bill Purcell, Leslie Resseguie, George Roberts, Dana Rohleder, Nancy Rogers, Jeffery Rose, David Rutkowski, Nina & Bill Schoch, Nancy Slack, Carol Slatkin, Michael Snyder, William Stahl, Hank Stebbins, Janet Stein, Gary Sturgis, Flavio Sutti, Anne Swaim, Eric Teed, Irma & Gordon Teittinen, Patricia and John Thaxton, Eve Ticknor, Yvette Tillema, Amy Valentine, Scott VanLaer, Benjamin VanDoren, Dan Vogt, Brad Walker, Eileen & Tom Wheeler, Chris Wiley, Kathleen Wiley, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; BR – Bigelow Road; CP – Crown Point; CH – Clumberland Head; CRL – Chazy Riverlands; ECBC – Elizabethtown CBC 20 Dec; FB – Ferd's Bog; LP – Lake Placid; NP – Noblewood Park; OP – Oregon Plains; PCBC – Plattsburgh CBC 20 Dec; Pl – Plattsburgh; PtR – Point au Roche; PK – Port Kent; RP – Rouses Point; SL – Saranac Lake; SLCBC – Saranac Lake CBC 2 Jan; SP – Stoney Point; WB – Whallon's Bay; WC – NYS Waterfowl Count 16-17 Jan; WR – Webb Royce; WBL – Westport Boat Launch; WP Willsboro Point; Wi – Witherbee.

WHISTLING -DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1 PCBC; 3 CH 15 Jan(BK); 1 CRL 2 Feb (BK), unusual date; max 100's Inlet 11-12 Dec (GL).

Canada Goose: max 600 Sixth Lake 11 Dec (GL); 185 PCBC; 188 WC; 150+ CH 23 Jan (BK, SJ); many wintering birds headed north 25 Jan (RL).

Am. Black Duck: 26 AP 17 Jan (DR); 31 Pl 17 Jan (TA); 18 WBL 26 Feb (DN); 92 WC; many other reports.

Mallard: 646 PCBC; 72 ECBC, 259 SLCBC; 273 Pl 17 Jan (TA); 40 RP 27 Feb (TJ); 180 WBL 26 Feb (DN); max 873 WC.

Canvasback: AP 7 Feb (JO); AP 27 Feb (SB,MM,BP,BW); nice finds.

Redhead: 16 Pl 17 Jan (TA); 2 AP 23 Jan (JO); 2 AP 7 Feb (JO); nice finds.

Ring-necked Duck: 23 Pl 17 Jan (TA); 25 AP 28Feb (SA); max 40 Valcour 27 Feb (AB), late.

TUFTED DUCK: AP 19 Feb (PJ, B&JG), 2nd CLIN record; AP 25 Feb (BK); AP 27 Feb (SB,BC,BP,JP,CW,TJ); same bird all reports.

Greater Scaup: 1500 AP 27 Feb (M); 300 Valcour 27 Feb (AB); max 3000 AP 27 Feb (TJ).

Lesser Scaup: 840 Pl 17 Jan (TJ); 45 Camp Dudley 25 Feb (DN); Valcour 27 Feb (AB); max 1000 AP 27 Feb (MM).

Bufflehead: 45 Wickham Marsh 17 Jan (DR); 100 AP 27 Feb (TJ, SB, BW); max 169 WC.

Com. Goldeneye: 554 AP 17 Jan (DR); 894 Pl 17 Jan (TA); 325 PK 15 Feb (DR); max 6095 WC.

Barrow's Goldeneye: 5 Wickham Marsh 16 Jan (CB), great find.

Hooded Merganser: 16 WBL 19 Dec (P&JT); 5 AP 25 Dec (DR); 6 Pl 17 Jan (TA); max 20 WC.

Com. Merganser: 86 AP 17 Jan (DR); 151 Pl 17 Jan (TA); 105 WBL 25 Feb (DN); 90 SP 27 Feb (WH); 384 PCBC; max 1234 WC.

Red-breasted Merganser: 3 PK 16 Jan (GL); 10 AP 27 Feb (SB,BW); good birds.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 Westport 19 Dec (P&JT); Essex Triangle 15 Jan (RL); only reports.

Ruffed Grouse: 5 BB 30 Dec (TF); 3 LL 18 Jan (BV); 3 Piseco Airport 17 Feb (LH, JF); max 10 ECBC.

Wild Turkey: 20 Schuyler Falls 21 Dec (E&HF); 13 Rt 10 6 Jan (LH,JF); 16 Inlet all season(GL); 61 ECBC; max 90 Whallonsburg 26 Feb (DN), established.

Red-throated Loon: CH Ferry 20 Dec (LL, BM, CP, JS); WC, only reports.

Com. Loon: 2 PK 25 Dec (DR); 2 Pl 17 Jan (TA); 2 AP 27 Feb 9 SB, TJ, BK); max 6 WC.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 WBL-WC, late Essex.

Horned Grebe: 8 AP 17 Jan (DR); 11 Lake Shore Drive, PtR 25 Feb (DN); max 30 WC.

Double-crested Cormorant: Raquette Lake 8 Dec (GL), late HAMI; max 14 WC also late.

Great Blue Heron: 2 PCBC; AP 13 Jan(GR); AP 16 Jan (BL); 1 wintered at Inlet Golf Course(GL).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 7 WP 25 Feb (DN); 3 AP 28 Feb (JP); 1 SLCBC; ECBC; 30 during DEC aerial counts, not all in Region 7.

N. Harrier: CRL 14 Dec (BK); PCBC; only reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 PCBC; CH 31 Jan (BK); Peru 22 Jan thru (E&HF); Inlet all Feb (GL).

Cooper's Hawk: Peru 1 Dec-23 Dec (E&HF); Champlain 2 Feb (BK); 2 BR 28 Feb(AB); 2 Essex 15 Feb (NO); Keene 17 Feb (P&JT); all nice finds.

N. Goshawk: Peasleville 12 Dec (WS); PCBC; ECBC; good finds.

Red-tailed Hawk: 2 Pl 20 Dec (MM); 2 CP 23 Feb (DN); 2 Chazy 26 Feb (BP); max 18 PCBC.

Rough-legged Hawk: Lt morph Essex 19 Dec, 30 Jan, 1 Feb (P&JT); CH 19 Dec, 2 Jan (SJ,BK).

Am. Kestrel: Champlain 13 Feb (TJ), only report.

The Kingbird 2010 June; 60 (2)

Peregrine Falcon: Pl 19 Feb (DR), rare in winter.

IVORY GULL: 22 rep RP 21 Feb-2 Mar, 1st CLIN record, ph & brief video were posted, *intro*.

Ring-billed Gull: 200-500 WBL 19 Dec, 17 Jan, 23-27 Feb (P&JT); 145 PCBC.

Herring Gull: 82 PCBC; 70 CP 23 Feb (DN); 50 WBL 23 Feb (DN); many other rep.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Plattsburg Marina 9 Jan (BK), 4th CLIN record; WBL 25 Feb (DN), nice finds.

Great Black-backed Gull: 6 AP 17 Jan (DR); 12 CP 23 Feb (DN); 8 SP 26 Feb (DN); 27 WBL 25 Feb (DN); max 31 PCBC.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 20 Wi thru (CW); 25 WR 20 Feb (SA); max 263 PCBC.

E. Screech Owl: CH Lake View Drive 20 Dec (MD); Elizabethtown 19 Dec (P&JT), scarce.

Great Horned Owl: CH Colligon Point 1 Jan (SJ,BK), only report.

NORTHERN HAWK OWL: 30 Nov-27 Feb (T&DG,BK,LM, mob), early, 4th CLIN record.

Barred Owl: Keene 20 Dec (P&JT); 2 SL 20 Feb (T&GD); 2 SLCBC; Inlet thru (GL).

N. Saw-whet Owl: Akey Road, Dannemora 22 Feb (CMJr), only report.

Belted Kingfisher: 1 ECBC; Inlet 11 Jan (GL), late HAMI; AP 14 Jan (DR); WP 15 Feb (NO).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Beekmantown 1 Dec- 2 Jan (MM), only report.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: CH 20 Dec (MD), 2nd winter and 1st Dec record CLIN; 1 ECBC, unusual.

Downy Woodpecker: 23 SLCBC; 35 ECBC; max 73 PCBC; 8 banded Inlet (GL).

Hairy Woodpecker: 27 SLCBC; 35 ECBC; max 38 PCBC; 3 Paul Smiths 16 Feb (AB); 7 banded Inlet (GL).

Black-backed Woodpecker: FB 2 Dec (GL); OP 2 Jan (AB, MM); BR 16 Feb (AB), normal places.

N. Flicker: Westport 2 Dec (P&JT), only report, late.

Pileated Woodpecker: CH 17 Jan (BK); Pair Inlet thru (GL); 5 SLCBC; max 8PCBC; many reports.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: LL 16 Dec (BL); Essex 19 Dec (P&JT); 2 Champlain 27 Feb (AB); 2 ECBC; 3 banded Inlet (GL).

Gray Jay: max 6 BB 16 Jan (BV); OP 17 Jan (BV); 5 SLCBC.

Blue Jay: 32 Pl 20 Dec (MM); 30 Inlet (GL); 221 PCBC; max 312 ECBC.

Am. Crow: 475 Champlain 27 Feb (AB); 254 ECBC; max 3753 PCBC.

FISH CROW: AP 25 Dec (DR0), rare find, no details.

Com. Raven: 9 Stevenson Road, Westport 26 Feb (DN); 3 Sherman Road, Wadhams 26 Feb (DN); 33 SLCBC; 67 PCBC, many reports.

Black-capped Chickadee: 30 OP 16 Jan (BV); 120 banded Inlet (GL); 583 PCBC; 429 ECBC; max 592 SLCBC.

Boreal Chickadee: 4 SLCBC; 4 BR 16 Feb (AB); max 5 OP 17 Jan (BV).

Tufted Titmouse: 4 Pl 20 Dec (MM); 6 Elizabethtown 20 Dec (P&JT); 2 WP all season (R&RL); 3 all season Inlet (GL); 19 ECBC; max 23 PCBC; well established.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 15 OP 16 Jan (BV); max 102 ECBC.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 4 Pl 20 Dec (MM); 4 Newcomb 17 Feb (AB); 11 banded Inlet (GL); max 60 PCBC.

Brown Creeper: 2 NP 28 Feb (SA); max 9 ECBC.

Carolina Wren: 2 WP 15 Feb (NO, R&RL); Westport 27 Feb (DN); 2 NP 28 Feb (SA); max 9 ECBC; nice finds.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: OP 12 Dec, 12 Jan (BC, TJ); 4 BB 30 Dec (TF); max 22 SLCBC.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 SLCBC, first for the count, nice find.

E. Bluebird: 2 Walker Road, Whallonsburg 20 Feb (SA); 3 Whallonsburg 26 Feb (DN); max 7 PCBC.

Am. Robin: 50 Essex 17 Jan, 7 Feb (P&JT); 24 PCBC; 8 thru WP (R&RL); max 200 Lakeshore Road, PtR 25 Feb (DN).

N. Mockingbird: Pl 19 Dec (C&JM); WP 28 Feb (SA); only reports.

Bohemian Waxwing: Peru 8 Jan (BK); 30 Peru 7 Feb (E&HF); only reports

Cedar Waxwing: 20 CH 10 Jan (NO); 35 Lakeshore Road, PtR 25 Feb (DN); 24 PCBC; max 300 Keeseville 9 Feb (JG).

WARBLERS

None

TOWHEES -WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 6 Lakeshore Road, PtR 25 Feb (DN); 2 Inlet thru (GL); 77 ECBC; max 131 PCBC.

Field Sparrow: 2 ECBC (CD), unusual.

LARK SPARROW: Fitt's feeder 3 Irwin Road, Peru 30 Dec-2 Jan (E&HF, BK, P&JT), 1st CLIN and 2nd Region 7 record, photos and description sent to NYSARC.

Fox Sparrow: Riley Brook, PtR 12 Dec (WS), only report.

White Throated Sparrow: LL 11 Dec (BL); 1 PCBC; Champlain 16 Feb (AB).

Dark-eyed Junco: 132 ECBC; 32 SLCBC; max 291 PCBC.

Lapland Longspur: CRL 14 Dec (BK); CRL 12 Jan (BK); only reports.

Snow Bunting: 75 Stevenson Road, Westport 25 Feb (DN); 66 ECBC; 50 SLCBC; max 307 PCBC.

N. Cardinal: 5 Pl 20 Dec (MM); 16 ECBC; 12 SLCBC; max 108 PCBC.

Red-winged Blackbird: 5 Essex 19 Dec (P&JT); 5 PCBC; 4 Inlet 10 Jan (GL), late; AP 26 Feb (BP).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 4 Essex 19 Dec (P&JT); 18 Campbell Road, Churubusco 28 Feb (AB); max 36 PCBC.

Purple Finch: 2 LL 25 Jan (BL); 20 Gary Daby's, LP 14 Feb (GD); 5 BR 28 Feb (AB); 10 Keene thru (P&JT); max 25 SLCBC.

House Finch: 4 Stevenson Road, Westport 26 Feb (DN); max 46 PCBC.

Pine Siskin: 4 BR 28 Feb (AB); 40-50 Keene thru (P&JT); only reports.

Am. Goldfinch: 120 Keene thru (P&JT); 120 LP 2 Jan (JM); 100 LL 29 Jan (BL); 450 banded Inlet(GL); 566 PCBC; max 932 SLCBC, many more reports.

Evening Grosbeak: 40 Adirondack 18 Jan (BC); 60 LL 27 Jan (JF, LH); 60 LL thru (BL); 18 Wi thru (CM,MA); max 72 SLCBC.

ADDENDUM

Snow Goose: 3 neck- banded (black on yellow) Snow Geese were reported last season found at Point au Roche by Bill Kreuger on 2 Nov. 15AT was banded as an ad fem in May 2008 at Ile-aux-oies, Quebec, Canada; 96CE was banded as an ad fem in May 2009 also at Ile-aux-oies, Quebec, Canada. Ile-aux-oies is an island in the St Lawrence River. RJ82 was banded as an ad fem in August 2009 on Bylot Island, Nunavut, Canada (west of the southern tip of Greenland).

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