

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Gary N. Lee

116 Limekiln Road, Inlet, N.Y. 13360
Eightacrewoodmouse@hotmail.com

Weather for the summer in the Adirondacks and Champlain Valley was hotter and wetter than normal. Over half of the nights were rainy and windy, with over four inches of rain during each month in Inlet, Saranac Lake, and Plattsburgh, except during July in Plattsburgh. A super storm hit the upper end of the North Branch of the Chazy River, which flooded two campgrounds and the villages of Ellenburg and Altona the morning of 5 August. No frosts were reported during the summer months, but many days reached over 80° degrees, 45 days in Plattsburgh and 21 in Saranac Lake and Inlet. Plattsburgh had 10 days over 90° and Inlet and Saranac Lake had three days over 90°. The Lake Champlain water level started at 96.80' on 1 June, went down only a foot to 95.80' on 2 August, back up with the heavy rains to 96.40' on 6-10 August, then steadily down to the low of 95.75' at the end of the summer.

There were very few lingering shorebirds except a single Dunlin on 8 June

and Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers on 4 and 8 June, all seen at Chazy Riverlands. An American Golden-Plover was seen at Cumberland Head on 6 June. Brant were seen at Lake Placid on 13 June. A Bonaparte's Gull was at Chazy Riverlands on 2 July and then 141 were at Noblewood Park 17 August. A single Pine Grosbeak was seen at Cumberland Head 11 July.

Sifting through over 6,000 bird reports I realized that many birders were looking for boreal birds, and in their quest, they saw and heard many other interesting birds. No Spruce Grouse or American Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported. Many Gray Jays, Boreal Chickadees, Palm Warblers, Lincoln's Sparrows, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen. Both Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers were reported in early June, when they could still have been traveling north. A single Tennessee Warbler was seen 24 June at Good Luck Lake. Rusty Blackbirds were located in three areas and confirmed breeding near Chazy Lake, a first for Clinton County. There was only one Red Crossbill report, from the Inlet BBC on 30 June, and two White-winged Crossbills, one from the Inlet BBC 30 June and one in Bloomingdale Bog 1 August. Pine Siskins visited feeders until the end on June, some with young. Only one juvenile was banded at Inlet on 13 June. 65 Purple Finches were banded at Inlet during June and July, then they left to nest. Two Ring-necked Ducks and one Common Goldeneye were reported for the summer. The Common Loons that I watched during the summer were very successful, as twelve of the twenty pairs I was monitoring had young and only one of those pairs lost their young.

It may be another one of those no bird winters, as there are very few wild foods for our feathered friends. Cones are nearly non-existent, there are no beechnuts, and the berry trees have already been picked clean by the southbound birds in the western Adirondacks. There is an abundance of acorns and berries on trees in the Champlain Valley. This may push lingering birds to feeders, so it may be another American Goldfinch winter.

Rarities would be topped by the four Sandhill Cranes that spent all of the summer just west of Rouses Point. These were sub-adults, so we'll be looking for them to return and nest next year. These birds were first seen in late June and stayed the entire summer. A Great Egret paid them a visit on 15 August. Egrets have nested on Four Brothers islands, but I received no reports from there this year. A Clay-colored Sparrow was heard and seen 4 July on Montana Road in Plattsburgh and not after that. Three early southbound arrivals in Clinton County, all at Chazy Riverlands, were White-rumped Sandpiper on 14 August, Stilt Sandpiper on 15 & 17 August, and American Pipit on 17 August.

A total of eight active Peregrine Falcon nests fledging 20 young were recorded and watched by the DEC Non-Game Unit. Only 176 species were reported, a little below the previous summer's 182 and well below the record of 192 in 2004.

Addendum—Spring reports: Birds of interest reported by Carrie Osborne from the DEC Non-Game Unit doing Black Tern and marsh surveys on Lake Champlain in early May.

These were my two sites in DEC Region 5 this year. Whitehall around East Bay: several pairs of American Bitterns, Pied-billed Grebe, Common Moorhen, and Virginia Rail. Along the river we spotted Bald Eagle, Osprey, Raven, Kingfisher, and Green and Great Blue Heron. On the Ward Marsh WMA, VT side of the river, there were several more pairs of American Bitterns plus Sora and Common Moorhens. One night while packing up I could hear Whip-poor-will loud and clear on the VT side as well. Across the bridge on East Bay Road is a dirt road, which is a popular fishing spot. The road runs along the river so it's nice for walking and biking, or you can paddle along the river, which is flat and peaceful. Regardless of what you do, if it's early May the background noise in that area will be a lot of American Bitterns calling back and forth.

On the southern end of Lake Champlain south of Chubb's Dock and north of South Bay we found Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, and Common Moorhen in large numbers, more than ten pairs. American Bitterns and Pied-billed Grebe were less abundant but still common. Other species observed at this location included one Black Tern, several pairs of Osprey, Green Heron, and lots of Marsh Wrens!

I did one survey at Putt's Creek WMA and found one pair of Virginia Rails and one pair of Pied-billed Grebes and also observed nesting Osprey in this area.

DEC Region 5 staff surveyed these two sites:

King's Bay WMA, where they found Sora, Virginia Rail, Least Bittern, Common Moorhen, Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, and **King Rail**. There were no Black Terns at this site during the survey period.

Monty's Bay Black Tern survey: Pied-billed Grebe, Virginia Rail, and American Bittern were recorded. They also observed Common Tern and Common Moorhen at this site but no Black Terns.

I thank Carrie for this report of some neat birds in our Region.

CONTRIBUTORS

Mary Anne Allen, Ann Arend, Tom Armstrong, Doreen & Alan Beebe, Susan Black, Ken Burdick, Andrea Burke, Corey Callaghan, Kay Cramer, James deWaal Malefyt, Niko Dietsch, Stan Ernst, Kenita Farney, Walter Favro, Jonathon Feenstra, Liz Fitts, Brendan Fogarty, Patricia Folosm, Josh Frere, Andrew Garland, Donna & Tom Gooley, Larry Hall, Judith Heintz, Nancy & Ronald Hughey, Jenni & Sam Ives, Betsy Jensen, Elsbeth Johnson, Suzy Johnson, Laura Kammerm, William Keim, Bill Krueger, Bill Labes, Bruce Larson, Greg Lawrence, Dan Lee, Gary Lee, Avery Nagy MacArthur, Ryan Maclean, Larry Master, Alec & John Marshall, Michael Mayer, Matt Medler, Melanie McCormack, Bob McKinney, Charlie Mitchell, Nicholas Newberry, Nancy Olsen, John O'Neill, Carrie Osborne, Sharon Pratt, Linda Powers, Mike Powers, Bill Purcell, Dan Rohleder, Nancy Rogers, Jim Schlickerrieder, Robert Scranton, John Shea, David Spear, Joe Sebastiani, Marilyn Smith, Dave Spier, John & Pat Thaxton, William Thompson, Brian Tuttle, Hans & Madeline van der Zweep, Benjamin VanDoren, Colleen & Thomas Williams, Cecelia A. Wojciukiewicz, Chris Wood.

ABBREVIATIONS

AM – Ausable Marsh; AP – Ausable Pt; BP – Belmont Property; BR – Bigelow Road; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; BML – Blue Mountain Lake; BTS – Browns Tract Stream; CRF – Cedar River Flow; CRL – Chazy Riverlands; CRLoop – Clark Road Loop; CH – Cumberland Head; CSR – Cold Spring Road, FRAN; DC – Dickinson Center; FB – Ferd’s Bog; EL – Elk Lake; FR – Floodwood Road; GLL – Good Luck Lake; IL – Intervale Lowlands; KM – Keese Mills; LP – Lake Placid; LL – Limekiln Lake; MRA – Moose River Area; NP – Noblewood Park; OP – Oregon Plains; PLa – Paradox Lake; PSVIC – Paul Smith’s VIC; PL – Plattsburgh; PtAuR – Point au Roche; PP – Powley Place; RPt – Rouses Point; SaL – Sacandaga Lake; SC – Scotion Creek; SRF – St. Regis Falls; TLMP – Tupper Lake Municipal Park; WMt – Whiteface Mountain; WM – Wickham Marsh; WP – Willsboro Point; Wi – Witherbee.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Brant: LP 13 Jun (A&JM, LM), only report.
Canada Goose: max 75 WP 19 Jun (MM) & TLMP 12 Aug (DS).
Wood Duck: 11 AM 24 Jun (BP); max 20 Cold Spring Rd FRAN 2 Jul (BJ).
Am. Black Duck: 8 PL 2 Jun (LH); max 36 Fish Creek Campground 3 Aug (NN).
Green-winged Teal: 4 CRL 20 Aug (MM); CRL 23 Jul (BK), confirmed-FL
Ring-necked Duck: PSVIC 5 Jun (NR); EL 5 Jul & 26 Aug (SB), only reports.
Greater Scaup: RP 26 Jun (BP), only report.
Hooded Merganser: IL 5 Jun (LM); CRL 23 Jul (BK), pair with 8 juv.
Com. Merganser: max 45 NP 17 Aug (MM).
Wild Turkey: max 31 SRF 28 Aug (H&MV).
Com. Loon: max 13 LL 11 Aug (GL), good nesting season.
Pied-billed Grebe: CRF 22 Jun (GL); AM 24 Jun (BP); CRL 30 Jun (BK).
Double-crested Cormorant: max 200 NP 13 Jul (C&TW).
Am. Bittern: IL 5 Jun (LM); BB 10 Jun (R&NH); BTS 5 Jul (GL).
Least Bittern: SC 19 Jun (NO); AM 24 Jun (BP); AP 10 Jul (TA).
Great Blue Heron: Mtn. View 18 Jul (NO); max 4 DC 7 Aug (WT).
Great Egret: RP 15 Aug (T&DG), great find.
Green Heron: RP 24 Jun (BP); 4 DC 7 Aug (WT), many other reports.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 7 SC 19 Jun (NO); CRL 31 Jul (BK); 5 Dead Creek Flow WMA 7 Aug (WT).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture: 6 NP 8 Aug (C&TW); 6 SPF 17 Aug (HV, NN).

350

Osprey: max 13 AM 21 Jul (BJ)), population growing.

Bald Eagle: several reports around the Region, no nests reported.

N. Harrier: Route 22 8 Jun (DN); CR Loop 13 Jul (C&TW); CRL 20 Aug (MM).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Clinton Mills 23 Jun (BP); SL 31 Jul (JS); BB 18 Aug (MMc); Inlet thru (GL).

Cooper’s Hawk: PL 25 Jul (LP); MRA 30 Jul (GL); Dannemora 16 Aug (NO); CH 24 Aug (SJ, BK).

N. Goshawk: Inlet 15 Aug (SE); Long Lake 15 Aug (BL); BML 17 Aug (KC).

Am. Kestrel: IL 2 Jul (LM); BB 5 Jul (WK); Keene 10 Jul (J&PT); Clinton 11 Jul (JH); SRF 17 Aug (H&MV), growing population.

Merlin: CRL 14 Jul (BK); BB 18 Aug (MMc); Inlet 31 Aug (GL), also growing population.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 Poko 29 Jun (NO, MS); nest Knob Pond 10 Jul (DL); 8 active nests produced 20 young (JS)-DEC.

Virginia Rail: CRL 4 Jun (BK); CRF 15 Jun (BM); Pt. Au Fer 22 Jun (BK, CM).

Com. Moorhen: Clinton 22 Jun (JH); AM 24 Jun (BP); CRL 14 Jul (BK); 3 CRL 17 Aug (BK, NO); CRL 20 Aug (MM).

SANDHILL CRANE: 4 Rouses Point end of Jun thru (WF, BK, DR, GL), neat find, sub adults.

Am. Golden-Plover: CH 6 Jun (BK), only report.

Semiplumated Plover: 5 NP 11 Jul (MM); max 7 CRL 28 Aug (BK).

Killdeer: max 37 CRL 8 Jul (BK); NP 11 Jul (MM); SC 9 Aug (NO).

Spotted Sandpiper: max 3 NP 15 Aug (MM).

Solitary Sandpiper: NP 8 Aug (T&CW); 2 Keene 16 Aug (J&PT); CRL 20 Aug (BK,

The Kingbird 2010 December; 60 (4)

MMc).

Greater Yellowlegs: max 2 CRL 13 Jul (BK); NP 13 Jul (MM); CRL 17 Aug (BK, NO).

WILLET: 2 CRL 15 Jul (NO), only report.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 10 CRL 14 Jul (BK); NP 8 Aug (C&TW); SC 9 Aug (NO).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: CRL 20 Aug (MMc); max 17 CRL 16 Aug (BK).

Least Sandpiper: 2 CRL 4 Jun (BK); max 10 CRL 20 Aug (BK); 4 NP 16 Aug (MM).

White-rumped Sandpiper: CRL 14 Jul (BK), early CLIN; max 2 CRL 21 Aug (BK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: NP 11 Aug (J&PT), only report.

Dunlin: CRL 8 Jun (BK), only report.

Stilt Sandpiper: CRL 15 Jul (BK), early CLIN; CRL 17 Jul (BK).

Short-billed Dowitcher: CRL 17 Aug (BK), only report.

Wilson's Snipe: CH 1 Jul (NO, MS); CRF 6 Jul (GL).

Am. Woodcock: PP 28 Jul (LH); MRA 7 Jun (GL).

Bonaparte's Gull: CRL 2 Jul (BK); max 141 NP 17 Aug (MM).

Great Black-backed Gull: Fort Ti 14 Aug (AB); NP 17 Aug (MM).

Caspian Tern: Port Henry 25 Jul (EJ, CAW); 16 NP 3 Aug (SP); Fort Ti 14 Aug (AB); max 31 NP 31 Jul (MM).

Com. Tern: PL 10 Jul (TA); NP 15 Aug (MM).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: NP 11 Jul (MM); Wi 15 Jul (CAW), only reports.

Barred Owl: PL 25 Jul (LP); Middle Pond 24 Aug (DS); Johns Brook Lodge 29 Aug (J&PT); Inlet thru (GL).

Com. Night Hawk: SRF 28 Aug (HV); max 12 CH 15 Jul (NO, MS).

Whip-poor-will: max 8 CH 1 Jul (NO, MS).

Chimney Swift: max 11 Brown House Antiques 31 Jul (MM); 4 Sagamore Lake 11 Jun (GL); RP 23 Jun (BP); SRF 17 Aug (H&MV).

Black-backed Woodpecker: 2 BB 31 Jul (JS); 2 OP 6 Jul (WK); 2 FB 6 Jun (GL), other reports normal places.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 KM 19 Jun (SB); 2 FB 5 Jun (MP, LK); max 4 Marion River 24 Jul (GL), many other encouraging reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 WMt 13 Jun (J&PT); 2 FB 6 Jun (GL); max 4 OP 13 Jun (GLa).

Willow Flycatcher: PP19 Jun (LH); DC 12 Jul (MM), great finds.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Long Pond-Fran.14 Jul (NR); Silver Lake Bog 27 Aug (NO), great new places.

Philadelphia Vireo: Hulls Falls 11 Jun (DN); Chazy Lake Road 13 Jun (BK, CM), nice finds.

Gray Jay: max 10 OP 10 Jun (A&JM); 3 FB 11 Jun (GL); 3 Sabbatis Circle Road 10 Jul (C&TW); 5 BB 12 Jul (A&DB); 8 OP 6 Aug (WK), good showing, some young.

Horned Lark: N. Farm Road-Chazy 4 Jun (BK), only report.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 3 NP 11 Jul (MM); 2 CRF 27 Jul (GL), only reports.

Bank Swallow: 7 NP 31 Jul (MM); CRF 27 Jul (GL); max 12 Clinton Mills 26 Jun (BP).

Cliff Swallow: 3 WP 30 Jun (SP); NP 16 Aug (MM); max 6 SRF 17 Aug (HV& RS).

Boreal Chickadee: BB 12 Jul (A&DB); FR 6 Aug (NN); max 4 BB 18 Aug (MM) & Upper Wolf Jaw 28 Aug (J&PT).

Tufted Titmouse: 2 Sacandaga River Walkway 3 Jul (JD) & NP 3 Aug (SP); max 3 Spring Pond 12 Jun (BV, GLa, RM).

Carolina Wren: max 3 Westport 13 Jul (C&TW); Peru 28 Jul (LF); NP 31 Jul (MM), spreading out.

Marsh Wren: SC 15 Jun (NO), , 20+ nests; AM 14 Jul 9 (Co&TW).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: MRA Jun 3 (MMc); 3 BB 17 Jun (BF); 3 Inlet BBS 30 Jun (CW); Fish Pond 4 Jul (KB); max 14 BB 18 Aug (MMc).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 3 WMt 13 Jun (BV, GLa); OP 7 Jul (WK); EL 26 Aug (SB).

Veery: 4 Marcy Field 6 Jun (LM); DC 23 Jun (ANM); max 8 IL 2 Jul (LM).

Bicknell's Thrush: max 7 WMt 13 Jun (BV, GLa); Blue Mtn 26 Jun (AD); Mt. Marcy 4 Aug (JS).

Swainson's Thrush: Fish Pond 4 Jul (KB); EL 5 Jul (SB); Piseco Lake-Fall stream 6 Jul (AA).

N. Mockingbird: Willsboro Townhall 10 Jul (MM); Farrell Road Willsboro 10 Jul (MM).

Brown Thrasher: max 3 IL 6 Jun (LM); Lake Everest 12 Jul (J&PT); BP 21 Jul (NR).

Cedar Waxwing: 19 PL 25 Jul (LP); max 47 BB 5 Aug (NN).

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: GLL 24 Jun (ND), only report.

Cape May Warbler: Shallow Lake 5 Jun (LK, MP), only report.

Pine Warbler: 2 Inlet Park 11 Jun (GL); PSVIC 12 Jun (A&JM); Clintonville 24 Jun (BP); max 3 NP 7 Jul (WK); 2 FR 6 Aug (NN), growing population.

Palm Warbler: MRA 3 Jun (MMc); SL 5 Jun (LK, MP); 2 PSVIC 12 Jun (JM); 2 FB 18 Jun (CC); max 12 BB 18 Aug (MMc), spreading out.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 9 WMt 13 Jun (GLa, BV), other reports.

Black-&-white Warbler: Noonmark 11 Jun (J&SI); MRA 19 Jun (BT); EL 5 Jul (SB); max 3 BP 31 Jul (NR).

N. Waterthrush: MRA 3 Jun (MMc); 2 BB 13 Jun (JM); max 6 IL 2 Jul (LM); 2 BTS 19 Jul (GL).

Mourning Warbler: Sabattis Bog 19 Jun (J&PT); Keene 24 Jun (J&PT); Inlet BBS 30 Jun (CW); max 6 IL 2 Jul (LM).

Canada Warbler: max 3 MRA 3 Jun (MMc); 2 IL 6 Jun (LM); WMt 2 Aug (JS); BB 5 Aug (NN); FR 6 Aug (NN).

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: WP 24 Jun (BP); MRA 17 Jul (NC), only reports.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Montana Road PL 4 Jul (KF), great find, observer both heard and saw the bird just that one day.

Savannah Sparrow: max 6 WP 24 Jun (BP), many other reports.

Lincoln's Sparrow: MRA 3 Jun (MMc); 2 IL 6 Jun (LM); 2 FB 18 Jun (CC); max 3 IL 2 Jul (LM).

Scarlet Tanager: Clarojast 22 Jun (JH); WP 29 Jun (SP); Inlet thru (GL).

N. Cardinal: WP 27 Jun (SP); Wi all season (CAW); max 3 Pt auR 31 Jul (BL); 2 Clinton 11 Jul (JH).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 4 Clarojast 22 Jun (JH); Keene 10 Jul (J&PT), with young; BP 31 Jul (NR).

Indigo Bunting: 2 WM 24 Jun (BP); 2 GLL 24 Jun (ND); DC 12 Jul (AN).

Bobolink: 2 AM 24 Jun (BP); 3 WP 24 Jun (BP); CRL 13 Jul (C&TW); CRL 20 Aug (MM); CH nesting 1 Jun-20 Jul (NO).

E. Meadowlark: Essex 14 Jun (DN); max 4 WP 24 Jun (BP).

Rusty Blackbird: Chazy Lake Road 9 Jun (NO), confirmed – FL, first CLIN; KM 19 Jun (SB); PP 22 Jun (ND), nice finds.

Pine Grosbeak: CH 11 Jul (NO), one that forgot to go north.

Purple Finch: 65 banded Inlet Jun-Jul (GL); 13 Km 19 Jun (SB); 6 Clarojast 22 Jun (JH).

House Finch: PSVIC 12 Jun (A&JM); WP 27 Jun (SP).

Red Crossbill: Inlet BBC 30 Jun (CW), nice find.

White-winged Crossbill: Inlet BBC 30 Jun (CW); BB 1 Aug (JS), also nice finds.

Pine Siskin: SL 4 Jun (PF); 6 LP 6 Jun (PF); max 20 IL 12 Jun (LM); banded juv. Inlet 13 Jun (GL); max 20 IL 12 Jun (A&JM).

Am. Goldfinch: max 12 IL 8 Jun (LM); SRF 17 Aug (HV), many reports.

Evening Grosbeak: Elizabethtown 21, 22 Jun (J&PT); DC 25 Jun (AN); Inlet BBS 30 Jun (CW).