

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The Region continued to experience seasonally warm temperatures throughout the fall season, November being the 11th consecutive month where temperatures averaged above normal. September began with temperatures reaching 90° F on the 4th in Plattsburgh and 89° in Saranac Lake, with a monthly average of 2.5°-3.5° above normal across the Region. This warm trend was followed by a harsh cold front that brought a couple of days of high winds and rain to the Region, though the remainder of the month brought a mild drought that was finally broken with heavy rains on the 30th. The heavy rain continued to fall into early October and remained a frequent occurrence throughout the month. October rains were 4-4.5" above normal, resulting in the wettest October on record since 1895. October temperatures were slightly above normal, with a record low of 26° in Tupper Lake and a record high of 74° degrees in Willsboro. November temperatures remained 1-2° above normal, and precipitation slightly dropped from October to 1-1.5" below normal in the Region. November brought the first snowfall accumulations, with the highest snowfall of 4" falling in Tupper Lake. Malone and Dannemora received 2" of snowfall for the month, while the Champlain Valley made it through the month without any snow accumulation. The water level in Lake Champlain reached 96.7' in October and peaked at 98.2' in November, well above the average level for the season of 94.5-95' as a result of October's record rainfall.

The fall season had a good start with a report of four adult **Sandhill Cranes** in definitive basic plumage at the North Country Golf Club in Rouses Point. According to local sources the cranes had been present since 30 June, but had escaped the notice of local birders until they were brought to the attention of

Dana Rohleder on 1 September. The report was soon confirmed by numerous birders in the Region, who enjoyed this rarity until early October when the last adult departed. Birders should be on the lookout next year to see if these birds return and possibly nest. Another notable rarity was a lone **Long-tailed Jaeger** that was spotted flying south on Lake Champlain on 25 October from the shore of Cumberland Head, only the third record for this species in Clinton County.

A few songbird migration peaks were noticed by birders in the Region, with the largest variety of warblers reported in the second week of September, when the first north winds started to move birds through. Large numbers of migrant songbirds were heard by birders during the night on the 9th and the 15th, and a large variety of songbirds were consequently reported during the days that followed. Twenty species of warblers were reported during September, including a notable male Black-throated Blue Warbler in Keene that had yellow breast and flanks, which may be a possible hybrid with a Nashville Warbler.

There were fewer reports than usual of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds along Lake Champlain. Cackling Goose was the rarest species observed, with individuals being found in Canada Goose flocks at Westport, Ausable Point, and Cumberland Head. There were comparatively few reports of Snow Geese in the Region, with the largest flock reported being only 1,200 birds. A good variety of shorebirds was reported, but many species were seen only once and in small numbers compared with past seasons. The highlights were an American Golden-Plover at Noblewood Park on 6 September, and a lone Western Sandpiper at the Chazy Riverlands on the 16th. The most notable peak in waterfowl migration was a large fallout of scoters that occurred on 1 November in the Saranac Lake and Lake Placid area, with totals of 238 Black Scoters, 24 Surf Scoters, and one White-winged Scoter being reported by some fast-acting birders in a single day.

Raptor migration was best documented from Noonmark Mountain by Eric Teed, who made the effort to ascend the summit on days when strong north winds were pushing raptors through. Peak numbers from Noonmark included six Sharp-shinned Hawks, 23 Broad-winged Hawks, and two Peregrine Falcons on 17 September and three Northern Harriers and 61 Red-tailed Hawks on 31 October. Raptors noted by other observers included a Red-shouldered Hawk in Brasher Falls on 7 November, another in Westport on 23 November, and a Northern Goshawk that same day.

Irruptive species began to make an appearance across the Region this fall, with good numbers of Purple Finches, Evening Grosbeaks, and Bohemian Waxwings moving through. A number of small flocks of Purple Finches were reported from feeders across the area from mid-September to mid-October. Flocks ranging in size from 2-40 Evening Grosbeaks were reported in all three months from feeders in Peru, Plattsburgh, Elizabethtown, Newcomb, Long Lake, and Saranac Lake. Bohemian Waxwings were reported in modest numbers during the month of November in Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Keene, with a maximum flock size of 55 birds. There were three reports of White-winged Crossbills moving briefly through the Region, and scattered reports of Pine Siskins during the month of October.

In all 179 species were reported by 36 observers across the Region, a good number of species for the fall season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Riverlands; GBM – Gilbert Brook Marina; LP – Lake Placid; LL – Long Lake; MRP – Moose River Plains; NM – Noonmark Mountain; NP – Noblewood Park; PtR – Point Au Roche State Park; RP – Rouses Point; SB – Sabattis Bog; SL – Saranac Lake; TL – Tupper Lake; WD – Wilcox Dock.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 1200 Malone 10 Oct (JS); 1000 PtR 27 Nov (NO), few reported.
Brant: Mirror Lake 19 Nov (LM).
Cackling Goose: CH 27 Oct (BK); 2 Westport 6 Nov (BK); AP 6 Nov (BK).
Canada Goose: max 800 Malone 27 Oct.
Wood Duck: BB 13 Oct (MMc), only rep.
Am. Wigeon: 2 Point Au Fer 13 Sep (MMc), only rep
Blue-winged Teal: male NP 4 Sep (TM, MMe, SO); 5 Westport 23 Oct (J&PT).
N. Shoveler: CRL 12 Sep (BK), only rep.
N. Pintail: PtR 22 Nov (JH), only rep.
Redhead: Kings Bay 31 Oct (BK, CM), only rep.
Ring-necked Duck: 3 WD 4 Nov (MMc), only rep.
scaup species: 40 WD 4 Nov (MMc), only rep.
Surf Scoter: max 12 Lake Colby 1 Nov (AB, BM); 9 Mirror Lake 1 Nov (LM); 3 LP 1 Nov (LM).
White-winged Scoter: LL 23 Sep (JC); Lake Colby 1 Nov (AB, BM).
Black Scoter: WD 20 Oct (BK, CM); max 120 Lake Colby 1 Nov (AB, BM); 70 Mill Pond 1 Nov (LM); 48 LP 1 Nov (LM).
Long-tailed Duck: max 10 Lake Champlain 7 Nov (SS); 6 Raquette Lake 14 Nov (GL).
Buffhead: arr WD 13 Sep (BK), early; max 20 NP 30 Oct (MMe).

Com. Goldeneye: 9 LP 1 Nov (LM); max 50 Lake Champlain 7 Nov (SS); 35 AP 21 Nov (J&PT).

Hooded Merganser: 10 Little Tupper Lake 25 Oct (JC); max 60 Bellmont 27 Oct (JS).

Com. Merganser: max 10 NP 21 Sep (ETe).

Red-breasted Merganser: Willsboro Bay 6 Oct (BM); CH 13 Nov (BK).

Ruddy Duck: fem AP 18 Oct (BK, CM); imm male AP 4 Nov (MMc).

Com. Loon: max 15 Lake Champlain 15 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 3 CRL 2 Sep (BK, CM); 3 AP 18 Oct (BK, CM).

Horned Grebe: CH 14 Oct (BK), early record CLIN; max 27 Lake Champlain 15 Nov (DR).

Red-necked Grebe: 2 CH 8 Oct (BK); NP 1, 29 Oct (MMe).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1420 NP 6 Sep (MMc, MMe, ETe).

GREAT CORMORANT: imm RP 14 Nov (BK), 6th record CLIN.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: RP 23 Nov (BK), late record CLIN.

Bald Eagle: max 4 AP 17 Sep (BK, CM); 3 Westport 23 Oct (J&PT).

N. Harrier: max 3 NM 31 Oct (ETe).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 6 NM 31 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: LL 11 Sep; Peru 22 Nov.

N. Goshawk: Coon Mt 23 Nov (J&PT), only rep.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Brasher Falls 7 Nov (RS); Westport 23 Nov (J&PT).
Broad-winged Hawk: max 23 NM 17 Sep.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 61 NM 31 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Westport 17 Oct (J&PT); Essex 29 Nov (ETe).
Golden Eagle: SB 11 Nov (JC).
Am. Kestrel: 3 Piseco 8 Sep (LH); max 5 Azure Mtn 22 Sep (JC).
Merlin: NP 6 Sep (MMc, MMe, ETe); Westport 1 Nov (J&PT); Keene 17 Nov (J&PT).
Peregrine Falcon: 2 NM 17 Sep (ETe); NM 2 Oct (JN).
Com. Moorhen: max 5 CRL 2 Sept (BK).
SANDHILL CRANE: 4 ad first reported at RP Golf Course 1 Sep (WF), reported to have been present since 30 Jun; 4 RP Golf Course 8 Sep (BK); last 1 ad RP 2 Oct (T&DG).
Black-bellied Plover: 2 CRL 27 Sep (BK); max 5 NP 17 Oct (J&PT).
Am. Golden-Plover: NP 6 Sep (MMc, MMe, ETe); CRL 7 Oct (BK).
Semipalmated Plover: max 19 CRL 12 Sep (BK).
Killdeer: max 10 Westport 1 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: NP 6 Sep; Keene 7 Sep; BB 24 Sep; Coreys Road 27 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: 2 CRL 10 Sep; 2 Mirror Lake 29 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 4 CRL 12 Sep (BK), only rep.
Sanderling: 2 CRL 12 Sep (BK); 4 NP 17 Sep (MMe, DD), only reports.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 21 CRL 14 Sep (BK).
WESTERN SANDPIPER: CRL 16 Sep (BK).
Least Sandpiper: max 37 CRL 12 Sep (BK).
White-rumped Sandpiper: NP 17 Sep (MMe, DD); 2 CRL 19 Oct (BK), only reports.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 CRL 19 Oct (BK), only rep.
Dunlin: max 17 GBM 17 Oct (BK, CM); GBM 18 Nov (BK), late record CLIN.
Am. Woodcock: Inlet 16 Oct (GL).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 453 GBM 3 Sep (BK); 216 WD 3 Sep (BK).
Caspian Tern: WD 9 Sep (BK), late record CLIN; 2 Crown Point 17 Sep (MMe), late record ESSX.
Com. Tern: max 9 GBM 1 Sep (BK); Crown Point 17 Sep (MMe).
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: imm CH 25 Oct (BK), 3rd record CLIN.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: 2 Cadyville 24 Nov.

Great Horned Owl: Piseco 13 Sep.
Barred Owl: Keene 4 Sep; AP 6 Nov; LL 21 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: RP 14 Sep (LM), only rep.
Whip-poor-will: Port Kent 3 Sep (DR), only rep.
Chimney Swift: 2 NP 3 Sep (MMe), only rep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: dep 2 LL 22 Sep (JC).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: Inlet 2-30 Nov (GL), only record.
Black-backed Woodpecker: BB 15 Sep (AB); MRP 26 Sep (JC); SB 25 Oct (JC).
N. Flicker: max 10 Keene 17 Sep (J&PT).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Keene 6 Sep (J&PT), only rep.
E. Wood-Pewee: dep Coreys Road 15 Sep (LA).
E. Phoebe: dep LP 3 Oct (LM).
N. Shrike: arr LP 2 Nov (LM); Jay 2 Nov (PJ).
Yellow-throated Vireo: Keene 27 Sep (MMc), only rep.
Philadelphina Vireo: 2 BB 7 Sep (AB); Keene 20 Sep (JN).
Gray Jay: max 5 BB 11 Nov.
Com. Raven: max 5 NM 31 Oct.
Horned Lark: arr 9 Keene 26 Oct.
Tree Swallow: max 40 NP 6 Sep.
Bank Swallow: max 10 NP 6 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: max 3 NP 6 Sep.
Barn Swallow: max 10 NP 6 Sep.
Boreal Chickadee: 3 BB 17 Sep (AB); 4 Ampersand Mt 17 Sep (MMc); 4 LL 20 Sep (JC).
Tufted Titmouse: Inlet 13 Sep, 12 Oct, 15 Oct (GL); 2 Westport 28 Nov (J&PT).
Carolina Wren: CH 5 Sep (NO); max 2 Westport 17 Oct (J&PT); Willsboro 16 Nov (GL).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 85 Mt. Colden 2 Oct (MMe, DD), record high ESSX.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 15 Mt Colden 2 Oct.
E. Bluebird: max 25 TL 12 Sep (J&PT); 24 LP 30 Oct (LM).
Swainson's Thrush: 2 SL 23 Sep (AB); max 8 Shallow Lake 26 Sep (LH); dep MRP 8 Oct (GL).
Hermit Thrush: max 4 LL 11 Sep.
Wood Thrush: Cascade Pond 23 Sep (JA).
Am. Robin: max 30 LP 3 Oct.
Gray Catbird: 3 Crown Point 17 Sep.
Am. Pipit: 8 Piseco 15 Sep (LH); 4 CRL 20 Sep (BK); max 15 North Hudson 31 Oct (ETe).

Bohemian Waxwing: arr LP 3 Nov (LL); PS 7 Nov (BS); 8 SL 10 Nov (AB); max 55 SL 15 Nov (AB); 12 Keene 20 Nov (J&PT); 20 Keene 28 Nov (J&PT).

Cedar Waxwing: max 30 Inlet 15 Sep; 24 Peru 15 Nov.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: arr 5 AP 27 Oct (BK, CM); max 77 Piseco 3 Nov (LH); 50 LP 11 Nov (YT).

Tennessee Warbler: Lyon Mt 5 Sep (MMe, DD); dep SL 10 Sep (AB).

Orange-crowned Warbler: SL 10 Sep (AB), only rep.

Cape May Warbler: SL 9 Sep (AB); dep Coreys Rd 24 Sep (AL).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Keene 18 Sep (J&PT), male with yellow breast, possible Nashville Warbler hybrid.

Pine Warbler: BB 17 Sep (AB); max 3 NP 17 Sep (MMe, DD), last reports.

Palm Warbler: max 6 BB 11 Sept (J&PT); dep Mt Colden 2 Oct (MMe, DD).

Bay-breasted Warbler: BB 7 Sep; SL 9 Sep, Deer Pond Loop 20 Sep (AL).

Blackpoll Warbler: 7 BB 17 Sep; max 10 Mt Colden 2 Oct.

Black-and-white Warbler: Peru 24 Oct (L&HF), late record CLIN.

Wilson's Warbler: 2 Burke 6 Sep (NR); SL 9 Sep (AB); 2 SL 10 Sep (AB); BB 15 Sep (AB), only reports.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr AP 27 Oct (BK, CM).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Powley Place 13 Oct (LH), only rep.

Vesper Sparrow: BB 13 Oct (AL); BB 23 Oct (BM).

Fox Sparrow: arr LP 24 Oct; SB 25 Oct; Peru 6 Nov; max 2 SL 7 Nov.

Song Sparrow: max 12 LP 3 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: BB 10 Sep; Inlet 30 Sep; max 2 LP 3 Oct; dep Inlet 16 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: dep SB 25 Oct (JC).

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Hurricane Mt 20 Sep (MMc); max 25 LP 2 Oct (LM); 10 SL 20 Oct (AB); dep Peru 21 Nov (L&HF).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 10 SL 10 Sep (AB); Inlet 9 -19 Sep (GL).

Bobolink: dep NP 6 Sep (MMc, MMe, ETe).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 3500 Brasher Falls 13 Oct (RS).

E. Meadowlark: BB 3 Oct (BM), only rep.

Rusty Blackbird: 2 Lake Pleasant 11 Oct (JD), only rep.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 4 Piseco 6 Oct; 3 Westport 28 Nov (J&PT).

Baltimore Oriole: 2 Keene 6 Sep (J&PT); dep Inlet 14 Sep (GL).

Purple Finch: 6 LP 3 Oct (LM); 4 Peru 7 Oct (L&HF); max 6 Westport 23 Oct (J&PT); many reports.

White-winged Crossbill: 8 High Peaks 6 Oct (JC); 5 Tahawus 7 Nov (JC); max 16 West Chazy 9 Nov (MMc).

Pine Siskin: BB 3 Oct (BM); max 30 New Russia 18 Oct (ETe); 12 Peru 25 Oct (L&HF); 26 LP 30 Oct (LM); Inlet 1 Nov (GL).

Evening Grosbeak: 10 BB 3 Oct (BM); 12 Newcomb 6 Oct (JC); 2 Rand Hill 11 Oct (JH); 16 Peru 31 Oct (L&HF); max 40 LL 27 Nov (JC); many reports.