

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Weather in the spring of 2011 was one for the record books, with record flooding across the Region due to a wet winter and an even wetter spring. Precipitation averaged 4-6" above normal for all three months in the Champlain Valley and the Adirondacks, making it the wettest April and May on record. April rainfall set records, with totals ranging from 4.5" in Peru to 8.7" in Old Forge and Lake Placid, only to be followed by an even wetter May, where rainfall totals ranged from 7.5" in Tupper Lake and 8.3" in Old Forge to 9.1" in Peru. The last major snowstorm of the month occurred on 6 March, dumping 24" in Tupper Lake and 37" in Ellenburg Depot. As would be expected, the culmination of rain and melting snow brought lakes and rivers across the Region to record high levels, bringing widespread flooding and causing millions of dollars in damage. Lake Champlain reached its highest level of 103.2' feet on 6 May and remained above flood stage through the end of May. Temperatures ranged 1-2° below average for the month of March, with the warmest temperatures being in the mid-50s on the 17th and 18th. In contrast, April temperatures ran 1-2° above average, with temperatures reaching the 70s near the end of the month. May was an average month for the Champlain Valley, but for the Adirondacks it ranked as the sixth warmest May on record, with temperatures ranging 4.5° above normal and reaching the mid-80s in the final days of the month.

The record flooding created challenges for birders trying to access some of the major spring migration sites, but persistence paid off with good numbers for *The Kingbird* 2011 September; 61 (3)

species diversity and rarities being reported for the season. The high water levels may have played a part in aiding the diversity of shorebirds and waders that made a brief stop in the Champlain Valley this year. Notable May migration sightings at the Chazy Riverlands include: a Little Gull on the 22nd and 29th, a Glaucous Gull on the 28th, a breeding male Wilson's Phalarope on the 28th, a record late Eurasian Wigeon on the 29th, and a Whimbrel on the 28th, which is only the second spring record for this species in the Region. A good number of shorebirds made stops in the Adirondacks as well, the highlights being 30 Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs in Tupper Lake on the 6th and 30 Short-Billed Dowitchers in Lake Placid on the 19th. Waterfowl also came through the Region in strong numbers that peaked in mid- to late March. Highlights from Ausable Point included record early Northern Shovelers on the 12th, a male Ruddy Duck on the 29th, and 12 Canvasbacks and nine Redheads in the 27th. Other notable waterfowl sightings include four Long-tailed Ducks on Long Lake on 5 April, Barrow's Goldeneye at Crown Point on 2 April, and a Red-breasted Merganser at Point Au Roche on 7 May.

The Crown Point banding station opened on 6 May for its 36th season as scheduled, with Gordon C. Howard, Bob Wei, and Gary Lee faithfully keeping the station going despite record high flooding on Lake Champlain. A total of 518 individuals were banded representing 58 species, including 15 warbler species and 16 individuals that had been captured in previous years. The oldest recapture was a Black-capped Chickadee, first banded in 2006 and now 5 years and 11 months old. The highlight of the season was undoubtedly a Grasshopper Sparrow, which became the 101st species banded at the station. Other notable birds that were banded include two Orchard Orioles, six Tennessee Warblers, one Mourning Warbler, one Prairie Warbler, and a record low 10 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers, which usually number in the hundreds.

The spring also saw the last days of the winter invasions of redpolls, waxwings, and grosbeaks. Common Redpolls remained in good numbers through mid-March in most of the Region, but persisted in the hundreds at a feeder station in Long Lake until mid-April, with the last birds departing on 6 May. Hoary Redpolls were reported at a number of locations, and a "Greater" Redpoll was identified at a feeder on Cumberland Head on 6 March. Bohemian Waxwings persisted in flocks numbering in the hundreds in March that tapered off the first week of April, with a final report of 25 at Cumberland Head on 6 April. Evening Grosbeaks were reported in good numbers through April, with a maximum of 70 at Long Lake and a last record of four birds at Lake Alice on 30 April. Absent for much of the winter at most bird feeders, Purple Finches and American Goldfinches began visiting birdfeeders again in the last week of April.

Additional highlights include a Black-billed Cuckoo in Bellmont on 30 May and Clay-colored Sparrows in Lake Placid and at Lake Alice. A day of birding in Fort Covington on 29 May, a lesser known birding area on the edge of Franklin County, added a number of species that were not reported elsewhere in the Region, including Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Virginia Rail, and an impressive 27 Black Terns.

The season total was 218 species, an excellent number that just misses the record of 219 species that was set in 1997.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Riverlands; Ferd – Ferd's Bog; FC – Fort Covington; LP – Lake Placid; LL – Long Lake; Mass – Massawepie Mire; Plat – Plattsburgh; PS – Paul Smiths; PtR – Point Au Roche SP; SB – Sabattis Bog; SL – Saranac Lake; SSP – Shingle Shanty Preserve; TL – Tupper Lake; WM – Wickham Marsh WMA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1000 PtR 18 Mar; 800 AP 27 Mar (DR); 1 CH 29 May (NO), last.

Wood Duck: arr 3 AP 3 Mar (BK, CM), early CLIN; max 48 FC 29 May (M&LL).

Gadwall: arr 20 AP 20 Mar (DR).

Eurasian Wigeon: CR 29 May (JO), late CLIN, only report.

Am. Wigeon: arr PtR 8 Mar (NO); max 2 AP 21 Mar (BS).

Am. Black Duck: 9 LL 5 Apr (JC); max 40 FC 29 May (M&LL).

Blue-winged Teal: arr LL 11 Apr (JC); max 8 FC 29 May (M&LL).

N. Shoveler: arr 4 CH 12 Mar (BK), early CLIN; 2 FC 29 May (M&LL).

N. Pintail: arr 8 CH 14 Mar (BK); PtR 18 Mar (NO); AP 28 Mar (DR); CP 2 Apr (SO, AB).

Green-winged Teal: arr 6 AP 19 Mar (BK); max 7 AP 28 Mar; TL 9 Apr; LP 28 Apr.

Canvasback: arr AP 20 Mar (BK, CM); max 12 AP 27 Mar (DR).

Redhead: arr AP 15 Mar (BK); max 9 AP 29 Mar (DL).

Ring-necked Duck: max 400 AP 27 Mar (DR); TL 9 Apr (JC).

Greater/Lesser Scaup: 900 WM 20 Mar (DR); 900 AP 29 Mar; max 1000 Kings Bay 26 Apr.

Lesser Scaup: AP 13 Mar (BK, CM); 5 LL 5 Apr (JC).

White-winged Scoter: 2 CR 25 May (JO).

Long-tailed Duck: arr 4 LL 5 Apr (JC); CH 9 Apr (JO), early CLIN.

Bufflehead: max 50 AP 7 Apr (NR); 2 LL 4 Apr (JC).

Com. Goldeneye: max 500 WM 20 Mar (DR); 20 TL 2 Apr (JC).

Barrow's Goldeneye: CP 2 Apr (SO&AB), only report.

Hooded Merganser: max 20 AP 27 Mar (DR).

Com. Merganser: max 65 SP 20 Mar (DR).

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 PtR 7 May (JH), only report.

Ruddy Duck: AP 19 Mar (BK), early CLIN.

Ring-necked Pheasant: LA 30 Apr (JO).

Com. Loon: arr 4 AP 27 Feb; LL 8 Apr (JC); SL 13 Apr (BM).

Pied-billed Grebe: arr 2 AP 21 Mar; max 7 FC 29 May (M&LL).

Horned Grebe: CH 22 Mar (BK), early rec CLIN; 2 Treadwell Bay 25 Apr (HK).

Red-necked Grebe: Chazy 24 Apr (BK); CR 25 May (JO), record late CLIN.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr AP 21 Mar (WS).
Am. Bittern: arr LP 22 Apr (LM); PS 27 Apr (BM); LA 1 May (BK, CM); CH 8 May (NO).
Least Bittern: FC 29 May (M&LL).
Great Blue Heron: arr 18 Mar PtR (NO); AP 19 Mar (BK).
Great Egret: arr CR 24 Apr (BK); LP 24 Apr; PtR 9 Apr; Jay 3 May FC 29 May.
Green Heron: arr PtR 30 Apr (JH); max 3 LA 1 May (JO).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: FC 29 May (M&LL).
Turkey Vulture: arr CH 27 Mar (CH); Wilmington 27 Mar (WS).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 29 Apr Scomotion Creek (NO); AP 30 Apr (DL).
Bald Eagle: max 3 SL 28 May (GD).
N. Harrier: Essex 12 Mar (J&PT); CR 10 Apr (BK&CM), CP 7 May (GL).
Cooper's Hawk: CH 25 Mar-8 May (BK); FC 29 May (M&LL).
N. Goshawk: LL 7 Apr (JC); LL 9 May (JC).
Red-shouldered Hawk: Platts 6 Apr (DR); LA 7 Apr; Keene 24 Apr; PS 11 May; 2 FC 29 May.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr LL 27 Apr (JC); Rand Hill 27 Apr (JH); PS 27 Apr (BM).
Rough-legged Hawk: max 5 Essex 17 Mar (J&PT); AP 6 Apr (JO).
Am. Kestrel: arr Willsboro 19 Mar (ETi); Keeseville 21 Mar (DR).
Merlin: arr Wilmington 23 Mar (WS); LL 5 Apr (JC).
Peregrine Falcon: arr Keene 11 Mar (J&PT); SL 13 Mar; CP 10 May; Plat 25 May; CR 29 May.
Virginia Rail: 5 FC 29 May, only report.
Black-bellied Plover: max 87 CR 29 May (JO); 12 CR 30 May (NO).
Semipalmated Plover: max 83 CR 25 May (BK); 6 LP 16 May (LM).
Killdeer: arr 2 Chazy 16 Mar (NO); 2 LP 16 May (LM).
Spotted Sandpiper: arr LP 27 Apr (LM).
Solitary Sandpiper: Riley Brook 14 May (BK, CM); BB 21 May (JC, SO).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr LP 27 Apr (LM); max 20 TL 6 May (RG); 16 Riley Brook 6 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 24 Apr CR (BK); max 45 CR 14 May (BK); 10 TL 6 May (RG).
Whimbrel: CR 28 May (JO), 2nd spring record.
Ruddy Turnstone: 9 CR 29 May (JO).
Sanderling: CR 29 May (JO), 4th spring record.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr CR 14 May (BK); max 445 CR 30 May (BK).

Least Sandpiper: arr 2 Riley Brook 10 May; max 30 CR 14 May (BK).
White-rumped Sandpiper: 4 CR 29 May (JO).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 CR 28 May (JO).
Dunlin: arr 26 Apr CR (BK); max 27 CR 17 May (BK).
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr CR 14 May (BK); max 30 LP 19 May (LM).
Wilson's Snipe: arr LP 24 Apr (LM); Inlet 24 Apr (GL).
Am. Woodcock: arr Wickham WMA 20 Mar (DR).
Wilson's Phalarope: 1 m CR 28 May (JO).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 7 AP 6 Apr (JO), record early CLIN; max 89 CR 18 May (BK).
Little Gull: CR 22 May (JO).
Glaucous Gull: CR 28 May (JO), 3rd spring record, record late CLIN.
Caspian Tern: arr 3 Plat 7 May (JO); CR 11 May thru (BK).
Black Tern: 27 FC 29 May (M&LL).
Com. Tern: arr 3 CR 3 May (BK); max 67 CR 17 May (BK).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: Belmont 30 May (NR).
Great Horned Owl: PtR 11 May (NR).
Short-eared Owl: ad m CH 7 Mar (BK).
Com. Nighthawk: arr 9 Plat 29 May (NO).
E. Whip-poor-will: Jay 21 May (JB); Port Kent 21 May (SL).
Chimney Swift: arr Plat 7 May (JO).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr LL 3 May (JC); LP 3 May; Willsboro 4 May; Inlet 5 May.
Belted Kingfisher: AP 15 Mar (BK), overwintered.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Keene 9 Apr (J&PT); 2 LL 9 Apr; AP 9 Apr.
Black-backed Woodpecker: LL 15 Mar; 2 BB 24 Mar; SB 15 Apr; Ferds 20 May; SSP 30 May.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Vanderwacker Mt 13 May (JC); Belmont 29 May (NR).
E. Wood-Pewee: arr LL 10 May (JC); CH 29 May (NO).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Browns Tract 18 May (MO); Mass 22 May (AB).
Alder Flycatcher: arr LP 20 May (LM).
Willow Flycatcher: FC 29 May (M&LL); Dickinson Ctr 29 May (AN).
Least Flycatcher: arr LA 7 May (JO); LL 9 May (JC).
E. Phoebe: arr CH 8 Apr (NO); Wilmington 8 Apr (WS); Keene 8 Apr (MMC).
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Dickinson Ctr 8 May (AN); CH 16 May (NO).

E. Kingbird: arr CP 12 May; Reagan Flats 12 May; CH 16 May.
N. Shrike: LP 13 Mar (LM); LP 20 Mar (LL); SB 24 Mar (JC); LP 24 Apr, last.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr LL 26 Apr (JC).
Warbling Vireo: arr LA 1 Apr (BK&CM).
Philadelphia Vireo: arr LA 18 May (JO); SL 28 May (AB).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr LL 13 May (JC).
Gray Jay: 3 SB 4 Mar; 3 Ferds 14 Mar; Browns Tract 18 May; 2 Mass 28 May; max 6 Shingle Shanty 28 May (JP).
Horned Lark: CR 15 Mar (DL); LL 5 Apr (JC); Chazy 12 May (BK).
Purple Martin: 2 FC 29 May (M&LL).
Tree Swallow: arr Wilmington 8 May (WS).
Bank Swallow: arr 8 PtR 30 Apr (JH).
Cliff Swallow: arr LA 7 May (JO); max 22 Reagan Flats 12 May (RS).
Barn Swallow: arr CR 9 Apr, early rec CLIN.
Boreal Chickadee: 2 BB 9 Apr (BW); 2 SSP 28 May (JP).
Tufted Titmouse: 2 Keene 24 Mar (MMc); 3 Port Kent 25 Apr (DR); 2 FC 29 May (M&LL).
Carolina Wren: CH 8 Apr thru (NO); Plat 7 May (JO).
House Wren: arr Pt R 30 Apr (JH); SL 14 May (AB).
Winter Wren: arr LL 11 Apr (JC).
Marsh Wren: 6 FC 29 May (M&LL).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr CH, LL, PS & LP 27 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Dickinson Ctr 29 Apr (AN).
Veery: arr 8 May Dickinson Ctr (AN).
Bicknell's Thrush: Whiteface Mt 21 May (JC&SO).
Swainson's Thrush: arr Ferd 18 May (MO).
Hermit Thrush: arr SB 15 Apr (JC).
Wood Thrush: arr LA 7 May (JO); LL 11 May (JC); SL 12 May (RS).
Gray Catbird: arr LA 1 May (JO), record early CLIN.
Brown Thrasher: arr PtR 28 Apr (JH); Mass 28 May (JC).
Am. Pipit: 9 PtR 13 May.
Bohemian Waxwing: max 600 Essex 12 Mar; 300 LA 19 Mar; 80 Peru 27 Mar; 75 CH 28 Mar; 100 CP 2 Apr; 25 CH 6 Apr, last.
Cedar Waxwing: 28 CH 27 Apr (NO).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 10 PtR 10 Mar (NO).
Snow Bunting: 5 Chazy 2 Mar (BK&CM).
Blue-winged Warbler: LP 19 May (LM).
Golden-winged Warbler: FC 19 May (M&LL).

Tennessee Warbler: arr Dickinson Ctr 1 May (AN); CP 21 May; LA 25 May; FC 29 May; PS 30 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr LA 30 Apr; Keene 7 May; LL 9 May.
N. Parula: arr PS 7 May (BM).
Yellow Warbler: arr PtR 29 Apr (NO).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Peru 7 Apr (LF).
Magnolia Warbler: arr LP 1 May (LM).
Cape May Warbler: arr L Pleasant 7 May (JDM); Dickinson Ctr 7 May (AN).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr LL 27 Apr (JC).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr LP, Keene, Dickinson Ctr 24 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr LL 27 Apr (JC).
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Dickinson Ctr 22 Apr (AN), Reg record early.
Pine Warbler: arr Inlet 24 Apr (JC).
Prairie Warbler: CP 14 May (GL).
Palm Warbler: arr Mass 19 Apr (JC).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 8 LA 18 May (JO); 3 LP 19 May; 2 FC 29 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr CP 13 May (GL).
Black-and-white Warbler: arr PS 27 Apr (BM).
Am. Redstart: arr LL 10 May (JC).
Ovenbird: arr Plat 28 Apr (BK).
N. Waterthrush: arr Rand Hill 30 Apr (JH), record early CLIN.
Mourning Warbler: arr Chazy 18 May (JH); 2 LP 19 May; 2 Mass 22 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr LA 30 Apr (JO), early rec CLIN.
Wilson's Warbler: arr LA 18 May (JO).
Canada Warbler: arr LL 11 May (JC).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr SL 22 Apr (AB); 2 Reagan Flats 12 May; CP 13 May.
Am. Tree Sparrow: LP 24 Apr (LM), last
Chipping Sparrow: arr Keene 20 Mar (MMc); 11 Apr LL.
Clay-colored Sparrow: LA 19-22 May; LP 22 May (LM).
Field Sparrow: 8 LA 30 Apr (JO, BK, CM), record early CLIN; Mass 28 May (JC).
Vesper Sparrow: LP 11-22 Apr (LM); max 3 Riley Brook 16 Apr (BK,CM); SB 22 Apr (JC).
Savannah Sparrow: arr 2 LL 5 Apr (JC); max 6 LP 11 Apr (LM).
Grasshopper Sparrow: CP 12 May (GL).
Fox Sparrow: arr LL 10 Apr (JC); 2 SL 8 Apr; Redford 14 Apr; max 7 SL 22 Apr (AB).
Song Sparrow: arr CH 11 Mar (NO); Inlet 12 Mar (GL).

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr SB 9 May (JC); PS 11 May; PtR 11 May; Ferd 18 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr PS 27 Apr (BM); PtR 30 Apr (JH).
White-throated Sparrow: arr Bellmont 11 Apr (NR).
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Redford 5 Apr (DF), record early CLIN; Keene 23 Apr (MMc); max 16 Reagan Flats 12 May (RS), last.
Scarlet Tanager: arr Chazy 18 May (JH).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr LA 30 Apr (JO); Essex 1 May (ETi); Inlet 6 May (GL).
Indigo Bunting: arr CP 12 May (GL); Plat 17 May (JH); Bellmont 23 May (NR).
Bobolink: arr CP 7 May (GL); max 8 Reagan Flats 12 May.
Red-winged Blackbird: arr Willsboro, LP, Keeseville 6 Mar.
E. Meadowlark: arr Essex 2 Apr (AB & SO).
Rusty Blackbird: arr Keene 16 Apr (MMc); 2 LL 23 Apr; LP 24 Apr; Newcomb 27 Apr; max 58 LA 30 Apr; SB 7 May.

Com. Grackle: arr LP 6 Mar.
Orchard Oriole: 2 CP 14 May (GL).
Baltimore Oriole: arr Plat 22 Apr (SJ).
Purple Finch: LL 14 Apr (JC); Keene 20 Apr; LP 24 Apr; Plat 27 Apr.
White-winged Crossbill: LP 10 Mar (LM); Gabriels 16 Apr (JS); 2 LA 30 Apr (JO).
Com. Redpoll: 50 CH 6 Mar; max 400 LP 12 Mar (LM); 100 Inlet 7 Apr (GL); 100 LL 10 Apr (JC); 2 LL 6 May (JC), last.
COM. "GREATER" REDPOLL: CH 6 Mar (BK).
HOARY REDPOLL (R7): Piseco 2 Mar (LH); Inlet 5 Mar (GL); CH 11 Mar (BK); 3 LP 15 Mar (LM); LL 4 Apr (JC).
Pine Siskin: LL 10 Apr (JC); Dickinson Ctr 23 Apr; Peru 7 May; LA 7 May, last.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 BB 24 Mar (JC); 5 Inlet 27 Mar (GL); 16 Dickinson Ctr 9 Apr (AN); max 70 LL 10 Apr (JC); 2 Essex 28 Apr (ETi); 4 LA 30 Apr (JO).