

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The fall season of 2011 continued the year's trend of wet weather and above average temperatures, with two of the three months being the warmest on record. September was one of them, with temperatures 3-5° above average across the Region. The remnants of tropical storm *Lee* hit the Region on the 5th, bringing temperatures as high as 86° in Peru and dumping 1.5-2" of rain in a single day. Most of the lower elevation areas of the Region made it through September without a single hard frost, though some places, such as Inlet, dipped just below freezing on the 17th. October continued to stay warm and wet, with temperatures 2.1° above average across the Region, and record highs on the 9th-11th of 80° in Lake Placid and Peru. The first hard frost in the Champlain Valley came late in the month, with the coldest night dipping down to 25° in Peru on the 29th. Rainfall for the month was slightly above average, with 3.5-4.25" total. A record snowstorm blanketed much of the state on the 28th, but the Region escaped its fury and received no measurable snowfall in October. November became yet another of the warmest months on record, with temperatures 5-6° above normal in the Region. Temperatures ranged from a high of 66° in Peru on the 10th to a low of 15° in Tupper Lake on the 22nd. Most of the month was dry, with precipitation 1-2" below average, but a large amount of snow did blanket the Region on the 23rd, dumping 8" of snow in Tupper Lake, 10" in Peru, and 12" in Elizabethtown.

The remnants of tropical storm *Lee* brought a peak in shorebird activity at the Chazy Riverlands, with good numbers of shorebirds stopping to refuel between 1 and 6 September and continuing their journey once the storm passed. Notable sightings at the riverlands during that period include 40 Black-bellied Plovers, 3 American Golden-Plovers, 2 Ruddy Turnstones, and 8 **Whimbrel**, which is only the sixth record in Clinton County. The same storm also brought 113 Bonaparte's Gulls to Noblewood and a Solitary Sandpiper to Bellmont on the 6th. Other notable lake sightings in the period include a Purple Sandpiper on Valcour Island on 21 November and a **Black-legged Kittiwake** on 22 October, only the second record for Clinton County.

Waterfowl migration did not have a clear peak this year, and the lack of cold weather caused a few species to linger on inland lakes later than usual. Late sightings included two Wood Ducks on Shaw Pond on 7 November, two Gadwall in Cold Brook on 20 November, and a Northern Shoveler at Hoisington Brook on 16 November. Only one scoter, a lone White-winged Scoter, was reported during the period from the Paul Smith's VIC on 16 November. With the wet season causing some farmers to cut their corn later than usual, Snow Geese also stayed in the Region later than normal, with a flock of 6,000 still present on 28 November in Chazy. Common Loons were still present on inland

lakes of the Adirondacks at the end of the period, where waters remained unfrozen.

Mild temperatures meant a slightly later migration for most species of passerines, with a good diversity of warblers being reported into the end of September and boreal species being reported into mid-October. The biggest warbler surprise for the season was a **Prairie Warbler** sighted at Camp Dudley on 26 November, a rare species in the Region at any time of year and certainly unexpected in November. Other late migrants included a Red-eyed Vireo on 23 October in Saranac Lake, an Orange-crowned Warbler in Elizabethtown on 17 November, and a Gray Catbird in Keene that stayed in my yard from 27 November thru the end of the period.

Raptor migration was not well recorded this year, as there were no reports of high numbers of migrants for the season. Two Golden Eagles were reported on 3 and 10 September, and two Red-Shouldered Hawks were seen on 3 September. There were equally few records of migrating sparrows, with only two Fox Sparrow reports and three White-Crowned Sparrow sightings. Snow Buntings arrived on 9 November in Newcomb and were seen across the Region in small numbers through the period.

As predicted in the 2011-2012 Winter Finch forecast, strong numbers of siskins and crossbills were seen in the Region beginning in late October. The first record of Pine Siskins came from a hike I did of The Brothers in Keene on 26 September, but it wasn't until late October that I began to see large flocks on every hike I took through conifer forests. Flocks of up to 250 birds were reported by multiple observers from high elevation forests, as birds flocked to the Region to take advantage of the excellent hemlock and spruce cone crops. Crossbills also arrived to take advantage of the cone crops, but in smaller numbers. The highest numbers reported were 13 Red Crossbills on 8 November and 25 White-winged Crossbills on 9 November. I suspect more reports will continue through the winter season.

A total of 173 species was reported in the fall season, an average number but well below the record of 194 species set in 2007.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Riverlands; FB – Ferd’s Bog; GBM – Gilbert Brook Marina; HF – Huntington Forest; IF – Intervale Farm; LP – Lake Placid; MRP – Moose River Plains; NP – Noblewood Pk; PS – Paul Smiths; RF – Reagan Flats Rd; RTT – Roosevelt Truck Trail; SB – Sabattis Bog; SL – Saranac Lake; WP – Westport.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 5000 CR 11 Oct (SP); 400 Burke 15 Oct (NR); max 6000 West Chazy 28 Nov (MM).

Cackling Goose: CH 26 Oct (BK).

Canada Goose: max 1000 WP 16 Oct (J&PT).

Wood Duck: max 6 HF 20 Oct (CD); last 2 Shaw Pd 7 Nov (HZ).

Gadwall: 2 PS 20 Nov (BM); 2 Cold Brook Rd 20 Nov (HZ).

Am. Black Duck: max 15 Bulwagga Bay 15 Oct; 7 PS 16 Nov (SF).

Blue-winged Teal: 3 FB 30 Sep (GL), only report.

N. Shoveler: Hoisington Brook 16 Nov (SF), only report.

Green-winged Teal: IF 11 Sep (LM).

Ring-necked Duck: 3 FB 9 Oct (WL); max 60 HF 20 Oct (CD); L Abanakee 1 Oct (FM); 4 Chimney Mt 2 Nov (LH); LP 15 Nov (ED).

White-winged Scoter: PS 16 Nov (SF), only report.

Long-tailed Duck: CH 26 Oct (BK); Piseco L 2 Nov (LH).

Bufflehead: arr 4 PS 10 Nov; max 16 Hoisington Brook 16 Nov; 4 LP 16 Nov; 15 L Colby 17 Nov (AB).

Com. Goldeneye: 21 PS 16 Nov (SF); CP 25 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 3 SB 19 Nov (JC); max 21 PS 16 Nov (SF); 4 Fifth L 23 Nov (GL).

Com. Merganser: max 35 Whallons Bay 16 Oct (J&PT).

Red-breasted Merganser: Paradox L 3 Nov (SS), only report.

Com. Loon: max 33 CH 36 Oct; Inlet 30 Nov, still present on inland lakes thru November.

Pied-billed Grebe: AP 29 Oct (AB, SO, TM), only report.

Horned Grebe: arr 4 WP 15 Oct (J&PT); 6 Whallons Bay 9 Nov (MM); 5 LC 21 Nov (WS).

Red-necked Grebe: CH 19 Oct (BK); Piseco L 21 Oct (LH).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 220 Bulwagga Bay 15 Oct (JE); last Stony Pt 27 Nov.

Am. Bittern: CR 2 Sep (BK), only report.

Great Egret: CR 3 Sep (J&PT); 3 RF 4 Sep (RS, HZ).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 RF 4 Sep (RS); PS 21 Sep (BM).

Turkey Vulture: last 2 SB 27 Oct (JC).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: L Abanakee 1 Oct (FM); last Hope 2 Oct (MY).

Bald Eagle: max 2 Oseetah L 2 Sep (GD); CH 22 Oct (BK); CP 25 Nov.

N. Harrier: CR 2-8 Sep; CH 11 Oct; Mt Van Hoevenberg 4 Oct; max 3 WP 15 Oct; 2 Paradox L 3 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 4 IF 17 Sep (LM).

Cooper’s Hawk: IF 17 Sep (LM); CH 2 Sep & 3 Oct (BK).

N. Goshawk: Peru 10 & 28 Sep; SB 27 Oct; Split Rock 9 Nov; Keene 12 Nov.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 St Regis Mt 3 Sep (GD); IF 19 Sep (LM).

Broad-winged Hawk: max 2 FB 19 Sep (JA); last Marcy Dam 7 Oct (MM).

Rough-legged Hawk: 3 WP 5 Nov; 3 dark ph WP 13 Nov; 2 lt ph Essex 13 Nov; CP 25 Nov; L Colby 17 Nov.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Poke-O-Moonshine 3 Sep (J&PT); Peru 10 Sep (DR).

Am. Kestrel: last Dickinson Ctr 10 Nov (DK, HZ)

Merlin: Ampersand Mt 2 Sep; max 2 Silver L Bog 9 Sep; Osgood Pd 11 Sep; SB 29 Nov.

Peregrine Falcon: CR 1 Sep (BK, MMe); RF 7 Sep (RS, HZ); WP 5 Nov (AB, SO, TM).

Com. Gallinule: RF 7 Sep (RS, HZ).

Black-bellied Plover: CR 5-8 Sep, max 40 5 Sep (MMe, BK).

Am. Golden-Plover: CR 1-6 Sep, max 3.

Semipalmated Plover: CR 1-10 Sep, max 31 9 Sep (MMe, BK); 2 L Colby 5 Sep (AB).

Killdeer: 15 Piseco Airport 27 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: last WP 16 Oct (J&PT).

Solitary Sandpiper: Belmont Ctr 6 Sep (NR); CR 9 Sep (BK).

Greater Yellowlegs: NP 6 Sep (MMe); CR 9 Sep (BK).

Whimbrel: 8 CR 5 Sep (MMe), 6th rec CLIN.

Ruddy Turnstone: CR 1-6 Sep, max 2 1 Sep (MMe, BK).

Sanderling: CR 1-9 Sep, max 3 6 Sep (BK); NP 6 Sep (MMe).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: CR 2-10 Sep, max 35 9 Sep (BK); NP 11 Sep (MK).

Least Sandpiper: CR 6-9 Sep, max 24 5 Sep (BK, MMe).

Purple Sandpiper: Valcour I 21 Nov (WS), good find.

Dunlin: 2 GBM 17 Oct (BK).

Wilson's Snipe: LA 3 Sep (J&PT); last RF 4 Sep (RS).

Black-legged Kittiwake: imm CH 22 Oct (DH), 2nd rec CLIN.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 113 NP 6 Sep (MMe); 50 Whallons Bay 16 Oct (J&PT); 2 Stony Pt 27 Nov.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 8 Bullwagga Bay 15 Oct (JE).

Com. Tern: max 121 NP 6 Sep (MMe); 6 GBM 9 Sep (BK); 28 WP 23 Sep (B&LH); last 2 WP 15 Oct (J&PT).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Browns Tract 19 Sep (JA).

Snowy Owl: Malone 12 Nov (CB); Camp Dudley 26 Nov (BM, SO, TM).

Barred Owl: 2 Oseetah L 4 Sep (GD); Keene 4-9 Sep (J&PT); Akey Rd 23 Oct (CMJr).

Short-eared Owl: Clark Rd Essex 23 Nov thru, max 10 23 Nov (CD, ED, J&PT).

N. Saw-whet Owl: Hocum I 3 Sep (TA); Keene 3 Sep & 12 Nov (J&PT); The Brothers 26 Sep (MM).

Com. Nighthawk: max 6 L Colby 1 Sep (AB); last 2 Panther Peak 3 Sep (KF).

Whip-poor-will: Clintonville 3 Sep; Port Kent 3-4 Sep (DR).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Inlet 30 Sep (GL).

Belted Kingfisher: max 2 Oseetah L 2 Sep; Roostercomb Mt 30 Nov (MM).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Hope 2 Oct (MY).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 5 IF 17 Sep (LM); last Mt Van Hoevenberg 4 Oct (MM).

Black-backed Woodpecker: Silver L Bog 9 Sep (MM); 3 FB 9 Oct (WL); 2 SB 27 Oct; max 4 RTT 29 Nov (JC).

N. Flicker: max 10 Piseco 6 Sep (B&LH)

Pileated Woodpecker: max 3 Minerva 9 Nov (JC).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: RF 7 Sep (RS, HZ); last IF 17 Sep (LM).

E. Wood-Pewee: Belmont 1 Sep (NR); last RF 7 Sep (RS, HZ).

Least Flycatcher: last IF 18 Sep (LM).

E. Phoebe: last IF 29 Sep (LM).

N. Shrike: arr Inlet 14 Oct (GL); Piseco 2 Nov (LH); L Colby 17 Nov (AB); Cold Brook Rd 20 Nov (HZ).

Blue-headed Vireo: last FB 30 Sep (GL).

Philadelphia Vireo: IF 18 Sep (LM); last Piseco 21 Sep (LH).

Red-eyed Vireo: last SL 23 Oct (AB).

Gray Jay: Hamilton 29 Sep (JM); 2 FB 9 Oct (WL); 5 BB 22 Oct (AB); max 6 SB 29 Oct; 2 PS 10 Nov.

Horned Lark: max 20 Newcomb 16 Nov (JC); 10 Essex 27 Nov (J&PT); 10 SB 29 Nov.

Barn Swallow: 5 CR 5 Sep (MMe); 3 RF 7 Sep (HZ).

Boreal Chickadee: 4 Great Range 17 Sep; 3 FB 19 Sep; 3 Blue Mt 24 Sep; 4 SB 27 Oct, 4 Sawteeth Mt 8 Nov; max 20 RTT 20 Nov, MRP 30 Nov.

Tufted Titmouse: max 5 WP 27 Nov (J&PT).

House Wren: last Hope 2 Oct (MY).

Winter Wren: last L Durant 25 Sep (JM).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 8 BB 6 Oct (MM); last SB 27 Oct (JC).

E. Bluebird: max 35 IF 29 Sep (LM).

Veery: last Belmont 3 Oct (NR).

Bicknell's Thrush: 30 Great Range 17 Sep (KF).

Swainson's Thrush: last 3 Keene 11 Oct (J&PT).

Hermit Thrush: last SB 23 Oct (MM).

Wood Thrush: L Durant 25 Sep (JM).

Gray Catbird: last Keene 27 Nov thru (MM).

N. Mockingbird: Plattsburgh 29 Oct (AB, SO, TM).

Am. Pipit: 7 Great Range 17 Sep; 2 Hope 2 Oct; 28 Hamilton & 54 Piseco Airport 27 Oct.

Cedar Waxwing: max 120 IF 18 Sep (LM).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: last Mt Jo 19 Sep (MM).

Tennessee Warbler: Ferd's 4 Sep; MRP 5 Sep; 2 IF 18 Sep; Mt Jo 19 Sep; last Black Bear Mt 20 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Elizabethtown 17 Nov (J&PT).

Nashville Warbler: last The Brothers 26 Sep (MM).

Com. Yellowthroat: last Keene 12 Oct (MM).

Am. Redstart: last L Durant 25 Sep (JM, LS).

Cape May Warbler: Coreys 4 Sep (AL); last Blue Mt 24 Sep (JM, LS).

N. Parula: last L Durant 25 Sep (JM, LS).

Magnolia Warbler: max 4 MRP 5 Sep (KF); last The Brothers 26 Sep (MM).

Bay-breasted Warbler: FB 4 Sep; MRP 5 Sep; L Durant 25 Sep; last IF 29 Sep.

Blackburnian Warbler: last IF 26 Sep (LM).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last IF 11 Sep (LM).

Blackpoll Warbler: last Marcy Dam 7 Oct (MM).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last SB & L Durant 25 Sep (JM, LS).

Palm Warbler: last 2 FB 13 Oct (SP).

Pine Warbler: IF 29 Sep; last 2 Piseco 21 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 35 Blue Mt 24 Sep (JM, LS).

Prairie Warbler: Camp Dudley 26 Nov (BM, SO, TM), an unexpected find.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last L Durant 25 Sep (JM, LS).

Wilson's Warbler: Willis L 10 Sep (KC); IF 11 Sep (LM); Keene 18 Sep (MM); last Black Bear Mt 20 Sep (JA).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 4 Piseco 27 Oct; max 6 Dickinson Ctr 10 Nov (DK).

Chipping Sparrow: max 40 IF 29 Sep (LM); last Piseco 27 Oct (LH, EH).

Field Sparrow: 2 Piseco 21 Sep & 27 Oct (LH).

Savannah Sparrow: max 5 RF 7 Sep (RS, HZ); last 2 WP 16 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: SL 23 Oct (AB); SB 29 Oct (JC).

Lincoln's Sparrow: BB 4 Sep (GD); MRP 5 Sep (KF); last IF 29 Sep (LM).

Swamp Sparrow: last BB 22 Oct (AB).

White-throated Sparrow: max 20 Essex 16 Oct (SP).

White-crowned Sparrow: IF 29 Sep; max 6 Bellmont 3 Oct (NR); Dickinson Ctr 10 Nov (DK).

Snow Bunting: arr 14 L Harris 9 Nov (AW); PS 10 Nov (HZ, DK); max 250 CH 14 Nov (AB); 5 Essex 28 Nov (J&PT).

Scarlet Tanager: last MRP 5 Sep (KF).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 2 Keene 10 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: last MRP 5 Sep (KF).

Bobolink: Hocum 13 Sep (TA).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 850 RF 4 Sep.

E. Meadowlark: 2 WO 15 Oct; 3 Piseco 27 Oct (LH, EH).

Rusty Blackbird: L Pleasant 8 Oct (JW); max 5 Keene 13 Oct (J&PT); indiv's at SB, AP, & Port Kent 27 Oct; last WP 5 Nov (AB, SO, TM), small numbers but good number of reports.

Purple Finch: max 20 RTT 16 Nov (JC).

Red Crossbill: 5 Browns Tract 22 Sep; PS & SB 25 Sep; max 13 St Regis Mt & 1 Keene 8 Nov; 7 RTT 29 Nov.

White-winged Crossbill: BB 22 Oct; max 25 Newcomb 9 Nov; 6 Long L 15 Nov; 24 SB 19 Nov, a good irruption year so far.

Pine Siskin: arr 2 The Brothers 26 Sep; 17 Lyon Mt 22 Oct; 200 SB 27 Oct; 130 Sawteeth Mt 8 Nov; 200 Ampersand Mt 15 Nov; 235 RTT 16 Nov; 200 Minerva 29 Nov, a frequent sight in conifer forests from late October thru.

Evening Grosbeak: 6 LP 6 Nov (LL); 12 Minerva 9 Nov; 5 RTT 16 Nov (JC).