

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The spring of 2012 began and ended with record high temperatures that led to several record early arrivals among early migrants. Temperatures in March were 9-12° F above normal across the Region, making it the warmest March on record. It felt like summer in the Region on the 21st and 22nd when temperatures reached 80° in Lake Placid and 82° in Peru, melting the little snow and ice we had in the Region. Portions of Lake Champlain remained open all winter, but the smaller lakes that froze over thawed far ahead of schedule and were wide open when trout season began for the first time in many years. Overall April had average temperatures, but they ranged widely from 87° degrees in Peru on the 17th to 23° degrees in Indian Lake on the 29th. A cold snap and 1-2" of snow reset the timing of spring back to normal on the 23rd, bringing a hard frost to plants and blooming fruit trees in the Region. In May temperatures returned to well above normal, ranging 6-7° above average in the Region and reaching as high as 89° in Peru on the 17th. Precipitation was at or slightly below average for the period across the Region.

A mild winter and record high temperatures caused waterfowl migration to begin about a week ahead of schedule, setting a number of early arrival records in the Region. In March Northern Pintail on the 3rd, Gadwall and Lesser Scaup on the 6th, and **Eurasian Wigeon** and Northern Shoveler on the 11th all set new early records for the season. A Killdeer in Long Lake on the 10th was an early record for Hamilton County, and a Chipping Sparrow in Peru on the same date was an early record for Clinton County. Common Loons arrived on their breeding territories well ahead of schedule. By late March it looked like all our

migrants would be arriving early, but the snow and cold in April caused migration to return to a normal schedule. A few more migrants arrived early, including a Virginia Rail at the Chazy Riverlands on 20 April and a Bay-Breasted Warbler at Lake Alice on the 6th, but the majority of warblers and shorebirds arrived on schedule in May.

The rarest bird during the period was a **Bullock's Oriole** that made a brief visit to a birdfeeder in Saranac Lake on 13 April. The bird was seen and photographed by the residents but took off that same morning, before word got out to any of the local birders. Another rarity was a **Tufted Duck x scaup** hybrid that was seen on Lake Champlain on 21 April.

The Crown Point banding station opened for its 37th year a week earlier than usual in response to the trend of migration starting earlier in recent years and as usual had a handful of surprises. The highlight was a first ever sighting and banding of a female **Cerulean Warbler** at the station. Other species banded for the first time in the station's history included a Northern Rough-winged Swallow and a Red-bellied Woodpecker. A Clay-colored Sparrow and a Yellow-shafted x Red-shafted Flicker hybrid were also banded. A pair of Orchard Orioles was seen gathering nesting material near the station. The species is a rare breeder in the Region.

Overall spring migration was typical for the Region, with a good number of uncommon but expected species. A number of migrating raptors were observed from Coon Mountain on 17 March, including nine Red-shouldered Hawks, a Northern Goshawk, and a Golden Eagle. The Short-eared Owls that wintered along Clark Road in Essex were last seen on 19 March, but an observer searching for them on the 28th found a Long-eared Owl in the area instead, an excellent sighting. Shorebird migration at the Chazy Riverlands did not produce any rarities this season, but it did have high numbers of shorebirds in late May, including 36 Short-billed Dowitchers on the 27th, and 256 Black-bellied Plovers and 185 Semipalmated Sandpipers on the 30th. Two Little Gulls were seen there on the 30th as well. Highlights of May's songbird migration include a Golden-winged Warbler in Port Kent on the 13th, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Ausable Point on the 14th, two Tennessee Warbler reports, and two Wilson's Warbler reports.

Boreal species reports in the Region were limited to our more common species, such as Gray Jays in many places, including Bloomingdale Bog, Ferd's Bog, and the Osgood River, and Boreal Chickadees in the high peaks and the Roosevelt Truck Trail. Olive-sided Flycatchers arrived at Paul Smith's on 13 May and were recorded from a handful of other locations. Rusty Blackbird migration was well documented by observers, but there was only one report of them on breeding territory, in Moose River Plains on 21 May.

Many finch species had a good number of reports through the period, including multiple reports of White-winged Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks, and Pine Siskins; in fact many Pine Siskins lingered in conifer forests of the Adirondacks for the breeding season, which only happens every few years. Red Crossbills were reported twice, and Common Redpolls had only one report.

A total of 197 species was reported for the period, much lower than the record of 219 species.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Point; CR – Chazy Riverlands; DC – Dickinson Center; IL – Intervale Lowlands; LA – Lake Alice; LL – Long Lake; MRP – Moose River Plains; NP – Noblewood Park; PS – Paul Smiths; PtF – Point Au Fer; PtR – Point Au Roche SP; RTT – Roosevelt Truck Trail; SC – Scotion Creek; SSP – Shingle Shanty Preserve; SL – Saranac Lake; TB – Treadwell Bay; TL – Tupper Lake.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 300 TB 11 Apr (HK); 200 Peru 1 Mar (PJ); 300 BB 24 Mar (KH).
Brant: 30 SSP 13 May (JP); Ticonderoga 17 May (JS).
Tundra Swan: 3 AP thru 12 Mar.
Wood Duck: arr AP 11 Mar (JO); max 10 Baker Rd 22 Apr (AN).
Gadwall: arr 3 AP 6 Mar CLIN (DR), early; 2 Bombay 26 Mar (RS).
Eurasian Wigeon: drake AP 11 Mar CLIN (JO), early.
Am. Wigeon: AP 28 Apr (NO); max 4 AP 6 Mar (DR); 2 PtR 31 Mar (JH).
Am. Black Duck: max 10 AP 12 Apr (RS).
Blue-winged Teal: Piseco L 25 Apr (L&BH).
N. Shoveler: arr AP 11 Mar CLIN (JO), early; 2 AP 12 Mar (BM).
N. Pintail: arr AP 3 Mar, early CLIN (BS), 16 TB 6 Mar (HK).
Green-winged Teal: arr LA 12 Apr (DL); Bombay 19 Apr (RS).
Redhead: CR 10 Mar (JO).
Ring-necked Duck: max 200 AP 12 Mar (BM).
TUFTED DUCK x Scaup hybrid: Kings Bay 21 Apr (MMe & DD).
Lesser Scaup: arr AP 6 Mar, early CLIN (DR).
White-winged Scoter: arr 3 CH 14 Apr CLIN, early; Kings Bay 21 Apr; PtR 2 May; 20 CP 17 May.
Bufflehead: max 18 TL 11 Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: max 300 AP 6 Mar (DR).

Hooded Merganser: 4 AP 6 Mar (DR); 2 Inlet 31 Mar (GL).

Red-breasted Merganser: 6 PtR 18 Apr (JO); 3 CH 24 Apr (BK).

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 LA 12 Apr (DL); Piseco L 14 Apr (LH); CR 18 Apr (BK).

Horned Grebe: CH 19 Mar (BK); 7 AP 6 Mar (DR); 15 AP 12 Mar (BM).

Red-necked Grebe: 7 Sacandaga L 11 Apr; 2 LL 14 Apr (JC); 44 AP 18 Apr (JO), high count.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr Hoisington Bk 13 Apr (DC).

Am. Bittern: arr SSP 8 Apr (JP); max 4 TL 18 May.

Great Blue Heron: arr 2 AP 17 Mar (DL).

Great Egret: AP 15 Apr-14 May; max 3 AP 1 May; LA 25 Apr; Bombay 19 Apr.

Green Heron: arr DC 21 Apr (AN); LA 6 May (JO); Altona 17 May (JS); SC 31 May (NO).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Chazy R 12 Apr (DL); AP 16 May; Bombay 18 May (RS); 2 IL 24 May (LM).

Turkey Vulture: arr Keeseville 18 Mar.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Inlet 4 Apr (GL).

Bald Eagle: max 3 CP 10 May (MM).

N. Harrier: Peru 3 Mar; CH 8 Mar; CR 10 Mar; LA 29 Apr; 2 CR 5 May.

N. Goshawk: SL 1 Apr (KW); Coon Mtn 17 Mar (WS).

Red-shouldered Hawk: LL 10 Mar HAMI (JC), early; 9 Coon Mt 17 Mar (WS); BB 18 Mar (JD); 2 PS 18 Mar (BM).

Broad-winged Hawk: arr IL 16 Apr (LM).

Rough-legged Hawk: CH 6 Marl CR 11 Mar (JO).

GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): SL 17 Mar (KW); Coon Mt 17 Mar (WS).

Am. Kestrel: arr AP 10 Mar (DL).

Merlin: LA 14 Apr (JO); CR 2 May; 2 CH 4 May.

Peregrine Falcon: CP 10 May (MM); CR 30 May (JO).

Virginia Rail: LA 20 Apr CLIN (JO), early; 2 AP 6 May; Bombay 18 May; L Durant 20 May. **Sora:** AP 6 May (BK, CM).

Com. Gallinule: CR 28-30 May (BK).

Am. Coot: CH 9 May (BK); SC 31 May (NO).

Black-bellied Plover: CR 25-31 May; max 256 CR 30 May.

Semipalmated Plover: CR 21-30 May; max 7 CR 21 May.

Killdeer: arr LL 10 Mar HAMI (JC), early.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr IL 6 May (LM).

Solitary Sandpiper: CR 30 May (JO).

Greater Yellowlegs: LA 20-29 Apr (JO).

Lesser Yellowlegs: CR 5 May (BK).

Ruddy Turnstone: 4 CR 30 May (BK, JO).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: CR 25-31 May; max 185 CR 30 May (BK, JO).

Least Sandpiper: CR 10-30 May, max 32 on 25 May (BK, JO).

Dunlin: CR 27-30 May; max 9 CR 27 May (BK, JO).

Short-billed Dowitcher: CR 27-30 May; max 36 CR 27 May (BK, JO).

Wilson's Snipe: arr SSP 8 Apr (JP).

Am. Woodcock: arr Willis L 19 Mar (KC).

Bonaparte's Gull: 15 TB 12 May; 12 CH 13 May; NP 19 Apr.

Little Gull: CR 28 May; 2 CR 30 May (BK, JO).

Caspian Tern: arr 8 NP 19 Apr (DL); 5 AP 28 Apr; 2 PtR 2 May; 12 CR 12 May.

Com. Tern: arr LA 20 Apr (JO); max 8 CR 30 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: IL 24 May (LM).

E. Screech-Owl: 2 Pt Au Fer 19 May (JO).

Great Horned Owl: Blue Mt Rd 20 Apr (SO, AB).

Snowy Owl: Rouses Pt 31 Mar (SO, AB, BM, TM).

Long-eared Owl: Whallonsburgh 28 Mar (ET).

Short-eared Owl: 2 CR 10-11 Mar (JO); Clark Rd 19 Mar (ED).

E. Whip-poor-will: arr SSP 5 May (JP); PtR 6 May (NO); Port Kent 13 May (DR).

Chimney Swift: arr 2 LA 6 May; max 16 Malone 6 May (JS); 4 SSP 12 May (JP).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr DC 4 May (AN).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Inlet 1 Mar thru (GL); Essex 3 Mar (ET); Newcomb 21 May (CD); SSP 5 May (JP).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Port Kent 24 Mar (DR).

Black-backed Woodpecker: BB and FB 24 Mar; Inlet 31 Mar; RTT 7 Apr; 3 LL 19 Apr.

N. Flicker: arr 5 FB 24 Mar (JD).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr PS 13 May; Hurricane Mt 24 May; 2 SSP 26 May; 2 L Pleasant 27 May.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr Pt R 19 May (JO).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr FB 22 May (JD).

Alder Flycatcher: arr 2 IL 12 May (LM).

Willow Flycatcher: arr 3 LA 30 May (JO).

Least Flycatcher: arr Newcomb 5 May (SB).

E. Phoebe: arr CH 20 Mar (NO).

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Pt Au Fer 5 May.

E. Kingbird: arr Bombay 7 May (RS).

N. Shrike: Carpenter's Flats 30 Mar; Bear Swamp Rd 31 Mar (DR).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Willsboro 4 May (LS); AP 19 May (DL).

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 2 LL 19 Apr (JC).

Warbling Vireo: arr 5 LA 6 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Altona 6 May (PG); SSP 13 May (JP).

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Chazy 5 May.

Gray Jay: multiple reports from FB and SSP; max 9 SSP 13 May; 7 Osgood P 28 May (WS).

Horned Lark: CR 12 Mar.

Tree Swallow: arr WM 23 Mar (DR); max 140 L Colby 22 Apr (GD).

N. Rough-winged Swallow: PtR 18 Apr; CH 7 May; 2 Bombay 18 May.

Bank Swallow: 2 AP 18 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: Montys Bay 18 Apr, early CLIN (JO); 18 Bombay 19 May.

Barn Swallow: arr AP 7 Apr.

Boreal Chickadee: 2 Big Slide Mt 24 Mar; 2 BB 25 Mar; 3 RTT 7 Apr; max 6 SSP 13 May (JP).

Tufted Titmouse: 2 Newcomb 20 Apr; 2 Blue Mtn 26 Mar.

Carolina Wren: CH 1 Mar thru (NO); PtR 18 Apr.

House Wren: arr PtR 30 Apr (JH).

Winter Wren: arr Eagle Creek 18 Mar (GL).

Marsh Wren: arr Kings Bay 29 Apr (JO); max 30 SC 31 May (NO).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 5 IL 16 Apr (LM).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: AP 14 May (DL).
Veery: arr PtF 7 May.
Bicknell's Thrush: 3 Whiteface Mt 23 May (AC, RF).
Swainson's Thrush: arr Chubb R 16 May (MM).
Hermit Thrush: arr LL 14 Apr (JC).
Wood Thrush: arr Bombay 7 May.
Gray Catbird: arr Malone 4 May (JS).
N. Mockingbird: Valcour Is 11 Mar (JO); IL 13 May (LM).
Brown Thrasher: arr LA and Bombay 20 Apr.
Am. Pipit: 6 SSP 5 May (JP).
Bohemian Waxwing: 20 LL 7 Mar (JC); 35 SL 13 Mar (AB).
Cedar Waxwing: arr 2 CP 10 May; max 125 IL 26 May (LM).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: arr Platts 4 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: Essex Co 21 Apr (MMe, CD).
N. Waterthrush: arr LA 29 Apr CLIN (JO), early.
Golden-winged Warbler: Port Kent 13 May (DR).
Tennessee Warbler: arr LA 6 May; IL 19 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr DC 3 May (AN).
Com. Yellowthroat: Keene 5 May (MM).
Am. Redstart: arr PtF 7 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr LA 12 May; 2 AP 13 May; 3 IL 13 May; max 5 LA 19 May.
Cerulean Warbler: CP 8 May, banded.
N. Parula: arr PS 5 May (CB).
Magnolia Warbler: arr Cedar R 5 May (CI).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr LA 6 May, early CLIN; 2 AP 13 May; 3 IL 13 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Belmont 30 Apr (NR).
Yellow Warbler: arr Belmont 5 May (NR).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Belmont 5 May (NR).
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 2 PS 5 May (CB).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Newcomb 5 May (SB).
Palm Warbler: arr 2 PtR 18 Apr (JO).
Pine Warbler: arr NP 7 Apr (J&PT).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr LA and Piseco L 14 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr DC 1 May (AN).
Canada Warbler: arr SSP 12 May (JP); max 3 Chubb R 16 May (MM).

Wilson's Warbler: AP 14 May (BK); PtR 24 May (JO).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Saranac R 5 Apr (BF); Bombay 20 Apr thru; 2 PtR 30 Apr (JH).
Am. Tree Sparrow: last Little Tupper L 28 Mar.
Chipping Sparrow: arr AP 10 Mar, early CLIN (DR).
Clay-colored Sparrow: CP 4 May (GL); Gadway Barrens 24 May (KA, JS).
Field Sparrow: arr PtR 14 Apr (JO); IL 16 Apr (LM).
Vesper Sparrow: Arietta 14 Apr (LH); L Colby 25 Apr (AB); 2 CR 28 May (BK).
Savannah Sparrow: arr 2 Bombay 19 Apr (RS).
Fox Sparrow: Willis L 19 Mar; Keene 6 Apr; Ingraham 14 Apr; IL 16 Apr; Platts 18 Apr; Rock L 24 Mar.
Song Sparrow: arr Malone 9 Mar (JS).
Lincoln's Sparrow: Platts 4 May (BK); 2 IL 6 May thru (LM); FB 22 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr 2 LA 12 Apr (DL).
White-throated Sparrow: arr 5 BB 28 Mar (AD).
White-crowned Sparrow: 2 Belmont 22 Apr; 6 IL 6 May; 6 Osgood R 10 May; 2 Newcomb 16 May.
Scarlet Tanager: arr SSP 13 May (JP).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 3 Inlet 2 May (GL).
Indigo Bunting: arr IL 6 May (LM).
Bobolink: arr CR 5 May (CM, BK); max 40 Bombay 18 May (RS).
Red-winged Blackbird: arr AP 6 Mar (DR).
E. Meadowlark: arr LA 12 Apr (DL).
Rusty Blackbird: arr BB 18 Mar; 2 Sacandaga L 11 Apr; 7 L Pleasant 12 Apr; PtR 18 Apr; 4 Bombay 25 Apr; 20 Platts 29 Apr; MRP 21 May.
Com. Grackle: arr 2 IL 8 Mar (LM).
Orchard Oriole: 2 CP 10 May (MM).
Baltimore Oriole: arr LA 6 May.
BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: SL 13 Apr (KW), brief visit to SL birdfeeder.
Red Crossbill: FB 7 Mar; LL 28 Mar; 3 RTT 7 Apr (JC).
White-winged Crossbill: 4 FB 7 Mar; 10 BB 25 Mar; 20 MRP 21 May; 6 SSP 26 May.
Com. Redpoll: PS 7 Apr (L&ML).
Pine Siskin: max 150 Newcomb 24 Mar, birds lingered thru period throughout conifer forests of the Region.
Evening Grosbeak: PS 25 Mar; FB 27 Mar; 2 LL 4 Apr; DC 28 Apr; Willis L 26 May.