

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The summer of 2012 was well suited to outdoor recreational activities in the Region, with slightly above normal temperatures and below average precipitation. June temperatures were 0-1° above normal, beginning with the coldest day dropping to 38° in Newcomb on the 1st and reaching as high as 94° in Peru on the 21st. July's temperatures were 2-3° higher than normal, though the highest temperature in the Region was only 93° in Peru on the 14th, which was far from record-breaking. Precipitation in July ranged 0-2" below average in most of the Region, though Indian Lake and Newcomb received above average rainfall for the month. August temperatures again ranged 1-2° above average, with the hottest days being the 4th and 5th, when temperatures reached 90° in Tupper Lake and 95° in Peru. On the 29 August the temperature dipped to 37° in Lake Placid. Precipitation for the month was 1-2" below average throughout the Region. The lack of snow in the winter and below average rain for spring and summer led to poor production of berries and mast throughout the Region, no doubt creating hardship for the birds and animals that depend on these food sources.

Shorebird migration was well documented at Chazy Riverlands into early June and again at the end of August. Early June saw modest numbers of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitchers. June highlights included a fallout of 63 Black-bellied Plovers on 3 June, and a **Little Gull** on 3 & 9 June. The end of August brought more of the same species, but also included a juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope** on 24 August, which was only the fourth record for Clinton County and the second consecutive summer with a record. Other August shorebird sightings in the Region included three Pectoral Sandpipers at Ausable Point on 15 August and Solitary Sandpipers at Kings Bay on 9 August and Lake Alice on 18 August.

Waterfowl numbers also picked up at the end of August, with 30 Gadwall, 34 Common Mergansers, and three Blue-winged Teal reported from Ausable Point on 24 August. An immature Long-tailed Duck was spotted there on 15 August, which is early for this species. On the topic of waterbirds, good numbers of Caspian Terns were reported from Lake Champlain this summer, including two juveniles at Kings Bay on 31 August. There was only one report each for both Common and Black Terns for the period, which is discouraging but may simply be a result of lack of birders visiting their usual breeding areas.

While terns may have been overlooked, there were a good number of reports of nocturnal bird species, which are typically underreported. An Eastern Screech-Owl was heard at Ausable Point on 20 & 21 July. Eastern Whip-poor-wills were reported in good numbers from the Miner Flat Rock area, including two juveniles on 6 August, as well as from Ausable Chasm, Port Kent, and Jay.

Common Nighthawks were also reported in good numbers, with 11 at Miner on 2 July and a flock of 45 in Peru on 22 August.

Many of the Regional specialties were reported by both local birders and people visiting the Region to seek them out. Gray Jays appear to be maintaining good numbers in Bloomingdale Bog and were also reported from Ferd's Bog, Madawaska, Spring Pond Bog, and Moose River Plains. Boreal Chickadees were reported from Bloomingdale Bog and Blue Mountain as well as a number of other summits. Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from Moose River Plains, Ferd's Bog, and Spring Pond Bog. Only one Cape May Warbler, a likely migrant, was reported from Intervale Lowlands on 6 June. Spruce Grouse reports were few but included a report of an adult with five chicks from private land near Spring Pond Bog. Seldom reported in recent years, an American Three-toed Woodpecker was seen at Floodwood Rd. A Black-backed Woodpecker nest was found again this year on Bigelow Rd in Bloomingdale. The species was also reported from Ferd's Bog, Spring Pond Bog, and Moose River Plains. Rusty Blackbirds were only reported from two locations, Blue Mountain Rd. and Madawaska, during the breeding season despite targeted efforts to locate them for research. Bicknell's Thrush was reported from numerous Adirondack summits, though numbers on Whiteface Mountain were reportedly down from previous years, while numbers of Swainson's Thrushes may have increased.

Northern finches were widely reported across the Region throughout the period. Pine Siskins remained through the summer to breed, which only happens every few years. Red Crossbills and White-winged Crossbills were reported at a handful of places across the Region all summer, including Blue Mountain and Bloomingdale Bog. With drought conditions across much of the boreal forest it's expected that we'll be seeing more of the species in the months ahead.

One of the most unexpected reports for the period was a **Fox Sparrow** on Whiteface Mountain that was seen by multiple observers between 14 June and 11 July. There are no breeding records of this species in New York State, so it is unusual to have one remain in the Region during the breeding season. Also out-of-season was a Horned Grebe seen in Cumberland Bay on 7 July. A Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, an uncommon breeder in the Champlain Valley, was reported from Ausable Marsh on 20 July. Also unexpected was a good number of reports of Great Egrets at Ausable Marsh through the period, including a recently fledged juvenile on 12 July. These birds may have possibly flown over from Four Brothers Islands, where 12 nests were counted this season. Great Egrets were also reported in August from Kiwassa Lake and Lake Durant.

A total of 186 species was recorded this season, shy of the record of 196 species that was set just last year.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Riverlands; FB – Ferd's Bog; KB – King's Bay; IL – Intervale Lowlands; LA – Lake Alice; MFR – Miner Flat Rock; MRP – Moose River Plains; MW – Madawaska; NP – Noblewood Park; PS – Paul Smiths; RF – Reagan Flats Rd; SC – Scomotion Creek; SSP – Shingle Shanty Preserve; WF – Whiteface Mtn.; WRS – Webb Royce Swamp.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 5 CL 5 Jun (BK); 2 KB 26 Aug (JO).

Gadwall: max 30 AP 24-26 Aug (DR).

Am. Black Duck: max 23 Camp Mtn View 10 Jun (GD).

Blue-winged Teal: 5 AP 15 Aug; 4 KB 26 Aug (JO).

Ring-necked Duck: max 8 PS 7 Jul (SF).

Long-tailed Duck: imm AP 15 Aug (JO).

Com. Goldeneye: max 14 AP 9 Jul (BJ).

Hooded Merganser: max 4 BB 7 Jul (CM).

Com. Merganser: max 34 AP 24 Aug (DR).

Spruce Grouse: max 6 Kildare Rd 21 Jun, fem with 5 FL (AR & AC); Willis Pond Rd 13 Jul (SF); SPB 14 Jul (AG).

Com. Loon: max 10 Lows L 4 Aug (MM).

Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 Cedar R Flow 19 Jul (GL).

Horned Grebe: CB 7 Jul (PO), very rare summer record CLIN.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 60 AP 13 Jun; imm Seventh L 27 Aug.

Am. Bittern: max 3 AP 10 Jun (BJ).

Great Egret: AP 15 Jun-15 Aug, max 4 (1 ad, 3 FL) 13 Jul (JH); 8 RF 18 Jul (RS); Kiwassa L 3 Aug (KW); L Durant 8 Aug (JM).

Green Heron: SC 15 Jun (NO); 2 Lewey L 7 Jul; RF 22 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 IL 3 Jun (LM); max 5 SC 15 Jun (NO); 4 (2 ad, 2 imm) AP 15 Aug (JO).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: max 10 AP 9 Jul (BJ).

Bald Eagle: max 4 Oseetah L 7 Aug.

N. Harrier: 2 SSP 28 Jul; 2 Lows L 4 Aug; 2 AP 28 Aug.

N. Goshawk: FB 22 Jun; L Pleasant 5 Jul; max 4 (2 ad, 2 imm) SPB 13 Jul (JC).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Forked L 14 Aug; LA 18 Aug (JO).

Am. Kestrel: max 4 Indian L 3 Jun.

Merlin: max 4 Spitfire L 23 Jul (ZM).

Peregrine Falcon: SC 17 Jun; Oseetah L 7 Aug; WF 18 Aug; KB 27 Aug.

Virginia Rail: 2 WRS 17 Jul; 2 St Regis Falls 8 Aug; 2 AP 24 Aug.

Sora: WRS 17 Jul (CS); French Settlement Rd 8 Jun.

Com. Gallinule: 4 (1 ad, 3 imm) CR 1 Aug.

Black-bellied Plover: CR 3-5 Jun; max 63 CR 3 Jun (JO, BK).

Semipalmated Plover: CR 5-9 Jun, max 3 CR 9 Jun (BK); 2 KB 26 Aug (DR).

Spotted Sandpiper: max 8 AP 20 Jul (AW).
Solitary Sandpiper: RF 18 Jul (RS); KB 9 AUG (BK); LA 18 Aug (JO).
Greater Yellowlegs: CR 5 Jun & 12-16 Jul; max 3 CR 12 Jul (BK); 4 KB 26 Aug (DR).
Lesser Yellowlegs: CR 5 Jun & 13-20 Jul; max 5 CR 13 Jul (BK); 3 KB 31 Aug.
Sanderling: KB 29 Aug (BK); NP 30 Aug (MK).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: CR 3-9 Jun; max 10 CR 9 Jun (JO); KB 9-31 Aug; max 13 KB 31 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: CR 12 Jul-1 Aug; max 8 CR 16 Jul (BK).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 AP 15 Aug (JO); 2 KB 29 Aug (BK).
Dunlin: CR 3 Jun.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 CR 3 Jun (JO); 2 KB 29 Aug (BK).
Wilson's Snipe: max 3 Oseetah L 12 Jun (GD).
Am. Woodcock: 3 fledged Keene 27 Jun (MM).
Red-necked Phalarope: juv CH 24 Aug (BK, SJ), 4th record CLIN.
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 NP 7 Jul; 2 KB 26 Aug.
LITTLE GULL (R7): CR 3 & 9 Jun (BK).
Caspian Tern: CR 16 Jul-18 Aug; 3 AP 20 Jul; 10 (8 ad, 2 juv) KB 31 Aug.
Black Tern: CR 9 Jun (BK), only report.
Com. Tern: 2 L Champlain 21 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: CH 2 Jul; WRS 17 Jul; BB 3 Aug; SSP 11 Aug.
E. Screech-Owl: AP 20-21 Jul (AW).
Great Horned Owl: RF 18 Jul; PS 19 Jul; MFR 6 Aug (NO, MS).
Barred Owl: max 3 FL St Regis Mt 22 Jul (AB).
Com. Nighthawk: 11 MFR 2 Jul (KA, TS); 3 Gadway 8 Aug (NO); max 45 Peru 22 Aug (DR).
E. Whip-poor-will: 2 Ausable Chasm 9 Jun; 2 PK 31 Jul (DR); 8 (6 ad, 2 juv) MRF 6 Aug (NO).
Chimney Swift: max 63 St Regis Falls 11 Aug (BC).
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: Floodwood Rd 8 Jul (PJL, SSM), only report.
Black-backed Woodpecker: max 4 BB 14 Jun thru, nest w young; FB 22 Jun & 9 Jul; 2 SPB 8 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: FB 8 Jun; max 4 MRP 10 Jun; 3 SPB 13 Jul.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: LA 3 Jun (JO); max 5 Hurricane Mt 8 Jun (MMe); 5 MW 2 Jun (CW).

Willow Flycatcher: SC 15 Jun; Altona 5 Jul (NO, BK).
Yellow-throated Vireo: Blue Mt Rd 27 Jul (RS).
Blue-headed Vireo: max 12 BB 24 Jun.
Warbling Vireo: max 7 LA 13 Jul.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Piseco L 7 Jun (CW); Cascade Mt 25 Jul.
Gray Jay: max 6 BB 24 Jun; multiple reports from MRP, SPB, FB, MW.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 2 IL 2-3 Jun; max 4 NP 7 Jul; Osgood P 15 Jul.
Bank Swallow: max 32 Dickinson Ctr 7 Aug (BP).
Cliff Swallow: 3 Essex 17 Jun; max 15 RF 18 Jul.
Boreal Chickadee: max 6 Blue Mt 5 Jul; 5 BB 19 Jul; 5 Dial Mt 6 Aug.
Carolina Wren: max 4 (2 ad, 2 juv) CH thru (NO); Lylis Camp 24 Jun (MMe).
Marsh Wren: max 15 SC 15 Jun (NO); 3 AP 12 Jul (JH).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 8 BB 24 Jun.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: AP 20 Jul (AW), a good find.
E. Bluebird: max 15 RF 18 Jul.
Bicknell's Thrush: max 6 WF 18 Jun (LM, SB); also reports from Blue, Lyon, Donaldson, Macomb, Tabletop, and Saddleback Mts.
Swainson's Thrush: max 12 WF 25 Jun.
Hermit Thrush: max 25 BB 8 Jul.
Wood Thrush: MRF 2 Jul (NO, MS); 2 RF 18 Jul.
Gray Catbird: max 4 RF 18 Jul.
N. Mockingbird: 2 Plattsburgh 2 Jul (NO).
Brown Thrasher: MRP 9 Jun.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

N. Waterthrush: max 4 MW 2 Jun.
Nashville Warbler: max 20 BB 24 Jun.
Cape May Warbler: IL 3 Jun (LM, JD).
N. Parula: max 10 BB 24 Jun.
Magnolia Warbler: max 20 MW 28 Jun.
Bay-breasted Warbler: FB 17 Aug (SB).
Blackburnian Warbler: max 9 Perkins Clering 10 Jun (JD).
Yellow Warbler: max 6 BB 8 Jul.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 15 IL 2 Jun (LM).
Blackpoll Warbler: 5 Hurricane Mt 5 Jun (MMe); max 24 Blue Mt 17 Jun.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 18 Blue Mt 17 Jun.
Palm Warbler: max 10 BB 27 Jun.
Pine Warbler: max 4 SPB 14 Jul.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 16 BB 17 Jun.

Canada Warbler: max 4 SPB 10 Jun; 2 Chazy L 24 Jun; Altona 24 Jun.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Altona 21 & 28 Jul (NO, MS); Dickinson Ctr 4 Jun (RS); Moody Rd 16 Jun.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Altona 24 Jun (JO).

Field Sparrow: Peru 14 Jun.

Savannah Sparrow: max 20 Peru 6 Aug.

FOX SPARROW (R7): WF 14 Jun-11 Jul (JC, mob), 1st mid-summer record for the State.

Lincoln's Sparrow: FB 15 Jun; max 12 BB 24 Jun; 2 Altona 24 Jun (JO).

Swamp Sparrow: max 10 Oseetah L 4 Jun (GD).

White-throated Sparrow: max 40 BB 15 Jun (GD).

White-crowned Sparrow: Uncas Rd 8 Jun (JC).

Scarlet Tanager: Oseetah L 12 Jun; max 2 Clarojast 16 Jun (JH); LA 13 Jul.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 4 Clarojast 16 Jun (JH); 3 Keene Valley 18 Jun (FG).

Indigo Bunting: 2 (ad FY) 27 Jun (MM); max 4 Belmont 23 Aug.

Bobolink: IL 3 Jun; 4 CH 7 Jun-1 Jul (NO); max 15 RF 18 Jul.

E. Meadowlark: 2 RF 5-18 Jul.

Rusty Blackbird: Blue Mt Rd 17 Jun (SB, LM); MW 11 Jul; AP 12 Jul (JH).

Baltimore Oriole: max 4 AP 14 Jun.

Purple Finch: max 15 BB 31 Jul; 15 AP 27 Aug.

Red Crossbill: 2 Blue Mt 9 Jun; SPB 13 Jul; max 4 Floodwood Rd 15 Jul; Osgood R 7 Aug.

White-winged Crossbill: FB 8 Jun; Blue Mt 9 Jun BB 16 Jun.

Pine Siskin: max 35 IL 3 Jun; 35 WF 8 Jun; sightings thru.

Evening Grosbeak: BB 6 Jun (JC); 2 Inlet 9 Jun (GL); max 4 L Abanakee 30 Jul (CK).