

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Melanie McCormack

PO Box 366, Keene, NY 12942

Mruddyduck@aol.com

The fall season of 2012 brought fairly average weather conditions to the Region, a change from the abnormal weather patterns of the previous months. September's temperatures were just slightly above average, with peaks of 85° in Peru on the 1st and lows of 30° in Newcomb on the 20th. Precipitation for September ranged from 1-2" above normal across the Region. October was an unusual month for some parts of New York State, as areas downstate were ravaged by Hurricane *Sandy*, but the Region was mostly spared from this major weather event. Rain from *Sandy*'s system brought 1-2" to the Region on the 19th and 20th, resulting in monthly precipitation levels of 1-2" above average. Temperatures were well above average for October, ranging from a high of 74° in Peru on the 5th to a low of 20° in Lake Placid on the 13th. The above average precipitation of September and October was negated by one of the driest Novembers on record, with monthly precipitation ranging from 3-4" below average in the Region. Snowfall for the month ranged from 2-4", with most of the Region experiencing just dustings of snow, though Tupper Lake received 3"

on the 30th. November temperatures averaged 2-3° below normal and ranged from 70° in Dannemora on the 12th to -2° in Ellenburg Depot on the 30th.

With the lack of major weather events in September, reports of migrant shorebirds and songbirds were scattered throughout the period with no major fallouts occurring. Highlights of shorebird migration were a White-rumped Sandpiper in Inlet on 4 September, two American Golden Plovers at Noblewood on 21 September, and four Pectoral Sandpipers at Ausable Point on 16 October. Most notable were the reports of two **Purple Sandpipers** in Plattsburgh on 30 October, only the fourth record of the species in Clinton County, and an incidental observation of a juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope** on Union Falls Pond on 1 September. Also notable was an **Iceland Gull** in Plattsburgh on 4 September, a record early date for Clinton County.

Songbird migration was fairly typical, with most warbler reports tapering off by late September. The highlight of the season was most certainly the **Harris's Sparrow** that stopped for one day, 17 November, at Charlotte Demer's feeders in Newcomb. The only previous record of this species in Essex County was in 1980. A Gray Catbird in Tupper Lake on 9 October was a record late date for Hamilton County, and another was seen in Keene the next day. Other songbird highlights include a Gray-cheeked Thrush in Lake Pleasant on 29 September, a maximum of 15 Rusty Blackbirds at Winch Pond on 21 September, and multiple reports of Evening Grosbeaks, including two that were banded in Inlet.

Waterfowl migration was well documented by observers this season across the Region. Snow Goose migration peaked in mid-November, with flocks of 3000 recorded in Plattsburgh on the 18th and 7000 in Malone on the 19th. A few rarer species were found within these large flocks, including five **Ross's Geese**, one of which was an even rarer blue morph; two Cackling Geese; and a **Greater White-fronted Goose**. Scoters were widely reported from lakes across the Region in October, with maxima counts of 164 Black Scoters at Point Au Roche on the 24th, seven White-winged Scoters on Indian Lake on the 12th, and nine Surf Scoters on Lake Colby on the 5th. Other notable October reports include three Ruddy Ducks on Indian Lake on the 9th, 15 Brant on Lake Colby on the 14th, and a Red-necked Grebe and a Red-throated Loon at Point Au Roche on the 16th and 24th, respectively. The season's first **Barrow's Goldeneye** was reported from Ausable Point on 11 November.

Regional specialties such as Boreal Chickadee, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Gray Jay were reported as expected from sites such as Bloomingdale Bog, Shingle Shanty Preserve, and the Roosevelt Truck Trail. There were no reports of Spruce Grouse or Three-toed Woodpecker this period. The end of the period brought the arrival of a number of wintering bird species, providing an indication of which irruptions would occur this winter. Bohemian Waxwings moved through the Region early this year due to a poor fruit crop up north this season. The first report was on 3 November in Lake Placid, and a maximum of 60 was reported from Westport on the 18th. The first Common Redpolls were also reported from Lake Placid on the 18th, Snow Buntings arrived on 20 October, and four Northern Shrikes were reported in November.

A total of 167 species was reported for the season, well shy of the 2007 record of 194 species.

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CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Belford, Ken Chiasson, Anthony Collerton, Joan Collins, Sally Conyne, Kay Cramer, Mary Curits, Eric D'Amour, Gregg Dashnau, Charlotte Demers, Joseph Demko, Jim de Waal Malefyt, Gordon Dimmig, Wayne Fidler, Russ Ford, Matthew Furst, Ellie George, Tom and Donna Gooley, William Gruenbaum, Larry and Barbara Hall, Judy Heintz, John Kent, Hal Klein, Bill Krueger, Dayna LaLonde, Gary Lee, Lewis Lolya, Tristan Lowery, Ted Mack, Larry Master, Brian McAllister, Melanie McCormack, Stacy McNulty, Matthew Medler, Mike Morgante, Ellen Miller, Charlie Mitchell, Sean O'Brien, Nancy Olsen, Jim Osborn, Paul Osenbaugh, Stephane Perreault, Justin Potter, Sharon Pratt, Jonathan Rice, Nancy Rogers, Dana Rohleder, Jeffrey Rose, Robert Scranton, John Shea, Daniel Smith, William Stahl, Janet Stein, Eric Teed, John & Patricia Thaxton, Eve Ticknor, Jan Trzeiak, Yvette Tillema, Robert Washburn, Robert Williams III.

ABBREVIATIONS

AM – Alderon Marsh; AP – Ausable Point; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Riverlands; GBM – Gilbert Brook Marina; IL – Intervale Lowlands; ILk – Indian Lake; KB – King's Bay; LA – Lake Alice; LCol – Lake Colby; LP – Lake Placid; LL – Long Lake; MRP – Moose River Plains; NP – Noblewood Park; PS – Paul Smiths; PtR – Point Au Roche SP; SB – Sabattis Bog; SL – Saranac Lake; SSP – Shingle Shanty Preserve; TB – Treadwell Bay; TL – Tupper Lake.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 13000 PtR 18 Nov (JO); 7000 Malone 19 Nov (JS).

Ross's Goose: 4 Chazy 24 Oct (JO); 4 (1 **blue morph**) PtR 18 Nov (JO); Malone 18 Nov (JS).

Brant: Blue Mt L 8 Oct (JC); 15 LCol 14 Oct (TM).

Cackling Goose: 2 LA 24 Oct (JO); 2 Malone 19 Nov (MC).

Canada Goose: max 5778 Malone 3 Oct (JS).

Greater White-fronted Goose: PtR 18 Nov (JO).

Wood Duck: max 26 AP 11 Sep (PO); 6 Shaw Pond 15 Sep (L&BH).

Gadwall: SC 27 Oct (WS).

Am. Wigeon: max 20 AM 27 Oct (JR&LL).

Am. Black Duck: max 300 AM 10 Nov (JR&LL).

Blue-winged Teal: max 2 Shaw Pond 15 Sep (L&BH); SC 20 Sep (NO).

N. Pintail: AP 8 Oct (NO).

Green-winged Teal: max 42 Essex 15 Sep (L&BH).

Ring-necked Duck: max 454 LA 24 Oct (JO); 52 IL 2 Nov (B&LH).

Greater Scaup: LCol 4 Nov (LM, AB, EM).

Lesser Scaup: 6 LCol 28 Oct (GD).

Surf Scoter: 3 Plattsburgh 4 Oct (PO); max 9 LCol 5 Oct (AB).

White-winged Scoter: max 7 ILk 12 Oct (JTr); 6 Essex 24 Oct (B&LH).

Black Scoter: LCol 5 Oct, early record FRAN (AB); 17 ILk 12 Oct (JTr); 28 Essex 24 Oct (B&LH); max 164 PtR 24 Oct (JO).
Bufflehead: arr 10 Westport 4 Nov (JD,BM,LL); max 70 LCol 14 Nov (AB).
Com. Goldeneye: max 27 Malone 28 Sep (JSh).
Barrow's Goldeneye: AP 11 Nov (JH).
Hooded Merganser: max 16 Plattsburgh 16 Oct (JO).
Com. Merganser: max 27 Malone 28 Sep (JSh).
Red-breasted Merganser: max 7 TB 9 Oct thru (HK); max 16 PtR 24 Oct (JO); 2 ILk 4 Nov (JTr).
Ruddy Duck: 2 imm ILk 9 Oct; 1 fem ILk 22 Nov (JTr).
Red-throated Loon: 5 PtR 24 Oct (JO).
Com. Loon: max 51 L Clear 29 Sep (EG).
Pied-billed Grebe: max 3 AP 13 Oct (NO).
Horned Grebe: arr Willsboro 3 Oct (SP); max 7 Westport 24 Oct (B&LH).
Red-necked Grebe: PtR 16 Oct (JO); LCol 5 Nov (AB); Westport 15-17 Nov (DL&JD).
Am. Bittern: Red Tavern Rd 10 Oct (NR).
Turkey Vulture: last AM 27 Oct (JR, LL, MF).

HAWKS - ALCIDES

Osprey: last NP 30 Sep (SP).
Bald Eagle: max 3 Westport 17 Nov (JD).
N. Harrier: max 3 AM 27 Oct (JR,LL,MF).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 2 IL 30 Sep (LM).
Cooper's Hawk: IL 30 Sep thru (LM).
N. Goshawk: TL 14 Sep (KC); IL 30 Sep (LM).
Broad-winged Hawk: last Miner Dam 23 Sep (NO).
Red-tailed Hawk: max 4 AM 10 Nov (LL,MF).
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 Cole Bay 4 Nov (JD).
GOLDEN EAGLE (7): SB 22 Nov (JC); IL 26 Nov (LM).
Sora: SSP 1 Sep (JP).
Black-bellied Plover: Plattsburgh 4 Oct (PO).
Am. Golden-Plover: NP 21 Sep (JH); KB 13 Oct (BK).
Semipalmated Plover: 2 Westport 5 Sep (B&LH).
Killdeer: last Piseco 29 Sep (JDW).
Spotted Sandpiper: last Lewey L 5 Oct (RW).
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Westport 5 Sep (B&LH); max 5 8 Sep Bellmont (NR).
Greater Yellowlegs: max 6 NP 9 Sep (AB); 4 SC 20 Sep (NO).
Lesser Yellowlegs: KB 3 Sep (BK).
Sanderling: max 6 NP 9 Sep (AB).
Least Sandpiper: KB 6 Sep (BK); NP 9 Sep (AB).
White-rumped Sandpiper: Inlet 4 Sep (GL).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 AP 16 Oct (JO).

Purple Sandpiper: 2 Plattsburgh 30 Oct (PO).
Wilson's Snipe: Westport 15 Nov, late rec ESSX Co (DL).
Am. Woodcock: max 4 MRP 28 Sep (GDa).
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (7): 1 juv Union Falls Pond 1 Sep (RF).
Bonaparte's Gull: 9 GBM 16 Oct (JO); max 14 Westport 17 Nov (JD).
Iceland Gull: CH 4 Sep (AB), record early CLIN.
Caspian Tern: 5 KB 3 Sep (BK); NP 9 Sep (AB).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Great Horned Owl: IL 12 Sep & 19 Nov (LM).
Barred Owl: 2 Fish Creek 27 Sep (WG).
N. Saw-whet Owl: 8 banded IL 8 Oct (LM&NS).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Jay 2 Oct (PO).
Belted Kingfisher: max 4 SC 20 Sep (NO).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: Essex 15 Nov (DL).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last IL 8 Oct (LM).
Black-backed Woodpecker: 2 BB 28 Oct (GD); max 3 SSP 17 Nov (JP).
Am. Kestrel: last Piseco 11 Oct (L&BH).
Merlin: Willsboro 16 Sep; IL 11 Oct; TL 13 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 2 BB 14 Sep (JR, LL, MF).
Least Flycatcher: last Bellmont 11 Sep (NR).
E. Phoebe: last Bellmont 12 Oct (NR).
N. Shrike: arr PS 3 Nov (BM); Cole Bay 17 Nov (JD); IL 19 Nov (LM); SL 20 Nov (AB).
Blue-headed Vireo: last MRP 28 Sep (GDa).
Philadelphia Vireo: last IL 24 Sep (LM).
Red-eyed Vireo: last PS 22 Sep (DS).
Gray Jay: 6 SSP 2 Sep (JP); max 11 BB 28 Oct (GD); 2 SB 13 Nov (JC).
Com. Raven: max 7 TL 13 Oct.
Horned Lark: PS 22 Oct (LL); max 136 Chazy 18 Nov (JO).
Boreal Chickadee: 2 BB 27 Sep (MS); max 10 Newcomb 27 Oct (BD); 5 RTT 12 Nov (TL, JK).
Tufted Titmouse: 2 TL 13 Oct (LL,MF); Newcomb 17 Nov (CD).
House Wren: last 12 Sep Bellmont (NR).
Winter Wren: last 20 Oct Willis Mt (KC).
Carolina Wren: Willsboro 16 Sep (LLe); PtR 5 Oct (JH); Westport 23 Nov (JD).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last BB 27 Oct (LL,MF).
E. Bluebird: max 4 Willsboro 2 Oct (SP).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: L Pleasant 29 Sep (JDW).

Swainson's Thrush: last MRP 28 Sep (GDa).
Hermit Thrush: last 20 Oct Whiteface Mt.
Gray Catbird: Little Tupper L 9 Oct, late rec HAM Co (JC); last Keene 10 Oct (JR).
Am. Pipit: 8 Willsboro 16 Sep (LLe); 5 Kings Bay 16 Oct (JO).
Bohemian Waxwing: arr L Placid 3 Nov; 23 LA 18 Nov (JO); max 60 Westport 18 Nov (AC).
Cedar Waxwing: max 20 BB 14 Sep (JR, LL, MF).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

N. Waterthrush: Reagan Flats Rd 5 Sep (RS).
Black-and-white Warbler: last Bellmont 7 Sep (NR).
Tennessee Warbler: 2 Inlet 20 Sep (GL); last MRP 28 Sep (GDa).
Nashville Warbler: last BB 16 Oct (AB).
Mourning Warbler: last Cold Brook 3 Sep (GD).
Com. Yellowthroat: last IL 30 Sep (LM).
Am. Redstart: last IL 14 Sep (LM).
Cape May Warbler: last IL 24 Sep (LM).
N. Parula: last PtR 5 Oct (JH).
Magnolia Warbler: last L Pleasant 30 Sep (JDW).
Bay-breasted Warbler: last MRP 28 Sep (GDa).
Blackburnian Warbler: last L Pleasant 30 Sep (JDW).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Eagle Nest lodge 20 Sep (MMo).
Blackpoll Warbler: last IL 14 Sep (LM).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 30 Sep L Pleasant (JDW).
Palm Warbler: last Keene 9 Oct (J&PT).
Pine Warbler: last PS 27 Sep (LL).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: last Westport 4 Nov (JD).
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 30 Sep L Pleasant (JDW).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: SL 10 Oct (AB).

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr BB 27 Oct (LL, MF); max 18 IL 4 Nov (LM).
Chipping Sparrow: last Piseco 31 Oct (L&BH).
Savannah Sparrow: last IL 8 Oct (LM, BM).
Fox Sparrow: arr 5 LA 16 Oct (JO); 5 IL 5 Nov (LM).
Lincoln's Sparrow: max 3 BB 14 Sep (JR, LL, MF); last Piseco 11 Oct (L&BH).
Swamp Sparrow: last Little Tupper L 9 Oct (JC).
White-throated Sparrow: max 40 BB 14 Sep (JR, LL, MF).
White-crowned Sparrow: arr MRP 28 Sep (GDa); max 10 IL 8 Oct (LM, BM).
HARRIS'S SPARROW: Newcomb 17 Nov, 2nd rec ESSEX Co (CD).
Snow Bunting: arr Whiteface Mt 20 Oct (WF); max 24 Giant Mt 24 Oct (KF).
Scarlet Tanager: last MRP 28 Sep (GDa).
N. Cardinal: 2 Newcomb 17 Nov (CD).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Inlet 27 Sep (GL).
Indigo Bunting: last Bellmont 12 Sep (NR).
Red-winged Blackbird: max 600 AM 27 Oct (JR, LL, MF).
Rusty Blackbird: IL 14 Sep (SC); 15 Winch Pond 21 Sep (AB); 12 PS 22 Sep (LLO); 2 IL 8 Oct (LM, BM).
Pine Grosbeak: arr Plattsburgh 9 Nov (HK); 10 Malone 3 Oct (JS); 7 LA 18 Nov (JO); 4 ILk 25 Nov (JTr); 8 Limekiln L 29 Nov (GL).
Purple Finch: max 10 Malone 3 Oct (JSh).
Red Crossbill: 2 LL 11 Nov (JC).
White-winged Crossbill: 3 Whiteface Mt 20 Oct (WF); 2 Newcomb 4 Nov (JK).
Com. Redpoll: arr 12 IL 4 Nov (LM); max 74 LP 18 Nov (LM).
Pine Siskin: max 170 LP 2 Oct (LM); 30 CH 15 Nov (NO).
Evening Grosbeak: 5 PS 29 Sep (WG); 2 banded Inlet 2 Nov (GL); 3 TL 13 Nov (JC); max 16 IL 19 Nov (LM).

