

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Melanie McCormack

PO Box 366, Keene, NY 12942

Mruddyduck@aol.com

The spring of 2013 was a fairly typical spring for the Region, with fairly average temperatures and precipitation and few major weather events. March had average temperatures ranging from a high of 54° F in Lake Placid on the 11th to a low of -9° in Indian Lake on the 18th. Precipitation was below average, with only one significant snowfall on 20-21 March that brought 2-7" of snow to the Region. Monthly snowfall totals ranged from 7" in Peru to 15" in Tupper Lake. April temperatures were 1-3° below average and ranged from 75° in Peru on the

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24th to 15° in Lake Placid on the 6th. Precipitation was average but fell mostly as rain, as there was only one significant accumulation of 1-2" of snow on 12-13 April. May brought rapid warmth to the Region, with temperatures averaging 2-3° above normal, reaching 91° in Peru on the last day of the month, and falling as low as 25° in Lake Placid on the 15th.

The lack of any extreme weather events seemed to result in a lack of any significant migratory events as well. Reports for the season don't reflect any major migrant fallouts, as was also noted by the Crown Point Banding Station this year. The banding station was in operation from 2-18 May and banded 332 individuals of 53 species. The highlights at the station were two Sharp-shinned Hawks, one Cape May Warbler, one Prairie Warbler, three Orchard Orioles, and a station record of 34 White-throated Sparrows. Prairie Warblers and Orchard Orioles are rarely reported from anywhere else in the Region but appear at Crown Point in most years. Master banders Gordon Howard and Gary Lee noted that the cool temperatures of April followed by the sudden burst of warmth in May resulted in a reduced food supply for migrating songbirds, as the worms that they rely on in the hawthorn thickets matured quickly when temperatures rose and weren't as available to birds as they would be in a typical spring.

With below average April temperatures there were not many new early date records, with the exception of a Black-and-white Warbler in Plattsburgh on 20 April and an Eastern Kingbird in Keene on 1 May. The most unexpected reports of migrant species in the Region were reports of pairs of **Sandhill Cranes** in Peru on 15 April and Paul Smiths on 12-13 April. A few uncommon warblers were sighted during migration including Wilson's Warblers at a number of locations and **Blue-winged Warblers** on 6 and 31 May in Westport. Shorebird migration reports were mostly from the Chazy Riverlands, where peak numbers occurred on 20 May, with 22 Least Sandpipers, 77 Dunlin, 10 Black-bellied Plovers, and 42 Short-billed Dowitchers. Another notable shorebird record was a report of six Lesser Yellowlegs at Alderon Marsh on 21 April.

The real highlights of the spring season were the winter visitors that lingered well into the season. A **Great-Gray Owl** was a bit of a celebrity while it was in Tupper Lake from 30 March-2 April, which, though difficult to spot, was still confirmed by a number of observers. Two Snowy Owls were reported from Cumberland Head on 18 March. Lake Champlain produced excellent sightings of gulls and waterfowl, including an **Iceland Gull** seen around Plattsburgh between 15 March and 7 April, a new late record. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen at Port Henry on 27 April. A **Barrow's Goldeneye** was seen on Lake Champlain on 4 March, and four individuals were seen on 10 March. A **Tufted Duck** was reported from Lake Champlain on 9-10 March along with a single Ruddy Duck. Snow Geese appeared in large numbers in mid-March, with a high count of 1,500 seen from Treadwell Bay on 14 March.

Large numbers of Common Redpolls also lingered into the spring, last reported from Intervale Lowlands on 24 April. **Hoary Redpoll** reports continued into April from Lake Placid, Cumberland Head, and Long Lake. Bohemian Waxwings were reported in mid-March, with a high count of 1,000 in Plattsburgh on the 13th. The last Rough-legged Hawk report came from

Plattsburgh on 14 April, and the last Northern Shrike was seen in the Intervale Lowlands on 30 March. Four Lapland Longspurs were reported from Chazy on 23 March, and Snow Buntings were last reported from Tupper Lake on 24 March.

Other notable sightings include two Least Bitterns and five Virginia Rails at Ausable Point on 30 May, a Sora from Lake Alice on 4-18 May, and Black-crowned Night-Herons from Four Brothers Islands on 16 May and Ausable Marsh on 30 May. Great Egrets were reported from Lake Abanakee on 13 April and Reagan Flats Road on 16 April. A Golden Eagle was seen from Carpenter's Flats on 17 May, and two Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Lake Alice on 30 May are a notable find. Lastly, a **Gray Partridge** was seen in Plattsburgh on 22 April, the first sighting in five years.

The season total was 212 species, just shy of the record of 219 species and significantly higher than last year's total of 191.

CONTRIBUTORS

Zachary Adams, Patricia Aitken, Diedre Asbjorn, Seth Ausebel, Michelle Berrus (MBE), Michael Burgess (MB), Dick Crawford, Joan Collins, Gary Chapin, Bruce Dudek, Eric Damour, Jim De Waal Malefyt, Gordon Dimmig, Bob Ellsworth, Matthew Furst, Keitha Farney, Ellie George, Barbara and Larry Hall, Judith Heintz, Peter Jerdo, Catherine Klatt, Hal Klein, Bill Krueger, Dayne LaLonde, Gary Lee, Lewis Lolya, Larry Master, Brian McAllister, Matthew Medler, Michael Moccio, Nancy Olsen, Jim Osborn, Paul Osenbaugh, John M.C. Peterson, Jonathan Rice, Dana Rohleder, Nancy Rogers, Robert Scranton, William Stahl, Jacob Straub, John & Pat Thaxton; Hans Van der Zweep, Angus Wilson.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt; AM – Alderon Marsh; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Pt, CR – Chazy Riverlands; IL – Intervale Lowlands; LA – Lake Alice WMA, LP – Lake Placid; LL – Long L; MRP – Moose River Plains; NP – Noblewood P; PBurgh – Plattsburgh; PS – Paul Smiths; PtR – Point Au Roche SP; RF – Reagan Flats Road, SB – Sabattis Bog; SC – Scomotion Creek; SL – Saranac L; SPB – Spring Pond Bog; TB – Treadwell Bay; TL – Tupper L; WD – Wilcox Dock; WP – Westport.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 1500 TB 14-17 Mar (HK); 200 Malone 20 Mar (NR); 85 PS 20 Mar.

Brant: 13 PtR 18 May; 112 PtR 28 May (JO).

Cackling Goose: CRL 17 Apr (BK).

Tundra Swan: TB 17 Mar (HK).

Wood Duck: arr 6 AP 30 Mar (ED, MB); max 17 AM 30 Mar (ZA).

Gadwall: arr AP 23 Mar (MB); max 13 AP 30 Mar (ED).

Am. Wigeon: arr 31 Mar AP; max 20 AP 16 Apr (MB).

Am. Black Duck: max 56 LC 10 Mar (AW).

Blue-winged Teal: arr AP 6 Apr (MB); max 4 AM 30 Mar (ZA).

N. Shoveler: arr & max 12 AM 21 Apr (ZA).

N. Pintail: arr LC 22 Mar (MB); max 80 AM 30 Mar (ZA).

Green-winged Teal: arr AP 30 Mar (MB, ED); max 85 AM 21 Apr (ZA).

Canvasback: CP 21 Mar (EG).

Redhead: 5 CP 21 Mar (EG).

Ring-necked Duck: max 170 WP 9 Mar (AW).

TUFTED DUCK: LC 9-10 Mar (AW).

Greater Scaup: max 250 WP 9 Mar (AW).

Lesser Scaup: max 850 WP 9 Mar (AW).

White-winged Scoter: 19 PtR 18 May (JO).
Bufflehead: max 40 AP 8 Apr (MB).
Com. Goldeneye: max 450 LC 10 Mar (AW).
Barrow's Goldeneye: fem CH 4 Mar (BK); 4 LC 10 Mar (AW).
Hooded Merganser: max 23 AP 11 Mar (J&PT).
Com. Merganser: max 450 LC 10 Mar (AW).
Ruddy Duck: WP 9 Mar (AW).
Ring-necked Pheasant: 4 WP 11 Apr (PJ).
Gray Partridge: Pburgh 22 Apr (BE).
Com. Loon: max 5 Indian L 14 Apr (MiMo).
Pied-billed Grebe: AP 8 Apr (MB); Indian L 14 Apr (MiMo).
Horned Grebe: max 17 AP 8 Apr (MB).
Double-crested Cormorant: arr AP 29 Mar (WS).
Am. Bittern: arr 23 IL Apr (LM); max 8 AP 14 May (PJ).
Least Bittern: 2 AP 30 May (PJ).
Great Blue Heron: max 10 AP 4 May (DL).
Great Egret: L Abanakee 13 Apr (MiMo); 2 RF 16 Apr (HV, RS).
Green Heron: SC 31 May (NO).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 8 AM 27 Apr (ZA, LL, JR, MF); Four Bros Is 16 May (PJ); AP 30 May (PJ).
Turkey Vulture: arr Wadhams 17 Mar (J&PT).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 2 AP 1 Apr (NR).
Bald Eagle: max 8 LC 10 Mar (AW).
N. Harrier: max 5 AM 21 Apr (ZA).
N. Goshawk: arr PS 18 Apr (ZA).
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Lewis 27 Apr (B&LH); Coon Mt 3 May (PJ); LA 8 May (JO).
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Belmont 21 Apr (NR).
Rough-legged Hawk: Pburgh 3 Mar (NO); IL 6 Apr (LM); Beekmantown 14 Apr (BK).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): Carpenter's Flats 17 May (DR).
Virginia Rail: arr AM 27 Apr (ZA); max 5 AP 30 May (PJ).
Sora: LA 4-18 May (JO).
Com. Gallinule: arr AM 27 Apr (ZA).
Am. Coot: max 4 AM 17 Apr (DL).
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): 2 Peru 15 Apr (WS); 2nd spring record; 2 PS 12-13 Apr (ZA, LL, MF, JR).
Black-bellied Plover: 10 CR 20 May (BK).
Semipalmated Plover: CR 19-20 May: max 8 CR 20 May (BK).
Killdeer: arr WP 17 Mar (J&PT).
Spotted Sandpiper: arr WP 10 May (PJ); max 4 IL 16 May (LM).

Solitary Sandpiper: arr IL 5-12 May (LM).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 6 AM 21 Apr (ZA).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 4 CR 20 May (BK).
Least Sandpiper: CR 11-20 May, max 22 CR 20 May (BK).
Dunlin: CR 11-20 May, max 77 CR 20 May (BK).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 42 CR 20 May (BK).
Wilson's Snipe: arr RF 3 May (RS).
Am. Woodcock: arr WP 2 Apr (PJ).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 7 Port Henry (PJ).
Iceland Gull: WD 15 Mar & 7 Apr, late rec CLIN; Saranac R 17 Mar (PO).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Port Henry 27 Apr (GC).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 5 NP 27 Apr (J&PT).
Caspian Tern: arr 9 NP 14 Apr (PJ); max 40 NP 27 Apr (J&PT), max rec ESSE.
Com. Tern: arr 6 CR 11 May (BK).

PIGEONS-PARROTS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 2 LA 30 May (DL).
E. Screech-Owl: WP 20 Mar (PJ).
Great Horned Owl: IL 6 May (LM).
Snowy Owl: 2 CH 18 Mar (DC).
Barred Owl: max 3 Round L (BD).
GREAT-GRAY OWL: Tupper Lake area 30 Mar-2 Apr, mob.
Com. Nighthawk: 8 Ausable Chasm 28 May (MB).
Whip-poor-will: arr LA 4 May (JO); Ausable Chasm 4 May (MB); WP 11 May (PJ).
Chimney Swift: arr 6 May SL (ZA).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Bay Pond 4 May (LM).
Belted Kingfisher: max 3 AP 4 May (DL).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2 Rouses Pt 16 Feb thru, poss breeding pair (WF); CH 16-24 May (NO); PtR 18 May.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Port Kent 7 Apr (DR).
Black-backed Woodpecker: PS 20 Mar (ZA); max 5 BB 30 Mar (DA); SPB 24 May (PA&SA).
Am. Kestrel: arr 22 Mar WP (PJ).
Merlin: max 3 Rugar Woods (JS).
Peregrine Falcon: max 4 Pitchoff Mt 18 May (BD).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr L Pleasant 18 May (JDW); IL 23 May (LM); SPB 24 May (PA&SA).
E. Wood-Pewee: arr AP 19 May (MB).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr PS 22 May (BM).
Alder Flycatcher: arr WP 22 May (PJ).
Willow Flycatcher: arr PtR 28 May (JO); SC 31 May (NO).
Least Flycatcher: arr Little Tupper L 3 May (JC).
E. Phoebe: arr WP 4 Apr (PJ).
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Haystack Mt 8 May (PJ).
E. Kingbird: arr Keene 1 May (J&PT), early rec ESSE.
N. Shrike: IL 2-30 Mar (LM).
Yellow-throated Vireo: AP 14 & 30 May (PJ).
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Pburgh 19 Apr (MB).
Warbling Vireo: arr LA 4 May (MB).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr PS 5 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: PS 18 May (BM).
Gray Jay: max 6 BB 23 May; 2 TL 24 Mar; 3 MRP 27 May (PA,SA).
Horned Lark: last 8 Chazy 22 Mar (MB).
Tree Swallow: arr AP 30 Mar (MB).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr AM 27 Apr (ZA).
Cliff Swallow: arr 2 PtR 2 May (JH); 12 RF 3 May (RS); 2 L Colby 13 Mar (GD).
Barn Swallow: arr AP 19 Apr (MB).
Boreal Chickadee: max 6 BB 30 Mar (DA).
Tufted Titmouse: max 2 WP 13 Mar (PJ); IL 11 Apr (LM).
Carolina Wren: Port Henry 16 Apr (PJ); 2 PtR 24 Apr (JH); IL 11 Apr (LM).
House Wren: arr WP 2 May (PJ).
Winter Wren: arr SL 2 Apr (SF).
Marsh Wren: arr AP 27 Apr (J&PT); max 68 SC 31 May (NO).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Ausable Chasm 17 Apr (MB); max 15 AP 27 Apr (J&PT).
E. Bluebird: max 5 BB 28 May (SA,PA).
Veery: arr Bellmont 14 May (NR); max 6 IL 23 May (LM).
Bicknell's Thrush: arr Piseco 26 May (MiMo).
Swainson's Thrush: arr Bellmont 22 May (NR).
Hermit Thrush: arr PS 9 Apr (ZA).
Wood Thrush: arr Bellmont 9 May (NR).
Gray Catbird: arr CP 12 May (PJ).
Brown Thrasher: arr AM 21 Apr (LL,MF).
Am. Pipit: CR 20 May (BK).
Bohemian Waxwing: 12 PS 6 Mar; max 1000 Pburgh 13 Mar (PO); 50 WP 19 Mar.
Cedar Waxwing: max 70 IL 30 May (LM).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: arr Pburgh 1 May (MB).
N. Waterthrush: arr LA 28 Apr (JO), early rec CLIN.

Tennessee Warbler: arr PS 18 May (BM); Bellmont 28 May (NR).
Nashville Warbler: arr 4 IL 3 May (LM).
Com. Yellowthroat: arr WP 8 May (PJ).
Am. Redstart: arr Rugar Woods 1 May (MB).
Cape May Warbler: arr LP 23 May (SA); 2 IL 28 May (LM).
N. Parula: arr PS 30 Apr (MF,LL).
Magnolia Warbler: arr PS 8 May (BM); max 12 IL 23 May (LM).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr PS 16 May (BM); Bellmont 26 May (NR).
Blackburnian Warbler: arr PtR 4 May (JH).
Yellow Warbler: arr Pburgh 1 May (MB).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Bellmont 9 May (NR); max 9 IL 23 May (LM).
Blackpoll Warbler: arr AP 19 May (MB).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Rugar Woods 30 Apr (MB).
Palm Warbler: arr BB 21 Apr (CK).
Pine Warbler: arr 2 WP 19 Apr (PJ).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Port Henry 16 Apr (PJ).
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Rugar Woods 1 May (MB).
Canada Warbler: arr Ferds Bog 19 May (SS).
Wilson's Warbler: arr 2 AP 19 May (MB); Ap 22 May (NO); IL 23 May (LM); PtR 28 May (JO).
Blue-winged Warbler: 9 May WP (BM); 31 May WP (J&PT).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr 2 AM 21 Apr (ZA); 2 Chazy 12 May (MB).
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 8 Ausable Chasm 9 Apr (MB); 8 L Clear 19 Apr (SM).
Chipping Sparrow: arr Rugar Woods 9 Apr (MB).
Field Sparrow: arr Ausable Chasm 9 Apr (MB); max 3 PtR 2 May (JH).
Savannah Sparrow: arr Indian L 14 Apr (MiMo).
Fox Sparrow: arr L Clear 2 Apr (SM); max 6 L Abanakee 13 Apr (MiMo).
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Bellmont 9 May (NR); 2 BB 10 May; Ferds Bog 19 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr PS 11 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: max 25 BB 11 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr PS 5 May (ZA); max 7 Bellmont 17 May (MF).
Lapland Longspur: 7 Chazy 22 Mar (MB); 4 Chazy 23 Mar (BK).
Snow Bunting: 2 WP 20 Mar (PJ); max 350 Chazy 23 Mar (MB); 2 TL 24 Mar (MF).
Scarlet Tanager: arr LA 16 May (JH).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Clarojast 11 May (JH).

Indigo Bunting: arr Bellmont 27 May (NR).

Bobolink: arr CR 6 May (BK); max 17 LP 31 May (BM).

Red-winged Blackbird: arr 12 IL 10 Mar (LM).

E. Meadowlark: arr WP 8 Apr (PJ).

Rusty Blackbird: PtR 18 Apr (JH); max 60 RF 25 Apr (RS); 5 AP 29 Apr (KF); AP 30 Apr (MB).

Brown-headed Cowbird: arr 6 IL 28 Mar (LM).

Baltimore Oriole: arr Pburgh 8 May (MB).

Pine Grosbeak: 2 Pburgh 30 Mar (DA).

Purple Finch: max 11 Piseco L 24 May (LH).

White-winged Crossbill: 10 BB 10 Mar (AW).

Com. Redpoll: max 250 IL 7 Mar; last IL 24 Apr (LM).

HOARY REDPOLL: CH 20 Mar (BK); 3 LL 29 Mar (DA, JC); LP 12 Apr (LM).

Pine Siskin: max 35 CP 12 May (PJ).

Evening Grosbeak: 9 WP 19 Apr (PJ); PS 4 May (BM).