

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Melanie McCormack

PO Box 366, Keene, NY 12942

Mruddyduck@aol.com

The summer of 2013 in the Region was much wetter and cooler than the previous summer season. The season began with the wettest June in recorded history, with precipitation totals more than 200% above normal. Dannemora received 12" of rain in June, which is a record-breaking 8.5" above normal. Lake Placid received 5" more rain than usual with 9.6" for the month. The month began with record high temperatures of 87° F in Tupper Lake and 91° in Peru on the 1st, but they didn't last. The remainder of the month was much cooler than average, resulting in monthly average temperatures about 1° below normal across the Region. June's rain continued into early July, making the Region's residents wonder if it would rain the entire summer. The weather finally broke, however, and July ended up being a fairly average month, with temperatures and precipitation just above average. Temperatures peaked on July 19th and 20th, reaching 89° in Lake Placid and 92° in Peru. Just a few nights later temperatures dipped to 39° in Lake Placid and 40s in the rest of the Region. August was also a typical month, with average precipitation and temperatures 1-2° below average. The highest temperatures came at the very end of the month, reaching 82° in Tupper Lake and 87° in Peru. The lowest temperatures occurred on the 25th, with 38° in Lake Placid and 46° in Peru.

Record-breaking amounts of rain certainly hampered a number of outdoor activities and dismayed the Region's residents, but in the natural world the rain was very beneficial to wildlife. The record-breaking rain resulted in record-breaking numbers of berries, wildflowers, aquatic-borne insects, and a high mast crop, creating abundant food resources for wildlife this year. From my own observations and those of other researchers in the area, nesting success for many songbirds was better than last year when a dry summer made resources scarce. One can only hope that higher rates of nesting success will result in an excellent fall migration this year.

The high amounts of rain created excellent conditions for paddling this summer, and many reports were received from paddling birders. Paddles of Scomotion Creek in Plattsburgh yielded reports of five Black-crowned Night-

Heron on 15 June, 30 Marsh Wrens on 6 July, and five Green Herons on 23 August. A paddle on the Chubb River on 18 August yielded a report of a Least Bittern, an excellent find. Other notable waterbird reports include Virginia Rails in Tupper Lake and Oseetah Lake, and a Sora at the Chazy Riverlands. A drake Greater Scaup was seen at Cumberland Head on 7 and 9 June, and an early Horned Grebe was seen in Westport on 17 August. A report of two Sandhill Cranes was received from Rouses Point in mid-August, near the same site they were sighted in 2011.

Shorebird migration was well documented by observers at the Chazy Riverlands and other sites this season. The highlight was sightings of juvenile Red-necked Phalaropes at the Riverlands on the 17th and 19th of August. Between the 21st and 25th there were reports of Western, Baird's, Pectoral, and Stilt Sandpipers, all good finds. A White-rumped Sandpiper was reported from Inlet on 15 August, only the fourth record for Hamilton County. Both yellowlegs species and Least Sandpipers were reported at Noblewood Park as well.

Many of the Region's boreal specialties, such as Boreal Chickadee, Gray Jay, and Black-backed Woodpecker were widely reported from places such as Bloomingdale Bog, Ferd's Bog, and Moose River Plains. Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from Ferd's Bog, California Road, and Elk Lake but were not reported from places such as Bloomingdale Bog and Silver Lake Bog, where they used to be regularly found. There was only one report of Spruce Grouse, seen on private property on Kildare Road on 2 July. Similarly there was only one report of Rusty Blackbirds during breeding season from Ferd's Bog, but migrating flocks were reported in August from Elizabethtown and Bloomingdale Bog. Bicknell's Thrush was widely reported from high-elevation summits in the Adirondacks, with the highest number being 20 birds at Whiteface Mt. on 13 June. Other notable songbird reports from the Region include a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Reagan Flatts Rd. on 18 July, 12 Whip-poor-wills at Miner Flat Rock on 23 June, and a Blue-winged Warbler in Essex on 14 June.

I also received a number of reports from researchers who were working in the Region this season, whose efforts I think are worth recognizing. Licensed bander Gary Lee in Inlet banded songbirds throughout the season including 22 Purple Finches. Gary Lee also works with the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program, which, in addition to its usual banding efforts of Common Loons, attached three geolocators to Adirondack loons this year. If the loons return to the same nest site next year these geolocators will reveal where these loons spend all of their time when they are not on Adirondack lakes. I also received a report from licensed banders Bob Yunick and Ted Hicks who spent time this summer banding Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Schroon Lake. They were very successful, banding 137 birds this year and recapturing 28 birds that they banded last year. I personally had no idea that so many hummingbirds could be in one location.

In all a total of 185 species was reported this season, the same number as in the 2012 season and shy of the record of 196 species.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Adams, Zachary Adams, Danny Akers, Deidre Asbjorn, Scott Barnes, Alan Belford, Michelle Berrus, Michael Burgess, Chase Cammarota, Ken Chaisson, Gary Chapin, Eric Damour, Gregg Dashnau, Jim de Waal Malefyt, Joe Demko, Gordon Dimmig, Bruce Dudek, Suzy Feustel, Walter Favro, Wayne Fidler, Kenny Frisch, Matthew Furst, Menachem Goldstein, Sam Heinrich, Judith Heintz, Ted Hicks, Jon Isacoff, Betsy Jensen, Peter Jerdo, Dave Kaddie, Bill Krueger, Gary Lee, Lewis Lolya, Larry Master, Brian McAllister, Matthew Medler, Sean O'Brien, Nancy Olsen, Shai Mitra, John "Mike" and Susan Peterson, Justin Potter, Bill Purcell, Derek Rogers, Nancy Rogers, Dana Rohleder, Robert Scranton, John Shea, Jake Straub, Madelaine Sullivan, John & Pat Thaxton, Hans Van der Zweep, Ken Walsh, Bob Washburn, Robert G Williams III, David Winkler, Chris Wood, Bob Yunick, Matthew Zeitler, Janice Zemko.

ABBREVIATIONS

AM – Alderon Marsh; AP – Ausable Point; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; BC – Belmont Center; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Riverlands; CRF – Cedar River Flow; DC – Dickinson Center; FB – Ferd's Bog; IL – Intervale Lowlands; MRP – Moose River Plains; NP – Noblewood Park; PS – Paul Smiths; PtR – Point Au Roche SP; RFR – Reagan Flats Road; SB – Sabattis Bog; SC – Scotion Creek; SL – Saranac Lake; SPB – Spring Pond Bog; SSP – Shingle Shanty Preserve; WF – Whiteface Mountain; WRS – Webb Royce Swamp.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Wood Duck: max 25 AP 19 Aug (BJ).
Gadwall: AP 20 Jul (MMe); CR 17 & 25 Aug (MMe, AB).
Am. Black Duck: max 14 Osgood R 1 Jul (DRg).
Blue-winged Teal: 2 CR 17 Aug (AB, SO, MMe).
Green-winged Teal: 2 CR 17 Aug (AB, SO, MMe).
Ring-necked Duck: max 7 Muskrat Pond 20 Jul (GL); 6 Oseetah L 5 Jun (GDi).
Greater Scaup: CH 7-9 Jun (SJ, BK).
Com. Goldeneye: max 8 AP 19 Aug (BJ).
Hooded Merganser: max 5 SSP 20 Jul (JP).
Spruce Grouse: Kildare Rd 2 Jul (GDi), only report.
Com. Loon: max 17 Follensby Clear Pond loop 6 Jul.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 14 CRF 19 Jul (BD).
Horned Grebe: Westport 17 Aug (AB, MMe).
Am. Bittern: max 4 CR 25 Aug (AB).
Least Bittern: Chubb R 18 Aug (J&PT).

Great Egret: 3 RFR 5 Jul (DK,RS); CR 26-28 Aug (BK); 3 AM 27 Aug (MF, ZA, LL).
Green Heron: max 5 SC 23 Aug (NO).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 5 SC 15 Jun (NO); 2 CR 17 Aug; 5 AM 27 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: max 10 AP 20 Jul (MMe).
N. Harrier: max 3 RFR 18 Jul (RS).
N. Goshawk: max 2 DC 20 Jun (HVZ, RS).
Red-shouldered Hawk: Jay 30 Jun (PJ); 2 Port Kent 11-12 Aug (DaR); Chubb R 28 Aug (J&PT).
Broad-winged Hawk: max 5 FB 28 Jun (SH).
Virginia Rail: TL 2 Jun (SK, JZ); CR 5 Jun-31 Jul (BK); Oseetah L 5 Aug (GDi); AP 19 Aug (BJ).
Sora: CR 25 Jun-31 Jul (BK).
Com. Gallinule: max 6 AM 27 Aug (BS, ZA, MF, LL).
Am. Coot: 2 CR 17 & 25 Aug (AB, MMe).
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): 2 Rouses Pt 13 Aug (WFA).

Black-bellied Plover: 2 CR 5 Jun (BK); 2 CR 31 Jul (BK); CR 24 Aug (MMc, ED).
Semipalmated Plover: CR 17-25 Aug; max 16 CR 21 Aug (BK); 6 NP 23 Aug (LLe).
Spotted Sandpiper: max 3 Oseetah L 5 Aug (GDi).
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 CR 5 Jun (BK); IL 21 Jul (LM); 5 BC 5-31 Aug (NR).
Greater Yellowlegs: CR 5-24 Aug, max 10 CR 17 Aug; 2 NP 17 Aug (MMe); 5 BC 29-31 Aug (NR).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 BC 16-28 Aug (NR); CR 5-24 Aug; max 20 CR 17 Aug; NP 19-24 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 20 CR 24 Aug (MMc, ED); 7 BC 23 Aug (NR).
Western Sandpiper: 3 CR 24 Aug (BK, MMc, ED).
Least Sandpiper: CR 5-28 Aug; max 37 CR 20 Aug (BK); 4 NP 17 Aug (MMe); 15 BC 24 Aug (NR).
White-rumped Sandpiper: Inlet 15 Aug (GL), 4th rec HAMI; 12 CR 21-22 Aug (BK).
Baird's Sandpiper: 2 CR 21-25 Aug (BK, AB, MMc, ED).
Pectoral Sandpiper: CR 20-25 Aug (BK, AB).
Dunlin: CR 25 Aug (AB), early rec CLIN.
Stilt Sandpiper: CR 20-24 Aug (BK).
Wilson's Snipe: max 4 DC 4 Jun (RS).
Am. Woodcock: max 3 Raquette L 28 Jul (RGW).
Red-necked Phalarope: juv CR 17 Aug (AB, SO, MMe); 2 juv CR 19 Aug (BL).
Bonaparte's Gull: NP 16-19 Aug; max 291 NP 18 Aug (MMe).
Caspian Tern: max 21 NP 4 Aug (MMc, ED); 5 CR 17 Aug; 6 AP 19 Aug.
Com. Tern: 2 RFR 5 Jul (DK, RS); max 7 NP 17 Aug (MMe).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Black-billed Cuckoo: BC 26-31 Jul; Loon L 6 Aug; BB 7 Aug; WRS 16-17 Aug.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: RFR 18 Jul (HVZ, RS).
Great Horned Owl: IL 1 Jun; SB 1 Jun; RFR 22 Jul.
N. Saw-whet Owl: SB 1 Jun (BW); Willis L 10 Aug (KC).
Com. Nighthawk: 3 L Pleasant 17 Aug; 2 SL 27 Aug (AB).
E. Whip-poor-will: 12 Miner Flat Rock 23 Jun (KA); 2 Clarojast 17 Jun (JH); Wilsboro 19 Jul.
Chimney Swift: max 129 St Regis Falls 8 Aug (BP).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 137 banded 21 Jun-25 Aug Schroon L (BY, TH).
Belted Kingfisher: max 8 Raquette R 20 Aug (J&PT).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Ft Ticonderoga 15 Aug (MMe).
Black-backed Woodpecker: BB thru; max 4 BB 9 Jun; MRP 19 Jun, 3 Osgood R 1 Jul; CRF 17 Jul; Raquette R 20 Aug; 2 Long L 27 Aug.
Am. Kestrel: max 5 RFR 18 Jul (HVZ).
Merlin: max 4 Plattsburgh 17 Jul (NO).
Peregrine Falcon: Poke-O-Moonshine 25-29 Jul; CR 17-25 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 FB 3-26 Jun; Elk L 21 Jul; max 4 California Rd 26 Jun (JS).
E. Wood-Pewee: max 4 Schroon L 2 Jul (JI).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Silver L Bog 11 Jul (SF); WF 30 Jul.
Alder Flycatcher: max 10 IL 2 Jun (LM).
Willow Flycatcher: Rugar Woods 10 Jun (NO); Essex 14 Jun; Elk L 21 Jul.
Least Flycatcher: max 6 Indian L 17 Jun.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 3 RFR 5 Jul (DK, RS).
E. Kingbird: max 16 RFR 18 Jul (HVZ, RS).
Blue-headed Vireo: max 9 Blue Mt 19 Jun (DA).
Warbling Vireo: max 4 DC 4 Jun.
Philadelphia Vireo: max 2 Raquette R 20 Aug (J&PT).
Red-eyed Vireo: max 26 Blue Mt 19 Jun.
Gray Jay: 8 BB thru; 5 SPB 15 Jul; CRF 17 Jul; max 9 Blue Mt 31 Aug.
Purple Martin: PtR 6 Aug (NR).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: IL 2 Jun (LM); CR 25 Aug (AB).
Bank Swallow: Port Kent 26 Jul; Ft Ticonderoga 15 Aug; max 100 CR 22 Aug (BK).
Cliff Swallow: 16 SL 1 Jun (BW); max 25 RFR 4 Jul (HVZ,RS); Crown Pt 10 Aug (GC).
Boreal Chickadee: 5 Kildare Rd 12 Jul; 5 CRF 19 Jul; 5 Madawaska 31 Jul; max 8 MRP 29 Aug.
Tufted Titmouse: 2 NP 17 Aug; Long L 24 Aug.
Carolina Wren: CH thru; Ft Ticonderoga 31 Jul; 2 Wilsboro 18 Aug.
Winter Wren: max 15 WF 3 Jul.
Marsh Wren: max 30 SC 6 Jul (NO).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 20 Blue Mt 19 Jun.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 8 BB 19-20 Jun.
E. Bluebird: max 9 Peru 2 Jul.
Veery: max 6 BB 4 Jun; 5 IL 9 Jun.
Bicknell's Thrush: 4 Big Slide Mt 19 Jun; 4 Algonquin Mt 5 Jul; max 20 WF 13 Jun (MG); 2 Saddleback Mt 12 Jul.

Swainson's Thrush: max 23 Algonquin Mt 5 Jul; 20 WF 13 Jun.

Hermit Thrush: max 10 BB 20 Jun.

Wood Thrush: BB 7-8 Jun; 2 RFR 18 Jul; Keene Valley 22 Jul.

Gray Catbird: max 10 Schroon L 1 Jul.

N. Mockingbird: Plattsburgh thru (NO), only report.

Brown Thrasher: IL 1 & 16 Jul LM); 2 RFR 18 Jul (HVZ, RS).

Cedar Waxwing: max 50 BC 23 Aug (NR).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: max 15 Schroon L 2 Jul (JI).

N. Waterthrush: 2 Blue Mt 16 Jun; 2

California Rd 26 Jun; 2 BB 7 Jul.

Blue-winged Warbler: Essex 14 Jun (BM).

Tennessee Warbler: 2 FB 18 Aug (MMa, RD, WF); SL 26 Aug (AB).

Nashville Warbler: max 21 SPB 15 Jul (SM).

Com. Yellowthroat: max 15 CRF 19 Jul (BD).

Am. Redstart: max 10 Indian L 17 Jun (JSo).

Cape May Warbler: IL 1 Jun (LM); SL 30 Aug (AB).

N. Parula: max 9 Algonquin Mt 5 Jul (CC).

Magnolia Warbler: max 18 IL 21 Jul (LM).

Bay-breasted Warbler: IL 31 Jul (J&PT); FB 18 Aug (MMa, WFi).

Blackburnian Warbler: max 9 Giant Mt 6 Jul (CB).

Yellow Warbler: max 14 RFR 4 Jun (RS).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 9 WF 13 Jun; 9 IL 21 Jul.

Blackpoll Warbler: 12 WF 13 Jun (MG); max 24 Blue Mt 19 Jun (DA); 19 Algonquin Mt 5 Jul (CC).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 20 Algonquin Mt 5 Jul (CC).

Palm Warbler: 4 PS 1 Jun; max 14 BB 13 Jun (MG); 8 Osgood R 4 Jul.

Pine Warbler: max 5 Kildare Rd 7 Jul (SF).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 15 Squaw L 13 Aug (GDa).

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 14 Giant Mt 6 Jul (CB).

Canada Warbler: max 4 SLB 11 Jul (SF); 4 Squaw L 13 Aug (GDa).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 3 DC 4 Jun (RS); Altona 12 Jun (JSt).

Chipping Sparrow: max 20 Schroon L 2 Jul.

Field Sparrow: 2 BB 15 Jul; OK Slip Pond 25 Jul.

Vesper Sparrow: 4 RFR 18 Jul (HVZ, RS).

Savannah Sparrow: max 10 Keene Valley 3 Jul (JI).

Song Sparrow: max 16 IL 1 Jun (LM).

Lincoln's Sparrow: 3 IL 2 Jun; Oseetah L 5 Jun; BB 14 Jun; max 5 FB 26 Jun.

Swamp Sparrow: max 15 AM 27 Aug.

White-throated Sparrow: max 20 Algonquin Mt 5 Jul.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 22 Blue Mt 19 Jun.

Scarlet Tanager: max 4 Willis Pond Rd 12 Jul (SF).

N. Cardinal: 2 Raquette L 28 Jul (RGW).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 6 RFR 28 Aug (HVZ, RS).

Indigo Bunting: max 25 WRS 17 Aug (AB, MMe).

Bobolink: max 30 DC 4 Jun (RS); 28 Ft Ticonderoga 15 Aug; 25 CR 18 Aug.

E. Meadowlark: max 8 RFR 5 Jul (HVS, RS).

Rusty Blackbird: FB 8 Jun; 15 Elizabethtown 20 Aug (M&SP); 19 BB 27 Aug (AB).

Com. Grackle: max 20 RFR 4 Jul; 16 IL 21 Jul.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 20 Essex 21 Jun.

Baltimore Oriole: 4 DC 4 Jun (RS); 3 AM 19 Jun.

Pine Grosbeak: CRF 17 Jul (GL).

Purple Finch: 22 banded Inlet 24-25 Aug (GL); 10 IL 21 Jul.

Red Crossbill: Inlet 27 Jun; Osgood R 1 Jul; 2 Schroon L 2 Jul; SB 21 Aug.

Pine Siskin: IL 1 Jun & 9 Jul (LM); 2 Big Slide Mt 19 Jun (PJ).

Am. Goldfinch: max 25 RFR 18 Jul.

