

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The fall of 2013 in Region 7 began with a fairly typical September, with temperatures and precipitation just slightly below normal. High temperatures of 86° F in Lake Placid and 93° in Peru on the 11th and 12th culminated in severe storms that brought as much as an inch of rain to places across the Region. In October temperatures rose to 2-3° above normal for the month, reaching a high of 78° in Peru on the 2nd, but a cold front at the end of the month brought temperatures down to the teens across the Region on the 29th. Precipitation was slightly below normal again, though up to 6" of snow fell during the month at higher elevations, and 1" fell in Lake Placid on the 24th. The Champlain Valley did not see its first snowfall until November, when just 0.7" fell during the month. Other parts of the Region had more significant snowfall, with 4" in Inlet on the 11th and 9" for the month in Indian Lake, resulting in above average precipitation for the month. November was a harsh beginning to a long winter, as temperatures averaged 4-5° below normal for the Region and dropped below zero at the end of the month. Temperatures ranged from highs in the 60s at the beginning of the month to -9° in Newcomb on the 30th. Severe cold and wind at the end of November had a noticeable impact on birds, most notably on loons, which literally began falling from the sky as a result of the severe weather. The first loon to fall was a Red-throated Loon that was found near Catamount Mountain on the 24th, and by the end of November ten more Red-throated and four Common loons were reported to be stranded in the Region. Six of these birds were too emaciated to be rehabilitated, but eight were captured and released on larger bodies of water by licensed rehabilitator Nina Schoch.

The early cold weather of November pushed some of our winter birds into the Region, including the first Northern Shrike on 3 November, Snow Buntings as early as 25 October, and the first of the many Snowy Owls to come on 26 November. Snow Geese were present by the thousands in the northern Champlain Valley throughout October and November but were seen flying south by the thousands on 28 and 29 November when a cold front pushed through. Good numbers of Ross's Geese were reported amongst the flocks this year as well.

Waterfowl migration was well reported this season, with dabbling reports peaking in early October. Highlights include five Ruddy Ducks between Port Henry and Crown Point, and a Long-tailed Duck on Lake Colby. All three species of scoters were reported in late October, all from Lake Champlain except one report of a White-winged Scoter on Lake Placid on the 31st. Wading birds had a particularly strong year, with numerous reports of Great Egrets from Ausable Point and Chazy Riverlands. As many as eight were seen at Ausable on 10 September, with the last one being seen on 15 October, a late date for Clinton County. Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported in Fort Covington and

Alderon Marsh in northern Franklin County on 29 September and 13 October, respectively. An immature Sandhill Crane was discovered in a corn field in Beekmantown by an amateur photographer on 24 October and was seen by numerous birders while it lingered there until 23 November.

Shorebirds were again well reported from the Chazy Riverlands, as well as a number of other places in the Region. The highlight from the Riverlands was an immature Hudsonian Godwit that stopped over on 17-20 September, the first record in the county since 1998. An American Golden-Plover was seen there on 1 September, an early record for the county, and another was seen at Noblewood on the 9th. Yellowlegs were reported from a number of sites along Lake Champlain, but a report of a Lesser Yellowlegs from Lewey Lake on 15 September is notable. Solitary Sandpipers were well reported from inland locations including Bellmont, Long Lake, and Bloomingdale Bog. Seven species of gulls were reported from Lake Champlain this fall, including Glaucous, Little, and Lesser-Black Backed Gulls.

A notable absence from this fall's reports is any record of the raptor migration. Each fall there are usually reports of migrating raptors from sights such as Coon, Noonmark, or Poke-O-Moonshine Mountains. I did ascend Coon Mountain on a windy day in mid-September in hopes of seeing raptors but think it was a bit too early in the season. All raptor reports for the season are from low-lying areas, with no more than two individuals of a species reported from one location. There was one Golden Eagle report from Essex on 23 November and one Red-Shouldered Hawk report from Crown Point on 15 September. A Peregrine Falcon was seen twice at Port Henry in November wreaking havoc among the waterfowl that were concentrated there. Rough-legged Hawks were first reported in Essex on 3 November, with two individuals there by the 8th. While hawks were under-reported, there were a good number of owl reports. Along with the first of many Snowy Owls, two Short-eared Owls were first reported from their usual spot in Essex on 8 November. Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded at two locations in the Region this fall, Intervale Lowlands by Nina Schoch and Inlet by Gary Lee. A total of 29 birds were banded at IL, and 15 were banded in Inlet. A Great-Horned Owl also took up residence at IL from 17 September-3 November. Intervale Lowlands was also visited by a **Lark Sparrow** on 2 September, only the second record in the county.

The most common Regional specialties, such as Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, and Boreal Chickadee, were widely reported from boreal habitats this season. Good numbers of Bicknell's Thrush were reported from Whiteface Mountain and Wright Peak into mid-September. There were no Three-toed Woodpecker or Spruce Grouse reports. A maximum of 10 Lincoln's Sparrows was reported from Bloomingdale Bog on 14 September, and two were banded in Inlet on 8 September. The most promising news from this season is the large number of Rusty Blackbird reports in the Region. Flocks of 50 birds were reported at Ausable Point and Alderon Marsh, while smaller numbers were reported from Sabattis Bog, Lewey Lake, and Bombay. This species is easily overlooked and therefore often under-reported, so it is encouraging to see a good number of reports, even though the species used to be far more abundant in the

Region. Perhaps the attention paid to this bird's decline in recent years is encouraging people to more eagerly seek out these birds.

A total of 190 species was reported this season, a good number that is just shy of the record of 194 and well above last year's total of 167.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AM – Alderon Marsh; AP – Ausable Pt; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CRL – Chazy Riverlands; FB – Ferd's Bog; FC – Fort Covington; GBM – Gilbert Brook Marina; IL – Intervale Lowlands; LP – Lake Placid; LL – Long L; MRP – Moose River Plains; NP – Noblewood P; PS – Paul Smiths; PtR – Point Au Roche SP; RTT – Roosevelt Truck Trail; SB – Sabattis Bog; SL – Saranac L; SPB – Spring Pond Bog; TL – Tupper L; WD – Wilcox Dock; WLS – Willis Lake Swamp; WRS – Webb Royce Swamp.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr Chazy 9 Sep; max 7000 PtR 3

Nov; 3500 Monty's Bay 23 Nov.

Brant: AP 18 and 21 Nov (BM, GD), late rec CLIN.

Cackling Goose: CH 10 Oct; PtR 23 Oct (BK).

ROSS'S GOOSE (R7): Chazy 29 Oct; Trombly Bay 29 Oct & 4 Nov; 2 PtR 4 & 23 Nov; CH 8 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 25 AP 3 Sep (J&PT); last 10 CP 23 Oct (PJ).

Am. Wigeon: 3 PH 20 Oct (GC); last 5 CP 23 Oct (PJ).

Am. Black Duck: max 15 AM 13 Oct (LL, BS, MF).

Blue-winged Teal: 4 NP 3 Sep (J&PT); max 30 AM 13 Oct; last 7 Piseco L 30 Oct (L&BH).

N. Shoveler: 2 CRL 21 Sep; 4 AM 29 Sep; max 8 CP 23 Oct (PJ).

N. Pintail: CRL 25 Sep (BK).

Green-winged Teal: max 65 AM 1 Oct (LL, ZA, BS, MF); last 12 CP 23 Oct (PJ).

Redhead: 2 Bombay 24 Sep (HVZ, RS).

Ring-necked Duck: max 54 Piseco L 30 Oct (L&BH).

Greater Scaup: PtR 3 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: arr 6 Oct Meacham L; max 475 Kings Bay 23 Nov (JB, RG).

Surf Scoter: 5 Whallons Bay Oct 25 & 28 (PJ).

White-winged Scoter: 25 Westport 20 Oct; LP 31 Oct (LM).

Black Scoter: CH 9 Nov (BK).

Long-tailed Duck: 3 L Champlain 20 Oct; L Colby 28 Oct (AB).

Bufflehead: max 75 Wickham Marsh 23 Nov (JK).

Com. Goldeneye: max 200 Wickham Marsh 23 Nov (JK).

Hooded Merganser: 11 Piseco L 13 Nov; max 35 AP 25 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: 2 PH 20 Oct (GC); 3 CP 23 Oct (PJ).
Ring-necked Pheasant: WRS 13 Oct (MMe, SO, AB)
Red-throated Loon: AP 3 Nob (MF); Catamount Mt 24 Nov & Wells 29 Nov, brought down by windstorm, caught and released (NS, GL), *intro*.
Com. Loon: max 15 LL 2 Sep (SH).
Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 CRL 4 Sep (BK).
Horned Grebe: arr NP 14 Oct (MMe); max 8 AP 18 Oct (MB).
Red-necked Grebe: 3 L Champlain 20 Oct (mob).
Great Cormorant: imm CH 17 Oct (BK).
Am. Bittern: CRL 3-7 Sep (BK); Cedar R Flow 17 Sep.
Great Egret: CRL 3-7 & 25 Sep, 4 Oct (BK); AP 3 Sep-15 Oct, max 8 10 Sep (GD), late rec CLIN.
Cattle Egret: NP 5 Sep (AB).
Green Heron: last 2 Bombay 24 Sep (HVZ, RS).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: FC 29 Sep (BM); AM 13 Oct (LL, BS).
Turkey Vulture: last PtR 3 Nov (MF, JR, ZA).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last 3 Oct Wilmington (DS).
Bald Eagle: Indian L 14 Sep; 2 L Champlain 20 Oct; CP 24 Oct.
N. Harrier: CRL 1-25 Sep (BK).
Cooper's Hawk: IL 3 Sep; Lewey L 8 Sep (RGW).
Red-shouldered Hawk: CP 15 Sep (TT).
Broad-winged Hawk: last 5 Oct WLS (KC).
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Essex 3 Nov (ED); 2 Essex 8 Nov (J&PT).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): Essex 23 Nov (J&PT).
Virginia Rail: AM 13 Oct (LL, BS, MF)
Com. Gallinule: max 8 CRL 4 Sep (ZA).
Am. Coot: max 16 CP 23 Oct (PJ).
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): Beekmantown 24 Oct-23 Nov (AmB, mob).
Black-bellied Plover: 4 NP 20-21 Oct (GC, J&PT).
Am. Golden-Plover: CRL 1 Sep (GD). early rec CLIN; NP 9 Sep (J&PT).
Semipalmated Plover: 4 CRL 1-21 Sep; 6 NP 9 Sep; 8 PtR 22 Sep; last NP 14 Oct (MMe).
Spotted Sandpiper: last GBM 19 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: 3 LL 1-2 Sep (SH); 8 Bellmont 5 Sep (NR); last BB 15 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: PtR 8 Sep; 2 NP 8 Sep & 12 Oct; Westport 25 Oct; last 2 AP 8 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 CRL 9 Sep; Lewey L 15 Sep (MMo); last 3 Nov (AM).
HUDSONIAN GODWIT (R7): juv CRL 17-20 Sep (BK, GD), 1st since 1998.
Sanderling: CRL 1-5, 20 Sep, max 4 3 Sep; 6 NP 9 Sep (J&PT).
Dunlin: 4 CRL 20-21 Sep and 19 Oct (BK); 8 NP 20 Oct (GC); 2 AP 27 Oct (PJ).
Baird's Sandpiper: 2 CRL 3-7 Sep (BK).
Least Sandpiper: max 9 CRL 1-20 Sep (BK); 4 Bellmont 6 Sep (NR); NP 25 & 30 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 CRL 1-8 & 18 Sep (BK); NP 13 Oct; 3 PtR 3 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: Bellmont 1-2 Sep; max 3 NP 8 Sep (MMe, ED); 2 CRL 20 Sep.
Wilson's Snipe: max 4 FC 29 Sep (BM); last NP 21 Oct (J&PT).
Am. Woodcock: last IL 23 Oct (LM).
Bonaparte's Gull: 100 NP 3 Sep (J&PT); max 168 GBM 14 Sep (MMe, SO, AB).
Little Gull: NP 3-9 Sep (J&PT, AB).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: imm WD 12-13 Oct (PO); Saranac R 22 Nov (PO).
Glaucous Gull: imm Saranac R 22-26 Nov (PO).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 9 NP 13 Oct.
Com. Tern: 4 NP 3 Sep (J&PT); GBM 8 Sep.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Snowy Owl: arr Chazy 26 Nov (ED); CRL 30 Nov (GD).
Long-eared Owl: PS 1 Oct (VM, AGP).
Short-eared Owl: 2 Essex 8 Nov (PJ).
N. Saw-whet Owl: max 12 IL 28 Oct (LM); 29 banded IL thru (LM); 15 banded Inlet 11 Oct-8 Nov (GL).
Com. Nighthawk: Wright Peak 19 Sep (BL, RGW).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last LL 23 Sep (JC).
Belted Kingfisher: max 4 Chazy 1 Oct.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: NP 3 Oct (M&SP); Ticonderoga 12 Oct (MMe).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last 13 Oct Indian L (MMo).
Black-backed Woodpecker: BB 14 Sep; RTT 15 Sep; 2 FB 18 Sep; 3 SB 29 Oct.
Am. Kestrel: max 4 Essex 2 Sep; last Essex 21 Oct (J&PT).
Merlin: IL 3-5 Sep (LM); PtR 3 Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: Beekmantown 4 Nov; PH 3 & 25 Nov (ED, MMe); PtR 23 Nov (AB, SO).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last 2 FB 18 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 2 Wright Peak 19 Sep (BL, RGW).

Least Flycatcher: last Lewey L 8 Sep (RGW).

E. Phoebe: last Indian L 13 Oct (MMo).

N. Shrike: arr Essex 3 Nov (ED); Meacham L 9 Nov; PS 16 Nov.

Blue-headed Vireo: last Bellmont 23 Oct (NR).

Warbling Vireo: last NP 15 Sep (MMe).

Philadelphia Vireo: BB 17 Sep (ZA, LL).

Red-eyed Vireo: last FB 23 Sep (LH).

Gray Jay: max 12 BB 5 Sep (JC); 5 FB 18 Sep; SPB 13 Oct; SB 19 Oct.

Horned Lark: 30 Beekmantown 30 Nov (NO).

Tree Swallow: last NP 3 Sep (J&PT).

Bank Swallow: 1000+ CRL1 Sep (BK).

Boreal Chickadee: max 8 BB 5 Sep; MRP 6 Sep; 9 Great Range 12 Oct; 16 Haystack Mt 13 Oct; 4 RTT 11 Oct.

Tufted Titmouse: 3 NP 15 Sep.

House Wren: last 2 BB 14 Sep.

Winter Wren: last Indian L 16 Nov (MMo).

Carolina Wren: NP 5 Sep; Indian L 29 Sep; Plattsburgh 13-24 Oct;

Marsh Wren: last WRS 13 Oct.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 BB 4 Sep (AB).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 30 Great Range 12 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 7 IL 5 Oct.

E. Bluebird: max 8 Piseco L 18 Sep (L&BH).

Bicknell's Thrush: max 15 Whiteface Mt 5 Sep (JC); 2 Wright Peak 19 Sep (BL, RGW).

Swainson's Thrush: max 6 Adk Loj 24 Sep; last Whiteface Mt 13 Oct (CB).

Hermit Thrush: last Clarojast 21 Oct (JH).

Gray Catbird: max 4 IL 4 Sep; last Westport 21 Oct (J&PT).

Brown Thrasher: Piseco 6 Sep (L&BH); Roostercomb Mt 13 Sep (JSh).

Am. Pipit: NP 15 Sep (MMe); FC 29 Sep; Essex 13 Oct; 9 IL 3 Nov (LM); 12 AP 3 Nov (MF, JR, ZA).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: arr Minerva 25 Oct (JC); max 30 AP 3 Nov; 7th L 7 Nov; 25 PS 17 Nov.

Ovenbird: last NP 15 Sep (MMe).

Tennessee Warbler: SL 2-3 Sep; NP 15 Sep; last Baymont 24 Sep (HVZ, RS).

Nashville Warbler: last Piseco 12 Oct (JW).

Com. Yellowthroat: last WRS 13 Oct (AB).

Am. Redstart: last BB 17 Sep (ZA, MF, LL).

Cape May Warbler: 7 SL 3 Sep (AB); IL 3 Sep; 3 BB 4 & 17 Sep.

N. Parula: last Indian L 17 Sep (MMo).

Magnolia Warbler: last Wright Peak 19 Sep (BL, RGW).

Bay-breasted Warbler: 2 SL 3 Sep (AB); last BB 15-17 Sep.

Blackburnian Warbler: last Adk Loj 24 Sep (ZS).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Keene 13 Sep (MMc).

Blackpoll Warbler: last BB 5 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last LP 15 Oct (LM).

Palm Warbler: max 11 BB 14 Sep (LS); last Essex 9 Oct (JC, SO, TM).

Pine Warbler: Gadway 6 Sep (NO); 2 Lewey L 8 Sep (RGW); last 8 PS 28 Sep (ZA).

Black-throated Green Warbler: last Indian L 6 Oct (MMo).

Canada Warbler: SL 3 Sep (AB); last BB 20 Sep (LL, MF, ZA).

Wilson's Warbler: SL 3 Sep (AB); IL 3 Sep (LM, BM); last BB 14 Sep (LS).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Bombay 24 Sep; AM 29 Sep; last SL 25 Oct (AB).

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr IL 29 Oct (AB); max 85 Essex 29 Nov (WR).

Chipping Sparrow: last CP 14 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: 2 IL 5 & 29 Oct (AB, LM).

LARK SPARROW: IL 2 Sep (LM, J&PT), 2nd rec ESSE.

Savannah Sparrow: last 3 Essex 13 Oct (MMe, SO).

Nelson's Sparrow: AM 1 Oct (LL, ZA).

Fox Sparrow: 3 WLS 12 Oct (KC); 2 Bombay 28 Oct (RS).

Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 Inlet 8 Sep, banded (GL); MRP 18 Sep; max 10 BB 14 Sep; last LL 5 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: last SB 19 Oct (JC).

White-crowned Sparrow: LL 24 Sep; max 7 Indian L 5 Oct; 6 IL 5 Oct; last Bombay 28 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Bellmont 5 Sep (NR); Inlet 20-27 Sep, 4 banded (GL).

Bobolink: Indian L 18 Sep (L&BH).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 600 AM 1 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: 5 Lewey L 8 Sep; 6 FC 29 Sep; 50 AP 9 Oct; 50 AM 13 Oct; 10 SB 15 Oct; 3 L Colby 3 Nov, SL 15 Nov thru.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 2 Piseco 6 Sep.

Purple Finch: max 5 BB 14 Sep (LS).

Red Crossbill: Wright Peak 12 Oct (CB).

Pine Siskin: Adk Loj 24 Sep (ZS); 3 WLS 4 Oct (KC); 10 Haystack Mt 13 Oct.

Evening Grosbeak: BB 14 Sep (LS).