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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The winter of 2014 began with warmer than normal temperatures. In December, temperatures for the Region averaged 1-4° F above normal. The warmest temperature in the Region was 53.5°, recorded in Ellenburg Depot. The Region was also wetter than normal in December. Precipitation ranged from 90% of normal in the Northern Plateau to 150% of normal in northern Champlain Valley. January ushered in colder than normal temperatures throughout the Region. Temperatures ranged from 1-2° colder than normal for the Champlain Valley to 4-6(8)° colder than normal in the Northern Plateau. Precipitation ranged from near average to a low of 50% of normal in portions of the Northern Plateau. February was an extraordinarily cold month, with many areas experiencing the coldest February ever recorded. Temperatures for the Region averaged 12-16° below normal. Precipitation ranged from 70% to 90% of

normal throughout the Region.

This winter was marked by numerous migrant species reported well beyond their usual departure dates, especially throughout the Champlain Valley. A Wood Duck was reported from Essex County as late as 14 February. As a reference, the record sighting for Wood Ducks in Clinton County is 4 February. Additional lingering species included a Red-shouldered Hawk reported from Port Henry on 10 January, a Hermit Thrush reported from Westport on 12 December, a Northern Flicker reported from Ticonderoga on 24 February, a Winter Wren reported from Haystack Mountain on 11 January, an E. Meadowlark reported from Essex on 16 December thru 4 January, and Song, Savannah, and White-throated Sparrows reported several times each throughout the Champlain Valley

Waterfowl highlights included 3000 Snow Geese reported from Chazy on 12 December, a N. Shoveler and a Red-breasted Merganser that were each reported once from Lake Champlain, a **Barrow's Goldeneye** reported from Cumberland Head on 9 and 11 December and from Bulwagga Bay on 28 December, and a **Red-necked Grebe** reported from Ticonderoga on 26 February.

Abundance and diversity of irruptive boreal species were modest this winter. Red Crossbills were reported several times from the High Peaks region, with a high count of 52 on 3 January from Lake Placid. The only report of White-winged Crossbills was from Saranac Lake on 26 January. The high count of Common Redpolls was 250, reported from Intervale Lowlands on 2 February. There were several reports of Pine Siskins throughout the Region, with the high count of 50 reported from Maple Meadows on 26 February. Only a single Evening Grosbeak was reported from the Region this season. Interestingly, there were no reports of Snowy Owls, which is a stark contrast to the many reports from the previous winter.

On the other hand, abundance and diversity of overwintering boreal stalwarts were at or near expectations. Snow Buntings were reported from several locations throughout the Region, with the high count of 155 reported from Westport on 13 December. Horned Larks were also reported from several locations throughout the Region. Bohemian Waxwings were first reported in early February from the Saranac Lake area. The high count of 74 Bohemian Waxwings was reported from Bloomingdale on 14 February. Individual N. Shrikes were widely reported from the Region from early December through mid-February.

Other notable sightings included a **Short-eared Owl** reported from Westport on 5 and 8 December, a **Iceland Gull** and three **Glaucous Gulls** reported on 14 December from Plattsburgh and Chazy respectively, a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** reported several times from 14 December thru 19 January, and a **Lapland Longspur** reported from Westport on 16 December and Chazy Riverlands on 15 January.

A total of 97 species was reported this winter, 12 shy of the current winter

season record of 109 species.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt; BK – Beekmantown; BD – Bloomingdale; BBg – Bloomingdale Bog; BBay – Bulwagga Bay; CP – Crown Pt; CH – Chazy; CR – Chazy Riverlands; ES – Essex; HayStMtn – Haystack Mountain; IndLk – Indian L; IL – Intervale Lowlands; KN – Keene; LkAl – Lake Alice WMA; LC – La Chute; LkCham – Lake Champlain; LP – Lake Placid; MM – Maple Meadows; NP – Noblewood Pk; OseeLk – Oseetah L; PU – Peru; PB – Plattsburgh; PS – Paul Smiths; PtAuR – Point Au Roche; PH – Port Henry; PK – Port Kent; RPt – Rouses Pt; SabtsBg – Sabattis Bog; SB – Sandy Beach; SL – Saranac L; TI – Ticonderoga; VV – Vermontville; WebSw – Webb Royce Swamp, WP – Westport; WB – Whallons Bay Rd; WL – Willsboro.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 3000 CH 12 Dec (BK); 2500 WL 14 Dec (GCh).

Wood Duck: 2 TI 17 Jan G&MC; MM 14 Feb (SR).

Am. Black Duck: max 25 MM 12 Feb (SR).

N. Shoveler: CP 11 Dec (SR), only report.

Redhead: 3 WP 25 Jan (GCh), only report.

Ring-necked Duck: max 7 WP 25 Jan (GCh).

Lesser Scaup: AP 14 Dec (SR); max 4 ES 25 Jan (GCh).

Long-tailed Duck: PB 9 Dec (BK), only report.

Bufflehead: max 47 WP 2 Jan (GCh).

Com. Goldeneye: max 850 SB 13 Dec (SR); PB 1 Jan (NO).

Barrow's Goldeneye: CumHd 9 & 11 Dec (BK); BBay 28 Dec (ED & MMc).

Hooded Merganser: max 14 AP 1 Jan (JO).

Com. Merganser: max 750 RPt 26 Dec (DR).

Red-breasted Merganser: PH 4 Jan. (GCh), only report.

Com. Loon: max 3 NP 26 Jan (AB), multiple reports on LkCham.

Red-necked Grebe: TI 26 Feb (G&MC).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 4 SB 13 Dec (SR).

HAWKS - LARIDS

Bald Eagle: max 6 ES 22 Jan (ZT); 2 SL 15 Feb (M&TF); multiple reports along LkCham.

N. Harrier: max 2 WB 4 Dec (SR).

Red-shouldered Hawk: PH 10 Jan (SR), only report.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 4 WP 16 Dec (GCh); 2 WebSw 2 Jan (AC)

Am. Coot: max 5 PH 14 Dec (GCh).

Iceland Gull: PB 14 Dec (BM, BK).

Glaucous Gull: max 3 CH 14 Dec (BK); CH 21 Feb (AB).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 60 CH 14 Dec (BK).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

E. Screech-Owl: WS 20 Dec (GCh); NP 26 Jan (AB).

Great Horned Owl: TI 14 Dec (GCh); IndLk 15 Feb (MMo).

Barred Owl: WS 4 Dec (SR); TI 21 Dec (SR); KN 15 Jan (J&PT).

Short-eared Owl: 2 WB 5 Dec (AB); WP 8 Dec (J&PT).

N. Saw-whet Owl: KN 19 Dec (J&PT), only report.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (R7): WP 14 Dec (GCh); TI 3 Jan (SR); NP 19 Jan (GCh).

Black-backed Woodpecker: max 4 VV 23 Jan (ES).

N. Flicker: CH 1 Jan (JO); WP 31 Jan (BM); TI 24 Feb (GCh).

Merlin: NP 21 Feb (AB), only report.

Peregrine: TI 21 Dec (SR); CP 2 Jan (GCh).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: PtAuR 14 Dec (TM); WP 14 Dec (GCh); IndLk 18 Jan (MMo).

Gray Jay: max 9 BBg 14 Dec (D&AB); multiple reports from BBg, LkClr, and SabtsBg.

Horned Lark: max 50 CP 4 Jan (SR); 14 CR 25 Jan (BK), multiple reports from WP.

Boreal Chickadee: 2 BBg 10 Jan (B&RB);

Tufted Titmouse: BK 1 Dec thru 6 Feb (MB); max 5 TI 1 Jan (GC).

Winter Wren: HayStMtn 11 Jan (GD).

Carolina Wren: PK 9 Dec (DB); WP 14 Dec (GCh); PH 16 Dec (GC); SL 21 Dec (RB).

E. Bluebird: 4 WB 4 Dec (SR); max 8 LkAl 1 Jan (JO); 3 2 Feb (SR).

Hermit Thrush: WP 12 Dec (SR), only report.

N. Mockingbird: PB 26 Dec (DR); TI 4 Jan (GCh); only reports.

Bohemian Waxwings: max 74 BD 14 Feb (A&DB); 55 WP 23 Feb (SR).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: WP 16 Dec (SR); CR 15 Jan (BK).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 5 CH 12 Dec (BK); 15 PH 16 Dec (GCh); max 22 SL 9 Jan (GD);

Savannah Sparrow: TI 16 Dec (GCh); WP 21 Dec (SR).

Song Sparrow: CH 12 Dec (BK); ES 14 Dec (GCh); max 5 PH 16 Dec (GCh).

White-throated Sparrow: TI 4 Feb (GC); max 3 SL 11 Feb (RB).

Snow Bunting: max 155 WP 13 Dec (SR); 60 WP 15 Jan (SR); 50 CR 25 Jan (BK).

Red-winged Blackbird: CH 12 Dec (BK), only report.

E. Meadowlark: ES 16 Dec thru 4 Jan (GCh).

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 5 SL 21 Dec (AB).

Purple Finch: 2 TI 30 Jan (M&GC), only report.

Red Crossbill: max 52 LP 3 Jan (LP); 15 PS 3 Jan (BM), thru 23 Feb.

White-winged Crossbill: 3 SL 26 Jan (AB), only report.

Com. Redpoll: max 250 IL 2 Feb (LM); multiple reports from SL.

Pine Siskin: 4 PU 13 Feb (BP); max 50 MM 26 Feb (SR).

Evening Grosbeak: OseeLk 13 Jan (GD), only report.