

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The unusually warm winter of 2016-2017 was followed by a March that was 3° - 5° F colder than average. Rainfall equivalent for the month, due in large part to the blizzard of the 15th, was 3"-4" greater than normal in the Valley and 5"-6" in the mountains. April returned to the winter's warm trend, with temperatures 3°-5° warmer than average throughout the Region. Precipitation in April averaged 4"-5", or 1"-2" greater than normal. In rollercoaster fashion May was colder than normal by 1°-3°. Precipitation throughout the Region varied from 4"-5" in the Valley to 6"-7" in the High Peaks area to 8"-9" in a small portion of SW Essex County. Sunshine for the season (unofficial) averaged 30% less than spring 2016.

As a result of the warm winter, the broad areas of Lake Champlain did not freeze over in 2017. In the north end of the lake the "permanent" ice sheet extended only to Point au Roche. For only the second time in more than 45 years Treadwell Bay was free from permanent ice. The same was true at the south end of the lake, which was free of permanent ice from Crown Point north. The lack of ice allowed waterfowl, grebes, loons, and gulls to disperse over larger than average areas rather than concentrate at the mouths of rivers or follow the edge of the receding ice sheet. Still numbers and variety in March and early April were not adversely affected.

The lake level went from a low of 97.7' on 27 March to a high of 99.7' in the third week of April. Unfortunately it was still at 98' on 31 May. Thus there was never any exposed mudflat at the Chazy Riverlands, which accounts for the poor shorebird showing this spring. Reports from Noblewood Park were also

spare.

This season marked the 42nd consecutive year the Crown Point Banding Station (CPBS) operated. The 2017 season opened on 5 May and closed on 20 May. Temperatures averaged lower than normal and rainfall was three inches above normal. There were only two twenty four hour periods without any rain. The station banded 59 species, down from 60 in 2016, and 601 individuals, down from 954 the previous year. Warbler species were also down from 18 in 2016 to 12 this year. This dramatic drop is reflected in several anecdotal reports that this was a disappointing year for warblers in the Champlain Valley.

The founder of the CPBS, J. M. C. “Mike” Peterson, died on 2 May 2017. *Ave atque vale* Mike.

Highlights for Region 7 included: a report of two **Barnacle Geese**, a **first for Clinton County** and only the second for Region 7, on 18 March in the town of Plattsburgh; an **Eurasian Wigeon** 15 April at the Chazy Riverlands; **Tufted Duck** at Crown Point on 1 March; two separate sightings of **Golden Eagle** on 13 March and 17 May at Plattsburgh and Peru, respectively; at least four reports of **Sandhill Crane**, including evidence that the species has bred again in the Tupper Lake region; only the second spring record of **Black-headed Gull** for the Region; the Keene **Great Gray Owl**, which stayed until 29 March; and a rare spring appearance of **Connecticut Warbler** in Owls Head.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt; AM – Alderon Marsh; AT – Altona; BC – Belmont Center; BG – Bloomingdale Bog; BkP – Black Pd; BMR – Blue Mountain; BT – Brown’s Tract; BP – Burnum Pd, CH – Cumberland Head; CL – Clorojast; CPd Connery Pd; CN – Constable; CP – Crown Pt, CZ – Chazy; CR – Chazy Riverlands; DR – Deer Ri; DI – Dickinson; EC – Essex Co; Es – Essex; FB – Ferd’s Bog; FR – Fiske Rd, Chazy; FtC – Fort Covington Marsh; GMt – Giant Mountain; HH – Heath Hill Rd; HR – Highlands Rd; HB – Holsington Beach; JD – John Dillon Pk; Ilk – Indian L; IL – Intervale Lowlands; KN – Keene; KB

– Kings Bay; LA - Lake Alice; LAB – Lake Abanakee; LAr – Lake Arnold; LAT – Little Ausable Ri Trail; LC – La Chute; LCI– Lake Clear; LCo – Lake Colby; LP – Lake Placid; LPI – Lake Pleasant; LPd – Long Pd; MM – Maple Meadows; MD – Mount Defiance; MP – Madawaska Pd; MR – Moffitt Rd; MV – Mountain View; NP – Noblewood Pk; PU – Peru; PB – Plattsburgh; PS – Paul Smiths; PSp – Palm Springs Dr; PtF – Point au Fer; PtR – Point Au Roche SP; PH – Port Henry; PC – Putts Creek; SH – Saint Home; SR – Salmon River; SbB – Sabattis Bog; SC – Sabattis Circle; SB – Sandy Beach; SL – Saranac L; TI – Ticonderoga; TB - Trombly Bay; TL – Tupper L; Valley – Champlain Valley; WRS – Webb Royce Swamp; WI – Willsboro; WP – Westport; WMt– Whiteface Mountain; WM – Wickham Marsh.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: last CR 13 May (MMd).
Ross's Goose: 2 MR 19 Mar (SR).
Brant: 25 CH 22 May (BK).
BARNACLE GOOSE: 2 MR 18 Mar (SR, CG, ED), 1st CLIN, 2nd Reg record.
Cackling Goose: TB 12 Mar (SR, CG), early CLIN; MR 20 Mar (SR).
Mute Swan: 4 CR 18 May (BK).
Tundra Swan: 2 CN 8 May (SP).
Wood Duck: 4 AP 5 Apr (BK).
Gadwall: 3 AP 18 Mar (SR).
EURASIAN WIGEON (R7): CR 15 Apr (BK).
Am. Wigeon: 3 CP 8 Mar (SR).
Am. Black Duck: max 60 CP 8 Mar (SR).
Blue-winged Teal: arr CR 22 Apr (MB).
N. Shoveler: 2 WM 23 Apr (GC).
N. Pintail: 2 Ti 4 Apr (SR).
Green-winged Teal: 8 CR 7 May (MB).
Canvasback: 4 CP 8 Mar (SR).
Redhead: 3 CP 8 Mar (SR).
Ring-necked Duck: max 3000 KB (JB, RL).
TUFTED DUCK: CP 1 Mar (DG).
Greater Scaup: 200 CP 8 Mar (SR).
Lesser Scaup: max 800 CP 8 Mar (SR).
scaup sp: max 1500 CP 8 Mar (SR).
Surf Scoter: 2 BP 30 Apr (BM); 3 NP 7 May (SR).
White-winged Scoter: arr 2 AP 6 Mar (SR), early CLIN.
Black Scoter: 2 LCo 5 May (ABI).
Long-tailed Duck: max 7 Lab 4 Apr (MM).
Bufflehead: max 25 AP 11 Apr (BK).
Com. Goldeneye: 150 CH 24 Mar (BK).
Barrow's Goldeneye: CB 26 Mar (GC).
Hooded Merganser: max 25 ILk 29 Mar (MM).
Com. Merganser: max 800 CP 8 Mar (SR).

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 AP 12 Apr (SR); 4 WP 7 May (GC).
Ruddy Duck: AP 7 Apr (BK); max 5 WP 7 May (GC).
Ring-necked Pheasant: WRS 23 Apr (GCh).
Wild Turkey: max 12 ILk 30 Mar (MM).
Red-throated Loon: 2 HB 12 May (SB, MMd).
Com. Loon: arr AP 11 Apr (BK).
Pied-billed Grebe: arr 2 AP 11 Apr (KM).
Horned Grebe: 2 CH 29 Mar (BK); max 6 AP 20 Apr (SR).
Red-necked Grebe: TL 1 May (ABI); max 16 6 May (SR).
Double-crested Cormorant: 3 AP 7 Apr (BK); 9 AP 13 May (MMd).
Am. Bittern: WM 27 Apr (SR).
Least Bittern: 1 SC 27 May (NO).
Great Blue Heron: arr Chazy 29 Mar (BK); max 8 AP 31 Mar (BK).
Great Egret: arr loc 5 Apr.
Green Heron: PtR 6 May (KA, JH).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr PtR 15 Apr (KA).
Turkey Vulture: max 6 Peru 11 May (BK).

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: max 6 AP 9 Apr (BK).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): LAB 8 Mar (MM); Pl 13 Mar (PO).
Bald Eagle: PtF 23 Apr (BK); PtF 10 May (SR).
N. Harrier: arr AP 8 Mar (SR).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: PtR 6 May (JH).
Cooper's Hawk: CH 13 Apr (SJ).
N. Goshawk: BB 1 Apr (PT).
Red-shouldered Hawk: RW 4 may (MB).
Broad-winged Hawk: RW 19 Apr (BK).
Red-tailed Hawk: MR 18 Mar (ED).

Rough-legged Hawk: MR 18 Mar (GC).
Virginia Rail: 2 FR 10 May (SR).
Sora: CR 13 May (GC, SR).
Com. Gallinule: arr CR 27 Apr (BK).
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): LC 22 Apr (ABl);
 PU 24 Apr (GC); SR 29 Apr (JS).
Semipalmated Plover: LAb 28 May (MM).
Black-bellied Plover: CR 17 May (MB).
Spotted Sandpiper: CH 17 May (SJ).
Solitary Sandpiper: 13 LA 13 May (GC, SR).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr CR 16 Apr (BK).
Lesser Yellowlegs: CR 22 Apr IMB); max 14
 CR 18 May (BK).
Least Sandpiper: 2 MP 12 May (JP).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: CR 18 May (BK).
Short-billed Dowitcher: CR 17 May (BK).
Wilson's Snipe: WRS 23 Apr (GC).
Am. Woodcock: CP 5-16 May (CPBS).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 200 WP 7 May
 (SR,ED).
BLACK-HEADED GULL (R7): CR 17 Apr
 (BK).
Great Black-backed Gull: 2 AP 7 Apr (BK).
Caspian Tern: arr 3 AP 12 Apr (SR), early
 CLIN.
Black Tern: 16 FtC 29 May (JS).
Com. Tern: max 16 SB 7 May (GC).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Black-billed Cuckoo: HH 23 MAY (EW).
E. Screech Owl: AP 18 Apr (GC, SR).
Great Horned Owl: IL 9 Apr (TP).
Barred Owl: LA 13 May (GC).
GREAT GRAY OWL: last Keene 29 Mar
 (mob).
Long-eared Owl: SLB 23 Apr (ABl).
N. Saw-whet Owl: SLB 23 Apr (Alb).
Com. Nighthawk: arr PH 22 May (SR).
E. Whip-poor-will: 2 EC 29 May (MC).
Chimney Swift: 4 PL 20 Apr (NO).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: CH 12 May
 (SJ).
Belted Kingfisher: arr AP 11 Apr (BK).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: CH 15 Mar (BK),
 SJ; 2 PU 10 May (PO); AP 13 May (MMd).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: AP 11 Apr (BK).
Black-backed Woodpecker: BB 15 Apr (PT).
N. Flicker: 2AP 30 Apr (GC).
Pileated Woodpecker: CH 1 Apr (BK).
Am. Kestrel: IL 13 Apr (MM).
Merlin: RW 1 Mar (BK).
Peregrine Falcon: CP 11 Apr (SR); PU 13
 MAY (MMd).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 FB 30 May (JG).
E. Wood-Pewee: 1 CL 21 May (JH).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: PS 18 May (BMc).
Alder Flycatcher: 2 BT 31 May (J&PT).
Willow Flycatcher: KN 21 May (J&PT).
Least Flycatcher: WF 28 May (JC).
E. Phoebe: 2 BB 10 Apr (EW).
Great Crested Flycatcher: 2 PtF 12 May
 (BK).
E. Kingbird: PtR 6 May (JH).
N. Shrike: last DR 14 Apr (ABl).
Yellow-throated Vireo: CPd 21 May (GC).
Blue-headed Vireo: AP 30 Apr (GC).
Warbling Vireo: 2 LA 29 Apr (EB).
Philadelphia Vireo: WF 28 May (JC).
Red-eyed Vireo: WF 28 May (JC).
Gray Jay: 2 SB 3 Apr (DH); BB 15 APR
 (BMc).
Blue Jay: max 120 18 May (CM).
Fish Crow: PK 6 May (SR); RW 13 May (GC,
 SR).
Com. Raven: TB 1 Apr (BK).
Horned Lark: 12 IL 25 Mar (MM).
Purple Martin: arr 27 May.
Tree Swallow: 24 AP 7 Apr (BK).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr AP 11 Apr
 (KMc).
Bank Swallow: LA 13 May (GC).
Cliff Swallow: LA 10 May (SR).
Barn Swallow: AP 12 Apr (SR).
Boreal Chickadee: JD 9 APR (TP).
Tufted Titmouse: CR 20 Apr (SR).
House Wren: CH 16 Apr (SJ).
Winter Wren: 2 PC 15 Apr (SR).
Carolina Wren: 1 CH 21 Mar NO; AP 13 May
 (MMd).
Marsh Wren: 2 PtF 12 May (BK).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: AP 30 Apr (GC).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 35 PtR 12 Apr
 (SR).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 3 AP 11 Apr (BK).
Veery: LA 13 May (GC).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: CP 5-16 May (CPBS).
Bicknell's Thrush: 3 WF 28 May (JC).
Swainson's Thrush: CL 21 May (JH).
Hermit Thrush: AP 16 Apr (SC).
Wood Thrush: RW 13 May (GC, SR),
Gray Catbird: LPI 7 May (JWM).
Brown Thrasher: PSp 6 May (GC).
N. Mockingbird: PL 28 Apr (BK).
Am. Pipit: 2 LCo 10 Apr (ABl).
Bohemian Waxwing: 2 SL 4 Apr (ABl); 12 IL
 24 Mar (LM).
Cedar Waxwing: 20 SH 4 Apr (ABl).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: last LC 2 Apr (ABl).
Snow Bunting: 5 TB 18 Mar (GC).
Ovenbird: 3 LA 13 May (GC).
Louisiana Waterthrush: WI 6 May (SR).
N. Waterthrush: WI 6 May (SR).
Golden-winged Warbler: Es 13 May (BMc).
Blue-winged Warbler: arr 12 May.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: WR 12 May (SR).
“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Es 13 May (BMc).
Black-and-White Warbler: CP 29 Apr (SR).
Tennessee Warbler: SB 20 May (MY).
Nashville Warbler: IL 1 May (MM).
Connecticut Warbler: MV 30 May (JT).
Mourning Warbler: SC 18 May (JC).
Com. Yellowthroat: PSp 6 May (GC).
Am. Redstart: 2 LA 10 May (SR).
Cape May Warbler: 2 CF 29 Apr (MB).
N. Parula: 2 PtF 13 May (GC, SR).
Magnolia Warbler: SB 20 May (MC).
Bay-breasted Warbler: PS 18 May (BMc); 2 AR 31 May (LG).
Blackburnian Warbler: early CLIN date CH 30 Apr (BK).
Yellow Warbler: max 13 LA 13 May (GC).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: LPI 27 May (JWM).
Blackpoll Warbler: LP 24 May (LW).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: HR 6 May (SR).
Palm Warbler: 3 AP 30 Apr (GC).
Pine Warbler: arr 2 11Apr (BK).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 2 AP 16 AP (SC).
Prairie Warbler: EC 29 May (MC).

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr KN 27 Apr (J&PT).
Canada Warbler: SB 20 May (MY).
Wilson’s Warbler: K 17 May (J&PT); AP 18 May (MC); FB 23 May (J&PT).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: CH 16 Apr (SJ).
Am. Tree Sparrow: 3 AP 7 Apr (BK).
Chipping Sparrow: AP 16 Apr (SC).
Field Sparrow: 8 PtR 6 May (JH).
Vesper Sparrow: IL 7 Apr (LM).
Savannah Sparrow: 2 CR 20 Apr (SR).
Fox Sparrow: 2 TI 14 Apr (GCh); 2 PL 22 Apr (RM).
Lincoln’s Sparrow: 8 BMR 27 May (GS).
Swamp Sparrow: 3 CF 29 Apr (MB).
White-throated Sparrow: 4 AP 16 Apr (SC).
White-crowned Sparrow: max 9 CH 11 May (BK).
Scarlet Tanager: 1 LAT 21 May (MB).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 4 max CL 21 May (JH).
Indigo Bunting: AP 13 May (MMd).
Bobolink: max 12 loc 12 May (BK).
E. Meadowlark: SL 4 Apr (ABl).
Rusty Blackbird: 12 MV 20 Apr (JT); max 53 MB 22 Apr (MB).
Brown-headed Cowbird: IL 24 Apr (MM).
Baltimore Oriole: 2 CR 12 May (BK).
Purple Finch: 2 LA 13 May (GC).
Evening Grosbeak: max 61 But 5 Apr (DH).