

## REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Eight named winter storms hit the northeast between 1 March and 14 April, an average of one every six days. Fortunately Quinn, Toby, Uma, and Violet either just brushed Region 7 or missed it entirely. On 2 March, Riley underwent bombogenesis and became a genuine nor'easter, battering the coast and leaving 8 inches of snow in the Lake Champlain Valley and more in the Adirondacks. Skyler, also a nor'easter, struck the area and brought blizzard conditions in mid March. Snow fall totals were 23" in Ellenberg, 17" in Chateaugay, and 12" in Plattsburgh. Wilber, which opened April, was mostly a rain event in Region 7. Xanto dropped 2-3" of rain in Plattsburgh on 13-14 April and more in the Adirondacks.

Precipitation totals (water equivalent) in March were three inches or more for almost the entire Region. Temperatures averaged slightly below normal and were cold enough that there was little to no melting of the snow pack. The level of Lake Champlain reached its low of the season on 30 March at just less than 96.5 . Precipitation in April averaged around 5" except in the high peaks area, where more than 6" fell. The rainfall from Xanto alone accounted for roughly half of that and increased the lake level by nearly 0.8 . April was also a cold month. In the western portion of the Region temperatures averaged more than 7°F below normal. In the rest of the Region temperatures were more than 5° below normal. Nationwide, May 2018 was the warmest on record. It didn't set records in Region 7, but still it was 3-5° above average. Precipitation for the month was from 1-2" in eastern portions of the Region, but near 3" in the remainder.

Once again, Lake Champlain did not freeze solid this year. What used to be the exception has become the rule for the past decade or more. Though it is impossible to know, this may account for the arrival of the massive flocks of Snow Geese up to ten days earlier than average. By 5 April the whole of Lake Champlain was free of ice. This and the lack of a retreating ice edge allowed the waterfowl to be dispersed and may have contributed to notable misses of Ross's Goose, Surf Scoter, and Canvasback. But for a single report, Cackling Goose would have been missed as well.

After the end of March and into April, Lake Champlain rose in a series of steps that coincided with warm periods and the heavy rains of Wilber and Xanto. A peak of a little over 100 , flood stage, was reached early in the second week of May. It declined almost in a straight line from there to 97.8 . on 31 May. At this level the mud flats at Laurin's Pool were still under water and at Noblewood Park, the Region's other important shorebird site, suitable area was limited.

There is no doubt these levels were responsible for the limited number of reports of shorebirds this season and the notable misses of Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers.

The Crown Point Banding Station (CPBS) opened for its 43<sup>rd</sup> consecutive season on 4 May and closed on 19 May. This year 485 individuals of 54 species and types were banded, down from 601 and 59 the previous year. The CPBS report suggests this drop off may have been due to a continuous band of stormy weather to the south that blocked migrants' progress. The report also notes that "This was a cool banding season with only a few hot days." This was my personal impression of May's weather that, in spite of the Northeast Regional Climate Center report cited above, May's temperatures were above average.

This season observers counted 216 species of which 201 are listed here. Present in large numbers this winter, **Pine Siskins**, **Red Crossbills**, and **White-winged Crossbills** remained in the area throughout the season. Probable breeding evidence was reported for all three. Always an important find, **Tufted Duck** has become nearly a regular occurrence in the Champlain Valley in recent years. There was a single report of **Golden Eagle** on 24 March from the Intervale Lowlands. At the end of March **Sandhill Crane** returned to Tupper Lake, where it has bred successfully each of the past two years. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** made an unusually strong showing this season, with multiple sightings and, in one case, a maximum of four birds. **Snowy Owl** was reported three times from 2 March to 22 April. The last was of an individual tagged with a radio collar at Island Beach, NJ in the fall of 2017 in a study called Project Snowstorm. A complete map of the bird's progress back to Canada can be found at ([http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/snowstorm/tracker/index.php?map=island beach](http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/snowstorm/tracker/index.php?map=island%20beach)), which indicates that it lingered on Cumberland Head for several days. **Red-headed Woodpecker**, a species reported to be in decline throughout the State in the second atlas, was seen in Owls Head, an area where it was found in both atlasing periods. Finally "**Lawrence's**" **Warbler** was found and photographed at the Webb Royce Swamp Shrublands at the end of May.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**Ak** – Akwasasne; **AC** – Ausable Chasm; **AF** – Ausable Forks; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BC** – Bellmont Center; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BkP** – Black Pd; **BML** – Blue Mountain L; **BWB** – Bulwagga Bay; **CF** – Carpenter’s Flats; **CRW** – Cemetery Rd. Wetlands; **CB** – Cole Bay; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **Es** – Essex; **EF** – Essex Ferry; **FtC** – Fort Covington; **FP** – Furnace Pt; **HH** – Heath Hill Rd; **HS** – Hoghback Swamp; **HB** – Holsington Beach; **ILk** – Indian L; **Ing** – Ingraham; **IP** – Ingraham Pd Rd; **IL** – Intervale Lowlands; **KB** – Kings Bay; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LAg** – Lake Algonquin; **LCI** – Lake Clear; **LC** – Lake Colby; **LPI** – Lake Pleasant; **LTL** – Little Tupper L; **LL** – Long L; **Mal** – Malone; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MRd** – Middle Road; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **MVH** – Mount van Hovenberg; **New** – Newcomb; **NP** – Noblewood Pk; **OM** – Oak Mountain; **OH** – Owl’s Head; **PL** – Paradox L; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtF** – Point au Fer; **PtR** – Point Au Roche State Park; **PH** – Port Henry; **PK** – Port Kent; **PC** – Putts Creek; **RP** – Rouses Pt; **SH** – Saint Home; **StR** – St Regis Canoe area; **SB** – Sabattis Bog; **Sir** – Sabattis Circle; **StH** – St. Huberts; **SB** – Sandy Beach; **SL** – Saranac L; **SRM** – Saranac Ri Mouth; **SC** – Scotion Creek; **SLB** – Silver L Bog; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TB** – Trombly Bay; **TL** – Tupper L; **VV** – Vermontville; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WD** – Wilcox Dock; **WLS** – Willis L Swamp; **WB** – Willsboro Bay; **WP** – Westport.

### WATERFOWL - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 5 PH 18 Mar (S&MR).  
**Snow Goose:** 500 PL 2 Mar (EB).  
**Brant:** 7 WD 24 May (SR).  
**Cackling Goose:** Mal 5 Apr (JT).  
**Wood Duck:** 3 AP 1 Mar (SR); 7 CB 29 Apr (SR).

**Gadwall:** 3 CR 3 May (BK).  
**Am. Wigeon:** 12 PH 29 Mar (SR); 2 AP 18 Apr (DR).  
**Am. Black Duck:** 9 PH 29 Mar (SR).  
**Blue-winged Teal:** CR 3 May (BK); 2 AP 30 May (SR).  
**N. Shoveler:** 5 CR 3 May (BK).

**N. Pintail:** 2 PH 29 Mar (SR); 12 FtC 12 Apr (HW).  
**Green-winged Teal:** 15 CR 2 Apr (BK).  
**Redhead:** 13 AP 1 Mar (SR).  
**Ring-necked Duck:** 37 AP 1 Mar (SR).  
**TUFTED DUCK:** CP 18 Mar (AB), *intro*.  
**Greater Scaup:** 320 PB 12 Mar (GC).  
**Lesser Scaup:** 6 CP 6 Mar (SR).  
**scaup sp:** 500 KB 3 May (BK).  
**White-winged Scoter:** 4 WP 29 Apr (S&MR); 50 CR 24 May (SR).  
**Long-tailed Duck:** 80 BWB 29 Apr (S&MR).  
**Bufflehead:** 17 PK 1 Mar (SR); 64 NP 30 Apr (SR).  
**Com. Goldeneye:** 360 PK 1 Mar (SR); 1ad, 8y AP 29 May (SR), confirmed FL.  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** PK 1 Mar (SR); 2 RP 10 Mar (GC).  
**Hooded Merganser:** 6 PH 29 Mar (SR).  
**Com. Merganser:** 108 CP 6 Mar (SR).  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** CB 19 Apr (SR).  
**Ruddy Duck:** 2 AP 13 May (NG).  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** WRS 1 May (SR).  
**Ruffed Grouse:** SLB 4 Mar (GC).  
**Wild Turkey:** 30 LL 18 Mar (JC); 20 WRS 27 Mar (GL).  
**Red-throated Loon:** CB 19 Apr (SR).  
**Com. Loon:** 3 EF 5 Mar (CM).  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** AP 1 Apr (BK).  
**Horned Grebe:** 21 PK 1 Mar (SR); CH 12 Apr (BK).  
**Red-necked Grebe:** AP 12 Mar (GC); 22 WP 29 Apr (SR).  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** EF 5 Mar (CM); 150 BWB 29 Apr (ID).  
**Am. Bittern:** 2 BB 4 May (JP).  
**Least Bittern:** AP 30 May (SR).  
**Great Blue Heron:** 20 BRR 31 Mar (MC).  
**Great Egret:** FtC 28 Apr (ID); CR 3 May (BK).  
**Green Heron:** IL 3 May (MMo); CR 3 May (SR).  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** SC 22 May (NO).  
**Black Vulture:** 3 MM 1 Apr (SR).  
**Turkey Vulture:** 3 EF 5 Mar (CM).

#### HAWKS – LARIDS

**Osprey:** CR 1 Apr (BK).  
**GOLDEN EAGLE (R7):** LL 15 Mar (JC); IL 24 Mar (MY), *intro*.  
**Bald Eagle:** PK 1 Mar (SR).  
**N. Harrier:** MRd 2 Apr (SR).  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** NP 9 May (J&PT).  
**Cooper's Hawk:** MR 18 Mar (BK).

**N. Goshawk:** PB 29 Mar (MB); PS 31 Mar (SR, GC).  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** MB 24 Apr (AB).  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** HH 10 May (EW).  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** EAW 27 Mar (GL).  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** StH 31 Mar (J&PT).  
**Virginia Rail:** CR 17 May (BK).  
**Sora:** AP 19 May (GC).  
**Com. Gallinule:** LA 13 May (BK).  
**Am. Coot:** 4 AP 18 Apr (DR).  
**SANDHILL CRANE (R7):** TL 30 Mar (MCR), *intro*.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** CH 4 May (SJ).  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** 2 StR 8 May (SMC).  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 9 WP 29 Apr (S&MR); 18 CR 3 May (BK).  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 20 FtC 4 May (HW); 15 CR 3 May (BK).  
**Dunlin:** 10 CR 26 May (MM).  
**Least Sandpiper:** CH 7 May (BK).  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** CR 24 May (SR).  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 13 CR 21 May (BK).  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** CH 8 May (BK).  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 2 CR 26 May (MM).  
**Wilson's Snipe:** MRd 2 Apr (SR).  
**Am. Woodcock:** 2 MRd 2 Apr (SR).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 16 WP 23 Apr (SR).  
**Iceland Gull:** CP 18 Mar (AB); BWB 13 Apr (SR).  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** BWB 13 Apr (SR); CR 14 Apr (BK); 4 PH 24 May (SR), *intro*.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** 4 PK 1 Mar (SR).  
**Caspian Tern:** BWB 13 Apr (SR); 69 BWB 29 Apr (S&MR).  
**Black Tern:** 3 AP 24 May (SR).  
**Com. Tern:** 2 AP 13 May (NG); 19 PH 24 May (SR).

#### PIGEONS - PARROTS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 20 May.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** IP 30 May (JT).  
**E. Screech Owl:** OM 26 May (TVD).  
**Great Horned Owl:** IL 1 Mar (MMo).  
**Snowy Owl:** CH 2 Mar (BK); CP 6 Mar (SR); PtR 22 Apr (BMcN), *intro*.  
**Barred Owl:** AC 11 Mar (RN).  
**Short-eared Owl:** MRd 2 Apr (SR).  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** PL 19 Mar (EG).  
**Com. Nighthawk:** CP 18 May (SR).  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** WB 9 May (LS).  
**Chimney Swift:** 3 SL 3 May (AB).  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 2 WLS 9 May (KC).  
**Belted Kingfisher:** NP 30 Apr (SR).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** OH 24 May (JT),  
*intro.*  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** AP 11 Mar (BK).  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** StR 7 May (SMc).  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** SB 8 Apr (SP).  
**N. Flicker:** 6 LA 17 May (BK).  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** StR 11 May (SMc).  
**Am. Kestrel:** StH 31 Mar (J&PT).  
**Merlin:** StR 8 May (SMc).  
**Peregrine Falcon:** SRM 18 Mar (TF).

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** HS 28 May (SR).  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** CP 18 May (SR).  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 2 SLB 18 May (LM).  
**Alder Flycatcher:** WRS 18 May (SR).  
**Willow Flycatcher:** BC 19 May (NR).  
**Least Flycatcher:** LA 6 May (BK).  
**E. Phoebe:** LA 1 Apr (MMo).  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** 3 CF 3 May (BK).  
**E. Kingbird:** HH 9 May (EW).  
**N. Shrike:** SL 24 Mar (GC).  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** PC 23 May (SR).  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** PC 2 May (SR).  
**Warbling Vireo:** 3 KB 4 May (BK).  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** BkP 14 May (BMc).  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** PS 16 May (BMc).  
**Gray Jay:** 7 LL 23 Mar (JC); 2 StR 11 May (SMc).  
**Fish Crow:** 4 SL 24 Mar (GC); 2 CH 24 Apr (AB).  
**Com. Raven:** CP 30 Apr (SR).  
**Horned Lark:** 18 MR 18 Mar (BK); 6 LC 1 Apr (AB).  
**Purple Martin:** 3 Ing 21 May (BK).  
**Tree Swallow:** 60 CR 1 Apr (BK).  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** CH 6 May (NO); AP 13 May (NG).  
**Bank Swallow:** 8 AP 19 May (GC).  
**Cliff Swallow:** 7 HB 12 May (SMc).  
**Barn Swallow:** 2 LC 9 May (AB).  
**Boreal Chickadee:** 17 MVH 6 Mar (CM).  
**Tufted Titmouse:** NP 30 Apr (SR).  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** LC 10 May (AB).  
**Brown Creeper:** AF 4 Mar (GC).  
**House Wren:** HH 9 May (EW).  
**Winter Wren:** PS 6 May (BMc); LC 10 May (AB).  
**Carolina Wren:** CH 1 Mar (NO); FP 17 May (RB).  
**Marsh Wren:** 5 KB 17 May (BK).  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** PC 2 May (SR); 3 TI 10 May (SR).  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** SLB 4 Mar (GC).  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** LAg 28 Apr (JdWM).

**Veery:** LA 6 May (BK).  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** 3 SL 22 May (BMc).  
**Swainson's Thrush:** 1 PS 16 May (BMc).  
**Hermit Thrush:** 2 LC 6 May (AB).  
**Wood Thrush:** HH 10 May (EW).  
**Gray Catbird:** 3 HH 9 May (EW).  
**Brown Thrasher:** IL 2 May (MMo).  
**N. Mockingbird:** PB 12 Mar (GC).  
**Am. Pipit:** 2 LC 30 Mar (AB).  
**Cedar Waxwing:** 6 WP 23 Apr (SR).

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Snow Bunting:** 200 RP 15 Mar (JE).  
**Ovenbird:** PL 3 May (EG).  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 2 TI 10 May (SR).  
**N. Waterthrush:** Ak 1 May (HW).  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** FtC 14 May (EW); WRS 29 May (SR).  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** WRS 27 May (NR).  
**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** WRS 29 May (SR),  
*ph.*  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** PL 3 May (EG).  
**Tennessee Warbler:** HH 9 May (EW).  
**Nashville Warbler:** PS 6 May (Mc).  
**Mourning Warbler:** BC 17 May (NR).  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** CH 6 May (SJ).  
**Am. Redstart:** PtF 3 May (BK).  
**Cape May Warbler:** 3 StR 11 May (SMc).  
**N. Parula:** 2 PS 6 May (BMc).  
**Magnolia Warbler:** LCI 10 May (SMc).  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** HH 10 May (EW); 4 PS 16 May (BMc).  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** 2 StR 11 May (SMc).  
**Yellow Warbler:** LA 5 May (BK).  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 5 HH ( May (EW).  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** 27 AP 27 May (KMc).  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** PS 6 May (BMc).  
**Palm Warbler:** CH 6 May (BK).  
**Pine Warbler:** BW 29 Apr (ID).  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 36 CR 3 May (SR).  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** PL 3 May (EG); 3 PS 6 May (BMc).  
**Canada Warbler:** LPI 12 May (JdWM).  
**Wilson's Warbler:** FP 17 May (RB).

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** BML 17 Apr (R&EB).  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** LC 14 Apr (BMc).  
**Chipping Sparrow:** 2 IL 14 Apr (M&WMO).  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 12 May.  
**Field Sparrow:** PtR 26 Apr (JH).  
**Vesper Sparrow:** 16 Ilk 14 Apr (M&WMO); 4 PtR 24 Apr (AB).  
**Savannah Sparrow:** IL 13 Apr (MMo).  
**Fox Sparrow:** MM 14 Mar (SR).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** PS 16 May (BMc).  
**Swamp Sparrow:** 4 LA 6 May (BK).  
**White-throated Sparrow:** 5 MM 124 Mar (SR).  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** PK 3 May (DR).  
**Scarlet Tanager:** PS 16 May (BMc).  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 5 CF 8 May (BK).  
**Indigo Bunting:** 2 New 17 May (SMc); CRW 25 May (J&PT).  
**Bobolink:** CR 3 May (BK).  
**E. Meadowlark:** VV 14 Apr (BM).

**Rusty Blackbird:** IL 13 Apr (MMo); 16 NP 30 Apr (SR).  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 3 TI 5 Mar (SR).  
**Pine Grosbeak:** StH 4 Mar (JC).  
**Baltimore Oriole:** IL 3 May (MMo).  
**Purple Finch:** SLB 4 Mar (GC).  
**Red Crossbill:** 10 PS 1 Mar (CV); LTL 21 Mar (JC), *intro*.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** 6 PS 1 Mar (CV); 10 Sir 18 Mar (JC); 4 SB 8 Apr (SP), *intro*.  
**Pine Siskin:** 36 SLB 4 Mar (GC), *intro*.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** 2 WB 20 May (RB).