

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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August's hot, dry weather continued throughout September and beyond. Temperatures in Region 7 averaged 3° to 5° hotter than normal except in the High Peaks region, where they were only 1° to 3° warmer. Rainfall totals in September ranged from 4" in the north near the border with Canada to 5" in the south of Essex County. There was a dramatic increase to 9" at the southern end of Hamilton County due in part to the remnants of Hurricane Florence.

In October temperatures moderated slightly, but rainfall totals remained low. Near normal temperatures in the north and south of Region 7 sandwiched temperatures that were 1° to 3° above normal in the central area. However, rainfall totals in the Champlain Valley were only 3" to 4", but 4" to 5" for the month for the remainder of the Region. In the western portion of Hamilton County the totals increased to 6".

November was cold and wet. Temperatures were 3° to 5° colder than normal in the eastern half of the Region and 5° to 7° colder in the western half. Precipitation totals (melted equivalent) ranged from 4" to 5" in the north to 7" to 8" in southern Hamilton County. Winter Storm Avery on the 16th dumped over 12" of snow in the Champlain Valley and considerably more in the mountains. This snow cover, three to four weeks or more earlier than usual, caused the bulk of the Snow Geese to leave early. Normally the upwards of 50,000 individuals that use the Champlain Valley as a staging area on their way south linger well into December. With the corn fields under all that much snow, the bulk of them left within a week. There were a few thousand individuals that lingered past Thanksgiving, but overall the numbers were well below normal.

As expected the variation of the level of Lake Champlain closely mirrored precipitation events. It began in September at the unusually low level of 94.2□. At that level the mudflats at Laurin's Pool in the north were dry and shorebird activity was vanishingly small. Fortunately, the opposite was true at Noblewood Park, where shorebirds found an increase in suitable habitat. A low of about 93.8□ was recorded in the last week of September. The October high was still below 94.8□. With the advent of the November rains, the lake level rose sharply, but the rate of rise tapered off when the rain changed to snow. The month ended with the level at 96.1□.

This year's Winter Finch Forecast predicted, "This is an irruption (flight) year for winter finches." Reports up to the end of November were encouraging and appeared to confirm the predictions for Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, and Common Redpoll. However, as of the end of the season, there had been no reports of either Hoary Redpoll or either crossbill.

For the second year in a row **Pink-footed Goose** was found in Clinton

County on 25-26 September. This was only the second record for the county and the third for Region 7, all this year and last. It is possible that the east winds of 23-24 September contributed to its wandering off course. A **Tufted Duck** from Port Henry continued the string of nearly yearly appearances of this species in the Champlain Valley. A **Pacific Loon** on Treadwell Bay was only the third record for Clinton County and the fourth for Region 7. A **Brown Booby**, possibly the same bird seen in Vermont, landed on the mast of a sailboat on Long Lake and posed for photos while it lingered for a time. A **Cattle Egret**, rare in fall, spent three days on a farm in Beekmantown just before winter storm Avery blanketed the area. A single **Golden Eagle** in Cadyville was the Region's only record. A **Snowy Owl** on 29 October was an early record for Clinton County.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIC – Adirondack Interpretive Center; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **CA** – Cadyville; **CFB** – Conroy Farm, Beekmantown; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CL** – Clorojast; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CPd** – Connery Pd; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CTH** – Coot Hill; **FB** – Ferd's Bog; **FtC** – Fort Covington Marsh; **GMt** – Giant Mt; **HB** – Holsington Beach; **IL** – Indian L; **KN** – Keene; **LC** – La Chute; **LLk** – Long L; **LPd** – Long Pd; **Mad** – Madawaska Pd; **MF** – Mooers Forks; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MPCR** – Moose Pd Club Rd; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **MRC** – Malone Rec Center; **NF** – N. Farm Rd; **NP** – Noblewood P; **PB** – Plattsburgh Bay; **PH** – Port Henry; **PL** – Plattsburgh; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **RL** – Round L; **RP** – Rouses Pt; **RW** – Rugar Woods; **SL** – Saranac L; **SLB** – Silver L Bog; **SP** – Shaw Pd; **SPB** – Spring Pd Bog; **SPe** – Speculator; **SR** – Salmon R; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TL** – Tupper L; **TRB** – Treadwell Bay; **WB** – Wallons Bay; **WD** – Wilcox Dock; **WP** – Westport; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WV** – Westville.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: arr CR 8 Sep (SR).

Ross's Goose: HB 22 Sep (J&PT); 2 KB 29 Oct (SR).

Greater White-fronted Goose: RP 8 Nov (ED).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: MF 25 SEP (ED); MF 26 SEP (GC, SR).

Brant: 93 CP 14 OCT (SR).
Cackling Goose: 5 PB 16 OCT (SR).
Canada Goose: 300 PB 17 Oct.
Wood Duck: 46 LC 4 Sep (SR).
Blue-winged Teal: 27 LC 4 Sep (SR).
N. Shoveler: CP 11 Sep (SR).
Gadwall: 6 CP 11 Sep (SR).
Am. Wigeon: 13 CP 27 Sep (SR).
Am. Black Duck: 34 CP 11 Sep (SR).
N. Pintail: 14 CP 27 Sep (SR).
Green-winged Teal: 83 CP 27 Sep (SR)
Redhead: CP 11 Sep (SR).
Ring-necked Duck: 5 SP 12 Sep (KC).
TUFTED DUCK: PH 29 Nov (ED).
Greater Scaup: 25 PB 16 Oct (SR).
Lesser Scaup: 12 AP 20 Oct (AB).
scaup sp: 900 PB 10 Nov.
Surf Scoter: 5 PB 16 Oct (SR).
White-winged Scoter: 40 PH 13 Oct (SR).
Black Scoter: PH 12 Sep (SR); IL 22 Oct (JT), rare FRAN.
Long-tailed Duck: PB 29 Oct (BMc); IL 8 Oct (JT), v. rare FRAN.
Bufflehead: 2 CP 27 Sep (SR).
Com. Goldeneye: 2 HB 18 Sep (RB).
Barrow's Goldeneye: PH 28 Nov (SR).
Hooded Merganser: 14 CR 27 Oct.
Com. Merganser: 24 WP 1 Oct (SR).
Red-breasted Merganser: 8 NP 22 Sep (SR); 16 TRB 8 Nov (HK).
Ruddy Duck: TI 28 Oct (GC).
Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 WRS 15 Oct (SR)
Ruffed Grouse: 6 LPd 13 Sep (KC).
Spruce Grouse: SPB 16 Sep (JL).
Wild Turkey: 15 MF 26 Sep (GC).
Pied-billed Grebe: LC 4 Sep (SR).
Horned Grebe: 2 CH 18 Oct.
Red-necked Grebe: CH 13 Oct.
Com. Nighthawk: 3 TI 9 Sep (GC).
E. Whip-poor-will: BRR 18 Sep (GCh).
Chimney Swift: TI 9 Sep (MC).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 BRR 11 Sep (GCh).

RAILS - LARIDS

Com. Gallinule: CR 16 Sep (SR).
Am. Coot: LC 27 Sep (GC).
Black-bellied Plover: NP 18 Oct (SR).
Am. Golden-Plover: AP 20 Oct (AB).
Semipalmated Plover: AP 22 SEP (MB).
Stilt Sandpiper: LC 30 Sep (AB).
Sanderling: 4 NP 22 Sep (SR).
Dunlin: AP 15 Oct (KM).
Baird's Sandpiper: CR 8 Sep (SR).
Least Sandpiper: 7 CR 8 Sep (SR).
White-rumped Sandpiper: TI 16 Sep (GC).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: WV 18 Sep (HW); LC 29 Sep (GC).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 6 CR 26 Sep (GC).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: CR 8 Sep.
Am. Woodcock: CPd 6 Oct (GCh); SPe 31 Oct (RS).
Wilson's Snipe: CR 8 Sep (SR).
Spotted Sandpiper: AP 17 Sep (LM).
Solitary Sandpiper: 3 AP 17 Sep (LM).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 WD 24 Sep; 9 LC 17 Sep (SR).
Greater Yellowlegs: 4 AP 15 Sep.
Bonaparte's Gull: 40 NP 2 Sep (MM).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: CP 11-27 Sep (SR), continuing.
Glaucous Gull: WD 29 N0v (SR).
Great Black-backed Gull: 6 PB 24 Oct.
Caspian Tern: 13 LC 4 Sep (SR); 2 CR 26 Sep (ED).
Com. Tern: 19 NP 2 Sep (MM).

LOONS - PARROTS

Red-throated Loon: AP 20 Oct (AB); IL 22 - 26 Oct (JT), v. rare Fran.
PACIFIC LOON: 2 TRB 8 Nov (HK).
Com. Loon: 31 LC 1 Oct (GL, NS).
BROWN BOOBY: LLk 2 Sep (BL).
Double-crested Cormorant: 550 CP 11 Sep (SR); 400 CR 26 Sep (ED).
GREAT CORMORANT (R7): TRB 16 Sep (HK).
Am. Bittern: CR 8 Sep (SR).
Great Blue Heron: 4 TI 9 Sep (MC); 9 LC 17 Sep (SR).
Great Egret: 2 CR 8 Sep (SR).
CATTLE EGRET (R7): CFB 11-14 Nov (NO, PC, MS), rare in fall.
Green Heron: 6 LC 4 Sep (SR).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 9 LC 17 Sep (SR).
Black Vulture: 3 CTH 15 Sep (NO, MS); 8 TI 9 Nov (GCh).
Turkey Vulture: 2 AP 25 Sep (ED).
Osprey: 2 CP 11 Sep (SR); LC 1 Oct (AB).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): CA 21 Sep (MB).
N. Harrier: NF 26 Sep (SR).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: CR 8 Sep (SR).
Cooper's Hawk: CH 15 Oct (SJ).
Bald Eagle: 2 CA 21 Sep (MB).
Red-shouldered Hawk: WP 22 Sep (J&PT).
Broad-winged Hawk: CL 18 Sep (JHaa).
Red-tailed Hawk: LC 4 Sep (SR).
Rough-legged Hawk: FtC 8 Oct (ABr).
E. Screech-Owl: CP 11 Sep (SR).
Great Horned Owl: 2 AIC 7 Sep (AB).
Snowy Owl: PB 29 Oct (ED), early Clin date.

Barred Owl: CTH 9 Sep (SR).
N. Saw-whet Owl: MPCR 7 Sep (AB).
Belted Kingfisher: CR 26 Sep (GC).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 5 CP 11 Sep (SR); AP 17 Sep (LM).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: FB 27 Sep (MMo).
Black-backed Woodpecker: FB 27 Sep (MMo).
N. Flicker: 3 RL 12 Sep (AB).
Pileated Woodpecker: TL 7 Sep (AB).
Am. Kestrel: 2 LC 11 Sep (AB).
Merlin: AP 16 Oct (SR).
Peregrine Falcon: AP 25 Sep (ED); SR 16 Oct (SR).

FLYCATCHERS - SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: CP 11 Sep (SR).
E. Kingbird: 2 WP 4 Sep (LM).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: KN 5 Sep (J&PT).
E. Wood-Pewee: CTH 9 Sep (SR).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: KN 16 Sep (J&PT).
Least Flycatcher: CP 11 Sep (SR).
E. Phoebe: 7 AP 18 Sep (ED).
N. Shrike: ES 7 Nov (SR).
Yellow-throated Vireo: MM 5 Sep (SR).
Blue-headed Vireo: Mad 4 Oct (KM).
Philadelphia Vireo: LC 4 Sep (JHaa).
Warbling Vireo: 2 CP 18 Sep (MM).
Red-eyed Vireo: CL 11 Sep (AB).
Canada Jay: 5 BB 7 Oct (BMc).
Fish Crow: HB 13 Sep (CV).
Com. Raven: LC 16 Sep (BB).
Horned Lark: NF 26 Sep (SR).
Tree Swallow: 20 TI 9 Sep MC).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 6 CP 26 Sep (JC).
Bank Swallow: 108 LC 17 Sep (SR).
Cliff Swallow: TI 4 Sep (CV).
Barn Swallow: 2 TI 16 Sep (GC).
Boreal Chickadee: LC 9 Oct (AB).
Tufted Titmouse: AP 16 Oct (ED).
Brown Creeper: SLB 3 Oct (KM).
House Wren: MRC 3 Oct (GC).
Winter Wren: SLB 3 Oct (KM).
Marsh Wren: 2 LC 17 Sep (SR).
Carolina Wren: 2 LC 4 Sep (SR).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: LC 4 Sep (SR).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 LC 16 Sep (AB).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 PtR 29 Oct (SR).
Veery: 2 MPCR 7 Sep (AB).
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: 25 LP 1 Oct (AB).
Swainson's Thrush: MPCR 7 Sep (AB); 50 LP 1 Oct (AB).
Hermit Thrush: 6 LC 13 Oct (AB).
Wood Thrush: WRS 3 Sep (MM).

Gray Catbird: TI 9 Sep (GC).
Brown Thrasher: GMt 8 Sep (OB).
N. Mockingbird: WP 1 Oct (SR).
Bohemian Waxwing: LP 13 Nov (AB).
Cedar Waxwing: CP 22 Sep (MM).
Am. Pipit: 11 AP 25 Oct.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 PS 24 Sep BMc); MM 2 Oct (SR).
House Finch: 19 CP 27 Sep (SR).
Purple Finch: PL 21 Oct (CM).
Com. Redpoll: arr 6 WP 27 Oct (SR).
Lapland Longspur: AP 21 Oct (SR).
Snow Bunting: 14 PH 28 Oct (SR).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

E. Towhee: CP 10 Oct (SR).
Am. Tree Sparrow: WP 27 Oct (SR).
Chipping Sparrow: 3 BRR 11 Sep (GCh)
Field Sparrow: NP 6 Oct (MM).
Vesper Sparrow: 3 WP 27 Oct (SR).
Savannah Sparrow: AP 14 Oct (GS), late Clin date.
Fox Sparrow: LC 13 Oct (AB).
Lincoln's Sparrow: LC 27 Sep (GC).
Swamp Sparrow: AP 25 Sep (ED).
White-throated Sparrow: 8 LC 1 Oct (AB).
White-crowned Sparrow: 2 CP 26 Sep (JC).
Bobolink: 4 WRS 3 Sep (MM).
E. Meadowlark: CR 31 Oct (BK).
Baltimore Oriole: LC 4 Sep (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 3 TI 30 Sep (GC).
Rusty Blackbird: LC 1 Oct (GL, NS); WB 9 Nov (RB).
Ovenbird: 2 WRS 3 Sep (MM).
Black-and-white Warbler: 4 WRS 3 Sep (MM).
Tennessee Warbler: CTH 9 Sep (SR).
Orange-crowned Warbler: TI 30 Sep (GC); AP 14 Oct (GS).
Nashville Warbler: WRS 3 Sep (MM).
Mourning Warbler: KN 4 Sep (J&PT).
Com. Yellowthroat: 7 WRS 3 Sep (MM).
Am. Redstart: WRS 4 Sep (MM).
Cape May Warbler: CTH 9 Sep (SR).
N. Parula: CTH 9 Sep (SR).
Magnolia Warbler: 4 WRS 4 Sep (MM); AP 16 Oct (ED).
Bay-breasted Warbler: KN 4 Sep (J&PT).
Blackburnian Warbler: CP 22 Oct (MM).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: CTH 9 Sep (SR).
Blackpoll Warbler: AP 14 Oct (GS).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: MM 5 Sep (SR).
Palm Warbler: 2 AP 18 Sep (ED).
Pine Warbler: LC 4 Sep (SR).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 42 CP 27 Sep (SR).

Black-throated Green Warbler: WRS 4 Sep (MM).

Canada Warbler: RW 13 Sep (MB).

Wilson's Warbler: MM 5 Sep (SR).

Scarlet Tanager: MM 5 Sep (SR).

N. Cardinal: 4 CP 27 Sep (SR).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CL 4 Sep (JHaa).

Indigo Bunting: 3 BRR 11 Sep (GCh).