

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The clipper system that began in February continued into March with winter storms Scott and Taylor hitting in the first ten days of the month. Bomb cyclones Ulmer and Vaughn only brushed Region 7 in the second half of the month. Even so snowfall totals for the month ranged from only 8" in the Champlain Valley to 26+" in the Adirondacks. Precipitation (liquid equivalent) overall was only 1 to 2 inches in most areas. March temperatures were 1 to 3 degrees colder than normal in the bulk of Region 7 except for the northern portions of Clinton and Franklin Counties where the deviation from normal was -3 to -5 degrees.

The last named winter storm, Wesley, in mid-April was mainly a rain event. Rainfall was heaviest in the southern portions of Hamilton and Essex Counties. Totals diminished to 3 to 4 inches in northern Clinton and Franklin Counties with a narrow band of from 4 to 5 in. in the middle of Region 7. For almost all of Clinton and Franklin Counties temperatures did not deviate from normal by more than a degree either way. Most of Essex and all of Hamilton Counties were 1 to 3 degrees colder than normal.

May was cold and wet everywhere. The driest areas in Region 7, most of Clinton County and the northern third of Franklin County, got 4 to 5 inches of

rain. Rainfall totals increased from north to south in the rest of the Region to as much as 7 to 8 inches in several pockets including the extreme southwest corner of Hamilton County. Average temperatures were well below normal, though there was some disagreement just how great the deviation was. One website claimed it was three degrees below normal while another listed the deviation at six degrees. Anecdotal evidence inclines toward the latter value. Flowering crabapple trees in Clinton County bloomed two weeks later than the recent average.

As noted in the Winter 2018 Report, Lake Champlain froze solid this year for the first time since 2015, leaving only the channel at the Cumberland Head Ferry crossing and the mouth of the Saranac River, warmed by the sewage treatment plant effluent, with any open water. The waterfowl and gulls concentrated in these areas included Tufted Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye and Iceland Gull. As the month warmed the open area increased until at the end of the month the lake was open from Cumberland Head to Port Kent except for the sheltered bays. At the south end of the lake the ice sheet had broken up by the end of the first week of April. Ice out was complete by the middle of the month. The ice at north end of the lake followed suit but with a delay of three or four days.

The Lake Champlain water level began the season at just over 97' and moved downward to its low of 96.3' on 15 March. Then there began a halting, almost stepwise, increase to the official flood stage of 100' on 22 April. Uncharacteristically it stayed above flood stage for the rest of the season, reaching a maximum of 100.9' on 30 April. At this level the prime habitat for migrating shorebirds in Region 7 was underwater. This accounts for the low numbers of individuals and of species reported. The largest single day's count was from the tires of a marina's breakwater, not from one of the usual areas. This is the second year in a row for unusually high lake levels in May.

The Crown Point banding station was opened on 10 May for the 44th consecutive year. Despite the cold wet weather, the station banded 1,089 individuals (fourth highest total) of 69 species and types, easily surpassing the 485 individuals and 54 species and types of 2018. Species not often banded but listed this season included Northern Parula (1), Bay-breasted Warbler (5), Canada Warbler (4) and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (1).

After its simultaneous first ever Region 7 appearance at two widely separated locations in the fall of 2017, **Pink-footed Goose** has become a near regular with sightings in the fall of 2018 and now the spring of 2019 (a seasonal first). **Tufted Duck** continued to be an almost annual visitor to the Champlain Valley. It began an extended stay in the Crown Point area and moved north as the ice cover diminished. It was seen on both sides of Lake Champlain until it was last reported from the Cumberland Head Ferry. **Sandhill Crane** was recorded twice, once from Vermontville and once from Bloomingdale Bog. **Golden Eagle** logged a total of four sightings, at least one in each of the three months. An uncommon spring sighting of **Iceland Gull** for Clinton County was recorded on the open water at the Cumberland Head Ferry in March. Once again there was a significant presence of **Lesser Black-backed Gull**; sightings were listed from

Crown Point to Rouses Point, all between 7 and 20 April. Found (and photographed) for only the third time in Clinton County, **Yellow-headed Blackbird's** discovery and rarity was documented in an article in the local newspaper.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIC – Adirondack Interpretive Center; **AF** – Ausable Forks; **AK** – Akwasasne; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BHT** – Blueberry Hill Trails; **BL** – Bloomingdale Rd; **BR** – Bull Rock Rd; **Cgy** – Chateaugay; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CHF** – Cumberland Head Ferry; **ChR** – Chapman Rd; **CMR** – Cemetery Rd; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **DR** – Delano Rd; **DRd** – Dudley Road; **EAW** – Eight Acre Wood; **EC** – Essex Co; **EF** – Essex Ferry; **Es** – Essex; **FB** – Ferd's Bog; **FtC** – Fort Covington Marsh; **GB** – Gilbert Brook Marina; **HS** – Hogback Swamp; **KVe** – Keeseville; **Lab** – Lake Abanakee; **LC** – Lake Clear; **LCR** – La Chute Ri; **LGO** – Lake George Outlet; **LL** – Long L; **MA** – Malone Airport; **MDT** – Meadow Lake-Debar Meadows Trail; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **New** – Newcomb; **NF** – N. Farm Rd; **NP** – Noblewood P; **OH** – Owls Head; **PAFB** – Old Base Plattsburgh; **PC** – Putts Creek; **PCW** – Putnam Creek Wetland; **PK** – Port Kent; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **PyR** – Pyramid Rd; **RF** – Rogers Farm; **RHR** – Rand Hill Rd; **RRd** – Reynolds Rd; **RW** – Rugar Woods; **SBy** – Stevenson Bay; **SRd** – Sulpher Rd; **VTV** – Vermontville; **WC** – Wild Center; **WF** – Whiteface Mt; **WM** – Wickham Marsh; **WP** – Westport; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: arr, 100 LGO 14 Mar (MC).
Greater White-fronted Goose: AP 30 Mar (SC, JS).
PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: MR 28 Mar (AB).
Cackling Goose: arr, 3 MR 28 Mar (AB).
Wood Duck: arr, Jay 7 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: no reports

Northern Shoveler: arr, CHF 15 Mar.

Gadwall: arr, 2 SRM 21 Mar (SR).

American Wigeon: arr, 4 CHF 15 Mar (BK).

Northern Pintail: arr, EF 3 Mar (SR).

Green-winged Teal: arr, 3 EF 17 Mar (BMc).

Canvasback: no reports.

Redhead: CHF 28 Mar (AB).
Ring-necked Duck: 115 CP 11 Apr (SR).
TUFTED DUCK (R7): CHF 7 Mar (M&SR); AP 1-7 Apr (mob).
Greater Scaup: 300 CHF 21 Mar (SR).
Lesser Scaup: 14 EF 17 Mar (SR).
Scaup sp: 400 KB 27 Apr (BK).
Long-tailed Duck: arr, 8 LAb 31 Mar (MM).
Bufflehead: 26 AP 13 Apr (DRg).
Common Goldeneye: 400 CH 15 Mar (BK).
Barrow's Goldeneye: 5 CHF 7 Mar (M&SR).
Hooded Merganser: arr, 2 AP 7 Mar (M&SR).
Common Merganser: 350 SBy 2 May (SR).
Red-breasted Merganser: arr, 5 CHF 7 Mar (M&SR).
Ruddy Duck: 3 CP 2 May (SR).
Ring-necked Pheasant: Es 2 May (SR).
Ruffed Grouse: 3 PS 4 May (BMc).
Wild Turkey: Es 6 May (BMo), CO-NE.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr, LAb 27 Mar (MM).
Horned Grebe: arr, EF 12 Mar (LM); 33 WM 23 Apr (SR).
Red-necked Grebe: arr, CHF 17 Mar (DR).
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr, CP 21 May (SR).
Common Nighthawk: arr, New 11 May (RH).
Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr, 3 BR 7 May (GCh).
Chimney Swift: arr, 3 MM 7 May (SR).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr, EAW 4 May (GL).

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: arr 8 PCW May (SR).
Sora: FtC 25 May (JSh).
Common Gallinule: arr, CR 22 May (BK).
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): arr, 2 LC 9 Apr (ED); 2 BB 17 Apr (SMc).
Black-bellied Plover: no reports.
Semipalmated Plover: arr, 59 GB 22 May (BK).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr, 2 GB 22 May (BK).
Dunlin: arr, 41 GB 22 May (BK).
Least Sandpiper: arr, 11 ChR 27 May (HW).
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr AB 9 May (BK).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr, ChR 27 May (HW).
Killdeer: arr, 3 CP 15 Mar (SR).
Am. Woodcock: arr, 4 DR 27 Mar (SR).
Wilson's Snipe: arr, 2 LC 9 Apr (SMc).
Spotted Sandpiper: arr, PH 23 Apr (SR).
Solitary Sandpiper: arr, TI 4 May (MMr).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr, AK 19 Apr (HW).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr, CP 20 Apr (SR).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr, 2 SRM 10 Apr (SR).
Iceland Gull: CHF 12 Mar (LM), only report.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: AP 7 Apr (GC); PH 20 Apr (SR).
Great Black-backed Gull: 3 KB 10 Apr (SR).
Caspian Tern: 2 PH 7 Apr (SR); 63 PH 20 Apr (SR).
Black Tern: no reports.
Common Tern: arr, 3 PK 23 Apr (SR).

LOONS-FALCONS

Common Loon: arr, LAb 30 Mar (MM).
Double-crested Cormorant: arr, 8 CP 23 Mar (SR); 350 PH 20 Apr (SR).
American Bittern: arr, PtR 31 Mar (EG).
Great Blue Heron: arr, TI 16 Mar (SR).
Great Egret: arr, 2 CR 17 Apr (BK).
Green Heron: arr, 2 Es 7 May (SR).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 FtC 25 May (JSh), only report.
Black Vulture: arr, 2 TI 8 Mar (SR).
Turkey Vulture: arr, Es 13 Mar (SR).
Osprey: arr, WM 3/21 (DR).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): LAb 15 Mar (M&WM); LC 2 Apr (SMc); PV 5 Apr (BMc); PAFB 19 May (MB).
Northern Harrier: arr, EC 18 Mar (SR).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 CMR 20 May (J&PT).
Cooper's Hawk: WP 25 Apr (SR).
Northern Goshawk: 2 MDT 21 Apr (BB).
Bald Eagle: 3 AP 7 Apr (GC).
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr, MM 16 Mar (SR).
Broad-winged Hawk: arr, BB 2 Apr (JS).
Red-tailed Hawk: 2 BB 9 Apr (JS).
Rough-legged Hawk: AP 2 Apr (SR), last.
Eastern Screech Owl: no reports.
Great Horned Owl: CP 18 May (G&MC).
Snowy Owl: MA 2 Mar (TL).
Barred Owl: 3 WC 4 Apr (AV).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: no reports.
Belted Kingfisher: arr, LCR 24 Mar (EG).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 3 AP 13 Apr (BB).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr, Keene 28 Mar (J&PT).
Black-backed Woodpecker: 2 VTV 21 Apr (DRg).
Northern Flicker: 4 PtR 30 Apr (JH).
Pileated Woodpecker: 2 BB 2 May (JS).
American Kestrel: arr, WP 19 Mar (SR).
Merlin: 2 CH 26 Apr.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 SRM 16 Mar (AB).

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr, MM 7 May (SR).
Eastern Kingbird: arr, SRd 4 May (JSh).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr, FB 20 May (PF).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr, BR 20 May (G&MC).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr, VTV 20 May (BMc).
Alder Flycatcher: arr, Cgy 11 May (MC).
Willow Flycatcher: arr, 2 CMR 14 May (DRg).
Least Flycatcher: arr, SRd 4 May (JSh).
Eastern Phoebe: arr, BR 21 Mar (LW).
Northern Shrike: AF 2 Apr (DRg), last.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr, PC 18 May (RB).
Blue-headed Vireo: arr, MM 19 Apr (SR).
Philadelphia Vireo: arr, CMR 20 May (J&PT).
Warbling Vireo: arr, WM 5 May (JP).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr, LA 8 May (BK).
Canada Jay: 3 BB 27 May (EGt).
Fish Crow: arr, AP 13 Apr (KM).
Common Raven: 2 VTV 18 Mar.
Horned Lark: NF 6 Apr (BK).
Purple Martin: no reports.
Tree Swallow: arr, CH 13 Mar (BK).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr, AP 20 Apr (SC); 4 CH 25 Apr (NO, MS), CO-ON.
Bank Swallow: arr, GB 2 May (SR).
Cliff Swallow: arr, CP 12 May (SR).
Barn Swallow: arr, TI 5 Apr (SR), early.
Boreal Chickadee: 5 TL 20 Apr (AV).
Tufted Titmouse: 4 PtR 11 Mar (AB).
House Wren: arr, MM 21 Apr (SR).
Winter Wren: 3 LL 9 Apr (PJ).
Marsh Wren: arr, RW 3 May (KA).
Carolina Wren: WP 27 Apr (SR).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr, AP 20 Apr (SC).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 8 PtR 21 Apr (JS).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr, KVe 10 Apr (JP).
Eastern Bluebird: arr, PH 11 Mar (SW).
Veery: arr, PtR 4 May (RC).
Bicknell's Thrush: WF 31 May (LK).
Swainson's Thrush: arr, 2 BHT 14 May (SR).
Hermit Thrush: arr, 3 BL 14 Apr (BMc).
Wood Thrush: arr, TI 5 May (MMr).
Gray Catbird: arr, 2 LL 6 May (SH).
Brown Thrasher: arr, EAW 30 Mar (GL); early Fran date.
Northern Mockingbird: PL 21 Mar (SR).
Bohemian Waxwing: TI 13 Apr (SR).
Cedar Waxwing: 52 Es 1 May (SR).
American Pipit: CR 15 Apr (BK).
Evening Grosbeak: 52 EAW 17 Mar (GL), max.
Purple Finch: 14 AIC 10 May (RH).
Common Redpoll: 12 PK 6 Mar (DR).
Hoary Redpoll: EAW 27 Mar (GL).
Lapland Longspur: 5 RRd 11 Mar (DH), last.
Snow Bunting: 4 PtR 13 Mar (MC), last.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr, CMP 19 Apr (GC).
American Tree Sparrow: 2 AP 12 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr, KVe 12 Mar (JP).
Field Sparrow: arr, LC 31 Mar (MM).
Vesper Sparrow: arr, DRd 9 Apr (SR).
Savannah Sparrow: arr, 2 LC 11 Apr (MC).
Fox Sparrow: arr, MM 29 Mar (SR).
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr, RF 23 Apr (NR).
Swamp Sparrow: arr, 3 CMR 14 Apr (J&PT).
White-throated Sparrow: 12 AP 11 May (AB).
White-crowned Sparrow: PH 3 May (SR).
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R7): RHR 5-7 May (MK).
Bobolink: arr, 2 CP 5 May (SR).
Eastern Meadowlark: arr, LAB 15 Mar (M&WM).
Orchard Oriole: 2 OH 17 May (JT); CP 21 May (GH).
Baltimore Oriole: arr, TI 3 May (GC).
Red-winged Blackbird: arr, ES 13 Mar (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 4 PtR 30 Apr (JH).
Rusty Blackbird: arr, EC 17 Mar (SR).
Common Grackle: arr, CP 15 Mar (SR).
Ovenbird: arr, 2 MM 5 May (SR).
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr, BR 18 Apr (GCh).
Northern Waterthrush: arr, LC 3 May (SMc).
Golden-winged Warbler: arr, WRS 18 May (DRg).
Blue-winged Warbler: arr, WRS 19 May (DRg).
"Brewster's" Warbler: 2 WRS 19 May (DRg).
Black and White Warbler: arr, PtR 30 Apr (JH).
Tennessee Warbler: arr, PC 8 May (SR).
Nashville Warbler: arr, MM 5 May (SR).
Mourning Warbler: arr, BR 20 May (SR).
Common Yellowthroat: arr, PC 8 May (SR).
American Redstart: arr, LP 5 May (JWM).
Cape May Warbler: arr, 2 LC 5 May (SMc).
Northern Parula: arr, 2 PS 6 May (BMc).
Magnolia Warbler: arr, MM 3 May (SR).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr, SL 20 May (BMc).
Blackburnian Warbler: arr, PS 4 May (JS).
Yellow Warbler: arr, MM 7 May (SR).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr, CP 9 May (SR).
Blackpoll Warbler: arr, CP 15 May; 21 AP 28 May (KM), max.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr, MM 3 May (SR).

Palm Warbler: arr, LC 16 Apr (SMc).

Pine Warbler: arr, PS 15 Apr (JO).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr, WP 17 Apr (J&PT).

Prairie Warbler: MtD 25 May (GC).

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr, NP 2 May (SR).

Canada Warbler: arr, HS 16 May (SR).

Wilson's Warbler: arr, CP 19 May (GH).

Scarlet Tanager: arr, LP 7 May (EJ).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr, TI 23 Apr (MMr).

Indigo Bunting: arr. SL 7 May (EGt).