

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The below average temperatures of August moderated somewhat in September. Overall they were within a degree of normal for the entire Region save for a cooler pocket which included Lake Placid and Saranac Lake where the temperatures averaged 1-3° below normal. Most of Region 7 received 3-4" of rain. The exceptions were the lower Lake Champlain Valley which was drier and got only 2-3" of rain and two pockets, the Lake Placid/Saranac Lake area and the northwest corner of Franklin County, which had totals of 4-5".

October was an exceptionally wet month. It began normally, but three rain events of 3+ inches between 16 and 31 October changed that dramatically. The first, a bomb cyclone according to the weather service, also produced the season's

first snow on White Face Mountain. The second and third were nearly back to back on 27 and 31 October and also produced snow in the mountains. Most areas of Region 7 averaged 6-7" of precipitation with the western areas of Franklin and Hamilton Counties getting 5-6". The hardest hit areas were the southern portions of Region 7 which got over 7". Rains so heavy and so close together soaked the ground and insured that runoff would be high. This was reflected in a large, abrupt increase in the water level of Lake Champlain (see below). October was significantly warmer than usual with temperatures up to 3° above normal. Only the high peaks were near normal.

In contrast, November was a cold month. The Lake Placid/Saranac Lake area averaged more than 7° below normal. The rest of Region 7 was 5-7° lower except for the southern portion of Hamilton County which was 3-5° shy of normal. Precipitation (liquid equivalent) in the Lake Champlain Valley averaged 3-5" and increased to 5-6" everywhere else but the High Peaks, where 6-7" fell. On 5 November a coastal nor'easter had only a glancing effect on the area's weather. However, a reprise of last year's (16 Nov. 2018) snowstorm on 11 November left 6-8" of snow in the Champlain Valley and more in the mountains. This had the happy result of bringing several species to the roadsides. One observer wrote: "...[T]oday was by far the most Horned Larks and Snow Buntings I have ever seen. Thousands at both Chazy Riverlands and along N. Farm Rd. where [recently harvested] corn littered the edges of the roads. I also saw [Am] Pipits and Lapland Longspurs....".

Until the heavy rains of the second half of October the level of Lake Champlain fluctuated in the narrow range of 94.2' - 94.7', low for this time of year. At this level the mud flats of the Chazy Riverlands were high and dry. As a result shorebird sightings were the exception. However, this improved conditions for shorebirds at Noblewood Park, which provided the bulk of all sightings for Region 7. After the two storms at the end of October the graph of the lake shows a precipitous 1.8' increase in four days to the season's high of 97.6'. It stayed above 97' for all of November.

Observers found **Sandhill Crane** in October at Indian Lake and in Franklin County. Fall was a good season for pelagic species on Lake Champlain with sightings of both **Parasitic** and **Long-tailed Jaegers** on 15 September and **Sabine's Gull** the following day. A single **Great Cormorant** lingered for nearly two weeks in Essex County providing extended opportunities for listers and photographers. A single **Swainson's Hawk** was reported from the Town of Malone and reported to NYSARC, whose decision is pending. **Golden Eagle** was seen in Essex County in October. It was an exceptional season for *ammodramus* sparrows. A very rare **LeConte's Sparrow**, found at the Chazy Riverlands, was only the second record for Region 7 (The first was 12 Aug 2019) and the first for Clinton County. A brilliant adult, the bird was photographed extensively while perched in plain sight for as many as five minutes. The next day and in the same general area observers found a **Nelson's Sparrow**.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIC – Adirondack Information Center; **AFT** – Art Farm Trail (CATS); **AM** – Ausable Marsh; **AOT** – Ancient Oaks Trail (CATS); **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BC** – Belmont Center; **BL** – Brooktrout L; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **BT** – Bobcat Trail; **BTI** – Brown’s Tract Inlet; **BWB** – Bulwaga Bay; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CZL** – Chazy; **DPR** – Dickson Pt Rd.; **FR** – Floodwood Rd; **Fran** – Franklin Co; **GO** – Gothics; **HB** – Holsington Beach; **HF** – Hulls Falls Rd; **HPt** – Hatch Pt; **HR** – Highlands Rd; **ILk** – Indian L; **KB** – Kings Bay; **KN** – Keene; **KV** – Keene Valley; **LCP** – Lake Champlain pelagic; **LCTM** – Lower La Chute & Ti Marsh; **LMt** – Lyon Mt; **LSL** – Lower Saraanac L; **MB** – Monty’s Bay; **ML** – Meacham L; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MMt** – Moxham Mt; **MoR** – Moody Rd; **MP** – Madawaska Pd; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **MRP** – Malone Rec P; **MRR** – Mary Riley Rd; **MtB** – Mount Baker; **MtJ** – Mount Jo; **MtM** – Mount Marcy; **NFR** – N. Farm Rd; **NP** – Noblewood P; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PH** – Port Henry; **PK** – Port Kent; **PL** – Piseco L; **PR** – Point au Roche; **PtF** – Point au Fer; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **RL** – Raquette L; **RP** – Rouses Pt; **SP** – Shaw Pd; **SPE** – Speculator; **SPt** – Stony Pt; **SRC** – St. Regis Canoe Area; **SRN** – Saranac Ri Mouth; **StR** – Stetson Rd; **TFBL** – Ticonderoga Ferry and Boat Landing; **TG** – The Gulf; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **VI** – Valcour I; **WB** – Wallons Bay; **WC** – Wild Center; **WM** – Wickham Marsh; **WMt** – Whiteface Mt; **WP** – Westport; **WPt** – Willsboro Pt.; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WV** – Westville.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: PtR 17 Sep (BP).

Ross’s Goose: 2 MRP 19 Oct (AB); 5 StR 9 Nov (SR).

Greater White-fronted Goose: AP 23 Nov (SR).

Brant: HB 29 Nov (RB).

Cackling Goose: 3 MRP 19 Oct (AB); 9 MRR 2 Nov (GC).

Wood Duck: 75 LCTM 9 Oct (SR).
Blue-winged Teal: 46 LCTM 15 Sep (G&MC).
Northern Shoveler: 2 CP 5 Oct (SR).
Gadwall: 3 CP 28 Sep (SR).
American Wigeon: WP 10 Oct (SR).
American Black Duck: 53 CP 3 Oct (SR).
Northern Pintail: 3 CP 5 Oct (SR).
Green-winged Teal: 40 CR 2 Nov (AB).
Canvasback: PK 26 Oct (SR); CP 21 Nov (GC).
Redhead: arr, 3 PK 21 Oct (SR); 25 CZL 31 Oct (JM).
Ring-necked Duck: 41 SP 28 Oct (KT); 195 CP 17 Nov (SR).
Greater Scaup: 400 WM 2 Nov (BMc).
Lesser Scaup: 800 WM 2 Nov (BMc).
Surf Scoter: arr, 3 PK 21 Oct (SR).
White-winged Scoter: 4 WD 26 Oct (SR).
Black Scoter: arr, 8 MB 19 Oct (BMc).
Long-tailed Duck: arr, CP 21 Oct (SR).
Bufflehead: 168 NP 18 Nov (SR).
Common Goldeneye: 138 CP 17 Nov (SR).
Barrow's Goldeneye: NP 26-30 Oct (GC); 2 CP 17 Nov (SR).
Hooded Merganser: 89 CP 21 Nov (SR).
Common Merganser: 38 WM 2 Nov (BMc); 225 TFBL 17 Nov (GC).
Red-breasted Merganser: 6 NP 13 Sep (GC).
Ring-necked Pheasant: KN 9 Sep (J&PT); LA 11 Oct (NO).
Ruffed Grouse: 9 ML 8 Oct (BB).
Spruce Grouse: MP 3 Nov (MF).
Wild Turkey: 36 WB 26 Nov (J&PT).
Pied-billed Grebe: 6 KV 23 Sep (DH).
Horned Grebe: 4 NP 3 Oct (SR).
Red-necked Grebe: LCP 15 Sep (AS); 8 LSL 22 Sep (JM).
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: MMt 5 Oct (DS).
Black-billed Cuckoo: SRCA 15 Sep (SMc).
Common Nighthawk: 5 WP 3 Sep (DRg).
Eastern Whip-poor-will: BRR 25 Sep (GCh).
Chimney Swift: AM 2 Sep (ID).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: BRR 18 Sep (MC).

RAILS-LARIDS

Common Gallinule: 2 LCTM 9 Sep (GC).
American Coot: 2 PL 30 Nov (EF), early.
SANDHILL CRANE: ILk 10 Oct (WM); 2 Fran 31 Oct (HW).
Black-bellied Plover: CP 27 Sep (SR).
American Golden Plover: 2 WP 11 Sep (SR); 5 HB 16 Sep (LM).
Semipalmated Plover: CR 6 Sep (BK).

Stilt Sandpiper: MRR 12 Sep (EW).
Sanderling: NP 2 Sep (DRg).
Dunlin: 3 FtC 2 Nov (GC).
Baird's Sandpiper: NP 1 Sep (ID).
Least Sandpiper: HB 15 Sep (BMc).
White-rumped Sandpiper: NP 5 Sep (DRg).
Pectoral Sandpiper: NP 6 Sep (GC).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: NP 12 Sep (GC).
Short-billed Dowitcher: FtC 7 Sep (HW).
Long-billed Dowitcher: Fran 30 Sep (HW), Fran. first; 2 PH 28 Oct (SR), late.
American Woodcock: BB 5 Sep (RG).
Wilson's Snipe: 4 LCTM 15 Sep (G&MC); 14 MRR 22 Sep (JS).
Spotted Sandpiper: 4 CP 27 Sep (SR).
Solitary Sandpiper: NP 13 Sep (GC).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 16 LCTM 9 Sep (GC).
Greater Yellowlegs: 5 Es 7 Sep (SR); 18 CR 25 Oct (DRg).
Red-necked Phalarope: NP 6 Sep (DRg).
PARASITIC JAEGER: NP 12 Sep (GC); HPt 16 Sep (DRg); 2 LCP 15 Sep (AS).
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: 2 LCP 15 Sep (AS).
Pomarine/Parasitic Jaeger: WPt 8 Sep (DRg).
SABINE'S GULL: WPt 16 Sep (DRg).
Bonaparte's Gull: 380 WPt 8 Sep (DRg).
Little Gull: WPt 8 Sep (DRg); 5 NP 13 Sep (GC).
Ring-billed Gull: 800 CR 10 Sep (BS).
Iceland Gull: WD 23 Nov (SR).
Glaucous Gull: SRM 23 Nov (SR).
Great Black-backed Gull: 18 SRM 17 Nov (TL).
Caspian Tern: AP 7 Sep (TD).
Black Tern: NP 2 Sep (MM).
Common Tern: 71 WPt 8 Sep (DRg).

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: BWB 21 Oct (SR).
Common Loon: 2 SL 19 Sep (MJ), CO-FL; 27 PtR 8 Oct (BK).
Double-crested Cormorant: 1300 LCP 15 Sep (AS).
GREAT CORMORANT: SPt 25 Nov (BK); WP 18-30 Nov (DRg), Essex first.
American Bittern: BB 28 Sep (RS).
Great Blue Heron: 8 LCTM 30 Sep (SR).
Great Egret: 17 CP 22 Sep (KA).
Cattle Egret: CR 2 Nov (AB).
Green Heron: 12 DPR 6 Sep (YA).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 LCTM 9 Sep (GC).
Black Vulture: 3 TI 23 Oct (GC); 7 LCTM 5 Nov (SR).

Turkey Vulture: 36 LCTM 1 Oct (GC).
Osprey: TI 24 Sep (G&MC).
GOLDEN EAGLE: AFT 8 Nov (DRg).
Northern Harrier: FIC 26 Oct (JS).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 SRC 30 Sep (SMc).
Cooper's Hawk: 2 LCTM 9 Oct (SR).
Northern Goshawk: CH 29 Sep (BK).
Bald Eagle: 4 DPR 6 Sep (YA).
Red-shouldered Hawk: BRR 17 Sep (G&MC).
Broad-winged Hawk: BB 22 Sep (TD).
SWAINSON'S HAWK: MoR 9 Nov (JT), NYSARC decision pending.
Red-tailed Hawk: 2 HB 9 Oct (J&PT); CH 2 Nov (NO, MS).
Rough-legged Hawk: WV 26 Oct (HW).
Eastern Screech Owl: PC 30 Sep (GC).
Great Horned Owl: PtR 17 Sep (BP).
Barred Owl: 2 WP 14 Oct (DRg).
Long-eared Owl: RL 25 Sep (GL).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: 2 BL 12 Oct (CS).
Belted Kingfisher: 5 LCTM 9 Sep (GC).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 4 LCTM 9 Sep (GC).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 BB 15 Sep (TR).
Black-backed Woodpecker: 3 BTI 19 Oct (BL).
Northern Flicker: 20 Es 17 Sep (CF).
Pileated Woodpecker: 2 AM 14 Sep (BB).
American Kestrel: 2 RP 13 Sep (RSc).
Merlin: SL 15 Oct (JS).
Peregrine Falcon: PB 31 Oct (SR).

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: VI 6 Sep (JS).
Eastern Kingbird: BRR 7 Sep (G&MC).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: HF 3 Sep (J&PT).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: MM 21 Sep (SR).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: HF 5 Oct (J&PT).
Alder Flycatcher: BB 5 Sep (JL).
Willow Flycatcher: no reports.
Least Flycatcher: 2 AIC 15 Sep (JL).
Eastern Phoebe: 3 BB 5 Sep (JL), CO-CF.
Northern Shrike: AFT 7 Nov (DRg).
Yellow-throated Vireo: 2 LCTM 9 Sep (GC).
Blue-headed Vireo: PtR 24 Sep (JH).
Philadelphia Vireo: PtR 17 Sep (BP).
Warbling Vireo: KN 30 Sep (J&PT).
Red-eyed Vireo: CP 5 Oct (SR).
Canada Jay: 8 BB 27 Sep (LS, CS).
Blue Jay: 15 TG 13 Oct (BB).
Common Raven: 4 SL 6 Sep (JL).
Horned Lark: 4 WF 29 Sep (MJ); 1000+ NFR 16 Nov (SR).
Purple Martin: no reports.
Tree Swallow: 28 CP 5 Oct (SR).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: TI 15 Sep, only report.
Bank Swallow: 30 AM 2 Sep (ID).
Cliff Swallow: 7 AM 2 Sep (ID).
Barn Swallow: 20 NP 2 Sep (DRg).
Boreal Chickadee: 3 GO 7 Sep (DD).
Tufted Titmouse: 12 PC 30 Sep (GC).
House Wren: HB 12 Oct (J&PT).
Winter Wren: MM 26 Oct (SR).
Marsh Wren: CR 26 Oct (SR), late.
Carolina Wren: 4 LCTM 30 Sep (SR).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 16 MtM 16 Sep (MD).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 7 BB 3 Oct (KM).
Eastern Bluebird: CH 12 Nov (SJ).
Veery: WRS 15 Sep (MM).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: RL 22 Sep (GL).
Bicknell's Thrush: GO 7 Sep (DD); 8 MtM 16 Sep (MD).
Swainson's Thrush: 30 Es 16 Sep (MD); AIC 23 Sep (CD), late.
Hermit Thrush: 3 WC 10 Sep (JL), CO-FY.
Wood Thrush: AOT 15 Sep (MM).
Gray Catbird: 2 BB 25 Sep (JS), CO-FL.
Brown Thrasher: LA 19 Sep (GR).
Northern Mockingbird: WP 8 Oct (RB).
Cedar Waxwing: 24 BRR 7 Sep (G&MC).
American Pipit: 2 CR 6 Sep (BK); 5 CR 26 Oct (BMc).
Evening Grosbeak: ES 9 Oct (DRg).
Purple Finch: 8 SL 11 Nov (EG).
Lapland Longspur: 2 MR 12 Nov (DRg).
Snow Bunting: 50 PR 9 Oct (SR); 1000+ NFR 16 Nov (SR).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: BRR 28 Oct (G&MC).
American Tree Sparrow: 3 BB 29 Oct (TR).
Chipping Sparrow: 25 CP 2 Sep (GC); BRR 3 Nov (MC).
Field Sparrow: MM 18 Oct (SR).
Vesper Sparrow: ES 9 Oct (DRg); WP 16 Nov (SR).
Savannah Sparrow: 2 AOT 14 Oct (DRg); SPC 7 Nov (A&MM).
LECONTE'S SPARROW: CR 25 OCT (DRg).
NELSON'S SPARROW: CR 26 Oct (BMc).
Fox Sparrow: LA 19 Sep (GR), early.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 BB 10 Sep (EL).
Swamp Sparrow: 13 LA 19 Sep (GR); LA 9 Nov (SR), late.
White-throated Sparrow: 18 BB 3 Oct (KM).
White-crowned Sparrow: NP 26 Sep (SR).
Dark-eyed Junco: 9 MP 1 Oct (KM); CO-FL.

Bobolink: 20 FtC 2 Sep (HW).
Eastern Meadowlark: WP 5 Sep (SR); CP 21 Oct (SR).
Baltimore Oriole: no reports.
Red-winged Blackbird: 500 MR 9 Nov (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 6 WV 14 Nov (HW).
Rusty Blackbird: LCTM 30 Sep (SR); 24 AM 26 Oct (KT).
Ovenbird: CP 28 Sep (SR).
Northern Waterthrush: NP 3 Sep (DRg), only report.
Black and White Warbler: 3 PtR 17 Sep (BP).
Tennessee Warbler: LMt 10 Sep (LS).
Orange-crowned Warbler: MtJ 17 Sep (DDn); CP 8 Oct (SR).
Nashville Warbler: 8 BB 3 Sep (JS); CP 5 Oct (SR).
Mourning Warbler: 2 MtB 4 Sep (JL); only report.
Common Yellowthroat: 6 AM 14 Sep (BB); KB 2 Oct (KM).
American Redstart: KB 10 Sep (BS); 3 CP 28 Sep (SR).

Cape May Warbler: EC 4 Sep (BvK).
Northern Parula: PS 1 Oct (KM).
Magnolia Warbler: 5 PtR 9 Sep (BP).
Bay-breasted Warbler: LMt 10 Sep (LR); 4 MtM 16 Sep (MD).
Blackburnian Warbler: 4 MtM 16 Sep (MD).
Yellow Warbler: CP 27 Sep (SR).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: BRR 20 Sep (GCh).
Blackpoll Warbler: 8 MtM 16 Sep (MD).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 4 FR 7 Sep (JL), CO-FY.
Palm Warbler: 10 BB 21 Sep (BMc).
Pine Warbler: HR 21 Oct (SR).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 20 BB 1 Oct (DY).
Black-throated Green Warbler: 8 MtM 16 Sep (MD).
Canada Warbler: 2 BB 5 Sep (JL).
Wilson's Warbler: BC 17 Sep (NR).
Scarlet Tanager: CP 28 Sep (SR).
Northern Cardinal: 2 NP 16 Sep (BP), CO-FY.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: BC 25 Sep (NR).
Indigo Bunting: BT 9 Oct (DRg), late.