

REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Bill Krueger

40 Colligan Point Rd, Plattsburgh, NY 12901
billkrueger@hotmail.com

Overall the winter season's weather was exceptionally mild. A deep, persistent polar low pressure system and the zonal flow of the arctic jet stream prevented the occultation that produces polar vortexes. As a result Region 7 enjoyed a winter without an extreme cold snap. This warm weather is the likely cause of half-hardies like E. Bluebird's overwintering, as well as January and/or February

sightings of C. Grackle and Chipping, Fox and White-crowned Sparrows not usually reported from these months. A late Hermit Thrush on 6 December should also be included here.

Temperatures in December for the northern third of Region 7 averaged 1-3° above normal, but the rest of the Region was near normal. Precipitation (liquid equivalent) ranged from 1-2" in the Champlain Valley to 4-5" in southern Hamilton County. On 17 December winter storm Finley dropped over 6" of snow in the Champlain Valley plus double that and more in the western portions of the Region. Just before the New Year winter storm Gage left 0.1" of ice in Plattsburgh, 0.3" in Saranac Lake and 0.5" in Ellenburg. January was the warmest on record. Franklin Co. and the northern part of Clinton Co. averaged 7-9° above normal, while the rest of Region 7 was 5-7° warmer than usual. Precipitation for the Region was +/-3" except for a pocket along the Clinton/Franklin County border where the totals were 4-5". Winter Storm Jacob on 18 January left 6-8" of snow in The Champlain Valley while up to 18" fell in the mountains. Temperatures in February moderated somewhat but still remained 1-3° above average throughout the Region except for a small area astride the Clinton/Franklin County line which was 3-5° higher than average. Rainfall totals of 3-4" in Clinton County and the southern halves of Essex and Hamilton Counties were separated by a by a drier band of 2-3". Snow from winter storm Kade totaled 14" in Plattsburgh and up to 20" in the southwest of Region 7.

Not only did Lake Champlain not freeze over entirely this year, but areas that normally would have frozen for the duration remained open. In the north this included Ausable Point and north of the Cumberland Head Ferry to Point au Roche. To the south Essex and Port Kent were mostly open, but Bulwagga Bay froze over and there was limited open water at the Champlain Bridge with a nice concentration of waterfowl. Overall the result was numerous mid-winter sightings of species like N. Pintail, Canvasback, Tufted Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, and Double-crested Cormorant. Individually probably not so remarkable, but noteworthy taken all together.

The Winter Finch Forecast for 2019-2020 predicted that this would not be a flight year, noting that cone crops were abundant in Eastern Canada. In the event much of the forecast was born out. Hoary Redpolls were entirely absent, and there were only single reports of Pine Grosbeak and Common Redpoll. There was also only one report of Bohemian Waxwing and just two for Evening Grosbeak, a species of special concern in Canada.

A **Laughing Gull** in the Westport area, the highlight of the season, was a second for Essex County and only the third for Region 7. A first winter **King Eider** at Ausable Point was only the second record for Clinton County and the fifth for the Region. A **Tufted Duck** was found in two locations about 35 miles and more than seven weeks apart. No guess as to whether it was the same bird is hazarded. Also noteworthy was a **Great Cormorant**, first seen in November, that lingered into December. A **Golden Eagle** gave 2020 a welcome start with a sighting on 1 January.

CONTRIBUTORS

A. Ackerley, Alan Belford, Brian Berg, Gary Chapin, Glen Chapman, Malinda Chapman, Larry Chen, Madison Cleveland, Joan Collins, Zac Cota, Eric Damour, Charlotte Demers, Jonathan Feinstein, Ellie George, Suzy Johnson, Bill Krueger, Dayna Lalonde, Chelsea Lawrence, Gary Lee, Anthony Macchiarola, Brian McAllister, Thom McClenahan, Kevin McGrath, Sean McHugh, Deborah Miller, Las Morgans, Nancy Olsen, Jim Osborn, Andy Retloff, Mark Robinson, Stacy Robinson, Derek Rogers (DRg), Carol Slatkin, Janet Stein, Melissa Steinberg, John & Pat Thaxton, Jan Trzeciak, Benjamin Walton.

ABBREVIATIONS

AHR – Angier Hill Rd.; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BMR** – Blue Mt Rd.; **BP** – Burnum Pd; **BR** – Burdich Rd.; **CB** – Cole Bay; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **ChP** – Cheney Pd; **CMt** – Cascade Mt.; **CPd** – Connery Pd; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **DR** – Deer Ri; **DRd** – Delano Rd.; **EAW** – Eight Acre Wood; **EC** – Essex Co; **ECBC** – Elizabethtown CBC; **EF** – Essex Ferry; **Es** – Essex; **GBM** – Gilbert Brook Marina; **GR** – Giddings Rd.; **HB** – Holsington Beach; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LCo** – Lake Colby; **Mal** – Malone; **MB** – Monty’s Bay; **MCR** – Mace Chasm Rd.; **Min** – Minerva; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MV** – Mountain View; **NE** – Newcomb; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PCBC** – Plattsburgh CBC; **PH** – Port Henry; **PK** – Port Kent; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **Px** – Paradox; **ReR** – Reynolds Rd.; **SbB** – Sabattis Bog; **SL** – Saranac L; **SLCBC** – Saranac L CBC; **SPB** – Sand Pd Bog; **SRM** – Saranac Ri mouth; **ST** – Stetson Rd.; **TA** – The Acres; **TFBL** – Ticonderoga Ferry and Boat Launch; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **Waw** – Wawbeek; **WD** – Wilcox Dock; **WI** – Willsboro; **WM** – Wickham Marsh; **WP** – Westport; **WPt** – Wilsboro Pt; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp.

WATERFOWL-LARIDS

Snow Goose: 8000 ReR 11 Jan (BK).
Cackling Goose: Peru 15 Dec (DRg).
Canada Goose: 164 HB 11 (SR).
Northern Pintail: EC 1 Jan (SR); EAW 13 Feb (GL). late.
Canvasback: CH 1 Dec (BK); 4 PK 9 Jan (SR).
Redhead: 5 PK 9 Jan (SR).
Ring-necked Duck: 28 PK 9 Jan (SR).
TUFTED DUCK: PH 5 Jan (M&SR); PK 25 Feb (ZC).
Greater Scaup: 2500 WD 8 Jan (DRg).
Lesser Scaup: 1200 WD 1 Jan (BMc).
KING EIDER: AP 23-25 Feb (DL).
White-winged Scoter: 2 SRM 12 Dec (GC, SR)

Long-tailed Duck: WD 1 Dec (BK).
Bufflehead: 20 GR 2 Jan (GC).
Common Goldeneye: 350 WD 1 Jan (BMc).
Barrow's Goldeneye: WI 3 Dec (DRg); 7 WM 1 Feb (SR).
Hooded Merganser: 21 WPt 5 Jan (GC).
Common Merganser: 550 MB 9 Jan (SR).
Red-breasted Merganser: WPt 18 Jan (DRg); 3 PK 26 Feb (JO).
Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 WP 22 Feb (DRg).
Ruffed Grouse: 8 BMR 5 Jan (BB).
Wild Turkey: 24 Mal 17 Feb (BB).
Horned Grebe: 15 PK 9 Jan (SR).
Red-necked Grebe: WP 14 Dec (GC).
LAUGHING GULL: HB 5 Feb (DRg).
Iceland Gull: PCBC 15 Dec.

Glaucous Gull: WP 26 Dec (DRg); SRM 1 Feb (SR).
Great Black-backed Gull: 32 GBM 9 Jan (SR).

LOONS-PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: WP 3 Jan (TMc).
Common Loon: AP 29 Dec (JS); EF 22 Feb (DM).
Double-crested Cormorant: WP 11 Jan (GC); WP 20 Jan J&PT).
GREAT CORMORANT: HB 2 Dec (DRg), continuing.
Great Blue Heron: PCBC 15 Dec.
Black Vulture: 11 TI 2 Feb (LC).
Turkey Vulture: 2 Px 28 Feb (EG).
GOLDEN EAGLE: DRd 1 Jan (GC).
Northern Harrier: TI 10 Jan (SR).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: CP 19 Dec (SR).
Cooper's Hawk: Es 14 Feb (CS).
Northern Goshawk: WM 7 Dec (DRg).
Bald Eagle: 5 CH 15 Feb (SJ).
Red-tailed Hawk: 3 WP 20 Feb (SR).
Rough-legged Hawk: PCBC 15 Dec.
Eastern Screech Owl: WP 14 Dec (GC).
Great Horned Owl: MV 15 Feb (JT).
Barred Owl: 2 SL 2 Feb (JS).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Waw 4 Jan (AR).
Belted Kingfisher: AP 6 Jan (KMc); AP 26 Feb (BK), continuing.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: WM 7 Dec (DRg).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 CB 19 Dec (SR).
Black-backed Woodpecker: 4 SbB 23 Feb (JC).
Northern Flicker: WP 11 Jan (GC).
Pileated Woodpecker: 2 LCo 4 Jan (ED).
American Kestrel: WP 25 Dec (BMc).
Merlin: PH 28 Feb (SR).
Peregrine Falcon: WP 22 Dec (DRg).

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: TA 17 Feb (MS).
Northern Shrike: WP 14 Jan (DRg).
Canada Jay: 4 BB 22 Dec (SMc).
Common Raven: 22 EAW 6 Feb (GL).
Horned Lark: 60 ST 9 Jan (SR).
Boreal Chickadee: 3 CMt 24 Dec (BW).

Tufted Titmouse: PtR 15 Feb (NO).
Winter Wren: PtR 15 Dec (AB).
Carolina Wren: 2 WP 11 Jan (GC); CH 15 Feb (NO).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: AP 29 Dec (JS).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: PB 15 Dec (DRg).
Eastern Bluebird: 5 WP 25 Jan (SR).
Hermit Thrush: WM 6 Dec (DRg).
Northern Mockingbird: PB 15 Dec (DRg).
Bohemian Waxwing: 25 SLCBC 28 Dec.
Cedar Waxwing: 75 MCR 26 Feb (SR).
Evening Grosbeak: NE 24 Dec (SR); 4 NE 21 Jan (CD).
Pine Grosbeak: 3 BB 1 Jan (AA).
Purple Finch: 26 EAW 7 Feb (GL).
Common Redpoll: 20 Min 31 Dec (JF).
Red Crossbill: SPB 4 Jan (SR); 12 NE 23 Jan (MC).
White-winged Crossbill: 3 ChP 4 Jan (J&PT); 20 SbB 1 Feb (CL).
American Goldfinch: 40 EAW 7 Feb (GL).
Lapland Longspur: 5 ST 9 Jan (SR).
Snow Bunting: 120 WP 11 Feb (SR).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

American Tree Sparrow: 34 WRS 25 Feb (JO).
Chipping Sparrow: 2 TFBL 15 Jan (SR); 2 NE 9 Feb (AM).
Savannah Sparrow: CP 5 Dec (GC).
Fox Sparrow: BR 14 Feb (SR).
Song Sparrow: MM 21 Jan (SR); Es 25 Feb (JO).
White-throated Sparrow: 11 CP 5 Dec (GC).
White-crowned Sparrow: BR 8 Dec (SR); TI 31 Jan -10 Feb (GCh).
Red-winged Blackbird: 17 AHR 27 Jan (SR); 12 DRd 24 Feb (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 50 DRd 24 Feb (SR).
Common Grackle: LA 23 Jan (JO), late.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 2 PtR 15 Dec (AB); WPt 18 Jan (DRg).
Northern Cardinal: 16 PtR 15 Dec (AB).

