

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The above normal temperatures of January and February continued into March. The northern third of Region 7 was from 5-7° above normal for the month. This departure diminished southward to include almost all of Hamilton County and a narrow belt along the Clinton/Essex border to Lake Champlain where the temperatures were only 3-5° above normal. The High Peaks area was only 1-3° above average. Precipitation (melted equivalent) for the month generally ranged from 2-3" with areas that reached 3-4" astride the Clinton/Franklin County border and in the High Peaks area. The southern half of Hamilton County was the wettest with an average of 4-5".

The warmer than normal temperature trend turned around in April. Most of Region 7 except for Essex County was 1-3° cooler than normal. Essex County was 3-5° colder and the High Peaks region of Essex County was below average by 5-7°. Rainfall for most of the Region was 2-3" with drier (1-2") pockets in the

western portions of Franklin County and wetter (3-4") pockets in the High Peaks region.

Temperatures for Region 7 in May hovered just above or just below normal, +/-1 degree. Once again the High Peaks region was the exception with temperatures 1-3° below normal. However, the general impression was that May was exceptionally cold. It snowed in the Champlain Valley several times, and in Hamilton County it snowed three times in the second week of May alone. The last frost for the Region was actually in June. Precipitation averaged 1-2" in the north of Region 7 and 2-3" in the south including all but a small portion of the High Peaks where precipitation was 3-4" overall.

For the second year in a row Lake Champlain did not freeze over entirely. More than that, in the north end of the lake the permanent ice extended south only to Point au Roche. For the first time in the memory of some long-time residents Treadwell Bay had only intermittent ice cover. Not surprisingly ice out was early as well. By 17 March the ice edge had retreated as far north as Hubble Point, just north of Gilbert Brook Marina. Only a week later the lake was ice free to the border with Canada and its outlet into the Richelieu River. This allowed the returning waterfowl and other early migrants to disperse over larger than normal areas and diminished reports of large concentrations.

Lake Champlain began the season at a level of 96.2' and rose to 97.7' by 15 March where it stayed for a couple of weeks before rising to its maximum of 98.7' on 17 April. An unusually low level for the springtime high, this was more than a foot below flood stage of 100.0'. From there it dropped in three stages to 96.6' on 31 May. At these levels the mud flats at the Chazy Riverlands were exposed for only the last week of May. Noblewood Park also was not at optimum levels. This undoubtedly accounts for the poor showing of shorebird species and the low numbers of individual birds. Notable misses include Pectoral Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher and Dunlin.

The Crown Point Banding Station opened for its 45th consecutive year; but due to the pandemic, only after working out an acceptable operational plan, which included eliminating the educational portion of its activities and excluding all visitors. Gordon Howard reported that 641 individuals of fifteen species were banded in the two weeks of the station's operation. Both counts were lower than last year's count when 1095 individuals of nineteen species were banded.

There were two separate reports of **Greater White-fronted Goose**, a species that over the past ten years has been seen roughly once every two years. In a first for Clinton County, three **Trumpeter Swans** were found at Lake Alice in mid-March. Though not seen on every visit, observers found one or two swans for the remainder of the season. Probable breeding was recorded when a pair was noted in mid-April. Found at Point au Roche, a **Eurasian Wigeon** was only the third spring time sighting in the last ten years in Region 7. Two reports of **Tufted Duck**, one from Port Kent and the other from Crown Point over a month apart, suggest the possibility that two individuals had been present. This species, nearly a regular, has been seen in five of the last seven years on the NY side of Lake

Champlain. For only the second time in the last ten years, a **Harlequin Duck** was found in the last week of April at the Essex Ferry.

Sandhill Crane was reported from Gabriels in the second week April and three weeks later in early May. A **Black-headed Gull** in brilliantly fresh plumage was also seen twice, first at Willsboro Point then at Port Kent. The four **Red-Throated Loons** at Noblewood Park, an uncommon find this time of year, were a record high count. Hamilton County provided the season's only **Golden Eagle**. The highlight of the season was a **Say's Phoebe** at Crown Point. First seen in Late April, it lingered to 15 May when it was last reported by Gordon Howard and the Crown Point Bird Banding Station. Extirpated from its one-time stronghold at the Clinton County Airport/PAFB, **Grasshopper Sparrow** was a welcome find on Willsboro Point. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** found at the St. Regis Canoe Area was the first record of this species in Region 7 since 2010.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AM – Ausable Marsh; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **AT** – Altona; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BC** – Belmont Center; **BRRd** – Bigalow Rd.; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd.; **CB** – Cole Bay; **CoH** – Coot Hill; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CRM** – Chapman Rd. marsh; **DS** – Drum Street Rd.; **EAW** – Eight Acre Wood; **EF** – Essex Ferry; **Es** – Essex; **FV** – Fort View; **GRd** – Giddings Rd.; **GU** – The Gulf; **HBO** – Hoisington Brook Outlet; **HS** – Hogback Swamp; **IL** – Intervale Lowlands; **ILk** – Indian L; **JPO** – Jones Pd Outlet; **JS** – Jackson Summit; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LCTM** – Lower La Chute, Ticonderoga Marsh; **LL** – Long L; **LnP** – Lincoln Pd; **LPd** – Long Pd; **LtP** – Lost Pd; **Ma** – Madawaska; **Mal** – Malone; **MB** – Monty Bay; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MO** – Moira; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **New** – Newcomb; **NO** – Northville; **NP** – Noblewood P; **OH** – Owls Head; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PC** – Putts Creek; **PD** – Port Douglas; **PH** – Port Henry; **Pi** – Piseco; **PK** – Port Kent; **PR** – Pardy Rd.; **PtR** – Point au Roche; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **Px** – Paradox; **RP** – Rouses Pt; **SB** – Sandy Beach; **SbB** – Sabattis Bog; **SC** – Sabattis Circle; **SCK** – Scotion Creek; **SL** – Saranac L; **SRCA** – St. Regis Canoe Area; **SRM** – Saranac Ri mouth; **ST** – Stevens Landing; **TFBL** – Ticonderoga Ferry & boat launch; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **UCL** – Upper Chateaugay L; **VTV** – Vermontville; **WD** – Wilcox Dock; **WI**

– Willsboro; **WM** – Wickham Marsh; **WP** – Westport; **WPt** – Willsboro Pt; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 1000 PtR 5 Mar (NO).
Greater White-fronted Goose: CP 8 Mar (BMc); PR 12 Mar (SR).
Brant: 70 NP 15 May (GC).
Cackling Goose: CP 9 Mar (GC).
TRUMPETER SWAN (R7): 3 LA 18 Mar (BF, mo); CRM 25 May (AB).
Wood Duck: arr. 2 FV 5 Mar (SR).
Blue-winged Teal: arr, AM 19 Apr (AB).
Northern Shoveler: 2 CR 24 May (AB).
Gadwall: 8 CR 11 Apr (AB).
EURASIAN WIGEON (R7): PtR 21 Mar (AB).
American Wigeon: 10 CR 11 Apr (AB).
Northern Pintail: arr. LCTM 8 Mar (GC); 25 AP 15 Apr (JS).
Green-winged Teal: arr, CP 8 Mar (GC).
Canvasback: no reports.
Redhead: 15 AP 12 Mar (SR).
Ring-necked Duck: 57 AP 12 Mar (SR).
TUFTED DUCK: PK 7 Mar (LM); CP 14 Apr (SR).
Greater Scaup: 44 CP 26 Apr (SW).
Lesser Scaup: 125 SRM 15 Mar (JS, SC).
HARLEQUIN DUCK (R7): EF 24 Apr (DRg).
White-winged Scoter: 19 NP 15 May (GC).
Long-tailed Duck: arr, 7 WPt 14 Apr (DRg).
Bufflehead: 24 MB 2 May (AB).
Common Goldeneye: 600 WM 1 Mar (AA).
Barrow's Goldeneye: 5 GRd 3 Mar (MF).
Hooded Merganser: 6 WP 28 Mar (JS).
Common Merganser: 785 CP 25 Mar (SR).
Red-breasted Merganser: 8 CB 25 Apr (SR).
Ruddy Duck: no reports.
Ring-necked Pheasant: WP 16 Mar (SR).
Ruffed Grouse: PD 7 May (OS), Co-NE.
Wild Turkey: 16 New 21 Mar (ME).
Pied-billed Grebe: CP 19 Mar (SR).
Horned Grebe: 21 AM 19 Apr (AB).
Red-necked Grebe: 2 HBO 28 Mar (SR); 5 PK 9 Apr (SR).
Black-billed Cuckoo: WI 21 May (SR).
Common Nighthawk: arr, ILK 20 May (B&LH).
Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr, 3 BRR 6 May (G&MC).
Chimney Swift: arr, AM 27 Apr (MD).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr, Px 2 May (EG).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: arr, WM 15 Apr (SR).
Sora: arr, Sck 2 May (AB).
Common Gallinule: arr, 25 PC Apr (SR).
American Coot: no reports.
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): 2 GA 11 Apr (EG); GA 1 May (MD).
Black-bellied Plover: arr, 9 CR 24 May (AB).
Semipalmated Plover: arr, WI 22 May (RB).
Killdeer: arr, 6 Pi 20 Mar (CK).
Least Sandpiper: arr, PH 3 May (SR).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 6 Mal 19 May (AP).
American Woodcock: arr. TI 8 Mar (GC).
Wilson's Snipe: arr, AP 4 Apr (BMc).
Spotted Sandpiper: arr, PH 30 Apr (SR).
Solitary Sandpiper: arr, PS 6 May (BMc).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr, 3 SL 8 May (BW).
Greater Yellowlegs: MR 11 Apr (AB).
Bonaparte's Gull: WP 15 Apr (DRg); 85 WP 4 May (SR).
BLACK-HEADED GULL (R7): WPt 28 Mar (DRg); PH 11 Apr (SR, BMC).
Glaucous Gull: WD 12 Mar (SR).
Great Black-backed Gull: 4 WM 1 Mar (AA).
Caspian Tern: arr, 5 NP 28 Mar (GC); 61 PH 22 Apr (SR).
Black Tern: arr, 6 CRM 25 May (AB).
Common Tern: WP 1 May (SR).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: 4 NP 15 May (GC).
Common Loon: 2 HBO 28 Mar (SR).
Double-crested Cormorant: 800 CP 8 MAY (BMc).
American Bittern: arr, WI 20 Apr (SR).
Least Bittern: arr, WM 10 May (GC).
Great Blue Heron: arr. JPO 4 Mar (BMc).
Great Egret: arr, 2 LCTM 6 Apr (GC).
Green Heron: arr, LCTM 6 May (SR).
Black Vulture: 4 LCTM 8 Mar (GC).
Turkey Vulture: arr, 4 LCTM 8 Mar (GC); 82 PR 4 Apr (AB).
Osprey: arr, 4 CP 27 Mar (SR).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): EAW 22 Mar (GL).
Northern Harrier: 2 LA 9 Apr (SR).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 3 PR 4 Apr (AB).
Cooper's Hawk: 2 BB 6 May (BMc).
Northern Goshawk: 2 TI 21 Mar (LM); EAW 10 Apr (GL).

Bald Eagle: 5 EAW 22 Mar (GL); 3 OH 2 May (JT), Co-NY.
Red-shouldered Hawk: PR 4 Apr (AB).
Broad-winged Hawk: arr, CoH 12 Apr (AB).
Red-tailed Hawk: MM 3 May (SR), Co-ON.
Rough-legged Hawk: WP 22 Apr (SR).
Eastern Screech Owl: no reports.
Great Horned Owl: 2 Iv 14 Mar (SR).
Barred Owl: 3 BRR 8 Apr (GCh); 2 Pi 29 May (CK), Co-FL.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: 2 Px 5 Mar (EG).
Belted Kingfisher: 2 IL 16 May (TD).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 3 LCTM 8 Mar (GC).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr, TFBL 28 Mar (MMr).
Black-backed Woodpecker: 2 PS 12 May (EG).
Northern Flicker: 5 AM 17 May (GC).
Pileated Woodpecker: 3 LA 14 May (CV).
American Kestrel: 4 LA 14 May (JO).
Merlin: 2 PB 9 May (PR).
Peregrine Falcon: SRM 3 April (SMc).

FLYCATCHERS — SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr, 2 CP 6 May (SR).
Eastern Kingbird: arr, BC 3 May (WR).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr, HS 17 May (SR).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr, LCTM 16 May (MMr).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr, 3 JS 16 May (MF).
Alder Flycatcher: arr, ST 20 May (NG).
Willow Flycatcher: arr, TI 17 Mar (MMr).
Least Flycatcher: arr, LRTM 2 May (MMr).
Eastern Phoebe: arr, UCL 26 Mar (AB).
SAY'S PHOEBE: CP 24 Apr-8 May (GC, mo).
Northern Shrike: DS 26 Mar (AB).
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr, LCTM 6 May (SR).
Blue-headed Vireo: arr, Es 18 Apr (GCh).
Philadelphia Vireo: no reports.
Warbling Vireo: arr, PH 3 May (SR).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr, SRCA 3 May (SMc).
Canada Jay: 2 BB 27 Mar (ZC).
Blue Jay: 475 WPt 15 May (DRg).
Common Raven: 12 EAW 3 Mar (GL).
Horned Lark: Es 26 Apr (J&PT).
Purple Martin: no reports.
Tree Swallow: CP 27 Mar (SR).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr, LA 2 May (AB).
Bank Swallow: arr, WPt 14 May (DRg).

Cliff Swallow: arr, AP 4 May (DR).
Barn Swallow: arr, PPT 16 Apr (SR).
Boreal Chickadee: 8 VTV 1 Mar (MJ).
Tufted Titmouse: PH 2 May (ZC), Co-CN.
Brown Creeper: 4 GU 4 Apr (BB).
House Wren: TI 26 Apr (MMr).
Winter Wren: 2 LCTM 8 Mar (GC).
Marsh Wren: arr, SC 2 May (AB).
Carolina Wren: TFBL 28 Mar (MMr).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr, LRTM 2 May (MMr); CP 6 May (SR), Co-CN.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 4 PS 20 Mar (BMc).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr, TFBL 28 Mar (MMr).
Eastern Bluebird: 6 WP 12 Mar (AB).
Veery: arr, LA 2 May (AB).
Bicknell's Thrush: arr, ILk 22 May (MMo).
Swainson's Thrush: 2 Ma 5 May (AB).
Hermit Thrush: arr, 2 LCTM 8 Mar (GC).
Wood Thrush: arr, TI 30 Apr (MMr).
Gray Catbird: arr, BB 3 May (JS).
Brown Thrasher: arr, AT 11 Apr (JO).
Northern Mockingbird: 2 PB 8 Mar (NO, MS).
Cedar Waxwing: 12 NP 19 Apr (AB).
American Pipit: arr, CP 7 Mar (SR).
Evening Grosbeak: 3 Es 30 Mar (BM).
Purple Finch: 15 SB 8 Mar (PS).
Common Redpoll: 4 AT 26 Mar (LC).
Red Crossbill: BRR 21 Mar (GCh).
White-winged Crossbill: BRd 18 Mar (BMc).
Pine Siskin: 16 VTV 1 Mar (NK).
Snow Bunting: 15 WP 1 Mar (J&PT).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS — CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr, TFBL 4 Apr (MMr).
American Tree Sparrow: 4 AP 12 Mar (MMr).
Chipping Sparrow: arr, TFBL 14 Mar (GC).
Field Sparrow: arr, 2 LA 31 Mar (JOH).
Vesper Sparrow: arr, LL 5 Apr (GD).
Savannah Sparrow: arr, SB 12 Apr (SR).
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (R7): WP 28 Apr (DRg).
Fox Sparrow: TFBL 18 Mar (MMr).
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr, PS 3 May (BMc).
Swamp Sparrow: arr, WI 10 Apr (MC).
White-throated Sparrow: 12 BB 7 May (BMc).
White-crowned Sparrow: arr, MO 27 Apr (BD).
Bobolink: arr, 4 CP 6 May (GC).
Eastern Meadowlark: arr, WP 22 Mar (BMc).

Baltimore Oriole: arr, 3 LCTM 6 May (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 25 HBO 12 Apr (AB).
Rusty Blackbird: RP 9 Mar (SRo).
Ovenbird: arr, CL 3 May (JH).
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr, CP 16 Apr (SR).
Northern Waterthrush: arr, LnP 29 Apr (SR).
Golden-winged Warbler: arr, WRS 19 May (RB).
Blue-winged Warbler: arr, 2 WRS 18 May (SR).
“Brewster’s” Warbler: WRS 28 May (RB, BMc).
Black-and-white Warbler: arr, LA 2 May (AB).
Tennessee Warbler: arr, TI 13 May (MMr).
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr, SRCA 14 May (SMc).
Nashville Warbler: arr, 2 BB 3 May (JS).
Mourning Warbler: arr, BC 22 May (N&WR).
Common Yellowthroat: arr, TI 23 Apr (MMr).
American Redstart: arr, WP 2 May (DRg).
Cape May Warbler: arr, 2 PC 11 May (SR).
Northern Parula: arr, 4 Px 3 May (EG).

Magnolia Warbler: arr, NO 13 May (AVK).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr, WPt 15 May (DRg).
Blackburnian Warbler: arr, Es 30 Apr (DL).
Yellow Warbler: arr, TI 30 Apr (MMr).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr, BRR 10 May (G&MC).
Blackpoll Warbler: arr, CH 15 May (SJ).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr, ES 3 May (G&MC).
Palm Warbler: arr, LL 14 Apr (MC).
Pine Warbler: arr, Es 7 Apr (GC), only report.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr, PtR 14 Mar (JM).
Prairie Warbler: WP 17 May (GC).
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr, New 2 May (JM).
Canada Warbler: arr, LtP 16 May (DB).
Wilson’s Warbler: arr, WI 21 May (DRg); LP 26 May (G&MC).
Scarlet Tanager: arr, LA 2 May (AB).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr, LRTM 2 May (MMr).
Indigo Bunting: arr, PH 14 May (SR).