

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Rainfall for June was not evenly distributed across Region 7. The lower Champlain Valley was the driest with only 1-2" on average. The upper Valley and most of Essex County along with portions of Franklin and Hamilton Counties received 2-3". The northwestern section of the Region got 3-4". Temperatures in June were near normal over most of the Region except for the northern quarter which averaged 1-3° above normal.

July rainfall for all of Region 7 averaged 1-2" with a few scattered patches where the average was 2-3" or even 3-4". The month was also warmer than normal with temperatures averaging 3-5° hotter over most of the Region and 5-7° warmer along the border with Canada.

August was bookended by the remnants of Hurricanes *Isaias* in the first days and *Laura* in the last, both now downgraded to Tropical Storms. *Laura*'s impacts were compounded by a front from the upper Midwest, but still it was a minor event. *Isaias* had a major impact with two days of rain, most of it hard. This is borne out in the dramatic increase of the level of Lake Champlain (see below) and the more than doubling of the average rainfall for August to 5-6" in most places, and up to 6-7" in the Champlain Valley and an area that surrounded Lake Placid and Saranac Lake. On average, August temperatures were very close to normal, $\pm 1^{\circ}$, over most of Region 7. The exception was a small portion along the border with Canada where they averaged 1-3° warmer than normal. It is unknown how likely it is that the Brown Booby, first reported 14 August, was an *Isaias* driven bird.

In June the water level of Lake Champlain continued the steady drop started in May. It began at 96.6' on 1 June and declined almost linearly to 95.1' on 30 June. After leveling off for two or three days, it resumed a shallower decline to 94.4' at the beginning of August. Then heavy rains from the remnants of Tropical Storm *Isaias* added 0.4', after which it began a slow decline to 94.3' on 31 August. In early June these water levels were favorable for shorebirds at the Chazy Riverlands, but the northward migration was well past its peak. In August the mud flats there were dry and covered with vegetation. Once again the southward migration was best observed at Noblewood Park.

One of the three **Trumpeter Swans** found at Lake Alice this spring was last seen on 2 June. The more than two dozen sightings, many of them multiple, of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** from separate locations suggest an explosive season for this species in Region 7. A check of eBird records in the twenty years from 2000 to 2019 turned up only ten records, an average of one every two years. There were several reports of **Sandhill Crane** from its known breeding site in the Tupper Lake area as well as a flyover in Saranac Lake and a pair seen in the Gabriels vicinity on three separate occasions. The discovery of an **Upland Sandpiper** by an out of state birder was the first report of this bird in Region 7 since 2010, and, according to eBird, only the third since 2000. Once uncommon but reliable in well known spots, it has all but disappeared from the area. With the advent of hyper-intensive farming practices, hedge rows and windbreaks were destroyed. Pastures, all unused fields, and even former dirt roads were tilled and put to the plow. The last reliable area was a field so marginal that after a year or two of cultivation it was allowed to go fallow again. But the damage had been done. The **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** found at Noblewood Park was only the fourth since 2000 and the seventh overall for Region 7. Of these, four were within a week of Labor Day suggesting the best time look for this species. A rare **Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull hybrid**, first documented in 2019, was found again in July and August. Derek Rogers wrote the following:

"An apparent Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull hybrid that was photographed and described the previous summer on 24 August 2019, sporadically continued at the mouth of the Boquet River at Noblewood Park....

Little is known about this rare hybrid combo and this appears to be the first documented occurrence in the Lake Champlain basin.”

A **Brown Booby**, first reported 14 August from Indian Lake in Hamilton County, was seen almost daily by many observers until 22 August. As unlikely as it may seem, this is not the first record for Region 7. The first was in August of 2018 from Long Lake just to the north and also in Hamilton County. The only report of **Golden Eagle** was of an adult soaring over Carpenter’s Flats in Clinton County. The first sightings of **Clay-colored Sparrow** since 2011 were reported from two locations. one in Franklin County and the other in Essex County. Since 2000 only a single record is listed in eBird for Region 7. There are records from 2002 and 2011 in Clinton County (where it has bred) that were not reported to eBird. For the first time since 2006 **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found at two closely spaced locations nearly a month apart. Region 7 was once home to a colony of 17 individuals (M. Gretch, *The Kingbird* 2006; 56.2) on what had been Plattsburgh Air Force Base, but is now Plattsburgh International Airport. This species has been all but extirpated from the Region.

CORRECTION—In *The KINGBIRD*, Vol. 70, No. 3, p. 284, the sentence, “Gordon Howard reported that 641 individuals of fifteen species were banded...” should read: “Gordon Howard reported that 641 individuals of 61 species were banded in the two weeks of operation.”

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFT – Art Farm Tract; **AM** – Ausable Marsh; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **Bdl** – Bloomingdale; **BKT** – Black Kettle Trail; **Bom** – Bombay; **BRd** – Blue Ridge Rd; **BRM** – Boquet Ri mouth; **BRR** – Bull Rock

Rd; **CF** – Carpenter’s Flats; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CMt** – Cascade Mt; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CPd** – Connery Pd; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CRd** – Cemetery Rd; **CRv** – Chubb Ri; **DM** – Dalton Mt; **DmR** – Dumont Rd; **EB** – Eagle Bay; **EL** – Eagle L; **EP** – Ensign Pd; **Es** – Essex; **FC** – Fort Covington; **FO** – Fegiel Overlook; **FSP** – 1st & 2nd Ponds; **Gb** – Gabriels; **GCB** – Gadway Cement Barrens; **HB** – Holsington Beach; **HPd** – Horseshoe Pd; **HRd** – Hogback Rd; **ILk** – Indian L; **JPd** – Johnson Pd; **KMR** – Keese Mills Rd; **KV** – Keene Valley; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LCTM** – Lower La Chute Ticonderoga Marsh; **LLk** – Limekiln L; **LnP** – Lincoln Pd; **LP** – Lake Placid; **LMt** – Lyon Mt; **Mac** – Macomb Mt; **Mad** – Madawaska; **MB** – Montys Bay WMA; **MFR** – Miner Flat Rock; **MLk** – Meacham L; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **MRCE** – Middle Rd, Conservation Easement; **MtA** – Mount Adams; **MV** – Mountain View; **NE** – North Elba; **NP** – Noblewood P; **NR** – New Russia; **OH** – Owls Head; **OPd** – Osgood Pd; **OPR** – Oregon Plains Rd; **OT** – Onciota Trail; **PC** – Putts Creek; **PH** – Port Henry; **PL** – Plattsburgh; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtF** – Point au Fer; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **RFR** – Reagan Flats Rd; **RLk** – Raquet L; **SB** – Sabattis Bay; **SbB** – Sabattis Bog; **ScL** – Schroon L; **SL** – Saranac L; **SLB** – Silver L Bog; **SP** – Shaw Pd; **SPB** – Spring Pd Bog; **SRd** – Shattuck Rd; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TL** – Tupper L; **TPd** – Taylor Pd; **VI** – Valcour I; **WA** – Wadams; **WBR** – Whallons Bay Rd; **WI** – Willsboro; **WM** – Wickham Marsh; **WMt** – Whiteface Mt; **WP** – Westport; **WPt** – Wilsboro Pt; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WV** – Westville.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Mute Swan: 2 EB 28 Jul (BC).
TRUMPETER SWAN: LA 2 Jun (ABd, ph).
Wood Duck: 6 AM 28 Jun (NT), Co-FL; 81 LCTM 21 Jul (SR).
Blue-winged Teal: 8 CR 22 Aug (SR).
Gadwall: 6 CH 8 Aug (BK, SJ), Co-FL.
American Wigeon: BB 10 Jun (SG).
Green-winged Teal: 2 PS 18 Jul (JS), Co-FL.
Ring-necked Duck: 7 SP 12 Jul (BM), Co-FL.
Bufflehead: LLk 16 Jun (GL), only report.
Common Goldeneye: 23 VI 6 Jul (KMc).
Hooded Merganser: GCB 28 Jun (MM), Co-DD.
Common Merganser: 12 CH 8 Jul (BK, SJ), Co-FL; 26 FSP 27 Jul (CB).
Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 Es 3 Jun (MM, DRg).
Ruffed Grouse: 5 BB 19 Jul (JMc), Co-FL.
Wild Turkey: 12 TPD 28 Jun (JS), Co-FL.
Pied-billed Grebe: 3 SP 10 Jul (BM), Co-FL.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: WP 2 Jun (MM); SL 25 Jun (AB).
Black-billed Cuckoo: 3 AFT 25 Jun (DRg).
Common Nighthawk: 9 MFR 6 Jul (JH).
Eastern Whip-poor-will: 5 GCB 4 Jul (SR).

Chimney Swift: 2 EL 13 Jul (SR), Co-ON.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 3 HPd 17 Jul (JM).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: 3 AM 12 Jul (JB), Co-FL.
Sora: 2 CL 20 Jun (JH).
Common Gallinule: 4 PC 4 Jul (SR), Co-FL; 4 CR 22 Aug (SR), Co-FL.
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): 2 TL 5-18 Jul (GB, SB, TB); SL 12 Aug (JS); 2 Gb 23-25 Aug (FC).
Black-bellied Plover: no reports.
Semipalmated Plover: 2 Peru 10 Aug (SR).
Killdeer: 15 WP 16 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
UPLAND SANDPIPER (R7): DmR 23 Aug (SF).
Ruddy Turnstone: NP 27-31 Aug (SR, mo).
Sanderling: NP 23 Jul (SR).
Baird’s Sandpiper: 2 NP 29 Aug (DRg).
Least Sandpiper: WV 16 Jul (SF).
White-rumped Sandpiper: NP 17 Jul (SR); 2 BRM 9 Aug (DRg).
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (R7): NP 31 Aug (MM, SR).

Pectoral Sandpiper: BRM 9 Aug (DRg); BRM 29 Aug (DRg).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 PH 4 Jun (SR).
Short-billed Dowitcher: no reports.
American Woodcock: 3 SB 13 Jul (TH).
Wilson's Snipe: 6 TL 15 Jun (ABk).
Spotted Sandpiper: 9 VI 6 Jul (KMc); 15 VI 31 Aug (KMc).
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 LCTM 21 Jul (SR).
Lesser Yellowlegs: WP 16 Jul (SR).
Greater Yellowlegs: 2 HB 14 Jul (RB).
Red-necked Phalarope: OPd 1 Aug (BMc&CV).
Bonaparte's Gull: NP 17 Jul (SR).
Little Gull: 1-4 BRM 29 Jul-27 Aug (DRg, mo); WP 30 Aug (DRg).
Great Black-backed Gull: 2 CP 26 Aug (SR).
HERRING GULL X GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: NP 28 Jul-10 Aug (DRg, ph).
Caspian Tern: max 146 NP 8 Aug (MM); 21 CR 22 Aug (SR).
Black Tern: FC 4 Jun (SR); NP 29 Aug (DRg).
Common Tern: max 150 WPt 30 Aug (DRg); 95 NP 23 Jul (SR).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: 5 NP 6 Jun (SR).
BROWN BOOBY: ILk 14-22 Aug (RS).
Double-crested Cormorant: 700 NP 17 Aug (N&PH).
American Bittern: 3 SP 10 Jul (BM), Co-FY.
Least Bittern: WM 20 Jun (RB).
Great Blue Heron: 22 LCTM 19 Aug (SR).
Great Egret: 4 AP 5 Aug (OS).
Green Heron: 3 EL 8 Aug (SR), Co-FL.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 4 LCTM 19 Aug (SR).
Black Vulture: Peru 14 Jun (DR), rare Clin.
Turkey Vulture: 15 CRd 20 Jul (J&PT). Osprey: 5 AM 24 Jun (AM).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): CF 17 Aug (DR).
Northern Harrier: 3 Bom 11 Jul (AB).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 BB 25 Jul (AB), Co-FL.
Cooper's Hawk: 5 TL 19 Aug (EF).
Northern Goshawk: MFR 4 Jun (SR); Sbb 12 Jun (JC, GL).
Bald Eagle: MV 2 Jul (JT), Co-NY.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 HRd 7 Jul (SR).
Broad-winged Hawk: 3 PS 23 Jul (JB), Co-FL.
Red-tailed Hawk: 3 TI 22 Jul (MMr), Co-FL.
Eastern Screech Owl: no reports.
Great Horned Owl: 3 ILk 15 Jun (MMo).

Barred Owl: DM 20 Jul (AB), Co-FL.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: BRd 9 Jun (JC).
Belted Kingfisher: 6 AM 11 Jul (LM), Co-FL.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 3 PC 4 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 6 SLB 3 Jul (AB), Co-FL.
Black-backed Woodpecker: 3 Jpd 17 Jun (RR).
Northern Flicker: 3 SL 13 Jun (BMc).
Pileated Woodpecker: 2 KV 1 Aug (LM).
American Kestrel: 2 Es 31 Jul (J&PT).
Merlin: 3 LnP 29 Jun (SR).
Peregrine Falcon: 2 VI 3 Jul (KMc), Co-FL.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: 4 PtF 1 Aug (SR).
Eastern Kingbird: 4 RLk 29 Jun (SH).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: 4 OT 29 Jul (JB).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: 5 AM 10 Aug (SR).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 3 MtA 23 Jul (GB), Co-FL.
Alder Flycatcher: 4 LA 17 Jun (BK).
Willow Flycatcher: FC 4 Jun (SR).
Least Flycatcher: 6 MB 25 Jul (OS).
Eastern Phoebe: 4 PS 25 Jul (RH).
Yellow-throated Vireo: 3 LCTM 21 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Blue-headed Vireo: 4 SL 19 Aug (GS), Co-FL.
Philadelphia Vireo: NP 1 Jun (MM); 2 CP 16 Aug (KMc).
Warbling Vireo: 6 AM 1 Jul (KMc).
Red-eyed Vireo: 14 PS 18 Jul (AG).
Canada Jay: 7 BB 18 Jul (LS).
Fish Crow: 2 ScL 11 Jun (SR).
Common Raven: 8 MLk 18 Jul (JMc), Co-FL.
Horned Lark: 2 SL 28 Aug (JS).
Purple Martin: 11 CP 11 Aug (SR); FC 1 Aug (AB), Co-CF.
Tree Swallow: 21 AM 28 Jul (OS).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 7 CPd 14 Jul (RB).
Bank Swallow: 2 NP 17 Jul (DRg).
Cliff Swallow: 18 SL 23 Jun (LM).
Barn Swallow: 25 BRR 10 Jul (MC), Co-FL.
Boreal Chickadee: 4 WMt 10 Jun (JCI).
Tufted Titmouse: 5 BRR 12 Aug (MC).
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 7 SL 18 Jul (SF), Co-FL.
Brown Creeper: 2 LP 2 Jun (MC), Co-NB.
House Wren: 5 CP 16 Jul (SR).
Winter Wren: 11 WMt 18 Jun (ST).
Sedge Wren: 2-4 MRCE 3-20 Jun (DRg, MM).
Marsh Wren: 26 LCTM 9 Jul (SR), Co-CF.

Carolina Wren: PL 10 Jul (NO, MS); 2 MM 2 Aug (SR), Co-CF.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 5 LCTM 21 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: LMt 26 Jun (AM); 10 OPR 14 Jul (SF), Co-CF.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 6 Mac 6 Jul (GD).
Eastern Bluebird: 4 Gb 18 Aug (EG).
Veery: BB 9 Aug (BMc), Co-CF.
Bicknell's Thrush: 5 WMt 10 Jun (JCI).
Swainson's Thrush: 8 WMt 10 Jun (JCI).
Hermit Thrush: 19 GCB 28 Jun (MM).
Wood Thrush: 5 KMR 25 Jul (RH).
Gray Catbird: 4 PtF 1 Aug (SR).
Brown Thrasher: 4 Bom 9 Jun (AB).
Northern Mockingbird: 4 MR 27 Jun (ABd).
Cedar Waxwing: 30 GCB 28 Jun (MM).
Evening Grosbeak: 12 NR 12 Aug (ET).
Purple Finch: 3 BRR 13 Aug (G&MC), Co-FL.
Red Crossbill: 18 GCB 28 Jun (MM); 35 WMt 4 JUL (LW).
Pine Siskin: 2 WMt 13 Jul (SF), Co-CF.

NEW WORLD – SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 4 PtR 8 Jun (KA).
Chipping Sparrow: 30 NR 15 Aug (SR), Co-FY.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R7): Gb 20-30 June (AB); WA 6-8 Jul (M&PF), rare.
Field Sparrow: 5 PtR 8 Jun (KA).
Savannah Sparrow: 7 WP 9 Jun (SR).
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (R7): WI 4 Jun (MM); WBR 1 Jul-12 Aug (DRg), rare.
Lincoln's Sparrow: SL 27 Aug (AB), Co-FL.
Swamp Sparrow: 12 EP 10 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
White-throated Sparrow: 9 BB 19 Jul (JMc), Co-CF.
White-crowned Sparrow: CMt 18 Aug (MK), early.
Bobolink: 15 WP 2 Jun (RB).
Eastern Meadowlark: 7 NP 26 Aug (OS).
Baltimore Oriole: 5 BRR 12 Aug (MC).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 12 AM 11 Aug (OS).
Rusty Blackbird: 4 CRv 7 Jun (ET).
Ovenbird: 11 SPB 14 Jul (GB).

Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 BKT 5 Jun 9 (DRg, ph); LCTM 9 Jul (SR).
Northern Waterthrush: 5 CRv 2 Jul (SR), Co-CF.
Golden-winged Warbler: WP 2 Jun (MM).
Blue-winged Warbler: WI 2 Jun (DRg); MRCE 3-6 Jun (DRg, MM); WRS 18 Jun (RB).
Brewster's Warbler: 2 WI 2 Jun (DRg), RFR 9 Jun (AB).
Black and White Warbler: 4 GCB 28 Jun (MM).
Tennessee Warbler: 2 BB 24 Jun (DV).
Nashville Warbler: 10 GCB 28 Jun (MM).
Connecticut Warbler: TI 27 Aug (MMr), rare.
Mourning Warbler: LP 19 Jul (AG), Co-FY.
Common Yellowthroat: 11 BPD 17 Jun (SR).
American Redstart: 2 WP 16 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Cape May Warbler: NE 24 Jul (AB), Co-FL.
Northern Parula: 4 Bdl 16 Jun (JS).
Magnolia Warbler: 9 MP 27 Jun (BB).
Bay-breasted Warbler: Bd 19 Aug (MK).
Blackburnian Warbler: BRR 10 Jul (MC), Co-CF.
Yellow Warbler: 7 LA 4 Jul (GR).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 2 EL 8 Aug (SR), Co-FL.
Blackpoll Warbler: 9 WMt 10 Jun (JCI).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 12 LMt 6 Jul (EM).
Palm Warbler: 3 Mad 8 Jul (SM, PL), Co-CF.
Pine Warbler: 4 MFR 4 Jun (SR).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 14 WMt 18 Jun (ST).
Prairie Warbler: TI 9 Jun (GC); 2 CP 24 Aug (SR).
Black-throated Green Warbler: 10 LMt 6 Jul (EM).
Canada Warbler: 2 Mad 8 Jul (SM, PL), Co-CF.
Wilson's Warbler: OH 16 Jul (SO).
Scarlet Tanager: 3 SRd 12 Jun G&MC).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 3 LCTM 15 Jun (SR).
Indigo Bunting: 2 FO 6 Aug (G&MC), Co-FL.

