

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Bill Krueger

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

In September Region 7's average temperatures were within a degree of normal except in the High Peaks region where they were 1-3° below normal for the month. The High Peaks also stood out as the wettest area of Region 7 with 3-4" of rainfall. Overall precipitation in Region 7 was from 2-3" except along the border with Canada, which was drier and received only 1-2".

Temperatures in October remained near normal, averaging less than a degree of

deviation up or down almost everywhere in Region 7. The exceptions were a pocket in central Clinton County from Lake Champlain into Franklin County which was 1-3° warmer than normal, and a small area including Lake Placid and Saranac Lake which was 1-3° cooler than average. Precipitation varied wildly across the Region; in October most of the Champlain Valley averaged 2-3", while northeastern Franklin County measured 5-6" of rain. Otherwise rainfall averaged 3-4" everywhere except in the Lake Placid/Saranac Lake area and much of the rest of Franklin County where it averaged 4-5".

November was an exceptionally warm month, especially in the northern portion of Region 7. Along the border with Canada and well into Franklin and Clinton Counties average temperatures were 5-7° above normal. This deviation from normal diminished to the south through a zone across Clinton and Franklin Counties where temperatures were only 3-5° above normal. In almost all of Essex and Hamilton Counties temperatures averaged only 1-3° above normal with the exception of the High Peaks where there was little deviation from the norm. In the Champlain Valley and the western half of Franklin County precipitation (melted equivalent) ranged from 1-2". The rest of Region 7 received 2-3" except for the High Peaks which got 3-4".

The water level of Lake Champlain continued the steady decline of the summer throughout September, reflecting the lower than normal rainfall totals cited above. The already low value of 94.5' on 1 September dropped to 93.65' at the end of the month. Heavy rains at the beginning of October resulted in a one day increase to 93.9' (3"). From there it drifted randomly up and down to 94.2' on 30 November. At these levels the mud flats at the Chazy Riverlands were high and dry, but additional shorebird habitat was exposed at Noblewood Park and the Ausable River delta.

The Winter Finch Forecast suggested that this would not be a flight year for Pine Grosbeak except for some small movement from poor crop areas. Despite the forecast, a steady Regional influx of the species began on 7 November when three individuals were discovered at Webb Royce Swamp in Essex. By the end of the season, Pine Grosbeak was widespread and well represented in each of the four counties in Region 7. The forecast that Red Crossbills would drift south was verified by more than twenty reports. Six records of White-winged Crossbills came mostly from Bloomingdale Bog. November marked the beginning of an historic flight year for redpolls, especially in the Champlain Valley where a maximum of 200 individuals was found foraging in a hayfield in Essex on 27 November. This same flock hosted at least two Hoary Redpolls. Additional single Hoary Redpolls were documented further north and south of this location. Also, as predicted, it was a good flight year for Evening Grosbeak and a poor one for Bohemian Waxwing, with only two reports of the latter.

Pink-footed Goose has almost become a regular. After its first Region 7 appearance at two separate locations in 2017, it has been reported each of the following years. This year's record was from the same Franklin County site as the first. Photographic evidence that the 2020 and 2017 sightings were of the same bird has been submitted to NYSARC. Reports of **Trumpeter Swan**, which first appeared in Region 7 in March of this year, continued into the fall with a report of an individual bird in September and a family group of two adults and two immatures in November.

A **Whimbrel** found at Plattsburgh City Beach/Cumberland Bay SP was present for a week. Rare for Region 7, this was the first record since 2011 according to eBird and only the tenth in the last 56 years in the other available records. The **Purple Sandpiper** found at Stony Point in Clinton County constituted the only eBird record in the last ten years and was only the seventh for the Region dating from the inception of *The Kingbird* in 1950. The **Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull** hybrid present in July and August was seen

again in October. Since 2010 Region 7 has averaged one **Golden Eagle** sighting each fall. This fall's total of six reports is a remarkably strong showing. After its nine day spring stay at Crown Point (a Region 7 first), **Say's Phoebe** reappeared at the same location for a single day in November. It is not known whether these sightings were of the same bird. **Fox Sparrow** also had remarkably strong fall showing with 26 eBird reports. For comparison there were four in 2019, 13 in 2018 and one in 2017. The **Orange-crowned Warbler** found at Crown Point was only the tenth fall record in the last ten years.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Adams, Brad Balliet, Amy Bedard (ABd). Alan Belford, Brian Berg (BBg), Jeff Biby, Ron Bussian, Gary Chapin, Glen Chapman (GCh), Malinda Chapman, John Chen (JCh), Greg Dashnau, Timothy Demers, Emily Dowd, Ronald Ellard, Max Epstein, Jon Erickson, Chris Fischer, Gordon Fitch, Georgia Fitzpatrick, Jacoba Freeman, Tara Fuller, Mark Gibson, Cindy Goldman, Barbra Goodson, Edward Grant, Gina Faoro Gratton, Julie Hart (JHa), Sam Heinrich, Janelle Hoh (JHo), Kevin Huston, Kathy Johnsen, Nick Kachala, Laurie Keife, Cindy Kindle, Allison Koczek, Bill Krueger, Greg Lawrence (GLw), Michael Lechicky, Gary Lee, Jim Lefley, Larry Master, Brian McAllister, Kevin McAuliffe (KMCA), Kevin McGrath, Sean McHugh, Matthew Medler, Meredith Moore (MMr), Sean O'Brien, Nancy Olsen, Pat Philips, Joseph Poliquin, Michael Pratt, Sharon Pratt, Emily Purick, Rita Reed, Silvie Robert (SRo), Mark Robinson, Stacy Robinson, Derek Rogers (DRg), Dana Rohleder, John Rosenberg, Karl Schmidt, John Shea, Marilyn Smith, Owen Stainken, Patti Steinman, Janet Stein, Lang Stevenson, Carol Strasburger, John & Pat Thaxton, Jan Trzeciak, Alison Van Keuren (AVK).

ABBREVIATIONS

AFR – Altona Flat Rock; **AFT** – Art Farm Trail; **AHR** – Angier Hill Rd; **AM** – Ausable Marsh WMA; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **APN** – Ausable Point, north of entrance; **ARD** – Ausable Ri Delta; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BMR** – Blue Mt Rd; **BRM** – Boquet Ri Mouth; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **CHSP** – Cumberland Head SP; **CMt** – Catamount Mt; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CpP** – Carpenter's Pd; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **Rd** – Christian Rd; **CRW** – Cemetery Rd. Wetlands; **CtH** – Coot Hill; **DMA** – Dewey Mt Area; **EC** – Essex Co; **EG** – Eilers Grove; **Es** – Essex; **Et** – Elizabethtown; **FMR** – Four Mile Rd; **FrC** – Franklin County; **FRd** – Forestdale Rd; **GCB** – Gadway Cement Barrons; **GCBL** – Great Chazy Boat Launch; **GPk** – Grace Peak; **Ham** – Hamilton Co; **HB** – Holsington Beach; **HPd** – Hutchings Pd; **ILk** – Indian L; **Inl** – Inlet; **IR** – Indian Ri; **KB** – Kings Bay; **KLk** – Kiwassa L; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LCo** – Lake Colby; **LCTM** – Lower La Chute Ticonderoga Marsh; **LF** – Lake Flower; **Mad** – Madawaska; **Mal** – Malone; **MBM** – Monty Bay Marina; **ML** – Meacham L; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MMt** – Macomb Mt; **MRP** – Malone Rec P; **MRR** – Mary Riley Rd; **NP** – Noblewood P; **OPd** – Osgood Pd; **OR** – Osgood Ri; **PA** – Piseco Airport; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PCB** – Plattsburgh City Beach; **PCo** – Pickets Corners; **PD** – Port Douglas; **PPd** – Putnam Pd; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **RB** – Ray Brook; **RL** – Raquette L; **RMt** – Rattlesnake Mt; **RP** – Rouses Pt; **SB** – Sandy Beach; **SC** – Sabattis Circle Rd; **SF** – Schuyler Falls; **SP** – Stony Pt; **SPk** – Santanoni Peak; **SRCA** – Saint Regis Canoe Area; **SRg** – Seward Range; **SRM** – Saranac Ri mouth; **TFBL** – Ticonderoga Ferry and boat launch; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TL** – Tupper L; **TR** – Trimble Rd; **UCR** – Upper Chubb Ri; **WI** – Willsboro; **WME** – lake east of Wickham Marsh; **WP** – Westport; **WPt** – Wilsboro Pt; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: PCo 23 Sep (KH); 10,000 CR 11 Nov (BK).

Ross's Goose: KB 7 Nov (SR).

Greater White-fronted Goose: MRP 18 Oct (SR).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: MRP 21 Nov (JHo); MRP 24 Nov (SR).

Brant: 127 CP 9 Oct (RR).

Cackling Goose: 11 MRP 18 Oct (SR).

TRUMPETER SWAN (R7): SRM 27 Sep (BK); 4 AP 21 Nov (KJ).

Wood Duck: 73 LCTM 21 Sep (SR).

Blue-winged Teal: 25 CR 1 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Northern Shoveler: 9 CP 10 Sep (SR).

Gadwall: 4 CP 10 Oct (JS).

American Wigeon: 14 CP 11 Oct (JB).

American Black Duck: OPd 9 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Northern Pintail: 23 CP 9 Nov (ME).

Green-winged Teal: 6 CR 1 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Canvasback: KB 12 Nov (SR).

Redhead: 6 AM 10 Oct (LM).

Ring-necked Duck: 88 TL 29 Sep (AB).

Greater Scaup: 200 PCB 17 Oct (AB).

Lesser Scaup: 125 GCBL 12 Nov (SR).

Surf Scoter: ML 3 Oct (CF).

White-winged Scoter: PCB 16 Oct (DRg).

Black Scoter: arr, CP 3 Oct (SR); 27 SB 25 Oct (SR).

Long-tailed Duck: AM 10 Oct (LM); 11 SB 25 Oct (SR).

Bufflehead: 24 LCo 12 Nov (JS).

Common Goldeneye: 67 NP 12 Nov (SR).

Barrow's Goldeneye: SRM 29 Oct (SR); NP 8 Nov (SR).

Hooded Merganser: 40 SRCA 3 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Common Merganser: 41 LF 23 Nov (JHo).

Red-breasted Merganser: 24 SP 7 Nov (SR).

Ring-necked Pheasant: 3 CRd 29 Nov (BMc).

Ruffed Grouse: 11 FMR 29 Nov (BBg).

Wild Turkey: 13 Inl 12 Sep (AK), Co-FL.

Pied-billed Grebe: 4 CR 1 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Horned Grebe: CP 15 Sep (JHa); 11 Np 3 Oct (MM).

Red-necked Grebe: WME 17 Sep (SR).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: PS 11 Sep (ML).

Black-billed Cuckoo: HB 6 Sep BMc).

Common Nighthawk: 2 SRd 8 Sep (GD).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: WI 5 Sep (MM).

Chimney Swift: 4 PtR 1 Sep (AB).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: BRR 9 Sep (G&MC).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Sora: SRd 8 Sep (GD).

Common Gallinule: LCTM 21 Sep (SR).

American Coot: 21 CP 29 Oct (JE).

Black-bellied Plover: RL 12 Sep (GL), v. rare Hami, ph; 3 KB 17 Sep (SR).

American Golden Plover: APN 13 Sep (DRg); RL 12 Sep (GL), rare Hami, ph.

Semipalmated Plover: 11 ARD 4 Sep (DRg).

WHIMBREL (R7): PCB 5-12 Sep (AB).

Ruddy Turnstone: NP 16 Sep (MG).

Sanderling: 14 ARD 4 Sep (DRg).

Dunlin: 22 APN 18 Oct (SR).

PURPLE SANDPIPER (R7): SP 7 Nov (SR).

Baird's Sandpiper: 3 ARD 4 Sep (DRg); KB 17 Sep (SR).

Least Sandpiper: 13 ARD 4 Sep (DRg).

White-rumped Sandpiper: CP 1 Oct (SR).

Pectoral Sandpiper: MRR 3 Sep (SR).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 ARD 4 Sep (DRg).

Long-billed Dowitcher: MBM 12 Sep (AB).

American Woodcock: MM 31 Oct (SR).

Wilson's Snipe: 2 GCBL 12 Nov (SR).

Spotted Sandpiper: 6 CP 1 Sep (SR).

Solitary Sandpiper: 3 AP 3 Sep (EP).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 AM 6 Sep (LM).

Greater Yellowlegs: 3 AM 6 Sep (LM).

Red-necked Phalarope: KLk 13 Sep (LK), ph.

Bonaparte's Gull: 180 WI 4 Sep (MM).

Little Gull: 2 ARD 3 Sep (DRg).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: SRM 6 & 17 Sep (DRg, SR); 2 CP 3 Oct (SR).

Glaucous Gull: SRM 19 Nov (SR).

Great Black-backed Gull: 31 SRM 24 Nov (JS).

HERRING X GREAT BLACK-BACKED

GULL: NP 2 Oct (DRg).

Caspian Tern: 6 CR 1 Sep (AB).

Common Tern: 2 SB 17 Oct (SR).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: SB 21 Oct (SR).

Common Loon: 13 LCI 15 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Double-crested Cormorant: 3000 PtF 6 Sep (GF).

American Bittern: SC 4 Oct (M&SP).

Great Blue Heron: MRP 26 Nov (JS).

Great Egret: 12 CP 11 Sep (SR).

Green Heron: CP 11 Oct (JB).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 7 LCTM 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Black Vulture: CñH 23 Sep (NO, MS); 24 TI 25 Nov (JR).
Turkey Vulture: 18 TI 7 Oct (GC).
Osprey: 2 AM 14 Oct (OS).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): PPd 16 Sep (KMcA); Ham 6 Nov (GF); WRS 7 Nov (JB, ML, BMc); SF 10 Nov (TF); GCB 14 Nov (ABd); 2 Mal 15 Nov (AB, JB).
Northern Harrier: CR 12 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: AM 5 Sep (KMc); OR 9 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Cooper's Hawk: BRR 14 Oct (G&MC).
Northern Goshawk: MMt 5 Sep (NK); IR 15 Sep (AVK); ML 27 Nov (JCh).
Bald Eagle: OPd 9 Sep (AB), Co-FL; 3 CP 30 Nov (ZC).
Red-shouldered Hawk: Et 9 Oct (RB).
Broad-winged Hawk: LCo 8 Sep (AB); Co-FL; 12 CP 15 Sep (JH).
Red-tailed Hawk: 3 RMT 22 Sep (OS).
Rough-legged Hawk: AP 25 Oct (JS).
Eastern Screech Owl: LA 12 Sep (AB).
Great Horned Owl: 2 TI 4 Oct (MMr).
Snowy Owl: CR 13 Nov (JP).
Barred Owl: 2 PtR 1 Oct (GFG).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: RB 12 Oct (AB).
Belted Kingfisher: MRP 24 Nov (SR).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2 NP 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 NP 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Black-backed Woodpecker: BMR 23 Sep (CG); BB 11 Nov (TD).
Pileated Woodpecker: 3 AM 20 Sep (BBg).
American Kestrel: 6 FRd 3 Sep (SR).
Merlin: 3 BB 29 Sep.
Peregrine Falcon: SRM 30 Sep (LS, CS).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: CP 10 Sep (SR).
Eastern Kingbird: LP 2 Sep (RE).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: NP 14 Sep (BB).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: TI 18 Oct (MMr), late.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: SC 8 Sep (GD).
Least Flycatcher: SB 26 Sep (SR).
Eastern Phoebe: 2 NP 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL; CPF 29 Nov (OS), late.
SAY'S PHOEBE: CP 15 Nov (SH).
N. Shrike: AFT 25 Oct (DRg).
Yellow-throated Vireo: PPd 1 Sep (KMcA).
Blue-headed Vireo: 3 LCo 8 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Philadelphia Vireo: FRd 3 Sep (SR); LA 22 Sep (KA).
Warbling Vireo: 5 WP 5 Sep (OS).

Red-eyed Vireo: 10 LCo 4 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Canada Jay: 4 OR 9 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Fish Crow: 3 CHSP 6 Sep (AB), Co-FL; 22 PB 17 Sep (SR), Co-FY.
Common Raven: 26 CRW 26 Oct (LM).
Horned Lark: 62 CP 11 Nov (SR).
Tree Swallow: 20 CP 15 Sep (JHa).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 2 LCo 4 Sep (AB).
Bank Swallow: CP 1 Sep (SR).
Barn Swallow: 2 CP 10 Sep (ED).
Boreal Chickadee: 12 SRg 26 Sep (NK); many other scattered reports.
Tufted Titmouse: 3 Par 13 Sep (EG), Co-FL.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 12 NP 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
House Wren: 4 MM 2 Sep (SR).
Winter Wren: 2 Mad 15 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Marsh Wren: 8 LCTM 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Carolina Wren: 4 MM 3 Sep (SR), Co-FY.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: LCTM 5 Sep (AB).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 5 LCo 13 Sep (AB); Co-FL.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 5 SPk 27 Sep (JR).
Veery: 2 PS 1 Sep (PS).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: RL 19 Sep (GLW).
Bicknell's Thrush: GPk 5 Sep (NK).
Swainson's Thrush: 33 PS 14 Sep (ML).
Hermit Thrush: CP 1 Nov (SR).
Wood Thrush: SB 28 Sep (SR).
Gray Catbird: KB 7 Nov (PP), late.
Brown Thrasher: 2 Es 20 Sep (DRg).
Northern Mockingbird: SRM 7 Nov (SR).
Bohemian Waxwing: WP 10 Nov (JT, PT); max 33 WP 19-22 Nov (SR, BMc, JS, JB, RB).
Cedar Waxwing: 25 LP 29 Oct (SR).
American Pipit: WPt 5 Sep (MM); 80 TR 28 Oct (SR).
Evening Grosbeak: 4 AFT 9 Oct (DRg); 75 FR 19 Nov (JF).
Pine Grosbeak: arr 3 WRS 7 Sep (BMc, ML, JB, ph). max 30 MRP 29 Nov, reps in all counties.
Purple Finch: 4 SRCA 5 Oct (SMc).
Common Redpoll: arr BB 11 Oct (mob, ph); max 200 CRd 27 Nov (DRg); *intro*.
Hoary Redpoll: 2 CRd 27 Nov (DRg, ph); WPt 28 Nov (DRg); AHR 28 Nov (SR).
Red Crossbill (type 10): TBFL 18 Sep (GC).
White-winged Crossbill: arr 2 EG 20 Oct (BMc); max 9 BB 5-25 Nov (BMc); 7 DMA 9 Nov (JS).
American Goldfinch: 5 Par 13 Sep (EG); Co-FL.
Lapland Longspur: 5 PA 22 Nov (CK).
Snow Bunting: 49 CP 30 Oct (OS).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: SL 4 Oct (JS).
American Tree Sparrow: PS 27 Oct (ML).
Chipping Sparrow: 25 NP 4 Sep (MM); 3 HB 7 Nov (BMc).
Field Sparrow: 2 WP 27 Oct (OS).
Vesper Sparrow: 2 KN 21 Oct (LM).
Savannah Sparrow: 2 CP 4 Oct (JS).
Fox Sparrow: BRR 16 Oct (G&MC); 6 BRR 31 Oct (G&MC).
Lincoln's Sparrow: 4 PG 11 Sep (OS).
Swamp Sparrow: LCTM 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
White-throated Sparrow: 21 TI 17 Oct (MMr).
White-crowned Sparrow: TL 23 Sep (GL).
Dark-eyed Junco: 250 PS 28 Oct (ML).
Eastern Meadowlark: 2 RP 16 Sep (SRo).
Baltimore Oriole: 3 CP 1 Sep (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 14 WP 7 Nov (RB).
Rusty Blackbird: 2 LA 23 Sep (SR).
Ovenbird: Cat 3 Oct (ZC).
Northern Waterthrush: EC 18 Sep (BB).
Black and White Warbler: 4 Fed 3 Sep (SR).
Tennessee Warbler: By 18 Oct (AB), late.
Orange-crowned Warbler: CP 24 Sep (SR), rare.
Nashville Warbler: SB 6 Nov (SR), late.
Mourning Warbler: CP 5 Sep (SR).
Common Yellowthroat: 4 BB 12 Sep (JS).

American Redstart: HPd 28 Sep (KS).
Cape May Warbler: 6 SCR 8 Sep (GD).
Northern Parula: 5 LCo 8 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Magnolia Warbler: 3 WI 11 Sep (BG).
Bay-breasted Warbler: PD 18 Oct (DRg), late.
Blackburnian Warbler: 1 LCo 13 Sep (AB); Co-FL.
Yellow Warbler: Es 20 Sep (DRg).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: WPt 19 Sep (DRg).
Blackpoll Warbler: 6 LMt 11 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 2 Ilk 12 Sep (AK), Co-FY.
Palm Warbler: 2 LCo 13 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Pine Warbler: 2 SRCA 24 Sep (MC).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 20 LMt 11 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Prairie Warbler: TI 24 Sep (MMR).
Black-throated Green Warbler: 5 LCo 13 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Canada Warbler: UCR 9 Sep (G&MC).
Wilson's Warbler: CpP 5 Sep (JL); CP 24 Sep (SR).
Scarlet Tanager: BRR 7 Oct (MC).
Northern Cardinal: 3 MM 4 Sep (SR), Co-FY.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: LCo 8 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Indigo Bunting: ILk 7 Nov (MMo).