

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Bill Krueger

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

Derek Rogers

54 Corlear Drive, Willsboro, NY 12996
drogers0031@gmail.com

Precipitation (melted equivalent) in March was between 1-2" for most of Region 7. The exceptions were the High Peaks Region, a large area astride the Clinton/Franklin County border, and the western edge of Hamilton County, all of which averaged from 2-3". Also excepted was the lower Champlain Valley which received no more than 1". Temperatures for the month were generally above average especially in the northern quarter of Region 7 and the northern Champlain Valley where they were 3-5° higher than normal. The central portion of the Region was 1-3° above average while the rest deviated from normal by less than a degree either way. Only the High Peaks were below normal by -1-3°.

These warm temperatures were reflected in the behavior of Lake Champlain's ice sheet. Again the lake did not freeze solid this year, which has become the norm rather than the exception. Significant reopening was noted from 10-12 March when the daytime temperatures reached 50°. This caused the ice in the north end of the lake to retreat from the Cumberland Head ferry dock to Treadwell Bay and almost disappear completely from Plattsburgh Bay. In the south, Willsboro seemed to go ice free overnight. From then on large patches of new open water appeared almost daily, notably north to Ile La Motte and the Chazy Riverlands. The lake was essentially ice free by the end of the month. Waterfowl concentrations were observed at Willsboro in the south but large stretches of open water discouraged concentration in the north.

April was generally a wet month. Overall most of Region 7 received 3-4" of

precipitation. The exceptions were the southern portion of the Region which received 4-5" and the northwestern section of Franklin County which was drier, averaging only 1-3". Overall April was a warm month in which the temperature averaged 1-3° above normal. However, much of Franklin County, a western segment of Clinton County, and the southeast corner of Hamilton County averaged 3-5° above normal.

In contrast May was a cold month. Most of Region 7 was 1-3° below normal. The only departure from this was an area in the west central section of the Region which was still colder at 3-5° below average. Precipitation for the month was heavy in the first week to ten days of the month, but overall averaged 2-3" for most of the Region. There were scattered areas that saw a heavier rainfall of 3-4" and two areas that were drier with 1-2", the northern Champlain Valley and the southern quarter of the Region.

The water level of Lake Champlain remained steady and unusually low at 94.5' for the first 10-12 days of March. Then the warm temperatures cited above caused significant snow melt which raised the level to 95.1' by 13 March where it leveled off once again. Rains at the end of the month into the beginning of April increased the level to 96.7' where it stayed with modest fluctuations until the first week of May, when heavy rains sent it to a high of 97.5'—a notably lower-than-normal springtime high. From there it began an almost linear decline to 96.1' on 31 May. At those levels in May the Laurin's Pool mud flats were exposed during the best part of the shorebird migration. Nonetheless, the variety and numbers of individuals reported were disappointing.

After being reported from Lake Alice over a ten week period in 2020, **Trumpeter Swan** returned to that lake in April this year, stayed to be photographed and then wasn't seen again. **Tufted Duck** was present at Ausable Point for almost three weeks in March. Though still a NYSARC reportable species, it has almost become a spring regular, having been seen in Region 7 in eight of the last ten years. And while not a species level rarity, an apparent **Tufted Duck x scaup sp. (hybrid)** was found and photographed in the large congregation of waterfowl off the Westport boat launch—a very rare hybrid combination and the first documented record, in eBird, in the Lake Champlain Basin. Three scoters were reported this season. Though this is not unusual for White-winged Scoter, **Surf and Black Scoters** are rare here in spring. The former appeared on eBird only twice in the past ten years and the latter not at all. (It is also possible that Black Scoter overwintered since it was seen in both January and February.) Two **Ruddy Ducks** seen in May added to the six sightings recorded on eBird since 2011. Two **Wilson's Phalaropes** discovered along Pardy Road in Clinton County marks the first detection of this species in Region 7 since 2011, which in turn was the first since 2002. A confirmed breeder in four separate years between 1993 and 2002, this phalarope was all but extirpated when the introduction of intensive farming practices destroyed its breeding habitat in 2003. There were two reports of **Snowy Egret** separated by over four miles and almost four weeks. Whether or not they were of the same bird was not determined. Sandhill Crane returned to its

breeding sites in the Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake areas. In addition, a single individual was photographed in the open farm fields just south of Crown Point State Historic site on 2 May. **Golden Eagle** was reported from three separate locations.

As expected, redpolls lingered following the past winter's historic irruption.

Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found at distinct locations in the vast hayfields along Whallons Bay Road, the same general vicinity in which a single individual with a swollen brood patch was found during summer 2020. The sparrows were regularly detected throughout the spring season, strongly indicating a viable breeding location in Region 7. Two sightings of **Orchard Oriole**, of one and two individuals respectively, doubled the number of spring sightings in the past decade. A **Prairie Warbler**, seen carrying food, was most likely the first confirmation of breeding for this species in Region 7. It was not confirmed in either of the two previous atlas periods. This quote from *Birds of Essex County, New York* (Carlton, Peterson), which suggests the possibility of breeding but does not claim it, is the only indication that it may have bred previously: "A small colony was discovered at Port Douglas in 1955." The **Dickcissel** found in May was the first spring report for the Region and only the fourth overall. All of the six additional records collected in the various Region 7 county publications were prior to 1976 and none was from Clinton or Hamilton Counties.

Winged warblers and their associated hybrid forms continued to be fairly well reported in Essex County's Champlain Valley region for a second year in a row. Informal, targeted detection efforts in areas of young, regenerating forest have turned up more reports since the 2020 spring season and 2021 was no exception. Golden-winged Warbler was found at three distinct locations and Blue-winged Warbler was located at four locations.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Adams, Amy Bedard (ABd), Alan Belford, Brian Berg, Jeff Biby, Michael B. Burgess, Ron Bussian, Chris Byers, Michael Cantwell (MCt), Bernie Carr, Gary Chapin, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Keri Charles, Ross Conover, Gregg Dashnau, Charlotte Demers, Timothy Demers, Joe DeVito, Adriana Dinu, Dan Enders, Scott Fackenthal, Nicole Fresher, Daniel Froehlich, Tara Fuller, Ellie George, Michale Glennon, Edward Grant (EGr), Rich Hanlon, Greg Heister, Janelle Hoh (JHo), Eric Kershner, Bill Krueger, Steve Kurtis, Dayna Lalonde, Gary Lee, Pat Lindsay, Maria Louderis, Jim de Waal Malefyt, Larry Master, Brian McAllister, Johnathan Mccombs, Kevin McGrath, Sean McHugh, John McKay (JMc), Joel Milton (JMi), Shai Mitra, Michael Moccio (MMo), Jim Ohlsten, Nancy Olsen, Joseph Poliquin, Jonathan Putnam, Andy Retzloff, Stacy Robinson, Derek H. Rogers (DHR), Nancy & Wayne Rogers, Dana Rohleder, Vanessa Rojas, Angelo Sgro, Laura Smith, Marilyn Smith, Owen Stainken, Janet Stein,

Eileen Wheeler, Tom Wheeler, Hollis White, Jan Trzeciak, Connor Vara, Colleen Yeany, David Yeany II (DY), Debbie van Zyl.

ABBREVIATIONS

4MR – 4 Mile Rd; **AFB** – former Air Force Base; **AFk** – Ausable Forks; **AFR** – Altona Flat Rock; **AFT** – Art Farm Trail; **AM** – Ausable Marsh; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **APN** – Ausable Pt north of entrance; **BaR** – Barnaby Rd; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BBB** – Bulwagga Bay Beach; **BC** – Bellmont Center; **BHR** – Breed Hill Rd; **Bom** – Bombay; **BPNT** – Brewster Peninsula Nature Trails; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **CB** – Cumberland Bay SP; **CF** – Carpenters Flats; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **Che** – Chesterfield; **CLk** – Charley L; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **DaR** – Davern Rd; **DMFT** – DaCY Meadow Farm Trail; **DRd** – Dunn Rd; **EC** – Essex Co; **EFP** – Everton Falls Pres; **ERT** – East River Trail; **Es** – Essex; **EWB** – Edgar Wadhams Homestead; **FCR** – Franklin Co. Rt 40; **Gab** – Gabriels; **GBM** – Gilbert Brook Marina; **HB** – Holsington Beach; **IL** – Intervale Lowlands; **ILk** – Indian L; **KB** – Kings Bay; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LCI** – Lake Clear; **LCTM** – Lower La Chute Ticonderoga Marsh; **LL** – Long L; **LPI** – Lake Pleasant; **LTL** – Little Tupper L; **McR** – MacAdam Rd; **MF** – Madawaska Flow; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MRd** – Middle Rd; **NCCC** – North Country Community College; **NP** – Noblewood P; **OB** – Oseetah Bog; **OBa** – Oseetah Bay; **OH** – Owls Head; **PaR** – Pardy Rd; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PC** – Putts Creek; **PCg** – Pond Cottage; **PD** – Port Douglas; **PH** – Port Henry; **Pi** – Piseco; **PiL** – Piseco L; **PL** – Paradox L; **PP** – Peent Palace; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **Put** – Putnam; **RL** – Raquette L; **RR** – Raquette Ri; **RRd** – Reynolds Rd; **SbB** – Sabattis Bog; **SC** – Sabattis Circle; **SCI** – Santa Clara; **SL** – Saranac L; **SP** – Speculator; **SRM** – Saranac Ri Mouth; **TG** – The Gulf; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TL** – Tupper L; **VMt** – Vanderwhacker Mt; **VV** – Vermontville; **WA** – Whallonsburg; **WB** – Willsboro Bay; **WBR** – Whallons Bay Rd; **WD** – Wilcox Dock; **WM** – Wickham Marsh; **WMt** – Whiteface Mt; **WOF** Wild Orchard Farm; **WP** – Westport; **WPt** – Willsboro Pt; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WRT** – Willsboro Riverside Trail.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 410 RRd 11 Mar (NO); 2 .
Brant: 35 WD 20 May (SR).
Cackling Goose: WPt 21 Mar (DHR, ph)
TRUMPETER SWAN (R7): LA 26 Apr (BK, ABd), ph.
Wood Duck: arr, 5 LCTM 6 Mar (SR).
Blue-winged Teal: arr, 4 AP 22 Apr (SR).
Northern Shoveler: 5 LCI 5 May (SMc).
Gadwall: 3 SRM 4 Mar (SR).
American Wigeon: arr, 3 SRM 11 Mar (SR).
Northern Pintail: arr, MM 1 Mar (SR).
Green-winged Teal: arr, LCTM 11 Mar (EG).
Canvasback: LCTM 9 Mar (SR).

Redhead: 3 WP 4 Mar (SR); KB 15 May (SR, CV).
Ring-necked Duck: 40 KB 24 Mar (JMi).
TUFTED DUCK: AP 13-31 Mar (MB, mo).
TUFTED DUCK X SCAUP SP. (hybrid): WP 3-4 Mar (DHR, ph).
Greater Scaup: 1,300 KB 19 Apr (SR).
Lesser Scaup: 15 KB 19 Apr (SR).
Greater/Lesser Scaup: 4,000 WP 3 Mar (DHR).
Scaup sp: 1,800 KB 19 Apr (SR).
Surf Scoter: 2 LA 25 Apr (JO).
White-winged Scoter: 4 HB 5 May (DHR); 54 CB 15 May (DF).

Black Scoter: HB 23 Mar (RB), continuing.
Long-tailed Duck: arr, WP 4 Mar (SR), early; 12 BBB 5 May (SR).
Bufflehead: 50 AM 10 Apr (GH).
Common Goldeneye: 875 CP 28 Mar (SR); 14 GBM 20 May (SR), Co-FL.
Barrow's Goldeneye: 3 AFB 4 Mar (SR); 3 WP 9 Mar (SR); CH 20 Mar (BK).
Hooded Merganser: 34 AP 4 Mar (SR); IL 24 May (LM), Co-ON.
Common Merganser: 53 KB 24 Mar (JM).
Red-breasted Merganser: 19 NP 8 Apr (DHR).
Ruddy Duck: 2 KB 13 May (SR).
Ring-necked Pheasant: PtR 13 May (SR).
Ruffed Grouse: 6 DaR 23 May (JHo).
Wild Turkey: 35 Gab 12 Mar (EGr).
Pied-billed Grebe: arr, AFk 30 Mar (AS).
Horned Grebe: ILk 27 Mar (MMo); 13 WP 19 Apr (DHR).
Red-necked Grebe: WP 19 Apr (DHR).
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: BaR 31 May (SR).
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr, TI 16 May (NF, DE).
Common Nighthawk: arr, 2 AFR 14 May (ABd).
Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr, WP 12 May (SR).
Chimney Swift: arr, BBB 5 May (SR).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr, Peru 3 May (DL).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: BHR 10 Apr (SR).
Common Gallinule: arr, APN 13 May (SR).
SANDHILL CRANE: arr, 2 OB 12 Apr (MG); CP 2 May (JMc); 2 TL 12 May (GD).
Black-bellied Plover: arr, NP 29 May (PL, SM), only report.
Semipalmated Plover: arr, 2 PaR 13 May (SR); CB 21 May (NO, MS).
Dunlin: arr, FCR 25 May (HW).
Ruddy Turnstone: CR 27 May (BK).
Least Sandpiper: arr, 7 PaR 13 May (SR).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr, PaR 15 May (CV).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 10 RL 19 May (CD).
American Woodcock: arr, WP 20 Mar (SR).
Wilson's Snipe: TL 31 Mar (GC).
Spotted Sandpiper: arr, PH 29 Apr (SR).
Solitary Sandpiper: arr, LCI 2 May (SMc).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr, 3 PaR 8 May (AB).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr, 4 PaR 19 Apr (SR).
Wilson's Phalarope: 2 PaR 17 May (DHR).
Bonaparte's Gull: max, 127 BBB 6 May (DHR); arr, 2 BBB 11 Apr (SR).

Iceland Gull: WD 3 Mar (BMc).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: SRM 4 Mar (SR).
Glaucous Gull: WD 11 Mar (SR).
Great Black-backed Gull: 18 WD 3 Mar (BMc).
Caspian Tern: arr, 5 SB 1 Apr (SR).
Common Tern: arr, AP 19 Apr (JM).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: WP 19 Apr (DHR).
Common Loon: TL 31 Mar (AD).
Double-crested Cormorant: arr, WP 22 Mar (RB); 500 BBB 24 Apr (SR).
American Bittern: arr, BB 2 Apr (AD).
Great Blue Heron: 28 EWH 22 May (CV).
Great Egret: RR 3 Apr (AR).
SNOWY EGRET (R7): PB 18 -21 Apr (TF, mo); PaR 15 May (SR, CV).
Green Heron: arr, MM 29 Apr (SR).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 AM 2 May (DL).
Black Vulture: 3 MM 27 Apr (SR).
Turkey Vulture: 50 NCCC 30 Mar (JHo).
Osprey: arr, AP 22 Mar (JMc).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): EFP 10 Apr (TW); CF 20 Apr (DR); WB 20 Apr (LS).
Northern Harrier: 4 MRd 30 Mar (SR).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 BRR 21 Mar (MC).
Cooper's Hawk: AM 31 Mar (JB).
Northern Goshawk: 2 TI 18 Mar.
Bald Eagle: 8 LCTM 11 Mar (EG); 2 OH 19 Mar (JT).
Red-shouldered Hawk: AP 27 Mar (AB).
Broad-winged Hawk: arr, BB 19 Apr (CV).
Red-tailed Hawk: 3 LCTM 9 Mar (EG).
Rough-legged Hawk: 3 Es 14 Mar (DHR).
Eastern Screech Owl: PC 2 Apr (SR).
Great Horned Owl: 2 TI 29 May (SR).
Barred Owl: 3 BB 8 May (JS).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: BRR 20 Mar (G&MC).
Belted Kingfisher: 3 LA 2 May (KA).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 3 Es 15 May (OS).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr, CP 20 Mar (SR).
Black-backed Woodpecker: 2 SbB 7 Apr (GD).
Northern Flicker: 12 IL 10 Apr (SK).
Pileated Woodpecker: 3 WM 31 Mar (DHR).
American Kestrel: 2 Peru 14 May (KC); KB 30 May (NO, MS).
Merlin: 2 PB 4 Apr (KMc).
Peregrine Falcon: 2 Che 21 May (TD).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr, CP 5 May (OS).
Eastern Kingbird: arr, WA 5 May (DHR).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr, 4 Vmt 24 May (BC).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr, TI 16 May (NF, DE).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr, 5 ERT 20 May (DS).
Alder Flycatcher: arr, VV 13 May (JP).
Willow Flycatcher: arr, TI 19 May (G&MC).
Least Flycatcher: arr, Pi 5 May (CK).
Eastern Phoebe: arr, Wpt 25 Mar (DHR).
Northern Shrike: AP 20 Mar (VR).
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr, PiL 9 May (GC).
Cliff-headed Vireo: arr, TI 17 Apr (GC).
Philadelphia Vireo: arr, TG 8 May (BB).
Warbling Vireo: arr, CLK 28 Apr (JWM).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr, EAW 28 Apr (GL).
Canada Jay: 4 MF 28 May (CB).
Fish Crow: arr, 4 ScL 12 May (G&MC).
Common Raven: 5 Gab 27 Apr (EGr).
Horned Lark: 12 AP 4 Mar (DvZ).
Purple Martin: arr, LA 8 May (AB).
Tree Swallow: arr, 12 AP 27 Mar (AB).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr, LCTM 27 Apr (SR).
Bank Swallow: arr, BBB 5 May (SR).
Cliff Swallow: arr, 3 WP 29 Apr (DHR).
Barn Swallow: arr, TFBL 2 Apr (SR).
Boreal Chickadee: 4 Gab 28 May (GB).
Tufted Titmouse: 5 DMF 1 Apr (RB).
Brown Creeper: DaR 13 May (SR), Co-CN.
House Wren: arr, 2 CP 1 May (SR).
Winter Wren: 5 BPNT 25 Apr (CP).
Marsh Wren: arr, 4 LCTM 27 Apr (SR).
Carolina Wren: MM 24 May (SR), Co-NB.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr, WM 8 May (SR).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 9 WM 31 Mar (DHR).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr, WP 24 Mar (OS).
Veery: arr, CP 7 May (SR).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: BB 13 May (EK).
Bicknell's Thrush: arr, 4 Wmt 26 May (RH).
Swainson's Thrush: arr, SCI 13 Apr (TW).
Hermit Thrush: arr, CP 6 Mar (SR).
Wood Thrush: arr, WP 1 May (ML).
Gray Catbird: arr, PiL 29 Apr (JWM).
Brown Thrasher: arr, LPI 2 Apr (SF).
Northern Mockingbird: 3 SRM 17 May (MCt).
Cedar Waxwing: 23 WP 29 Mar (JS).
American Pipit: arr, EC 13 Mar (RB).
Evening Grosbeak: 33 SL 2 May (JS).

Purple Finch: 16 PP 8 May (RC).
Common Redpoll: 90 SL 26 Mar (AB); last, 4 May SL (JP).
Common Redpoll (rostrata/islandica): 5 BB 13 Mar (DY, CY).
Hoary Redpoll: CP 3 Mar (SR); BB 13 Mar (DY).
Red Crossbill: 15 CP 16 Mar (SR).
Red Crossbill (type 10): CWCC 7 Mar (JB); 13 CP 20 Mar (SR).
White-winged Crossbill: PtR 12 May (KA).
Snow Bunting: SC 7 Apr (GD).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr, AFR 14 Apr (KA).
American Tree Sparrow: 7 LCTM 9 Mar (SR).
Chipping Sparrow: arr, 2 AFk 24 Mar.
Field Sparrow: SL 29 Mar (AB).
Vesper Sparrow: arr, 5 SC 7 Apr (GD).
Savannah Sparrow: arr, WRS 8 Apr (RB).
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (R7): max 2 WBR 18 May thru (DHR, ph).
Fox Sparrow: arr, PL 24 Mar (EG).
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr, Oba 9 May (JS).
Swamp Sparrow: arr, LCTM 9 Mar (SR).
White-throated Sparrow: 20 DMFT 29 Apr (RB).
White-crowned Sparrow: arr, SL 28 Apr (JP).
Bobolink: arr, CP 7 May (SR).
Eastern Meadowlark: arr, CP 20 Mar (SR).
ORCHARD ORIOLE (R7): WP 13 May (RB); 2 Put 22 May (G&MC).
Baltimore Oriole: arr, CP 7 May (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 8 CP 8 May (BMc, JB).
Red-winged Blackbird: arr, LCTM 9 Mar (SR).
Rusty Blackbird: arr, ILk 11 Mar (MMo).
Ovenbird: arr, MM 3 May (SR).
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr, PC 3 May (SR).
Northern Waterthrush: arr, MM 28 Apr (SR).
Golden-winged Warbler: AFT 22-27 May (DHR, mo); WRS 22 May (SR, CV); WOF 25 May (DHR).
Blue-winged Warbler: arr, WRS 18 May (SR); WOF 25 May (DHR); 2 WRT 21 May (DHR); AFT 22 May (DHR).
Brewster's Warbler: arr, WRS 18 May (SR).
Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler (hybrid): WP 10 May (DHR).
Black and White Warbler: arr, MM 1 May (SR).
Tennessee Warbler: arr, MM 16 May (SR).

Nashville Warbler: arr, BBB 29 Apr (SR).
Mourning Warbler: arr, PCg 20 May (JP).
Common Yellowthroat: arr, ILk 24 Apr (MMo).
American Redstart: arr, PD 6 May (OS).
Cape May Warbler: arr, LC1 9 May (SMc).
Cerulean Warbler: 4MR 30 May (BB), rare.
Northern Parula: arr, OB 5 May (MG).
Magnolia Warbler: arr, CP 8 May (JS).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr, BC 7 May (N&WR).
Blackburnian Warbler: arr, MM 2 May (SR).
Yellow Warbler: arr, 3 LA 2 May (BK, KA).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr, McR 8 May (SR).
Blackpoll Warbler: arr, LL 16 May (EW).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr, WP 4 May (RB).
Palm Warbler: arr, PS 9 Apr (BMc).
Pine Warbler: arr, MM 1 Apr (SR), early.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr, AP 3 Apr (JD).
Prairie Warbler: AFR 28 May (DHR), ph.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr, SP 28 Apr (JWM).
Canada Warbler: arr, MM 16 May (SR).
Wilson's Warbler: arr, LTL 17 May (GD); KB 28 May (DL).
Scarlet Tanager: arr, Bom 8 May (TW).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr, Es 1 May (GC).
Indigo Bunting: arr, Peru 15 May (KC).
DICKCISSEL (R7): WBR 18 May (SR).

