

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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In general, the eastern portion of the Champlain Valley and Region 7 were drier than the rest of the Region with only 2-3" of rain in June. The balance of the Region, the western half of Clinton and Essex Counties, most of Franklin County, and the northern half of Hamilton County got 3-4". The southern half of Franklin County and a small area of Hamilton County received 4-6". Overall, June was warmer than the average with the Champlain Valley and areas along the border with Canada enduring temperatures 3-5° F above normal. However, areas south and west of those were cooler, but still 1-3° higher than normal.

While July was the warmest month on record worldwide, it was significantly cooler than normal in Region 7. The entire Region averaged 1-3° lower than average. The exception was the central section of Hamilton County which hovered within a degree either way of normal. Precipitation for July in most areas was substantial. The lowest, 3-5", fell in Clinton County. Franklin County received 5-7" while the entire southern half of Region 7 including the High Peaks area got 9-11".

August saw the return of warmer than normal temperatures to Region 7. Almost all of the Region was 3-5° above normal for the month. Only the western

portion of Franklin County, the northern half of Hamilton County, and a sliver of Essex County averaged 1-3° warmer than normal. Rainfall averages for Region 7 increased from northeast to southwest. Most of the Champlain Valley received 3-4". A band arcing northwest to southeast from western Clinton County through northern Essex County got 4-5" on average, while the High Peaks Region got 5-6". Most of Hamilton County got 6-7" though there were small sections that endured 7-8" or more.

On 1 June the level of Lake Champlain stood at 96.1'. At that level the Chazy Riverlands and Laurin's Pool provided a minimum of acceptable habitat for migrating shorebirds. The best find there was an American Golden-Plover. From the early June level of just above 96', the lake continued the steady, linear decline begun in May to about 94.9' in early July. There it bottomed out and fluctuated only a few inches for a week to ten days. Heavy rains from 18-23 July resulted in a sharp increase of 0.8' to 95.5'. Significant but intermittent rainfall from the last week in July to mid-August kept the lake at a remarkably steady 95.3' to 95.5'. Levels for the last half of the month dipped, rose, and dipped again in a narrow range of 95.2' to 94.7'. At these levels Laurin's Pool was dry, taken over by thigh-high vegetation and used in part for an ATV track. As a result most fall shorebird reports for Region 7 came from Essex County's Hoisington Brook Outlet and Noblewood Park. In the ten years since the all-time record flood level of nearly 103.3' in 2011, Lake Champlain has reached flood stage of 100' only three times and then not by much. This lack of seasonal flooding appears to have significantly changed the nature of Laurin's Pool and, to a lesser extent, of the Chazy Riverlands in general. The results of the current atlasing project should be useful in addressing this issue.

Once again **Sandhill Crane** bred successfully at the Tupper Lake site. Previously rare in summer, **Baird's Sandpiper** was recorded at two separate sites to continue its yearly appearance since 2013. A **Western Sandpiper** at Hoisington Beach Outlet was only the second eBird record in summer for Region 7. A check of pre-eBird records turned up six additional summer sightings since 1980. The July appearance of **Western Willet** was the first known record specifically for this subspecies and only the third summer record for either Willet.

Perhaps the most puzzling event of Summer involved the staggering drop in annual Bonaparte's Gulls numbers. Historically, beginning in late July into early August, the Adirondack's Lake Champlain region begins its steady trickle of arriving Bonaparte's Gulls as they begin staging along the rich deltas and sandbars that form at the major river mouths such as the Boquet and Ausable Rivers. Little Gull is typically annual here every summer in low numbers as they associate with the Bonaparte's Gulls. When birds aren't staging on the sandy deltas they are out foraging in the middle of the lake and it's not unusual to see several hundred birds with multiple large feeding flocks. The first arrivals are always full-hooded adults, followed by juveniles a couple of weeks later. Numbers usually reach their maximum in August or early September and it's not unusual to find upwards of three hundred to four hundred individuals.

Bonaparte's Gulls were alarmingly absent this season, representing an historic low. At Noblewood Park for example, the maximum recorded number of Bonaparte's Gulls this season was 19 individuals, with otherwise single digit encounters during a time in which low hundreds have been regularly recorded annually as far back as the year 2001. Routine trips to other known staging areas from mid to late August consistently turned up zero individuals, which is astonishing considering that Bonaparte's Gulls are often the dominant gull species along Lake Champlain in eBird checklists throughout August and September.

The June sighting of a **Great Cormorant** was the first summer record for Region 7. The single report of a **Snowy Egret** this season followed the two separate sightings of this species this spring. Until then Snowy Egret hadn't been seen since 2015. The **Tricolored Heron** found at Ausable Point was only the fourth for the Region and the first since 1989. Very rare for Region 7, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** reported in June was only the fifth record since the turn of the century. Known to have bred in Clinton County, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was photographed and an audio recording was collected of the bird that lingered at Willsboro for three days in June. In each of the last two years **Grasshopper Sparrow** has been found on Whallons Bay Rd. This is perhaps cause for some encouragement after the extirpation of the colony (up to 17 individuals) from the flight line of the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base, when it was closed and the mowing protocol was changed by the Clinton County Airport.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

4BI – Four Brothers Islands; **AFR** – Altona Flat Rock; **AM** – Ausable Marsh; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **ARd** – Atwood Rd; **AT** – Altona; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BBB** – Bulwagga Bay Beach; **BLT** – Boreal Life Trail; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **BRv** – Boquet Ri; **BS** – Big Slide; **Cad** – Cadyville; **CBL** – Chazy Boat Launch; **CbR** – Chubb Ri; **CH** – Cumberland

Head; **ChR** – Chapman Rd; **Chu** – Churubusco; **CMR** – Coon Mt Reserve; **CMt** – Cascade Mt; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CRF** – Cedar Ri Flow; **CRT** – Cold Ri Horse Trail; **CZ** – Chazy; **DHL** – Deep Hole Leanto; **DRd** – Davern Rd; **EAW** – Eight Acre Wood; **ED** – Ellenberg Depot; **Es** – Essex; **EWB** – Edgar Wadhams Homestead; **FCo** – Franklin Co; **FCR** – Fred Carey Rd; **FLk** – Fern L; **FoR** – Forest Rd; **GL** – Gilman L; **GSt** – Gray St; **HB** – Hoisington Beach/Brook; **Inl** – Inlet; **JD** – John Dillon P; **KB** – Kings Bay; **KR** – Kildare Rd; **LBR** – Lower Boquet Ri; **LCl** – Lake Clear; **LCR** – Little Chazy Ri; **LCTM** – Lower La Chute Ticonderoga Marsh; **LL** – Long L; **LLk** – Lows L; **LMt** – Lyon Mt; **LPI** – Lake Pleasant; **LSL** – Lower Saranac L; **Mal** – Malone; **MF** – Madawaska Flow; **Min** – Minerva; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MPk** – Macomb Reservation SP; **New** – Newcomb; **NP** – Noblewood P; **OB** – Oseetah Bay; **OH** – Owls Head; **OPR** – Oregon Plains Rd; **OR** – Osgood Ri; **PC** – Putts Creek; **PD** – Port Douglas; **PH** – Port Henry; **PL** – Paradox L; **POM** – Poke-O-Moonshine; **PP** – Powley Pd; **PPI** – Powley Place; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **Put** – Putnam; **RL** – Raquette L; **RMt** – Round Mt; **SC** – Sabattis Circle; **SCK** – Scomotion Creek; **SL** – Saranac L; **SLk** – Schroon L; **SP** – Shaw Pd; **Spec** – Speculator; **SRCA** – St. Regis Canoe Area; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TRd** – Tahawus Rd; **VV** – Vermontville; **WB** – Whallons Bay; **WBR** – Whallons Bay Rd; **WI** – Willsboro; **Wit** – Witherbee; **WM** – Wickham Marsh; **WMt** – Whiteface Mt; **WP** – Westport; **Wpt** – Willsboro Pt; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WTB** – Wilmington Town Beach; **XAB** – former-Plattsburgh Air Force Base.
Co-CF, -CS, -FL, -FY, -NY, -ON -UN – Atlas breeding codes (see page 419).

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Wood Duck: LBR 12 Jun (SR), Co-FL.
Blue-winged Teal: 2 DRd 4 Jul (JR); 8 CBL 15 Aug (AB), Co-FL.
Northern Shoveler: CR 2 Aug (BK).
Gadwall: 2 FCo 10 Jul (NR).
Northern Pintail: 3 CP 30 Aug (SR).
Green-winged Teal: 5 CP 14 Aug (CV).
Ring-necked Duck: 6 PS 24 Jun (AM, MFi), Co-FL.
Greater Scaup: 4 AM 29 Jul (SR).
Bufflehead: WP 20 Jul (JB, BMc).
Common Goldeneye: 23 AM 1 Aug (mo).
Hooded Merganser: CbR 12 Jun (MF), Co-FL.
Common Merganser: 5 CH 16 Aug (SJ, BK), Co-FL.
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 NP 29 Jul (SR).
Ring-necked Pheasant: WI 19 Jun (DHR).
Ruffed Grouse: 4 WB 16 Aug (M&GC), Co-FL.
Wild Turkey: 7 ARd 2 Jul (ABd), Co-FL.
Pied-billed Grebe: 6 CBL 15 Aug (AB), Co-FL.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: WM 2 Jun (RB).
Black-billed Cuckoo: WP 12 Jul (SR), Co-CF.
Common Nighthawk: 25 Peru 17 Aug (KC).
Eastern Whip-poor-will: PD 24 Aug (DHR).
Chimney Swift: 45 SL 9 Jul (CV), Co-CF.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 CH 18 Aug (BK).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: 4 SP 21 Jun (JT), Co-FL.
Common Gallinule: WM 16 Jun (SRo); FCR 7 Jul (SR).
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): 3 OB 12 Jun (MG), Co-FL.
Black-bellied Plover: 4 CR 2 Jun (BK).
American Golden-Plover: CR 2 Jun (BK).
Semipalmated Plover: 2 BBB 4 Aug (SR).
Killdeer: 3 TI 5 Jul (GC), Co-FL.
Ruddy Turnstone: NP 1 Aug (PM, TS, BB, BF).
Stilt Sandpiper: CR 26 Aug (S&MR); HB 26 Aug (MI).
Sanderling: NP 21 Jul (DHR); 7 NP 11 Aug (DHR).
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (R7): HB 14 Aug thru (SR); WD 26 Aug (S&MR); BBB 28 Aug (SR); NP 31 Aug (SR, RB).
Least Sandpiper: 2 CR 2 Jun (BK); 27 NP 13 Jun (GC).
Pectoral Sandpiper: NP 11 Aug (DHR).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 6 CR 2 Jun (BK); NP 21 Jul (DHR).
WESTERN SANDPIPER: HB 12 Jul (DHR, ph).

Short-billed Dowitcher: NP 13 Jul (GC); KB 26 Aug (S&MR); HB 29 Aug (RB, mob); NP 31 Aug (S&MR).
American Woodcock: 6 OH 17 Aug (JHo).
Wilson's Snipe: 4 CRF 8 Jun (GL).
Spotted Sandpiper: 3 NP 23 Jun (GC), Co-FL.
Solitary Sandpiper: PtR 6 Jul (BFi), early.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 5 KB 10 Jul (SR); 21 KB 26 Aug (S&MR).
"Western" WILLET (R7): HB 13 Jul (DHR).
Greater Yellowlegs: NP 13 Jul (GC).
Bonaparte's Gull: 4 NP 20 Jul (JB); max 33 AP 5 Aug (SR); historic low; *intro*.
Ring-billed Gull: 2,500 4BI 20 Jun (DHR).
Herring Gull: 4 LSL 1 Jun (SB), Co-ON; 250 4BI 20 Jun (DHR).
Great Black-backed Gull: 125 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-FL.
Herring X Great Black-backed Gull: NP 11 Aug (DHR).
Caspian Tern: 125 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-FL.
Black Tern: AP 1 Aug (PM, TS, BB, BF).
Common Tern: 2 AP 20 Jul (CS).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: 2 GL 21 Jun (BD), Co-CN.
Double-crested Cormorant: 1,500 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-FL; 5000 4BI 6 Aug (DHR).
GREAT CORMORANT (R7): WP 9 Jun (DHR).
American Bittern: 6 SC 4 Jul (J&PC), Co-FL.
Least Bittern: WM 2 Jun (RB); WM 10 Aug (SR).
Great Blue Heron: 23 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-FY.
Great Egret: 7 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-CN.
SNOWY EGRET (R7): SRCA 6 Jun (TW).
TRICOLORED HERON (R7): AP 30 Jun-1 Jul (BFu, SR).
Green Heron: 5 EWH 28 Jul (SR).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 31 4BI 6 Aug (DHR), Co-FL.
Black Vulture: AM 21 Jun (BK).
Turkey Vulture: 26 WTB 31 Aug (DQ).
Osprey: 3 AP 11 Jul (GR).
Northern Harrier: 2 AM 22 Aug (SBe).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: LCI 10 Aug (SMc).
Cooper's Hawk: BRR 23 Aug (G&MC).
Bald Eagle: 4 OH June 12 (JTr), Co-NY.
Red-shouldered Hawk: CMR 4 Jun (DHR).
Broad-winged Hawk: 3 PS 4 Aug (PR), Co-FL.
Red-tailed Hawk: 2 WPt 31 Jul (OS).

Eastern Screech-Owl: CZ 5 Jun (GR), Co-ON.
Great Horned Owl: LL 4 Jun (JaG).
Barred Owl: 2 Wit 11 Jul (SR).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: KR 11 Jul (GB).
Belted Kingfisher: BRv 12 Jun (SR), Co-FL.
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (R7): Peru 18 Jun (CS).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: PH 30 Jun (SR).
 Co-CF.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 FLk 7 Jul (DN), Co-FL.
Black-backed Woodpecker: 4 OPR 19 Jul (GB).
Northern Flicker: 5 BB 20 Aug (WW).
Pileated Woodpecker: 2 WM 16 Jun (SR).
American Kestrel: Chu 10 Jun (SR), Co-ON.
Merlin: 2 RL 30 Jul (BL), Co-FY.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 POM 23 Jun (LM), Co-ON.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: LCTM 24 Jun (SR), Co-CF.
Eastern Kingbird: LBR 12 Jun (SR), Co-CF.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: 4 PS 13 Jun (mo).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: 6 PH 8 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 5 MF 30 Jul (BFo), Co-FY.
Alder Flycatcher: 3 For 2 Jun (SR).
Willow Flycatcher: 3 AM 23 Jun (GC).
Least Flycatcher: 3 AFR 3 Jul (DHR).
Eastern Phoebe: 5 AM 10 Aug (OS).
Yellow-throated Vireo: BRv 12 Jun (SR).
Blue-headed Vireo: 5 PH 8 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 CP 30 Aug (SR).
Warbling Vireo: 3 LCR 15 Jul (SR), Co-FY.
Red-eyed Vireo: 15 CRT 12 Jun (G&MC).
Canada Jay: 4 BB 1 Jul (SG), Co-FL.
Fish Crow: SLk 3 Jun (EG).
Common Raven: 4 RL 18 Jun (GL), Co-FL.
Purple Martin: 2 AM 24 Jul (GH).
Tree Swallow: 120 NP 1 Aug (TS).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 12 TI 27 Jun (EB), Co-ON.
Bank Swallow: 5 Mal 2 Jul (ED), Co-UN.
Cliff Swallow: 2 CP 21 Jun (SR), Co-ON; 44 WP 27 Jul (DHR).
Barn Swallow: 13 CP 21 Jun (SR), Co-NY; 76 CP 12 Aug (SR).
Boreal Chickadee: 3 CMt 12 Jul (EDr), Co-FY.
Tufted Titmouse: PC 29 Jun (SR), Co-CF.

Red-Breasted Nuthatch: 4 BLT 14 Jun (JGg), Co-FL.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 3 DHL 15 Jun (G&MC), Co-FL.
Brown Creeper: CRT 12 Jun (G&MC), Co-FL.
House Wren: 2 MM 4 Jul (SR), Co-NY.
Winter Wren: 4 Spec 4 Jul (MS), Co-FY.
Sedge Wren: Peru 18 Jun (CS); WI 18 Jul-2 Aug (JCo, mo).
Marsh Wren: 8 SCK 10 Jul (SR), Co-FY.
Carolina Wren: CH 1 Jun-31 Aug (NO).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 3 CP 11 Aug (SR).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 5 CbR 15 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 WMt 15 Jul (GB), Co-FL.
Veery: 3 MPk 1 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Bicknell's Thrush: LMT 12 Jun (JG); 28 WMt 1 Jul (JC); WMt 15 Jul (GB), Co-FL.
Swainson's Thrush: PS 24 Jun (AM, MFe), Co-CF.
Hermit Thrush: BB 5 Jul (SR), Co-NY.
Wood Thrush: 4 BRR 12 Aug (G&MC), Co-FL.
Gray Catbird: AM 5 Aug (SR), Co-FL.
Brown Thrasher: 3 CP 23 Jun (SR).
Northern Mockingbird: XAB 3 Jul (CV).
Cedar Waxwing: CP 24 Jun (SR), Co-ON.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 PL 2 Jul (EG), Co-FL.
Purple Finch: 14 GSt 9 Jul (WW); 2 AP 13 Aug (JB), Co-FL.
Red Crossbill: 20 Inl 10 Jun (EM).
Red Crossbill type 10: OB 26 Aug (MMA).
White-winged Crossbill: 18 OR 5 Jun (JS).
American Goldfinch: 3 HB 31 Aug (SR), Co-NY.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 5 AT 19 Jun (BC).
Chipping Sparrow: 6 FoR 10 Jun (SR).
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R7): WI 10-12 Jun (DHR), ph.
Savannah Sparrow: 10 Peru 10 Jul (JCo).
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (R7): 1-3 WBR 18 Jun-5 Jul (DHR).
Lincoln's Sparrow: 7 BB 24 Jun (SD), Co-CF.
Swamp Sparrow: New 13 Jun (DG), Co-CF.
White-throated Sparrow: 6 BB 22 Aug (JB), Co-FL.

Dark-eyed Junco: 5 WMt 21 Jul (BMc), Co-FL.
Bobolink: CP 24 Jun (SR), Co-CF; 50 CR 15 Aug (AB).
Eastern Meadowlark: 2 WP 1 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Orchard Oriole: 2 CP 21 Jun (SR).
Baltimore Oriole: ED 2 Jun (SR), Co-ON.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 20 NP 22 Jun (OS).
Rusty Blackbird: 6 PP 16 Jun (CK), Co-FL.
Ovenbird: 2 EAW 3 Jul (GL), Co-FY.
Louisiana Waterthrush: Put 2 Jun (G&MC), Co-CF.
Northern Waterthrush: 4 OPR 9 Jul (JB).
Golden-winged Warbler: WRS 11 Jun (SR); 2 FiC 20 Aug (AB), Co-CF.
Blue-winged Warbler: WRS 11 Jun (SR).
Black-and-white Warbler: 2 Min 29 Jul (DS), Co-FL.
Tennessee Warbler: 6 SL 31 Aug (JP).
Nashville Warbler: 4 BB 11 Jul (JB), Co-CF.
Mourning Warbler: 4 LCI 13 Jun (SMC).
Common Yellowthroat: BB 22 Jun (AM), Co-CF.
American Redstart: LCTM 24 Jun (SR), Co-CF.
Cape May Warbler: WMt 2 Jun (JG); 12 LCI 27 Aug (SMc).
Northern Parula: 6 OH 14 Jul (AB).
Magnolia Warbler: BB 5 Jul (SR), Co-CF.
Bay-breasted Warbler: BB 11 Aug (JB).
Blackburnian Warbler: 40 RMt 7 Jul (HK).
Yellow Warbler: 10 AM 11 Jul (JR).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: PPI 4 Jul (MF), Co-CF.
Blackpoll Warbler: 2 BS 26 Aug (MI).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 6 Cad 26 Jun (AM).
Palm Warbler: 5 BB 24 Jun (SD), Co-FL.
Pine Warbler: 3 NP 23 Jun (GC), Co-FY.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 9 LLk 16 Jul (G&MC), Co-FY.
Prairie Warbler: CP 21 Jun (SR); CP 10 Aug (RB).
Black-throated Green Warbler: 30 RMt 7 Jul (HK).
Canada Warbler: 2 MF 30 Jul (BFo), Co-FL.
Wilson's Warbler: MF 17 Jun (JC).
Scarlet Tanager: 2 WM 4 Jul (JS).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 4 Es 30 Jun (SR).
Indigo Bunting: 4 Min 7 Jul (JA), Co-FL.