

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

The St. Lawrence Region covers Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties which have a total area of 5,358 square miles or 11% of the land area of New York State. The population is 200,000 of which half are rural. There are 10,000 farms averaging 175 acres each.

Lake Ontario forms the western border and the St. Lawrence River is to the north. The elevation of the lake and the upper part of the river is 246 feet above sea level. Parts of Lewis County are about 1500 feet, with Gomer Hill reaching 2,175 feet. The highest point in this region is in the eastern edge of St. Lawrence County. It is Mt. Matumba (2,700 ft.) near Tupper Lake. Except for a small part of Lewis County this region is drained by the Black and other rivers that flow into Lake Ontario or the St. Lawrence River. There are many lakes including Black Lake, Cranberry Lake and Lake Bonapart.

The St. Lawrence Plain borders Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River and extends inland for some thirty miles. This area was originally covered by beech-birch-maple-hemlock forests, but it is now used for dairy farming. The Hungarian Partridge has been successfully introduced in this area, (*Kingbird*, Vol. 2, No. 4). The spruce-fir forests of the Adirondack Mountains reach into the eastern parts of Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. The Tug Hill Plateau is an interesting area in the southern part of Lewis County (*Linn. News Letter*, Vol. 7, No. 6, 1-2). This is an uninhabited area of 225 square miles halfway between Rome and Watertown.

Parts of the Adirondack Forest Preserve are in eastern Lewis County and in southeastern St. Lawrence. In this region there are also 135,000 acres of State Forests. There are many other wooded areas and fields covered with brush. The Perch River Game Management Area of some 3,600 acres is ten miles north of Watertown. Much work is being done here to provide food for waterfowl and in the fall ducks are banded. This area is open to the public only under certain conditions, but Mr. John Wilson, district game manager, and others aid the North Country Bird Club in many ways. Under the direction of the Conservation Department small ponds are being established in Jefferson County and other things are being done in an attempt to make better duck hunting. The Brownville Game Farm is near Watertown. The Littlejohn Game Management Area of 7,900 acres is in Jefferson and Oswego Counties.

The famous and beautiful "Thousand Islands" are in the St. Lawrence River near Clayton and Alexandria Bay. There are about 1,600 of these islands and many of them are in Canadian waters. Some of these islands and others in Lake Ontario make ideal breeding places for such birds as Herring Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls, Terns, Ducks, Great-blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons and Double-crested Cormorants.

The St. Lawrence Region is being only partially covered by interested observers and we would welcome help from others, especially in St. Lawrence County and parts of Lewis County.

The period of December-March was one of fairly mild weather except January which was colder than normal.

LOONS — DUCKS: Buffle-head reported Dec. 9 and Ring-necked Ducks Dec. 22. Mallard, Black, American Golden-eye and Lesser Scaup on Dec. 26. Last Pied-billed Grebe Jan. 5, and Horned Grebe Jan. 7. Last Ring-billed Gull Dec. 30. Few Gulls seen near Watertown after the first week of January probably due to a change in the method of garbage disposal. A few Great Black-backed Gulls were seen in December with the Herring Gulls.

Pintails returned about the first of March and Mallards were seen on the 12th. 200 Pintails were at Perch River Flats on March 19. On March 8 Buffleheads and Horned Grebes were on Lake Ontario. Other dates are: Wood Duck, March 15, Hooded Merganser, March 18, and Pied-billed Grebe and Green-winged Teal on March 26. Canada Geese returned late in March (about the 26th).

HAWKS — OWLS: In December the Hawks seemed more numerous than usual both in the number of individuals and the species seen. The Red-shouldered, Marsh, Sharp-shinned, Rough-legged and Sparrow Hawks were seen at the time of the Christmas Bird Count in Watertown on December 26. Sparrow Hawks wintered here and in greater numbers than usual. A Broad-winged Hawk was seen March first and the Marsh and Red-tailed Hawks on the sixth.

John Belknap has the records of twenty Snowy Owls seen in Jefferson County mostly in Jan. and Feb. One was seen near Watertown early in Jan. and remained near one place for six weeks. One observer has seen four Snowy Owls. One was seen in Lowville.

About a dozen Mourning Doves passed the winter at Perch River Game Management Area where they ate the buckwheat and other things planted there for waterfowl. One was found dead. First Killdeer appeared on March first, two or three weeks early.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Few Evening Grosbeaks were reported. About thirty have been in Lowville since early Feb. They appeared in Gouverneur about the first of March and remained at least to the end of the month. I understand that they were in Potsdam during the early winter, but very few were in Watertown. Red-winged Blackbirds appeared in numbers on March first. Grackles came March 18 and many in the next week. Several reports of Juncos (March 28-30). Some Pine Siskins were seen near Lowville.

Several inches of snow covered the ground for a week beginning March 30 and few birds migrated in that time. Where people cleared away the snow and scattered seeds on the bare ground many Song Sparrows were found feeding.

Frank A. Clinch, 183 Park Ave., Watertown, N. Y.

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK

Region Seven consists of the counties of Franklin, Clinton, Essex and Hamilton. It is one of the wildest and least inhabited regions of New York state except around its periphery. It is an area of mountains, lakes, streams, and extensive forest with scattered settlements and cultivated regions, particularly to the east along the Lake Champlain valley and in the north along the St. Lawrence River plain.

The most prominent feature is the central Adirondack mountains which reach a peak in Mt. Marcy at 5,344 feet. Numerous peaks surpass 4,000 feet. But these are not rugged mountains; they are worn and relatively gentle in the way they reach their apices. Here, south of Marcy, is the origin of the Hudson River. To the east, the mountains came close to Lake Champlain, leaving a rather narrow lake valley until farther north beyond Plattsburgh where the valley widens and meets the St. Lawrence River plain which forms the northern third of this region. There are a myriad of lakes, ponds and streams. Elevation varies from 100 feet in Plattsburgh to 5,344 feet on Mt. Marcy. The valley floors in the central portion around Saranac Lake and Lake Placid are at a general level of 1500-1600 feet.

Most of the region is forested except for the Champlain valley and St. Lawrence plain which are farmland. The woodland now is almost entirely second growth. In the lower levels there are oak-hickory forest associations, but most of the region is beech, birch, hemlock, maple. In the higher levels spruce and balsam appear. Thus the bird life shows Alleghenian species penetrating into all portions of the region. In the central portion they overlap at times with Canadian Zone species which are prominent features of the fauna at higher levels. The tree line is passed on some of the highest