

9/3, Sandy Pond. Horned Lark — unusually scarce, no flock over 50 reported. Black-capped Chickadee — seem to be everywhere, but flocks never above 20 - 25 birds. Red-breasted Nuthatch — early (9/8) and heavy flight thru region; 1 present thru latter half of Nov. at Oneida (Nodecker). Carolina Wren — 2 Nov. reports from Oneida. Long-billed Marsh Wren — 1 on 10/31, Sandy Pond, is our latest date. Olive-backed Thrush — 1 dead one on 8/12 initiated the fall flight, especially heavy this year, which abruptly terminated at end of Sept.; 1 on 10/17 and 10/19 at Oneida are probably reverse migrants from Hurricane Hazel. Gray-cheeked Thrush — 3 fall reports, 1 banded on 10/7, Syracuse. Veery — 1 found freshly killed on 11/5, Syracuse. Golden-crowned Kinglet — poor fall flight; never above status of common, even in late Oct., its usual peak. Ruby-crowned Kinglet — 1 on 11/12, Oneida, is our latest. Pipit — 1 on 9/3, Sandy Pond, is quite early (about 2 weeks). Northern Shrike — definitely an irruption year with 3 (3 unidentified but probably Northerns) on 10/31, Sandy Pond, as the first; 2-3 birds every week since. Loggerhead Shrike — 1 on 9/5, near Ellisburg is the only fall report.

WARBLERS — FRINGILLIDS: Tennessee — 1 on 10/21, Syracuse, is our latest recorded date. Orange-crowned — 2 reports, both in first 2 weeks of Oct. Myrtle — down in numbers, never more than common all fall, 1 on 11/12, Oneida, our latest fall report. Black-throated Green — 2 on 10/17, 1 on 10/18, Sandy Pond, are probably more of Hurricane Hazel's reverse migrants. Chestnut-sided — very poor numbers, no late stragglers. Bay-breasted — common along Lake Ontario in first 3 weeks of Sept. Black-poll — common throughout region in last 2 weeks of Sept. and 1st week of Oct.; 1 on 10/17, Sandy Pond, and also at Oneida, are probably in same class as the Black-throated Greens. Pine — 1 on 11/26, Syracuse; it may winter. Palm — only 1 report, that of 4 on 10/16, Green Lakes State Park. Ovenbird — 1 freshly killed by cat on 11/7, Syracuse, attests to the mild fall. Connecticut — 2 on 9/12, Sandy Pond. Hooded — 1 male on 9/4 migrating with a flock of warblers down the Sandy Pond dunes might suggest a post-breeding wanderer or a more northerly breeding station, as no brooding stations are known north of Selkirk. Wilson's — 17 birds reported this fall between 9/5 and 9/12, more than last 3 years combined. Rusty Blackbird — good flights, flocks of 150-200 in last 2 weeks of Oct. and 1st week of Nov. Evening Grosbeak — first report of a single male on 10/16 at Oneida Lake, the next three weeks show many reports; however, none after 11/7. Purple Finch — remarkably scarce this fall; the exact reverse of last year's many flocks; the only reports of any numbers of this bird from Westernville in mid-October. Pine Grosbeak — certainly a flight year; 1st reported on 11/4 at Oneida Lake; scattered reports (6) of flocks (2 - 12) and singles throughout Nov. Pine Siskin — few birds reported, all in Oct., with 6 as the highest count. Crossbills — 3 Red and 1 White-winged on 11/11, Syracuse, are our only fall reports. White-throated Sparrow — 1 early migrant at Sandy Pond on 9/4.

White-crowned Sparrow — return flight was short and fast, concentrated in 1st 2 weeks of Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow — only 1 date, 1 on 10/2, Three Rivers Game Management Area. Snow Bunting — 1st bird on 10/31, Sandy Pond; seen regularly since, but no flocks over 35 birds; also surprisingly enough several single birds have been seen, an unusual fall occurrence, though not uncommon in late winter and early spring.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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LOONS — DUCKS: The most unusual record is the finding of the remains of a Yellow-billed Tropic-bird. A study is being made of other records in the state and the results are being or will be published. John Belknap who found the bird writes, "Yellow-billed Tropic-bird picked up dead Oct. 26 at Southwick's Beach, Town of Ellisburg, Jefferson County. Undoubtedly blown up by the hurricane of Oct. 15. Remains at State Museum in Albany. Identification confirmed by Ralph S. Palmer, State Zoologist."

Horned Grebes were numerous along Lake Ontario in November. An American Egret was seen in the southern part of the region late in August. Least Bittern at

Three Mile Bay Sept. 9. Barrow's Golden-eye shot by Wayne Davis of Alexandria Bay in October near Grindstone Island. Specimen mounted and in his possession. About 25 Pintails were at Perch River Flats Nov. 22. A male Wood Duck was at Perch Lake Refuge on Nov. 11 which is a late date. Baldpate and Ring-necked Ducks were seen in large number this fall at the Perch Lake Refuge. An attempt a year ago to get Canada Geese to breed at Perch Lake showed no results this year. Good numbers of Scaup were noted this fall. Nearly absent or present only in greatly reduced numbers were the three Mergansers (Wilson). Immature Black-crowned Night Heron near Potsdam Sept. 12, seldom seen there other years.

HAWKS — OWLS: Rough-legged Hawk seen Oct. 25. Hunters reported the Ruffed Grouse as few and spotty, but some found them plentiful in spots where fruit was plentiful. Ringed-necked Pheasants were about the same as last with few shot near Watertown. Few Hungarian Partridge were shot as they are hard to find, but more likely to be seen when the snow is several inches deep. Conservation officials plan to trap and band them this winter (Wilson). Belknap reports the Lesser Yellowlegs on Sept. 30 and Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Black-bellied Plover, Greater Yellowlegs and Sanderling on Nov. 9. He also saw one Bonaparte's Gull Sept. 24.

Seven Snowy Owls were reported. The first was seen by Hi Clements at his Bass Island Wildlife Refuge near Henderson Bay in Jefferson County. It was on the shore and stayed there all day, November 9. Two others were noted near Lake Ontario, one was seen from the Conservation Dept. Building near Watertown and one in Lewis County. There were two reports of Short-eared Owls, both late in Nov.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Last date for Hummingbird at Potsdam was Sept. 27, two days later than the usual time (L. Blake). Several hundred Tree Swallows were seen near Hevelton on Oct. 12. A Red-breasted Nuthatch has been visiting a feeder daily near Colton from mid-October to at least the end of November. A Northern Shrike was observed near Henderson Harbor on Nov. 27 by F. Scheider. Others reported seen Nov. 5 and 19. Bowen noted both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets in fall migration near Lowville.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: A bird described as a female Oriole visited a feeder in Potsdam the third week in Nov. It was studied at close range on two days and probably was a Baltimore Oriole (L. Blake and others). A Meadowlark was seen Nov. 27. Grackles remained at a feeder near Potsdam until Nov. 18 and one was found at Limerick Nov. 27 (Scheider). A female Cardinal came to a feeder in Watertown for about a week in November. Pine Grosbeaks were seen in Colton and in Degrasse. Eight of them were in Brownville in mid-November, quickly ate the available seeds and left after two days (Walrath). One Evening Grosbeak came to a Box Elder tree at the home of Dr. Grace in Potsdam Sept. 30. By Oct. 12 there were about a dozen. Several flocks were found in St. Lawrence County from mid-October to early November, but there were fewer reported the latter part of November. About thirty of them returned to Lowville Oct. 18 and others were in Brownville about the same time, and some were in Watertown a little later. White-winged Crossbills were seen near Colton and South Colton in St. Lawrence County and twice in Jefferson County where they are seldom found. The Towhees left a feeder near Potsdam the last week in September. Four Snow Buntings were at Southwick's Beach on Oct. 26 and 18 near Henderson Harbor Nov. 27. White-crowned Sparrow at Potsdam Sept. 27 (Allison).

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

GORDON M. MEADE

The unusually heavy rainfall of June and July continued through August and well into September. The total for June, July, August and September was 26 inches. By September 22nd lakes and rivers were at the level of spring flooding. The first snowfall, a light and transient one, came October 6th (in 1953, October 7th). The first heavy snow came November 3rd and 4th. About November 22nd persistent snow fell on the central Adirondacks. As of December 13th there was about 8 inches at Saranac Lake.