

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.

August temperatures were average with a high of 80° (25th) and a low of 38° (27th). September averaged about 3 degrees warmer than usual with a high of 77° (30th). October was slightly warmer than usual with a high of 72° (1st) and a low of 22° (7th). November was average with a high of 63° (19th) and a low of 13° (13th). These figures are for Trudeau, N. Y.

The cone crop this year is poor in the pines and balsam; fair in larch, red spruce, hemlock and white cedar; and good only in white and black spruce. Poor fruit crop also in beech, wild black cherry and white ash. Only fair on blue beech, white and yellow birch, white and red oak (Champlain Valley), mountain ash, sugar maple and dogwoods.

Conspicuous to date has been the almost complete absence of Evening Grosbeaks during the late fall. To date (December 13th) there is also marked scarcity or absence of Snow Bunting, Siskins, Redpolls, Purple Finches and Crossbills. On the contrary, there has been the heaviest influx of Pine Grosbeaks in many years. A very interesting record is the Carolina Wren November 28th to December 13th at feeder in Saranac Lake. Heavy night flights of migrants September 11-12, 28-29, October 2-3.

LOONS — DUCKS: M. Kingsbury reports Common Loon with half-grown young on September 15th on Rollins Pond (near Tupper Lake). Dr. Kingsbury reports she has never seen Loons there before. This supports my report in October KINGBIRD that there seems to be increased breeding of this species in Adirondacks. Canada Geese present on Lake Champlain and migrating over Saranac Lake until end of November. One Snow Goose at Valcour Island, Lake Champlain, on November 24th (Thomas Lesperance); no Blue Geese seen there (T. L.). Ducks on Lake Champlain reported fewer than last year by T. L. Should be noted that among the species seen there this year is Gadwall (T. L.). A notable record is two Barrow's Golden-eye (pair) collected by T. L. on Lake Champlain on November 10th at Au Sable Point.

HAWKS — OWLS: Goshawk and Cooper's Hawk more common in Keeseville area this fall (T. L.). Golden Eagle reported at Loon Lake Mt. during first week of October (G. T. Chase). High water levels left few shore bird flats but nice record is 7 Knots at Au Sable Pt. on November 20th (T. L.). It is interesting that the shore bird flight is confined almost entirely to the Champlain Valley. The Adirondack lakes often have extensive exposed mud flats in spring and fall but shore birds are extremely rare on them. Lesperance reports 13 Bonaparte's Gull at Au Sable Point on November 2nd. This species seems to occur on Lake Champlain in small numbers each fall. Snowy Owls — one at North Hudson Nov. 2-5 (A. Amstutz) and one at Essex, Nov. 13 (M. Mason).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Heavy diurnal migration of Flickers through central Adirondacks on Sept. 30 (G. M. Meade). Hairy Woodpeckers seem more numerous than usual in Saranac Lake area as winter begins (G. M. M.). Frequent observations of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in August, Sept. and up to Oct. 2nd, at Tupper Lake (A. Amstutz) and Chateaugay Lake (E. MacGregor). Flock of 50 Northern Horned Larks at Lake Placid on November 25 (H. Bergamini, Jr.). Leo Provost reports Tree Swallows failed to flock at Plattsburgh as in past seasons. A noteworthy record is a Raven at Saranac Inn about October 15 (G. T. C.). The bird appeared to possibly be migrating. Chickadees are unusually abundant so far this fall at Saranac Lake (G. M. M.). Does this correlate with the migratory movements reported earlier in western part of the state? Have other regions noted an increase in numbers? A Carolina Wren at a feeder at Saranac Lake on November 28 (still present on December 13) is a new species for this locale (G. M. M.). Robins came through mountains in heavy flight on Sept. 30—one still present at Saranac Lake on Nov. 23 (G. M. M.). Pipits at Plattsburgh, Oct. 19 (L. P.) and Saranac Lake, Nov. 17 (G. T. C.). No Gray Shrikes yet reported.

VIROES — WARBLERS: The warm weather of early October held warblers over in considerable numbers along Lake Champlain. Such species as Black and White, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Chestnut-sided, Pine and Redstart remained near Au Sable Point (T. L.) well into October, some as late as 22nd, at time

of first killing frost. Migrating flocks of Black and White, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided and Myrtle at Plattsburgh on Oct. 9; also a Pine on October 22 (L. P.). Warblers moved out of central parts of region earlier.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: 3 Redwings, 1 Grackle and 1 Cowbird still present at Saranac Lake on Nov. 26 (G. M. M.). Evening Grosbeaks which nested in Adirondacks in considerable numbers this year remained until mid-September. Since then they have almost entirely disappeared in Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake areas. The only report of any numbers of them at end of fall season was at Ellenburg Depot (E. MacG.) where 113 were banded Oct. 26 - Nov. 30. In this north country it has so far been decidedly a Pine Grosbeak year. The heaviest in years. They are common over the entire area. First report on October 25 at Pok-a-Moonshine Mt. (T. L.). From then to date (Dec. 13) they have been reported at Tupper, Long and Saranac Lake villages and at numerous places along Lake Champlain — Port Kent, Peru, Schuyler Falls, Ausable Chasm, Douglass and Essex. Many have been killed by cars on the roads. No Redpolls, Siskins or Purple Finches yet reported. Crossbills have moved out of central mountains after being present all summer. Only one report of Snow Bunting — at Au Sable Point on November 1 (T. L.).
Trudeau, N. Y.

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

ALLEN H. BENTON

August was 2.5 degrees below normal temperature this year, following the trend of the rest of the summer. Rainfall was slightly above normal, but most of it came in one tremendous downpour on the 31st. September was only slightly cooler than normal, despite a 24% drop in total hours of sunshine. The clouds were not productive of rain, however, since precipitation was more than an inch below normal. In October, the trend of the season reversed, and temperature was 5 degrees above average for the month, and precipitation nearly normal. The frost-free season ended on October 8th, a temperature of about 25 degrees setting a new Albany record for that date. November was near normal in temperature, but precipitation was well above normal. Most of it, however, came as rain, and there was no accumulation of snow in the vicinity of Albany during the month. In some of the northern areas, there was some accumulation.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loon was first seen on October 2, and has been present in small numbers up to the last of November. Horned and Pied-billed Grebes have been common throughout the fall, with numbers over 30 seen on several occasions. Largest report for American Egrets was Sept. 25, when 31 were seen along the Hudson River. Last date for Black-crowned Night Heron was Sept. 21, at Scotia (E. Hallenbeck). A Great Blue Heron was seen near Catskill on Nov. 29 (S. Madison). The waterfowl migration has been good. An American Brant was seen at Saratoga Lake on November 28 (E. Hallenbeck). Most of the migrating species have been seen in good numbers, but the wintering species, mergansers, goldeneyes, scaup, etc., have been few so far.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Turkey Vulture was seen along the Hudson River below Albany on Sept. 25. Other hawk reports have been scanty. Few shorebirds were reported. A late Killdeer was seen at Saratoga Lake on Nov. 14. Last date for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was Nov. 11 (Mabel French). A Snowy Owl was reported at Rensselaer on Nov. 14 (Rev. Carlyle Adams).

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES: Last date for Nighthawk was Sept. 26 (M. French). Chimney Swift was last seen on Sept. 20 (M. French) and Ruby-throated Hummingbird on Sept. 24 (M. French). A Belted Kingfisher was seen at Saratoga Lake on Nov. 14. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen from Sept. 25 to Oct. 23. Pileated Woodpeckers are being reported more frequently, and are being seen in areas not previously occupied by this species. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Watervliet Reservoir on August 29. Red-breasted Nuthatches first appeared on Sept. 25 and were present throughout October and November. Winter Wrens were present