

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

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Since there were very few warblers during the breeding season, the lack of waves of these species during the fall movement was not unexpected. Some of the hardier thrushes stayed quite late, as did sparrows and blackbirds. The cool that prevailed during the summer turned to cold as fall progressed, giving one of the most spectacular foliage displays in many a year. Temperatures stayed at or near freezing each night from late October to the end of November, with only a few intervals of "Indian Summer" weather. The first snow fell at higher elevations on Oct 30, and at the lower levels on Nov 21. There has been snow on the ground ever since with no thaw. A continued temperature drop has brought temperatures below zero at the end of November. These are night-time temperatures, but the days have been blustery with snow squalls and dark ominous clouds. At present (Dec. 5) there is an accumulation of twenty inches of snow at the top of Poke-a-Moonshine Mountain, and nearly ten inches at the foot.

Streams are frozen over as are the inland ponds and lakes, thereby forcing the waterfowl to the broad waters of Lake Champlain. This has been a boon to the waterfowlers, with the new duck season extending to January 8th. Due to the frigid conditions, however, no great slaughter is anticipated.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons were seen at Lake Champlain from Willsboro to Rouse's Point but not in any appreciable numbers. The species was also reported from Tupper Lake, Sep 14 (Amstutz). Mallard, Black Duck, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter and American Scoter were seen on Lake Champlain, the first time all three species have been observed by this reporter. American Goldeneye, Bufflehead, a few Scaup, and many Old Squaw were observed during this period. No Snow Geese were reported from this area, although there were good flights of Canada Geese and a few Blue Geese were seen.

Hawks — Owls: There has been no report of hawk activity, except for an occasional Sparrow Hawk perched on the wires along the roads. A Saw-whet Owl was seen on the Peru-Keeseville Road (Route 22) on Dec. 1.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Pileated, Hairy, Downy and Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen near Keeseville, while at Tupper Lake there was a large movement of Flickers on Sep 4. A nest of the Black-backed Woodpecker was found at Tupper Lake, which tends to show the general increase of this species since it was first reported in this area, two years ago, as being fairly common in the denser wooded areas. Horned Larks are still about at this writing at Keeseville, while the last one seen at Tupper Lake was Nov 16. A large flock of Water Pipits was noted at Tupper Lake on Nov 1 (Amstutz).

Vireos — Warblers: At Keeseville there was no perceptible warbler movement, but at Tupper Lake Miss Amstutz reports "A confusing array of fall warblers". Among those identified and reported were Nashville, Black-throated Blue, and Redstart. It appears that the warbler movement occurred farther to the west than usual, and in an area that needs more observers because of its remoteness and vastness. In fact, were it not for Miss Amstutz and Dr. Kingsbury, we would not have reports from there at all. The warbler wave was of short duration, lasting only from Aug 16 to Sep 20. The peak days were Aug 16 and Sep 1.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Many blackbirds stayed in the Keeseville area until early Nov, feeding at or near the marshes. Among the species noted were Redwing, Grackle, Cowbird and Rusty Blackbird. Sparrows were about until the snows came, and in great variety. Song, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, White-crowned and White-throated were included. Meadowlarks are still around Keeseville at this time. The early snows are indicative of harsh weather to the north of us, and promise an excellent opportunity for observation of boreal species. Already Miss Amstutz reports White-winged Crossbills, in increasing numbers from Aug 9 to date, as well as Pine Grosbeaks. At Keeseville we have had many Grosbeaks and now and then a Pine Siskin. Other winter residents, Blue Jays, Chickadees, Juncos and Brown Creepers are in great numbers. In spite of adverse weather conditions, we continue to have the always sought-for new record, sometimes brought to our attention too late for the current reporting but better late than never; this time, "an authentic record" of a Cardinal near Ampersand Pond (Amstutz).

NOTE TO REGION 7 OBSERVERS: As of this date, Miss Agnes Amstutz, Tupper Lake, N. Y., will take over the reporting for this region until June 1, 1959. I will be in Florida continuing my studies as medical technician. See you all next year.

Keeseville, New York