

Stony Point. His field note also makes reference to certain other published state records for this erratic and rare winter visitor).

Loon — Ducks: Two or three Great Blue Herons could usually be seen near the dike at the Perch River Game Management Area (PRGMA), but Allen counted 18 there Sep 21. There was a good fight of Shovelers at the Wilson Hill GMA the first week of November. Hunters reported a poor duck season. Some saw large numbers but didn't bag many. There were few Redheads or Cvasbacks. As noted above a male and two female Barrow's Goldeneyes were shot at Stony Point in the eastern part of Lake Ontario on Nov 27. J. Blake noted a scarcity of mergansers. He saw four Common Mergansers and only a few Red-breasted Mergansers.

Hawks — Owls: Gordon saw an immature Red-tailed Hawk near Adams Cove on Nov 21. Several Rough-legged Hawks were reported in October and November, but probably there were more in this area a year ago. One Bald Eagle was seen. Marsh Hawks were apparently last seen on Nov 19 at Point Peninsula.

Most of the reports of shorebirds were birds seen at El Dorado. Some of the dates were: Semipalmated Plover Aug 16 and Sep 29, Black-bellied Plover Aug 16-18, Ruddy Turnstone Aug 16 and Sep 29, Common Snipe and Spotted Sandpiper Aug 16, Greater Yellowlegs Aug 16 and Sep 18, Knot Sep 1, Pectoral Sandpiper Aug 16 and Sep 29, White-rumped Sandpiper Aug 18, Dunlin Aug 18, Least Sandpiper Aug 18 and Sep 29, Short-billed Dowitcher Aug 16 and Sep 29, Stilt Sandpiper Sep 1, Semipalmated Sandpiper Aug 16, Sanderling Aug 16 and Sep 29, and Northern Phalarope about the middle of August. Gordon saw five Woodcock near Natural Bridge in Lewis County on Oct 15.

Two Great Black-backed Gulls were at Adams Cove Nov 19, and many Caspian Terns were at El Dorado Aug 18. One Mourning Dove was at Point Peninsula Nov 19, and another stayed in this area until the end of the month. At least four persons saw Snowy Owl, and the number of birds must have been six or eight. Gordon found two Short-eared Owls at Point Peninsula on Nov 19.

Goatsuckers — Warblers: Hummingbirds stayed late. Two or three were here about Sep 20, and Allen saw another Sep 28. Black-capped Chickadees were less interested in coming to feeders than a year ago. A few Water Pipits appeared at PRGMA and were seen where work on the dike had left the ground bare. Belknap saw a large flock of Cedar Waxwings at Alexandria Bay Nov 23 and a Northern Shrike near Champion Nov 18.

Allen noted waves of warblers near Edwards Sep 3-4 and identified Black-burian, Black and White, Nashville, Magnolia, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Pine, Ovenbird, Yellowthroat, and Redstart. Many Myrtle Warblers were in the Watertown area Oct 5-10, and the last date for them was Oct 22 near Barnes Corners.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Several Red-winged Blackbirds remained until Nov 21 and a few until the end of the month. An early date for Rusty Blackbirds was Sep 17 when there were three near Sulphur Springs. A lone Common Grackle was at a feeder near Postdam on Nov 28. A Cardinal was seen in Watertown, and two were near there the last week of November. Around Potsdam the Evening Grosbeaks were present throughout November, but they seldom bothered with the sunflower seeds put out for them. None was around Watertown.

The first Pine Siskins were seen near Watertown Nov 12. A late date for a Rufous-sided Towhee in the Tug Hill section was Oct 1 near Diamond. Gordon found Savannah Sparrows, Vesper Sparrows, and Field Sparrows near Diamond Oct 1. Tree Sparrows were noted in several places Oct 29 — Nov 1. There did not seem to be as many White-crowned Sparrows this fall. The only record for Fox Sparrows was Oct 22 near Barnes Corners. Gordon saw about 50 Snow Buntings at Point Peninsula Nov 5, and Allen saw the same number at Dry Hill on Nov 13.

173 Haley Street, Watertown

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

A normal course of events preceded our true fall season. Defoliation was complete by October 10 due in part to torrential rains and some very unseasonable cold, and to strong westerly winds at that period. A gradual warming trend

followed, and above average temperatures were generally maintained for the balance of the reporting period. This caused what few ducks we did have to stay over. There were early departing species from this area, and this emphasizes the trend in the weather. At Whiteface Mountain there was twelve inches of snow by October 15, and there were comparable depths of snow on other high elevations. In the lowlands, however, the mild conditions were conducive to a heavy take of bear by the big game hunters, and the dampening of the woods by the heavy rains kept the forest preserve open without danger of fire.

The unseasonable warmth did nothing to hold over the passerines, however. Peak flights were recorded early, especially among the thrushes and sparrows. More than a few of the boreal species made an early appearance on our local scene, some in heavy numbers. Perhaps conditions to the north of our area caused the early movement.

I should like to take a few lines here to mention the status of waterfowl in our area. Although the Lake Champlain flyway was never a strong route for numbers of migrating ducks and geese, this season produced the lowest numbers of these species in the twelve years I have observed and recorded them. In former years the total number of ducks (puddlers) that could be expected at the AuSable Point marshes would probably be from 1000 to 1500 and at Wickham's Marsh (five miles south) about 200 to 300. To date this fall the total of the two marshes has not exceeded 200 birds. The number of species represented has also shown a decline. The lament goes up among the waterfowlers that duck shooting here is a thing of the past, but the more astute among them ask "what can we do to help?" It is hoped that this condition will forcibly bring to their attention the need for stringent rules in waterfowling, better legislation on the Federal level for more nesting sites, and on the state level the abandonment of the proposed recreation area at AuSable Point in favor of a marsh improvement program with an eye towards building up duck population on the local level. When are our legislators going to stop quibbling about whether the area is "in the Department of Lands and Forests or the Department of Fish and Game" and realize that a serious situation is becoming worse, and then do something about it? We are in danger of losing one of the best marshes in the north country to a commercial venture while the Departments both dedicated to the outdoors, and all it aspires to, bicker back and forth. The Department of Lands and Forests and the Department of Fish and Game should be concerned equally with the present situation. I have referred to this problem before, and I have since obtained facts and figures which I will submit to the proper committee.

Loons — Ducks: The Common Loon was observed at Lake Clear on Sep 26 (Delahanty). The Horned Grebe and a migrating flock of Common Loons were noted at Lake Champlain on Oct 22 (Amstutz), and that same day the Horned Grebe and Pied-billed Grebe were at Saranac Lake (Delafield).

Delafield reported Canada Geese, Mallards, Blacks, Ring-necks, Ruddy Ducks, Common Goldeneyes, and Hooded and Common Mergansers in the Saranac area. Delahanty noted flocks of Canada Geese at Tupper Lake with over 50 on Oct 21. Amstutz also remarked on the large flocks of Canada Geese at Tupper Lake from Oct 7 to 30. Several Bufflehead and three Oldsquaw were at Whey Pond on Oct 23 (Amstutz). A large flock of Ruddy Ducks and many flights of Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal were at Raquette Pond on Nov 11 (Amstutz). The major portion of the flights must have been inland because at the old standby, AuSable Point, only the Mallard, Black, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Greater Scaup, and Bufflehead were noted (Lesperance), and these were all low in numbers.

Hawks — Owls: At Saranac Lake, Delafield observed the Red-tailed, Rough-legged, Broad-winged, Marsh Hawk, and Osprey during the reporting period. Just south of Keeseville on Oct 23 a Rough-legged Hawk was struck by a car, and State Police brought the bird to me for identification. Miss Amstutz has forwarded to me the location of a nest of the Bald Eagle, which for protective purposes will not be recorded here, but interested persons of good intent may contact her if they wish. She states that the nest has been in use for some time and that it was used again this year.

The Black Rail and the Virginia Rail were at AuSable Point marsh on Oct 14. At Saranac Lake on Sep 19 Delafield observed the Black-bellied Plover "in a field near road which crosses Twobridge Brook near Lake Clear." This species was at Saranac Airport on Sep 25. Killdeer were seen in the same areas on the same

dates. Amstutz recorded the Greater Yellowlegs and possibly the Lesser Yellowlegs at Tupper Lake and at Raquette Pond. At AuSable Point the Purple Sandpiper was again seen; this marks the third late August record in the last five years. In 1958 a bird was trapped and banded at Four Brothers Island by Norman St. Jacques. In 1959 a specimen was collected at AuSable Point and placed in the collection of the State University College of Education of Plattsburgh. (The Purple Sandpiper has also been reported from Vermont, and I have prepared a specimen for the Vermont Conservation Department's portable natural history collection; this collection is carried around to the various schools, and ornithology is taught first hand to the students).

Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were common in all areas where found. A small flock of Common Terns was at Rouses Point until Oct 25 (Lesperance).

Amstutz reported a Snowy Owl at Raquette Pond on Nov 11 and again on Nov 12. This caused considerable local interest and many people went out to see the visitor from the land of ice and snow.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Pileated Woodpecker numbers seemed up, while all other woodpeckers were about normal in the areas observed. A Phoebe was at Keeseville on Oct 17 (Lesperance), and there was a good late record of the Great Crested Flycatcher at Tupper Lake on Oct 27 (Delahanty). Small flocks (8-10) of Rough-winged and Bank Swallows were at AuSable Point on Oct 31. Delafield reported the Horned Lark on Oct 27.

Many winter Wrens were at Tupper Lake on Oct 9. A flock of nine Bluebirds was there on Oct 19, and Robins were noted until Oct 28 (Delahanty). Amstutz reported a large volume of Robins in the area she covered. At Keeseville a solitary male Bluebird was observed catching a late hatch of moths on Nov 6, and hundreds of migrating Robins covered lawns and open fields that same date (Lesperance). Delafield reported the Hermit Thrush and Brown Thrasher but gave no dates. There were several reports of Golden-crowned Kinglets, and the Water Pipit was observed at Keene on Oct 8 (Amstutz). A Northern Shrike was seen at Port Douglas on Nov 11 (Lesperance).

Vireos — Sparrows: Amstutz reported a very large and varied warbler migration Aug 21 to Sep 1 and a late Blackburnian Warbler on Oct 1. Delafield's observations showed that Black-throated Green Warblers were very numerous and went through her area, Tupper Lake, in waves until Sep 23. At Keeseville only a few lonely Black and White Warblers were seen, and they had gone by Oct 14.

Seven Rusty Blackbirds were noted near Clayburg on Oct 23 (Delahanty). Evening Grosbeaks were at Gabriels on Oct 24 (Amstutz), and on Nov 8 they were at Tupper Lake (Delahanty) and Keeseville (Lesperance).

Red Crossbills were at Whitehouse on Aug 16 and at Pisico Lake on Sep 7. White-winged Crossbills were also seen at Whitehouse (McIlroy). Crossbills were later reported at Port Douglas and Tupper Lake. Pine Siskins were noted on Nov 15 (Delahanty), and this species was also seen at Tupper Lake (Amstutz). There were several Purple Finch reports.

Many Fox Sparrows were noted on migration at Whey Pond on Oct 23, and Chipping Sparrows were numerous from Aug 21 to Sep 1 at Tupper Lake. Large flocks of Tree Sparrows were noted there from Sep 17 to Nov 5 (Amstutz). Tree Sparrows were common at Keeseville by Oct 25 (Lesperance). The White-crowned Sparrow was seen on Oct 25 (Delahanty).

Delafield reported the Snow Bunting on Oct 23, and large flocks of these birds were seen on the outer extremity of AuSable Point on Oct 14. A good record of interest was the Lapland Longspur recorded by Delafield on Oct 27. The latter species was quite abundant during the fall and winter of 1955, and several specimens were taken at that time by me for the Biology Department of the State University Teachers College of Plattsburgh.

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

Weather in the Mohawk-Hudson region averaged warmer and drier than normal except for a very wet September brought about partly by the passage of