

Vireos — Sparrows: Solitary Vireo: at El Dorado Sep 22. Warblers: Alfred Maley reports that he saw "literally hundreds of Myrtle, Blackpoll, Bay-breasted, Magnolia, Black-throated Green Warblers as well as many other species of small land birds in the wet, swampy cedar-and-deciduous tree woods that are back a thousand yards from the shore at El Dorado. The wind was SWW with some rain, this was on Sep 22. Myrtle Warbler: migration was for a longer period this fall; many near Clayton Oct 27.

Rusty Blackbird: at a feeder in Watertown Nov 4. Evening Grosbeak: a female at a feeder in Watertown Nov 24, but no others at feeders; a small flock seen later in Watertown. Pine Siskin: near Felts Mills Nov 28. Slate-colored Junco: seemed numerous this fall; ten at El Dorado Nov 10. Chipping Sparrow: last one, one in Watertown Nov 1. White-crowned Sparrow: last seen Nov 11, near Clayton. Lapland Longspur: an early date, Sep 6 at El Dorado. Snow Bunting: Oct 5.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

Continuing the trend that started in early summer, this reporting period was a time of sharp contrasts weather-wise. Several days of heavy rains would followed by clear, windy and cool days with early frosts. The middle of August was comparable to mid-October of a normal year. There was as yet no defoliation but some color had developed at the higher elevations, and a report of a light snowfall from the Altona-Moores area in the last days of August gave promise of a hurried exodus of birdlife from this area. By late September most of the hard woods had intensive defoliation, and the winds were northerly and very cold. On those few days that were typical of good birding, when one could expect to find "waves of migrants" there was little activity. At night between 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM when there was little or no wind to create extra noise many bird calls could be heard, as the birds moved by overhead. The only waves, as such were the blackbirds, mainly Rusty Blackbirds in the Keesville area and these were mixed with Cowbirds, a few Grackles and a few Red-wings. However, they were larger flocks than normally are seen of these species in this area, averaging 100-150 in most groups. Defoliation was mostly complete by mid-October.

The large crop mast, promoted by the wet summer, did not seem to hold many birds in this area. The weather can only be described as unseasonably cold, and this no doubt is the related cause to their quick exit. More Geese were noted this year and in larger wedges than in former years. Other waterfowl were in very low numbers, and the duck hunters lament is heard loud and clear regarding this situation.

The seventy-five **wing-clipped** Canada Geese, with new wing feathers regrown again were slaughtered at the Ausable Point area where they had been released in the late spring in an effort to start a breeding colony. Work which had started there to develop a recreation area, including swimming and camping facilities, concession stands, etc., continued all summer. Heavy equipment, trucks, bulldozers and many workers completed an access road across the middle of the marsh to the camping area.

Accustomed to all this activity, the geese were not shy and fell easy prey to the first gunners. This sort of thing, sponsored by the State Departments involved, (to commercializing) an otherwise ideal area for the propagation of waterfowl and in the face of a diminishing supply and against the explicit recommendations of the District Game Manager that the two projects are not compatible, is typical of recent maneuvers of these Departments in recent months.

This loss of an ideal breeding area was mentioned by me, several months ago, and a request for a review by the Federation Conservation Committee involved with these problems was made at that time. At this late date, I am sure that nothing can now be done. Copies of pertinent information will be sent to those still interested, upon request.

Contributors: D — Delahanty; A — Amstutz; K — Keji; L — Lesperance.

Loons — Ducks: Great Blue Heron: Aug 17 through Nov 1, Tupper L., (D); Sep 3 thru Oct 19, Raybrook Pond, (K); until Oct 19, Keesville, (L). Green Heron: until Oct 19, Keesville, (L). Canada Goose: reported from nearly all areas and in

much larger numbers (L). Snow Goose: several, Nov 28 (early), Ausable Pt. (L). Black Duck: common, where found, but lower in numbers than normal; at Ausable Pt. throughout period. Blue-w Teal, Wood Duck, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead, Ausable Pt., throughout the period, (L).

Hawks — Owls: Red-tailed, Broad-wing and Rough-leg. Hawks at Keesville throughout Oct. Bald Eagle: date not given, Tupper L., by guest of (D). Osprey: Aug 31 & Sep 26, Raybrook, (K). Sparrow Hawks: Sep 23, Tupper L., (D); Keesville to end of period (L).

Semipalm. Plover: Sep 8, Ausable Pt. (D & A and Mrs. Whalen); Spotted Sandpiper: Sep 30 & Oct 2, Ausable Pt. (D). Killdeer, Golden Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, & one Sanderling through Aug & Sep. Barred Owl: Aug 31 & Sep 26, Raybrook, (K). Hawk Owl: one, Oct 27 through Nov 5, W. of Bay Pond, Franklin Co., N. of Saranac Lake. (On Nov 3 two birds were seen) (Robert Darrow et al, rep. W. Sabin).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Swifts and most swallows were still in the area as late as Sep 20. Yellow-sh. Flicker: Raybrook (K). Yellow-br. Sapsucker: all period, Raybrook (K). Hairy Woodpecker: Tupper L. (D); all period, Raybrook (K). Downy Woodpecker: Tupper L. (D); all period, Raybrook (K). Eastern Kingbird: to Sep 12, Tupper L. (D). Least Flycatcher: to Sep 12, Tupper L. (D). Horned Lark: Tupper L. (D); Sunmount (A). Boreal Chickadee: Raybrook (K). White-br. Nuthatch: Tupper L. (D); all period, Raybrook (K). Red-br. Nuthatch: Tupper L. (D); all period, Raybrook (K). Brown Creeper: Tupper L. (D); all period, Raybrook (K). Winter Wren: Raybrook (K). Brown Thrasher: Tupper L. (D); Sunmount (A); Raybrook (K). Robins and Bluebirds remained quite late (Nov 26, last) (reported by all). A "mottled" or partial albino Robin was still around Raybrook hospital Oct 19, which caused much interest there (K). Golden-cr. Kinglet: Raybrook (K). Ruby-cr. Kinglet: Tupper L. (D); Raybrook (K). Cedar Waxwing: to Sep 12, Tupper L. (D); large flocks, Sunmount (A); Raybrook (K). Northern Shrike: Raybrook (K).

Vireos — Warblers: Red-eyed Vireo: Raybrook (K); thru Sep, Tupper L. (D). Warblers: The largest migration I saw was around Sep 8. There were varied warblers in this flock, the usual kinds (A). Black & White: Raybrook (K); Tupper L. (D). Tennessee: Tupper L. (D). Nashville: Raybrook (K); Tupper L. (D). Magnolia: Raybrook (K); Tupper L. (D). Black-thr. Blue: Raybrook (K). Myrtle: Raybrook (K); Tupper L. (D). Black-thr. Green: Raybrook (K). Blackburnian: Tupper L. (D). Chestnut-s.: Raybrook (K). Bay-breasted: Raybrook (K); Tupper L. (D). Ovenbird: Raybrook (K). Yellowthroat: Raybrook (K); 3 Keesville (persisted near nest site to Nov 3) (L). Wilson's: Tupper L. (D). Canada: Raybrook (K). American Redstart: Raybrook (K). Keji's observations — Aug 30 - Nov 9. Delahanty's observations through Sep. Lesperance — There were very few warblers at Keesville.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Red-w Blackbird: Tupper L. (D). Rusty Blackbirds: Oct 30, Tupper L. (D); large flocks to Nov 15-20; Keesville (L). Common Grackle: Tupper L. (D); Raybrook (K). Brown-h Cowbird: Tupper L. (D); Raybrook (K).

Scarlet Tanager: until Aug 31, Raybrook (K); until Sep 13 Keesville (L). Cardinal: Tupper L. (D); one, Oct 19, Tupper L. (Mrs. Whalen). Dickcissel: to Nov 4, Tupper L. (D)*. Evening Grosbeaks: several small flocks, Nov 2, Keesville (L); a few still around Sunmount hospital (A).

Purple Finch: to Nov 4, Tupper L. (D); Aug 30-Nov 30, Raybrook (K). Pine Siskin: Nov 6 & 7, Sunmount (A); Oct 26-Nov 23, Tupper L. (D); rather large flocks of 15 or more, as early as Oct 19, Raybrook (K). Goldfinch: Aug 30-Nov 30, Raybrook (K). Red Crossbill: Sunmount (A). Sparrows: Vesper: Aug 30-Nov 30, Raybrook (K). Slate-col. Junco: to Nov 4, Tupper L. (D); Aug 30-Nov 30, Raybrook (K). Tree: to Nov 4, Tupper L. (D); Aug 30-Nov 30, Raybrook (K). Chipping: to Nov 4, Tupper L. (D); Aug 30-Nov 30, Raybrook (K). Field: to Nov 4, Tupper L. (D); Aug 30-Nov 30, Raybrook (K). White-crown.: to Nov 4, Tupper L. (D); Aug 30-Nov 30, Raybrook (K). White-throat.: to Nov 4, Tupper L. (D); Aug 30-Nov 30, Raybrook (K). Fox: to Nov 4, Tupper L. (D); Aug 30-Nov 30, Raybrook (K). Song: to Nov 4, Tupper L. (D); Aug 30-Nov 30, Raybrook (K). Snow Bunting, Raybrook (K).

* The Dickcissel came to Mrs. Delahanty's feeder, along with the common House

Sparrows, and was observed under excellent conditions by Dr. Kingsbury, Ann Parker and others. "Now I know why I have been feeding those House Sparrows all these years", quotes Mrs. Delahanty, as she remarks about this excellent record.
Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKAM.

This Fall was generally cooler than average. Precipitation was close to average, which allowed short-term relief from the dry conditions of the summer, but which failed to fill the reservoirs or replenish depleted underground supplies of water. There was an early frost on Sept. 21-22, one of the earliest ever recorded, which killed most annuals, but this was followed by over a month in which there was no frost, until Oct. 25. November was considerably colder, 4.1° lower than average, with a low of 14° on the 19th. There was frost in the ground from mid-November on.

The prolonged dry weather of the summer had the predicted effect of affording exposed bars and mudflats which proved attractive to a total of 16 species of the plover and sandpiper families. The most unusual among these records were those of Dowitcher and Stilt Sandpiper — the latter the first record of the species in this area since 1945. Unusual also were the large numbers of individuals of other shorebird species observed.

Waterfowl were also observed in good numbers, with the most outstanding events of the season the amazing concentration of Red-throated Loons on Saratoga Lake, the numbers of Snow Geese observed, and the widespread occurrence of Common Scoters on Oct. 13. Among the landbirds, outstanding features were the sighting of a Western Kingbird (apparently a first record for the region), the appearance of Blue Grosbeaks in Catskill, an enormous flight of blackbirds and an excellent fall warbler and vireo migration. Other unusual species included Gadwall, Ruddy Duck, Black Vulture, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Philadelphia Vireo, Kentucky and Orange-crowned Warblers, and Dickcissel.

Abbreviations used: Alan Devoe Bird Club — ADBC; Schenectady Bird Club — SBC; Common — Com; throated — thr; breasted — br; crowned — cr; Saratoga — Sar; Tomhannock — Tomh; Niskayuna Wide Waters — Nisk WW; Vischer Ferry — Visch Fy; Lake — L; Reservoir — Res; Creek — Cr.

Observers: Gus Angst — GA; Pauline Baker — PB; Hortense Barton — HB; Lee Burland — LB; James H. Bush — JHB; Phil Clark — PC; Juanita Cook — JC; Hazel Eddy — HE; Paul & Georgia Erlenbach — PE, GE; Donald Foley — DF; Mabel W. French — MWF; Aden Gokay — AG; Esley Hallenbeck — EH; Marcia Kent — MK; Samuel Madison — SM; Eleanor Radke — ER; Edgar M. Reilly — EMR; Walton Sabin — WS; Mary Lou Shedd — MLS; Robert Shedd — RS; Fred & Myra Smilow — FS, MS; Beverly Waite — BW; Peter P. Wickham — PPW.

Loons — Ducks: Com Loon: two Oct 13, Sar L (WS, PPW); still present at end of period. Red-thr Loon: surprisingly widespread; Nov 11, Tomh Res (SBC) to Nov 25; Alcove Res (WS) with an amazing flock of 150+ at Sar L Nov 18 (SBC). Horned Grebe: six Oct 13 (WS, PPW), present through rest of period. No Pied-billed Grebes were reported. Great Blue Herons occurred throughout, max 23, Sep 19, Visch Fy (EH, PC). Green Heron: last Sep 23 (EH). No white herons were reported during the period. Black-cr Night-heron: four Aug 19 to Sep 16, Visch Fy, (EH et al) were the first of the year for the area. American Bittern: Oct 5, Ghent (PE, GE) and Oct 6, Nisk WW (PPW) were the late records. Least Bittern: reported in Aug at Castleton (LB) and Sep 15, Visch Fy (EH). Canada Goose: A big flight, with many flocks; max 2000+, over Visch Fy, Nov 4 (EH). Snow Goose: flocks Nov 4 at Delmar (fide WS) and Nov 18 at Westerlo (MK), at Round L and at Sar L (SBC) with approx 325 on the latter date. Brant: one Nov 25 at Alcove Res (WS) the only report. Gadwall: two at Stony Cr Res Oct 13-21 (EH). Baldpate: two Oct 13 at Sar L (PPW, WS) and seven Nov 4, Stony Cr Res (SBC). Pintail: Sep 15 (EH, PC) to Nov 4 (SBC). Green-winged Teal: Sep 8 (EH, PC) to end of period. Blue-winged Teal: last Oct 13 (WS) and 14 (JHB). Wood Duck: a late record, two Nov 17, Tomh Res (PPW). Redhead: one Oct 24, Visch Fy (EH, PC) the lone record of period. Ring-necked Duck: three Oct 21, Stony Cr Res (EH et al) only record in my possession. Canvasback: first report three, Sar L, Nov 25 (EH) —