

Rodman Nov 15 and that this means a warm winter. A Snowy Owl spent several days at PRGMA. This was said to be a large one. I know what has happened to some owls at PRGMA, so no questions were asked. Another was seen near Dexter Nov 21.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: Red-headed Woodpecker: 5, probably a family, at Belleville Aug 16. One was seen Aug 29 on Barnhard Island which is at the northern limit of this region. Bluebird: Art Allen saw about 40 at Stony Point Oct 27. Another was reported in northern Jefferson County the same day. Northern Shrike: Nov 24, only one reported. Nashville Warbler: Sep 29. Myrtle Warbler: numerous; last Oct 27. Evening Grosbeak: seen near Potsdam during all of period. A few reported in other places in Oct and Nov. They began to visit several feeders around Watertown about Nov 28. Pine Siskin: 30 near Gouverneur Nov 25. Red Crossbill: 7 near Theresa Nov 23. White-winged Crossbill: 20-30 at Watertown Nov 17, and 10 at Goose Bay Nov 20. Slate-colored Junco: first seen in Watertown Sep 26 and two still at feeder Nov 20. Tree Sparrow: first Oct 20. Chipping Sparrow: last Oct 18. Field Sparrow: last Oct 8. White-crowned Sparrow: first Sep 21 which is a week or ten days early, last Nov 1. White-throated Sparrow: Sep 25 to Oct 25. Fox Sparrow: a few seen in Nov. Song Sparrow: Nov 7. Cardinal: about the usual number. Lapland Longspur: 4 Nov 3 Sherwin Bay. Snow Bunting: Nov 28 at Camp Drum.

173 Haley St., Watertown

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

HARRIETT L. DELAFIELD

The fall period was characterized by above normal seasonal temperatures though there was a sharp cold snap around August 20 which froze the sweet corn and colored the foliage in the higher altitudes much earlier than usual.

A drought started in September and continued through October with much above normal temperatures and virtually no precipitation. There were some light to moderate frosts after mid-September but, most unusual, no killing frost in September. The forests were closed to hunters and birders alike from October 13 to November 1. The drought was broken during the first week of November with one inch of rain and from then on it drizzled, rained, fogged and misted in slightly above normal temperatures steadily until the end of the month. Not an ideal fall!

Some birds, such as Cedar Waxwings left early but others, such as Fox and White-crowned Sparrows, came through late. In spite of the fact that bare ground and forest offered food and perching place no very large flocks of blackbirds were reported. Swallows also seemed down in numbers. Many people remarked on the spectacular migration of Blue Jays on August 26. October 4 is memorable as the day skein after skein of Canada Geese came out of the mist over the mountains. The N. Y. State Conservation Department at Ray Brook tells us that this does not mean that the goose population is up but simply that these birds chose the Saranac River valley for migration this autumn.

In this, our first report, we would like to thank editors and observers for their prompt reports and kind assistance — also Mr. Robert Kampf of the Ray Brook weather station for his weather summary.

Observers and Initials: AA — Agnes Amstutz; GC — Geoffrey Carleton; HD — Harriet Delafield; JD — Mrs. John Delahanty; JH — Joseph Hart; JK — Joseph Keji; DMCI — Dorothy McIlroy; GM — Gordon Meade.

Abbreviations used: L — Lake; Co — County.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: one Aug 22 Middle Saranac L (JH); four Oct 26, Tupper L area (AA, JD). Pied-billed Grebe: two at Ross Park Aug 31 (GM); one or two seen in Tupper L area thru Oct 24 (AA, JD). Great Blue Heron: reported in small numbers from Saranac L, Ray Brook (JK) and Tupper L. Last one at Tupper L on Oct 3 (JD). American Bittern: one at Madawska Sept 2 (GM); one at Tupper L Sept 1 (AA) and Sept 15 (JD). Canada Goose: 1,000+ Oct 4, Saranac L (HD) and 50 Sept 29 (JD); 20 Nov 9 last, (HD). Mallard: one Ross Park Aug 31 (GM); two females at Lewis Aug 30, "good and wild" (GC); one at Tupper L Oct 19

(AA); two Oct 26 (JD). Black Duck: eight Sept 1, Saranac L; 12 Oct 26 Tupper L (JD). Pintail: Several north of Plattsburgh on Sept 4 (GC). Blue-winged Teal: five Aug 31 Jones Pond (GM); four Oct 19, one Oct 20 Tupper L (JD). Wood Duck: five at Madawska Sept 2; six Oct 26 Tupper L (AA, JD). Ring-necked Duck: Dr. Gordon Meade reports them "more numerous than I have ever seen them" around Saranac L — four adults and 29 young on Aug 12; 500 at Lake Alice Oct 16, similar numbers for past three years (JH); 25 Oct 26 Tupper L (JD). Hooded Merganser: not as common as last year at Kay Brook (JK); two adults and eight young Saranac L Sept 1 (HD); nine Oct 24 Tupper L (JD). Common Merganser: less numerous than past few years during breeding season — only one brood on Lower Saranac L Sept 2 (GM); 30 Oct. 26, Tupper L (HD).

Hawks — Owls: Goshawk: one Aug 31, Ross Park (GM). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Aug 22, 23 Saranac L (GM). Cooper's Hawk: reported from Piseco L Sept 26 (DMcI) and Tupper L Aug 15 and 30 (AA) but no details given. Red-tailed Hawk: one Sept 5, Saranac L (HD); one Oct 20, Ray Brook (JK). Red-shouldered Hawk: one Aug 28 & 31 (GM); one Aug 27 (HD) all around Saranac L. Broad-winged Hawk: last reported, one Oct 10, Kay Brook (JK); Bald Eagle: one seen off and on from Aug 20 thru Oct 31 (W. Frenette, JD); two on Oct 14, Tupper L (JD). Marsh Hawk: one to two late Aug, Saranac L and Ray Brook (GM, JK); last, Oct 29, Tupper L (JD). Osprey: only one at a time — Aug 26, Lower Saranac L (GM); Sept 25, Piseco L (DMcI); Sept 7, Ray Brook (JK); Oct 15, Tupper L (JD). Sparrow Hawk: four Sept 2, Saranac L (GM); one Sept 30, Tupper L (JD); one Saranac L Oct 10 (HD). Spruce Grouse: one Sept 2, Madawaska (GM). Ruffed Grouse: normal numbers from Saranac L & Tupper L. Semi-palmated Plover: one Sept 22, Tupper L (JD). Golden Plover: about 45 Sept 24 north of Plattsburgh (GC). Common Snipe: one Aug 24, Tupper L (JD). Spotted Sandpiper: two Aug 31, Ross Park (GM); one Tupper L Sept 15 (JD). Solitary Sandpiper: one near Saranac L, one in Ross Park on Aug 31 — both birds very carefully identified (GM). Greater Yellow-legs: two Sept 2, Madawaska (GM). Lesser Yellow-legs: two Aug 15 & 30, Lewis (GC). White-rumped Sandpiper: Sept 10, Lewis (no number given) — "first for Essex Co, I believe" (GC). Baird's Sandpiper: Sept 4, Lewis, "second county record I know of" (GC). Herring Gull: small numbers over the inland lakes and rivers; last, Nov 6, Tupper L (JD). Ring-billed Gull: one Nov 12, Ray Brook Pond (JK). Mourning Dove: one Clinton Co, Canada border Sept 20; one Saranac L Sept 30 (HD). Black-billed Cuckoo: one Aug 20, Piseco L (DMcI). Barred Owl: one Aug 16 & 23, Lower Saranac L (GM); one Sept 5, Saranac L (HD). Short-eared Owl: one Oct 26, Gabriels (David Young, HD).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Common Nighthawk: Keji says "Evening of Aug 19 was memorable in that the sky was full of Chimney Swifts, Barn Swallows, some Purple Martins and three or four Nighthawks . . . circling high and low after insects"; nine Aug 23, Saranac L (GM). Chimney Swift: See above, Ray Brook (JK). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: good numbers in all areas until Sept 2; one Ray Brook Sept 14 (JK). Belted Kingfisher: one to three thru period Saranac L, Tupper L & Ray Brook. Yellow-shafted Flicker: 40-50 Saranac L late Aug (GM); reported down in numbers this year at Tupper L (JD). Pileated Woodpecker: one reported off and on Saranac L (GM, HD); one Nov 17, Ray Brook (JK). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one off and on through Sept in three regular areas. Hairy Woodpecker: normal in three areas. Downy Woodpecker: same as Hairy. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one female at Ray Brook, Sept 20 (JK). Eastern Kingbird: Aug 23, six at Saranac L (GM), but on the whole numbers seemed down (HD); one Aug 23, Tupper L (JD). Eastern Phoebe: last, one Saranac L Oct 9 (HD), Tupper L Oct 8 (JD), Ray Brook Oct 8 (JK). Traill's Flycatcher: one near Franklin Falls, Aug 23; one in Ross Park Aug 31 (GM). Least Flycatcher: Aug 19, one Saranac L (GM); one Ray Brook (JK). Wood Pewee: two Aug 23, Saranac L ((GM). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Aug 23 Saranac L (GM); one Aug 20 Piseco L (DMcI). Horned Lark: flock at Gabriels, Sept 23 (David Young). Swal-

lows considered down in numbers over Lower Saranac L by Dr. Meade. Tree Swallow: 50 Sept 5, Tupper L (JD). Rough-winged Swallow: one Aug 20, Ray Brook (JK). Barn Swallow: six Sept 2, Ray Brook (JK). Cliff Swallow: one Aug 31, Saranac L (GM). Purple Martin: Aug 23 at Elizabethtown "latest county record I believe" (GC). Gray Jay: one Cold Brook Aug 23, eight Ross Park Aug 31 (GM); ten Sept 14, Sabbatis Rd. (AA); two same area, Oct 19 & 24 (JD). Blue Jay: conspicuously numerous during migration (GM, HD, JK), 100+ Aug 26. Common Crow: 400 Sept 4, 100 Sept 30, 20 Nov 15, Norman's Ridge (HD). Black-capped Chickadee and both Nuthatches were in usual numbers from all reporters. Boreal Chickadee: in varying numbers in Ross Park (eight-12) Aug 23 to Sept 2 (GM); one at feeder in Ray Brook Nov 28 (JK). Brown Creeper: one Ray Brook Nov 28 (JK); one Tupper L Oct 21 (JD). House Wren: feeding young Aug 16-18 at Tupper L (JD). Winter Wren: one Saranac L Aug 18 (GM). Catbird: one reported from all areas, last one, Ray Brook Sept 22 (JK). Brown Thrasher: one Sept 11, Saranac L (HD); one Sept 22, Tupper L (AA). Robin: good migratory numbers, 100 Aug 31, Saranac L (GM). Hermit Thrush: one Aug 31, Saranac L (GM); one Oct 29, Ray Brook (JK). Swainson's Thrush: one Sept 29, Ray Brook (JK). Veery: last one Aug 21, Ray Brook (JK). Eastern Bluebird: seems on the comeback around Saranac L, last two Oct 17 (HD). Wheatear: one Sept 25, Piseco L (DMcI). Mrs. McIlroy writes: "The bird was feeding, walking on the grass as I drove in. As it flew up to the top of a spruce tree there was no mistaking the tail pattern of the inverted black T formed by the black center and end of the tail with the white inverted U above it . . ." Mrs. McIlroy adds many more convincing details and ends "There is no possibility of mistaking this species especially when I had watched many wheatears last July in Scandinavia." Golden-crowned Kinglet: seems down in numbers though Dr. Meade saw three flocks of five and ten between Aug 23 & Sept 2 around Saranac L. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one singing at Ray Brook Oct 10 (JK); one Oct 23 Tupper L (JD). Water Pipit: one Sept 23, Gabriels (David Young); one Sept 30, Lone Wolf Pond (AA); eight Ray Brook Oct 10 (JK). Cedar Waxwing: left Ray Brook early, 33 Aug 20 (JK); three Sept 10, Saranac L (HD); two Nov 13, Tupper L (JD). Northern Shrike: one Nov 3, Saranac L, this bird was seen in perfect light a few yards from my window (HD). Loggerhead Shrike: one near Franklin Falls Aug 23, one Sept 2, Rocketteller Park (GM).

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireo: one singing Sept 21, Ray Brook (JK). Red-eyed Vireo: Oct 4, one Tupper L "seemed fewer this year" (JD). Philadelphia Vireo: one Aug 19, Piseco L (DMcI). Black-and-White Warbler: one Oct. 3, L Placid (HD). Nashville Warbler: one Sept 24, Ray Brook (JK); three Oct 4 Tupper L (JD). Parula Warbler: one Sep 11, Ray Brook (JK). Yellow Warbler: after Aug 18 no exact date or no. given), Piseco L (DMcI). Magnolia Warbler: Aug 26 & Sept 2, Saranac L (GM); one Sept 20, Ray Brook (JK); one Sept 25, Tupper L (JD). Black-throated Blue Warbler: surprisingly few reports. One Aug 12, Saranac L (GM); one Sept 22, Ray Brook (JK). Myrtle Warbler: in all three areas; last, Oct 22, Ray Brook (JK). Black-throated Green Warbler: last one Ray Brook Sept 24 (JK). Blackburnian Warbler: one Aug 26, Saranac L (GM). Chestnut-sided Warbler: Aug 25, Tupper L (JD); Sept 2, Saranac L (GM); Sept 21, one Ray Brook (JK). Bay-breasted Warbler: one Sept 9, Ray Brook, "Ate full grown skipper larvae. Sat still for some minutes after that feast" (JK). Ovenbird: one Sept 26, Ray Brook (JK). Northern Waterthrush: one, Aug 23, Lower Saranac L (GM). Mourning Warbler: one near Union Falls Aug 23 in full breeding plumage (GM). Yellowthroat: at nesting site on Mt. Pisgah until Oct 1 (HD). Wilson's Warbler: one Sept 9, Ray Brook (JK). Canada Warbler: Aug 31, Saranac L (GM). American Redstart: Saranac L thru Sept 2 (GM); Ray Brook, Sept 10 (JK).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: one Aug 31, Ross Park (GM). Eastern Meadowlark: one Oct 26, Tupper L (AA); one Nov 18, Saranac L (HD). Red-winged Blackbird: HD saw few large flicks around Saranac L. but JD

reports "good numbers" at Tupper L; last three, Nov 21 (JD). Baltimore Oriole: one Saranac L Aug 31 (GM); one Tupper L Sept 3 (JD). Rusty Blackbird: last seen Oct 19, Ray Brook (JK); one Nov 15, Tupper L (JD). Common Grackle: 50 Sept 30, Saranac L (HD); no other large flocks reported. Brown-headed Cowbird: 100 on Oct 21, Tupper L (JD); did not arrive in large numbers at Saranac L until Dec 1 (HD). Scarlet Tanager: two Aug 31, Ross Park (GM); two Sept 7, Tupper L (AA); one Sept 30, (late) Ray Brook (JK). Cardinal: one at feeder Nov 20, Tupper L (JD). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last, Saranac L Sept 2 (GM); Ray Brook Sept 8 (JK); Tupper L Sept 14 (JD). Indigo Bunting: one Aug 31, Saranac L (GM); one Oct 1, Ray Brook (JK). Evening Grosbeak: 30 Nov 27, Saranac L (HD); 175 Nov 26, Tupper L (JD). Purple Finch: six Sept 2, Saranac L (GM); one singing off and on Sept 2-27, Ray Brook (JK). Pine Grosbeak: two Nov 20, Ray Brook, ten Nov 22 (JK). Pine Siskin: 25 Oct 11, Ray Brook (JK); very small numbers from other areas. American Goldfinch: ten Nov 26, Saranac L (HD); flocks after Nov 4, Ray Brook (JK). Red Crossbill: one at Lower Saranac L Aug 18 (GM). White-winged Crossbill: one Aug 18, Lower Saranac L, Aug 23-Sept 2, Madawaska (GM); 75 Oct 19, Chubb River (HD). Rufous-sided Towhee: four in area which had been burnt over some time ago, two miles south of Underwood (GM). Savannah Sparrow: two Aug 31, Ross Park (GM); one Oct 1, Ray Brook (JK). Vesper Sparrow: one Ross Park Aug 31 (GM); one Oct 26, Saranac L (HD). Slate-colored Junco: not many reported from any area: 20 Oct 19, Tupper L max (HD). Tree Sparrow, drifting back from the middle of Oct; no large numbers reported. Chipping Sparrow: Saranac L thru Oct 4 (HD); Tupper L Oct 11 (JD); Ray Brook Oct 23 (JK). Field Sparrow: one Aug 26, Saranac L (GM); many Aug 15-30, Tupper L (AA). White-crowned Sparrow: first Sept 27, Ray Brook (JK); Oct 14 & 15 numbers, one Saranac L Nov 24 (late) (HD); migration Sept 28, Tupper L (AA). White-throated Sparrow: no large numbers reported; eight Aug 26, Saranac L (HD); one Nov 22, Tupper L (AA). Fox Sparrow: Keji hit the jack pot with 25+ at Ray Brook Oct 30; last, Nov 24, Saranac L (HD). Swamp Sparrow: two Aug 28, Saranac L (GM); one Oct 1, Ray Brook (JK). Song Sparrow: reported from all areas through late Oct; last, Nov 17, Saranac L (HD).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

This autumn was a season of contrasts. Two unusually cold months, August and September, were followed by two unseasonably warm ones. Because of this, the growing season at Albany, and in most parts of the region, was the shortest on record — 113 days compared with the average 169. August was unusually cool, with an average temperature (at Albany) of 66.4°, 3.6° cooler than normal. September followed this pattern, with an average temperature of 56.8°, 4.8° less than normal. October was almost as warm, with an average temperature of 55.5°, 4.7° above normal. Precipitation was less than average in August and September, and in October totalled only 0.20 inches, producing severe drought conditions. November, in contrast, was rainy, with a total precipitation of 4.15 inches, 1.45 in. above normal. It was also a warm month, with an average temperature of 44.4°, 5.3° above normal.

The dry shores and mudflats of the lakes and reservoirs caused the prolonged lack of adequate precipitation attracted a considerable number of transient shorebirds in numbers even surpassing those of last summer and fall. The warbler migration was not spectacular, although most observers regarded it as near average. A number of transients, perhaps because of continued mild weather into the latter part of the season, lingered later than usually reported. Prominent among these were Osprey, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Yellow-and Black-billed Cuckoo, House Wren, Long-billed Marsh-Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Widespread reports of Evening Grosbeaks