

15, one, Taberg (Lynes fide HA); very scarce thru the remainder of Oct and Nov with max 50, HIGMA, Nov 26; singularly scarce locally in Dec. White-crowned Sparrow: first noted Sep 14, two, SSSP (EE) — very early; a weak fall movement with max 16, Oct 17, SP; no Nov field reports, but single birds reported at local feeders in early Dec. White-throated Sparrow: a protracted fall flight with a steady Oct drift of birds; a large wave Sep Sep 29 (140 in 30 minutes of observation), and counts up to 100-200 through Oct 18, especially at TRGMA, SSSP, N. Syracuse, and Otisco L; very few reports in Nov despite the very mild weather. Fox Sparrow: a desultory fall migration with arrival Oct 12, Oneida (MF); max of six, Oct 18, Beaver L, and six thru to Nov 27, Oneida (MF). Lincoln's Sparrow: a better than average flight, Sep 13-Oct 10; max of three, Sep 29, N. Syracuse (FGS). Swamp and Song Sparrows: good late Sep flight of both, 35+ and 90+ /day respectively, but a very rapid decline of Swamp Sparrows in the last ½ of Oct, with singletons only, in Nov; there appear to be many Song Sparrows attempting to winter. Lapland Longspur: first reported Oct 3, SP; though reported more frequently this fall, no count greater than four (Oct 22, SP) was achieved. Snow Bunting: first reported Oct 15, five, SP; many flocks of 18-100 thru Nov at Rome (HA), Oswego (JRB), Sylvan Beach (DA, R, SW), on the mudflats of SP (MSR) and at the Syracuse Airport; for practical purposes, this species is the **only** winter finch this fall, even though no really large flocks have been reported to date.

427 South Main Street, North Syracuse 13212

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The level of the water in Lake Ontario was below normal and it continued to drop during the summer and fall. The same condition was noticed in most streams and lakes. As a result ducks and shore birds were less numerous in some of their usual places, but shore birds appeared in others where mudflats developed. There was little snow in November, except for one storm in parts of Lewis County which left twenty inches of snow in Lowville and thirty-six inches at Sears Pond in the Tug Hill section.

Many ducks were affected by oil pollution in northeastern Lake Ontario from Stony Point to Cape Vincent which began Nov 20. Few ducks were killed by the oil, but the oiled ducks shot by hunters were in poor condition. About 65% of the ducks in this part of the lake showed some oiling and all of the Scaup Ducks near Cape Vincent were affected. The condition continued into December. The ducks affected most were the diving ducks, the kinds mentioned included Scaup, Goldeneye, Bufflehead and American Widgeon.

Canada Geese and Wood Ducks were much more numerous this fall. Snowy Owls arrived very early and received much publicity especially in newspapers.

PRGMA is used for Perch River Game Management Area and WHGMA for Wilson Hill Game Management Area.

Loons — Ducks: Least Bittern: at PRGMA Aug 18 and 30. Canada Goose: twice the usual number along the St. Lawrence River and they stayed late. Brant: one at El Dorado Oct 12. Mallard: more Mallards than Blacks were banded at PRGMA. In all about 3800 ducks were banded in the Region, 2500 at PRGMA and the rest at WHGMA. Wood Duck: much more numerous than last year especially at PRGMA where about 500 were banded. Scaup: about 7,000 seen at one time in Lake Ontario. American Widgeon: at PRGMA in early Sep. Oldsquaw: at El Dorado and Stony Pt in Nov. White-winged Scoter: El Dorado Oct 12 and later. Common Scoter: El Dorado Oct 12. Ruddy Duck; 3 at Stony Pt. Nov 15.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: last seen near Gouverneur Oct 30. Rough-legged Hawk: good flight, end of Oct and early Nov; max 9 Pt Peninsula, Nov 1, a few in late Nov. Marsh Hawk: 2 Pt Peninsula Nov 1.

Killdeer: El Dorado Nov 22. Golden Plover: 18 Sep 5 and 11 Sep 7 near PRGMA (Blaise); one at Stony Pt Nov 22. Black-bellied Plover: Sep 10 and Nov 15 El Dorado. Common Snipe: more than usual at PRGMA. Upland Plover: Aug 28 near Henderson, late. Greater Yellowlegs: last El Dorado Sep 10. Lesser Yellowlegs: last at El Dorado Sep 25. Pectoral Sandpiper: El Dorado Sep 24. Purple Sandpiper: Nov 21 El Dorado, late. Least Sandpiper: last El Dorado Sep 24. Dunlin: ten at Pt Peninsula Nov 1; two at El Dorado Nov 21, and 7 there Nov 22. Short-billed Dowitcher: last El Dorado Sep 24. Stilt Sandpiper: El Dorado Aug 28. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: El Dorado Sep 20. Sanderling: two at El Dorado Nov 21, late. Northern Phalarope: El Dorado Sep 24. Great Black-backed Gull: about 25 in the Pt Peninsula and Three Mile Bay section Nov 1. Bonaparte's Gull: one still at El Dorado Nov 15. Caspian Tern: sometimes seen at PRGMA in Sep; last at Stony Pt Nov 7. Snowy Owl: arrived early and were numerous for this time of the year. One was seen near the railroad at the edge of Watertown Oct 22; it was first noticed when it caught a rat; it sat on a pole near the tracks as the engine of a freight train passed by and did not fly even when the train stopped. One was at PRGMA, "about Oct 20"; one was seen in Deferiet Oct 28; one near Watertown, Oct 31; one near Lake Ontario, Nov 1; on Nov 2 a Snowy Owl spent most of the day on a building in Watertown where many people saw it. The owls were most numerous near Lake Ontario and were seen at Pt Peninsula, Stony Point and El Dorado.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: Kingfisher: El Dorado Nov 15. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: a female at Pt. Peninsula Nov 14 and later a male at Brownville. Horned Lark: 25 at Pt Peninsula Nov 1. Hermit Thrush: Oct 18 at Watertown. Bluebird: Oct 15-18 in migration near Watertown. Myrtle Warbler: two Nov 7 Watertown. Evening Grosbeak: none. Vesper Sparrow: last Oct 31. Tree Sparrow: first Nov 1. White-throated Sparrow: one banded in Watertown Aug 31 was about three weeks early, but this species has been extending its breeding into new areas in recent years. Fox Sparrow: Nov 14. Lapland Longspur: one Nov 7, El Dorado. Snow Bunting: 20 at Pt Peninsula Nov 1; 30 at El Dorado Nov 7 and Nov 15.

173 Haley St., Watertown 13601

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

After a severe frost in the middle of the month, Aug turned hot and muggy for the last two weeks. Sept ran much as usual. We had the customary light snow in early Oct and then, from the 15th to the 18th, four of the most ideal days of Indian Summer I have ever known. The rest of October was generally cold and rainy.

The snowfall in Nov was way under par so there was no snow for Thanksgiving. The drought in the northern Adirondacks, however, was not nearly as severe as in other parts of the state. In fact our woods were so full of visiting as well as local hunters that prudent birders stayed in the open at that time.

Unusual records include a Golden-winged Warbler and a Dickcissel. In spite of good cone, wild cherry and mountain ash crops, the lack of finches-crossbills, Purple Finches and Pine Siskins — as well as Slate-colored Juncos, has made birding a lonely occupation this fall.

I am most grateful to vacationing ornithologists, professional and amateur, who gave me the benefit of their observations this fall.

Observers and initials: AA-Agnes Amstutz; EA-Elizabeth Anderson; GC-Geoffrey Carleton; HD-Harriet Delafield; FB-Bill Frenette; JH-Joseph Hart; JK-Joseph Keji; MK-Dr Marguerite Kingsbury; JMcI-John McIlwain; GM-Dr Gordon Meade; CS&DT-Christian Spies and Donald Taylor; DY-David Young.

Abbreviations: L-Lake; P-Pond; R-River; E'town-Elizabethtown.