

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.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

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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.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: one adult & one juvenile Sept 8, Duck P (JH); two Aug 20 & 27, Saranac L, two Sept 1 Pine P (GM); one Little Simon P, Aug 18 (JMcI); flock of 13 Long L Aug 21 "ratio of adult to immature about 3:2 (a guess)" (CS&DT); L Clear 15, Oct 10 (AA). Pied-billed Grebe: one Oct 1, two Oct 8 Ray B (JK). Great Blue Heron: two Ausable Marsh Sept 21, (JH); four at once Saranac R from Trudeau Rd (EA); two Barnum P "all summer" (DY); one or two Saranac L until Sept 1 (GM); Upper Raquette R, one Aug 20, one Lower Raquette R Aug 22 (CS&DT); three L Clear Oct 10 (AA); seems to have been a good year for these birds. Green Heron: two mouth of Lower Raquette R Aug 22 (CS&DT); one Moody P Aug 22 (T. Cantwell); one Madawska Aug 20 (GM); one mouth of Lower Raquette R Aug 20 (CS&DT). Canada Goose: 150 Ray B Sept 30, 100 over Saranac L Oct 1, "more geese than customary L Champlain" (JH); 75 in four separate flocks E'town Sept 20 (GC); 30 Nov 16 Tupper L (AA). Brant: one L Flower Oct 13 carefully observed by JH. Mallard: five Ausable Marsh Sept 21, 150 mixed Blacks and Mallards Oct 13 L Champlain (JH); one Nov 29 Ray B (JK). Black Duck: 70 L Alice Oct 13 (JH); few seen thru Oct Ray B (JK); few Simon P marshes Aug 22 (CS&DT); four Aug 22 Tupper L (AA). Blue-winged Teal: five Tupper L Aug 22 (AA). Wood Duck: six Ausable Marsh Sept 15, 12 Ausable Marsh Sept 21 (JH); two Aug 16, one Aug 25 Saranac L (GM); six in pond near Tupper L Aug 22 (AA). Ring-necked Duck: eleven Aug 19, one Sept 1 Saranac L (GM); several Simon P marshes Aug 22 (CS&DT). Common Goldeneye: ten Raquette P Nov 24 (JH). Hooded Merganser: ten Nov 24 Raquette P (JH); few thru Nov 14 Ray B (JK); three Rollins P Sept 13 (AA). Common Merganser: ten Nov 24 Raquette P (JH); eleven Aug 20, one Sept 2 Saranac L (GM).

Hawks — Owls: Goshawk: one Aug 26 near Elk L (GM). Broad-winged Hawk: one Wickham Marsh Aug 26 (JH); five Aug 20, one Sept 1 Saranac L (GM); one Aug 27, 30 and Sept 7 Ray B (JK). Rough-legged Hawk: a beautiful adult bird in normal plumage which had been killed in a trap near Church Mt was brought to me for identification Nov 28; a short time later Dr Kingsbury wrote me a description of an adult seen at Moody Marsh Nov 25 which was almost certainly this species. Bald Eagle: "Nov 14, one flying high, sailing straight, headed south! All dark bird" Ray B (JK); one Black Point Tupper L Sept, one early Oct Half Way B (BF). Marsh Hawk: one Aug 26 Ray B (JH); one Sept 1 Saranac L (GM); two pair Tupper L marsh Nov 21-26 (BF); pair from top of Whiteface Sept 1 (HD). Osprey: one Aug 26 near Elk L, one Sept 1 Pine P (GM); nesting Big Tupper L (BF). Sparrow Hawk: three Aug 20 Saranac L (GM); one Long L Aug 20, (CS&DT); one Saranac L Oct 13 (HD). Ruffed Grouse: one Ampersand Mt Aug 19 (GM); one to three off and on Ray B (JK). Semi-palmated Plover: Dr Meade has a very unusual record of six at Madawska on Aug 20. Killdeer: six L Alice Sept 21 (JH). Spotted Sandpiper: one Sept 1 Saranac L (GM); two Lower Raquette R Aug 20 & 22 (CS&DT). Greater Yellowlegs: one Sept 9 Westport (EA&HD); one Tupper L Aug 23 (MK); six L Alice Sept 21 (JH). Least Sandpiper: six Aug 20 Madawska P, Dr Meade says of this and above plover "This is the first time I have seen either species in the central Adirondacks"; six Westport Sept 9 (EA&HD). Herring Gull: very few reports this fall; one Ray B Sept 20 (JK); immature Westport Sept 9 (EA&HD); some Rollins P Sept 13 (AA). Ring-billed Gull: more than 100 Raquette L Aug 19 (CS&DT); 25 Westport Sept 9 (EA&HD). Mourning Dove: one immature Aug 19 canoe carry between Raquette and Forked L (CS&DT). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Sept 12 Ray B (JK). Black-billed Cuckoo: one Aug 21 Lower Raquette R (CS&DT); one Oct 1 Ray B (JK). Snowy Owl: one caught in ice shanty and released Nov 19 Ticonderoga (fide JH). Barred Owl: one seen seven different days between Aug 16 & Sept 2 Lower Saranac L (GM); one calling 10 pm Aug 21 mile below Raquette Falls (CS&DT).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Common Nighthawk: Aug 25 Saranac L (HD); 20 Aug 23 in broad daylight Tupper L (CS&DT). Chimney Swift: until Aug 20 Saranac L (GM); last Aug 23 Ray B (JK). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: reported from all areas, last Sept 3 Saranac L (HD); Sept 12 Ray B (JK); Sept 24 E'town (GC). Belted Kingfisher: one or two reported from all areas. Yellow-shafted Flicker: no large migratory numbers reported. Pileated Woodpecker: one Aug 19 Saranac L (GM); one near Sunmount Nov 14 (AA). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: all areas, last Sept 30 Ray B (JK). Hairy Woodpecker: normal to abundant (Raquette R CS&DT) all areas. Downy Woodpecker: normal all areas. Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: one Nov 19 Barnum P (DY). Eastern Kingbird: two Aug 16 Ray B (JK); two until Sept 7 Saranac L (HD). Eastern Phoebe: residents gone Sept 1, one Oct 13 Saranac L (HD); one Oct 1 Ray B (JK). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Aug 16 between Lower Saranac & Tupper L (GM); one Sept 10 Ray B (JK). Least Flycatcher: one Aug 25 Saranac L (GM). Eastern Wood Pewee: many Raquette R area Aug 18 thru 22 (CS&DT); one Aug 29 Ray B (JK). Olive-sided Flycatcher: seven Aug 20 Saranac L (GM). Horned Lark: 75 Oct 20 Norman's Ridge (HD). Tree Swallow: one Long L Aug 20 (CS&DT); one L Colby Oct 20 (late, just before sleet storm). Barn Swallow: 50 Saranac L Aug 30. Purple Martin: one Aug 19 Raquette L (CS&DT); three birds remained at E'town until Sept 9 "latest previous county record Aug 23, 1963" (GC). Gray Jay: eight Madawaska Aug 20 (GM); one Oct 28 Derrick (JH); six Bartlett's Carry Oct 25 & Nov 1 (AA). Blue Jay: good numbers all areas. Common Crow: all areas but no large migratory numbers. Black-capped Chickadee: normal all areas. Boreal Chickadee: Aug 20 Madawaska, Aug 26 near Elk L, Aug 27 Mt Marcy, no numbers given (GM). White-breasted Nuthatch: normal all areas. Red-breasted Nuthatch: normal. Brown Creeper: one Aug 25 Saranac L (GM); one or two thru Aug 24, three Nov 8 Ray B (JK); occasional Raquette R area Aug 18 thru 23 (CS&DT). Winter Wren: one Aug 19 & 27 Saranac L (GM); one Sept 3 & Oct 14 Ray B (JK); one Raquette Falls Aug 21 (CS&DT). Catbird: transient E'town Aug 21 (GC); five Aug 21 Ray B (JK); St Regis Dam Aug 27 (EA&HD); one Sept 1 Saranac L (GM); Lower Raquette R Aug 18 thru 22 (CS&DT). Brown Thrasher: one Sept 19 Ray B (JK). Robin: 30 Loon L Oct 22 (JH); four Oct 27 Saranac L (HD); two Nov 22 Tupper L (AA). Wood Thrush: one Raquette L Aug 18 (CS&DT); one Sept 16 Ray B (JK). Hermit Thrush: one Sept 1 Saranac L (GM); last Oct 8 Ray B (JK). Swainson's Thrush: to Oct 16 Ray B (JK). Veery: one near Elk L Aug 26 (GM); four Aug 21, one Sept 2 Ray B (JK). Eastern Bluebird: 12 Aug 20, few to Aug 28 Saranac L (GM); 14 Sunmount Sept 7 "young and adult" (AA); one Saranac L Aug 30 (EA&HD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: few Aug 20 thru Sept 1 Saranac L (GM); four Little Simon P Aug 18 (JMcI); few Ray B thru period (JK); one Oct 23 Saranac L (HD). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: few Sept 18 thru Oct 22 Ray B (JK); one Oct 14 Saranac L (HD). Water Pipit: one top of Cascade Mt Sept 13 (GC); one Sept 28 Gabriels (DY); 15 Oct 1 Ray B (JK). Cedar Waxwing: 15 Sept 7 Saranac L (HD); two Sept 24 Ray B (JK); "abundant" Raquette R area Aug 18 thru 22 (CS&DT). Northern Shrike: one Oct 21, 30 and Nov 4 Ray B (JK). Loggerhead Shrike: one Saranac R Aug 19 (GM).

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireo: last Oct 8 "no great numbers" Ray B (JK). Red-eyed Vireo: feeding young Aug 31 Ray B (JK). Black-and-white Warbler: one seen many days from Aug 16 thru Sept 1 Saranac L (GM); last Aug 31 Ray B (JK). Golden-winged Warbler: E'town Aug 29 "perfect view from our house, county record" (GC). Nashville Warbler: one Aug 20 Saranac L (GM); one Oct 2 Ray B (JK). Parula Warbler: one Aug 17 Saranac L (GM); two Sept 18 Ray B (JK). Magnolia Warbler: one Aug 17, 20 & 25 Saranac L (GM); one Sept 3 & 15 Ray B (JK). Black-throated Blue Warbler: one Aug 17 & 19 Saranac L (GM); one Sept 24 Ray B (JK). Myrtle Warbler: one Raquette L Aug 19 (CS&DT); three St. Regis Dam Aug 27 (EA&DT); last Oct 24 Ray B (JK). Black-throated Green Warbler: one Aug 16, 17 & 20 Saranac L (GM); five Little Simon P Aug 18 (JMcI);

"common this year" last Oct 14 Ray B (JK). Blackburnian Warbler: Aug 17 & 20 Saranac L (GM); last Sept 18 Ray B (JK). Chestnut-sided Warbler: three young, one adult Tupper L Aug 19 (MK); one "moulting male" Raquette Falls Aug 21 (CS&DT); one Aug 26 Saranac L (GM); one Sept 6 Ray B (JK). Bay-breasted Warbler: one Sept 11 & 30 Ray B (JK). Blackpoll Warbler: one Aug 27 & 28 Saranac L (GM); one Aug 29 Sunmount (GC). Ovenbird: one seen frequently until Aug 27 Saranac L (GM); one Sept 10 Ray B (JK). Mourning Warbler: one Aug 31 Ray B (JK). Yellowthroat: the most often recorded warbler of Region 7, last Oct 2 Ray B (JK). Wilson's Warbler: one Sept 13 & 14 Ray B (JK). Canada Warbler: Aug 19 & 27 Saranac L (GM); one Aug 27, 31 & Sept 23 Ray B (JK). American Redstart: Aug 17, 20 & 26 Saranac L (GM); last Oct 5 Ray B (JK).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: one flying over Madawska Aug 20 (GM). Eastern Meadowlark: ten Norman's Ridge Oct 20 (EA&HD). Red-winged Blackbird: 50 Aug 25, last two Nov 24 Saranac L (HD); 70 Sept 30, last Nov 21 Ray B (JK); also reported from Raquette R and Tupper L. Baltimore Oriole: nine Aug 20 Saranac L (GM); one Tupper L Aug 23 (MK). Rusty Blackbird: 15 Oct 14 Ray B (JK); one Pine P Sept 1 (GM). Common Grackle: all areas. Brown-headed Cowbird: reported from all areas but in small numbers. Scarlet Tanager: three Aug 9 Saranac L (GM); one Aug 27 Saranac L (HD); three Aug 22 Tupper L (AA); one Sept 3 Ray B (JK). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one Aug 20 Saranac L (GM); one Sept 19 Ray B (JK). Dickcissel: one at Tupper L feeder as late as Nov 20 (AA&MK). Evening Grosbeak: few thru period all areas; 35 Nov 7 Ray B (JK). Purple Finch: reported only from Ray B & Saranac L in very small numbers. Pine Grosbeak: one Nov 22 Ray B (JK). Pine Siskin: only large flock reported Aug 18 & 19 Raquette L (CS&DT). American Goldfinch: most numerous finch of fall and winter all areas. Crossbills: Dr. Meade says "noteworthy that I neither saw nor heard a single crossbill of either species"; one Red Crossbill Sept 19, 24 & Oct 17 Ray B (JK). Savannah Sparrow: one Sept 12 Ray B (JK). Vesper Sparrow: one Sept 30 Ray B (JK); six Oct 20 Saranac L (HD). Slate-colored Junco: very small numbers in all areas except Raquette R where CS&DT found them "abundant everywhere". Tree Sparrow: three Nov 10 Ray B (JK); one Saranac L Nov 24 (HD). Chipping Sparrow: good numbers Ray B, Saranac L & Sunmount. White-crowned Sparrow: six Sept 28 for nine days Pine St Saranac L (E Dyer); two to ten Trudeau Rd Oct 10 thru Nov 1 (HD); adult Lewis Sept 26 (GC); few Oct 6 to 17 Ray B (JK); few Oct 19 Sunmount (AA). White-throated Sparrow: few reported all areas until mid-October. Fox Sparrow: one Oct 12 Ray B (JK); one Aug 22 Raquette R (CS&DT); one Oct 18 thru 23 Tupper L feeder (AA). Lincoln Sparrow: one Aug 26 near Elk L (GM). Swamp Sparrow: Aug 16, 19 & 20 Saranac L (GM); one Aug 17 thru Sept 24 Ray B (JK). Song Sparrow: good numbers thru Oct all areas. Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake.

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

The long drought which has afflicted this region continued throughout the period. The early part of the fall was cooler than normal, with temperatures in Aug (at Albany) averaging 66.2°, 3.8° below normal. Temperatures in Sept and Oct averaged 61.0° and 49.2°, 0.6° and 1.6° below normal, respectively, whereas in Nov, temperatures averaged 41.4°, 2.3° above normal. Nov was the eighth consecutive month of sub-normal precipitation and at the end of the month at Albany, yearly precipitation totaled 18.3 in, 14.3 in below normal.

Due to the long dry period, marshes and reservoirs became parched and dry. Very few marsh birds such as rails and gallinules were reported. Hawks were again seen in very low numbers, and the fall warbler migration was, on the whole, a disappointing one. On the other hand, many ducks were seen,