

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

JOHN B. BELKNAP

Precipitation was ample, particularly in November. A snow storm on Nov. 12 left 8 to 12 inches of snow and the ground was covered much of the time for the remainder of the period. Temperatures were definitely on the mild side until November. September was a warm month, and there was considerable mild weather in October.

Light frosts occurred during the first ten days of October, with killing frosts toward the end of the month. November was cold, wet and cloudy. Ice formation was limited to swamps, shallow bays and small ponds. High water helped in keeping streams open.

Abbreviations: ED—Eldorado; Jeff Co—Jefferson County; Pt Pen—Point Peninsula; Wat—Watertown; L Ont—Lake Ontario.

Observers: AA—Arthur Allen; JB—John Belknap; FC—Frank Clinch; DG—David Gordon; FGS—Fritz Scheider; RW—Robert Walker.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: two Nov records, both on L Ont (DG). Horned Grebe: present in good numbers along L Ont during Nov. Great Blue Heron: Nov 26 near Chaumont (JB). Green Heron: last dates—Sep 24 Sherwin's Bay (AA), Sep 29 Brookside Cem., Wat (DG); one Oct 10 ED (FGS). Am. Bittern: last date Oct 12 Sherwin's Bay (DG).

Canada Goose: first migratory flock Sep 30 near Wat (JB). Pintail: last, two Oct 10 ED (FGS). Green-winged Teal: 30 Oct 10 ED (FGS); Sherwin's Bay Nov 26 (JB). Blue-winged Teal: 35 Sep 2 and 25 Sep 14, ED (FGS). Am. Widgeon: Oct 6 ED (RW). Shoveler: one Sep 14 ED (FGS).

Winter Ducks appeared along L Ont as usual in Nov, Greater Scaup and Common Goldeneye in large numbers, Bufflehead and Oldsquaw in small numbers. Red-head: one Nov 24 (RW). Canvasback: one Nov 30 (RW). Both White-winged and Surf Scoters reported along L Ont by several observers; four White-winged and three Surf at ED Oct 10 (FGS).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: an adult remained near RW's home on Dry Hill Rd for four days in late Nov (attracted by birds at feeder?). Cooper's Hawk: one ED Oct 10 (FGS). Red-tailed Hawk: a few remained through Nov. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Oct 10 ED (FGS). Rough-legged Hawk: first report, early—Oct 17 (AA); other observers reported first dates from Oct 26 to Nov 2; fairly numerous in Nov, max seven Nov 24 Pt Pen and six Nov 30 Philadelphia-Evans Mills area. Marsh Hawk: seen regularly until mid-Nov, scarce thereafter. Common Gallinule: last, Oct 12 (DG). Am. Coot: last, Oct 18 (DG).

The shorebird season at Eldorado was good but not spectacular. Numbers were down from some recent years, peak numbers ranging from 300 to 400. The species list is impressive—23 species (24 if the *PURPLE SANDPIPER* seen by DG at Stony Pt on Nov 11 is included). Worthy of mention—Golden Plover, single bird several dates in Sep (mob); Whimbrel, early Sep (AA,DG); Solitary Sandpiper, not regular at ED (mob); Pectoral Sandpiper, two still there Oct 10 (FGS); Baird's Sandpiper (mob); Dunlin, 64 Oct 10 (FGS); Western Sandpiper, one Sep 14 (FGS,RW) and Sep 28 (RW); Red Phalarope, in winter plumage, Oct 6 (RW). On Aug 24 a banded, colormarked (bright yellow underparts) Semipalmated Sandpiper was seen at ED. It was learned that this bird had been banded and marked at Presque Isle, Ontario, about 100 miles to the west.

Great Black-backed Gull: seen regularly in small numbers from early Sep to end of period. Bonaparte's Gull: two Sep 14 ED (FGS). *FORSTER'S TERN*: one Sep 14 ED (FGS) and Sep 22 ED (RW). Caspian Tern: last, one Sep 14 ED (FGS).

Snowy Owl: two reports in Nov, one near Chaumont and one near Hammond.

SHORT-EARED OWL: Onondaga Audubon Society members report one seen on Pt Pen on Aug 16. Normally considered a winter visitor, the possibility of breeding is raised. There is a 1960 record of nesting on Wolfe Island.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: last, Sep 19 (AA). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last, Sep 25 (FC). Belted Kingfisher: last, Nov 26 (JB). Hybrid Flicker (Yellow -x Red-shafted): Sep 21 Adams Cove (DG). Great Crested Flycatcher: last, Oct 1 (RW). Tree Swallow: last, Oct 3 (JB). Bank Swallow: last, Oct 12 (DG), late. Black-capped Chickadee: 30 on Oct 10 ED (FGS). House Wren: last, Sep 21 (DG). Winter Wren: one Oct 10 ED (FGS). Hermit Thrush: last, Nov 2 (DG). Swainson's Thrush: last, Oct 2 (AA). Gray-cheeked Thrush: last, Sep 29 (AA). Eastern Bluebird: two Sep 14 ED (FGS); DG reports highest numbers for Oct (total of 16 on three weekends) in some years—an encouraging sign. Northern Shrike: several reported in Nov; two at feeders in Wat area attempted to prey on small birds.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: the following vireo and warbler records are last dates seen. Vireos—Yellow-throated, Sep 8 (RW); Solitary, Oct 10 ED (FGS); Red-eyed, Oct 9 (AA); Philadelphia, Sep 29 (AA); Warbling, Oct 5 (AA). Warblers—Nashville, Sep 29 (DG); Magnolia, Sep 21 (DG); Cape May, Sep 21 (RW); Black-throated Blue, Sep 28 (RW); Myrtle, Oct 25 (AA); Black-throated Green, Sep 21 (DG); Bay-breasted, Oct 11 (AA); Blackpoll, Oct 11 (AA); Pine, Oct 9 (AA); Palm, two (one Yellow and one Western) Oct 10 ED (FGS); Ovenbird, Sep 21 (DG); Yellowthroat, Sep 21 (DG); Wilson's, Sep 21 (DG). On Oct 10 FGS saw 40 Myrtle Warblers at ED.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Baltimore Oriole: one Nov 30 Wat (DG), late. Rusty Blackbird: last, Nov 11 (DG). Cardinal: appears to be on increase in Jeff Co; adult with three fledglings at feeder Aug 18 (AA); late nesting—two young in nest Aug 31, left nest Sep 3 (*vide* DG). Evening Grosbeak: a few reported in Oct, seen many localities in Nov. Pine Grosbeak: seen in a number of places in Jeff Co in Nov. Tree Sparrow: first fall, Oct 26 (DG), Oct 27 (AA). Lincoln's Sparrow: Oct 5 Wat (AA). Lapland Longspur: Oct 10 Pillar Pt (DG). Snow Bunting: first, Oct 25 (RW).

Last dates for sparrows are: Savannah, Oct 26 (DG); Vesper, Oct 26 (DG); Chipping, Oct 19 (AA,DG); Field, Oct 20 (AA); White-crowned, Oct 19 (DG) White-throated, Nov 20 (DG); Fox, Nov 11 (DG); Swamp, two Oct 10 ED (FGS).

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

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The last two weeks in August were quite normal for Region 7. In other words they were fairly cold with scattered frosts which frustrated many a gardener. The thermometer at our house read 38 degrees at 8:30 a.m. on August 19th.

But by September normality in weather ended and October and November seemed to vie with one another in abnormality of different natures. September was unusually warm. In fact it was the first in eleven years of records that no frost was recorded for the month at the Hilltop Meteorological Observatory at Ray Brook, according to Bob Kampf. The high for the month was 81 degrees, rainfall was below normal and wind velocities were light.

October was extraordinarily warm and fine with only one-fourth-of-an-inch of snow on the 30th and 31st instead of the average three inches for the month.