

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

The fall season was colder than normal with snow on the ground for keeps beginning October 10 from Newcomb to Sabattis and soon after at Paul Smiths. The more "tropical" Champlain Valley lucked out until November 30 when they were blessed with six inches of snow. This early cold froze small ponds for the season in October at Paul Smiths and the lakes received the same treatment well before the end of November. Inland waterfowling was very poor as a result.

The prolonged rains of summer raised Lake Champlain enough to cause most shore birds to pass on thru. Phil Warren has promised to personally drain it to a proper level next year, however.

It was a fairly good beechnut year, a good cone crop prevailed, and *Viburnum cassinoides* was loaded with fruit, bringing generous numbers of Ruffed Grouse to the bog edges thru the period. The Champlain Valley had a dearth of finches but there were numerous flocks of Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, and American Goldfinches in inland sections. A few of the grosbeaks died when seeking gravel from the sanded roads. One dead bird attracts others to linger longer than is safe when a car approaches. It is a kindness to remove dead birds if traffic is safe.

Geoffrey Carleton found the bird of the season for this region with his White-eyed Vireo. This is a new regional record. The previously reported northern subspecies of Great Horned Owl has been retracted because it was not pale enough. Ruddy Duck and Clay-colored Sparrow are good finds too and the several Marsh Hawks seen are encouraging.

Abbreviations: E'town—Elizabethtown; Ind L—Indian Lake; L Cham—Lake Champlain; PS—Paul Smiths; Platts—Plattsburgh; Tup L—Tupper Lake.

Observers: DA—Deborah Anson; BB—Bart Bailey; IB—Isabelle Bailey; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; DC—David Cate; CD—Charlcie Delehanty; BE—Beth Edmunds; RH—Robert Hager; TM—Ted Mack; EM—Esther MacCready; RM—Robert McKinney; NM—Norman Mason; KM—Keith Murphy; JPa—John Parke; JP—John M. C. Peterson; DN—Dan Nickerson; JR—Jerry Rosenband; CS—Carole Slatkin; LS—Lester Sweatt; PT—Pat Taber; Gertrude Ten Broeck; PW—Phil Warren.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: many at L. Cham and one lingered to Nov. 8 at Lower St. Regis L at PS after smaller ponds and bays were frozen. Red-necked Grebe: at least 7 sightings L Cham. Horned Grebe: 1 early arrival L Cham Sept. 29 (EM,JP); max 42 Platts Nov. 25 (PW). Pied-billed Grebe: 1 NW Bay L Cham Nov. 10 (KM,PT). Double-crested Cormorant: last 1 Essex Oct. 14 (JPa). Great Blue Heron: 1 by a snowy stream PS Nov. 27 (Cindy Rechlin). American Bittern: 1 Chazy Landing Nov. 6 (PW). Snow Goose: only 2 reported were at Essex Nov. 6 (JPa). Ring-necked Duck: 4 Tup L Oct. 11 and 5 there Oct. 20 (CD) as well as L Cham records. White-winged Scoter: first were 2 females and a male Nov. 25 Platts (PW). Black Scoter: 1 female Platts Nov. 28 (PW). RUDDY DUCK: 2 NW Bay L Cham Oct. 20 (EM,JP); 3 same place Nov. 3 (PT). There is one previous Essex Co. record.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: 1 Wadhams Oct. 7 (EM,JP); 1 Ind L Oct. 24 (RM). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 3 Tup L Sept. 9 (CD); 1 L Placid Nov. 2 (PT); 4 Essex Sept. 19 (DN,JP). Cooper's Hawk: 1 Essex Oct. 3 (JR,CS). Red-tailed Hawk: max 6 L Cham (DN,JP). Rough-legged Hawk: all over Cham Valley; 1 Ind L Oct. 23 (RM) is noteworthy because inland records are scarce. Bald Eagle: 1 Tup L Sept. 17 (Bill Frenette); 2 Essex Sept. 19 (Geraldine Von Ornam). Marsh Hawk: 6 reported from L Cham to PS. Osprey: 9 reported, mostly L Cham except 2 Tup L Sept. 6 (CD) and 3 Wilmington Nov. 20 (EM,JP). Merlin: This is

not unusual for Cham Valley and was well seen both perched and in flight at Essex Sept. 12 (JP,JR,CS). Virginia Rail: 1 North Meadow Sept. (DN); several calling Essex Station Sept. 12 (JP,JR,CS). Sora: 1 dead Lake Alice Oct. 13 (Hal Klein). Am. Golden Plover: Sept. 4-Oct. 5 L Cham in 3 areas. **RUDDY TURNSTONE**: 1 North Meadow Sept. 2 (DC, BE,DN). Upland Sandpiper: 1 Essex Sept. 2 (GC). Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 Essex Station Oct. 2 (JR,CS); 25 L Placid Oct. 9 (DN). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 L Placid dump Sept. 6 (Larry Master). Sanderling: a few L Cham. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 on early date of Sept. 8 Westport (GC). Common Tern: 1 Platts Oct. 10 (PW) rare.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Screech Owl: 1 Essex Sept. 8 (JP,BB). Long-eared Owl: 1 Essex Sept. 10 thru Oct. (JPa). Com. Nighthawk: 1 Wadhams Sept. 12 (Atea Ring). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 1 E'town Sept. 28 (PT); 1 Tup L Sept. 10-28 (CD).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Great Crested Flycatcher: 1 Tup L Sept. 17-21 (CD). E. Phoebe: 1 Essex Nov. 17 (JP). Least Flycatcher: 1 Tup L Sept. 3; 1 Tup L Sept. 8; both (CD). Tree Swallow: 3 Saranac L Nov. 6 (RH); 1 Platts Nov. 7 (PW). Common Raven: many reports from high peaks area that probably involves at least some repeat sightings of some birds; 1 Wilmington Sept. 20 (BB,IB,JP,GT); 2 St. Regis Mtn. at PS Oct. 24-Nov. 20 (TM); 1 Saranac Inn all Oct. (TM); 1 Ind L Nov. 14 (RM). Mockingbird: 1 Westport Oct. 16 (Atea Ring); 1 Essex Nov. 3 (JP,LS). Gray Catbird: 1 Saranac L Nov. 13 (RH). Am. Robin: 2 Tup L Nov. 21 at feeder (CD); 1 PS Nov. 29. Veery: 1 E'town Sept. 26 and calling (GC) late. E. Bluebird: 38 individuals from Tup L to Platts; 2 late birds Platts Nov. 2 (Holland Fitts). Water Pipit: many from PS to L Cham; max 50 Whallonsburg Oct. 26 (EM,JP). N. Shrike: 1 Westport Nov. 1 (EM,JP).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: **WHITE-EYED VIREO**: 1 E'town Oct. 2-11 (GC). New species for region. Observer knows the species from New York City area. Yellow spectacles, two white wing bars, white throat, dark iris noted. Philadelphia Vireo: 1 E'town Sept. 21 (GC) late. Black-and-white Warbler: 1 Ind L Oct. 23 (RM). Golden-winged Warbler: 1 adult male E'town Sept. 6 (GC). Tennessee Warbler: 1 E'town Oct. 8 (GC). Nashville Warbler: 1 Saranac L Oct. 31 (RH). Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 PS Nov. 22. Pine Warbler: 1 Tup L Sept. 15 (CD). Common Yellowthroat: 1 Barnum Pd PS Nov. 13; 1 Osgood River PS Nov. 28.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: 5 Westport Sept. 4 (GC). Pine Grosbeak: not reported. Red Crossbill: a few E'town Sept. 2 (GC). White-winged Crossbill: 14 Chubb R Sept. 18 (JP). Chipping Sparrow: 3 Saranac L Nov. 20 (RH). **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: 1 carefully studied Saranac L Oct. 24-29 (RH). Brown buffy rump, much paler overall than Chipping Sparrow companions, brown cheek patch lined above and below with darker brown, strong whisker marks. Field Sparrow: 2 Ausable Pt. L Cham Nov. 25 (PW). White-crowned Sparrow: 1 E'town Sept. 16 (GC); 6 Tup L Sept. 19 (CD) and many thereafter. Snow Bunting: 100 L Placid Nov. 14 (JP).

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

GLADYS SNELL

The weather this fall was cold and blustery with a -2.9°F (-1.6°C) departure from normal for September, a -4.9°F (2.7°C) for October and a -4.7°F (2.6°C) for November, breaking records on the 2nd and 12th of November. Precipitation was about normal with only 5.7" (14.5 cm) snowfall for November which fell mostly in traces and soon disappeared.

The season was viewed in different ways—by some as dull and slow, by others with ex-