

push in numbers Oct. 28. Com. Grackle: in with preceding species same date. Brown-headed Cowbird: almost nonexistent in Henderson; 30 Nov. 1 Canton vicinity. Cardinal: none in Henderson as usual in fall. Evening Grosbeak: five Henderson Oct. 25; Perch R. over head Oct. 29 & 30; 25 New Boston-Tug Hill Nov. 11; more common at higher elevations. Purple Finch: in small groups six to ten thru. HOUSE FINCH: scattered at feeders in Watertown—south central portion of city. Pine Siskin: only one report—one individual on Oct. 30 Tug Hill Plateau portion Jefferson Co. Am. Goldfinch: small scattered flocks thru. Rufous-sided Towhee: last one Oct. 6 Henderson. Dark-eyed Junco: another superabundant species in Oct.; 400+ Oct. 15. Tree Sparrow: first on Nov. 3; very few and far between even at end of period. White-crowned Sparrow: more rapid movement thru area and in greater numbers than normal—peak about Oct. 15; last Oct. 22. White-throated Sparrow: heaviest movement thru area in early Oct., a few around into Nov. Snow Bunting: a few around but not in normal numbers.

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REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

October brought some snow, especially to the mountains, but much of it soon melted. As a whole this was an exceptionally mild fall season with at least the streams remaining open thru the period. Lakes in the Paul Smiths area were freezing over about November 22. This meant more Black Ducks, Mallards, and Canada Geese lingered into November than during recent more severe winters. The open streams held a few Black and Wood Ducks even after the still waters were frozen.

Low lake levels at Lake Champlain exposed the shorebird flats and many observers took advantage of the situation. Charlcie Delehanty's Western Grebe stayed until October 7. High Peaks Audubon Newsletter notes that member Bill Lee heard a report of a Western Grebe in early November in the harbor in New Haven, Conn. This may have been the same bird.

Abbreviations: E'town—Elizabethtown; Hamilton—southern Hamilton Co.; Tupper—Tupper lake area.

Observers: Deborah Anson, Geoffrey Carleton, Charlcie Delehanty, Bruno & Dee DeSimone, Harold & Laura Haglund, Courtney Jones, Dorothy McIlroy, Robert McKinney, Esther Ann Macready, Norman Mason, Marilyn Massaro, John Parke, John "Mike" Peterson, William Peterson, Terina Russell, William Rutherford, Pat Tabor, Don Timmons, Jan Timmons.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: DMC reports one three-fourths grown being fed three times in a half-hour by the adults on Sept. 6 at Sand Lake near Piseco. She also saw one young and one adult at Buckhorn Lake Sept. 7 on the Northville-Placid Trail. CD had two at Tupper until Nov. 22. Red-throated Loon: four at Tupper on Sept. 29 (CD). Red-necked Grebe: one NW Bay Nov. 5 (DA, JP). Horned Grebe began to build in numbers at Champlain from Nov. 4. A Great Blue Heron was still at Ray Brook Nov. 9 (MM). First Canada Geese were at Essex Sept. 18 (JPa). 125 Snow Geese flew by Coot Hill Hawk Lookout Oct. 3 (EM, JP) and a few reported later from Lake Champlain. Four Blue-winged Teal at Westport Oct.

22 (JP, DT, JT) were late. Six Wood Ducks were on Fiddler's Lake near Piseco on Sept. 9 (DMc). There were 15 Bufflehead and two Oldsquaw Oct. 29 and 24 respectively at Tupper (CD). A male White-winged Scoter was on Lake Pleasant Sept. 17 (H&LH). A lot of Hooded Mergansers were seen with a max of nine at Tupper Nov. 22 (CD).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: A late Turkey Vulture was headed south at Wadhams Nov. 8 (EM, JP). Sharp-shinned Hawk: two Hamilton Sept. 4 (B&DDeS); one Belfrey Mtn. Sept. 13 (JP); five same place Sept. 16 (JP); one banded by JP Oct. 4 when it chased a White-crowned Sparrow into a mist net at E'town. Two Goshawks were at Paul Smiths; one Belfrey Mtn. Sept. 16 (JP) and one seen at Westport being bombed by a Bonaparte's Gull on Nov. 5 (DA, JP). An Oct. 17 Rough-legged Hawk seen by Pat Tabor at Westport was more than a week earlier than the standing early date. Bald Eagle: Beekmantown High School Outing Club saw an adult Sept. 16 over Street Mtn. One (adult?) at NW Bay early Oct. (CJ). Marsh Hawk: one at Tupper Sept. 9 and Oct. 9 (CD); one Essex Oct. 5 (JPa) and one the same day at E'town (GC). An Osprey was at Lake Pleasant Sept. 15 (H&LH). CD had one at Tupper Sept. 28 and Oct. 8; NM saw one at Jay Oct. 8. Ana Dumois saw two similar birds at North Hudson Sept. 17. One was seen with 9 x 35 binoculars, perched, at a distance of 80 feet. Moustache was plainly seen and "belly with faintly brown stripes seems to me to indicate a very young bird": a Peregrine Falcon. On Oct. 8 Gary Randorf picked up a road-killed Peregrine Falcon at North Hudson which was then sent to Cornell University by Mike Peterson and Gary. The Endangered Species Unit of DEC has the bird which was confirmed by those involved to be the arctic subspecies, *tundrius*. This is the third specimen for New York State according to High Peaks Audubon Newsletter. Ring-necked Pheasants were released and turned up in some unlikely places. A Semipalmated Plover was at Westport Sept. 1 (EM, JP). A number of late Black-bellied Plovers were reported. One was at Paul Smiths with two Semipalmated Sandpipers on Oct. 23. The latest was one Nov. 5 at NW Bay (DA, JP). A late Am. Woodcock was at Tupper Nov. 8 (CD). Seven Upland Sandpipers were at Essex Aug. 26-27 (DN). 15 Pectoral Sandpipers were with 15 White-rumped Sandpipers Oct. 21 at Bulwagga Bay (JP, DT, JT). Nine of the latter stayed to Nov. 1 on which date there were four Dunlin there.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: An early Snowy Owl was at Whallon's Bay Oct. 19 (JPa) and the same observer saw a Long-eared Owl Sept. 20 at Essex. CS had a Common Night-hawk at Whallonsburg Sept. 1. RMc noted a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker Sept. 30 at Big Slide Mtn. and another Nov. 5 at Indian Lake.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: RMc saw one lone Horned Lark at the sawdust pile from a long defunct sawmill in a heavily forested area at Indian Lake in Nov. Apparently this was the only semi-suitable resting spot for weary larkdom in miles of forest. Such unexpected finds are fun. Four Eastern Bluebirds were at Paul Smiths Oct. 1 (WR). Two Water Pipits were at Westport Sept. 30 (JP, WP). This has been a good Northern Shrike year. JP has banded three. One chased an exhausted migrant Eastern Meadowlark into a yard at Paul Smiths on Oct. 22. Another was at Tupper Nov. 12 on the same perch one occupied the previous year (CD). Carole Slatkin had an Am. Goldfinch banded at Whallonsburg June 19, 1978 killed there Nov. 19 by a Northern Shrike.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Geoffrey Carleton saw a Yellow-throated Vireo and a Philadelphia Vireo Sept. 28 at Westport among a flock of feeding migrants. Both are regional rarities. Red-eyed Vireos were reported as calling everywhere at Tupper the first week of Sept. Dorothy McIlroy found a group of migrants in a mountain saddle near Piseco on Sept. 8. These included a Brown Creeper, three sapsuckers, an Am. Redstart, four Black-throated Blue Warblers, and one each Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Bay-breasted Warblers; a varied group for sure. JP found the best warbler at E'town Oct. 12 when he found an Orange-crowned. He notes that there are now one spring and four fall records for Essex Co. Phil Warren had one last year at Plattsburgh in Clinton Co. on Nov. 15 so they should be looked for along the lake in fall. GC saw a Wilson's Warbler at E'town Sept. 30.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Everyone saw Rusty Blackbirds as fall migrants even if summer residents seemed elusive at times. Common Grackle numbers built up to a maximum of 300 at Tupper Oct. 28 (CD) who also reports a female Cardinal at her feeder and a pair that raised one young at another feeder location in Tupper. Evening Grosbeak: 200+ Indian Lake Nov. 12 (RMc); 65 at Tupper Nov. 16 (CD). This indicates that sunflower seed sellers may have a big season. Purple Finch: six Tupper Oct. 15 (CD). Pine Grosbeak: ten Indian Lake Nov. 12 (RMc); a few Paul Smiths mid-Nov. Pine Siskin: 16 Tupper Oct. 14 (CD); ten Hamilton Nov. 4 (B & D DeS), 40 Paul Smiths Nov. 10. Red Crossbill: small flocks at Paul Smiths mid-Sept. but none since. Rufous-sided Towhee: two Hamilton Sept. 4 (B & D DeS); two pair Tupper Oct. 9 (CD). They are extremely local in much of the inland area because of the heavy forest cover. They are more readily found in the farm areas out of the mountains. Vesper Sparrow: seven Paul Smiths Oct. 1 (WR); one Westport Oct. 10 (GC). Fox Sparrow: one E'town Oct. 1 (EM, JP, WP, TR); one Tupper Oct. 15; one Hamilton Oct. 21 (B & D DeS); one E'town (EM, JP); Snow Bunting: three early arrivals Oct. 19 at Newcomb (WC) and at Westport beach they could be seen from Oct. 22. 45 were on a mudflat at Lower St. Regis Lake at Paul Smiths on Oct. 24.

Paul Smiths, N.Y. 12970

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

Oh, what an awfully orderly autumn we suffered this year! Temperatures were well above normal throughout the period. No major storms swept through the area and precipitation was well below normal. Blue skies, bright colors and balmy temperatures meant three months of Indian summer! The migrants enjoyed the season also. They all passed through "on schedule" with a nice even flow. There were no significant peak days, nor delays. These close-to-ideal conditions make the risky semi-annual task of migration far less hazardous for the birds involved. For the birders, it was a case of "Now you see them—now you don't."

Favorable signs from the reports received include an early return of the "white-winged" gulls, apparent population surge and range expansion of Tufted Titmouse, and very high numbers of Swainson's Thrush and Tennessee Warbler. Negative trends are, for the most part, less recognizable, *i.e.*, Warbling Vireo. A few, however are rather dramatic and conspicuous. For example, there has been a sharp decrease in the House Finch numbers. Has the species exceeded its carrying capacity with natural forces now controlling the population size? Other minuses include the continued decline of the Ring-necked Pheasant and the almost complete disappearance of the Bobwhite. We may also be experiencing the beginning of the decline phase of the Ruffed Grouse population cycle, if there is such a thing in New York. There were only a few shorebird reports, but those were interesting. There has also been a shortage of waterfowl reports. Despite all the fine weather, apparently few birders ventured out to Saratoga Lake, Lake George, Sacandaga Reservoir or other fine waterfowl areas or were too dazzled by the fall foliage to count the ducks.

Highlights of the season were a very late Snowy Egret, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Phalarope, and Boreal Chickadee.