

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbird: 350 Wellesley Island SLR Oct. 23. Com. Grackle: four Henderson Oct. 10. Cardinal: two-four per day Oak Point-Morristown; fairly common this year in Henderson and vicinity. Evening Grosbeak: first in Canton Oct 22; 25 Lakeview Nov. 4; 30 Henderson Nov. 29, smaller flocks at feeders thru. Purple Finch: few and far between; three Robt. Moses Oct. 22; one Robt. Moses Oct. 27. House Finch: no reports for period. Am. Goldfinch: ten Henderson Oct. 12; one Robt. Moses Oct. 27. Rufous-sided Towhee: three Henderson at feeder Oct. 9. Vesper Sparrow: one Robt. Moses Oct. 27; three Iroquois Dam area Oct. 29. Dark-eyed Junco: max 60 Henderson Oct. 13; four Henderson Oct. 20. Tree Sparrow: first Oct. 14; 25 Canton Nov. 5; not any great numbers thru period. Chipping Sparrow: eight Henderson Oct. 4. White-crowned Sparrow: 25 near Snell Lock Sept. 24; first in Henderson Oct. 4; 30 near Snell Lock Oct. 5; five Henderson Oct. 12; six Henderson Oct. 14; last Oct. 30. White-throated Sparrow: max 60 Kring Pt. Park Oct. 16; 20 Henderson Oct. 12; last in Henderson Nov. 11. LINCOLN'S SPARROW: five Donahue Rd. near Snell Lock Sept. 24. Swamp Sparrow: three El Dorado Sept. 29. Song Sparrow: max 225 near Snell Lock Sept. 24; singles thru period. Snow Bunting: arrival Coles Creek SLR Oct. 22; 27 Stony Point Oct. 27; many along Lake Ontario overhead Oct. 31. Box 139, Henderson, New York 13650

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

This was a remarkably warm Fall. The few snows we had starting September 16 soon melted. October 30, Snow Buntings arrived in the Champlain Valley, at Tupper Lake, Paul Smith's and Saranac Inn which made one apprehensive about the weather to the north and the weather to come in the near future but nothing nasty in the way of immediate snow or severe cold materialized. Perhaps the mild weather helps to explain a late heavy flight of Rusty Blackbirds some time after resident Rustys had departed. About 600 in an unmixed flock passed over Paul Smith's November 13 headed due south. There wasn't a grackle or red-wing in the lot. Late November storms normally would be snow, however heavy rain November 26 caused a flood at Elizabethtown that washed out roads and killed five local people. High wind accompanied that storm but there seemed to be no marked impact on bird life. All water except small ponds remained open thru the period.

There were at least four Great Horned Owls near Paul Smith's. Here they are always more scarce than the Barred. One blundered into one of my mink traps with one talon, but was released with the help of a blanket dropped over him or her. This was a slap at the bird's dignity and if looks could kill I wouldn't be here to do the Fall report. This particular bird has been feeding on muskrats along a stream. The stretch involved usually has about fifteen of these rodents but these seem to have been reduced to only one this season. These birds are quite efficient at their occupation and are rather fascinating creatures. It is good to have a few about. Perhaps they even get a few small house cats in places that don't need house cats.

There were more than usual Bald Eagles reported. These are always an excit-

ing find. One person had the good fortune to see three. An even greater find was a Golden Eagle seen by several people on November 11 at Paul Smith's where it was feeding on the remains of a deer killed by poachers. Three observers on a rock ledge saw the bird wheel past at less than 100 feet when it had finished feeding.

Steve Dempsey rediscovered Spruce Grouse for the Region. He left Madawaska after birding there Sept. 10 and spotted two leisurely crossing where the black spruce muskeg habitat closes in on the Brandon Road. He left the car to follow them and saw two more. This is the first reported sighting for the area in a few years. It is really good to know they still exist here although southern St. Lawrence County seems to have a stable population. Among the other finds for the Region are Little Gull and Parasitic Jaeger.

Observers: Geoffrey Carleton, Charlie Delehanty, Jeanne DeMattos, Bill Frenette, Gerald Geiling, Robert Hager, Elspeth Johnson, John Kopp, Catherine Kreiger, David Kreiger, Joshua Lahey, Ted Mack, Robert McKinney, Norman Mason, Keith Murphy, John Parke, John "Mike" Peterson, William Peterson, Gary Randolph, Sue Reaser, Jerry Rosenband, Carole Slatkin, Pat Tabor, Donald Timmons, Janice Timmons, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz, Dave Young.

LOONS-DUCKS: A Common Loon was still at Tupper Lake Nov. 23 and another was at Lower St. Regis Lake on the same date. A late Double-crested Cormorant was at Crown Point Oct. 18. JP banded a Green Heron at Westport Sept. 8. Three Great Blue Herons were still at Onchiota in mid-Nov. Tupper Marsh had an Am. Bittern Sept. 27. There was a big push of Canada Geese Oct. 10 in all sections. Mrs. Delehanty saw over 2,000 in two hours that morning at Tupper. She also saw two Brant feeding on a lawn at Upper Saranac Lake only sixty feet from her Nov. 23. There were a few reports of Snow Geese. GC had 145 in one line passing over Elizabethtown Oct. 16 and a max of 500 plus with one blue morph was at Essex Nov. 23 (JP, WP). Black Duck: max 25 Tupper Nov. 19. A Gadwall was at Westport Sept. 8 (EJ, PT). Pintail: three Essex Sept. 17 (JR, CS). A late Am. Wigeon was at Tupper Nov. 18 (CD). Wood Duck: max 12 Panther Marsh Oct. 7 (CD). Ring-necked Duck: max 37 Tupper Oct. 30. Canvasback: only report was of 13 Tupper Oct. 31. An early Greater Scaup was at Westport Sept. 19 (JR, CS) and five were there Oct. 16. Oldsquaw: one North West Bay Oct. 31 (DY); one Moody Pond at Saranac Lake Nov. 6-12 and 17 (RH). This is a small pond where this species would not be expected. White-winged Scoter: one Westport Oct. 29; two Whallon's Bay Oct. 31 both (JR, CS). A female Black Scoter was at Westport Nov. 6 (GC). A flock of about 100 scoters (sp.) was at Essex Oct. 16 (SR). Red-breasted Merganser: 50 between Essex and Westport Oct. 31 (DY).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 14 Coot Hill Sept. 22 as migrants (JP). One still visiting a garbage dump at Brandon in late Oct. Sharp-shinned Hawk: ten reports. Cooper's Hawk: no reports. Red-tailed Hawk: regular migrant in Champlain Valley; one at Indian Lake Oct. 20. Red-shouldered Hawk: one migrant Whallonsburg Oct. 16. Rough-legged Hawk: one Tupper Lake Oct. 27; four Champlain Valley. Bald Eagle: two adults and an imm. Nahasane Sept. 15 (JK); one imm. Tupper Marsh Oct. 7 (CD); one imm. Moriah Nov. 4 (GC). A Marsh Hawk was at Tupper for a month to Oct. 13 and one stayed at Whallonsburg to Nov. 18. Osprey: seven individuals one of which was at Tupper. Good numbers of Am. Kestrels in Champlain Valley. Am. Coot: two at Tupper Nov. 23 (CD). a Regional rarity especially away from Champlain. Am. Golden Plover: DY stopped the potato harvester Sept. 24 and pointed out a group of 30 on his Gabriels field; 40 Essex Sept. 30 (JR, CS). Three of them stayed to Oct. 20. One Black-bellied Plover was with a few goldens at Essex Sept. 7. A late Am. Woodcock was at Elizabethtown Nov. 11 (JP). A late Spotted Sandpiper was at Westport Oct. 29. Pectoral Sandpiper: one Essex Sept. 15 (GC, JP). Baird's Sandpiper: four, one of which was caught and banded Westport Sept. 7. Sanderling: two late

birds, one at Westport and one at mouth of Bouquet River on Sept. 17 both (JR, CS). **PARASITIC JAEGER:** JR, CS and later GC, JP, WP, PT found an imm dark-phase bird at Essex at the golden plover field. Bird was exhausted and sat on ground eating earthworms. It was once harassed by a kestrel and once by the plover. Bonaparte's Gull: max 750 Westport Nov. 28 (GC). **LITTLE GULL:** one imm. Willsboro Sept. 16, "Considerably smaller than accompanying Bonaparte's; much black on folded wings, rear crown, and vertical bar on side. Sabine's type wing pattern in flight. Tail had a narrow terminal black band." (GC); one adult Port Henry Nov. 30 (GC).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: A Black-billed Cuckoo was still at Whallonsburg Oct. 8. A Saw-whet Owl was at Essex in Sept. (JPa). Whip-poor-will: one calling Witherbee Sept. 2. Red-headed Woodpecker: an imm. spent the day eating sunflower seeds Oct. 21 at Tupper (CD); and an imm sampled cracked corn the next day at Elizabethtown (EJ, JP). A Northern Three-toed Woodpecker with orange crown-patch was on Giant Mtn. Oct. 6 (DT, JT).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: In late Nov. a Gray Jay curiously watched two rabbit hunters at Onchiota try to show a beagle puppy which way the bunny went. Two Com. Ravens were headed west at Witherbee Sept. 9 (CW) and two were near Westport Sept. 25 (EJ). Many ravens were reported. A Tufted Titmouse at Chubb River Swamp, a boreal habitat, August 26 was a surprise (WP). A Winter Wren was banded at Essex Sept. 10 (CS). Am. Robins were everywhere at Tupper with the Oct. 10 influx of migrants. A few Hermit Thrushes lingered into early Nov. 150 Water Pipits were at Essex Sept. 30, and 22 were banded. Another group of 200 late birds was at Essex Nov. 1. JP, JR, and CS called in a No. Shrike Oct. 27 on Hurricane Mtn. by imitating a Screech Owl call.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: A Yellow-throated Vireo was carefully observed at forty feet Oct. 9 at Tupper as it ate a large insect. The large spectacles and bright yellow throat were noted (CD). A Solitary Vireo was still at Essex Oct. 15 and a Philadelphia Vireo was banded there Oct. 8 (CS). Tennessee Warbler: one banded Elizabethtown Oct. 5 (JP) and one was at Moriah Nov. 4 (NM). The last Nashville Warbler was one at Tupper Oct. 11, JP banded an after-hatching-year Chestnut-sided Warbler July 10, 1975 near Essex and on Sept. 4, 1979 CS caught it near Essex to establish a new longevity record of five years and three months; pretty neat! A late (Yellow) Palm Warbler was at Elizabethtown Oct. 25 (JP) and four Wilson's Warblers were banded in Sept. near Essex (CS). One more Wilson's was at Elizabethtown Sept. 9 (GC). An Am. Redstart at Essex Nov. 18 (CS) was extremely late.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: 2,000-3,000 migrant red-wings and grackles were at Essex Oct. 14. Pine Grosbeaks were in small flocks at Paul Smith's the first week of Nov. but usually traveling. Eight were at Indian Lake about Nov. 8 (RMc). Rufous-sided Towhee: one Saranac Lake early Oct. (JD); one Gabriels Oct. 18 (DY); one Tupper Lake at feeder Oct. 11-Nov. 30 (CD). CS banded a fantastic 336 Savannah Sparrows near Whallonsburg Sept. 24-Oct. 16. 20 migrant Vesper Sparrows stopped briefly at Paul Smith's in late Sept. The first Tree Sparrow was a Whallonsburg arrival Oct. 19. White-crowned Sparrow arrived Sept. 23 at Elizabethtown and Tupper Lake. Fox Sparrow: 19 individuals of which four were caught and banded. A late Lincoln's Sparrow was at Tupper Oct. 12 (CD).

Paul Smith's, New York 12970

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

This has been the most interesting birding season that this Region has enjoyed