

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

LEE CHAMBERLAINE

The Fall of 1980 was even wetter than that of 1979. Every time it rained, the amount approached two inches. Heavy rains occurred on Labor Day (1.9 inches), September 14th (2.0 inches) and 2.14 inches for the weekend of October 25-26. Temperatures were about normal and as we approached December it appeared as though another mild winter was in store for the Watertown area.

The first snowfall—a trace—occurred on September 20 when sections of the Tug Hill Plateau were dusted. A killing frost at Henderson occurred on September 22. Significant snow did not show up until late October and water areas remained open through the period. Lake Ontario water levels dropped through the period even with all the rainfall. Strong winds from the north and northwest made for many rough days on the Lake Ontario shoreline.

Wildfood crop could be classed from good to excellent with a tremendous crop of berries on the red cedars in the Henderson area.

Positive trends for the period were: some excellent waterfowl observations; a slight increase in accipiters; great increase in numbers of Marsh Hawks; increasing Gray Partridges in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties; some excellent shorebirding reports; some excellent gull and tern observations at Massena and El Dorado, and indication of a finch year in the offing.

Negatives for the period were as follows: Snowy Owls few and far between; reduced Ruffed Grouse, in particular, in the St. Lawrence County area; a single Northern Shrike; a poor warbler flight except for Yellow-rumped, and no Purple Finches in the Massena area.

Rarities for the period were: Cattle Egret; Mute Swan; Bald Eagle; Peregrine Falcon; Merlin; Western Sandpiper; Little Gull; Black-legged Kittiwake; Forster's Tern; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Gray Jay; Mockingbird and Bohemian Waxwing.

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Abbreviations: G.O.S.—Genesee Ornithological Society; SLR—St. Lawrence River.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: max 38 SLR from Blind Bay to Morristown Nov. 13; many, many individuals thru period on Lake Ontario various locations. Red-necked Grebe: one Wilson Hill Oct. 10 (J. VanRiet). Horned Grebe: one Wilson Hill Oct. 10; 20 Point Peninsula Nov. 2; four Pillar Point Nov. 8. Pied-billed Grebe: two Wilson Hill Oct. 10, last date. Double-crested Cormorant: two El Dorado Oct. 5, 12 El Dorado Oct. 12; one found shot El Dorado Oct. 19; one at buoy no. 54 SLR Oct. 19. Great Blue Heron: one Coles Creek Nov. 27. Green Heron: four El Dorado Sept. 6. CATTLE EGRET: one imm near Cape Vincent Oct. 17, bird had been banded (John & Karen Confer), probably banded by the Canadian Fish & Wildlife Service in their studies on the SLR and Lake Ontario. Great Egret: one Upper & Lower Lakes Sept. 14 (*vide* K. Crowell). Black-crowned Night Heron: one Hawkins Point SLR Oct. 15. Am. Bittern: one DeKalb Oct. 15. MUTE SWAN: one El Dorado thru

period. Canada Goose: arrived at Henderson Pond Sept. 27; 1,200 El Dorado Oct. 5, in numbers thru period although many moved on through and into Finger Lakes and vicinity. Brant: none reported. Blue Goose (white morph): one Perch River Nov. 13. Mallard: everywhere as usual. Black: 55 max at Wilson Hill; 240 max Wiley Dondero Channel on Oct. 7. Gadwall: 600 Wilson Hill Oct. 10; last Wiley Dondero Nov. 16. Pintail: ten Wiley Dondero Channel Oct. 17; last Wilson Hill Nov. 15. Blue-winged Teal: one Perch River Nov. 13—late (J. Lamendola). Am. Wigeon: 3,200 Wilson Hill Oct. 5, left by Nov. 16. No. Shoveler: four Perch River Oct. 1; one Perch River Nov. 3; two Wiley Dondero Oct. 5; four Perch River Oct. 11; 100 Wiley Dondero Nov. 15; last date Nov. 20 Wiley Dondero. Wood Duck: normal numbers. Redhead: max 600 Wilson Hill Oct. 24; 1,330 Wiley Dondero Nov. 14; last date Nov. 15. Ring-necked: max 740 Wiley Dondero Oct. 15; max 210 Wilson Hill Oct. 24; last date 72 on Nov. 20. Canvasback: max Wilson Hill ten Oct. 24; 20 El Dorado Nov. 2. Greater Scaup: 500+ Pillar Point Nov. 8; last at Wiley Dondero Nov. 27. Lesser Scaup: 27 Wilson Hill Oct. 25; last date Nov. 20 Wiley Dondero. Com. Goldeneye: arrival Wilson Hill Oct. 10; 40 Hawkins Point Nov. 12; 70+ Blind Bay to Morristown SLR Nov. 13. Bufflehead: four Wilson Hill Oct. 10; seven Wilson Hill Nov. 8; one El Dorado Nov. 2; 75 Point Peninsula Nov. 2; last date Robt. Moses Dam Nov. 22, low numbers. Oldsquaw: 18 Coles Creek SLR Oct. 19; White-winged Scoter: 15 SLR Oct. 10; ten El Dorado Nov. 2; one SLR Nov. 8. Surf Scoter: ten El Dorado Oct. 12; 20 El Dorado Oct. 19. Black Scoter: two SLR Oct. 10; two El Dorado Oct. 12; two SLR Oct. 16; one SLR Nov. 1; one El Dorado Nov. 2; one SLR Massena Nov. 13. Ruddy: one Perch River Oct. 3; two Henderson Harbor Oct. 12. Hooded Merganser: max 150 Wilson Hill Nov. 8; last date Nov. 20 Wiley Dondero. Com. Merganser: one Oct. 7 building to 11,000 Robt. Moses Dam at end of period; this is twice normal number for this location. Red-breasted Merganser: 115 El Dorado Nov. 2; one Robt. Moses Dam Nov. 18.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: two Pillar Point Nov. 8. Goshawk: one Upper & Lower Lakes Oct. 17; one Louisville Nov. 12; one imm El Dorado Nov. 22; one Wilson Hill Nov. 26. Sharp-shinned: one near Canton Oct. 4; one El Dorado Oct. 12; one same Oct. 19. Cooper's: one Gouverneur Nov. 26, only one reported. Red-tailed: numbers up from last fall—migration noted at Perch River Oct. 3, 10-12 individuals. Red-shouldered: none reported. Rough-legged: first on Oct. 14, and increasing thru period; at some locations black phase outnumbers light phase two to one; showing up in numbers in mid-Nov. south of Watertown. **BALD EAGLE:** one imm El Dorado Oct. 5 (G. Smith); SLR wintering birds expected in next report. Marsh Hawk: in excellent numbers, many imm., an excellent production year, coming back rapidly. Osprey: two El Dorado Sept. 27; one Crary Mills near Canton Oct. 20; one Canton Nov. 30. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** one imm El Dorado Oct. 5 (G. Smith). **MERLIN:** one El Dorado 8 Sept. 27 (N. Leone). Am. Kestrel: thru period decreasing toward end of period. Ruffed Grouse: crash did not occur but not as abundant as last fall in many areas; way down in Massena vicinity—abundant in Canton vicinity—same as last year in South Colton. Gray Partridge: three coveys in Massena area, increasing there; in Jefferson Co. increasing also. Turkey: very little information on Fort Drum releases; scattered reports (unverified) on St. Lawrence Co.-Pleasant Lake releases; winter surveys should provide more information as concerns production and survival. Am. Coot: max 125 Wilson Hill Oct. 24; last date Nov. 15. Semipalmated Plover: last Wilson Hill on Oct. 25. Killdeer: last at El Dorado on Nov. 8. Am. Golden Plover: two El Dorado Sept. 27 (R & J Walker); one El Dorado Oct. 5 (G. Smith). Black-bellied Plover: eight El Dorado Sept. 27; two El Dorado Oct. 5; 21 Waddington Oct. 10; three El Dorado Oct. 12; four El Dorado Oct. 17; ten Wilson Hill Oct. 19. Ruddy Turnstone: six El Dorado Sept. 6. Am. Woodcock: thru—decrease near end of period. Spotted Sandpiper: two El Dorado Sept. 6. Greater Yellowlegs: three El Dorado Sept. 6; three Point Peninsula Nov. 2; one in plowed field near Louisville Nov. 13. Lesser Yellowlegs: five El Dorado Sept. 6; eight Pillar Point Nov. 8. White-rumped Sandpiper: one El Dorado Oct. 12; four Wilson Hill Oct. 18; eight Coles Creek SLR Oct. 25. Baird's Sandpiper: two El Dorado Sept. 6. Least Sandpiper: ten El

Dorado Sept. 6. Dunlin: eight El Dorado Oct. 5; 10 Waddington Oct. 19; 14 El Dorado Oct. 19; 23 El Dorado Nov. 2. Stilt Sandpiper: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 16 El Dorado Sept. 6; four El Dorado Oct. 5; three El Dorado Oct. 12. **WESTERN SANDPIPER**: one El Dorado Sept. 6 (W. Lloyd & M. Sunderlin); two El Dorado Oct. 19 (G. Smith). Sanderling: 40 El Dorado Sept. 6; 18 El Dorado Oct. 12; eight Wilson Hill Oct. 19; 11 Coles Creek Oct. 25; one Coles Creek Nov. 2. Glaucous Gull: one imm Robt. Moses Dam Oct. 24; two Robt. Moses Dam Nov. 27. Iceland Gull: arrived Robt. Moses Dam Nov. 8; one Robt. Moses Dam Nov. 18. Great Black-backed: five El Dorado Sept. 6; 200+ Robt. Moses Dam in mid-Nov. Herring: 2000+ at Robt. Moses Dam in mid-Nov. Ring-billed: 5,000+ at Robt. Moses mid-Nov. In mid-Nov. there were 20,000 gulls gathering at dusk on both sides of Robt. Moses Dam—too dark to tell what was what (J. VanRiet). Bonaparte's Gull: six El Dorado Sept. 6; 120 Robt. Moses Dam Sept. 20; four El Dorado Sept. 27; 100 Robt. Moses Dam Oct. 23; last at Robt. Moses Nov. 16—left there early; one near Henderson Nov. 20. **LITTLE GULL**: one Robt. Moses Oct. 23 (J. VanRiet). **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one imm. El Dorado Sept. 6 (M. Sunderlin & W. Lloyd); one imm. Robt. Moses Dam from Oct. 31 till Nov. 30 (J. VanRiet). **FORSTER'S TERN**: two El Dorado Sept. 6 (M. Sunderlin & W. Lloyd). Com. Tern: 300 El Dorado Sept. 6; one imm. at Robt. Moses Dam until Nov. 13—late (J. VanRiet). Caspian Tern: 50 El Dorado Sept. 6; two El Dorado Sept. 27.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: three Brasher Center Nov. 23; one Pierrepont Nov. 29. 20+ Henderson thru. Black-billed Cuckoo: one Henderson Sept. 2. Great Horned Owl: many reported, numbers up? Snowy Owl: one Wilson Hill Nov. 16-17; one Pillar Point Nov. 27; these are the only ones sighted. Short-eared Owl: injured individual from Ashland Wildlife Management Area near Three Mile Bay obtained Sept. 3 rehabilitated and released Henderson Oct. 17; injured individual from Natural Bridge Nov. 19—died; five flying and/or perched in small trees near Calcium Nov. 23 (F. Clinch). Chimney Swift: eight El Dorado Sept. 6. Belted Kingfisher: one Hannawa Falls Oct. 30. Com. Flicker: two Pierrepont Nov. 23 (T. Crowell). Pileated Woodpecker: five reports all in St. Lawrence Co., more than usual. **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**: one imm. eating apples Henderson Sept. 3; one ad. male along Stony Creek near Henderson Oct. 9, one ad. female at feeder Henderson Nov. 20 (L. Chamberlaine). Red-headed Woodpecker: one El Dorado Sept. 6 (G.O.S.). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: two imm Henderson Sept. 28. Hairy Woodpecker: approaching normal numbers in Henderson area. Downy Woodpecker: normal numbers are back in Henderson and vicinity.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: E. Kingbird: 15 El Dorado Sept. 6. E. Phoebe: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Horned Lark: seven El Dorado Oct. 17; one Massena Nov. 8; 12 Massena area Nov. 12—few and far between. Tree Swallow: stayed later at Perch River, three Oct. 12; hundreds at Point Peninsula Nov. 2; two Wilson Bay, Nov. 13; six Point Peninsula Nov. 13. Bank Swallow: last El Dorado Sept. 6. Rough-winged Swallow: last El Dorado Sept. 6. Purple Martin: last one at El Dorado Sept. 6. **GRAY JAY**: seen in several areas in Sevey's and Jordan area (no numbers) (L. Wallace)—southeast St. Lawrence Co. is normal range of this species. Blue Jay: scarce in So. Colton area—more than normal in Henderson and vicinity. Com. Crow: no heavy movement noted along eastern end of Lake Ontario as normally occurs each fall; present thru period. Black-capped Chickadee: numbers in Henderson area were up from normal numbers. White-breasted Nuthatch: in normal numbers. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Henderson Sept. 28; one Henderson Nov. 1; one Henderson Nov. 12 on suet bag; one Henderson Nov. 20. Brown Creeper: one Henderson Oct. 6; eight Henderson Oct. 7; one DeKalb Oct. 17; two Canton Nov. 18; numbers up? House Wren: last El Dorado Sept. 6. Winter Wren: one Morristown Oct. 12; one along Stony Creek near Henderson Oct. 14. Long-billed Marsh Wren: two at Perch River Oct. 12. **MOCKINGBIRD**: one Brownville Sept. 22 (W. Gordon); three near Perch River Sept. 30 (S. Brown). Brown Thrasher: one Pierrepont Nov. 23 (T. Crowell). Am. Robin: hundreds Stony Point in red cedars feeding on berries Nov. 2; five Pierrepont Nov. 29. Swainson's Thrush: one Dry Hill near Watertown

Sept. 13; two Robt. Moses Park Sept. 20. E. Bluebird: two Upper & Lower Lakes (no date) (*fide* K. Crowell), Sept. 27; eight Henderson Sept. 28; one Oct. 6 & 8 at Henderson. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: four Henderson Sept. 28; one Henderson Oct. 5 & 7. Water Pipit: four overhead Henderson Oct. 7; 30 Canton Oct. 19. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: one in flock of 50 Cedar Waxwings Nov. 6-16 (J. VanRiet); one Pierrepont Nov. 29 (K. Crowell). Cedar Waxwing: many flocks thru period—excellent wild-food crop. No. Shrike: one Massena area Nov. 16—only one reported for the period.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: one El Dorado Sept. 27. Black-and-white Warbler: one El Dorado Sept. 27. Tennessee: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Cape May: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Yellow-rumped: unprecedented numbers thru Henderson area first week in Oct.—150+ in one migratory stream Henderson Oct. 7—seen in 10 minutes; 60 Henderson Oct. 8; 20 Henderson Oct. 9; last one Henderson Nov. 15. Black-throated Green: one El Dorado Sept. 6; two El Dorado Sept. 27; three Henderson Sept. 28. Bay-breasted: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Blackpoll: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Wilson's: one male Dry Hill Sept. 13.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: four El Dorado Sept. 6. E. Meadowlark: 20 Canton Oct. 9; four Fowler Oct. 10; one Massena Town Beach Nov. 2. Red-winged Blackbird: 700 at roost Wiley Dondero Channel Nov. 1; three at Massena Feeder Nov. 30. No. Oriole: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Rusty Blackbird: one El Dorado Sept. 27. Com. Grackle: one Robt. Moses Park Nov. 29. Brown-headed Cowbird: one Pierrepont Nov. 28; one in Massena area Nov. 30; none in Henderson area—normally four to five around feeders in village. Scarlet Tanager: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Cardinal: five at feeder in Morristown Oct. 12; pair in Canton Nov. 1. Evening Grosbeak: in numbers in Henderson Oct. 29; arrival in Massena area Nov. 1—ten to 20 per day thereafter. Purple Finch: five Henderson Oct. 9; 10+ Stony Point Nov. 10; four at feeder Henderson Nov. 15; not a single bird in Massena area Oct.-Nov. House Finch: none reported. Pine Grosbeak: first on Oct. 12 Hannawa Falls (M. Crowell). three Pierrepont Oct. 13; six Nov. 8 Robt. Moses Park; two Stony Point Nov. 10; six Pierrepont Nov. 27; four Dry Hill Nov. 27. Com. Redpoll: arrival—nine Robt. Moses Park Nov. 12; eight Pierrepont Nov. 15; none in Jefferson Co. Pine Siskin: first in Henderson Oct. 7; 40 El Dorado Oct. 12; 260 in small flocks along SLR Morristown to Blind Bay. Am. Goldfinch: thru period in small flocks. Rufous-sided Towhee: four El Dorado Sept. 6. Vesper Sparrow: no reports. Dark-eyed Junco: ten Henderson Oct. 7; last date for Massena Nov. 2; one Henderson at feeder thru. Tree Sparrow: small wave in Massena area from Oct. 20 to Nov. 12; first in Henderson on Nov. 2 and increasing thru. Chipping Sparrow: last in Henderson five Oct. 14. Field Sparrow: two El Dorado Sept. 6. White-crowned Sparrow: first in Henderson ten Oct. 5; three to five a day at feeder Henderson until Oct. 19; last on Oct. 28. White-throated Sparrow: in numbers Henderson Sept. 28; 30 Henderson feeder Oct. 5-Oct. 15; last in Massena area Nov. 1; last in Henderson Nov. 6; birds at Henderson feeder were mostly tan striped polymorph. Song Sparrow: one Massena Nov. 4, the last date. Snow Bunting: first Colton Oct. 21; 50 Massena area Oct. 25; 50 Perch River Nov. 1; 16 Massena area Nov. 8.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

Now that the Olympics are over we have returned to a more normal and less tropical fall season with indications of a normal winter to come. Cold weather, with frozen water and snow settled in about mid-November. This means Lake