

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Red-headed Woodpeckers apparently did not winter at Scottsville. Several reports of Pileated Woodpecker about Mar. 1st. One Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on Mar. 2nd may have wintered (Davis). Several Brown-capped Chickadees in late Fall but none since. A group of Long-billed Marsh Wrens has been wintering at Buck Pond (Barry).

THRUSHES – WARBLERS:

One Catbird at Durand in late December (T. McNett). One Hermit Thrush same place Feb. 27 (Miller). Robins almost entirely absent in contrast to last winter. Only one report of Northern Shrike (Tanghe). A Nashville Warbler was seen at Buck Pond on Dec. 9 (Barry).

BLACKBIRDS – FINCHES:

Several Redwings, two Rusty Blackbirds and two Cowbirds known to have wintered. Pine Grosbeak present all winter in large numbers. At least two separate flocks, up to 60 birds in each. Evening Grosbeak also widespread until about Jan. 1 – rare since. Redpolls, Siskins and Goldfinches present but not common. Six White-winged Crossbills at Highland Park, Jan. 19 (Secker), only report. A Savannah Sparrow on the Christmas census, Dec. 30, was noteworthy (Dolan R.E.) A few Longspurs have been noted in large flocks of Snow Buntings and Horned Larks passing through in recent weeks.

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REGION 4 – ST. LAWRENCE

Winter began early, with snow and cold weather in November. December brought more snow and cold. January and February were less severe. January thaws reduced the snow cover and there were no heavy snowstorms during the latter part of winter.

LOONS – DUCKS:

An immature Bufflehead was seen on Nov. 30 in the Black River above Carthage, a late date for this species.

HAWKS – OWLS:

Rough-legged Hawk near Lowville Nov. 17 (Bowen).

Marsh Hawk near Dexter Nov. 29 (late).

Killdeer near Watertown Nov. 5 with ground snow covered (late).

Snowy Owl, only report, one seen near Edwards in November.

Glaucous Gull, immature, seen near Watertown Dec. 10.

Great Black-backed Gull, showed a marked increase as a wintering bird in the Watertown area.

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Prairie horned Lark on Nov. 5 with the ground snow covered. There were literally hundreds of this specie along the highway between Watertown and Philadelphia, N. Y., evidently migrating. Horned larks returned on Feb. 15 and have been seen regularly since.

Brown-capped Chickadee. One seen near Potsdam Feb. 24 (Mr. and Mrs. Allison).

BLACKBIRD — SPARROWS:

Cardinal reported from Pierrepont Manor Oct. 27 (Mrs. McConnell).

White-throated Sparrow. An individual of this species, evidently with a wing injury wintered at a feeding station near Potsdam (Miss Blake).

Pine Grosbeak reported from numerous localities — best winter flight in several years.

Evening Grosbeak was generally reported, arriving early and in large numbers, later diminishing.

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REGION 5 — ADIRONDACK

The winter season — the months of December, January, February and March — has been the fourth mild one in a row in the Adirondacks. After a colder than average November, December was almost the same as last year in average maximum and minimum; January was a few degrees colder than '50 or '51; February was a few degrees warmer than the previous two years, and March is going to prove considerably milder than the past two. The lowest temperature all winter has been -20° as compared with -34 and -33 in '50 and '51. Snowfall, on the other hand, has been more consistent and greater in total fall with fewer thaw-offs than in the past two years.

LOONS — SHRIKES:

American Merganser — Have not appeared in the Saranac River as usual in latter half of the winter period. Snowy Owl — One or two reports near Saranac Lake in late February. Long-eared Owl — A single bird near Lake Placid in early February, by Greenleaf Chase in Conservation Department pine planting. Uncommon bird in this region, I believe. Saw-whet Owl — Single bird found dead in Saranac Lake Village on day of Christmas Census, December 30th. An adequate explanation of why these birds are so often found dead in an emaciated condition in winter in the northeast would be welcome. Horned Lark — A single bird on December 30th at Saranac Lake was the Prairie. Migrants first appeared about February 25th in the central Adirondacks. Raven — A single bird seen by Greenleaf Chase at Sable Mountain near the Loon Lake fire tower in early April. Black-capped Chickadees — My impression is that this has been an "off" year for this species. Brown-capped Chickadee — There have been reports at three feeding stations in Saranac Lake of this species this winter. The first time this has happened in the five years I have been in Saranac Lake. This may tie in with reports of these birds elsewhere in more southern parts of New York this past winter. Gray Shrike — Only one bird reported this winter, December 30th, at Bloomingdale, Essex County.