

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.

John B. Belknap
92 Clinton St.
Gouverneur, N. Y.

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.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Meadowlark — A flock of 13 outside Saranac Lake first week of December when there was 3 to 4 inches of snow on the ground. Another bird reported well into winter at Tupper Lake. First spring bird at Saranac Lake on February 29th; it is just possible this may have been a wintering bird from the group seen in early December. Cowbird — Failed to winter at Saranac Lake for first time in four years. Evening Grosbeak — Came early this fall, built up good numbers but after November the number fell off markedly. A small number remained through the winter. Purple Finch — Absent this winter. Pine Grosbeak — Fair numbers all winter into March; first time in five years that they have been here in any numbers. Redpoll — Small flocks this winter. Goldfinch — None this winter. Crossbills — None this winter. Lapland Longspur — My first report of this bird from central Adirondacks on December 30th, near Saranac Lake.

This winter has been rather unnoteworthy ornithologically — there has been a dearth of finches except for Pine Grosbeaks which have been present in more than usual numbers.

Gordon M. Meade, M.D.
Trudeau, N. Y.

REGION 6 — MOHAWK VALLEY

Excessive precipitation continued through October, November, and December, making 1951 the wettest year in over 70 years. Temperature has ranged somewhat higher than usual (except November), and the winter remained generally open until the arrival of repeated snows in February.

LOONS — DUCKS:

Double-crested Cormorant at Saratoga Lake November 4 (Stone). Great blue Heron. January 27 at Clums Corners (Wiard). Latest local dates for American Bittern, October 31, and Least Bittern, October 12. Two records of Mute Swan, unusual in winter: December 2 at Saratoga Lake (Wiard), and January 11 in Schenectady (Van Vorst). There has been a striking decrease for the last few years in the numbers of the commoner wintering ducks (Black, American Golden-eye, American Merganser) reported along the upper Hudson in the annual late December Christmas Count. Three unusual records were obtained at Saratoga Lake on November 4: 50 Red-heads, 11 Canvasback and 10 Ruddy Ducks (Stone, McDonald). A Hooded Merganser on the Hudson December 22 was noteworthy.

HAWKS — OWLS:

Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed January 10 and 16 at Loudonville (French). Three reports of Cooper's Hawk in last week of December, and one February 28 (Yunick). A flock of 8 Red-shouldered Hawks was seen at Indian Ladder February 3 (Wiard), and a rare adult Bald Eagle at Tomhannock reservoir December 22. Several Mourning Doves seen at various