

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.

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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

locations during December; 16 birds wintered at Delmar Game Farm (Fordham).

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Five late Chimney Swifts, Loudonville October 6 (French). An adult Red-headed Woodpecker was seen in Schenectady November 7. Six very late Eastern Kingbirds seen October 14 between Rennsalaer and Stockport (Fordham). Few Winter Wrens wintered. Gray-cheeked Thrush October 1 at Schenectady and October 5 at Loudonville. A Gray Shrike was reported on Christmas Count at Scotia December 30.

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

Five Cowbirds on January 5 and a Purple Grackle seen on January 6. A female Cardinal was reported at Schenectady December 2 and at Loudonville January 1 through 10.

Evening Grosbeak – Large flocks ranging from 100 to 150 have visited the feeding stations in Amsterdam since the middle of January, males predominating. At "Bird Haven," Amsterdam, from March 5 to 6 the flocks numbered between 200 and 300 daily, 100 Grosbeaks being banded in four days. Mrs. Fitzgerald's banding record as of March 12 was 910 Grosbeaks. The earliest local record of Pine Grosbeaks, 3 at Delmar October 31, many scattered subsequent reports through February 24. A few flocks of 50 to 125 Redpolls were observed during February, and 11 Pine Siskins in a flock Feb. 23. A Vesper Sparrow was seen near Voorheesville Feb. 24. Ten White-Crowned Sparrows were banded at Delmar October 12 to 14 (Fordham). There were four December reports of White-throated Sparrow, and two December reports of Swamp Sparrow.

Lapland Longspur – Six November 6 with Horned Larks and Snow Buntings. A flock of 40 to 50 Snow Buntings were reported near Saratoga Lake on February 24.

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REGION 7 – NEW YORK – (PART 1 – ROCKLAND COUNTY)

It was a weird winter in the lower Hudson Valley. November and early December were ominously cold and snowy; Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine and Evening Grosbeaks moved in from the north in numbers unmatched in the past 25 years during November. Then the winter suddenly turned soft; Grosbeaks tended to thin out even before Christmas. Birding in January and February was notably poor.