

Pintails returned about the first of March and Mallards were seen on the 12th. 200 Pintails were at Perch River Flats on March 19. On March 8 Buffleheads and Horned Grebes were on Lake Ontario. Other dates are: Wood Duck, March 15, Hooded Merganser, March 18, and Pied-billed Grebe and Green-winged Teal on March 26. Canada Geese returned late in March (about the 26th).

HAWKS — OWLS: In December the Hawks seemed more numerous than usual both in the number of individuals and the species seen. The Red-shouldered, Marsh, Sharp-shinned, Rough-legged and Sparrow Hawks were seen at the time of the Christmas Bird Count in Watertown on December 26. Sparrow Hawks wintered here and in greater numbers than usual. A Broad-winged Hawk was seen March first and the Marsh and Red-tailed Hawks on the sixth.

John Belknap has the records of twenty Snowy Owls seen in Jefferson County mostly in Jan. and Feb. One was seen near Watertown early in Jan. and remained near one place for six weeks. One observer has seen four Snowy Owls. One was seen in Lowville.

About a dozen Mourning Doves passed the winter at Perch River Game Management Area where they ate the buckwheat and other things planted there for waterfowl. One was found dead. First Killdeer appeared on March first, two or three weeks early.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Few Evening Grosbeaks were reported. About thirty have been in Lowville since early Feb. They appeared in Gouverneur about the first of March and remained at least to the end of the month. I understand that they were in Potsdam during the early winter, but very few were in Watertown. Red-winged Blackbirds appeared in numbers on March first. Grackles came March 18 and many in the next week. Several reports of Juncos (March 28-30). Some Pine Siskins were seen near Lowville.

Several inches of snow covered the ground for a week beginning March 30 and few birds migrated in that time. Where people cleared away the snow and scattered seeds on the bare ground many Song Sparrows were found feeding.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK

Region Seven consists of the counties of Franklin, Clinton, Essex and Hamilton. It is one of the wildest and least inhabited regions of New York state except around its periphery. It is an area of mountains, lakes, streams, and extensive forest with scattered settlements and cultivated regions, particularly to the east along the Lake Champlain valley and in the north along the St. Lawrence River plain.

The most prominent feature is the central Adirondack mountains which reach a peak in Mt. Marcy at 5,344 feet. Numerous peaks surpass 4,000 feet. But these are not rugged mountains; they are worn and relatively gentle in the way they reach their apices. Here, south of Marcy, is the origin of the Hudson River. To the east, the mountains came close to Lake Champlain, leaving a rather narrow lake valley until farther north beyond Plattsburgh where the valley widens and meets the St. Lawrence River plain which forms the northern third of this region. There are a myriad of lakes, ponds and streams. Elevation varies from 100 feet in Plattsburgh to 5,344 feet on Mt. Marcy. The valley floors in the central portion around Saranac Lake and Lake Placid are at a general level of 1500-1600 feet.

Most of the region is forested except for the Champlain valley and St. Lawrence plain which are farmland. The woodland now is almost entirely second growth. In the lower levels there are oak-hickory forest associations, but most of the region is beech, birch, hemlock, maple. In the higher levels spruce and balsam appear. Thus the bird life shows Alleghenian species penetrating into all portions of the region. In the central portion they overlap at times with Canadian Zone species which are prominent features of the fauna at higher levels. The tree line is passed on some of the highest

peaks. Above 3,000 feet the Bicknell's Thrush may be found on peaks such as Whiteface. In the central mountains may be found breeding such species as Loon, American Merganser, Spruce Grouse, Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Canada Jay, Rusty Blackbird, both Crossbills, White-throated Sparrow, Junco, Lincoln Sparrow, Blue-headed Vireo, Black-poll Warbler and Winter Wren.

There is no organized bird club in Region Seven and only scattered regular observers. They are located at Saranac Lake (G. M. Meade and Greenleaf Chase), Tupper Lake (Agnes Amstutz and Marguerite Kingsbury), Essex (Mrs. R. E. Mason), Keeseville (Thomas Lesperance), and Plattsburgh (Leo Provost), and Crown Point (William Young). The country is too sparsely settled to make an active club very feasible. More observers are needed in all parts, however, particularly around Malone, Ticonderoga, Schroon Lake, Cranberry Lake, Massena, etc. Most of this vast region remains to be studied even superficially. Bird observers who enter the region on vacation or birding trips will do a great service by sending copies of their notes to the regional editor.

I would welcome visits from any of you when you are in this area.

December temperatures were about the average of the past few years. Snowfall was below normal. The central Adirondacks had a "green" Christmas. January was considerably colder than average. At Saranac Lake the daily average maximum was 11.4 degrees, and the daily average minimum -11 degrees! The same was true along Lake Champlain. There were several heavy snowfalls. In early February a thaw took off a good share of the heavy snow cover but by the 6th below zero readings had returned. The low of the season was -39 degrees at Saranac Lake on February 13th. This was followed a week later by a high of 44 degrees and a heavy thaw. March was 5 to 7 degrees below average as to temperature with fairly steady snowfall and cover. A particularly heavy fall for the date occurred on March 29th-30th. This was hard on many of the earlier migrants.

Lake Champlain has been frozen over from both ends leaving only about 3 square miles of open water on the Port Kent - Burlington region. The cone crops of spruce, white cedar, hemlock and tamarack were good this year. Those of balsam and white and red pine were poor. There were very few beech nuts but acorns were plentiful, especially white oak.

This was on unusually good year for winter finches except for redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks which remained unreported.

LOON — DUCKS: In those areas of Lake Champlain which remained open, Black Duck, Greater Scaup and Golden-eyes were present all through the winter season. At Port Henry some 500 to 700 Black Ducks had to be fed because of freeze-over of feeding areas (Thomas Lesperance).

HAWKS — OWLS: Greenleaf Chase reports occasional forays at his feeder at Saranac Lake through the winter by Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. The arrival dates of the Killdeer serve to illustrate what is true for many species: arrival dates in March are 2 to 4 weeks earlier along the Champlain Valley than in the interior mountains. The Killdeer reached Essex on March 9th (Mrs. R. E. Mason) and Saranac Lake on April 3rd (these birds were feeding in center of a heavily traveled highway as the entire country-side had a recent 1 foot snow cover (G. M. Meade). Herring Gulls disappear from Saranac Lakes usually in early November but this year one bird was still present on December 23rd. Returning birds were moving up the Saranac River to Saranac Lake, from Lake Champlain, by March 23rd (G. M. Meade). Several Mourning Doves at Clintonville (T. Lesperance) on January 14th would seem to be wintering birds. Probable spring migrants of this species appeared at Essex (R. E. Mason) on March 11th.

No Snowy Owls were reported in central Adirondacks or along west shore of Lake Champlain this winter. The migration apparently came down to the west of this region of the state.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Reports of Pileated Woodpeckers in central mountains were consistent through the entire winter. No reports of 3-toed Woodpeckers since

the fall season ended. Both Northern and Prairie Horned Larks were present in Saranac Lake area through the winter. There seems to have been a very definite movement into the northern part of the state on February 22nd as this is given as the first appearance date for Horned Larks at Essex (R. M.), Keeseville (T. L.), and Tupper Lake (A. Amstutz); it was difficult to discern a return movement increase at Saranac Lake. While a few Crows are resident in the Adirondack-Champlain region all winter, there is a definite influx beginning in mid to late February. Migrating flocks were seen at Plattsburgh, February 18th (Leo Provost) and at Westport on February 25th. The Champlain Valley is a spring as well as fall flyway for this species. Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches present in good numbers through the winter. Red-breasted Nuthatch common through December in Saranac Lake region; none since then. The Robin also illustrates the difference in arrival dates for the lake valley and the interior mountains (the east to west separation is only 40 miles, none north to south; elevation difference is about 1500 feet). Keeseville, Feb. 2nd (T. L., he does not think this was a wintering bird); Essex, March 2nd (R. M.); Tupper Lake, March 27th; Saranac Lake, March 27th. The same with the Blue Bird which first appeared at Essex March 3rd, and at Saranac Lake on March 27th. This has been a Gray Shrike year. Chase reports them common in the Moira section to the north of the mountains through the winter. They were not reported at Keeseville until March 19th, or Tupper Lake until March 23rd. One female was at Trudeau on March 18th. These reports suggest the possibility of a retreating movement at that period.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: At Saranac Lake (G. M. M.) an extraordinary record was a flock of Meadowlarks on January 8th with a foot of snow and a temperature of 22 below zero the preceding night. Eight birds still present on January 10th. No further report until March 12th when returning migrants probably were seen. This species appeared at Plattsburgh (L. P.) on March 7th. Redwings sent in advance scouts to Keeseville, March 1st; Essex, March 2nd; Tupper Lake, March 7th. The main first flights came at Saranac Lake, Plattsburgh and Tupper Lake between March 14th and 21st. Rusty Blackbirds at Essex March 6th, Plattsburgh, March 25th. Bronzed Grackles arrived variously between March 21st and 28th. Some Cowbirds wintered at Peru, January 26th (T. L.), spring arrivals at Trudeau, March 20th. Evening Grosbeaks did not arrive in most areas in any numbers until late December. From then on there were numerous flocks in Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake; still present at end of March. No banded or marked birds reported. Along Lake Champlain they were absent or very few all winter; none at Keeseville or Plattsburgh; small numbers at Essex. At the latter two places, however, large flocks appeared immediately following a heavy snowstorm on March 29th-30th. This was a winter when Purple Finches remained all winter in unprecedented numbers in both the interior mountains and along the Champlain Valley. No Pine Grosbeaks or Redpolls reported from any point all winter. Pine Siskins abundant at Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake all winter. Numerous Goldfinches in mountains till mid-January when they became much less common. Both Crossbills numerous in mountains all winter. Have been coming to feeders. A few Juncos wintered as usual but the numbers are always small. White-throated Sparrows through winter to early March at Chase's feeder, Saranac Lake. Song Sparrows arrived March 27th to April 1st. Lapland Longspurs, 1 on January 10th with Meadowlarks at Saranac Lake, several more on January 12th to 14th (A. Gurley). Flock of 15 in mid-January at Keeseville (T. L.).

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

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

Region Eight consists of the eleven counties of Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady, Schoharie, Greene, Albany, Columbia, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Warren and Washington. It is an area of lakes, rivers, and mountains, cultivated in the valleys and completely wild in many parts.

The most prominent streams are the Hudson River, which traverses the entire area from north to south, and the Mohawk River, which crosses most of the area in a general west to east direction. Hundreds of lakes dot the landscape, of which the largest are Lake George, Sacandaga Reservoir, Saratoga Lake and Round Lake.