

Pine Grosbeaks were seen the first part of the winter. A White-throated Sparrow was found near Watertown on December 12. Redpolls were numerous and some very large flocks of Snow Buntings were seen.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

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The weather pattern in the Adirondacks during the winter season paralleled the summer season of 1954 in that while the more southern parts of the State had little snow, the Adirondacks had the heaviest snowfall in many years — 168 inches at Saranac Lake between November 17th and March 31st. Furthermore there was a lack of thawing periods of any duration such as have occurred in recent years, so that snow lay deep and constantly all through the winter. It will be recalled that during the summer of 1954 the Adirondack region suffered unusually heavy and constant rainfall while more southern parts of the State were below normal in rainfall. The heaviest snowfall of the winter came on March 25th-27th.

During December the average daily maximum (25 degrees) at Saranac Lake was about usual, as was the average daily minimum (10 degrees). Maximum reading for the month was 42 degrees, minimum reading was -4 degrees (usually this is around -20 degrees). January's average daily maximum (18 degrees) was somewhat lower than usual, as was the average daily minimum, (8 degrees). Maximum reading for the month was the lowest in 5 years, 35 degrees, the minimum of -21 degrees was about usual. The February average daily maximum (27 degrees) and the minimum (8 degrees) were about usual. However, the month's maximum was higher than any of the past six years at 47 degrees, while the minimum was the lowest in 6 years at -38 degrees. For March the average daily maximum was about usual at 31.5 degrees, while the average daily minimum was the highest in 6 years at 18 degrees. The month's maximum and minimum were about usual at 53 degrees and -3 degrees.

Noteworthy for the period was the dearth of Evening Grosbeaks, Siskins, Purple Finches, White-winged Crossbills, Goldfinches, Tree Sparrows, Gray Shrikes, Snowy Owls and Black-capped Chickadees. The heavy influx of Pine Grosbeaks apparently moved out by mid-February. Noteworthy is a report of the Great Gray Owl near Tupper Lake and two reports of Snow Geese in central mountains — at Saranac Lake, December 26th - January 11th and at Tupper Lake on April 3rd.

LOONS — DUCKS — SNOW GOOSE: A single bird was found in the Saranac River at Saranac Lake on December 26th. This bird remained around the Village until at least January 11th and probably later. The river through the Village remained open all this period. One early morning he was seen on the front lawn of the public library but flew off as people came on the streets. Six birds were seen in a field at Tupper Lake on April 3rd. These birds may have been stragglers from the flocks which seem to regularly use the Lake Champlain valley as a flyway.

HAWKS — OWLS: Bald Eagle, January 19th, March 13th, March 8th. It is hard to tell whether the bird at Keeseville (Tom Lesperance) on January 19th was a wintering bird or an early return. What appear to be definite spring arrivals were at Saranac Lake March 8th (G. M. M.) and Tupper Lake, March 13th (M. K.). Ruffed Grouse: Came through the heavy winter in Adirondacks better than expected according to District Game Manager (G. T. Chase). Killdeer: March 12th and 27th, A. Amstutz and March 31, T. L. An early arrival noted at Tupper Lake on March 12th. More generalized influx March 27-31. Mourning Dove — Only report to

end of period was March 11th at Essex (M. C. Mason). Snowy Owls — None reported anywhere in the Adirondack area. One of our correspondents (T. L. of Keeseville) is a taxidermist and would certainly have learned of birds if present in the area. Great Gray Owl — A most interesting and exceedingly rare report comes from A. Amstutz of a bird of this species seen March 5th near Tupper Lake, deep in a wooded swamp.

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES — HORNED LARKS: March 13th M. K., March 1 G. M. M., March 12 A. A. First reported February 22nd at Essex (M. C. M.), then on March 1st at Saranac Lake (G. M. M.), generally present by March 12th (M. K. and A. A.). Canada Jay — Several near Tupper Lake on December 3rd (A. A.). Chickadee — There have been numerous reports from Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake area of the scarcity of this species this winter. This may be correlated with the unprecedented southward flights reported in the fall in western New York. Red-breasted Nuthatch — None at Tupper Lake feeder when usually common. Scarce at Saranac Lake. Carolina Wren — Reported several times in the past few years from Essex on Lake Champlain, this bird reached the central mountains at Saranac Lake this winter. A single bird visited feeder of G. M. Meade, December 1st to 18th. Robin — Scattered reports between March 3rd and 12th, then no reports until end of March when there was a heavy flight following the great snowfall of March 25th to 27th. Bluebird — Apparently late in arriving. No reports up to end of March. Pipits — Several small flocks in backyards of Tupper Lake on March 26th. They seemed exhausted and starved. This was in the midst of the heaviest snowfall of the winter. Shrike — No reports which can be definitely ascribed to Gray Shrike. Single birds reported March 12th at Saranac Lake, last week of March at Duane and Moira, and April 2nd at Keeseville. Only the Saranac Lake bird identified as to species (Migrant), the others may well have been returning birds of this species.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS — MEADOWLARK: A single bird remained at Saranac Lake until at least December 26th. Spring migrants appeared March 12th at Tupper Lake, March 23rd at Essex and March 23rd at Saranac Lake. Red-winged Blackbird — One to four birds remained at Saranac Lake until at least December 26th. The first flocks of spring migrants appeared generally between March 11th and 17th (Keeseville, March 11th; Saranac Lake, March 12th; Essex, March 13th and Plattsburgh, March 17th). Bronzed Grackle — First migrants at Plattsburgh on March 14th. Cowbird — Two birds remained in Saranac Lake area until at least December 26th. General spring influx March 12th to 28th. Evening Grosbeak — Marked reduction in numbers as compared to recent years reported throughout Adirondack region by all observers. A migratory movement through the area from mid-October to mid-November but only small numbers remained through the winter. There seemed to be somewhat larger numbers during the winter along Champlain Valley than in central mountains. In late March and early April birds definitely increased in numbers. Purple Finches — No reports at all except from Keeseville (T. L.) where there were small to large flocks after December. Pine Grosbeak — One of the most marked incursions in several years began in the first half of November. Between late January and mid-February the birds moved out and none have been seen anywhere since February 16th. This seems to correlate with reports from the Buffalo area where no birds were reported in February after a heavy inflow earlier. Redpolls — Small to large flocks since early January. Uncommon in central Adirondacks, fairly common along Lake Champlain, especially since early January. Siskins — No reports anywhere. Goldfinch — None reported except a few flocks around Keeseville and returning birds at Tupper Lake on March 13th. Crossbills — No reports this winter of White-winged Crossbills. Scattered reports of flocks of Red Crossbills at Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake and Duane between mid-February and March 30th. Tree Sparrows — Very scarce throughout. Song Sparrows — Appeared generally throughout the region March 12th-13th. Snow Bunting — Abundant in most areas throughout the winter up to mid-March.

The scarcity of Chickadees and Evening Grosbeaks has led to a general complaint of the "scarcity of birds" this winter in the central Adirondacks area by feeding station operators and observers. The lack of some of the winter finches such as Siskins, Purple Finches, Red Crossbills and Tree Sparrows may also have contributed to this impression.

Trudeau, N. Y.