

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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This winter was cold without warm weather to produce the usual thaws. As a result the ground was covered with snow from December to the first week in April. In Watertown the total snowfall for the four months was only 76 inches, because there were many storms that left less snow near Watertown than in many other places. However there can be no doubt that the total snow in many parts of this region was much greater. There was much cold weather before the January Waterfowl Census.

The latter part of March was more like winter than the first half. Few of the usual spring birds appeared at this time. At Potsdam there were no Bluebirds or Meadowlarks, only Redwings. At Watertown most of the usual birds were seen, but in small numbers only.

LOONS — DUCKS: Both Horned and Pied-billed Grebes were on the St. Lawrence River near Waddington until Dec. 1. A few Horned Grebes remained in Lake Ontario where they were last seen near Stony Point Jan. 22. Both Grebes were found at the time of the Waterfowl Census. Buffleheads and Old Squaws stayed in the lake all winter. Canvasbacks wintered in the St. Lawrence near Cape Vincent. A Hooded Merganser was seen on Jan. 2 near Waddington on the St. Lawrence River by Rev. Edward Nichols. Ten Canada Geese were seen March 12 (J. Belknap) but most of them came early in April.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Glaucous Gull was seen near Waddington Jan. 14 (EN). He also saw ten Great Black-backed Gulls the same day. A Gull which probably was an Ivory Gull was reported by Marie Elitharp Jan. 15 near Stony Point. J. Blake saw an Iceland Gull. Gulls were scarce after the middle of December. A Barred Owl was caught in a trap at Brownville in December, and one was seen near Antwerp Feb. 1. Snowy Owls were noted between Dec. 19 and March 12. Several were seen in Jan. and Feb. (JB). Short-eared Owls were present near Philadelphia late in Feb. (JB). Mourning Doves were on the Christmas Bird Count at Watertown for the first time (Common and Wilson). Three were probably being fed by a farmer and several were feeding on unharvested buckwheat. They have been reported in December in the southern part of Jefferson county where they could get corn. Belknap saw Mourning Doves the latter part of March and he feels that they were not held back by the wintry weather.

SHRIKES — SPARROWS: Shrikes seemed to be numerous. A Rusty Blackbird came to the feeder of E. Nichols at Madrid on March 20, and returned several times during the next week. This was one early arrival in spite of frigid weather and 18 inches of snow over everything. One was reported earlier in the southern part of Jefferson County. A Grackle was seen at Norfolk, one at Massena Jan. 14 and one in Watertown March 14. Eight immature Red-winged Blackbirds were seen near Alexandria Bay Feb. 5 (M.E.). Others were seen in Jefferson County early in March. Some Meadowlarks arrived long before the winter weather departed. There were many reports of Evening Grosbeaks during the entire period. They came to at least six feeders in Watertown, and more were fed in the Southern part of Jefferson county. At Potsdam a huge flock, said to number easily three or four hundred, has been feeding at the Dr. Hart home. One hundred pounds of sunflower seeds only last about ten days. In some places the Evening Grosbeaks are quite tame (L. Blake). Redpolls were frequently seen, and a few stayed after the first of April. A flock of 14 White-winged Crossbills were seen near Gouverneur Jan. 17 (JB).

Correction to the last Regional Report (1955 Kingbird V (4):109): only one Northern Phalarope was seen, the one seen by Charles Mason off Grenadier Island on June 23. The second was an incorrect report of the same bird.

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