

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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December through March brought little snow but intense cold prevailed. Twenty-eight days through January and into February had an average temperature of -2° . The minimum was -32° and the maximum daily temperature seldom above 22° even on bright days. Early March saw a thaw followed immediately by persistent snows. Total accumulation for March alone in the Keeseville area was 51 inches with much more on the higher elevations. On March 28th spring arrived in style with rivers and streams going out in a rush and doing great damage. The 28th also brought the first spring migrants. Twenty-three species were recorded on the Keeseville Christmas Census (Lesperance) on a poor day.

LOONS — DUCKS: Loons, Grebes, Black Duck, American Goldeneye, Old Squaw, Bufflehead and White-winged Scoter stayed until Champlain froze over in mid-winter. Snow Geese returned on March 26th, Helms reporting flocks of 75-100 over Essex and Willsboro.

HAWKS — OWLS: Bald Eagle seen at Westport and again at Au Sable Pt. Jan. 20 and 23. First migrant hawks seen throughout the area on about the same dates which tends to show a general infiltration. Red-tail and Duck Hawk at Saranac (Mar. 29, Chase), Broad-wing, Red-tail, Sharp-shinned, Duck and Red-shouldered at Keeseville Mar. 29. A Goshawk was seen from early January until the first week in March near Augur Pond. Sparrow Hawks remained as isolated individuals all winter. Killdeer was reported from Saranac April 5 (Chase) and at Keeseville April 11. Mourning Doves at Peru March 22 (Gibbs) and at Keeseville March 10.

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES: Prairie Horned Lark at Pt. Au Roche March 13 (Gibbs), 20 in one flock. First Robin at Pt. Au Roche March 13 (Gibbs) some three weeks later than usual. Migrant and Northern Shrikes were seen first in early March, increasing in numbers in the Keeseville area to date, and now are very common.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: A flock of Cowbirds wintered about Keeseville feeding along the highways. There were some 30 birds which seemed not to mind the cold at all. Purple Grackle was at Pt. Au Roche March 13 (Gibbs). A March 13 Meadowlark (Gibbs) might have wintered. Red-wings were not reported in March. Goldfinches fed in very large flocks along Route 9 as soon as snow plows cleared the roads. Both these and Purple Finches were about all winter, the latter seen only occasionally. All areas reported large flocks of Redpolls, the maximum at Saranac March 7 to 9 (Chase), but still plentiful at Pt. Au Roche, Chazy, Plattsburg and Peru at the end of the period (Gibbs). There were also large flocks in the fields in Keeseville. Evening Grosbeaks wintered in the entire reporting area, reports coming from Saranac (Chase), Essex (Mason), Ellenburg Depot (McGregor), Sunmount (Amstutz, Kingsbury) and Plattsburg (Gibbs). Only three Pine Grosbeaks were seen this winter, three individuals at widely scattered places.

Tree Sparrows were very common all winter. No migrant sparrows were reported until April. Snow Buntings were common just north of Keeseville in open country, but observations made by Gibbs indicate that they were down in numbers in his area.

I should like to welcome Bob and Sally Gibbs of Plattsburg as correspondents. Bob is an associate professor of biology at Plattsburg State Teachers' College.

Keeseville, New York