

of records from feeders and garbage dumps with the cold spell of Jan — this was especially marked in grackles and cowbirds — and, with the exception of meadowlarks and a few cowbirds, no wintering records in Feb. Baltimore Oriole — an individual with partial adult male plumage seen Dec 16 to 29 at the E. Bush's feeder, Syracuse (fide Burtt). Arrival dates for the Icterids are: Meadowlark — Feb. 26; Red-wing — Feb 24; Rusty Blackbird — Mar 6; Grackle — Mar 3; Cowbird — Mar 3; most of the Icterids arrived a week later at Rome (Mrs. Aspinwall) and Westernville (Mrs. May).

Winter finches were practically non-existent — three reports of Evening Grosbeaks, the highest, a flock of 7, early Feb, Rome (Mrs. Aspinwall); a flock of 20 Pine Siskins, early Dec, Fayetteville, is the only record of this species; there are NO observations of the other winter finches. Purple Finch — a flight, mostly immature males, began about Mar 14 and has continued until the end of the period; only winter reports are Feb observations at Westernville (Mrs. May). Both Junco and Tree Sparrow were especially common thru Dec and Jan (up to 34 and 300/day, respectively) but frankly scarce throughout Feb. Oregon Junco — an adult male and an immature bird were seen Jan 2-24, at the Edward's feeder at Cazenovia.

Winter records of semi-hardy sparrows were frequent: Field Sparrow — five reports with the last, one, Jan 6, Westernville; White-throated Sparrow — three reported from feeders; White-crowned Sparrow — an adult, Dec 18, at a feeder near Manlius (Mrs. Maxwell); Fox Sparrow — one, Jan 2-15, north of Rome (Miss Smith); Song Sparrow — many reported, especially from the small gullies and swamps south of Syracuse and Baldwinsville. Snow Bunting — very scarce all winter; the sum of Jan and Feb reports consists of two small flocks (10, 25) and no large migrant flocks were reported in Mar; last noted is one, Mar 31, near Texas.

151 Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

In Watertown 77 inches of snow fell from November to the end of winter. This was about the same as a year ago, but 39 inches below the average. In January the snow amounted to 28 inches, and there was little snow the rest of the winter. The average temperature was about normal with much of the cold concentrated in January which was 8.9°F below average. It was zero or below on 15 days in January with the lowest -32°F on January 15.

One gets the general impression of a scarcity of winter birds. Few persons saw any Evening Grosbeaks, Redpolls or Snowy Owls. However, a few birds appeared at unexpected times and places. Both the Christmas Count and the Winter Waterfowl Count yielded numbers below normal. In both cases the weather was poor.

Mild weather starting about March 12 brought the usual early migrants, Killdeers, Robins, Meadowlarks, Grackles and Bluebirds. By March 15 and 16 these birds were seen in large numbers for the time of the year.

Loons — Ducks: Horned Grebes were first seen Mar 30. Rev. de Vries of Massena reported seeing Canada Geese on Feb 3, an early date. Canada Geese and Pintails were numerous on Perch River Flats after Mar. 15 (Belknap). A pair of Gadwalls was observed by J. Blake on Mar 24 and he saw Blacks, Mallards, Pintails and Green-winged Teal the same day. Both Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal were near Dexter Mar 30 (Gordon). Blue-winged Teal were first seen Mar 28 (Belknap). Baldpates were at Perch Lake Mar 16, and a pair of Hooded Mergansers were found that day (Gordon). Canvasbacks were seen on the St. Lawrence River from Jan 18 to Mar 1 with a peak of more than 1000 on Feb 8 (Nichols).

Hawks — Owls: A Glaucous Gull was reported by Nichols on Feb 15, the first

on his records for that month in St. Lawrence County. A few Great Black-backed Gulls were noted from time to time during the winter. Herring Gulls were recorded every month in St. Lawrence County and this is the first winter they have stayed there (Nichols). John Belknap, who is collecting data on Snowy Owls, says they were the scarcest in four years, and very few persons saw any. However, Wilson thinks that three individual birds may have been sighted in Jefferson County this winter.

Swifts — Sparrows: An Arctic Woodpecker (*P. arcticus*) was seen near Gouverneur by Belknap from Dec 1 to Jan 22, and there were two on Dec 29. A few Crows wintered in St. Lawrence County. This is unusual and perhaps the first record. Brown Creepers were found near Madrid Jan 30 and Mar 6 (Nichols), and a Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen on the latter date. A Mockingbird (see 1956, Kingbird 6(4):132) appeared daily at a feeder near Morristown on the St. Lawrence River from Nov 25 to Jan 30, but no trace of the bird could be found after that date. It was last seen on a mild day and it is interesting to note that it stayed at Morristown during the most severe part of the winter (L. Blake, Belknap). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet (accompanying Golden-crowns) was noted near Madrid Jan 1. Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen the same day near Carthage. Dr. Brown saw a Cowbird at Edwards, St. Lawrence County Feb 27 and one appeared at Madrid Mar 18. A Junco came to a feeder in Watertown early in January and another was found in the woods at Madrid Feb 19. There were very few Evening Grosbeaks. One was reported near Watertown late in December and a pair there late in March. In St. Lawrence County there were only a few small scattered flocks. It seems certain that the number of Evening Grosbeaks in this region this past winter was less than one per cent of what we had a year ago. The Redpolls were also missed this winter. None were reported in St. Lawrence County and there was only a single observation of them in Jefferson County. There were no Pine Grosbeaks. Three or four persons saw Song Sparrows in different places about the first of January.

173 Haley St., Watertown

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Thomas A. Lesperance

Probably the most conspicuous feature of the past few months was the absence of species rather than the appearance of casual or even common birds. There was apparently no correlation between the scarcity of birds and either weather or food. There was less than normal snow accumulation throughout the region; in fact precipitation of all kinds was far below normal. One severe cold wave of six days duration, during which the temperature went to -47°F, did not seem to inconvenience the few species here at the time. Rivers, streams, ponds and lakes are at present far below normal run-off levels for this time of year. All indications point to an abnormally dry summer which could make a record in itself if no rare species appear incidental to the conditions.

Loons — Ducks: An early break-up of ice on the Champlain allowed waterfowl to come north much earlier and in greater numbers than last year during this period. Large rafts of Blacks, 200-300 birds, were seen off the mouth of the Ausable River. American Golden-eyes mixed with Greater Scaup in numerous groups of 50 to 150 off Ausable Point, first appearing in good numbers in early February. Blacks, Golden-eyes, Hooded and American Mergansers with a few Ring-necked Ducks appeared at the inland ponds after Mar 20 (Kingsbury). A few Snow Geese stayed over for observation by interested birders at Moody Bridge marshes in the Tupper-Saranac area Mar 27 (Kingsbury). This reporter has only one Canada Goose record, a flock of about 20 reported passing over Keeseville on Mar 31.

Hawks — Owls: Kingsbury found a Duck Hawk at Keene Valley. There is an eyrie in the Cascade Lake region that I am trying to locate. Also since Mar