

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.

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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

15 near Keeseville: Red-tail, Red-shoulder, Broad-wing, Goshawk, Sparrow Hawk and Osprey. Amstutz reports a Pigeon Hawk Mar 17 at Sunmount. No eagles reported this year as yet. Spruce Grouse were at the Whitney Estate near Tupper Lake Mar 16 (Amstutz). Although there was no mention of Ruffed Grouse from the western areas, near here they have wintered in very good numbers. Killdeer: Sunmount Mar 28 (Kingsbury), Tupper Lake Mar 31 (Amstutz).

Shrikes — Sparrows: Winter residents, Junco, Canada Jay, Red and White breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Goldfinches, Chickadees, Pine Siskins, Tree Sparrows and Snow Buntings, reported in from few to fair numbers in this region. Shrikes were common only near Keeseville. Migrants: Robin, Mar 13 at Sunmount, Feb 27 at Tupper, Mar 13 at Keeseville; Bluebird, Mar 17 Tupper, Apr 2 Keeseville; Golden-crowned Kinglets, Tupper Mar 31; Phoebe, Apr 10 Keeseville; Red-wing, Mar 15; Cowbird, Mar 15, Grackle Mar 10; Song Sparrow, Tupper Mar 16, Keeseville Mar 29. Only one report of Evening Grosbeaks: at Perron's feeder in Tupper Lake. There were 15 in the first flock which has since built up to 50 or 60.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Lesperance is planning to return to school for some time and will be unable to do much field investigation himself, in particular during the next few months. It seems appropriate at this time then to ask again for cooperation from others who spend time in the Adirondack-Champlain region this summer. Please send your records to Mr. Lesperance in Keeseville so that he can continue to give adequate coverage especially during this period.)

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

The winter months in the Mohawk-Hudson area were generally mild and dry. At Schenectady precipitation was well below normal during each of the four months. January temperatures were a bit below average, but December, February, and March were considerably warmer than might be expected.

These weather conditions possibly accounted for the lack of any northern finch flight. Such species as Siskins, Crossbills, and Pine Grosbeaks were completely unrecorded, and there were only scattered reports of the other finches. Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes, however, seemed more common than usual. Several Goshawks were observed and there was one report of the Snowy Owl.

Other records of interest include an American Bittern, a Barrow's Goldeneye, an Iceland Gull, an Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, a Pine Warbler, and the Oregon Junco.

The Schenectady Christmas Count, taken on December 22, revealed 42 species, and the December 29 Troy Count total was 29 species.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons were present in small numbers locally until mid-December. A Red-throated Loon, the first reported locally since 1951, was seen at Saratoga Lake on Dec 8 (M. Foote, E. Hallenbeck). Also observed there on that date was a Red-necked Grebe. The Pied-billed Grebe was recorded for the first time on both the Schenectady and Troy Christmas counts (SBC). A Great Blue Heron was present at Collins Lake, Scotia, throughout most of the winter; on December 23 an American Bittern, quite a surprise in winter, was seen there (R. Stone, R. Yunnick). In spite of the relatively warm weather, the March waterfowl migration was not overly good. Canada Geese in particular were poorly represented. For the second winter in a row a male Barrow's Goldeneye appeared on the Hudson a few miles above Albany. The bird was seen on several occasions between Jan 13 and