

Hawks — Owls: An adult male Goshawk was seen near Theresa Jan 31. There were several observations of Cooper's Hawks near Watertown in late Dec and early Jan. Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks remained in the region all winter. A Bobwhite was found dead in the southern part of this region in the middle of the winter. It is likely that this bird had escaped and died of starvation. Two Virginia Rails remained at Beaver Meadows near Watertown until Dec 20. There were few reports of owls. Snowy Owls were scarce and Belknap had only about six reports. A Hawk Owl was seen by several persons from Dec 11 to Jan 1. The first time I saw it it seemed unafraid and we were able to approach close enough to observe the bird well for several minutes. Allen reports a Barred Owl Mar 29 and a Short-eared Owl Mar 22. In late Mar a Long-eared Owl was shot near Watertown.

Woodpeckers — Sparrows: Belknap reports a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker near Gouverneur Dec 27. He also says that Blue Jays were numerous all winter, but that Northern Shrikes were scarce. Five Bluebirds were noted in southern Jefferson County Mar 30. A Varied Thrush was collected in Watertown Dec 12, and the specimen is now in the State Museum, Albany. Gordon saw many Cedar Waxwings in February. In late December a Redwing appeared at a feeder in Watertown and remained most of the rest of the winter, and another was reported in Potsdam. Allen found three Cardinals Dec 3, and it is reported that Cardinals came frequently to a feeder in Watertown. Some Evening Grosbeaks appeared in Watertown in Dec, but they seemed very well fed and showed little interest in the sunflower seeds. However, by early Jan they were coming to feeders in large numbers. They have been reported in many places in this region and they must be at least as numerous as last winter. Gordon reports many Purple Finches in Feb. and Mar. There is only a single record of Pine Grosbeaks, seven on Mar 8 near Perch River Marsh. On Dec 26 there were about 40 White-winged Crossbills near E. Chase Mills, St. Lawrence County. A White-throated Sparrow came daily to a feeder in Watertown for several weeks (Elitharp) and Allen saw one Feb 14. Gordon and Mayhoad found about 20 Lapland Longspurs near Dexter Dec 6.

173 Haley St., Watertown

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

AGNES AMSTUTZ

From the first snowfall in the latter part of November up until the present time, this section of the Adirondacks has been buried in snow many feet deep. Blizzards, snowstorm after snowstorm, and sub-zero weather made up our winter. During January and February all records for zero weather and snowfall were broken. Yet, in spite of all this, we had more winter birds than we have had for many years! There was an abundance of spruce, hemlock, and pine cones. There was little open water at the end of the period.

For this summary I have no reports from the Lake Champlain region. I would appreciate notes from observers in that area, especially since spring migration is now at hand.

Loons — Shrikes: No waterfowl to report. Blue Jays seemed especially common this winter. It was a rare hike that did not produce at least one, and some sayed at the feeders all winter. Small flocks of Canada Jays were found in the woods around camps. Around in larger than usual numbers were the Red-breasted Nuthatches; there seemed to be more of them than the White-breasted. And on Valentine's Day there appeared three Robins. These stayed for two weeks, feeding on the berries growing in protected areas of our hospital grounds. They came in the winter's worst blizzard. Then none were seen until a few arrived on Mar. 15.

Our highlight of the winter was a Bohemian Waxwing. This bird came in with a group of Cedar Waxwings on Dec 17. The Cedar Waxwings left, but this fellow stayed around Mrs. Perron's feeder from then until Feb 7. There were mountain ash trees across the road from the feeder, and he fed on these. Raisins were provided, but he took none of them. This is the first time a Bohemian Waxwing has been reported in this immediate section.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Several Meadowlarks were seen from Mar 20 to 28. Redwings came in about Mar 28, but one woman in Tupper Lake had a Redwing at her feeder all winter long. Crackles and Cowbirds arrived Mar 15. From Dec 6 on we have had Evening Grosbeaks in flocks from 50 to 100 at feeding stations. The number began tapering off around Mar 1, but there were still quite a few around. Pine Grosbeaks were present in small flocks during January and February.

Pine Siskins and Goldfinches were around in large flocks from early Dec on, but Redpolls were not noted until the latter part of Feb. One could see flocks of these birds feeding along the roadsides. This has been a fine year for the White-winged Crossbill. These showed up about Dec 1. Many flocks fed upon the gravel and sand in the roads, and as a result there were many casualties. Dr. Kingsbury, on a trip from Tupper Lake to Saranac Lake, counted 25 dead birds. Only a few small flocks of Red Crossbills were occasionally seen. One or two Purple Finches made regular appearances at the feeders. It was not until the latter part of March that they came in larger numbers and even started singing.

Tree Sparrows were not as plentiful this year as in other years. The first Fox Sparrow put in an appearance on Mar 31. No Snow Buntings were seen in this immediate area.

I would like to point out that my address is not Tupper Lake, but rather Sunmount.
Veteran's Administration Hospital, Box 63, Sunmount

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

The winter season provided no real extremes from a weather standpoint, but general cold seemed to persist for extended periods. And almost constant winds added to the discomforture. However, the season was one which did provide a good bit of interesting birding. There were late holdovers and early arrivals among the small land bird population. The spring waterfowl season got off to a good start, and the Barrow's Goldeneye was a feature of mid-winter trips to the central Hudson.

Evening Grosbeaks were present in good numbers throughout, and the other winter finches were represented to a lesser degree. Robins appeared in flocks beginning in mid-January, and Purple Finches early in March became more conspicuous than they have been for years.

Forty species were seen on the Schenectady Christmas Count; thirty-seven were at Troy, and thirty-five were at Chatham, with an additional ten species being recorded on near dates at the latter locality.

Loons — Ducks: Ten species of waterfowl were observed on the Christmas count at Troy on Dec 27 (Schenectady Bird Club), possibly a record. Of especial interest was a male Barrow's Goldeneye; this bird remained for the Federation waterfowl count on Jan 18 but was not seen thereafter. This marks the third winter in the last four that the Barrow's Goldeneye has been seen along the Hudson above Albany. I would doubt that there was any other spot in the state that could boast of such regularity. Also of note at Troy on Dec 27 were a Pintail, a Lesser Scaup, a White-winged Scoter, and four Red-breasted Mergansers. Six Red-breasted Mergansers were seen on the count at Chatham also on Dec 27 (Alan Devoe Bird Club).

Other mid-winter records of waterfowl were scarce, but there was a notable movement of these birds along the Hudson in late March. The Hudson below Albany provided poor pickings until Mar 27 although it was largely free of ice after early in the month. On the 27th a group of some 60 Snow Geese was seen at Ravena (Madison). Two days later about 28 of these birds — probably part of the original group — were seen at Schodack Landing (Foote). This is the first spring record of the Snow Goose locally in several years. Among the other waterfowl species seen on Mar 27 along the lower Hudson were six Pintail, eight Wood Ducks, 600 Lesser Scaup, and 50 Hooded Mergansers. About ten additional Hooded Mergansers were seen that day along the Hudson above Albany and on the Mohawk River