

the winter but no seasonal pattern apparent other than a moderate drop in counts in late Feb thru Mar. Red Crossbill: five - 25 reported on and off at Fayetteville, Syracuse, Brewerton, and Selkirk Shores State Park thru Dec and Jan; no Feb and Mar reports, and no White-winged Crossbills noted. Single towhees, both females, wintered at Oneida (Thurber) and Brewerton (Barclay); we have yet to find a wintering male Towhee.

Half-hardy sparrows include a Savannah Sparrow Jan 9 at Fayetteville (first wintering record), five Vesper Sparrows Jan 17 at Onondaga Lake (Estoff, Propst), and three Field Sparrows at Fayetteville Dec 20 to Jan 31 plus one each intermittently at Westernville (May) and Oneida (Felle). White-crowned Sparrow: one stayed at Westernville to Dec 5, and an adult was seen Jan 23 at Manlius (Gould); however, single immatures wintered over at Oneida (Felle), Fayetteville (Biggs), and Syracuse (Chamberlaine).

Slate-colored Junco: winter numbers definitely up with all monthly feeder tallies over 100. Oregon Junco: singles wintered at DeWitt (MacAndrews) and Syracuse (Scheider). Tree Sparrow: Dr. Burt's feeder survey scored 246 in Dec, 456 in Jan, 190 in Feb, and 1040 in Mar; the high Mar count is probably a combination of lack of food forcing these birds to seek feeders and of beginning migration.

White-throated, Swamp, and Song Sparrows: Dec numbers were excellent with three, six, and 90 (a winter peak), respectively, reported on the Syracuse Christmas Count; three - four White-throateds/ feeder were frequent, and a single small marsh or brushy hillside had 20 - 35 Song Sparrows; numbers held up well until the latter half of Feb when all field counts on these species dropped sharply with no compensatory feeding station increase in early Mar. Lapland Longspud: unreported thru the winter until a scatter of reports (two - six birds/ trip) in the heavy Horned Lark - Redpoll movement in early Mar.

Snow Bunting: flocks of 60 - 100 thru Dec and Jan; quite scarce during the heavy snow of late Feb, a time when flocks of thousands can be seen, and flocks of only 80 - 100 reported with the heavy Horned Lark - Redpoll movement of early Mar; two spring-plumage males noted flight singing at Derby Hill Mar 26.

151 Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

There was only light snow until Dec 29 when at least a foot fell. More snow came on several occasions, and there was little mild weather except for a brief time in Jan. This thaw only served to settle the snow and make room for more which soon came. Only about one year out of eight do we have a fall of snow as great as we had by the first of Mar this year. Some of the coldest weather was Dec 20 - 24 and Jan 8 - 12, but there were few days when the temperature was below zero.

Mar was clear and cold; in fact the first 26 days were the coldest in Watertown for this period in the sixty years for which we have records. Jan was the coldest month, but the Mar average before the 27th was less than two degrees warmer. However, the last few days of Mar were mild and the snow began to melt rapidly.

The continued cold of late Dec and early Jan left little open water and as a result waterfowl were scarce. The deep snow seemed to make the birds seek food at feeders. Many people are putting out food for the Evening Grosbeaks and as a result more species are coming to feeders in the winter. The Mar migration was delayed and such birds as Robins, Grackles and Killdeers were not seen until the last four or five days of the month.

Loons — Ducks: A bird, described only as a Grebe, was found by the side of a road in St. Lawrence Co. near the end of Mar. It was kept for a time until open water could be found. A rather late date for Great Blue Heron was Dec 14 near Dexter. The first spring record was about Mar 25 in St. Lawrence Co. Ducks seemed to be scarce most of the winter because there was so much ice. A Pintail drake wintered with Black Ducks near Waddington (Johnston). A King Eider was found on Lake Ontario Jan 17 (Mayhood, Wagner, Allen). Two dates for Hooded Merganser are Dec 15 near Crogan in Lewis Co. and Dec 26 near Sackets Harbor.

Hawks — Owls: Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Marsh Hawks began to appear during the last few days of Mar. The flight of Rough-legged Hawks was first noted as heavy during Nov. and it has been extremely heavy throughout the winter.

Belknap reports a maximum count of 49 Feb 8. Gordon counted 31 Jan 1. Johnston observed four daily from late fall to the end of Feb, but they left as the snow became deeper. They were over Ogden Island and were feeding almost exclusively on field mice or moles.

Sparrow Hawks were seen all winter, and in some places in larger numbers than usual. More were present the last days of Mar. As usual Bald Eagles were seen along the St. Lawrence River. While the snow was deep some observers noted at least 70 Gray (Hungarian) Partridge in one day in suitable terrain. A very late date for Killdeer was Dec 26 at Sackets Harbor (Gordon). A Mourning Dove was found on the Pillar Point Shore Road Feb 6. A few more Mourning Doves began to arrive by the end of Mar. Belknap says the Snowy Owl flight was better than average with a dozen or more birds being seen in northern New York. They were seen near Morley, Bucks Ridge, Philadelphia, Watertown and Sherwin's Bay. Highest counts were four Dec 21 and three Mar 15. Gordon reported the only Short-eared Owls, four near Philadelphia Dec 31. A Saw-whet Owl in dying condition was found near Watertown Mar 3. There was deep snow at the time, and it had not eaten for some time.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: Probably the most unusual winter record for the area was a Red-headed Woodpecker seen Dec 26 near Depauville by Gordon's party. This was the time of our annual Christmas Bird Count, but the place was outside the area. Horned Larks became numerous after the middle of Mar. There seemed to be more Chickadees than usual, especially at feeders in Watertown. A Red-breasted Nuthatch visited Allen's feeder several times Jan 25 to Mar 10. A Mockingbird came daily to a feeder in Lowville from Nov 29 to early Apr. No Bluebirds had arrived by Apr 1. Northern Shrikes were scarce this winter. A very late Myrtle Warbler was at Canton Dec 21 to Dec 24. Gordon saw three Meadowlarks near Antwerp Jan 1. Cardinals continue to increase in this region. They appeared at several places at different times in Watertown. Cardinals visited other places including Morley and Potsdam. Evening Grosbeaks have been very numerous and have been coming to feeders in many places. Perhaps there were more this winter than last. An Albino Evening Grosbeak was seen at Potsdam where it visited the feeders of Dr. Hart. It was said to be a pure creamy color all over. There was only one report of Pine Grosbeaks, on Jan 24 when about 25 were seen. Redpolls seemed scarce the first part of the winter, but became abundant in late Feb and Mar. L. Blake had about 50 at her feeders and some lingered to the end of Mar. They also visited a feeder in Waddington, and several came to Watertown for food. A Pine Siskin was seen at a feeder in Canton, but didn't stay long. Another was seen at Adams Center. Two Pine Siskins came to a feeder early in Feb, and five were at a feeder many times from Feb 12 to the end of the period (F.C.). Two Juncos came to Allen's yard Nov 19 and they must have liked it as they stayed the rest of the winter. He also had a White-throated Sparrow Nov 19 to Jan 3. Near Potsdam L. Blake had four White-throated Sparrows all winter, and she says they have been seen at other feeding stations which is unusual. A Song Sparrow first came to Allen's Jan 23 and stayed at least to late Mar. L. Blake had one, too, but later found it dead. Snow Buntings were plentiful early in the winter but became scarce the latter part.

173 Haley St., Watertown

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS LESPERANCE

This past winter was indeed one of the most open we have had in the last ten years. Lake Champlain never did completely freeze over, and a number of waterfowl stayed over in the area. Total accumulation of snow in Keeseville was about 24 inches. The coldest day was 22° below zero, but there were many bright days that tempered the cold and made it seem quite nice.

There were a number of so-called summer residents that hung on until about Christmas time. Various reports in the papers stated that anything from satellites to nuclear bombs were causing a mix-up in the migration. Relatively few species, however, were seen after Christmas, but some of the species that remained seemed to be in good numbers. The day of the Christmas count was a good one, with favorable travel conditions. Twenty-seven species were noted within the area bounded by a line west from Plattsburgh to Ausable Forks, then south to Keene Valley, thence east to Elizabethtown, and then north again to Keeseville. This total does not include waterfowl, eleven varieties of which were observed.