

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.

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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.

I am having some luck in securing new correspondents; I have received an offer from Mrs. John Delehanty of Tupper Lake to make her observations and notes available. I want to publicly extend my welcome to Mrs. Delehanty, and I hope it will not be too long before we may build up to the original seven-member group that was in the area five years ago. I earnestly solicit record contributions from those observers in the Adirondack-Champlain region.

A large population of loons, grebes, mergansers, and gulls was present at Lake Champlain throughout the winter, and a few Canada Geese stayed also. Geese returned to Tupper Lake on Mar 29. A Goshawk was reported along the Clintonville Road in late Jan, but there were no other hawk observations of interest. A few Mourning Doves stayed all winter in the Whickman's Marsh area.

Blue Jays and White-breasted Nuthatches kept things interesting at feeders in the interior parts of the area where birds in general were scarce. Mrs. Delehanty successfully taught Black-capped Chickadees to eat from her hand, as a newspaper article and picture will testify. A wintering group of Cowbirds was noted in the Whickman's Marsh region.

Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks generally predominated the feeding station picture in the Tupper Lake area (Amstutz, Delehanty). Pine Siskins were also observed. The rare Hoary Redpoll was reported in the region on more than one occasion.

There was little evidence of any spring migration as the period drew to a close, undoubtedly because of the late winter storms in areas to the south of us.

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

This has been an unusually mild winter, the mercury falling below zero on only two occasions, both in Jan. Snowfall was only light to moderate with the heaviest two-day fall reaching only 9+ inches. Snow did not accumulate. Usually the snow from one storm would disappear before the next arrived. Frequently snow on the ground would persist for days because the temperature would remain consistently below the freezing mark for long periods. The continued cold weather with the thermometer seldom getting above 20° froze up all bodies of water except parts of the Hoosic and Hudson Rivers and fast running brooks.

No rarities were reported for the period, no doubt because there was a noticeable lack of observers in the field. Feeding station reports were plentiful but, except for the Christmas censuses, field work virtually ceased. Perhaps the observers were conserving their energies for the Christmas counts and after they were all over needed the rest of the winter to recuperate. Of course there were a few exceptions to this. To them we say, "Thank you for your records".

Grebes — Ducks: A late Red-necked Grebe was seen on Dec 13 at Tomhannock Reservoir (Yunick), while the last Horned Grebes (8) were seen on Dec 15 at Saratoga Lake (Hallenbeck). (Shortly after the above dates both these bodies of water froze up solid.) To the close of the period there have been no returning Grebes (or loons) sighted. The last fall migrant Canadian Geese (1,500) were seen at Ghent on Dec 15 (Alan Devoe Bird Club). The ADBC also reported the first northbound spring migrants at Stockport Station on Mar 27. The mid-winter duck count, taken on Jan 17, was about the same as last year. However, a Canvasback was seen for the first time on a duck count in this region. Black Ducks were noted at their breeding ground at Meadowdale on Mar 28 (Johnston) while returning Wood Ducks were first reported on Mar 26 at Stockport (ADBC).

Hawks — Owls: The usual wintering Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks were generally reported throughout the region. A Goshawk was present for two days, Feb 21 and 22, at Canaan (ADBC). A migrant Marsh Hawk on Mar 26 and 15 Red-shouldered Hawks on Mar 19 were seen in Delmar (Madison). First Killdeer were reported on Mar 27, and more generally on the 28. An Iceland Gull was seen on the Hudson River near Cohoes on Jan 1 and 2 (Sabin). Black-backed Gulls were slightly more numerous this winter than last with daily counts being as high as eight. No other unusual gulls were reported. Mourning Doves wintered in greater numbers than for several years past. Snowy Owls went unreported until Mar 15 and 16 when they were seen at Palenville (fide Feldhusen) and Dunnsville (Van Vorst). No Saw-whet Owls were reported during this period.