

Snowy Owls were noted throughout the area all winter. There may not have been any more owls than last year, but people did more talking about them this winter. Perhaps the greatest concentration of Snowy Owls was near Lake Ontario where Gordon reported at least seven on Point Peninsula Mar 25. Short-eared Owls were seen at Point Peninsula, and one was at Dexter Jan 21, but they seemed scarce in the rest of the region.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A male Belted Kingfisher was found near Baggs Corners Mar 30. The first Flicker appeared near Watertown Mar 31. Crows stayed around Watertown all winter where they fed on garbage. Robins were also seen every month this winter. A flock of ten or more was seen near Watertown Dec 26, and another group of that size was found in January. A Mockingbird was discovered near Watertown early in January and was seen several times until about the middle of February when it probably was killed (by a Cooper's Hawk?). Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported Jan 7 near Fargo and Mar 30 in Adams Center. Flocks of at least 35 Cedar Waxwings were seen near Watertown in December, February, and March. Northern Shrikes appeared at feeders in Carthage and Watertown in December. Later they were found in other parts of this region. Gordon saw the first Loggerhead Shrike near Lowville Mar 31.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The first Red-winged Blackbirds appeared in Watertown Mar 3, and about that time two very large flocks were reported south of Watertown. Two Common Grackles arrived in our back yard Mar 7, and they survived the snow and cold that soon followed. Cardinals seemed about as numerous as last year. A Cowbird banded in Watertown Dec 19 was found injured early in February and died.

It is not easy to describe the Evening Grosbeaks this winter. They were present in good numbers in some places while scarce or absent in others. A few were around during December and January but seldom showed much interest in sunflower seeds. Their numbers at feeders increased in February, and by about Feb 15 large numbers were being seen daily at a few feeders. Evening Grosbeaks arrived in Watertown in large numbers just after the snow of Mar 9 and were seen daily the rest of the month.

Purple Finches were unusually numerous in March. In December Pine Grosbeaks were found near Wanakena and in January near Fargo and in Lewis County. Belknap found Redpolls very scarce all winter. They did come to a few feeders in small numbers for a short time. Pine Siskins were numerous, especially in March. They were seen at Fargo and Point Peninsula in January, at Tug Hill in February, and at Henderson Harbor and other places in March. Allen found White-winged Crossbills at Wanakena Dec 11. Red Crossbills were noted several times in Lewis and Jefferson Counties. They were seen near Barnes Corners Feb 11 and in Watertown and Adams Center late in March.

A Rufous-sided Towhee found shelter in a garage and food at a feeder in Watertown and was still around late in March. Slate-colored Juncos were seen near Watertown Dec 26, at Point Peninsula Jan 15, and in Watertown Mar 16. Another stayed around a feeder in Adams Center. Tree Sparrows seemed to be numerous. A Song Sparrow came to Allen's feeder Mar 23. The only Lapland Longspurs were two at Point Peninsula Jan 15. People frequently saw Snow Buntings.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

The early defoliation of last fall provided the only ground cover until New Year's Day. To start the year off locally, there was a 15-inch snowfall which remained, with only a small flurry added, until late in February. During this period we experienced, as did most of the northeast, prolonged frigid weather. Temperatures went below -30° and for one continuous 18-day period never went above -5° . Another snowfall occurred in early March, but lengthening days and a warming sun made short work of it. Lake Champlain was completely frozen over, with ice in some protected coves and bays as thick as 25 inches. At this writing (April 12) the Lake Champlain Transportation Co. is unable to operate at Cumberland Head,

Port Kent, or Essex because of ice still present from 10-15 inches in thickness. Normally the ferry starts the crossing by April 5. Rivers and streams, and even the rapids, were locked in winter's cold grip. With abnormally light snowfall there was no flooding, and many persons are concerned about possible local drought conditions in the coming months. Total accumulation of snow in the Keeseville area was about 25 inches; normally we receive 75-100 inches. In the higher elevations total accumulation was about 75 inches; the normal there is 160-200 inches. Those that braved the cold in search of wildlife found a bleak and desolate stillness in most cases. Feeders were life savers to many urban species, while the more wild denizens were no doubt saved by the large quantities of "most" which Nature had ingeniously provided ahead of time. While variety of species was possibly at an all-time low, numbers of some species were phenomenal, a fact commented upon by local newspapers. Many birds perished along highways, strewn by cars for yards in area where they had collected to feed. In one stretch of road over 100 birds were counted; these were mainly Redpolls, but Crossbills, Juncos, Siskins, and Tree Sparrows were also among the casualties.

We are presently entertaining the thought of forming a club. Unlike in other areas, our meetings and activities would be restricted by the vast distances. A visit to the homes of the birders living on the perimeter of our circle would entail a day's drive and a clocking of nearly 600 miles on the speedometer. So, for the most part, our activities as a group would be restricted to the summer and fall months.

Inasmuch as the spring season is now upon us, there is a growing concern regarding the development of the AuSable marsh into a public recreation area. As I have previously indicated, I have acquired pertinent information which has been forwarded to the Federation Conservation Committee.

The summary below includes certain records for the month of November which were omitted from the previous summary.

Loons — Ducks: A Pied-billed Grebe and a Great Blue Heron were at AuSable Marsh on Mar 29 (Hart). Common Goldeneyes, Common Mergansers, and Black Ducks were on the AuSable River at Keeseville at a spot just above the Rainbow Falls throughout January and February (Lesperance). Black Ducks were present in small numbers in November, December, and early January in open water of the Saranac River near Saranac Lake (Delafield); a few were back at the same spot by Mar 31 (Hart). Black Ducks and Common Goldeneyes were noted at Tupper Lake on Mar 25 (Amstutz), and Common Mergansers and Scaup were also seen there that day (Kingsbury). The Hooded Merganser was at Tupper Lake by Mar 30. Four Ring-necked Ducks and two Common Goldeneyes were seen at AuSable Marsh Mar 29 (Hart).

Hawks — Owls: There were two Bald Eagles at Lumberjack Springs on Mar 26 (Amstutz), and there was a pair of these birds at Tupper Lake on Mar 29 — the same individuals? (Delahanty). Two Eagles were seen in a weak northwesterly flight of hawks at Keeseville on Mar 30 (Lesperance). Several Broad-wings and Red-tails were also in this flight. A Broad-winged Hawk was at Mooers, near the Canadian border, on Nov 7, and a Red-tailed Hawk was at Saranac Lake on Mar 27 and 30 (Delafield). Sparrow Hawks were seen throughout the period at Keeseville, and there were other reports.

Ruffed Grouse seemed present in normal numbers throughout the winter, but they were more frequently seen because of the low snow depth. Seven Killdeer at Canon Corners and one at West Chazy on Mar 28 were the first spring arrivals (Delafield). Lone Herring Gulls were over the Saranac River near Saranac Lake on Dec 3 and Mar 30; two had been seen over the same river near Redford on Nov 6 (Delafield).

A Snowy Owl was observed at Point au Roche, north of Plattsburgh, on Feb 7 (Hart).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A Belted Kingfisher was present near Saranac Lake throughout November and December (Delafield), and there was one on Jan 14 near Raybrook Hospital (Keji). Pileated Woodpeckers seemed quite common in suitable areas throughout the region. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was observed at Pt. Douglas on Mar 10 (Lesperance). The common resident woodpeckers seemed about normal in numbers. The first Eastern Phoebe showed up in Keeseville on Mar 31 (Lesperance).

Small flocks of Horned Larks were noted at Saranac Lake through Jan 5 and again in March, with a lone individual being reported there on Feb 4 (Delafield). Blue Jays were conspicuous. A Gray Jay was at Tupper Lake on Dec 10 (Amstutz), and another was at Saranac Lake on Mar 18 (Delafield). Crows were not as common as might be expected, but counts of 67 and 53 were made in the Saranac Lake area on Mar 13 and Mar 25 respectively (Delafield). The resident Black-capped Chickadee was not as numerous there as in the previous year, if the Christmas Count results are a good barometer. Boreal Chickadees, up to ten in number, were at Saranac Lake on Mar 16 and for several days thereafter (Delafield).

Both species of nuthatches were present in normal numbers. Brown Creepers were quite frequently reported; among the individual records were one at Raybrook on Dec 6 (Keji) and one at Sunmount on Dec 10 (Amstutz). On Jan 23 a Winter Wren was seen sheltering among steam exhausts on buildings of the Raybrook Hospital (Keji); the bird was present for several days. A Winter Wren had been reported there the first week in January (Keji).

A hardy Bluebird which had "Been around all winter" caused much interest at Tupper Lake. This individual was seen by many birders, including Amstutz, Delahanty, and Kingsbury. The last fall Robin report was by Delahanty on Dec 13, and the first spring report was at Tupper Lake on Mar 18 (Amstutz). Other Robin reports were by Kingsbury on Mar 25, Keji and Delafield on Mar 28, and Lesperance on Mar 29.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were quite common throughout most of the winter. There was a flock of Cedar Waxwings at Tupper Lake on Mar 6 (Delahanty). A Loggerhead Shrike was at Saranac Lake on Mar 22, and single Northern Shrikes were there on Dec 25 and Jan 4 (Delafield). Another Northern Shrike was at feeders in Tupper Lake on Jan 18 and occasionally thereafter (Delahanty).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Among the winter blackbird reports were feeder records of a Cowbird at Tupper Lake from Dec 5 to Jan 3 (Delahanty, Kingsbury), a Red-winged Blackbird all winter at Sunmount (Amstutz), and a Common Grackle throughout the winter at Saranac Lake (Delafield).

Two Red-wings were at Saranac Lake on Mar 2, and flocks of 80 and 350 seen there on Mar 22 and 30 respectively were certain omens of spring (Delafield). There was a flock of 500 or more in the vicinity of Ellenburg in northern Clinton County on Mar 28 (Delafield). Spring arrivals were noted at Tupper Lake on Mar 25 (Kingsbury) and Mar 31 (Delahanty). At Keeseville the first birds were seen and clarion calls heard on Mar 29 (Lesperance). Among the late fall reports was a flock of 60 near Mooers on Nov 7 (Delafield).

A mixed flock of Grackles and Cowbirds was at Sunmount on Mar 11 (Amstutz). Spring migrants began to arrive at Saranac Lake on Mar 27, and by Mar 30 they were common there (Delafield). Grackles in good numbers were seen at Tupper Lake by Mar 28 (Delahanty), and the species was noted in Keeseville by Mar 29 (Lesperance). Kingsbury noted the increased number of Cowbirds on the Sunmount VA Hospital grounds by Mar 27. One Cardinal was seen at feeding stations by several observers during the reporting period (Amstutz, Delahanty, Kingsbury).

Evening Grosbeak were late in putting in an appearance in any numbers. Twenty-five were at Saranac Lake on Nov 14. Smaller groups were there in January and February, and a count of about 115 was made on Mar 15. Smaller numbers were then present there for the remainder of March (Delafield). There were other reports from feeders and roadways throughout the region. Pine Grosbeaks were described as fairly numerous at Saranac Lake, where they were seen until Mar 25 (Delafield); the largest flock there was 15 on Feb 3. Small flocks were seen throughout the winter on the hospital grounds at Sunmount (Amstutz, Kingsbury), and Pine Grosbeaks were noted at Tupper Lake on Feb 13 and 16 and again on Mar 25 (Delahanty). Purple Finches were quite common throughout the area in March. They were common at Keeseville until early January when apparently forced out by the severe cold wave (Lesperance). Two Redpolls at Saranac Lake on Mar 17 was the only record there for a species which had been so common the previous winter (Delafield). Pine Siskins were seen in flocks at Saranac Lake from Nov 19 on (Delafield); other reports indicated a general abundance of this species this winter. Both species of crossbills were noted in perhaps record numbers in the Saranac Lake area, where, unfortunately, many were killed along the highway by cars (Delafield).

Many birders from outside areas journeyed to Saranac Lake to see the crossbills (Ed — see field notes section for an account of the Saranac Lake crossbill influx).

Tree Sparrows were present in normal numbers. A Whitethroated Sparrow was at a Tupper Lake feeder from Dec 8 until Jan 6 (Amstutz, Kingsbury). A few Song Sparrows were seen late in March, the first one being on Mar 22 at Tupper Lake (Delehanty). The Savannah Sparrow was reported on Mar 28 (Amstutz) and Mar 30 (Delehanty). Slate-colored Juncos were present in good numbers, with singing birds being heard late in March. Eight Lapland Longspurs were sighted near West Chazy on Jan 15 (Delafield). Snow Buntings could be readily found in suitable areas.

Corrigendum: Following are several corrections to the fall summary (**Kingbird**, Vol. 10, No. 4, pp 196-197):

The only Horned Grebes, Common Goldeneyes, and Ruddy Ducks reported by Harriet Delafield were at Lake Champlain on Oct 28. Records of those species by this observer on other than the above date and in other than the above locality are incorrect. The Rough-legged Hawk location for this observer's report of this species was Canon Corners, not Saranac Lake. Under the paragraph on warblers Harriet Delafield's home area was erroneously stated as Tupper Lake; it should read Saranac Lake, and the Rusty Blackbird record near Clayburg on Oct 23 should be credited to this observer. Also, the height of the Horned Lark and Snow Bunting migration was Oct 27; the date Oct 23 should be deleted in connection with this observer's Snow Bunting reports (Ed — the Editor regrets these errors of omission and commission, which were the fault of the editorial board, not of the observer or the regional reporter).

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

The first half of this winter, up until February 13, was unusually severe in that the temperature fell to 0° or below on 25 days, 13 of them in January. The coldest day of the winter occurred on February 2nd when the thermometer dipped to 18° below zero. After February 13 there was a warming trend evident and the thermometer climbed to a high of 73° on the 28th of March. Snowfall was considered about normal until March when the fall was about double the normal expected amount. Total precipitation for the period was 8.40", or 0.32" above average. Most bodies of water were frozen over about December 10th.

The wintering bird populations approached what could be called normal conditions, with but few exceptions. One of the puzzling facts was the complete absence of all gulls from December 26 to February 26. Usually a few can be found along the Hudson River, but not so this winter. Deviations from the normal in other respects were the good Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, and Short-eared Owl flights. In conformity with normal conditions was a lack of any pronounced invasions by so-called "northern finches". Unusual species for this period were few, such as Virginia Rail and Catbird. Rarities or near-rarities included Whistling Swan, Snow Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, Dickcissel, and Oregon Junco.

Loons — Ducks: The last Common Loon was seen at Saratoga Lake on December 10 as were six Horned Grebes (Hallenbeck). No herons were reported wintering, however an early Great Blue Heron was seen near Onderdonk Lake (Albany County) on Mar 29 (Kent). Three Whistling Swans, two adult and one immature, were seen on Glass Pond, Guilderland on Mar 15 (Linch). Subsequently they were reported by many observers at the Meadowdale Marshes until the 26th. On the 31st, only the immature swan could be found (Sabin). Apparently the adult birds had moved on in the interim between the 26th and the 31st. A late fall Canada Goose was seen on a New Concord pond on Dec 2. A single bird of this species accompanied by a Snow Goose was seen feeding at Castleton near the Hudson River on Feb 10 and again on Feb 12 (Cook). The spring Canada Goose flight reached Region 8 during the last week of Mar. Mallards, Black Ducks, Common Goldeneyes, and Common Mergansers wintered well and in their usual numbers along the Hudson River. Noted with these wintering ducks were one Pintail, one Ring-necked Duck and one Red-breasted Merganser at Troy on Schenectady Bird Club's Troy