

general; range extension also continues — BBFS Mar listed two Cardinals in Mexico and seven in Pulaski, and from up in Rome Mrs. Aspinwall reports three or four stations, "more every year." Evening Grosbeak: BBFS showed numbers highest in Jan with about ten/feeder, far higher than 1960-61 but not as high as 1959-60; in the field, flocks of up to 20 in most parts of the Region. Purple Finch: extremely scarce, even scarcer than during the past fall, with only two winter field reports — nine Fulton on Christmas Count Dec 23 (R. Williams), none on other Christmas Counts, and one Sandy Pond Mar 11 (EC); BBFS recorded 11 Dec, then only two Feb and four Mar.

Pine Grosbeak: present more ubiquitously (not limited to northern and hilly parts of the Region) and in much higher numbers (125 SCC in contrast with just a handful on 1954 and 1957 SCCs) than in the last two flight years, 1954-55 and 1957-58; highest counts — 60 Erieville Dec 9 (JW), 30+ Rome Dec 19 (C. Adamski), 30 Pulaski Feb 3 (MR), 25 Fulton Feb 10 (OAS field trip), 42 Baldwinsville Feb 10 (EE, JP), 25 Utica Feb 11 (EC), 40 Richland first half Mar (A. Clark); last report Mar 24 Centerville (MR).

Redpoll: much more common than last year, but nothing like the many reports of hundreds of two years ago; scarce in Dec — only 30, one, and four reported by field parties on Fulton, Oneida, and Syracuse Christmas Counts, respectively; highest counts — 70 Hghld For Jan 6 (DG), 230 Pleasant Lake Feb 11 (MR), 100 Tully Feb 17 (EE, JP), 200 Kenwood Mar 11 (Mrs. Thurber), no other counts over 50; still present Mar 31 Utica (EC). Pine Siskin: numbers dropped sharply after the fall migration — 100 Dec 2 Cicero (EE, JP), then only 12 on Dec 31 SCC, and — in contrast with early 1961's hundreds — only three other reports all winter — three on Feb 3 Oneida Lake (JP), 45 on Feb 3 and eight on Feb 11 Utica (EC).

Goldfinch: rather scarce with only seven field reports after Dec; the highest number 25 on Feb 4 near Utica, that winter finch area par excellence (EC). Crossbills: another contrast with last year in the finch situation; Reds were unreported, and only three reports of White-winged for the season — five Cicero Bog Dec 31 (DP), 11 on Feb 8 Utica (EC), 30 Feb 10 Hghld For (E&CF).

Towhee: the usual few attempting to winter — one Dec Fayetteville (Lindemer) and another Syracuse thruout the period (DD). Slate-colored Junco: 27 at HIGMA Jan 1, and the continuing open winter forestalled the virtual disappearance away from feeders which sometimes occurs; the wave of early migrants Mar 30 included 100 Juncos Oakwood (DP) and 70 Oneida (MF). Oregon Junco: two probables (both well described) early Jan Syracuse and Jan-Feb Lakeland (BBFS). Tree Sparrow: somewhat low numbers at feeders (BBFS), probably attributable to the mild weather which may also be the reason for the lack of large concentrations in the field: 80 Dec 30 Oneida and 120 Feb 25 HIGMA were the largest flocks reported.

Wintering half-hardy sparrows: single Field at feeders Feb 10-Mar 4 Skaneateles (RS) and first week of Mar Brewerton (Theisen); all-time high for SCC of White-throated is 11, mostly at feeders; scarcer was Swamp with only two SCC and one HIGMA Jan 1 — no other field reports; Song were present in small numbers in the field thruout the winter.

Lapland Longspur: small numbers, with Horned Larks or Snow Buntings, Dec 31 thru Feb in all sectors of the Region: a good count is 18 on Mar 18 Phoenix (RS). Snow Bunting: rather good numbers, e.g. highs 350 Tully Dec 25, 300 Utica Jan 9, 1000+ Hamilton Jan 13, 500 Tully Valley Feb. 17, and 350 Pompey Feb 24; still present in Utica at end of period.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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December brought some winter weather, and it was cold enough to freeze most streams before Christmas. The most severe part of the winter occurred during January and February. The temperature reached zero or below on 22 days, and 18 of these were in January and February along with 70% of the winter's snow. February's average reading was 15.6 degrees, which is six degrees below

normal. The coldest was -24° on Feb 2. The heaviest fall of snow was seven inches on Feb 8. Any open water was a good place to look for ducks, but few such spots could be found.

March started with a very cold day, but there were only two zero days that month. There were many sunny days, and the snow melted slowly. By the end of March the ground was bare except in the woods at higher elevations where a foot or two of snow remained in many places. The last week of March was mild, and birds began to arrive in numbers. The warmest days were March 28-29.

An oddity was that there was no measurable accumulation of snow until the last day of March, a month which normally averages about fifteen inches. March 31 and April 1 gave us a few inches of unwanted wet snow which must have made it difficult for some birds to find food.

One feature of the winter was a concentration of Snowy Owls and Rough-legged Hawks in a rather limited area near Point Peninsula, and at the same time their almost complete absence from the rest of the region. Bohemian Waxwings and Cedar Waxwings were seen several times in Thompson Park, Watertown. A flock of unprecedented size, 300 Bohemian Waxwings, was seen by eight observers on March 17-18. We have not found any previous record of a flock of this size in New York State (Ed — further notes on the Rough-legged Hawks and Bohemian Waxwings are included in the field notes section of this issue).

Loons — Ducks: Horned Grebe: last date Dec 21 at Point Peninsula, on Lake Ontario. Canada Geese: about 75 at Perch Lake GMA Mar 25 about 500 Mar 29; several persons reported flocks of geese flying during the last week of March, with the dates most frequently given being Mar 28-29. Mallard and Black Ducks were seen in Black River at Marble St., Watertown, in Feb; this is one place the river did not freeze. Pintail: Mar 21, numerous thereafter. American Widgeon: Mar 24 at El Dorado. The Jan 14-21 Waterfowl Census showed: Scaup 3,175, Goldeneye 1,238, and Oldsquaw 463. Also seen at this time were two White-winged Scoters and a Surf Scoter. A female White-winged Scoter was in the river at Marble St., Watertown, Mar 4. Wood Duck: seen near Watertown, Mar 24. Bufflehead: common along Stony Point Mar 24. Hooded Merganser: Mar 24 at Stony Point and 7 near Watertown Mar 27. Ruddy Duck: one near the docks in Ogdensburg Jan 15 (Hickok).

Hawks — Owls: Red-shouldered Hawk: reported Dec 23 and Mar 29. Rough-legged Hawk: few seen except in the Point Peninsula area, where high counts were: 29 on Dec 21, 30+ on Jan 20, 27 on Feb 21, and 32 Mar 17; eight could be seen at one time Jan 20 and nine Mar 17. Killdeer: Dec 8 at Brownville, late. Great Black-backed Gull: four near Watertown Jan 21. Mourning Dove: in St. Lawrence County one reported before Mar 15, which is early. There were few Snowy Owls except near Lake Ontario, where the best place to see them was around Point Peninsula. High counts were 13 on Dec 23, 12 on Jan 20, and 16 on Mar 17. A Barred Owl was discovered in a tree in Miss Elitharp's yard Jan 5. It was seen there later on several days and by many persons. Long-eared Owl: one near Point Peninsula Mar 17. Short-eared Owl: 4 on Pillar Point Mar 31.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: Belted Kingfisher: reported Mar 29. Phoebe: first seen Mar 26. Tree Swallow: six early birds at Dexter Mar 31. A Tufted Titmouse appeared at a feeder in Watertown late in Jan and was identified Feb 3. It came daily for peanuts and sunflower seeds until the middle of March, when the weather was a bit warmer. It was not seen again until the snow storm of Apr 1. At least 3 White-breasted Nuthatches and 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches ate every day at the same feeder. Two Robins were found in Thompson Park Dec 23. Robins began to return to Watertown Mar 20. An unusual report is that of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at a feeder on Morrison St., Watertown, Feb 13.

Bohemian Waxwings appeared in Thompson Park, Watertown, early in Jan, and in the latter part of that month the count varied from 20 to 35. On Mar 17 a flock of 300 was carefully observed for several minutes (Ross, Dake, Clinch). The next morning Allen saw a flock which he estimated was more than 300. Cecil Dake took several colored pictures which show the markings of the Bohemian Waxwings very clearly. Usually the Bohemian Waxwings were by themselves, but sometimes the flock included some Cedars. Cedar Waxwings were seen in Thompson Park or nearby from late Dec to late Mar.

Northern Shrike: more numerous than in some years. Cowbird: one at a feeder Mar 19; flocks of 30-50 appeared in Watertown Mar 31-Apr 1 and were

eager to eat. Redwing: a male near Point Peninsula Mar 17, many a few days later. Rusty Blackbird: reported Mar 25. Meadowlark: seen in two different places Dec 23; one at Red Mills Jan 15; several by the end of Mar. Grackles began to reach Watertown Mar 19. Cardinals seemed to be about as numerous as last winter. Evening Grosbeaks were present all winter, but in smaller numbers than two years ago. The Pine Grosbeaks were the most numerous and widespread in 25 years (Belknap); some were still around late in Mar. Pine Siskin: at a feeder in Watertown early in Jan, but no others seen. Slate-colored Junco: one at a feeder daily in Adams Center; another all winter at a feeder in Watertown Center; one in Watertown Mar 10, and several at feeders Mar 31-Apr 1. There seemed to be about as many Tree Sparrows as in other years. A White-throated Sparrow survived the winter near Watertown. At Adams Center a Fox Sparrow came to a feeder for several days in the middle of winter. At Potsdam a Song Sparrow came through the winter in fine shape, and in Watertown two were seen daily at a feeder. Lapland Longspur: a few reports of 2 to 7 birds, all in western Jefferson County. 173 Haley St., Watertown

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

The past winter left the lowlands relatively free of snow most of the reporting period. The cold was prolonged and very intense, especially through February when lows of 25 to 30 below zero were recorded and endured, with slowly increasing levels through the first two weeks of March. Heavy snow accumulations were not general throughout the mountain areas, as was publicly manifested by the complaints of the ski resorts. Bird activity was spotty to none at all in the Champlain area and from all reports was none too prolific in other parts of the region.

As nearly as can be ascertained, the Junco sighted and reported last fall by Mrs. Delehanty was the Oregon Junco, Geoffrey Carleton going to great lengths to help in the identification of this particular individual through correspondence with Mrs. Delehanty.

I am in receipt of many notes for this area from visitors who are members of clubs in other regions. I am very obliged to them for these records. These unexpected notes are always welcome and often include those areas where otherwise there is no coverage. Such current notes are included below, with thanks to all.

Summing up the late fall-winter season, it is worth commenting on the scarcity of Crossbills and Siskins, the early arrival of Evening Grosbeaks, the increase of Pine Grosbeaks, and the general lack of "mast" in the seed and nut-producing trees and shrubs. Some of these conditions were first reported to me by Richard B. Fischer, Associate Professor of Nature and Conservation Education at Cornell, while he was deer hunting last fall, and subsequent reports have borne his comments out.

Loons — Ducks: 125 Canada Geese were at Tupper Lake Mar 30, and 25 on Mar 31 (Delehanty). There was a Lake Alice report Mar 9 (Sibley), and a large flock passed over Plattsburg on Apr 2 (Lesperance). The Wood Duck was at Lake Alice Feb 28 (Sibley) and the Ring-neck at Piseco River Mar 30 (Brockner). Common Mergansers and Common Goldeneyes were in open water of Chazy and AuSable Rivers Jan 7 to Mar 25. Common Goldeneyes were at Saranac Lake Feb 21 (Anderson, Delefield), and there were Hooded Merganser reports there Dec 31 (Hart) and Jan 6 (Anderson, Delefield).

Hawks — Owls: Cooper's Hawk: Feb 25 and Mar 31 near Chazy (Sibley). Broad-winged Hawk: Tupper Lake Mar 29 (Delehanty). Bald Eagle: Tupper Lake, Mar 31 (Delehanty); Port Kent (feeding on garbage) (Gurney); and Plattsburg City Beach (harassing gulls) (Lesperance).

Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were at Plattsburgh Mar 21 as the ice broke up (Lesperance). There was a Great Black-backed Gull there Jan 14. Killdeer: several reports late in period.

A Barred Owl was at Saranac Lake Mar 28 (Anderson, Delefield). The observers enjoyed fine views of this bird perched on a bare branch overhanging the Saranac River almost at the foot of Trudeau Road.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: common in reporting areas. Pileated Woodpeckers: several near Augur Pond throughout period, and