

bird: Dec 2 east of Chaumont (Spofford). Bluebird: a Male near Felts Mills Mar 19 and one near Adams late in Mar. Northern Shrike: a few seen this winter.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Meadowlark: first, in Watertown Mar 17. Red-winged Blackbird: at Calcium Dec 15; near Watertown Dec 20 and Mar 17. Common Grackle: Watertown Mar 16. Brown-headed Cowbird; Watertown Mar 10. Cardinal: about as many as last year. Evening Grosbeak: Very few until Feb; they appeared at Potsdam about Feb 1; in Watertown a week later, becoming numerous in late Feb and most of Mar, but decreasing somewhat in numbers at the end of Mar. In most flocks there were 5-6 times as many females as males. Among the ones trapped for banding less than 20% were males. An albino appeared several times at three feeders near Watertown. Purple Finch: numerous at many feeders over much of this region in Mar. Seen at Adams Center, Lowville, Watertown, Canton and Potsdam. Redpoll: 15 at Deferiet Mar 16, but very few seen. Pine Siskin: seen less often than Purple Finches, but still more common than in any recent year. Goldfinch: Mar 3 at Canton. Slate-colored Junco: 3 at a feeder in Adams Center most of Feb-Mar. Fox Sparrow: in Watertown late Mar. Snow Bunting: several flocks in Dec, less common in Jan and few or none after the middle of Jan.

173-Haley St., Watertown

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

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It is now universally known about the winter just endured and to remark about it here, when it is best forgotten, would be like adding fuel to a dying fire. Bird life as far as activity was concerned came to a standstill in most areas. A few secluded spots did produce some exceptional winter residents, which should have wintered south of here, but even these hardy individuals no doubt succumbed to the icy blasts before it was over. Total accumulations at higher elevations were reported to have been 182 inches while along Lake Champlain it was measured at 70 inches. Snow which fell in the middle of December was still on the ground by mid March. All in all it was, in most cases, a total loss birdwise until the first weeks of March when the first migrants began to appear.

Abbreviations: A — Amstutz; HD — H. Delafield; D — Delahanty; K — Keji; TL — Lesperance; L — lake; R — River; thru — throughout.

Loons — Ducks: Great Blue Heron: one, Mar 29-30, Tupper L, (D); one, Mar 30, Sunmount (A). Black Duck: two, Saranac R, Jan 20, fewer than usual, none on Christmas count (HD). Common Goldeneye: few, Tupper L and Ausable R (as long as water remained open). Bufflehead: Tupper L. Common Merganser: Tupper L and Ausable R.

Hawks — Owls: Bald Eagle: one, Feb 19 (A); one, Mar 25, Tupper L. (D); several reported by various individuals near Willsboro Point on L. Champlain. Sparrow Hawk: returned by Mar 25 (HD). Usually a winter resident in most of the region but not reported this winter. Ruffed Grouse: apparently normal, but hard to see on account of snow depth (HD). Killdeer: two, Mar 27, on L. Champlain ice, at Westport (HD); Mar 30, Saranac L (HD); one, Mar 30, shore of Tupper L (A). Herring Gull: three, Mar 27, on ice at Westport, L. Champlain. Saw-whet Owl: one, Raybrook, Jan 25 (K). Barred Owl: common in the Keeseville area. Screech Owl: two (one red and one grey phase) along Peru Rd.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Belted Kingfisher: one, Jan 8 to 30 nr Powerhouse at Ray Brook (K). Pileated Woodpecker: one or two seen at intervals on Forest Home and McKenzie Pond Rds, Saranac L (HD). Red-headed Woodpecker: one, Chateaugay (John Hotchkiss, fide B. P. Burt) this is a most unusual record since it occurred Christmas week. Hairy Woodpecker: normal (HD); common in areas where seen. Downy Woodpecker: not as common as Hairy (HD); common in areas where seen (TL). Eastern Phoebe: Mar 27, Westport Station (HD). Horned Lark: E.a. alpestris mixed with E.a. praticola common in expected areas, some with Snow Bunting, others with Tree Sparrows and Juncos (TL). Very few reports due to deep snow, few

at Normans Ridge, Mar 14, 16 (HD). Blue Jay: fine comeback after the dearth last winter, often ten to 13 at our feeder (HD). Common Crow: one or two at intervals thru period, back in numbers Mar 27 (HD). Black-capped Chickadee: normal (HD). Boreal Chickadee: more in evidence than usual (HD). White and Red-breasted Nuthatches: common in areas where seen (TL); normal (HD). Brown Creeper: common in most areas (TL); two on count day, one Jan 12 and Feb 27 (HD). Robin: reports of single birds at L. Placid and Saranac L. thru period (HD); some wintered, these were very light colored, and fed on dried and frozen berries or at small springs where the edges did not freeze. Main arrival, Mar 10 (TL). Hermit Thrush: one, Jan 8 and 12; Ray Brook (K, fide HD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: Mar 20, Ray Brook (K). Cedar Waxwing: one, Mar 20, Tupper L. (Mrs. Martin). Loggerhead Shrike: one, Feb 27 and Mar 28, Saranac L. (HD). Northern Shrike: one, Jan 5, 9 & 10, Tupper L. (D). Starling: Flock, Saranac L all winter, numbers back by late Mar (HD).

Vireos — Sparrows: Myrtle Warbler: one, (heard), Mar 31, L. Placid cutoff (HD). House Sparrow: reports show increase in range and numbers (HD). Eastern Meadowlark: one, Mar 25 (D). Red-winged Blackbird: two, Tupper L, all winter (D); one or two at intervals during winter, Saranac L, first migrants, Mar 17, 45, Mar 26 (HD). Common Grackle: migrants began to appear Mar 20 (TL); Saranac L, Mar 25 (HD). Brown-headed Cowbird: three wintered Tupper L (D); five wintered Ray Brook (K); one at feeder all winter (Dr. J. Heins); one or two reported thru period, Saranac L, (HD), migrants began to appear Mar 20 (TL); 48, Mar 26 (HD). Evening Grosbeaks: large numbers after last season's dearth (we used over 225 lbs of sunflower seed) (HD); present in great numbers (TL). Purple Finch: up in numbers, the only bright spot of the long winter (TL); greatest numbers since 1959, which was also a snowy winter; flocks of 30-50 at feeder in Feb, thinning out by mid-Mar (HD). Common Redpoll: reports on Jan 2 and others at intervals during period, 16, Mar 16 (HD); one report on Peru Rd nr Plattsburgh, late Mar (TL). Pine Siskin: small scattered flocks, numbers seemed down (TL); good to large numbers from Dec 12 on, lessening by mid-Mar (HD). Amer. Goldfinch: three, Dec 12, Saranac L, present in small numbers thru period (HD). Red Crossbill: Ray Brook, Dec 5 thru Jan 29 (K); one, dead, Keeseville (TL); pair, Mar 31, L. Placid cutoff (HD). White-winged Crossbill: one Mar 17, Sunmount (A); small numbers thru period Saranac L until Mar 16 (HD). Slate-colored Junco: Mar 31 (my first), Saranac L, other reports three or four days earlier (HD). Tree Sparrow: occasional reports of small numbers thru period (HD). Savannah Sparrow: Mar 27, Tupper L (D). White-throated: 'most of winter' Ray Brook (K). Song: well established, Mar 30, Tupper L (D); two, Mar 27, Westport and Mar 30, Saranac L (HD). Snow Bunting: decidedly fewer than 1961-62 probably due to deep snow (HD).

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

This winter was unusually severe. After a few warm days in early December, the latter part of the month was cold enough to average 23.0° in temperature (3.5° below average) at Albany. Average temperatures at Albany in January and February were 20.3° and 17.2° (2.4° and 6.5° below normal means, respectively.) Snowfall was about average, except during January, when twice the usual amount fell. March averaged close to normal in temperature, with precipitation almost an inch above normal for the month. The last week of the month was above average in temperature, and a noticeable influx of migrant occurred during the week.

In contrast to last winter, very few unusual species appeared. The hawk population seemed low, and finches (particularly in the first half of the winter) were in low numbers. On the other hand, high populations of some of the more common species — especially Blue Jays, Mourning Doves, and Tree Sparrows — were noted. Flocks of ground-feeding birds — e.g., Horned Larks, Snow Buntings and Longspurs — seemed much larger and more widely distributed than usual. Unusual species reported