

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The weather during December reminded us of the winter of 1962-63. The average temperature was about five degrees below normal and there was more than the usual amount of snow. January and February brought milder weather with only light to moderate amounts of snow. March gave us two or three heavy falls of snow, but each was soon followed by warmer weather that melted the snow. The total snow was only half that of the previous winter. The first Robins, Cowbirds, Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds arrived early. The only unusual bird was an immature Glaucous Gull.

PRGMA is used for the Perch River Game Management Area.

Loons — Ducks: Horned Grebe: 13 at Henderson Bay Dec 4, and five at Pt. Peninsula Dec 8. Canada Goose: Several reports during the winter. They stayed at Perch Lake (PRGMA) at least until Dec 10. A flock of about 100 was seen flying Dec 10. About 25 probably remained all winter and were seen between Lake Ontario and PRGMA. Another 14 wintered in Lake St. Lawrence. On Dec 26 a flock of about 40 was seen flying south during a snow storm. About 75 geese in two flocks flew over Watertown Mar 7, but seemed confused and finally turned toward the south. Perhaps they failed to find much open water at that time. The highest count was 500 between PRGMA and Perch River Village, but there probably were many more at PRGMA. Pintail: seen Dec 21; began returning Mar 2, but in somewhat smaller numbers than most years. Oldsquaw: 20 at Henderson Feb 22, and 70 Mar 21. Green-winged Teal: five near PRGMA Mar 29. Hooded Merganser: two at Dexter Dec 2 and one at Watertown Jan 1. A good flight in Mar; 13 at Black Lake Mar 13 and several pairs in the region later in Mar.

Hawks — Owls: Sharp-shinned Hawk: Jan 19, near Tibbitts Pt. Cooper's Hawk: one around Watertown most of winter. Red-tailed Hawk: more numerous than in any recent winter, four seen Jan 8. Rough-legged Hawk: fairly plentiful, but not as numerous as some years. High count four to six in Dec and 8 in Mar. Bald Eagle: one flying over Watertown Dec 25; an adult at Fishers Landing about Mar 1, and one about Mar 20, perhaps carrying nesting material. Marsh Hawk: Mar 15. Killdeer: Mar 19 at Calcium. Glaucous Gull: immature at Sulphur Springs Mar 9 (Belknap). Great Black-backed Gull: 1-3 in Dec-Jan. Herring Gull: around most of winter. Ringed-billed Gull: Mar 9 at Sulphur Springs, early. Snowy Owl: a few seen, but rather scarce compared with some years. Short-eared Owl: Philadelphia Dec 17 and Pt. Peninsula Jan 5.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: Horned Lark: Several on Pt. Peninsula Jan 1, and quite common after Feb 15. Tree Swallow: at PRGMA Mar 29. Blue Jay: Several at feeders all winter. Crow: more numerous than in any recent winter; 20-30 west of Watertown in Jan. White-breasted Nuthatch: at feeders all winter. Red-breasted Nuthatch: Mar 1 at South Edwards. Robin: arrived early in Mar before a snow storm. Northern Shrike: few seen. Meadowlark: Dec 8 and Mar 14. Red-winged Blackbird: males Mar 7. Grackle: Dec 14 and again early in Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: six to ten in Watertown all winter.

Cardinal: about as many as last year. Evening Grosbeak: present in good numbers all winter, but hardly a record flight. Purple Finch: a few reported, but almost none at feeders in Mar. Pine Grosbeak: a good year, but seemed less common in Mar. Redpoll: common, especially in first three weeks in Mar. Pine Siskin: small numbers Jan-Mar, rarely at feeders. Goldfinch: large flock at Pt. Peninsula Jan 1 and small flocks later. Red Crossbill: 50 Dec 4 near Potsdam (Amstutz). They appeared at several feeders in or near Watertown during Mar taking sunflower seeds. The high count was 14 of which half were males. White-winged Crossbills: flocks of 50-60 around Gouverneur in Dec, and also at Theresa and Watertown. They became

scarce later, but were seen at Henderson Feb 22, and near South Edwards Mar 1. Song Sparrow: a few around feeders all winter. Lapland Longspur: about 100 at Pt. Peninsula Dec 7, unusually numerous in Dec and early Jan, not seen later. Snow Bunting: seen regularly, last a single bird at PRGMA Mar 29.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

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The winter period for this region was notable for low snow depths and, surprisingly it seems to me, a lack of birds. December temperatures were moderate for the month. One of the coldest days (as is often the case) being our Christmas Count day, Dec 21, which ranged from -11° to $+9^{\circ}$.

January weather was close to normal according to the weather station at Ray Brook though snow depths on the ground were five to ten percent below normal because of a few heavy snowfalls. The greatest snowfall in any one storm was only four and one half inches. The thaw, January 19-25 reduced the snow cover from twelve inches to eight inches but small falls caused it to grow rapidly after that.

February followed the January pattern of small snowstorms. Temperatures for the month were above those for most years. March "brought the usual amount of unusual weather": an early thaw, high winds and uneven temperatures. The largest snowfall of the entire winter occurred on March 11 when ten inches surprised the countryside.

Apparently the Brown-headed Cowbirds enjoyed the lack of snow and cold as they stayed all winter in numbers. Feeders were quite active in general but birds in the woods were extremely scarce. Often I would do my rounds and come home with only two chickadees or one Blue Jay on my list. Amstutz remarks of wood walks "sometimes did not even see or hear a chickadee."

Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker and the Cardinal at Essex relieve the monotony of my report somewhat. Otherwise only the small numbers of certain species, such as the Pine Siskin, are noteworthy.

Observers and Initials: AA — Agnes Amstutz; ED — Ethel Dyer; HD — Harriet Delafield; JD — Mrs. John Delahanty; JH — Joseph Hart; JK — Joseph Keji; MM — Marion Mason.

Abbreviations used: L — Lake; R — River.

Loons — Ducks: American Bittern: one Mar 21 (early) Saranac R (JH). Canada Goose: five Mar 8, 13 Mar 15 Tupper L (AA); five Mar 23 Saranac R (JH); many if not all of these probable returns of banded birds put out by NY State Conservation Dept spring 1963. Common Goldeneye: five Mar 8, three Mar 29 Little Tupper L (AA); 11 Mar 8 Tupper L (JD). Black Duck: one or two Dec 21, Feb 21, Mar 21 Saranac R (HD). Hooded Merganser: four Mar 29 Little Tupper L (AA); one Mar 21 Saranac R (JH).

Hawks — Owls: Goshawk: one Dec 21 and Jan 17; records show this bird to be rare around Saranac L in winter (HD). Bald Eagle: one Mar 22 Tupper L (Bill Frenette). Sparrow Hawk: one Mar 15 Tupper L (JD); one back at Saranac L Mar 25, same date as 1963 (HD). Spruce Grouse: one Feb 28 Cranberry L area (JH). Ruffed Grouse: fewer tracks around woods, Tupper L (AA); good numbers near doctor's cottages at Ray Brook (JK); normal around Saranac L (HD). Killdeer: one at Gabriels Mar 5 (David Young); one on Sunmount lawn Mar 25-26 (AA); one Saranac L Mar 27 (HD). American Woodcock: just in under the wire, three along Raquette R Mar 31 (AA). Herring Gull: three Mar 8 Tupper L (AA); one Saranac R Mar 17 (HD). Mourning Dove: 12-15 on Willsboro Point Mar 25 (fide MM); Sunmount lawn Mar 28 (AA); one Mar 28 Saranac L (ED).

Goatsucker — Shrikes: Belted Kingfisher: one at Ray Brook Jan 2 and 12 (JK). Pileated Woodpecker: one Jan 28 Ray Brook (JK); one Dec 21