

numerous this winter. Mourning Dove: Watertown Mar 11, Stony Pt Mar 14, Pillar Pt Mar 20.

Snowy Owl: seen in good numbers in Dec and Jan especially near Pt Peninsula and Pillar Pt; also seen near Watertown, Evans Mills and Cape Vincent; these owls were more numerous around Pt Peninsula during the winter of 1961-62, but received more publicity in 1964-65. **Hawk Owl:** Black River Dec 24 (Gorgen), seen later by several persons near Black River, last seen Jan 17. **Barred Owl:** one found dead near Waddington Dec 7. **Short-eared Owl:** 3 at Pt Peninsula and 3 at Pillar Pt same day, (early Jan). See Field Note for Hawk Owl and Short-eared Owl details.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: Mockingbird: Cape Vincent and PRGMA, both Jan 1. Robin: flock of 20 first seen Feb 14 probably wintered near Watertown. Cedar Waxwing: at least 60 near Watertown in late Dec, 300 at Stony Pt Jan 10 and 400 at Watertown Mar 9. Northern Shrike: seen each month, not as many as some winters. Meadowlark: Jan 6, Watertown; Jan 7, Evans Mills; 10-12 near Three Mile Bay Jan 21. Redwinged Blackbird: male at Sackets Harbor Feb 25, about 200 at Henderson Harbor, several other flocks later in Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: a few wintered. Cardinal: probably increasing in numbers. Evening Grosbeak: very few were seen in Dec and Jan, but small numbers appeared at feeders in Watertown and Gouverneur the latter half of Mar; they seemed to appear first and in larger numbers in the northern and eastern parts of the Region, Potsdam, Star Lake and Wanakeena. Pine Grosbeak: none. Pine Siskin: none. Crossbills: none. Goldfinch: 75 at South Edwards Feb 21, 15 at feeders in Wanakeena Mar 15. Purple Finch: a few in Dec and Jan, numerous at feeders from about Feb 20 to the end of Mar; they seemed about as numerous as they were in Mar 1963. Slate-colored Junco: two at feeder in Adams Center during winter; first at feeder in Watertown Mar 23. Common Redpoll: only one flock seen all winter, about 20 at Camp Drum Jan 17. Lapland Longspur: 12 at Sackets Harbor Jan 7, also at Philadelphia and Pt Peninsula in Feb. Snow Bunting: seemed rather scarce.

A report received too late for the last issue tells of a Snowy Owl that was downed by crows Oct 20, 1964 and was picked up by a boy near Potsdam. It died of internal injuries Oct 24. Dr. Hafer prepared a skin and found the bird to be a male (Cerwonka). This is very early for a Snowy Owl in this Region.

173 Haley St., Watertown

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

My area summary this winter season is pretty much a tale of woe. Amstutz from Tupper Lake cries, "Birds are scarce." Keji from Ray Brook echoes her, "Not much of interest or special for this winter report except for lack of birds to see."

The weather report from Bob Kampf at Ray Brook was most un-North Countrylike. Temperatures were above normal and snowfall way below normal all four months. The temperature low was one day of minus 32° on Jan 15. Snow depth reached only eight inches in Dec and Jan and the maximum for the entire winter was 11 inches in mid-February!

Jan and Feb produced some high winds. During a severe storm on Feb 25 a record low for the seven-year history of Mr. Kampf's weather station of 28.77 inches was recorded on the barometer. Temperatures in March were above normal at the end. Wind velocities were well below normal. Bird migrants were late.

The Kingbird

Interest was provided by Joe Hart's five sightings of three-toed woodpeckers and by the unusually large numbers of American Goldfinches thru the period. Near the end of March strange "radio signals" which disturbed the community, were tentatively identified as the mating call of the Saw-whet Owl but the bird was not seen.

Our rivers and lakes are alarmingly low. We wait anxiously to find out how these unusual weather conditions may affect later spring migration.

Observers and initials: AA—Agnes Amstutz; EA—Elizabeth Anderson; EB—Elisabeth Barnet; ED—Ethel Dyer; HD—Harriet Delafield; JH—Joseph Hart; RH—Robert Hagar; GK—Grace Kains; JK—Joseph Keji; CDT—Count Day Team; DY—David Young.

Abbreviations: B—Brook; L—Lake; R—River.

Loons — Ducks: Canada Goose: one Dec 31 Saranac R (RH, DY); five March 20 Raquette R (AA). Mallard, one Jan 2 & Mar 2 Ray B (JK). Black Duck: five Saranac R Dec 31 (RH, DY); three Jan 5 Saranac R. (EA, HD); one L Clear Dec 14 (AA); one Jan 20, Mar 2 Ray B (JK). Common Goldeneye: three Mar 20 Tupper L (AA). Common Merganser: eight Saranac R Dec 31 (RH, DY).

Hawks — Owls: Spruce Grouse: one female Mar 12 Cranberry L Club (Herbert Doig, Game Manager, Watertown, fide JH). Ruffed Grouse: scant to non-existent reports all areas, four Dec 31 (CDT). Killdeer: one Mar 30, Tupper L (AA). Mourning Dove: one Mar 13 Tupper L (AA).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Belted Kingfisher: one thru period Saranac R (RH, DY); Ray B (JK). Pileated Woodpecker: one Saranac L Dec 29 (EB); Dec 29 Ray B (JK); Jan 10 St Regis Dam (HD); Mar 1 Saranac Rd (AA). Hairy Woodpecker & Downy Woodpecker: normal all areas. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: JH was the lucky observer, one Jan 9 Cascades, one Jan 29 Boreas R, one Feb 23 Wabek Corners, one Mar 1 Debar! Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: one Feb 3 Boreas R, again JH. Horned Lark: good numbers around Saranac L until Feb 20 (GK, HD); 30 Normans Ridge Mar 2 (HD). Blue Jay: good numbers thru period. Common Crow: some reported thru period especially Tupper L (AA); probably because of mild little-snow winter. Black-capped Chickadee: normal Saranac L (GK, HD); "numbers decreased one-half from last winter" Ray B (JK). White-breasted & Red-Breasted Nuthatches: normal all areas. Brown Creeper: heard and seen off and on Dec 8 thru Mar 30 Ray B (JK). Robin: late; one off and on all winter Saranac L but no significant return as of Mar 31 (HD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: three Dec 31 (CDT); two Dec 13, one Jan 13 Ray B (JK). Northern Shrike: one Dec 31 Saranac L Village, caught small bird at feeder (EA, HD).

Starling — Sparrows: Starling: back in some numbers Saranac L Mar 4 (HD); 65 Ray B Mar 31 (JK). Redwinged Blackbird: one off and on thru period Saranac L, five Mar 15, good numbers from then on (HD); 20 March 26 Ray B (JK). Common Grackle: two Saranac L Dec 31 (CDT); one all winter Ray B (JK). Brown-headed Cowbird: few off and on thru Dec & Jan, three Mar 30 Saranac L (HD). Evening Grosbeak: spotty but fairly numerous compared to other finches; four to 40 thru period Saranac L (EA, HD); "many" Tupper L (AA); 40 Newcomb Feb 3 (JH), 15 Whitney Park Feb 4 (JH); flocks thru period, 175+ Mar 30 Ray B (JK). Purple Finch: very few reports of very small numbers all areas, largest number 12 Tupper L Feb 13 and Saranac L Mar 3. Pine Grosbeak: none. Pine Siskin: nine Jan 31 Ray B (JK); no other confirmed reports. American Goldfinch: unusually enough this was the finch of this period; 20 Feb 3 Newcomb, 25 Feb 4 Whitney Park; 25 Long L Feb 15 (JH); numerous Dec to Mar 16 Ray B (JK); numerous Saranac L, 50 Mar 4 (HD). Slate-colored Junco: very few reports; eight Dec 31 (T Cantwell); one or two in

early Dec Ray B (JK); one Saranac L Mar 30 (ED); one Saranac L last week in Mar (EB). Tree Sparrow: 12 thru period Saranac L (ED); seven to eight Gabriels, one to three Tupper L (AA); one or few Ray B (JK). Song Sparrow: one Mar 30 Saranac L (EB). Snow Bunting: 25 Jan 1 Saranac L (DY); 14-20 late Jan thru Feb 5, Saranac L (GK); 30 Jan 17 Normans Ridge (HD); 15 Chateaugay, 25 Clayburg Feb 5 (JH); flock L Clear Dec 14 and Feb 16 (AA).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

After a mild, rather wet Dec, Region 8 experienced three cold, dry months. Temperatures in Dec averaged 27.9° at Albany, 1.4° above normal and precipitation totalled 3.28 in., 0.69 in. above normal. Much of the latter occurred as rain or as freezing rain. Temperatures at Albany in Jan, Feb, and Mar averaged 18.1°, 22.3°, and 31.2°; these were 4.6°, 1.4°, and 1.8° below normal, respectively. Precipitation in Jan totalled 1.95 in., 0.52 in. below normal; in Feb, 1.92 in., 0.28 in. below normal; and in Mar, 1.73 in., 0.99 in. below normal.

Despite the cold weather, the ground in the Hudson and Mohawk valleys was without snow cover most of the winter. This was because much of the precipitation fell as rain, sleet, or freezing rain. The lack of snow cover undoubtedly dispersed winter birds more than usual, and feeders in the area had few visitors when compared with other years. Even allowing for this fact, however, most fringillids seemed far fewer in numbers than usual throughout the area. High numbers of gulls and ducks remained on the Upper Hudson above Troy well into Jan for the first time in several years. Although it appeared in the fall that a widespread invasion of northern hawks and owls was to take place, relatively few remained and most raptors were decidedly uncommon. The only exceptions to this were Rough-legged Hawk and Great Horned Owl. Northern Shrikes seemed much more widespread than usual, perhaps also an indication of influx of northern predators.

Unusual or rare species reported during the period included the first records for Region 8 of Harris' Sparrow from two localities, Bald Eagle, Peregrine, Gyrfalcon, Virginia Rail (wintering), Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Long-eared Owl, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, Migrant Shrike, Dickcissel, White-winged Crossbill, Savannah Sparrow, Oregon Junco, and White-crowned Sparrow.

Abbreviations used: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; GCBC—Greene County Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; ADCC—Alan Devoe (Chatham) Christmas Count; GCC—Greene County (Catskill) Christmas Count; SCC—Schenectady Christmas Count; TCC—Troy Christmas Count; arr—arrived; imm—immature; I—Island; L—Lake; Max—maximum; R—River; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; SS—Stockport Station; UH—"Upper Hudson", the Hudson River between Troy and Stillwater; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; WR—Watervliet Reservoir.

Observers: TB, AB—Tom and Arlene Brown; JHB, BB—James and Barbara Bush; JC—Juanita Cook; HE—Hazel Eddy; PE, GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; JF—John Fuller; AG—Aden Gokay; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; MJ—Mary Johnston; MK—Marcia Kent; MDM—Mary Mickle; WN—Wendy Neefus; DR—David Rothaupt; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; HT—Henry Thurston; DJT—Dr. Donald Tucker; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; GMZ—Gladys Zimmer; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin, Barry Havens.