

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark: first Mar 18. Redwinged Blackbird: first Mar 5. Common Grackle: last, two Pt Pen Dec 23; first Mar 13. Brown-headed Cowbird: flock Pt Pen Dec 23; last, at feeder Wat thru Dec 24; first spring Mar 5. Cardinal: at feeders all winter, max eight early Feb Wat (AWA). Evening Grosbeak: numerous at feeders in Jefferson Co all winter, flocks of 12 to 50 common nearly every day; 650 banded Wat Dec 19-Mar 31 (FAC). Pine Grosbeak: most numerous within memory, from Dec to Mar 5 thruout Region; flock size varied from a few to 30 or 50; max count 93 Jan 16 (AWA). Common Redpoll: est. 200 near Cape Vincent Dec 23 (DCG); large flocks of 50-100 noted by several observers Jan-Mar; est. 300 S Edwards, St Lawrence Co Jan 2 (AWA); last Mar 26. Pine Siskin: very scarce; at feeders, five Wat Mar 11 (AWA); two Carthage Mar 24 (Wright). White-winged Crossbill: five male and three female near Sulphur Springs Feb 6 feeding on hemlock cones (AWA). Slate-colored Junco: two at feeder all winter (AWA); first spring influx Mar 19 (DCG). Tree Sparrow: common thru period. White-throated Sparrow: one at feeder thru period WC (Tucker). Song Sparrow: one at feeder during winter WC; first Mar 18, became very numerous in last week of Mar. Lapland Longspur: two Pt Pen Feb 27 (AWA). Snow Bunting: lower numbers than usual but several flocks Jan-Mar; last Mar 26.

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## REGION 7 — ADIRONDAK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

According to Robert Kampf of the weather station at Ray Brook, December, around Saranac Lake, was "characterized by above normal temperatures." This undoubtedly accounted for our outstanding bird—a Great Blue Heron seen three times during Christmas Count Period but hidden, of course, on Count Day. We had a green Christmas and a green New Year's. January also was a month of above normal temperatures with unusually light snowfalls until the 24th when we had 10". There were many days with southwest winds instead of the usual north to northwest. February was more normal with a good deal of snow and some cold, the lowest temperature being minus 23 degrees on the 7th and the 20th. Snow on the ground was up to 27" on the 26th.

March temperatures were slightly below normal; winds well below normal. There was a good deal of snow-shower activity until the end of the month. On March 16th it was minus five degrees while a plus 62 degrees on the 19th, only three days later, brought Song Sparrows, Robins and quantities of "black birds."

The mast crop in the area was down and winter finches were not numerous. Only one flock of Purple Finches reported, no Pine Siskins and very few crossbills.

Apparently our Goshawk records—we had more probable but unauthenticated reports than appear in the record—were not unusual, as Geoffrey Carleton writes us of the Hudson-St Lawrence Region: "Was a great winter for Gos."

Our Christmas Count was average but there were many days when we could bird the favorite spots without seeing a single individual.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; EB—Elisabeth Barnet; ED—Ethel Dyer; HD—Harriet Delafield; EG—Ed Gardephe; JH—Joseph Hart; RH—Richard Hagar; GK—Grace Kains; JK—Joseph Keji; MK—Marguerite Kingsbury; RM—Ruth Miers; DY—David Young; CDT—Count Day Team; mob—many observers.

Abbreviations: B—Brook; Mi.—Mile; RB—Ray Brook; TL—Tupper Lake; SL—Saranac Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: eight Dec 3 Westport (RH). GREAT BLUE HERON: one Dec 24, 27, 29 (mob). Canada Goose: no large numbers around SL, RB, or TL, max twelve Mar 18 Saranac R (MK); 20 Mar 18 Cascade L (Chase); 30 Mar 20 Chazy Landing (Perry); 100 Mar 21 L Alice (Orcutt); 400 Mar 25 Cooperville (EG); 250 Mar 19 Cooperville (JH). Black Duck: ten Dec 3 Westport (RH); six Mar 20 L Alice (EG); two Mar 23 Wickham Marsh, six Mar 25, 100 Mar 29, Cooperville (JH). Wood Duck: 25 Mar 24 Cooperville (EG). Common Goldeneye: 50 Dec 3 Westport (RH); 25 Feb 28 Port Kent, two Mar 23 Wickham Marsh (JH).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: one imm 3 mi. west of Malone Jan 8 (RH); one Jan 14, one Jan 19 Beekmantown, two Jan 21 Vermontville (Chase). Rough-legged Hawk: two, one light, one dark phase Dec 3 Ticonderoga (RH); one dark Jan 19 Beekmantown (Chase). Bald Eagle: one Dec 17 Moody (DY). Sparrow Hawk: one Dec 31, Mar 31 SL (EA, HD); one Mar 21, two Mar 29 L Alice, one Black B Mar 23, two Ausable Marsh Mar 21 (JH). Ruffed Grouse: very few reports; five Dec 31 (CDT); one Dec 16 RB (JK); one Mar 9 TL (RM); two Mar 5, one Mar 9 SL (GK). Killdeer: three Mar 20 TL (RH). Herring Gull: six Dec 3 Westport (RH). Ring-billed Gull: 13 Dec 3 Westport (RH). Mourning Dove: one Mar 24 Ausable Point (EG); one Mar 25 Ausable Marsh (JH).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: one Dec 31 SL (EA, HD). Pileated Woodpecker: two Dec 31 SL (CDT); one at feeder SL Mar 28 (GK); one Mar 8 Santa Clara, one Wickham Marsh Mar 23, one L Alice Mar 31 (JH). Hairy Woodpecker: normal all areas reporting. Downy Woodpecker: same as Hairy. Eastern Phoebe: one Mar 24, 25, 28, SL early (EA, HD, GK). Horned Lark: five Mar 9, three Mar 12 SL (HD). Gray Jay: one Mar 8 Santa Clara (JH). Blue Jay: slightly above normal numbers from all areas reporting. Common Crow: Feb 27 TL (MK); two displaying Mar 3 SL (HD); return Mar 3 RB (JK); return TL Mar 6 (RM). Black-capped Chickadee: normal all areas reporting except "fewer" Mar TL (RM). Boreal Chickadee: three Dec 20 McMasters (HD); three feeder birds all winter SL (CEB); one Bloomingdale Dec 29 (RH); one Mar 8 Santa Clara (JH). White-breasted Nuthatch: one or two every day thru period from all areas. Red-breasted Nuthatch: very few reported; seven Dec 31 SL (CDT). Brown Creeper: two Dec 31 (CDT); one Jan 3 SL (GK); one Mar 19 RB (JK). Robin: one Dec 7 thru Dec 11 SL (EA, HD); one Dec 11 TL (RM); back RB & TL Mar 18, SL Mar 19, L Alice Mar 29. Golden-crowned Kinglet: seven Dec 31 (CDT). Northern Shrike: one Jan 24 SL (EA, HD). Loggerhead Shrike: one Dec 4, one Dec 31 SL (EA, HD). Starling: a few in Dec, many from middle of Mar all areas.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: large flocks all winter. Eastern Meadowlark: three Mar 29 TL (MK). Red-winged Blackbird: a few all winter; extra large numbers, in the hundreds, late Mar all areas reporting. Common Grackle: back after the middle of Mar all areas reporting. Brown-headed Cowbird: first Mar 17 TL (RM); Feb 4 RB (JK); Mar 22 SL (HD); large numbers after those dates all areas. Evening Grosbeak: large flocks, 50 to 115, RB (JK); SL (HD) and TL (RM). Purple Finch: only one report, 40 Dec 31 SL (GK). Pine Grosbeak: many reports of small numbers thru early Mar. Common Redpoll: good reports from all observers, max 150 Dec 8 Black B (RH). Pine Siskin: no reports. American Goldfinch: 100 Jan 1 SL (EB). Red Crossbill: flock Malone Rd Dec 19, six TL Jan 25 (RM). White-winged Crossbill: three Dec 20 SL (HD). Slate-colored Junco:

very small numbers, one to seven, after Mar 21. Tree Sparrow: "not very many this winter" RB (JK); same for other areas. White-throated Sparrow: one Jan 1 thru Mar SL (ED); one Dec 16 thru Jan RB (JK). Song Sparrow: one Dec 31 (RH, DY); back Mar 13 SL (GK); Mar 26 RB (JK); Mar 29 TL (RM). Snow Bunting: four Dec 31 L Placid, 30 Feb 28 Port Kent (JH); 30 Feb 3, six Feb 28, seven Mar 3 SL (HD); 100 Malone Jan 8, three L Placid Jan 21 (RH); 50 TL Jan 31 (RM).

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## REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

After a December which was mild and very dry, Jan, Feb and March were near normal in temperature and provided us with a surplus over the usual average precipitation. Temperatures in Dec (all data taken at Albany) averaged 31 degrees, 4 degrees above normal, and precipitation totalled only 0.97 in., 1.62 in. below normal. Temperatures in Jan, Feb and Mar averaged 22, 23 and 34.3 degrees, respectively; these were one degree below mean average temperatures for Jan and Feb and about one degree above that usual for Mar. Total precipitation: Jan—2.29 in., 0.18 in. below normal; Feb—2.17 in., 0.51 in. above normal; Mar—3.63 in., 0.91 in. above normal.

Due to the late onset of cold weather, ducks and gulls remained in good numbers into late Dec and Jan on larger lakes, reservoirs and the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. Numbers of gulls were even higher than last year in early Jan. The expected widespread movement of finches materialized; Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks were especially abundant, but Pine Siskins, goldfinches and, to a lesser extent, crossbills were all frequently reported. Purple Finches, however, were decidedly uncommon. The discovery of a cowbird roost of at least 1000 birds in Albany was also of much interest.

Migration in Mar seemed closely related to three periods of above-average temperatures during the month: Mar 1-5 (featured by Killdeer, the blackbirds, and the early ducks and gulls); Mar 18-20 (many more ducks, Woodcock, C. Snipe, Robin, E. Bluebird, E. Meadowlark, Fox Sparrow); and Mar 23-24 (Sparrow Hawk, E. Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Savannah Sparrow, Field Sparrow).

The local highlights of the period was the bright male Varied Thrush which appeared at a Rensselaer Co feeder. Other rare or unusual species reported during the period included Mute and Whistling Swans, Shoveler, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Glaucous Gull, Red-bellied, Red-headed and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers, four Dickcissels, Hoary Redpoll, Oregon Junco and a wintering Lincoln's Sparrow.

Abbreviations used: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; ADCC—Alan Devoe (Chatham) Christmas Count; GCC—Greene County (Catskill-Coxsackie) Christmas Count; SCC—Schenectady Christmas Count; TCC—Troy Christmas Count; MR—Mohawk River; nr—near; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; RL—Round Lake; SL—Saratoga Lake; SS—Stockport Station; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; UH—Upper Hudson R (between Troy and Stillwater).