

Tree Sparrow: high numbers in Dec and early Jan with max 495 on HIGMA CC; thru late Jan and Feb a steady drop in at-large numbers, but feeder counts up—Feb BBFS 866, a near-record tally for eight years of BBFS; no heavy Mar flight noted. Slate-colored Junco: scarce thru winter with field max 22 on Jan 26; BBFS showed 109 in Dec, 90 in both Jan and Feb, and 98 in Mar; waves of Juncos noted Mar 11–13 and 30–31.

Half-hardy Sparrows—a sprinkling of White-throated, Swamp, and Song Sparrows, with many White-throated and Song at highland locations, e.g. Pompey (FLF), Marcellus (MSR, CGS). Few non-feeder-sustained individuals made it to Mar except those resorting to the very weedy cornfields in the HIGMA-Port Byron area. Song Sparrow, like Red-winged Blackbird, showed increasing feeder use—12 in Dec, 28 in Jan, 25 in Feb, 41 in Mar. Field Sparrow: singles at HIGMA Jan 9 (WT) and TRGMA Jan 14 (RJS, FGS). White-crowned Sparrow: BBFS one-four/ mo; max of four, all imm, Jan 26 in a weedy cornfield near HIGMA (FGS).

Lapland Longspur: some two-four/day at Syr Airport Mar 20–31. Snow Bunting: actually scarce as a wintering bird—usually only 20–35/day with max 100 in Jan near Utica (V. Billings); Mar flight modest with 300 Mar 19 s. Herkimer Co (KGH), 350 Mar 20 Pompey (FLF), and 700 Mar 23 Otisco (JWP); again no spring flocks of 1000+.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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December was mostly cold with over 38 inches of snowfall, about 12 inches above normal mostly due to heavy storm Dec 1–3. Average January temperatures were above normal with a warm spell Jan 21–26 and high temperatures of 54, 60 and 65 degrees for the 24th to 26th that eliminated most of the snow. The Jan total of 14.8 inches snow was 9.5 inches below normal. February was the coldest month with more snow. March had very little snow or other precipitation (ten inches below normal) and above normal temperatures with a high 73 degrees Mar 31 and most ground bare since Mar 17th.

This winter there were almost no winter finches, with the poorest showing of Evening Grosbeaks in a decade. The Snowy Owl population was probably higher in early winter than last year but did not remain into late winter and spring. Human-caused mortality may still be an important factor. Some interesting rarities that showed up helped to balance an otherwise dull season for birding. Although there was scant snow cover to melt, the prolonged cold, lack of precipitation and late ice breakup on large bodies of water kept most migration retarded until the last week of March. The Black River flats near Lowville were not flooded as is normal in spring and usually flooded areas at Sulphur Springs and elsewhere were non-existent, thus no waterfowl at these places. Due to lack of an average amount of melting snow and the need for rain, fields were brown and dry thruout the lowlands of region but much snow remained in patches on Tug Hill and was very deep in woods at Sears Pond Mar 31. On last day of period there was a spectacular movement of common land birds across Tug Hill Plateau—e.g. Sparrow Hawks, Killdeer, Robins, meadowlarks, Redwinged Blackbirds, grackles, cowbirds, juncos, Song Sparrows etc.

Localities: BCW—Brookside Cemetery, Watertown; BWS—Blake Wildlife Sanctuary; ED—El Dorado; HH—Henderson Harbor; Jeff Co—Jefferson County; PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area; Pt Pen—Point Peninsula; SB—Sherwin's Bay; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; Wat—Watertown; WC—Watertown Center.

Observers: AA—Arthur Allen; JB—John Belknap; FC—Frank Clinch; DG—David Gordon; RW—Robert Walker.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one Jan 29 Pt Pen (RW). Red-necked Grebe: one Dec 12 Snowshoe Pt (AA, JB). Horned Grebe: last Dec 24 to Jan 2 HH and Snowshoe Pt (AA, DG). Pied-billed Grebe: first Mar 19 Black L (JB)—early. Great Blue Heron: first returns to PRGMA heronry Mar 29.

Canada Goose: est 675 Mar 29 PRGMA. Blue Goose: one Mar 29–31 (mob). Mallard and Black Duck: present during winter with great increase Mar 29. Pintail: first Mar 25. Green-winged Teal: first Mar 28. Wood Duck: first Mar 28. Redhead: near Clayton Jan 15 (FC). Ring-necked Duck: first Mar 25 Pt Vivian (DG). Canvasback: five Henderson Bay Dec 23; Jan 1 to Mar 25 from Cape Vincent to Fishers Landing up to 250 est (mob), no Feb records. Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Oldsquaw were present thru period. COMMON EIDER: one female Dec 23–24 HH observed closely, photographed (AA, DG). KING EIDER: one imm male with two females Dec 19–28 ED to Stony Pt (AA, DG)—on four different days. White-winged Scoter: singles Dec 10, Jan 1 Pt Pen, Mar 25 Fishers Landing. Hooded Merganser: pair Jan 16 Black L (JB); spring arr Mar 25 Pt Vivian. Common Merganser: 17 males, several females Mar 25 Fishers Landing. Red-breasted Merganser: Jan 1.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: at least three separate reports, Dec 28 near Stony Pt, Jan 5 near Philadelphia, Mar 24 near Wat seemed unusual activity. Sharp-shinned Hawk: Dec 19 and 26 Wat (AA, RW). Cooper's Hawk: Jan 1 Henderson (AA). Red-tailed Hawk: several Dec-Jan records; singles in early Mar but first apparent spring migration Mar 24–25. Rough-legged Hawk: Dec thru Feb numerous in Region, max 17 PRGMA Jan 22 (AA); numbers lower in Mar. Marsh Hawk: last Dec 14, Jan 29; first spring Mar 29. Sparrow Hawk: several Dec-Jan records; spring increase Mar 11–31. Gray Partridge: high numbers noted by several observers thruout Jeff Co range: max 83 Jan 1 near L Ont; max 250 Feb 4, some near PRGMA marked with colored plastic strips on wing by Cons. Dept. Am. Coot: late Dec 17–24 HH (DG); Dec 26 Sackets Harbor (RW); two Jan 1 Cape Vincent (DG). Killdeer: first Mar 10 Brier Hill; Mar 25 near Wat. Greater Yellowlegs: early, one Camps Mills Mar 31 (JB). Purple Sandpiper: several records with max 23 Dec 17, last seen three Jan 1 Stony Pt (AA, DG, RW).—see *Kingbird* Jan 1967, p.22. Dunlin: Dec 17–28 Stony Pt (DG). Red Phalarope: one imm observed closely Dec 28 Stony Pt (DG)—very late. Great Black-backed Gull: several Dec-Jan records. Mourning Dove: last Dec 10 Pillar Pt; first Mar 11 Pillar Pt. Great Horned Owl: singles seen Mar 11 near BWS (AA); Mar 28–30 BCW (DG) and heard near Wat Dec-Jan (RW). Snowy Owl: Dec-Feb many were reported thruout Jeff and St Law Co. max 6 Dec 14 Pt Pen (JB); max 8 Jan 2 Pillar Pt—Pt Pen and max 7 Feb 13 (RW); one found dead Pt Pen and more may have been shot. During March numbers declined until they were difficult to locate. Last Mar 25 near Chaumont (DG). Most Snowy Owls this year were dark birds and very few were almost all-white typical adult males. Short-eared Owl: one Jan 3 near Evans Mills (JB).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: last male Dec 26 BCW (FC); first spring male Mar 28 BCW (DG). Flicker: first Mar 18 near Snowshoe Pt. (DG)—very early. Pileated Woodpecker: one Jan 1 Snowshoe Pt feeding on wild grape (RW). Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: usual numbers. Black-backed

Three-toed Woodpecker: one female first seen Feb 26 in tamarack swamp BWS (RW); two females Mar 4, one Mar 5-12 (mob), one could be approached to within six feet while it worked low on a stub. NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: one male first seen Feb 26 BWS (RW); a male and female Mar 4 BWS (mob) in same woods where other three-toed species at work had flaked off bark from 30-40 tamarack trees from the snow line up to 30 feet high. Third known occurrence of species Jeff Co in ten years. Eastern Phoebe: first Mar 30. Horned Lark: small numbers scattered thru countryside Dec-Jan, all Prairie; numbers increased after Feb 18 with two Northern seen then.

Blue Jay: numbers seemed lower than usual Jan-Feb. Common Crow: two Dec 17; two Dec 27; two Feb 18; first noticeable influx Mar 4 (DG); numerous Mar 11-31. Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch: usual winter population. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one at feeder early Mar. Brown Creeper: at feeder Jan 1 thru rest of winter, others during March. Winter Wren: near Gouverneur Dec 17 and Jan 1 (JB). Mockingbird: one Dec 28-Jan 2 Stony Pt (DG). Robin: first migrant Mar 18, not common Wat until Mar 26, peak migration dates Mar 30-31. Eastern Bluebird: first Mar 17 two WC (Tucker); female with no color on breast Mar 24 near Stony Pt (DG); male Mar 30 near Brownville (AA). BOHEMIAN WAXWING: three observed at close range for 30 min with large flock of Cedar Waxwings Mar 18 near Snowshoe Pt (DG)—first Jeff Co report since Apr 1962. Cedar Waxwing: wandering flocks Dec-Jan, increasingly common Mar. Northern Shrike: few scattered records Dec-Feb, last Mar 8.

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: Jan 2 Pt Pen (RW); Jan 15 near Clayton (FC); first spring Mar 19. Redwinged Blackbird: Dec 10, 26, Jan 1, Feb 4; first spring flocks Mar 11. Baltimore Oriole: at feeder Nov 22-Dec 30 (AA)—see Field Note. Common Grackle: first Mar 11 near Wat. Brown-headed Cowbird: winter dates Dec 10, 26, Jan 1, 15, Mar 12; spring flocks Mar 23. Tremendous mixed flock blackbird migration Mar 30-31. Cardinal: several pairs at feeders Wat thru winter. Evening Grosbeak: only reports Dec 1 one female, Jan 11 two males, one female Wat (AA); continues trend of late or non-appearance in alternate years since 1960. Purple Finch: none seen. Common Redpoll: only report one at feeder Dec 22 (AA). Savannah Sparrow: one Jan 2 Pt Pen (RW)—unusual date. Slate-colored Junco: winter dates Jan 1, 21, Mar 14; first spring arr Mar 27; numerous Mar 28-31. Tree Sparrows: present thru winter; THP Mar 31. White-crowned Sparrow: Dec 11 SB (RW)—unusual. Song Sparrow: first Mar 19; uncommon until Mar 27-28. Lapland Longspur: 24 near Limerick Dec 26 (JB); 20 near Balmat Jan 2; 30 near Edwards Jan 2 (AA); six SB Jan 2 (RW). Snow Bunting: Dec 10 to Mar 11; several flocks of more than 200 noted as well as smaller groups usually not mixed with Horned Larks or longspurs.

Please have spring reports in by June 9.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Dec '66 started out with a heat wave. The record high for this month was 62 degrees on Dec 6. The lowest temperature was zero on the 19th, and the biggest snowfall was 16" over Christmas. At the end of the month there were only 13" of snow on the ground.