

Mar. Red Crossbill: one-20/day in Feb and Mar at Cicero Swamp and Constantia. White-winged Crossbill: only a single report, two, Alder Creek Feb 24 (J&EVD).

Rufous-sided Towhee: total of 12 attempted to winter; most unusual is one at 1400 ft S of Pompey Center (FLF) in the snowbelt; first migrants Mar 24 Holland Patent (J&EVD) and Otisco L (E.M.Starr). Slate-colored Junco: BBFS 73 Dec, 124 Jan, 126 Feb, 107 Mar; scarce away from feeder situations. *OREGON JUNCO*: one Dec 1 at feeder Oneida (S.Paquette), the only record. Tree Sparrow: numbers definitely up in Dec and Jan with 1230 on Oneida CC and 667 on HIGMA CC; 800/month on BBFS (892 in Jan is an all-time high!). Field Sparrow: total of five individuals attempted to winter; two present into Feb. *HARRIS' SPARROW*: imm at well-sheltered feeder and pine plantation Oswego mid-Jan to Mar 26 (H.K.Sheldon, FGS, mob), first Regional record. White-crowned Sparrow: four individuals wintered. White-throated Sparrow: 18 (record high) on Syr CC; BBFS tallied 6 in Dec, 15 in Jan, 17 in Feb, and 8 in Mar; also 15 in several sectors of Syr Mar 15 (RJS). Fox Sparrow: first migrant Mar 19 Holland Patent (J&EVD). Swamp Sparrow: max four HIGMA CC; only one noted in Feb. Song Sparrow: wintered in increased numbers—45 HIGMA CC and 25 on Feb 1 Baldwinsville; BBFS 22 Dec, 41 Jan, 41 Feb, 54 Mar; first migrants Mar 10 with heavy influx Mar 20-24 panregionally. Lapland Longspur: very scarce—six reports involving ten birds. Snow Bunting: large flocks (700-1000) thru the winter roving in open areas near Pompey, Cicero Center and Texas; 1100 (migrants) Mar 10 DH (JWP).

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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December snowfall of five and one-half inches was 21 inches below normal at Watertown. There was also some rain. Temperatures averaged above normal with a record high of 58 degrees on Dec 22. Record low temperatures were set in January and average temperatures were below normal for the month. Precipitation and snowfall were below normal. Snowfall was 14.2 inches compared with normal of 24.4 inches. February had below normal temperatures and about average amount of snow. Average temperatures and snowfall were above normal for March with a record official high of 74 degrees Mar 31. In summary, it was one of the coldest winters in this century but the total Watertown snowfall of 65.6 inches was 33.8 inches below normal, one of the lightest in 68 years.

This was a second consecutive winter with a scarcity of the usual winter species but in a different way than last year. Although common elsewhere in the state, almost no Short-eared Owls were seen although specifically searched for. No waxwings were reported all winter and there was a poor showing of Northern Shrikes. Most half-hardy species such as Mourning Doves and Robins went unreported until spring migration. Other species entirely absent this winter were redpolls and siskins. The numbers of all winter finches were extremely low outside of the Adirondacks. No rarities helped compensate for a hard cold winter that was very dull for birders. However, the last week of March brought a flood of migration with early dates for several species and the changing weather promised a very early Spring.

Localities: BCW—Brookside Cemetery, Watertown; Car—Carthage; ED—El Dorado; Gouv—Gouverneur; HH—Henderson Harbor; Jeff Co—Jefferson County; PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area; Pt Pen—Point Peninsula; SL Co—St. Lawrence County; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; Wat—Watertown; WC—Watertown Center.

Observers: AA—Arthur Allen; JB—John Belknap; FC—Frank Clinch ;DG—David Gordon; J&MK—Jim & Mary Key; WW—Winifred Wright.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one Dec 2 HH. Horned Grebe: last Dec 7 HH. Pied-billed Grebe: first Mar 23. Mute Swan: one at Pillar Pt and Brownville Jan 5–6 (DG *et al*); two PRGMA Mar 30 (DG). Canada Goose: first Mar 19, several hundred PRGMA Mar 30. Mallard: spring arr Mar 23. Black Duck: small numbers overwintered, influx Mar 23. Pintail: first Mar 21. Green-winged Teal: first Mar 21. Blue-winged Teal: first Mar 30. Am Widgeon and Shoveler: first Mar 30 Wilson's Bay. Wood Duck: first Mar 27. Redhead: eight near Stony Pt Jan 20, at PRGMA Mar 23. Ring-necked Duck: first Mar 23. Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Oldsquaw: common wintering ducks. White-winged Scoter: one ED Dec 2, one near Sackets Harbor Dec 2–9 (DG), one near Stony Pt Jan 20. Hooded Merganser: last Dec 9, spring arr Mar 21.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: one near Philadelphia Feb 23 (DG). Cooper's Hawk: one near feeders Wat Jan 14 (AA). Red-tailed Hawk: one Dec 2 near Wat, two near Depauville Dec 23, two near Perch Lake Feb 24, first spring record Mar 23. Rough-legged Hawk: seen regularly Dec 2–Mar 16 many places thruout Jeff Co with highest daily counts in Pt Pen area of 11–13 in Jan; not as numerous as some winters. Marsh Hawk: last Cape Vincent Dec 4, first Depauville Mar 4, several seen thereafter thru Mar. Sparrow Hawk: several present thru winter, increase last week Mar.

Gray Partridge: usual flock size 6–8 thru winter with highest daily counts 208 Jan 14 (AA), 54 Jan 27 (DG) Pt Pen area, "huns" paired off Mar 16. Killdeer: first Mar 18. Great Black-backed Gull: Jan 17 Wat. Ring-billed Gull: buildup of low winter population Mar 23. Bonaparte's Gull: one PRGMA Mar 23 (DG)—a rare spring date. Mourning Dove: no winter reports, first Mar 30. Great Horned Owl: one Jan 8 Wat (AA). Snowy Owl: one ED, one south Wat Dec 2 (DG), one to three Pillar Pt—Pt Pen—Cape Vincent area Jan–Feb (mob), high count six Jan 14 (AA), one near Evans Mills mid Feb–Mar 25 (JB). Short-eared Owl: one probable near Adams Mar 11 (DG)—only report.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Flicker: first Mar 29 Wat. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: first Mar 30 (fide FC)—early. Hairy Woodpecker: seemed scarce this winter. Three-toed woodpeckers not reported, but several trees with recently flaked-off bark noted in wooded areas during winter. Eastern Phoebe: first Mar 24. Horned Lark: prairie subspecies seen each month of winter but noticeable influx after Feb 20; paired off Mar 16 and common; two of northern subspecies Pillar Pt Jan 13. Tree Swallow: first arr four PRGMA Mar 23 (DG)—early; Mar 25 (JB), Mar 30 (FC) same place. Blue Jay: more numerous this winter than last year. Common Crow: several wintered in scattered localities; influx in large numbers Mar 2–9. Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch: common winter residents. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Feb 11 Wanakena, SL Co; two Mar 2 Camp Drum. Brown Creeper: three Dec 23, one Feb 23, two Mar 2, one Mar 10—probably overwinter sparingly. Brown Thrasher: one at feeder Dec 11 Wat (AA)—late. Robin: first arr Mar 17 Wat. Northern Shrike: scarcest in many years; one early Dec near Adams Center (Gaskin), one Dec 3, 23, 30 near Wat (AA), one dead on road near PRGMA Dec 15 (JB), Jan 14 Pt Pen (AA), last Feb 24 Pt Pen (DG). Loggerhead Shrike: one Mar 30 near Cape Vincent (DG)—early.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: seven Dec 30 Rodman (DG); first spring Mar 21. Red-winged Blackbird: first Mar 16. Common Grackle: one Dec 31 Wat; first spring Mar 16. Brown-headed Cowbird: Jan 17, Feb 19, Mar 9; first spring arr Mar 24. Cardinal: thru winter several locations Car and Wat. Evening Grosbeak: second consecutive year of relative scarcity; three Jan 16, nine Jan 24–26 Wat (AA); from about Feb 1 to Mar 25 they were present in small flocks up to 50 at one time Car, Gouv, Wat; est 100 at Wanakena and Cranberry Lake, SL Co Feb 11 (DG);

130 banded Wat (FC). Purple Finch: at feeders Car and Wat Mar 3-31 (WW,AA, FC). Pine Grosbeak: small flock Sears Pond, THP Dec 30 (DG). Amer. Goldfinch: one Dec 31 WC; 60 Feb 28 S Edwards, SL Co, one Mar 10 BCW. Red Crossbill: one pair dead on road Feb 11 near Sevey, SL Co. (DG). Slate-colored Junco: two Dec 11; first spring Mar 20 thru period. Tree Sparrow: thru period everywhere. White-throated Sparrow: two Dec 31 WC, one first week Jan Wat. Song Sparrow: first Mar 20. Lapland Longspur: eleven Pillar Pt and one Pt Pen Jan 13 (DG); two Pt Pen Jan 14 (AA); two near Three Mile Bay Feb 23 (J&MK); one Pillar Pt Feb 24 (DG). Snow Bunting: over 300 south of Wat Dec 2, many small, scattered flocks Jan 13-14 Pillar Pt-Pt Pen; est 300 near Sulphur Spr Jan 20; over 150 Pt Pen Feb 24 of which 50 *perched in a tree* briefly (DG); last one Mar 16 Sackets Harbor.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

The 1967-68 winter season was characterized by cold but little snow. December started off with zero and minus 4 degree readings but soon went into the upper twenties and thirties. Humidity was high, precipitation low though many days produced fog, rain, sleet and snow all in twenty-four hours and automobile travel was hazardous. Road kill, particularly among Pine Siskins, Pine Grosbeaks, Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills, was heavy. One to three inches of snow came and went on the ground and finally five inches accumulated on December 29. The first skiers took to the slopes of Mt Pisgah on December 30.

January was bitter cold with an average temperature of 9.5 degrees. According to Bob Kampf of the Hilltop Meteorological Observatory, Ray Brook, the lowest daytime high ever recorded at the station was minus 16.5 degrees on January 9. Mr. Kampf says, "Precipitation was very low as one might expect with the polar front exerting maximum effort for most of the month. . . . Snow depth on the ground averaged about 10 inches."

February again gave us a record cold average of 11.5 degrees and the snowfall was only 29 inches as compared to a normal of four feet. Feeders were well patronized and it was comforting to think of the abundant mast crop, large spruce cones in particular, still in evidence in the woods.

March temperatures were only slightly above normal but the thin snow covering disappeared rapidly. The lowest temperature for the month was minus 15 degrees on the 14th, highest plus 69.5 on the 31st.

The presence of winter finches—with the exception of Common Redpolls (one record) and White-winged Crossbills (no records)—made birding a bit more exciting this winter than last. Some species, such as blackbirds, Killdeer, and Eastern Meadowlark, may have come back a little earlier than usual because of muddy fields and surface pondlets but the notably early bird was Keji's Eastern Bluebird at Ray Brook. The only rarity was the rail on the Saranac Christmas Count. Hagar and Young went out to look for it again but had no luck.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; EB—Elisabeth Barnet; GTC—Greenleaf T Chase; HD—Harriet Delafield; JH—Joseph Hart; RH—Robert Hagar; JK—Joseph Keji; RM—Ruth Meier; IW—Isabel Williams; DY—David Young.

Abbreviations: Aus M—Ausable Marsh; B—Brook; P—Pond; RB—Ray Brook; SL—Saranac Lake; TL—Tupper Lake; CDT—Count Day Team; Wick M—Wickham Marsh.

LOONS—DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: one Dec 31 Saranac R (RH,DY); one Mar 28 RB (JK); two Aus & Wick M (GTC). Canada Goose: three flocks Mar 20 RB