

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.

1347 Sherman St., Watertown, N.Y. 13601

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

(Bombard); 77 Mar 20 Great Chazy (*fide* GTC); 75 Mar 27 Little Chazy R (Buckley). Mallard: two Aus M Mar 29 (GTC). Black Duck: one Dec 31 Saranac R (RH,DY); eleven Aus M & Wick M, three Mar 29 L Flower (GTC). Wood Duck: six Mar 29 Aus M (GTC). Ring-necked Duck: six Mar 29 L Flower (GTC). Common Merganser: five males Clintonville Mar 29 (GTC).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: one Malone Dec 29, one L Titus Mar 26, one Clintonville Mar 29 (GTC). Golden Eagle: one Mar 15, one Mar 26 northern Adirondacks (*fide* GTC). Sparrow Hawk: one SL Mar 28 (HD); one Clintonville Mar 29 (GTC). Ruffed Grouse: six Dec 31 (CDT); one or two thru period TL (RM) and RB (JK). **RAIL:** one (King or Virginia) Saranac R Dec 31 (RH,DY) The observers, traveling by canoe, "saw clearly the long, slightly downcurved bill, rusty wings and neck, black barring on rump, characteristic walk, run and gawky flight with legs trailing." No size comparison was available and cheek color could not be determined. Killdeer: one Mar 28 RB (JK); four Mar 31 Norman's Ridge near Vermontville (EA,HD). Herring Gull: Aus R Mar 29 (GTC). Ring-billed Gull: Aus R Delta Mar 29 (GTC). Mourning Dove: Aus M Mar 29, two (GTC). Great Horned Owl: one Dec 29, flew across road a few feet in front of car at State Bridge between TL and SL, good view in good light (JH). Snowy Owl: one east of Malone last week Dec, first week Jan, one west of Malone second week Jan might have been same bird (Orcutt, Cobb *fide* GTC).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: one Saranac R Dec 31 (RH, DY). Pileated Woodpecker: two Dec 31 SL (CDT); one Mar 29 Aus M (GTC). Hairy & Downy Woodpecker: normal RB, TL, SL (one to four seen in a day HD). Eastern Phoebe: one Aus M Mar 29 (GTC). Horned Lark: 45 Malone area Feb 8 (GTC); back late Mar Gabriels (DY); one Mar 31 Norman's Ridge (EA,HD). Tree Swallow: three Mar 29 RB (GTC); one Mar 31 SL (HD). Gray Jay: two Dec 31 near TL Rd (GTC). Blue Jay: 16–20 at feeder thru Feb TL, RB & SL, individual feeding mate Mar 9 SL (EB). Common Crow: one Dec 1–5, six Mar 28 RB (JK); three Jan 2, small numbers back Mar 4 TL (RM); three McMaster's Rd, between SL and SL Inn Jan 13, three Feb 8 and 28, displaying Mar 14 SL, 23 Mar 31 Norman's Ridge (EA,HD). Black-capped Chickadee: normal—small flocks, two to ten any day; 135 Dec 31 SL (CDT). Boreal Chickadee: five Dec 31 (CDT); four Jan 24 Onchiota Rd (HD); ten Mar 3 and 5 Faust (RM); one, end Mar SL (EB). White-breasted and Red Breasted Nuthatches: normal, one to three in a day; 11 and 14 Dec 31 (CDT). Brown Creeper: one Dec 12 and 21 SL (EB,HD); six Dec 31 (CDT); one or two daily RB (JK). Robin: back Mar 20 SL and RB, Mar 21 TL. Eastern Bluebird: Mar 28, early, RB (JK). Golden-crowned Kinglet: two SL Dec 24 (EA,HD); six Dec 31 (CDT); one or two off and on Jan 5 thru Mar 29 RB (JK). Northern Shrike: one Dec 17 and Jan 28 SL (EB); one Jan 21 and 22 RB (JK). Starling: 70 Dec 31 (CDT); 25 Mar 25 RB (JK); 50 Mar 20 SL (HD).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: no large numbers reported. Eastern Meadowlark: one Mar 29 RB (JK); four Mar 31 Norman's Ridge (EA,HD). Red-winged Blackbird: one or two all winter, 30 Mar 20 RB (JK); three Mar 20, 18 Mar 21 TL (RM); one Mar 12, 15 Mar 20, 35 Mar 31 SL (HD); 30 Aus M Mar 29 (GTC). Common Grackle: back in small numbers all areas mid-Mar; ten Mar 18 SL (EB). Brown-headed Cowbird: back small numbers after mid-Mar; four Mar 26 RB (JK); four SL Mar 21 (HD).

Cardinal: only the male in Bloomingdale this winter, seen Dec 3, 4 and 29, also all of Jan, Feb and Mar (IW); two pair reported near TL (Kingsbury, RM). Evening Grosbeak: big year for this species, seen in the one and two hundreds Bloomingdale (IW); TL (RM); RB (JK); SL (EB,HD); 419 Dec 31 (CDT); one albino Feb 4–Mar 18 RB (JK); tapering off end of Mar though still 100 Mar 22 TL (RM). Purple Finch: flocks of eight to 18 seen off and on thru period in all areas reporting; ten to 20 all period, one singing Mar 8 TL (RM). Pine Grosbeak: this was our most out-

standing winter visitor; 59 Dec 31 (CDT); 40 Feb 8 Malone Rd (GTC); much road kill reported. The birds stayed in the area until late Feb and early Mar. Common Redpoll: seven Dec 31 (GTC). Pine Siskin: another visitor in large numbers; 186 Dec 31 (CDT); diminishing thru Mar. American Goldfinch: fewer than above species but small flocks in evidence all period; 100 Dec 31 (CDT). Red Crossbill: flocks of five to 20 Dec 2–Feb 23 TL (RM); 15 Dec 24, two Jan 1, 12 Jan 25, eight Feb 18 SL (EA,HD); one singing Jan 10, groups up to 25 thru Mar 28 RB (JK). Slate-colored Junco: one or two thru period all areas except TL, mostly feeder birds. Tree Sparrow: more reports than usual thru period; 25–30 Dec 28 thru Mar 1 TL (RM); eleven thru Mar 12 SL (HD); two Dec 1 thru Mar 26 RB (JK). Field Sparrow: two Mar 28 RB (JK). White-throated Sparrow: one at feeder Dec 3 thru Mar 30 SL (EB); one to three at feeder Dec thru Jan, one Feb 17 RB (JK); three Dec 31 (CDT). Fox Sparrow: feeder birds, one Jan 31 thru Feb 4 Lower Saranac L (GTC); one Mar 24–27 SL (EB); one Mar 24–26 RB (JK). Song Sparrow: a few feeder reports thru period; back Aus M Mar 28 (GTC), SL Mar 24 (HD). Snow Bunting: 15 Dec 30 SL (HD); 57 Dec 31 (CDT); six Jan 11 SL (EA).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

HAZEL F. BUNDY

This past winter was erratic, and in general was very dry. We had about 50 per cent of the snow we usually get in a season. Precipitation during December was 3.9 inches, 1.31 inches greater than average. There was a heavy rain of 1.48 inches on Dec 12, and a deep snow on the 28th and 29th resulting in 12 inches of snow on the ground. We had intensively cold weather in Jan, averaging eight degrees below normal, with precipitation about three-fifths of the normal 2.47 inches. The snow on the ground steadily diminished during the month, from nine inches on Jan 1, to one inch on Jan 31. Feb was cold, with average temperatures 2.6 degrees below normal. Ground cover during the entire month was of an amount too small to measure. March was rather sunny and dry, with a four-inch snow on the 11th and heavy rain of about one inch on the 17th and 18th. An intense high pressure system dominated the area for the first week of the month, delaying migration until about the 9th, when the temperature moderated.

Birds at the feeder were more common in Dec and Jan than in the same period in 1966–67. However, the dry winter with the thaw of late Jan and generally open country caused a marked decrease of birds at feeders in Feb and Mar. Hawks appeared to be holding their own, with the now usual small numbers reported in this Region. Owls were recorded in about the usual numbers, also. The following species of land birds wintered in unusually high numbers: Robin, Horned Lark, Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow. On the other hand, winter finches were a disappointment after an encouraging fall season. Crossbills were entirely absent.

Many interesting facts and some unusual species were turned up when the countryside was scoured for the Christmas Counts. Total numbers provided statistics for the noting of population changes, unwelcome though some of them may be—see the main body of the report for the vast number of Starlings, and for other comparisons.

The highlight of the period was a Kittiwake, the first ever reported in this Region. Other unusual or out-of-season species included Whistling Swan, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Saw-whet Owl, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Dickcissel, and Oregon Junco. A probable Lark Bunting was also described, the second listing for the Region.