

28-29 near Black R (Benedykt, RW), early. Song Sparrow: Dec 19, Mar 19. Snow Bunting: until Mar 22, most flocks small, max over 100.

173 Haley St., Watertown, New York 13601

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

The fierce weather which started in November continued through the winter and on into spring. December averaged 16.3 degrees in temperature but ranged all the way from minus 30 degrees on the 26th to plus 52 degrees on the 13th. These changes in temperature, combined with a fall of over five feet of snow, laid down layers of ice and crust, sometimes covered with slush, which made all forms of transportation hazardous. There were only five days without precipitation! January brought much the same pattern; also February and March.

Our area entered April with 17 and one-half inches of snow on the ground—we had not seen the ground since November 8. Wind velocities for the winter were not very high nor temperatures much below zero but even people who have lived in the Northern Adirondacks all their lives do not remember such continuous snow cover with such long periods of dangerous travel.

Ice-coated ground, snow-covered trees, lack of fruit crop and immobility of observers except for emergencies, have undoubtedly contributed to the short report which follows. What the few birds in the area would have done without feeders we could not begin to guess.

As can be seen by the Christmas Count records included, birds were almost non-existent in the woods. W. D. Merritt, who spent some days in the High Peak region, says: "The lack of birds this winter was startling."

Our rarities were the Black Vulture which, though found in November, was not reported to me until December; a Hawk Owl; and the Common Ravens seen in December. My reporters were most concerned about the lack of Slate-colored Juncos and Purple Finches even at feeders.

We are happy to welcome Howard and Margaret Read of Morrisonville as new reporters for Region 7. Clinton County, and particularly water-front observers, have been sadly lacking so we look forward to the Reads' seasonal records.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; GTC—Greenleaf T Chase; ED—Ethel Dyer; HD—Harriet Delafield; RH—Robert Hagar; JK—Joseph Keji; RM—Ruth Meier; HMR—Howard and Margaret Read; CDT—Count Day Team; IW—Isabel Williams.

Abbreviations: B—Brook; B'dale—Bloomingdale; M'ville—Morrisonville; P—Pond; RB—Ray Brook; SL—Saranac Lake; TL—Tupper Lake.

Please have reports for spring season in by June 9.

LOONS—DUCKS: Mallard: pair Saranac R near M'ville Mar 30 (HMR). Wood Duck: seven Saranac R M'ville Mar 31 (HMR). Common Goldeneye: nine wintering Saranac R M'ville (HMR). Common Merganser: one Dec 28 Saranac R SL (RH).

HAWKS—OWLS: *BLACK VULTURE*: see field note. Goshawk: one Dec 20 SL (HD). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one flew into window of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sturgis RB early Dec (identified by Cornell Lab of Ornithology); one Ampersand Bay SL Mar 7 (GTC). Sparrow Hawk: one M'ville, four Peru Mar 30 (HMR). Ruffed Grouse: one Jan 3, one Feb 2 RB (JK); four M'ville Feb 4 (HMR); few off and on TL (RM). Killdeer: one Saranac, Clinton Co Mar 29 (EA,HD). Mourning Dove: one TL Mar 30 and 31 (RM). Great Horned Owl: one eating prey M'ville Mar 22 (HMR). *HAWK OWL*: Feb 1, first noted flying across the road

near Elizabethtown exit from Northway. The size was considered to be smaller than a Barred Owl, tail was long. This, plus the configuration when perched, led the observers to the conclusion the bird was a Hawk Owl. Facial pattern not noted (HMR). Barred Owl: one Dec 25 near feeder M'ville, one catching Flying Squirrel also near feeder near Saranac R M'ville Mar 5 (HMR); one SL Jan 26 (GTC).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: one Saranac R SL Dec 24 (Schramm *vide* HD). Pileated Woodpecker: two Kiwassa Dec 22 (Alliason); one Jan 27 and Feb 1 M'ville (HMR); two SL Mar 12 (HD); one Heart L, one Seward Range Mar 16 (W. D. Merritt). Hairy Woodpecker: two to four at feeders M'ville, TL, RB, and SL; five Dec 29 SL (CDT). Downy Woodpecker: four to six at feeders same areas as Hairy; 13 SL (CDT). Horned Lark; one Feb 28, one Mar 28 SL (HD); 30 Mar 1 Peaseleeveville, three flocks P'ville to Black Brook Mar 15 (HMR). Blue Jay: six to "many" at all feeders; 25 Dec 29 (CDT). Common Raven: one early Dec Saranac Inn (W Petty), three Bay P Town of Santa Clara (W Rockefeller); one Dec 28 and 29 Route 3 between SL and Halfway B (GTC). Common Crow: one Dec 29 SL (ED); one Feb 6 SL (EA); 10 Mar 15 TL (RM); 13 Mar 22 M'ville (HMR); eight Mar 28 RB (JK). Black-capped Chickadee: presumably because of lack of food in woods these were a great feeder bird this winter; 112 Dec 29 SL (CDT). Boreal Chickadee: one SL Dec 7 (HD); three Dec 29 TL edge of count circle (GTC). White-breasted Nuthatch: one to four at feeders; nine Dec 29 (CDT). Red-breasted Nuthatch: one to three RB and B'dale; 12 Dec 15 SL (CDT). Brown Creeper: one intermittently thru winter M'ville (HMR); same, singing Mar 23 and 25 RB (JK); two Dec 29 SL (CDT). Robin: one Mar 23 SL (EA); one Mar 26 RB (JK). Golden-crowned Kinglet: two off and on RB (JK). Northern Shrike: one Dec 28 SL (RH); one Feb 26 TL (RM). Loggerhead Shrike: one Mar 24 SL (EA,HD). Starling: two Feb 28, 30 Mar 18 SL (EA,HD); few Mar 21 TL (RM); four Mar 25 RB (JK).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: very few reports; 32 Dec 29 SL (CDT). Eastern Meadowlark: one Mar 24 RB (GTC); one SL Mar 26 (HD). Red-winged Blackbird: female thru winter at feeder SL, five Mar 18, 23, some singing Mar 19 SL (EA,HD); 200 Mar 19 TL (RM); 104 Mar 29 B'dale (IW). flocks Mar 25 RB (JK); first male Mar 30 M'ville (HMR). Common Grackle: two Mar 19 SL (HD); four Mar 21, 12 Mar 30 B'dale (IW); one Mar 30 RB (JK). Brown-headed Cowbird: two Dec 29 SL (CDT); few Jan and end Mar RB (JK); seven Mar 18 SL (HD); 20 Mar 27 B'dale (IW). Cardinal: two females Dec 29 B'dale (IW); seen other places around B'dale thru Feb (Cimbric, etc.); one male Dec 13-18, one female Dec 19 and 20 M'ville (HMR). Evening Grosbeak: almost none at SL and Gabriels; 20 to 40 at feeder M'ville (HMR); 40 thru 70 RB (JK); 30 to 40 TL (RM); 100 Mar 24, 50 Mar 31 B'dale (IW). Pine Grosbeak: few early in period; one to three RB Dec 4 to Feb 11 (JK); three Dec 6 TL (RM); seven Dec 29 SL (CDT); six Dec 29 Peaseleeveville, two M'ville Jan 15 (HMR); 20 Lake Clear Jan 14 (HD). Common Redpoll: small flocks from Dec 28 thru period; 100 SL dump Feb 1, 60 Ticonderoga Feb 12, 30 SL Feb 13 (GTC); still around SL in Apr. American Goldfinch: 10 to 12 daily Feb 11 thru period M'ville (HMR). Red Crossbill: one SL Dec 1 (RM); one Mar 8 RB (JK). Rufous-sided Towhee: one Dec 1-10 RB (JK). Savannah Sparrow: one Mar 22-27 RB (JK). Slate-colored Junco: three Mar 25 RB (JK); one Mar 24 TL (RM); two Mar 24 SL (EA,HD); two Mar 27 B'dale (IW). Tree Sparrow: two to eight all period all areas; 29 SL Dec 29 (CDT). White-throated Sparrow: one Dec 1 and 2 RB (JK). Fox Sparrow: one "this snowy day" Dec 14 Keene (Plum *vide* HD); one Mar 26 SL (GTC). Song Sparrow: one Mar 24, two singing Mar 25 SL (HD); one Mar 25 RB (JK); one Mar 28 TL (RM); one M'ville Mar 29 (HMR). Snow Bunting: 30 Salmon R Peaseleeveville Dec 29 (HMR); one Dec 29 SL (GTC); 25 RB Feb 27 (JK); 11 Feb 28 SL (HD).

CORRIGENDUM: The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker reported in the October 1968 issue was seen by Geoffrey Carleton at Aiden Lair June 19 and may be the southernmost summer record for this species in Essex County.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON — MOHAWK

HAZEL F. BUNDY

Altogether a rather "average winter," although it seemed harsh, perhaps due to the almost continuous ground cover after the mid-point of December. On Dec 15 there was an eight-inch snow, and about nine additional inches during the remainder of the month. December was colder than usual, with the result that much snow remained, and the minimum ground cover was four inches Dec 15-30. Temperatures for January were slightly below normal, those for February and March about normal. Jan, Feb, and Mar were drier than usual, with precipitation in March only about $\frac{1}{2}$ the average amount. Ponds and lakes were still largely ice-bound at the end of March.

In general, the past winter was a very poor one for birding. However, there were several bright spots in the over-all picture. Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Rough-legged Hawks were much more numerous, with an unusually high percentage of dark phase Rough-legs (bsh). There was a notable increase in the number of Barred Owl reports. Northern Shrikes were noted three times as frequently as usual. The Starling population declined markedly.

Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks furnished the greatest excitement, with several observers having the opportunity to view the former, and many the latter species. Other unusual species included Glossy Ibis, Peregrine Falcon, Glaucous Gull, Varied Thrush, Hoary Redpoll, and Oregon Junco.

The following observations reflect the negative factors. The number of Blue Jays decreased considerably. The Cedar Waxwings population was extremely low. Evening Grosbeaks, in good supply early, apparently exhausted local food supplies, and moved south. Purple Finches were scarce. Very few half-hardies, such as the Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and White-throated Sparrow, remained through the winter.

Observers cited more than once: GA—Gustave Angst; GB—Guy Bartlett; HFB—Hazel Bundy; L&VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; J&BB—James and Barbara Bush; JC—Juanita Cook; P&GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; MLG—Murray L. Gardler; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; BH—Barrington Havens; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; SM—Samuel Madison; WDM—Will Merritt, Jr.; PM,MM—Philip and Mary Mickle; ER—Edgar M. Reilly, Jr.; WBS—Walton Sabin; HHS—Harvey Spivak; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin, and Barrington Havens.

Area compilers: Rena Dodd, Betty Laros, and Clarissa Ketcham.

Abbreviations: CM—Castleton Marshes; Emb—Embought; Gr—Greenville; M'dale—Meadowdale; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; Nisk—Niskayuna; SL—Saratoga Lake; SS—Stockport Station; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; WR—Watervliet Reservoir; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; Christmas Counts: ADCC—Alan Devoe (Chatham), Dec 28; GCC—Greene Co, Dec 29; SCC—Schenectady, Dec 21; SRCC—Southern Rensselaer, Dec 22; TCC—Troy, Dec 29.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: three SL Dec 1 (bsh); two Mar 26 Hudson R (ER). Red-throated Loon; one picked up in field in Rotterdam Dec 29, and later released at Delmar Game Farm (Chet Griffith). Horned Grebe: ten Dec 1