

1969. Ring-billed Gull: Mar 28, Screech Owl; Feb 24 Gouverneur. Great Horned Owl: Jan 18 Wellesley Is. Snowy Owl: scarce; JB saw 1 in Dec, 2 in Jan; RW saw 1 Dec 14 Pt Peninsula; DG saw none. Barred Owl: 1 found dead Feb 20 near Black River Village (JB); 1 in Thompson Park, Watertown with freshly killed crow (Wolfe, Leone); on finding the remains of the crow later one would have to say that this owl ate crow. Short-eared Owl: DG failed to find any after looking diligently.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Yellow-shafted Flicker: (CS); a male seen three or four times each month by several persons, at first seemed to be getting food from the bark of trees, later taking suet at various feeders; this is the first flicker known to have spent the winter here. Pileated Woodpecker: seen several times Dec and Jan in Thompson Park. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: female Jan 1 Fishers Landing (DG); he has also seen their work on several trees this winter. Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 (CS) (Grant). Horned Lark: Jan 1; more common late Feb and early Mar; DG noted both prairie and northern subspecies. Tree Swallow: 14 Mar 28 at PRGMA; many at PRGMA after two very cold nights (DG). Blue Jay: all winter, but very common on Tug Hill and at Wanakena, St Lawrence Co. Common Crow: a few all winter with more seen after the middle of Feb. Boreal Chickadee: 1 Feb 13 Town of Montauge, Lewis Co where 3 were seen in Nov. White-breasted Nuthatch: at feeders during winter. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 at feeders in Watertown; also Tug Hill, Town of Rodman.

Mockingbird: Dec 12 Depauville (RW). Brown Thrasher: Dec 27 (Brouse). Robin: 4 (CS); 1 Jan 1 Thompson Park; 1 Eldorado Jan 24; 5 Mar 12, 50 Mar 14. Bluebird: 2 (CS) (Brouse) seen several minutes under ideal conditions. Bohemian Waxwing: Jan 28 Thompson Park (Wolfe, Leone). Cedar Waxwing: in Thompson Park; max 100 in Mar. Northern Shrike: about the average number seen.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Meadowlark: Dec 20; Dec 24; Mar 28. Redwinged Blackbird: Dec 26; Jan 31; and in migration Mar 12. Common Grackle: first Mar 10. Cowbird: several Feb 21 Watertown. Cardinal: 24 (CS), at least as many as last winter. Evening Grosbeak: common all winter; 351 (CS). Pine Grosbeak: 8 Pitcairn, St Lawrence Co., none in Jefferson Co. Common Redpoll: seen all winter; no doubt the biggest invasion in ten years; 200 in one flock and at least 350 in another Jan 1, and over 1,000 seen in one day (DG); about the middle of Feb they began to appear at feeders and were seen at many feeders in many places over a large area and attracted much attention; over 300 banded in back yard banding only part time, only 20 usually seen at once with a max of nearly 40 at a time (FC); 1 female looked large so it was placed in a cell with another female where the larger size was very evident. Red Crossbill: seen a few times in small numbers at some feeders; 7 Jan 30 at a feeder in Watertown. White-winged Crossbill: 8 Jan 3 near Fargo (DG). Tree Sparrow: all the period. White-throated Sparrow: 5 (CS); 4 at a feeder at least into Feb. Song Sparrow: 2 (CS); one Jan 1; all winter at a feeder in Sackets Harbor. Lapland Longspur: 2 Jan 1 Clayton; 1 Jan 24 Smithville (DG). Snow Bunting: seen in varying numbers until Mar, last Mar 20.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

This winter of 1969-70 was a tough one in the Adirondacks and not one that will be soon forgotten. Bob Kampf, of the Hilltop Meteorological Observatory, Ray Brook, tells us that December was "uneventful" until snow began falling on Christmas morning. It fell for 3½ days and amounted to 31½ inches. This was a new high for the twelve-year records at the observatory.

Headlines in the papers read, "Hundreds Snowbound in Upstate Area" on December 29; and, "The Great N.Y. Snow of 1969" on December 30. No significant thaw came to relieve us of this condition and snow stayed on the ground right through the period. The official measurement was still 23 inches on the ground at Ray Brook on March 31. Temperatures were about average, with the coldest reading minus 20 degrees on December 25 and the warmest plus 49 degrees on December 12.

January, again according to the above observatory, was "one of the coldest in recent memory." The average temperature for the month was 5.8 degrees. February was also cold and very windy. Gusts reached 60 m.p.h. on the 2nd and many days reached 28 m.p.h. or over. Precipitation was not abnormally high but helped maintain the coverage on the ground.

March, apparently, was rather typical, but there was no thaw until near the end of the month. For this reason the snow stayed as reported above and we found birds late in arriving. March, 1970, is the first in eleven years that we have recorded no Robin or Song Sparrow.

It is interesting to note that Pine Grosbeaks were common and, as we reported in the main body of the summary, Red and White-winged Crossbills stayed until the hemlock seed crop began to fail. Our invasion of Common Redpolls was something to keep us on the lookout as were the Evening Grosbeaks at feeders. Getting about to observe birds in the wild was a hazardous and unrewarding occupation at almost all times. Driving conditions were difficult to say the least and snow lay deep in the woods.

Of interest were the Cooper's Hawk seen the last week in March and the American Coot which not only stayed all winter but remained in a river, out in the open. The marshes, which this species normally prefers, were frozen so there would have been no hiding places there even if this had not been a most unusually friendly individual.

Francis Singer was here from March 27 to April 2. We were most gratified at the number of large raptors which he reported. Their exact locality must, of course, be kept confidential as there are still those who will scare off large, easily spotted birds either from natural curiosity or, unfortunately, from a desire to collect them or their eggs.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; EB—Elisabeth Barnet; GCT—Greenleaf T. Chase; TC—Thomas Clough; ED—Ethel Dyer; HD—Harriet Delafield; JK—Joseph Keji; mob—many observers; RM—Ruth Meier; HMR—Howard and Margaret Read; FS—Francis Singer.

Abbreviations: B—Bay; LP—Lake Placid; L—Lake; P—Pond; R—River RB—Ray Brook; rd—road; SL—Saranac Lake; TL—Tupper Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: 3 Jan 8 Whallon B, L Champlain, Essex Co (TC). Red-throated Loon: 1 Jan 12 L Alice Outlet, Chazy (GTC). Canada Goose: 1 Jan 8 Whallon B (TC). Mallard: 3 Jan 8 Whallon B (TC); 1 Jan 12 L Alice (GTC). Black Duck: 7 Jan 8 Whallon B (TC); 3 Jan 12 L Alice (GTC); 1 Dec 30 L Champlain near Peru (HMR). Scaup: 12 Dec 30 L Champlain, Plattsburgh ferry dock (HMR). Common Goldeneye: 15 Jan 8 Whallon B (TC); 6 Dec 30 L Champlain, Plattsburgh ferry dock (HMR). Red-breasted Merganser: 5 Jan 8 Whallon B (TC).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: 1 Jan 6 SL; 1 Jan 10 Loon L (GTC); 1 Dec 11 & Mar 21 SL (JK); 1 Feb 18 Peru, tearing feathers from captured chickadee (HMR); 1 crossing rd near Keene Valley (FS). Cooper's Hawk: last week in March taking Blue Jay at feeder, close range SL (GTC). Red-tailed Hawk: 1 Mar 27 Peru (HMR); 1 screaming near nest Clinton Co (FS). Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Feb 13 Whallonsburg; 1 Feb 21 Crown Point (GTC); 1 Essex (FS). Golden Eagle: 6 pairs, 3 singles—location confidential (FS). Sparrow Hawk: 1 Mar 31 Peru (HMR); 1 Mar 26 Beekmantown (GTC). Ruffed Grouse: occasional in woods TL (RM); 1 Feb 16

Peasleeville (HMR). AMERICAN COOT: first sighted Feb 12 in Saranac R at SL by JK, later noted by mob through period. Killdeer: 1 Mar 20 & 25 SL (JK). Mourning Dove: 2 Mar 28-31 TL (RM); 4 at feeder thru winter until Mar 1 Peru (HMR). Great Horned Owl: 1 Feb 16 RB (GTC). 1 Clinton Co (FS). Barred Owl: 1 Mar 7 Peru, harassed by crows (HMR).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Feb 26 Osgood R Franklin Co (GTC). Hairy Woodpecker: 2 to 4 observed all areas. Downy Woodpecker same as Hairy. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 Dec 10 SL (GTC). Horned Lark: 20 Feb 13 Whallonsburg (GTC); 3 Mar 28 LP (JK); about 500 Peru mid-Mar, small numbers rest of season (HMR). Gray Jay: 2 Mar 31 near Lake Clear (HD). Blue Jay: 15 to 25 in a day all areas. Common Crow: first Feb 4 TL (RM); first Mar 4, 15 Mar 22 SL (EA,HD); beginning to flock Jan 13, numerous then Peru (HMR). Black-capped Chickadee: "amazing" nos at feeders (GTC,RM); not so many in woods. White-breasted Nuthatch: 1 to 2 all areas. Red-breasted Nuthatch: few all areas except Peru. Brown Creeper: 1 Dec 26-Feb 24 SL (JK). Robin: 1 Dec 23 SL (EB); 5 Feb 1 Willsboro (GTC); late returning all areas. Eastern Bluebird: very early return, pictures taken Mar 19 RB (fide GTC). Cedar Waxwing: 12 Feb 20, 20 Mar 28 Peru (HMR). Northern Shrike: 1 Feb 13 Whallonsburg (GTC). Migrant Shrike: 1 Mar 28 LP (HMR). Starling: 1 to 7 thru period SL (JK); numerous thru period Peru (HMR); occasionally since Mar 19 TL (RM); first Feb 25, numerous after Mar 23 Trudeau Rd (EA,HD).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: 1 to 8 thru period SL (JK); numerous Peru thru period (HMR). Redwinged Blackbird: 1 Dec 2 & 14, back for spring Mar 23 SL (EA,HD); 1 Mar 20, numerous after that Peru (HMR); back Mar 25 TL (RM). Common Grackle: back Mar 22 TL (RM); 23 Mar 28 SL (JK). Brown-headed Cowbird: 1 injured Jan 22 & Feb 4 SL (EA); back Mar 28 TL (RM); 5 Feb 8 SL village (JK). Evening Grosbeak: numerous all areas (mob) except Peru where only 20 noted thru Feb (HMR). Pine Grosbeak: common, 30 Mar 26 Beekmantown, most GTC had ever seen together. Common Redpoll: this was the common finch this winter, HD received many calls from people who had never seen them before, those who knew them were amazed to see so many, stayed until Mar 29 SL (HD). Pine Siskin: 3 flocks Feb 21 Port Henry to Crown Point (GTC); up to 8 Dec 5 to 14 SL (JK). Red Crossbill: notably abundant Jan & Feb, tapered off to a few in late Feb after hemlock seed was exhausted; highest count Wawbeek to Saranac Inn Jan 11 when 18 flocks averaging 40 birds mostly this species were noted (GTC); 1 to 8 Dec 4 to Mar 23 SL (JK). White-winged Crossbill: same as Red but not as many (GTC); 1 on Christmas wreath picking at cones SL door Jan 30 (Alford fide JK). Slate-colored Junco: 3 Dec to Feb 15 SL (GTC); 6 all winter SL (ED). Tree Sparrow: 3 to 6 thru period SL (HD,GTC). White-throated Sparrow: 2 before Christmas thru period SL (EB). Fox Sparrow: 1 before Christmas thru period SL (EB). Song Sparrow: 1 Feb 1 Willsboro; 1 Feb 21 Crown Point (GTC); 1 Dec 6 SL (ED); late returning in spring (HD). Snow Bunting: 120 Feb 13 Whallonsburg (GTC); 2 Jan 10 TL; large flock Jan 11 Little Wolf P, Town of Altamont (RM); 4 Feb 25 Normans Ridge, Vermontville, "on the snow 'dunes' and flying with the flying snow" (JK); flocks to 200 thru mid-Mar Peru (HMR).

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

MARION J. FORD

Undoubtedly the most significant weather factor for the winter was the record-breaking snowfall which began Dec 25 and continued until Dec 27 piling up to 36 inches on the ground on the 28th. There was only a total of four days the entire