

Forge CC but 4 reported there in period (fide B. Barnum); winter max 23 Jan 25-Mar 13 S Onon, 21 Feb 19 NPT, and 408 Feb BBFS is the highest ever tallied. Evening Grosbeak: CCs were 4 Syr, 16 Oswego, 59 Old Forge, 54 Oneida; winter max by month were 50 Dec 14 near Tully, 24 Jan 26 Prospect, 7 Feb 26 Ilion, 24 Mar 19 Brewerton — a very light flight. Purple Finch: only CC report was 5 Syr; only 1-6 thru winter, reported from FH, N Syr, Brewerton, BM; no Mar flight. House Finch: missed on CCs; first noted 1 Feb 8 (PAD) and max 9 Feb 12-Mar 31 (MSR, M. Thomas, CGS) both Syr. Common Redpoll: only report 30 Jan 3 near Baldwinsville (C. & E. Farnham). American Goldfinch: noted on all CCs with max 110 Syr; winter max by month 12 Dec 5 Clay Twp, 15 Jan 10 Baldwinsville, 7 all Feb Syr, but usually only singles were noted in field through winter; yet BBFS indicates better than average tallies with 130 Dec, 167 Jan, 233 Feb, 569 Mar (highest Feb in 10 years and highest Mar ever); Mar max 33 Mar 1-31 near Tully.

Rufous-sided Towhee: only CC report was 1 Syr which persisted all winter; other winter reports were 1 Dec 19 Scriba Twp, 1 Dec 27 near SW Oswego, 1 Jan 3 near Jamesville, and a remarkable 7 in early Jan Skaneateles (fide H. Aspinwall). Savannah Sparrow: 1 Feb 2-Mar 15 Oswego (FGS) the second winter record, is especially remarkable for its persistence and adaptation to feeding and roosting at a grain elevator on an exposed pier in the harbor. Slate-colored Junco: on all CCs except Old Forge with max 59 Syr; winter max by month 12 Dec 9 Oswego, 35 Jan 9 Onon Hill, 12 Feb 5 Herkimer and Feb 23 Oswego, 14 Mar 18 Syr; arr Mar 28, 1 SPT. *OREGON JUNCO*: 1 Jan 26-Mar 4 and Mar 20-Apr 2 (probably same bird) N. Syr (D. Felker, fide KAS), 1 Mar 18 (possibly the N Syr bird) near Cicero Center (Schneider, fide KAS); 1 Mar 27-28 SPT (FJL). Tree Sparrow: noted on all CCs with max 646 Oneida; max by month 64 Dec 20 SPT, 100 Jan 17 Oswego R, L Ont, 112 Feb 7 HIGMA, 100 Mar 11 Oswego. Field Sparrow: only report is 1 Dec 26 Fayetteville (T. M. Riley). White-crowned Sparrow: only reports were 3 Oneida CC (1 of which persisted thru winter) and 1 Feb 6 DeWitt (MSR). White-throated Sparrow: on all CCs with max 28 Syr; max by month 16 Dec 1 Camillus Twp, 8 Jan 1 NPT, 6 Feb 6 Onon Hill, 11 Mar 13 Onon Hill — seem to be higher-than-average counts, and numbers held up well thru winter at least in S part of Region; interestingly, one Syr feeder had 16-9 White-throated Sparrows Dec-Mar and no Song Sparrow, and in the field in S Onon C. White-throated: Song ratio was about 3:1. Fox Sparrow: only winter report 1 Dec 26 near Brewerton did not persist; arr Mar 7, 1 Sherrill. Swamp Sparrow: CCs were 28 Syr — record high (previously 6 in 1964, 1959), 1 Oswego (first since 1957), and 2 HIGMA; this species did not persist as there was only one later report, 1 Jan 7 DeWitt (FGS). Song Sparrow: on 4 CCs (missed on Old Forge where it has yet to be found) with max 100 Syr — record high; individual field maxima 8 Dec 21 DeWitt, 14 Jan 23 Canastota, DeWitt, 3 Feb 6 DeWitt; arr Mar 13, 7 S Onon Co. Lapland Longspur: only 2 reports were 1 Dec 26 DeWitt (fall dep?) and 1 Feb 19 NPT (spring arr?). Snow Bunting: on all CCs with max 553 Syr; maxima by month 200 Dec 14 near Bridgeport, 150 Jan 24 Stockbridge Falls, 150 Feb 19 NPT, 1000 around Mar 20 NPT and 500 around Mar 22 SPT.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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The 1970-71 winter season will be remembered for the abundance of snow and the scarcity of birds. At the end of December the snow was 15 inches deep in northern Jefferson County. More snow fell in January. February brought much snow and

some rain. The precipitation that month was twice the normal amount. The March snowfall was 30 inches greater than the average for March. In one 24-hour period, March 3-4, 19 inches of snow fell. Temperatures averaged below normal, but there were brief periods of thawing. By the first of March the melting and freezing again made the snow very compact with a record high water content. The snow was so firm and hard that walking on it was easy. There was some thawing starting about March 14, but the snow went very slowly. In the woods the snow was still very deep at the end of March. In places at the side of the road where the snow had been piled up, it was still five or six feet high. The last day of March the Perch River Game Management Area was entirely covered with ice and snow.

Birds seemed rather scarce, especially at feeders. There were only small numbers of Evening Grosbeak, but no Redpolls, Pine Siskins or Red Crossbills. Snowy Owls were scarce. Two Christmas Counts produced only 28 species for each count.

Abbreviations: WCC—Watertown Christmas Count, Watertown, Dec 26; WICC—Wellesley Island Christmas Count, Wellesley Island region. Jan 2.

Observers: JB—John Belknap; LC—Lee Chamberlaine; FC—Frank A. Clinch; NL—Nick Leone; RW—Robert and June Walker.

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: last Dec 10 Henderson Bay (JB). Great Blue Heron: Mar 21. Canada Goose: 300 Mar 28 Henderson Pond. Mallard: 50 Jan 15 Massena. Black Duck: 160 Massena. Common Goldeneye: 60 Massena. Oldsquaw: 12 Dec 19 Pillar Pt. Hooded Merganser: Mar 31 Henderson Harbor (NL). Common Merganser: 2500 Jan 15 at Power Dam, Massena (RW).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Mar 28 early (NL). Goshawk: at least 3 or 4 during winter. Sharp-shinned Hawk: Jan 2 Omar (Wolfe). Cooper's Hawk: 3 during winter. Red-tailed Hawk: 7 WCC, 12 WICC. Rough-legged Hawk: a dozen just south and west of Watertown all winter; 12 Jan 3 Pt Peninsula; 10 WICC; but this hawk was scarce most places. Marsh Hawk: Feb 27 (RW). Sparrow Hawk: rather scarce until late Mar; 1 WCC none WICC. Gray Partridge: 55 WCC; 9 WICC; numbers down from two or three years ago. Turkey: 32 WICC; about 55 believed to be on Wellesley Island. Killdeer: 3 Mar 14. Woodcock: first heard Mar 20 (LC) (RW); more than the usual number seen the last week in Mar, since they were easily seen on the few spots free of snow. Glaucous Gull: 24 Jan 15 Massena (RW). Great Black-backed Gull: one WICC; many in Jan at Massena. Mourning Dove: a dozen until early Mar at a corncrib near Bwornville. Great Horned Owl: 2 or 3 seen or heard. Barred Owl: 1 Feb 1 near Watertown (NL). Short-eared Owl: near Clayton Dec 18 was the only one seen (JB). Saw-whet Owl: Mar 13 one spent most of the day on a feeder in Watertown (Dake), found dead next day, no evidence of injury, but perhaps it had difficulty getting food because of the deep snow. Snowy Owl: 2 in Jan at Pt Peninsula; and 1 the middle of Jan in southern Jefferson County; JB saw none.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: Yellow-shafted Flicker: one spent the winter in Watertown in the section where one wintered a year ago. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: a male and a female Jan 12 at Joseph A. Blake, Jr. Wildlife Sanctuary (Wolfe) (FC) — they were flaking off the bark of tamarack trees, and Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were doing the same; a male Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen the same place Mar 19-20. Horned Lark: about average numbers, more common the latter part of Feb. Blue Jay: 16 Mar 1 at a feeder (RW). Crow: around Watertown most of winter, more in late Feb. Tufted Titmouse: 1 previously reported in Carthage was last seen Dec 5 after a stay of about a month. White-breasted Nuthatch: 6 WICC; at feeders all winter. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 Feb 7. Brown Creeper: 3 WICC. Robin: 59 WCC, a record number, 50 of these in Thompson Park where 42 were counted as they flew across a road, there were still others, so the estimate was at least 50 (FC); no Robins could be found there

six days later; Robins began to return about Mar 15. Hermit Thrush: Jan 2 Watertown, late (NL). Bluebird: 4 Mar 29 Rodman (Soule). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6 Dec 28. Cedar Waxwing: a few small flocks during winter. Northern Shrike: 3 WCC; 2 WICC; only about average numbers this winter. Starling: heavy movement last two weeks of Mar.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Meadowlark: Mar 16. Redwinged Blackbird: 50 Feb 27 near Watertown; many last half of Mar. Cowbird: 7 WICC. Cardinal: numbers remain about the same or slightly more. Evening Grosbeak: 30 WCC; seen less often and in smaller numbers than last year. Purple Finch: 5 Jan 3 near Watertown, but very few seen. Common Redpoll: none. Pine Siskin: none. Goldfinch: 10 Mar 6; a few began to appear at feeders late in Mar. Rufous-sided Towhee: a male at a feeder at Adams Cove at least to Jan 1; another from time to time at a feeder near Carthage at least into Feb. Slate-colored Junco: 2 WCC; 1 Jan 15 at a feeder; and 2 or 3 others during winter, with numbers increasing late in Mar. White-throated Sparrow: 2 or 3 at feeders most of winter. Song Sparrow: Mar 31. Lapland Longspur: Jan 2, 2 with Horned Larks; later 2 with Snow Buntings. Snow Bunting: 115 WICC; several flocks first part of winter.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

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This past winter in the Adirondack area has been exceptionally severe. The latter half of December and much of January and February consisted of below zero days or nights or both. Temperatures of minus 20 to 30 degrees and sometimes more occurred day after day. March was little better, bringing below zero nights and our worst snow storm of the season on March 5. As of April 24, 165½ inches of snow had been recorded at Bay Pond near Paul Smiths, and it was still falling although finally melting afternoons.

Under these conditions many birds left the area. A bird trip with a total of four species was a big day in January. Even Blue Jays and Chickadees became very scarce. Robert Hagar said he was elated to see something on the feeder one day, a mouse. Another person reported no birds at all at feeder all winter. Greenleaf Chase stated that this winter "had perhaps the lightest movement of winter finches during the past 25 years." No movement of Chickadees from the north seemed to occur by mid-December. Crossbills, Siskins, and Redpolls were scarce. Goldfinches increased after March first and a slight Chickadee and noticeable Blue Jay increase occurred early in March."

The Turkey Vulture was our notable bird for the period. He was either lost or very optimistic about the weather.

Observers: DB—Dirck Benson; GTC—Greenleaf Chase; DC—Darius Collins; HD—Helen Deuel; SE—Stephen Everett; PF—Paul French; TM—Ted Mack.

Abbreviations: AB—Ampersand Bay; L—lake; Mtn—mountain; P—pond; PS—Paul Smiths; RB—Ray Brook; SL—Saranac Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Canada Goose: 30 Mar 8 RB (DB). Snow Goose: 6 Mar 16 L Colby (John Duquette).

HAWKS—OWLS: *TURKEY VULTURE*: 1 Mar 22 Upper Jay, red head clearly seen (DC). Goshawk: 2 Feb 28 Chazy (GTC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Dec 6 PS (SE). Rough-legged Hawk: 2 Jan 4-Feb 2 Witherbee (SE); 1 Mar 16 Crown Point (GTC). Ruffed Grouse: 1 Mar AB (GTC). Gray Partridge: 11 Feb 28 Chazy.