

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

December was mild and ducks and geese stayed later than usual. The Watertown Christmas count was taken December 18 during the closed season for waterfowl and this with the open water produced a record high count of ducks and geese. The Wellesley Island count under the same conditions failed to produce many ducks, —perhaps there was so much open water that ducks were hard to find. The latter half of the period saw plenty of snow in most places, and at the end of March most of the ground was still covered with snow. However, this made it easier to see birds like Robins and Meadowlarks that seek bare spots.

Individuals of several species of birds that do not usually remain here attempted to winter here and most of them seem to have survived. The migrants were a bit late in arriving here.

The rarity was the Sage Thrasher found by the Allens who made their own Christmas count in Massena December 27. It was last seen January 14.

Abbreviations: WCC—Watertown Christmas bird count, Watertown, December 18; WIC—Wellesley Island Christmas count, Wellesley Island in the St. Lawrence River, December 21; PRWMA—Perch River Wildlife Management Area.

Observers: DA—Judy and Douglass Allen; JB—John Belknap; RB—Richard Brouse; LC—Lee Chamberlaine; FC—Frank Clinch; NL—Nick Leone; TM—Theodore Mack and Stephen Everett; RW—Robert and June Walker.

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: 2 Dec 10 Lake Ontario (JB). Great Blue Heron: Mar 28 Black Lake. Canada Goose: 764 WCC, 375 of them at PRWMA; geese are seldom seen on this count and the average of previous counts is less than one per count; geese began returning about Mar 19. Most of PRWMA was covered with ice and snow at the end of the month. Several hundred Canada Geese and ducks (Greater Scaup and Common Goldeneye) at Lakeview Mar 29. Several thousand ducks (Canvasback, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Black Duck and Mallard) in St. Lawrence River off Cape Vincent Dec 15–23 (LC). Mallard: 115 WCC; seen all winter where there was open water. Black Duck: 99 WCC; 14 WIC; seen all winter. American Widgeon: WCC 1 at PRWMA did not fly. Wood Duck: male at PRWMA was first Wood Duck on the Watertown Christmas count. Redhead: 4 WCC. Greater Scaup: 5,000 Dec 10 Black River Bay; 5,600 WCC; 300–350 Jan 5 Blind Bay. Lesser Scaup: 2 Jan 22 Fischer's Landing (NL). Common Goldeneye: 16 WCC; 9 WIC; 40 Jan 14 Massena; 43 Jan 22 Dexter to Tibbets Pt, and others throughout period. Oldsquaw: 23 WCC and throughout period. Ruddy Duck: 2 WCC. Hooded Merganser: 1 Massena (TM); also late Mar PRWMA. Common Merganser: estimates 500 Dec 27 at Massena, "way over 1,500" Jan 14 and 1,000 plus Feb 2.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk Dec 25 and Jan 14 Massena; adult Jan 23 Watertown; immature Feb 20 and Mar 1 Watertown; 1 returned to Wellesley Island in mid-Mar where they have nested. Cooper's Hawk: Mar 25 and 31. Red-tailed Hawk: WCC 13; WIC none; 2 Jan 14 Massena and 1 Feb 2. Red-shouldered Hawk: Mar 25. Rough-legged Hawk: WCC 4; WIC 1; 6 Dec 25 at Massena, 4 Jan 14 and 1 there Feb 2; up to a dozen between Rts 81 and 37 (LC). Bald Eagle: Oak Point, 1 Feb 11 flying over St. Lawrence River. Gray Partridge: Dec 27 4 Massena; WCC none; 6 near Belleville and 6 near Henderson were in southern part of the range of this bird, and 5 Mar 9 at Edwardsville, St. Lawrence Co. near northern limit; these birds were generally scarce this winter. Woodcock: earliest Mar 25 Watertown. Common Snipe: Mar 19 in small stream near Henderson.

Glaucous Gull: 1 WCC; 1 or 2 Dec 24, Jan 2 and 14 Massena. Iceland Gull:

1 Dec 27 Massena (DA); 2 Jan 14 (TM). Great Black-backed Gull: WIC 6; 12 Dec 27 Massena and 20 there Feb 2. Herring Gull: Watertown and Massena in Dec. Ring-billed Gull: 37 Dec 27 Massena (DA). Mourning Dove: 2 Dec 5 near Watertown; 3 all winter at feeder in Watertown; 1 near Adams early Mar. Screech Owl: Mar 15 Mill Creek. Great Horned Owl: Watertown and Massena. Snowy Owl: scarce in many parts of region; 4 WCC; 2 Dec 27 Massena; 2 often seen on Route 177, Lewis Co; 1 Dec 10 Clayton; 1 Mar 9 Dexter; most common near Lake Ontario where 3 or 4 could be seen in one day at Pillar Pt or Point Peninsula; max 7 Dec 26 at Pillar Pt (RB). Barred Owl: Morristown. Saw-whet Owl: Feb 25 Watertown (Houghton).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: Belted Kingfisher: 1 WIC; 1 Jan 1 Pillar Pt (RB). Yellow-shafted Flicker: 1 seen frequently all winter in Watertown. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: at Joseph A. Blake, Jr. Wildlife Sanctuary near Watertown, 2 Jan 14, 1 Mar 11 and 19, on tamarack trees (FC). Common Raven: Mar 2 William Stumpf farm, Town of Cape Vincent, Jefferson Co. (W. Mosenteen). Crow: WCC 77, a high count; 3 frequently in Watertown all winter; 2 Jan 13 Hammond. Boreal Chickadee: 1 Mar 26 Wanakena (DA). Mockingbird: 1 near Watertown seen about once a week all winter (P. Biggers). *SAGE THRASHER* Dec 27 Massena (DA); last seen Jan 14. Robin: an unusually large numbers of reports of Robins all winter, especially around Watertown. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Dec 29 Massena. Bohemian Waxwing: 1 Watertown Jan 20-22 (RW). Cedar Waxwing: 60 Mar 1 Watertown; flocks 5 to 30 late Jan to late Mar. Northern Shrike: 1 WCC; about normal Dec-Jan, rather scarce later.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Meadowlark: more common than most winters, 1 Dec 18 Black River; 1 Jan 21 Wellesley Island; 3 Theresa Feb 25; 3 to 15 seen in Jan and Feb near Brownville; several small flocks, total about 40 birds Mar 25. Redwinged Blackbird: WCC 3; first Mar 1. Common Grackle: began returning about Mar 21. Brown-headed Cowbird: 3 WCC; 3 WIC; 5 Mar 24. Evening Grosbeak: common all winter, greatest numbers at feeders between Jan 15 and about Mar 15; 800 banded in one location Jan 14 to Mar 31, but many more were never banded (FC). Purple Finch: very few seen. Pine Grosbeak: first Dec 27 Gouverneur and Dec 29 Massena, last Mar 28; from 5 to 19 daily in Feb Town of Montague, Lewis Co; several others reported in small numbers in Jan and Feb. Common Redpoll: 19 WCC; 260 WIC; very large numbers at feeders, especially after mid-Feb. Pine Siskin: small to good numbers at some feeders the latter part of period. American Goldfinch: at several feeders. White-winged Crossbill: Dec 29 Massena (DA). Slate-colored Junco: WCC 6, also 2 or 3 at feeders during winter. White-throated Sparrow: WCC 3; also 20 at feeder Jan 3 near Watertown which is unusual at this time of year; 2 at another feeder all winter. Song Sparrow: WCC 5; 2 or 3 all winter; increase in numbers starting about Mar 23. Snow Bunting: about average numbers.

173 Haley St., Watertown, N.Y. 13601

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

This was a mild winter for snow depth and cold. December usually has several severely cold days, but a record high average of 21.4 degrees was recorded in Ray Brook. January had the highest average high recording in 14 years, 19.1. The coldest day was 33.5 below on February 23 which is unusually late for severe cold according to Bob Kampf, the weather observer. Winds over 20 MPH were recorded on at least 7 days, once reaching 65 MPH in gusts.