

11. Redwinged Blackbird: in Dec and Mar 4 and after. Rusty Blackbird: 2 Mar 31 PRWMA. Common Grackle: spring date Mar 11 Stony Pt, Watertown and Massena. Brown-headed Cowbird: 20 seen several times in Dec Watertown; returned to Massena Mar 11. Cardinal: 11 Dec 4 at one time unusual for Watertown; 1 Dec 29 and pair in Mar at Massena where they are rare (JV). Evening Grosbeak: present in good numbers all winter; came earlier than a year ago but somewhat smaller numbers, slight decrease in Mar; 157 Christmas count Dec 29 Massena; 35 at feeder Dec 3 and 60 same feeder Feb 6. Purple Finch: Dec 23 only one. Pine Grosbeak: max at Massena 45 Dec 29; seen a number of places around Gouverneur Jan-Feb; several around Watertown, max 40-50; last at Watertown 4 Mar 10. Common Redpoll: not one after so many a year ago. Pine Siskin: none. American Goldfinch: at feeders especially after Jan; it seems that in the last three years these birds have discovered the benefits of visiting feeders and they have been doing so in increasing numbers. Slate-colored Junco: 5 Dec 5. Tree Sparrow: all winter. White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Dec. White-throated Sparrow: 2 all winter Watertown. Song Sparrow: 1 Dec 7 Massena; 2 CC; 1 Mar 16. Snow Bunting: over 100 Dec 25 Massena; 16 Feb 26 Massena only flocks of any size seen; not seen at Gouverneur; scarce at Massena; few at Watertown.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

This was a mild winter. All December days but one had some type of precipitation at Ray Brook according to Bob Kampf, our local weather observer. A freeze and thaw pattern for December continued thru January. February was cold with 15 days below zero including minus 21 degrees on the 17th and 18th. March was unbelievable with a 35.8 degree mean temperature for the month and no below zero days. Snow total was lowest in 15 years. Bare ground showed on the 8th and continued to show for about 2 weeks, altho snow did still lie deep in the spruce and balsam swamps and other shaded areas. This mild weather may have encouraged some early arrivals.

Observers: GTC—Greenleaf T. Chase; MK— Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury; TM—Ted Mack; RMc—Robert McKinney; RAM—Ruth A. Meier; GP—Glenn Perrigo.

Abbreviations: Ch R—Chubb River near Lake Placid; FF—Franklin Falls; Ind L—Indian Lake; L—lake; Mad—Madawaska Pond near PS; PS—Paul Smiths; SL—Saranac Lake; TL—Tupper Lake.

LOONS—OWLS: Most water was frozen into April. Great Blue Heron: 1 migrating high Mar 17 FF (TM). Black Duck: 2 Mar 31 Mad (TM). Goshawk: 1 Jan 28 FF (TM). Red-tailed Hawk: 1 two weeks earlier than usual Mar 7 Santa Clara (MK). 1 Mar 16 Sabbatis (William Rutherford). Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Mar 3 Beekmantown (TM). Ruffed Grouse: 2 or 3 seen most days in suitable habitat; Dr. Kingsbury had the pleasure of having 2 visit her feeders to search for spilled sunflower seeds. American Woodcock: 1 Mar 11 PS (TM); this exceptionally early bird flushed from a large wet alder patch free of snow. Great Horned Owl: 2 Mar 4 FF (TM). Barred Owl: 1 Mar 25 Black Pond near PS (TM); 1 Mar 31 Mad (TM). Saw-whet Owl: 1 Mar 27 Ch R (GP).

GOATSUCKER—STARLING: Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Dec 3 Newcomb (TM);

1 Feb 24 Ind L (RMc); 1 Mar 9 FF (TM); 2 Mar 27 Ch R (GP). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 Feb 10 Ampersand Bay SL (GTC); 1 Feb 16 PS (Frank Graves). Horned Lark: first migrants—17 Mar 2 L Clear School and fed by kindergarten class (Louise Rutherford). Common Raven: 1 Dec 3 (TM)—croaking repeatedly near junction of Goodnow and Hudson Rivers, GTC comments that this may be the same raven reported by Hugh Fosburgh from the nearby Northwoods Club last July; 1 Dec 4 Ray Brook (GTC)—wedge shape of tail seen as bird flew over Department of Environmental Conservation building, bird was calling and flying beside a crow so size and difference in wing beat was easily seen; 1 Dec 26 North Elba (Major Day)—no details; 1 Feb 27 Ray Brook (GTC), bird perched near road and was seen at less than 20 feet so that throat bristles were clearly seen; 1 Mar 17 FF (TM), this bird spent afternoon flying back and forth along far side of upper reservoir and to one point on the near shore with rather lengthy stops to perch and croak, Crows were within this area, but the two did not associate; 4 Mar 24 Cascade and Porter Mountains (TM), 2 pairs circling, 1 near and above Porter summit and 1 pair repeatedly passed over Cascade summit in a circle, circles were not near any noticeable ledges and were at high altitude with birds calling in croaks as usual plus an unusual bell note, birds sometimes held in wind with one just above another, on one occasion a lower bird turned completely over and touched its feet to those of the top bird; 1 Mar 27 High Falls Gorge near L Placid (GP), wedge tail seen when bird dropped from cliff to circle on flat wings with no flapping before soaring back into cliff and disappearing. Black-capped Chickadee: max 25 feeder birds thru period TL (RAM); 18 Feb 24 at feeders Ind L (RMc). Boreal Chickadee: max 12 Mar 31 Mad (TM). Common Crow: returned to PS Mar 3 (TM); approximately 100 Mar 5 L Clear (TM). Nuthatches—more than usual of both kinds seen at feeders. Robin: first migrant Mar 17 FF (TM); 1 Mar 19 TL (MK); 2 Mar 31 Mad (TM). Northern Shrike: 1 Jan 27 TL (RAM). Starling: returned Mar 11 to PS (TM).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Redwinged Blackbird: 3 Dec 4 at feeder PS (William Rutherford); 2 Dec 9-15 SL (MK); 1 Mar 2 SL (MK); 1 Mar 8 TL (RAM); 1 Mar 9 PS (TM) this is not a common winter bird within the Adirondack Park altho it is found in Champlain Valley at this season. Brown-headed Cowbird: flock Dec 4 TL (RAM). Evening Grosbeak: plentiful at all times but not so overwhelmingly as in the previous winter; max 150 TL (RAM). Pine Grosbeak: several seen thru winter in most areas but no large invasion and no large road kills noted of this or other winter finches. Pine Siskin: noticeable increase in March. American Goldfinch: as many as 40 at some feeders. Red Crossbill: scarce—11 Jan 16 PS (TM); 6 Feb 25 PS (TM); 2 Mar 4 FF (TM). White-winged Crossbill: not reported. Slate-colored Junco: returned Mar 19 TL (RAM). White-throated Sparrow: 1 Dec 2 TL (RAM). Tree Sparrow: at feeders until Jan 16 and returned Mar 14 TL (RAM). Song Sparrow: 1 Mar 31 Mad (TM). Snow Bunting: 50 Dec 21 Raquette Pond (RAM).

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD E. PHILION

In retrospect the winter of '73 was about as moderate and open as one can hope in this section of the northeast. The mean temperature for the month of December was 28.9° or 2.4° above normal while the high and low temperatures were 52° (6th) and 1° (17th) respectively. Snowfall was above normal for the