

Niger thistle, feeders in the hill country south of Syr and Utica; none reported after Mar 8.

Rufous-sided Towhee: 6 individuals, mainly feeder based, in period—a bit more than usual. Dark-eyed Junco: reduced numbers thru winter—55 Skaneateles CBC, 55 Syr CBC, 24 Oswego-Fulton CBC; no return flight in late Mar detected. Tree Sparrow: high counts thru Dec and into Jan (100+/day) but sharp drop in Feb (15-20/day); small numbers (40-75/day) in last third of Mar but no major return push noted. White-throated Sparrow: 19 Skaneateles CBC and 30 (high) Syr CBC; lesser numbers (one-12/day) thru the rest of winter. Fox Sparrow: 1 Jan 16 Lakeview Rd near Oswego (GM) only winter report; arr Mar 17 one Cedarville (R & J Van Scoy) with max 4 (low) Mar 24 Oneida (fide D Ackley). Song Sparrow: 34 Skaneateles CBC and 64 Syr CBC; good numbers thru winter with max 25 Jan 13 Cedarville area (R & J Van Scoy) and 22 Feb 24 S Onondaga; arr Mar 5 3 Syr (T Dittrich); Mar max 120 Mar 26 Tully area (JWP). Snow Bunting: flocks of 45-700/day, mainly from the three widely separated but ecologically similar areas—the farmed hill country south of Syr, and open fields along L Ontario, and the open farmland between Oneida and Utica.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Winter of 1973-74 was one of the mildest experienced in many years. Snow fall was very light with Tug Hill depths seldom exceeding 30 inches on the ground as compared to normal depths of 60 to 70 inches on the level. Warm weather was with us into December and open water conditions resulted in an excellent Christmas Census for Watertown with a total of 53 species.

A new species Carolina Wren was added to the regional list and some other note worthy observations for the period include many late dates for waterbirds and waterfowl, good Goshawk numbers, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Hawk Owls, Short Eared Owls, Saw-whet Owls, a late Brown Thrasher, Varied Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing and good numbers of winter finches to make the winter such as it was pass quickly.

Location Abbreviations: DH—Dry Hill; JCC—Jefferson County Community College; PRWMA—Perch River Wildlife Management Area; PP—Point Peninsula; RM—Robert Moses Power Dam; WHMWA—Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area; CC—Christmas Count Watertown, New York December 15, 1973.

Observers: JB—John Belknap; RB—Richard Brouse; TC—Tom Carrolan; LC—Lee Chamberlaine; FC—Frank Clinch; NL—Nick Leone; JV—Joe VanRiet; RW—Robert and June Walker; mob—many observers.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Dec 1 PP (RW). Horned Grebe: last Dec 7 Sherwins Bay. Great Blue Heron: 1 Dec 26 St. Lawrence River (JV). American Bittern: 1 Dec 1 PP (RW) a late date. Canada Goose: 350 CC; 52 Dec 28 last date; 55 March 2 DH (TC). Mallard: around in greater numbers this winter. Black Duck: 193 CC; around in greater numbers this winter. Mallard X Black Hybrid: 1 RM (JV). Gadwall: 2 Dec 29 RM (NL); 1 Jan 1 PP (NL); 6 Jan 5 very late (JV). Pintail: 1 Jan 25 (JV) last date; 3 Mar 6 first date (JV). Blue-winged Teal: 1 female CC (NL); 1 Dec 26-29 seen flying (JV) *very late*. American Wigeon: 1 Feb 12 (RW) early; 6 Mar 10 PRWMA (NL). Northern Shoveler: 8 Dec 15 (JV) *very late*. Wood Duck: 1 CC; 1 Mar 4 first date. Ring-necked Duck: 2 Dec 15 RM (JV); 3 Mar 10 PRWMA. Canvasback: 2 Jan 1 PP (TC); 1 Mar 25 (JV). Greater Scaup: 3000 est Dec 7 Black River Bay (JB);

400 CC. Common Goldeneye: 9 CC; 56 Jan 19 (JV). Bufflehead: 2 Dec PP. Oldsquaw: 200 est Dec 7 PP (JB); 41 Jan 13 PP (RW). Black Scoter: 1 CC. Hooded Merganser: 8 Dec 1 PRWMA (RW); 1 Mar 24 RM (JV); 15 Mar 9 PRWMA (RW). Common Merganser: 3400 Jan 12 RM (JV). Red-breasted Merganser: 1 to 3 present all winter RM (JV).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 1 Mar 24 near Clayton (John Wilson) very early. Goshawk: 1 Dec 1 near Evans Mills; 1 immature Dec 9; 1 Dec 25; 1 Jan 13; 1 immature Jan 13; other winter observations at DH and PP; a good winter for Goshawk observations. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 CC (NL). Coopers Hawk: 1 CC. Red-tailed Hawk: 34 CC. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 CC. Rough-legged Hawk: numerous during Dec much scarcer the rest of the winter; 14 CC; 1 Mar 5 last date. Bald Eagle: 1 Dec 28 (JV); 1 Feb 4 Wellesley Island (R. Wakefield). Marsh Hawk: 6 CC; 1 Jan 29 PRMA (TC). American Kestrel: 4 CC; 2 Dec 29 (JV); returned in numbers in mid Mar. Ruffed Grouse: numbers up from previous winters. Gray Partridge: 17 CC; 48 in 7 coveys Dec 28 Massena (JV); 10 Jan 13 Cape Vincent; 8 Jan 13 Grassy Point State Park; 12 Feb 9 Fishers Landing; population still low. Turkey: 13 Dec 23 Wellesley Island (TC); 6 Feb 9 same location; these birds are from game farm stock and should not be considered "wild" turkey (LC). American Coot: 2 CC Killdeer: 1 Feb 23 (LC) early. Woodcock. Mar DH (RW) early date. **GLAUCOUS GULL:** 1 Dec 22; 5 Dec 24; 11 Dec 26 of which 3 were mature; 21 Jan 14; 1 Mar 17 all observations RM (JV). **ICELAND GULL:** 6 Dec 26, 1 was mature; 3 Jan 5; 3 Jan 14 not seen again—all observations RM (JV). Great Black-backed Gull: 3 Dec 8; 15 Dec 11; 100+ Dec 26; 150 Jan 17; hardly any in Mar—all RM (JV). Herring Gull: 122 Dec 11; 2000 est Dec 26 RM (JV). Ring-billed Gull: 2200 Dec 11; 200± Dec 26; 8 Jan 14; 100 Mar 4—all RM (JV). Bonaparte's Gull: left last of Nov (JV). **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** 1 immature Dec 1; 1 mature Jan 5 both RM (JV). Mourning Dove: 35 CC; more birds this winter perhaps due to open conditions of the winter. Screech Owl: 5 CC. Great Horned Owl: 1 Dec 2 DH; 1 Dec 29; 1 on nest Feb 24 DH (RW). Snowy Owl: 1 Dec 1 PRWMA; 1 Mar 3 Chaumont; not present in numbers that were down last winter. **HAWK OWL:** 1 Dec 1—Feb 27 WHWMA (JV); 1 Jan 13 Cape Vincent (RM). Barred Owl: 1 Dec 12 Fishers Landing (RB). **SHORT-EARED OWL:** 1 Dec 1 Chaumont (RW); 3 CC (RW). **SAW-WHET OWL:** 1 Dec 25 photographed (JV); 1 with injured wing turned over to Nature Center Wellesley Island.

GOATSUCKER—STARLINGS: Belted Kingfisher: 1 Jan 27 Clayton (RW). Common Flicker: 2 Feb 10 PRWMA (RB). Pileated Woodpecker: 6 observations and 7 individuals seen during period; numbers up—Hairy Woodpecker: 38 CC. Downy Woodpecker: 56 CC. Horned Lark: 2 Dec 30; 12 Feb 9; in numbers Mar 23 Henderson area (LC). Blue Jay: 67 CC. Common Crow: 2 present all winter Massena (JV); Mar 23 & 28 heavy migration (600+) over Tug Hill area (LC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 CC; 2 Dec 28 (JV). Brown Creeper: 3 CC; 1 Dec 25. **CAROLINA WREN:** 1 Jan 17 (RW) (TC) a regional first. **BROWN THRASHER:** 1 present at a feeder from Dec till end of Feb Massena (JV). American Robin: many more wintering individuals this winter. **VARIED THRUSH:** 1 adult male Dec 28 Hyde Lake at feeder of Mr. & Mrs. Harold Wenk; observed from distance of 12 feet in good light (RW); second regional record; first record Dec 8, 1958 (JB) see (Kingbird Vol IX No 1); bird still present Mar 31 (mob). Eastern Bluebird: 1 Mar 7 DH (RW). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1 CC (NL). **BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** 1 Mar 4 DH (RW). Cedar Waxwing: 20 Dec 4 DH (RW); 12 Feb 4; 20 Mar 4 (RW). Northern Shrike: a good year many observations; adults and immatures, immature killed and pulled Tree Sparrow part way through Potter banding trap; dead bird removed and placed out on trapping plat-

form for shrike to return which occurred almost immediately; Tree Sparrow entirely consumed and pellet regurgitated by shrike (LC).

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: 2 PRWMA all winter (TC); 1 CC; 1 Dec 26 (JV); in numbers Mar 23 (LC). Red-winged Blackbird: 1 Mar 3; in numbers Mar 3-6. Common Grackle: 6 CC; in numbers Mar 6. Brown-headed Cowbird: 1 CC; in numbers Mar 15. Cardinal: 60 CC; 16 Dec 20 at feeder at one time DH (RW); more in Watertown area than previous years (FC); numbers increasing slightly in Massena (JV). Evening Grosbeak: 457 CC; about 60 daily DH Dec-Feb (RW); any one with a feeder and sunflower seed had birds this winter; present in fair numbers till end of period. Purple Finch: 5 all winter Watertown (R. Nelson); 1 Dec 28 (JV). Pine Grosbeak: 1 immature male Jan 20 Joseph A. Blake Sanctuary (NL) (TC). Common Redpoll: in small numbers Dec-Mar building in Feb-small flocks everywhere in Mar. Pine Siskin: 4 Dec 1 DH (RW); 1 at feeder Dec 28 (JV); 1-8 at feeder since Feb 27 Watertown (FC). Goldfinch: 13 Dec 11 (JV); 24 CC; 20 Feb 4 Henderson (LC). Red Crossbill: 1 at feeder Mar 20-25 eating sunflower seeds (JV). White-winged Crossbill: 2 (1 male 1 female) Jan 24 DH with Evening Grosbeaks (RW); 3 banded Jan 27 Henderson (LC); 3 (2 immature males 1 female) Mar 3 Black River Road (TC). Dark-eyed Junco: 4 all winter Watertown (R. Nelson); 7 CC. Tree Sparrow: 249 CC. White-throated Sparrow: 4 Jan 15 Watertown (D. Nagle). Song Sparrow: 2 Dec 28 present all winter feeder Massena (JV); 2 Mar 21 DH (RW). Lapland Longspur: 2 Dec 28 mixed with big flock of snow buntings (JV); 2 Feb 9 (RW); 1 Jan 21 with snow buntings (TC). Snow Bunting: regular all winter in good numbers; 600+ Jan 1 PP (TC) (NL).

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

This was another mild winter. December temperatures averaged 23.1 degrees and snow did not accumulate heavily. January had a reasonable mean temperature of 19.1 degrees and little snow accumulation. The wind seemed strong enough to blow the feathers off the chickadees on the 27th with gusts all day to 65 mph and gusts to 60 mph on much of the 31st. February gave a mean reading of 23.1 degrees with a low of minus 23 degrees on the 19th. March started out balmy and then became cold at the end of the month. Ten inches of snow on the 21st, 5 degrees on the 25th and 3 below on March 29th at Elizabethtown discouraged some birds. Geoffrey Carleton saw 125 geese honking and flying south on the fall route March 24 at noon.

Observers: JB—Jean Beck; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; ECBC—Essex County Christmas Bird Count centered at courthouse in E'town; FCBC—Essex County portion only of Ferrisburg, Vt. Christmas bird count; M & MG—Margaret and August Gabel; MK—Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury; TM—Ted Mack; NM—Norman Mason; RM—Ruth Meier; E & JP—Elizabeth and John Peterson; R & CW—Ruth and Carlin Walker.

Abbreviations: Es—Essex; E'town—Elizabethtown; L Cham—Lake Champlain; Mor—Moriah; PS—Paul Smith; Sch L—Schroon Lake; TL—Tupper Lake; Wes—Westport; Wil—Willsboro.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: 7 Dec 15 (FCBC); 1 Jan 13 Wes (JP); 1 Mar 15 Wes (JP). Horned Grebe: 11 Dec 15 (FCBC). Great Blue Heron: 1 Dec 3 Sch L (JB). Canada Goose: 40 Dec 24 Wes (JP); small flock Mar 6 Wes