

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

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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

(AG); 16 Mar 6 Wil (AG). Black Duck: max 43 Dec 15 (FCBC); all winter L Cham. Wood Duck: 1 male all winter Es (JP). Ring-necked Duck: 1 Jan 22-Feb 4 Es (JP). Common Goldeneye: max 69 Dec 15 (FCBC); 15 Mar 28 Raquette R, TL (MK). Oldsquaw: 10 Jan 3 NW Bay (JP); 2 Jan 14-24 Es (JP). White-winged Scoter: 10 Jan 12 Es (JP); 1 Jan 21-27 Es (JP). Hooded Merganser: 2 females Jan 20-Feb 1 Es (JP). Goshawk: 1 Dec 25 Lewis (EP); 1 getting a pheasant supper at a Wes feeder, no date (M&AG). Red-tailed Hawk: 1 Mar 27 Es (E&JP). Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Mar 31 Wes (GC). Rough-legged Hawk: several reported from L Cham area. Merlin: 1 seen 5 times since Mar 19 by a feeder at E'town, "classic look from below of the long pointed wings . . . , grayish-blue upperparts including upper side of tail" (GC). American Kestrel: 1 or 2 seen during winter with numbers increasing in late Mar. Killdeer: 2 Mar 3 Wes (AG); 2 Mar 5 Lake Placid (John Kruzan); 1 Mar 5 Wes (R&CW); 1 Mar 27 Es (JP). Great Black-backed Gull: max 3 Jan 19-26 Es (JP); 1 Mar 6 Es (JP). Ring-billed Gull: max 300 Mar 25 Es (JP). Bonaparte's Gull: 20 Dec 10 Wes (GC). Mourning Dove: seemed unusually common; 12 Jan 29 Wes (GC); 1 Feb 27 Mor (Margaret Vetter); 3 Mar 20 TL (RM); 1 all winter PS (Frances Peroni). Barred Owl: many reports. Saw-whet Owl: 1 photographed Mar 29 E'town (GC).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: 1 Dec 24 Wes (R&CW); 1 Jan 3 Es (JP). Common Flicker: 1 injured bird Dec 28 & 30 Wes (Freda Howard); 1 Mar 1 Es (JP). Pileated Woodpecker: many birds. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: first Mar 20 Wes (AG). No three-toed woodpeckers reported. Horned Lark: 12 Jan 14 Wes (NM); 3 Mar 3 Lake Clear (Louise Rutherford); 2 Mar 5 PS (TM). Common Raven: 2 all winter Cascade Lakes (Greenleaf T. Chase); 2 reported at Northway Exit 29 thru Jan (Ana Dumois)—no details but one reported last year by Major Day in same location. Black-capped Chickadee: max 420 Dec 29 (ECBC). Boreal Chickadee: several reports from usual locations. Tufted Titmouse: 1 Dec 15 (FCBC); 2 Feb 8 Wes (Norma & Fred Volckmann). Brown Creeper: 2 Dec 29 (ECBC); 1 Jan 12 Keene (E & JP); 1 at suet feeder Jan 21 Sch L (JB); numbers increased from Mar 2 on at PS. Carolina Wren: 1 at a Port Henry feeder thru winter (Elizabeth Sherlock & GC). American Robin: 1 Jan 12 Wes (GC); 1 Dec 30 at a Wes feeder (AG); 2 Mar 5 Wes (AG). Golden-crowned Kinglet: good numbers all winter. Northern Shrike: 7 reports of 1 each.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Common Yellowthroat: 1 on a bitter cold day unable to fly Dec 18, found dead Dec 20 Mor (Helen Phinney). Eastern Meadowlark: 1 Mar 9 Wes (AG); 1 Mar 24 TL (RM). Red-winged Blackbird: 1 Feb 27 Olmstedville (Charles Kays); 2 Feb 27 Ticonderoga (Janet Cooper); numbers increased from Mar 6 on. Cardinal: 21 Dec 15 (FCBC); 5 Dec 29 (ECBC). Evening Grosbeak: to quote RM, "very erratic all winter"; up to 75 at some feeders. Purple Finch: 5 Dec 15 (FCBC); 1 Jan 24 Sch L JB); 1 Mar 1 Wes (AG); 1 Mar 1 Mor (NM). Pine Grosbeak: seemed to avoid our area this winter. Hoary Redpoll: 1 Feb 27 Mor light bird, white rump clearly visible (NM); 1 Mar 1-6 Es (JP); 2 Mar 15 on Es, birds photographed (E & JP); 1 Mar 22 Wil (GC & JP); 1 Mar 26-30 E'town, "real frosty all over, all white rump" (GC). Common Redpoll: first Jan 23 Mor (NM), after which numbers increased with most feeders having 25-250 by the middle of Mar. Pine Siskin: common at Sch L (JB), rather scarce elsewhere. American Goldfinch: several all winter L Cham area; only inland report 2 Mar 2 TL (RM). Red Crossbill: 10 Feb 1 E'town (GC); 7 Dec 29 (ECBC); 8 Mar 31 Es (E & JP). White-winged Crossbill: 3 Jan 26 Crown Point (Marjorie McIntyre); 3 Mar 9 Madawaska (TM); 1 Mar 24 TL (RM). Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 Jan 1 on Sch L (JB & Aletha Haley). White-throated Sparrow: 1 wintering bird at a feeder, good bird for here in winter, Indian Lake (Robert McKinney). Song Sparrow: first arrivals—Mar 20 Severance (Mildred Tyrrell); Mar

24 Saranac Lake (MK); Mar 24 TL (RM); Mar 25 PS (TM). Lapland Longspur: 1 Mar 22 Wil (GC & JP); 1 Mar 22 Es (JP); Mar 23 Es (JP). Snow Bunting: many, many reports.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK -

RICHARD E. PHILION

This may have been a winter of discontent for many of us, but the weather provided much of the Northeast with a generally mild and snowfree landscape. December and January were each 1.7° above normal. A 61° on Dec 4th and 5th equalled records for those two days while a -13 on Dec 19th set a new record low for that date. As last year, most streams and at least portions of larger lakes and reservoirs were open till late December. Christmas count weather was generally moderate with little snow on the ground, yet half hardies were not especially well represented. The availability of open water during the CC period and the NYSWC in mid-January led to above average numbers of the more common waterfowl, but except for a late pair of Common Gallinule did not turn up anything very unusual. Flights of Canada Geese were still moving in late December.

February and March were slightly below the mean temperature but the average snowfall was 11 inches below normal. Ice went out of many lakes by March 7th, unusually early for Region 8.

Above average counts of Red-tailed Hawks and House Finches were noted as well as the modest advance of Red-headed Woodpeckers through the region. Winter finches in general were more scarce in early winter than late winter.

Notables for the period include a bald eagle, common gallinule, iceland gul and hoary redpoll.

Abbreviations: Col. Co.—Columbia County; L7—Lock 7 Mohawk River; LLO—Lake Lonely Outlet; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; SL—Saratoga Lake; SCR—Stoney Creek Reservoir; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; VFWM—Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management.

Contributors: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; DA—Doug Allen; B,H,S,—G. Bartlett, B. Havens, B. Sequin, T&AB—T&A. Brown; Cc's—Christmas Counts include Schenectady, Southern Rensselaer, Troy and Columbia Co; JC—J. Cook; MF—M. French; M&AG—M&A. Gidding; WG—W. Gorman; MG—M. Gruett; HMBC—Hudson Mohawk Bird Club; PM—P. Mickle; NYSWC—New York Waterfowl Count; RP—R. Philion; BW—Beverly Waite; RPY—RP Yunick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon 3 Dec 8 SL (B,H,S); fsm 1 Mar 3 SL (B,H,S). Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Dec 12 ADBC; fsm 1 Mar 9 TR (HMBC). Great Blue Heron: fsm 1 Mar 22 Mohawk (DA); 1 Mar 23 Lower Hudson (HMBC). Canada Goose: 50 Dec 8 SL (B,H,S); total of 238 from 3 CC reports; spring migration from Mar 3. Snow Goose: 30 Dec 24 E Greenbush (fide MG); 1 Dec 15 ADBC CC; 2 Mar 17 SL (B,H,S); 2 Mar 23 Lower Hudson (HMBC). Mallard: thru period; total of 802 from CC reports. Black Duck: thru period: total of 649 from CC reports up from 226 '73. Pintail: fsm 4 Mar 17 L7 (B,H,S). Green-winged Teal: fsm 30 Mar 23 Lower Hudson. Blue-winged Teal: 8 Jan 13 NYSWC (HMBC); fsm 4 Mar 24 NWW (BRS). American Wigeon 1 Jan 13 Fish Creek; fsm 2 Mar 17 Fish Creek (B,H,S). Wood Duck: fsm 1 Mar 8 Col Co. (ADBC). Ring-necked Duck: fsm 1 Mar 8 Col Co. (ADBC). Ring-necked Duck: reported Dec 3 Chatham (MM); fsm 6 Mar 10 SCR (B,H,S); max 50 Mar 23 Lower Hudson (HMBC). Canvasback: 1 Feb 18 LLO; 30 Mar 25 SL (B,H,S). Lesser Scaup: 1 Dec 8 SL; 6 Jan 27 LLO 100 Dec 15 ADBC CC; 30 Jan 13 NYSWC