

American Robin: wintered by the hundreds in the valleys south of Syracuse; counts of 200-600/day were regularly reported at S. Onondaga, Marietta, and Camillus with smaller numbers in protected woods about Fair Haven and south of Oswego.

Northern Shrike: 12 individuals in Dec., 12 in Jan., 10 in Feb., and 10 in Mar.—a fair flight with no impressive Mar. return flight.

ICTERIDS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: winter max. 48 (high) Skaneateles Christmas Count Dec. 29; many lesser counts from farmlands south of Oneida L. and the wind-cleared fields around Pompey.

Evening Grosbeak: moderate numbers thru Dec. followed by an invasion of these sunflower seed pigs in Oneida and Oswego Counties in late Jan. and early Feb.—counts there in the hundreds/day and in some areas (Rome, Westmoreland, Verona) more common than House Sparrows or Starlings; Burt's feeder survey showed the highest Mar. tally ever—2350 individuals. Pine Grosbeak: small numbers (one-four/day) in northern Herkimer County in Dec.; unreported elsewhere. Purple Finch: only small numbers on the various Christmas Counts; however, Adirondack tallies considerably better—30-35/day thru season. House Finch: increasing numbers at Syracuse with winter max. 31. Pine Siskin: incredibly scarce—only four reports totalling less than 20 birds for the entire winter.

Rufous-sided Towhee: total of five wintering birds, mostly males and mostly feeder sustained. Wintering sparrow numbers seemed to parallel the better numbers of the numerous half-hardies, to wit, White-throated Sparrow max. 77, Swamp Sparrow max. 17, and Song Sparrow max. 80, all from the Syracuse Christmas Count Dec. 14; numerous smaller counts of these species thru winter with Song Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow reported from Westmoreland and North Gage, areas properly considered "snowbelt country" and most inhospitable to half-hardy sparrows. Field Sparrow: total of 11 individuals for season with max. six Oneida Christmas Count Dec. 28. Tree Sparrow: abundant thru winter with some stellar Christmas Count numbers—992 Oneida, 707 Syracuse, 612 Skaneateles, 379 Howland's Island sector; however, only 31 on the Old Forge Christmas Count where winter living, even for a Tree Sparrow, is tough. Snow Bunting: max. 3000 Mar. 8 Vernon (P & S Peebles); much smaller numbers in most areas with only small flocks (6-20/day) reported, a pattern especially evident on the various Christmas Counts.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Winter of 1974-75 was another relatively mild one. Snow depths were minimal on the Lake Plain and temperatures were not extremely low. Tug Hill and the Adirondack portions of the Region experienced more snow and lower temperatures with extremes in both coming in February and particularly in March. Tug Hill snow depths were still 30+ inches and Adirondack 20+ inches at the end of reporting period.

Large bodies of water remained open late into the winter and accounted for many excellent waterfowl observations with wintering birds.

High *Microtus* populations and relatively open snow conditions resulted in many good observations of hawks and Snowy Owls.

Some winter finches and Evening Grosbeaks in particular were very abundant the latter half of the winter. However, redpolls, Pine Siskins, both crossbills and Pine Grosbeaks were scarce.

Observers: TLC—Tom L. & Cathy Carrolan; LBC—Lee B. Chamberlaine; FAC—Frank A. Clinch; DCG—David C. Gordon; RCW—Robert C. & June Walker; JAV—Joannes A. VanRiet; mob—Many observers.

Abbreviations: BRB—Black River Bay; CP—Campbells Point; CV—Cape Vincent; DH—Dry Hill; ED—Eldorado; FD—Fort Drum; FL—Fishers Landing; HH—Henderson Harbor; HP—Henderson Pond; PP—Pillar Point; PTP—Point Peninsula; RB—Ray's Bay; RMPD—Robt. Moses Power Dam; RMSP—Robt. Moses State Park; SB—Sherwin's Bay; SH—Sackets Harbor; SLR—St. Lawrence River; SNP—Snowshoe Point; SS—Sulphur Springs; TP—Thompson Park; WI—Wellesley Island.

Descriptive Abbreviations: ICC—International Christmas Count—Dec. 21 center at Customs on Wellesley Island; WCC—Watertown Christmas Count—Dec. 14 center near Brownville; ad—adult; fem—female; imm—immature; mal—male; Rd—road.

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: 3 Dec. 7; 4 WCC. Great Blue Heron: 1 Jan. 1-14 near Great Bend (Willis Danks). Whistling Swan: 6 Dec. 14 CV (Tom Brown); 3 Jan. 19 SLR (Richard I. Brouse). Canada Goose: 535 WCC; 400 Jan. 12 Adams Cove; 4000+ Mar. 23 HP (LBC). Snow Goose: 1 Dec. 21 HH (LBC). Mallard: 276 WCC. Black Duck: 40 WCC; 260 Feb. 1. Gadwall: 2 Mar. 3 (JAV). Pintail: 30+ Mar. 23 HP. Green-winged Teal: 1 WCC—BRB. Blue-winged Teal: 1 Dec. 22 (JAV); 1 Jan. 17 HH (TLC). American Wigeon: 3 Dec. 1 PP; 3 Dec. 30 RMPD, Northern Shoveler: 2 Dec. 13 (JAV) unusual.

Redhead: 18+ Dec. 21 HH; 20+ Mar. 17 HH (LBC). Ring-necked Duck: 2 Dec. 15; 2 Jan. 18; 1 Mar. 2. Canvasback: 3500+ Dec. 14 CV (Tom Brown); 6 Feb. 1 FL (TLC); 100 Mar. 2 (JAV); 20+ Mar. 17 HH (LBC); other observations of lesser numbers thru period. Greater Scaup: 6000 SB (RCW); 4000+ WCC—BRB; 200+ Mar. 17 HH. Common Golden-eye: 280 Dec. 22; 350 Feb. 1 SLR; 300+ Mar. 17 HH. Bufflehead: 7 WCC; 1 Mar. 2. Oldsquaw: 300+ Dec. 21 SNP (LBC); 50+ Jan. 18 SNP; 20+ Mar. 17 SNP. Surf Scoter: 1 Dec. 7 SH (RCW); 1 WCC; 1 Jan. 12 PTP (RCW). Common Scoter: 3 Dec. 7 RB (RCW); 1 Dec. 21 HH (LBC). Hooded Merganser: 1 ad mal PTP Dec. 28 (TLC); 1 all winter RMPD (JAV). Common Merganser: 22 WCC; 98 ICC; 3800 Jan. 14. Red-breasted Merganser: 4 maximum all winter (JAV).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: 1 WCC; 1 Dec. 22 Norfolk (JAV); 1 imm. Dec. 28 near CV (TLC); 1 ad Jan. 25-30 DH; 1 imm. Jan. 26 DH; 1 ad fem Feb. 9 TP (TLC); a good year. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 WCC; 1 Feb. 23 Watertown (TLC); 2 Mar. 20 near Henderson (TLC). Cooper's Hawk: 1 Feb. 23 SS Rd (TLC); 1 Mar. 20 Henderson (TLC). Red-tailed Hawk: 14 WCC; 6 Dec. 28 PP (TLC); 8 Feb. 25 between Henderson and Watertown (TLC). Rough-legged Hawk: 25 WCC; maximum 35(5 dark phase) Dec. 28 PTP (TLC); 54 Feb. 1 PTP (TLC); 48 Feb. 17 PTP; an excellent year. Harrier: 10 Dec. 1 PTP (RCW); 5 Feb. 1 PTP (TLC); 2 Mar. 21 RMPD (JAV); more than past 3 years. American Kestrel: 15 WCC; many wintered on Lake Plain.

Ruffed Grouse: 8 WCC; numbers up. Ring-necked Pheasant: very few resident birds left (LBC). Gray Partridge: 1 covey Dec. 5 (JAV); 6 Dec. 21 Alex Bay; 6 Dec. 28 CV; 7 Dec. 28 PTP; 5 Feb. 17 PTP; 3 Mar. 3 SS; numbers still very low. Coot: 1 Dec. 28 PTP (TLC).

Glaucous Gull: 1 (2nd yr. bird) Dec. 30 near RMPD (TLC); 12 (3 ad 3 2nd yr. 6 1st winter) Dec. 30 RMPD (TLC) (JAV); 1 Jan. 18 HH (RCW); 7 Feb. 1 RMPD (JAV). Iceland Gull: 3 (1 ad 2-2nd yr.) Dec. 30 RMPD (TLC); 3 Feb. 1 RMPD (JAV). Great Black-backed Gull: 5 Dec. 21 HH; 2 Dec. 22 SH; 66 Dec. 30 RMPD (TLC); 29 Jan. 12 PTP; 400 Feb. 1 RMPD (JAV); 5 Mar. 20 HH (TLC). Ring-billed Gull: 1 WCC; 10 Jan. 12 PTP; 200 Jan. 18 HH; 1 Feb. 1 (JAV); returning RMPD Mar. 3.

Mourning Dove: 4 Dec. 12 SB; 14 WCC; 9 ICC; not as many wintering in Henderson area

as in previous winters (LBC). Screech Owl: 1 WCC. Great Horned Owl: 2 WCC. Snowy Owl: maximum 6 Dec. 28 PTP; 5 Jan. 4 PTP; 6 Feb. 17 PTP; numerous other individual sightings. Short-eared Owl: 7 Jan. 4 PTP; 1 Jan. 18 SS Rd; 6 Feb. 17 PTP all (RCW); 3 Feb. 17 PTP other than previous citation (FAC). Saw-whet Owl: 1 found injured Mar. 26 Pamela Center died next day (LBC).

GOATSUCKERS--STARLINGS: Belted Kingfisher: 1 WCC; 1 ICC; 1 Jan. 30 CP; 1 Feb. 17 DH. Common Flicker: 2 WCC; 1 Dec. 22 SH (TLC). Pileated Woodpecker: 1 WCC; 2 ICC; 1 Jan. 1. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 imm. early Dec.-Feb. 15 at feeder in Watertown probably eating sunflower seed (FAC) (DCG). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 fem Jan. 3 FD (DCG); 1 fem Jan. 28 & 30 DH (RCW); 1 fem Feb. 2 Cagwin Rd (RCW). Horned Lark: 30 ICC; 30 Feb. 12 SS.

Crow: 81 WCC; more than usual wintered on Lake Plain. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4 WCC. Brown Creeper: 2 WCC; 9 ICC. Carolina Wren: Dec. 15 thru Feb. 1 Watertown feeder (mob). Mockingbird: 1 all winter RB (Mrs. Barr); 1 Mar. 13 Brownville Game Farm feeding on apples--still there end of period (LBC).

Robin: more wintering than in previous years (LBC). Hermit Thrush: 1 Jan. 28 DH in flocks of robins (RCW). Eastern Bluebirds: 4 mal ICC--WI. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1 Feb. 12 DH. Bohemian Waxwing: 50 Mar. 22 near RMSP (JAV). Cedar Waxwing: 90 WCC; 100 Jan. 18 DH; 275 Mar. 22 (JAV). Northern Shrike: seen thru period about half imm.

VIREOS--WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 Jan. 11 & Feb. 22 RMPD (JAV).

BLACKBIRDS--SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: 4 ICC; 2 Dec. 28 near Chaumont; 6 Feb. 17 SS Rd; 1 Mar. 27 (JAV). Red-winged Blackbird: 1 WCC; 4 ICC; 1 Mar. 1 near Cranberry L. (LBC); 100+ Mar. 7. Northern Oriole: 1 ICC--WI. Common Grackle: 3 Dec. 1 SB (RW); 5 WCC. Brown-headed Cowbird: 6 WCC.

Cardinal: 15 WCC. Evening Grosbeak: 69 WCC; fewer than usual 'til Jan.; 1000 banded to Mar. 18 (FAC); 485 banded in 6 day period Feb.-Mar. (124 Mar. 3) then ran out of bands (FAC). Purple Finch: 15 WCC; 20+ Feb. 17 Henderson--many banded (LBC). Pine Grosbeak: 1 Dec. 22; 2 Feb. 1 Indian Pt; 4 Feb. 28; 10 Mar. 1. Common Redpoll: 1 WCC; 53 Mar. 27 RMSP (JAV); very few this winter. Pine Siskin: 20+ Feb. 16 Raymondville (JAV); only report for period. Am. Goldfinch: 28 WCC; more winter observations than usual. Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 Feb. 12 HH village along road in flock of Evening Grosbeaks (LBC). Dark-eyed Junco: 1 WCC; 16 ICC. Tree Sparrows: 47 WCC; 151 ICC. White-throated Sparrow: 10 WCC. Song Sparrow: 4 WCC; 10 ICC. Lapland Longspur: 2 Dec. 21 RMSP (JAV); 3 Dec. 21 ICC--Alex Bay (RCW). Snow Bunting: maximum 300 Feb. 1 PTP (TLC).

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REGION 7 -- ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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This was a mild winter for the most part. Snow depth was within reason. Temperatures were often mild enough to provide pleasant ice fishing, beaver trapping, cross country skiing, or birding days. An exception was February 26th with 45 mph winds all day combined with blinding snow. March was cool with a 24.8 mean temperature. As usual the Champlain Valley had some open water.