

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

This was a cold winter. December 15 to January 23 held many very cold days and -20°F (-29°C) was common. Newcomb and Saranac Lake had -43°F (-42°C) on different days for the coldest readings in our area. Cones and beechnuts were absent or scarce so inland birding was poor as might be expected.

Robert McKinney writes of his Indian Lake trip Feb. 13-15 saying, "Where are all the birds in the Adirondacks this winter? The feeders we usually check just had chickadees." Dorothy McIlroy writes of a February weekend at Piseco Lake. "Very few birds around this winter. Usually there is a flock of Evening Grosbeaks, but this winter they have seen just one for a couple of days in December. . . . no woodpeckers at the suet and neither White-breasted Nuthatches nor Dark-eyed Juncos. Saw no birds at all when we were hiking on the Northville-Placid Trail and the Deer Pond Trail." A number of people had no news of birds. However, Lake Champlain and the Christmas Counts had some interesting birds.

Observers: Deborah Anson, Bart Bailey, Geoffrey Carleton, Norman Mason, Betsy & John MacMillan, Dorothy McIlroy, Margaret & Robert McKinney, Dan Nickerson, John Parkes, John M. C. Peterson, Jerry Rosenband, Carole Slatkin, Pat Taber, Elizabethtown Christmas Bird Count Dec. 27, Essex Co., N.Y. portion only of Ferrisburg, Vt. Christmas Bird Count Dec. 20, New York State Waterfowl Count Lake Champlain section Jan. 10, Saranac Lake Christmas Bird Count Jan. 3.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: 3 Westport Jan. 4 (GC). Canada Goose: 2 Essex Jan. 25 (BB,JP); 40 McColloms Feb. 22 flying north (TM); and broadcast on television that many other flocks were reported by others. Open water rather scarce this time of year in most of our area. Black Duck: max. 155 Westport Jan. 4 (GC). Wood Duck: 1 male LaChute Feb. 7 (B&JM). Ring-necked Duck: 5 FCBC; 1 LaChute Jan. 31-Feb. 8 (B&JM). Canvas-back: 1800 NYSWC. Common Goldeneye: 90 NYSWC. Oldsquaw: 20 NYSWC. Hooded Merganser: 1 Essex late Jan. (BB); 1 LaChute Jan. 31-Feb. 8 (B&JM). Common Merganser: 22 NYSWC; 1 Essex Feb. 20 (JP).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Goshawk: several seen. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Essex Jan. 3 (JR, CS). Red-tailed Hawk: several E'town to Champlain Valley. Rough-legged Hawk: several Champlain region plus 1 ECBC. Bald Eagle: 1 imm. Port Kent Jan. 10 (DA,JP,PT). Ring-necked Pheasant: 1 ECBC. American Coot: 1 wintered at Essex until it was found dead Feb. 2 (BB,JP). Bonaparte's Gull: 5 FCBC.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: 2 FCBC; 57 ECBC; 1 Averyville Jan. 6 (GC). Great Horned Owl: a few reports; 1 Crown Pt. Feb. 17 had much white on face and not tan with all of forepart light gray indicating the subspecies *B. v. wapacuthu* of the far north; GC studied the perched bird. Hairy Woodpecker: max. 20 ECBC. Downy Woodpecker: max. 44 ECBC. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 SLCBC.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: 11 FCBC; 1 Cedar River Feb. 14 (R&MMc). Blue Jay: max. 147 ECBC. Raven: one or two at usual places. Crow: 85 migrants headed north over E'town Feb. 28 (GC). Mockingbird: 3 Dec. 20 Plattsburgh CBC at meeting place and seen by all for first species of day. Gray Catbird: 1 SLCBC. Brown Thrasher: 1 SLCBC. American Robin: 1 ECBC; 1 Indian Lake Feb. 14 (R&MMc). SWAINSON'S THRUSH: seen at 15 feet with 7 x 35 binoculars at Essex Dec. 20 by DA, JP, PT; all know the bird and know it is totally out of season. "No rufous . . . head, back, wings, and tail of dark olive brown. . . large, buffy eye-ring clearly noted by all as bird fed on barberries." Cedar Waxwing: 39 FCBC. Northern Shrike: 3 SLCBC; 1 Westport (JP,PT); 1 Lewis (DN).

VIREOS--WARBLERS: None: this is usually a very easy section to write for the winter season.

WEAVERS--SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird: a few winter in Clinton Co. near the lake; 8 migrants Lewis Feb. 22 (DN); and common at Essex and Westport by Feb. 26 (JP). Brown-headed Cowbird: 50 FCBC; 45 SLCBC; 1 at a Piseco L. feeder Feb. (DMc). Cardinal: 5 SLCBC; 4 ECBC; 12 FCBC. Evening Grosbeak: max. 144 ECBC; absent many areas. Purple Finch: only 2 reports. Pine Grosbeak: 23 SLCBC; 35 ECBC; 44 Moriah (NM); many others. Common Redpoll: max. 242 ECBC; scattered flocks seen in most areas. Pine Siskin: 67 ECBC and absent in much of region. American Goldfinch: max. 48 FCBC and generally scarce. White-winged Crossbill: absent. Red Crossbill: 2 ECBC. Rufous-sided Towhee: 2 FCBC. Tree Sparrow: max. 105 ECBC; scarce or absent many inland areas. White-throated Sparrow: 2 FCBC; 1 ECBC. Song Sparrow: 1 ECBC. Snow Bunting: max. 86 FCBC; 54 ECBC.

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

REGION 8 -- HUDSON-MOHAWK

GLADYS SNELL

The winter was relatively mild with the exception of the below normal temperatures of late January and early February (-18 degrees Fahrenheit (-28° C) with wind chill of -55° F (-48° C) and -63° F (-53° C) on two occasions). Many species were noticeably decreased following this period. A mild late February brought "early spring invasion" a little ahead of normal. Earlier predictions that the 1975-76 season would be a "finch year" were confirmed when eight of the nine species of finches which might reasonably be expected were observed. Only White-winged Crossbill went unreported. Two species, Common Redpoll and Pine Siskins were reported in record numbers by the Southern Rensselaer Christmas Count.

There were five Christmas Counts this year: Columbia County and Schenectady on December 20; Southern Rensselaer County December 27; Troy and Amsterdam (a new "trial" count) January 3. Some of the highlights of these were: Red-bellied Woodpecker, a first, and a White-crowned Sparrow, a second appearance for the Schenectady count; Winter and Carolina Wrens in Southern Rensselaer, a first for both; Savannah Sparrow in Troy; and three Lapland Longspurs in Amsterdam.

A few uncommon or unusual sightings were reported: a Glaucous Gull December 27 on the Hudson River at Greenport; an Iceland Gull February 29 on the Hudson River at New Baltimore; a Short-eared Owl January 1 in Amsterdam; a Gray Catbird December 20 in Chatham. The rarity of the season was a Harris' Sparrow in Chatham for most of the period.

Abbreviations: A--Amsterdam; cc or ccs--Christmas Count or Counts; Col Co--Columbia County (Alan DeVoe Bird Club); D-A-B--Dial-A-Bird; EG--East Greenbush; FR--Five Rivers Environmental Education Center; HR--Hudson River; LG--Lake George; L6--Lock 6 Mohawk River; mob--many observers; NB--New Baltimore; RL--Round Lake; S--Schenectady; SR--Southern Rensselaer; thru--throughout period or through date given; T--Troy.

LOONS--DUCKS: Horned Grebe: 1 late Dec. LG; 2 Feb. 28, 29 HR at NB. Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Feb. 28, 29 HR at NB. Great Blue Heron: thru Dec. Col. Co.; 1 Scc. Canada Goose: large flock Dec. 12 Chatham; 8 Col. Co. cc; many reports Feb. 21-26. Mallard: 759 ccs. Black Duck: 852 ccs; many late Feb. HR Col. Co. Pintail: Dec. 8 Col. Co.; 10 Feb. 18, 19