

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Winter of 1976-77 will be long remembered in Region 6. All weather factors were extreme—snow, ice thickness, low temperatures and wind. The Blizzard of 1977 will live in the minds of north country residents for years.

I would suspect losses to the birdlife from the blizzard would be high, since for a four day period nothing could move, much less fly. The grounding of the two Red-necked Grebes attests to the severity of the storm.

Trends which bear some watching are decreases in Hairy Woodpeckers and White-breasted Nuthatches.

Rarities for the period were Red-necked Grebe, Franklin's Gull, Short-eared Owl, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow and a Chipping Sparrow.

Contributors: Tom L. and Cathy Carrolan (TLC); Lee B. Chamberlaine (LBC); Frank A. Clinch (FAC); Gerald A. Smith (GAS); Dick Ulman; Joe A. VanRiet (JAV); Robert and June Walker (RCW).

Abbreviations: ED—Eldorado Shores; MCC—Massena Christmas Count Dec. 24 American side; Pt.P—Point Peninsula; RMPD—Robert Moses Power Dam; WCC—Watertown Christmas Count Dec. 18; WICC—1000 Islands Christmas Count Jan. 2 Wellesley Island and American side.

LOONS—DUCKS: RED-NECKED GREBE: 1 N of Oak Point Feb. 11 & 12 (TLC,GAS, RCW); 1 near Watertown grounded Feb. 7 released St. Lawrence Co. (LBC); 1 grounded near Sandy Crk Feb. 8 banded and released Dexter (LBC). Great Blue Heron: 1 Oak Point Jan. 9 (TLC & GAS); 4 instances of wintering birds (immatures) being found in poor condition and having to be destroyed (LBC). Canada Goose: fewer than normal wintered. Mallard: 90 max RMPD Dec. 12; others wintered in spring areas. Black Duck: 30 Tibbets Pt. Dec. 12; 180 max Oak Pt. Dec. 22; 50 RMPD MCC down to 15 Feb. 26 (JAV). Gadwall: 3 RMPD MCC. Am. Wigeon: 3 RMPD MCC. Redhead: 3 RMPD Feb. 10. Canvasback: 11 max N of Oak Pt. Greater Scaup: 270 max Pt.P Dec. 5; 380 Tibbets Pt. Dec. 12; 22 N of Oak Pt. Feb. 8. Com. Goldeneye: 910 RMPD MCC; 421 Oak Pt. Jan. 9; 295 RMPD Jan. 17; 80 RMPD Feb. 4. Bufflehead: 3 ED Dec. 5; 4 Oak Pt. Dec. 22. Oldsquaw: 16 Pt.P Dec. 12. Hooded Merganser: 6 WCC (FAC). Com. Merganser: 3300 RMPD MCC down to 75 by Feb. 26; 2300 N of Oak Pt. Jan. 16 down to 165 by Feb. 12; 320 Iroquois Dam Feb. 19. Red-breasted Merganser: 5 N of Oak Pt. Dec. 22; 2 near Chippewa Bay Feb. 12.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: 1 WCC Dec. 18; 3 Oak Pt. Jan. 17 (GAS); 2 Stony Pt. Feb. 10 (GAS); 5 other individuals seen at various locations. Sharp-shinned: no reports. Cooper's: 1 imm Brownville Feeder off & on Jan. 4 thru (TLC). Red-tailed: 44 WCC Dec. 18. Rough-legged: 72 WCC Dec. 18. **BALD EAGLE:** 2 ad N of Oak Pt. Jan. 17 (TLC & GAS); 1 ad Deferiet Feb. 3 (Dick Ulman) height of blizzard; 1 imm Gallop Island Feb. 10 (GAS). Marsh Hawk: 1 WCC Dec. 18. American Kestrel: 10 WCC Dec. 18; 2 Millens Bay Rd. Dec. 12. Ruffed Grouse: 4 WCC Dec. 18. Gray Partridge: none seen in Massena area for one year (JAV); 3 PP Feb. 12; 8 Cape Vincent Feb. 19; 7 near Sackets Harbor Feb. 23 all (TLC). Glaucous Gull: 24 Dec. 25 down to 6 by Feb. 20 (JAV); 4 Oak Pt. Jan. 2; 2 Wellesley Is Jan. 16; 2 Oak Pt. Jan. 16; 4 RMPD Jan. 17. Iceland Gull: 9 imm RMPD Dec. 25 down to 2 by Feb. 26; 2 Oak Pt. Jan. 2; 1 N of Oak Pt. Jan. 9; 3 RMPD Feb. 10. Great Black-backed Gull: 1300 Dec. 25 down to 16 by Feb. 26 (JAV); 361 Oak Pt. Jan. 2; 12 N of Oak Pt. Jan. 16; 1 imm N of Cape Vincent Feb. 13. Herring Gull: 210 max ED Dec. 5; 400 max Oak Pt. Dec. 22; 6 max RMPD Feb. 8. Ring-billed Gull: 3 WCC Dec. 18; 4 Oak Pt. Dec. 22;

1 RMPD Jan. 17; 3 all winter RMPD (JAV). **FRANKLIN'S GULL**: 1 Oak Pt. Jan. 2 (TLC); notes to Editor.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: 105 WCC Dec. 18; 6 MCC. Screech Owl: 1 WCC Dec. 18; 2 MCC. Great Horned Owl: 2 WCC. Snowy Owl: very few this winter; 1 RMPD thru; 1 Cape Vincent thru; 1 Chaumont thru. **SHORT-EARED OWL**: 1 WCC Dec. 18 (TLC); 2 Pt. Salubrious thru (TLC). Belted Kingfisher: 1 in Jan. Com. Flicker: 1 male Brownville Feeder Feb. 18 thru. Pileated Woodpecker: 1 WICC Jan. 2. Hairy Woodpecker: 9 WCC Dec. 18; 6 MCC Dec. 24; numbers seem down from previous years (LBC). Downy Woodpecker: 19 WCC Dec. 18; 20 Massena Dec. 24.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: 40 max. Blue Jay: 75 WCC Dec. 18; 79 MCC; more numerous than usual (LBC). White-breasted Nuthatch: 7 WCC Dec. 18; 8 MCC; not in usual numbers (FAC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 3 WCC Dec. 18; 4 MCC. Brown Creeper: 3 WCC; 1 MCC. Am. Robin: 18 Dry Hill Dec. 14-16 (RCW); 11 Baggs Corners Feb. 13 (TLC). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 9 WCC. Cedar Waxwing: 6 WCC; 11 MCC. No. Shrike: 6 WCC; 4 MCC; many others observed—good year. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: 12 WICC (JAV).

VIREOS-WARBLED: YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: 1 Dry Hill feeding on flies under eaves of house (RCW).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird: 2 WCC. Com. Grackle: 1 WCC. Brown-headed Cowbird: 4 WCC; 4 MCC. Cardinal: 24 WCC; 3 MCC. Evening Grosbeak: 2 WCC; 63 MCC; numbers building in Jan. thru. Purple Finch: 4 WCC; about 40 daily at feeder since Feb. 7 (RCW); 36 max at feeder Brownville Jan. 22-Feb. 6 (TLC). Pine Grosbeak: 6 WICC; 3 Raymondville Jan. 24. Am. Goldfinch: 9 WCC; 11 PP Feb. 12; 16 max at feeder Brownville thru (TLC). **RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE**: 1 WICC. **SAVANNAH SPARROW**: 1 PP Dec. 5 (TLC). Dark-eyed Junco: 3 WCC. **CHIPPING SPARROW**: 1 WCC. White-throated Sparrow: 3 WCC; 2 daily in yard Jan. 6 & Jan. 13; 1 N of Oak Pt. Jan. 9. Lapland Longspur: 1 WICC; 3 near Watertown Jan. 23; 1 Feb. 13. Snow Bunting: 785 WCC; 213 MCC; 12 Brownville Feeder Jan. 29; 160 max Cape Vincent Jan. 16; 310 max Baggs Corners Feb. 17; 500 Pt.P Feb. 28.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

This was not a bad winter for this region. Snow depth was reasonable with 32 inches (81 cm) being the maximum at one time in my Paul Smiths yard. We were spared the deep snows people suffered near the Great Lakes. Temperatures were reasonable as well. 22° F (-5.5° C) seemed to be the only temperature available much of the time. If Newcomb was coldest in the nation with -15° F (-26° C) or thereabout on a few days, it certainly is a vast improvement over -43° F (-41° C) that Newcomb and Saranac Lake shared last year along with so many -20° F (-28° C) or colder days. (Last year it was -25° F (-31° C) on the Plattsburgh Christmas Bird Count compared with plus 20° F (-6.7° C) this year.)

We did have a run of over 50 days with the temperature not reaching 32° F (0° C), but it still was not very cold. This did result in the omission of the traditional January thaw. The result was more heating degree units needed for people with resulting increase in fuel expense, or more time in the wood pile for some of us. Birds probably were not affected.