

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.

February was milder than normal with a nice slushy thaw.

Birds seemed to enjoy a good season here. Hordes of red and black spruce cones were still available at the end of February. The most common bird would be Purple Finch in most of the region. It was also a good Snow Bunting year. Notable was the Bald Eagle, late Osprey, and good numbers of Lapland Longspurs. Eared Grebe was a new record for the region.

Observers: DA—Deborah Anson; CD—Charlcie Delehanty; ECBC—Elizabethtown Christmas Bird Count; FCBC—Essex County portion only of Ferrisburg, Vt. Christmas Bird Count; RH—Robert Hagar; EM—Esther MacCreedy; M&RM—Margaret & Robert McKinney; BM—Betsy MacMillan; DN—Dan Nickerson; JP—John Peterson; AP—Alan Pistorious; JR—Jerry Rosenband; SLCBC—Saranac Lake Christmas Bird Count; CS—Carole Slatkin; PT—Pat Tabor; PW—Phil Warren.

Abbreviations: NWBay—North West Bay of Lake Champlain; Platts—Plattsburgh; Ti—Ticonderoga; TupL—Tupper Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: On Christmas Eve a Common Loon was seen with a Red-throated Loon on NWBay (DN). Red-necked Grebe: 4 NWBay Dec. 7 (PT); 2 same place Dec. 18 (FCBC). Horned Grebe: many. EARED GREBE: 1 NWBay Dec. 18 (DA,PT) with details to FCBC compiler. This is a regional record. Pied-billed Grebe: 1 NWBay Dec. 30 (JR,CS). Great Blue Heron: 1 ECBC Dec. 18; 3 NWBay Dec. 19 with one lingering to Dec. 25 (AP); 1 Ti Jan. 22 (*fide* BM). American Wigeon: a male Whallon's Bay Dec. 30-Jan. 1 (JR,CS). Wood Duck: 1 La Chute Feb. 6 (BM). Redhead: 1 NWBay with Canvasback Dec. 25 (EM, JP, JR, CS). Canvasback: max 1870 Platts Dec. 18 (PW). Common Goldeneye: 62 ECBC Dec. 18; 14 Lake Abanake Feb. 12 (M&RM). White-winged Scoter: 1 Port Henry Dec. 5 (EM, JP). Hooded Merganser: 1 NWBay Dec. 5-27 (many); 2 ECBC Dec. 18; 1 Whallon's Bay Dec. 30-31 (many). Common Merganser: 4 in Saranac River at Saranac Lake all winter (RH); 7 Lake Abanake Feb. 12 (M&RM).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: several from Paul Smiths to Lake Abanake and Champlain area. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 TupL Dec. 22 (CD); 1 Essex early Feb. (John Parke); 1 imm Essex Feb. 10-26 at a feeder (EM, JP). Cooper's Hawk: not reported. Red-tailed Hawk: a few Champlain Valley. BALD EAGLE: 1 imm carefully studied Wickham Marsh at Clinton-Essex County line on Lake Champlain Jan. 9 (PW). OSPREY: 1 late bird Westport Dec. 2-24 (PT). American Kestrel: a few Champlain Valley. Glaucous Gull: 1 Platts Dec. 18 (PW). This is rare but not a first record for region. Increased observers should produce many more records of white-winged gulls. Bonaparte's Gull: 100 Westport all of Dec. (PT).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: more than usual wintering at feeders; 1 SLCBC Jan. 2; 2 Gabriels all winter (Dave Young); max 30 Essex all winter (Phoebe MacDougall). Screech Owl: 1 in a garage and had to be released Platts Dec. 21 (Bill Kreuger) and seen hunting House Sparrows since. Great Horned Owl: several in Champlain Valley. Short-eared Owl: 2 Chazy Landing Jan. 2 (PW, Hal Klein). Saw-whet Owl: 1 Westport being scolded because he was an owl by Red-breasted Nuthatches Dec. 26 (ECBC). Belted Kingfisher: 1 Essex Jan. 6 (Isabelle Bailey). Common Flicker: 1 Essex Feb. 12 (DN).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Common Raven: several from Hurricane Mtn to Lake Placid and 2 St. Regis Mtn. at Paul Smiths all winter (many). Boreal Chickadee: 3 ECBC Dec. 26; 8 SLCBC Jan. 2; plus usual places. Red-breasted Nuthatch: numbers began to increase TupL Feb. 27 (Ruth Meier). Winter Wren: 1 Keene Dec. 24 (DN) is a good find. Brown Thrasher: 1 SLCBC Jan. 2. American Robin: 12 FCBC Dec. 12; 3 ECBC Dec. 26; 32 Essex Dec. 29 (EM, JP); 26 Essex Feb. 12 (DN); 1 TupL Feb. 18 (R. Godin, R. Brousseau). Cedar Waxwing: several Essex all winter (many). Northern Shrike: 18 reported from Indian Lake to Essex including one that hit a window at Wadhams while carrying a Tree

Sparrow, yet soon recovered his senses as well as supper (Teresa Anson).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 Essex all winter; another same place Dec. 28-Jan. 3 (JP).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird: 1 Dec. 8 Lake Placid (Mary McKinney); 1 Dec. 27-Feb. 13 TupL (CD); 1 SLCBC Jan. 2. Common Grackle: 3 ECBC Dec. 26. Brown-headed Cowbird: 72 SLCBC Jan. 2; 9 TupL Feb. 20 (CD). Cardinal: 2 ECBC Dec. 26; 77 SLCBC Jan. 2; 2 Indian Lake Feb. 12 (M&RM). Evening Grosbeak: none on FCBC Dec. 18 but ECBC Dec. 26 had 478 and SLCBC Jan. 2 had 741, both counts being record highs. Purple Finch: most common winter bird with 1033 on SLCBC Jan. 2. Pine Grosbeak: fairly common in flocks of 7 to 9. Common Redpoll: only 2 or 3 reports and these were traveling. Pine Siskin: 110 ECBC Dec. 26. Red Crossbill: 6 ECBC Dec. 26; 14 SLCBC Jan. 2; 2 Ray Brook Jan. 21 (RH); 6 Feb. 5 Piseco Lake (Dorothy McIlroy). White-winged Crossbill: 3 SLCBC Jan. 2; 2 St. Armand Jan. 23 (Jean Demottos). Dark-eyed Junco: 109 ECBC Dec. 26; plus a few TupL to Saranac L. Chipping Sparrow: 3 all winter except Christmas count day (RH). White-throated Sparrow: many all areas; 25 SLCBC Jan. 2; 9 Essex Feb. 22 (JP). Song Sparrow: 1 TupL all winter (CD); 2 ECBC Dec. 26; 1 SLCBC Jan. 2; 2 Jan. 26 Saranac Lake (RH). **LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** 1 Essex Dec. 31 (JR,CS); 35 Platts Jan. 3 thru period (PW).

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

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This report represents a "changing of the guard" for the Hudson-Mohawk Region. Gladys Snell, who has devoted much time and energy in compiling these reports over the last few years, is following her doctor's advice and is cutting back on some of her many involvements. I am sure that the many who have benefited from Gladys' tenacious devotion to these reports will join in extending many thanks to Gladys for a job well done.

The winter of 1976-1977 will stand out in the record books because of its prolonged periods of below normal temperatures. A record -1°F (-17.5°C) on Dec. 3 caused an early freeze over most streams and ponds and much of the Hudson River. The January mean temperature was 6°F (3°C) below normal with a minimum reading of -15°F (-29°C) on the 28th. February was closer to its normal mean temperature. A slight thaw on Feb. 10 thru 14th re-opened much of the Hudson. However, lakes and reservoirs remained frozen thru the period.

The wild food crop this winter was abundant, with some berries remaining on shrubs thru the season. Winter finches were few and far between for most species except for Purple Finches and Evening Grosbeaks. The Purple Finches started out slowly but by the middle of January were at everybody's feeders. Wintering raptors continue what appears to be a long-term increase in populations. An astounding 150 Red-tailed Hawks were tallied on five Christmas Counts. A few interesting half-hardies remained thru the winter.

Rarities of the season include: Mute Swan, Brant, Barn Owl, Varied Thrush and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Abbreviations: ADBC—Allen DeVoe Bird Club; CC—Christmas Census; Col Co—Columbia County; HR—Hudson River; Cox-Ath—Coxsackie-Athens.