

single-day field count in Feb. for Hairy Woodpeckers is only four and for Downy Woodpeckers only five—mighty thin. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continued expansion—feeding station reports reflect progressive eastward spread with less obvious spread northward; reported as far east as Earlville in Madison Co. and West Winfield in Herkimer Co. and numbers increasing and progression eastward along the south shore of Oneida Lake (Brewerton to Bridgeport to Lakeport) has not been matched by similar advances along the north shore of the lake where the species is still very, very scarce.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Black-capped Chickadee: Feb. max 28 (very low) Maplevue Feb. 25. Tufted Titmouse: total of 23 for the period—up a little and apparently surviving because of feeders. Carolina Wren: one each at Sandy Pond in Jan. and at Clinton Feb. 15—?? did they survive—and will they find each other?? Golden-crowned Kinglet: max two Dec. 4 SSSP and two Shackleton Point Dec. 17; none reported in Jan. or Feb.—amazingly scarce. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** singles only Dec. 3 Pleasant Point (J. Kidney), Dec. 4 Phoenix, Jan. 7 Lakeland—not much of a flight. Northern Shrike: an excellent flight but some diminution of numbers with the deep snow of Jan. and Feb.—totals are Dec. 30, Jan. 22, Feb. 13; no evidence of a return flight in late Feb.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped “Myrtle” Warbler: a single Jan. 1 Howland’s Island area deserves credit for persistence but not for wisdom.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Cardinal: 323 on Dec. BBFS is a record for that month; concentrations at feeders noted—24 in Pompey, 20 plus in Camillus; interesting is the continued expansion in Oneida Co.—79 on the Kirkland CBC, 64 on the Oneida CBC. **DICK-CISSEL:** a female present from early Dec. to Jan. 15 Syracuse (PAD), the first local record since 1972. Evening Grosbeak: a good early flight—25-110/day in Dec., 100-150/day in Jan., down somewhat in Feb.—12-69/day. Purple Finch: the phantom of the winter—alleged to be widespread at feeders but the only reports creditable are one Clinton Dec. 15 and two Big Moose Dec. 4—otherwise undetected. House Finch: expanding explosively—123 on Jan. BBFS; such reports as 33 in Jan. in Ilion and 65-75 thru the winter at Syracuse attest to their increase here—and their hardiness. Pine Grosbeak: fair flight with counts of six-20/day; max 98 Feb. 11 near Rome (SG, SK); in late Feb. the flocks were often over 50% adult males. Common Redpoll: small numbers in early winter (three-100/day) with much larger numbers in Feb. when reported in the hundreds at many feeders. **HOARY REDPOLL:** singles at Rome Feb. 9-11 (SG, SK) and Feb. 13-20 Pompey (DWC). White-winged Crossbill: 35-75/day in spruce plantations at Phoenix and Pennellville in Dec.; very scarce in late Jan. and nonexistent in Feb.—probably moved on when the scant local cone crops had been exhausted. Dark-eyed Junco: extraordinarily scarce thru winter—30 plus/day in Dec., ten plus/day in Jan., three-five/day in Feb., this even at feeders. **DARK-EYED “OREGON” JUNCO:** a superb male of this form late Dec. thru period at Pennellville (M. Woolley). Tree Sparrow: counts of 50-150/day thru Dec.; Feb. max however, only 52 Feb. 19 Oswego and nearly unreported away from feeders in that month. Attrition in the wintering sparrows was tremendous, sic—White-throated Sparrow 31 individuals in Dec., 19 in Jan., 14 in Feb.; Swamp Sparrow eight individuals in Dec., three in Jan., none in Feb.; Song Sparrow, 55 individuals in Dec., 21 in Jan., eight in Feb.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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The winter of 1977-78 was more severe than the previous one—even with the

1977 blizzard. Winter held off until December on the lake plain and then came overnight with snow depths of as much as 12 inches in the first week of December. The Adirondacks and Tug Hill portions of the Region started winter in mid-November and Tug Hill snowdepths were 60+ inches at the end of the period.

Temperatures were mild for December. January provided much snow with colder temperatures and February provided little snow and extremes of cold—minus 24° F (-31° C) was not uncommon in the Watertown area for the low. The high for the period would be 38° F at Watertown.

Although the weather was severe, the weather was a little more bearable with the bird life that was around. A look at the unusual and trends has encouraging parts and discouraging parts. Waterfowl in general were encouraging with two unusual species, Barrow's Goldeneye and King Eider.

Hawks showed much improvement, particularly the accipiters and the Bald Eagle sightings were an added bonus.

Gulls were very much in evidence, particularly along the St. Lawrence River. Excellent observations of Ivory Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake were recorded.

Ravens and Bohemian Waxwings cooperated for some observers, but the winter finches were a joy to all.

Obvious trends during the period were (1) increase in Gray Partridge despite two bad winters, (2) Hairy Woodpeckers and Downys in variable numbers in different ecological zones, (3) White-breasted Nuthatch very scarce.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: 1 near Thousand Isl. Bridge Feb. 14. Canada Goose: 1100 Massena Dec. 3; down to 12 Massena Dec. 28. Black Duck: 310 Dec. 3. Gadwall: 4 Massena Dec. 28, 1 1000 Isl. Jan. 1; 1 Robt. Moses Dam Jan. 18. Pintail: 1 Galop Isl. Feb. 23. Green-winged Teal: 1 Massena Dec. 28. Am. Wigeon: 10 Dec. 3. Redhead: 3 Robt. Moses Dam Dec.-mid-Jan.; 1 pair same location mid-Jan. thru. Canvasback: 2 SLR Cornwall Isl. Feb. 11; 4 Squaw Isl. Feb. 15; 2 Squaw Isl. Feb. 24. Greater Scaup: 4300 Pillar Pt. Dec. 3. Lesser Scaup: 1 1000 Isl. Jan. 1. Com. Goldeneye: max 1026 Robt. Moses Dam Feb. 26. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** one adult pair plus 1 imm male Ransome Rd. Robt. Moses Dam thru (VanRiet, Smith, Maxwell, mob). Bufflehead: scarce this year—1 Robt. Moses Dam thru. Oldsquaw: 110 max Pt. Peninsula Dec. 3. **KING EIDER:** 1 imm male Pillar Pt. with scaups, close to shore Dec. 3 (Walkers). Hooded Merganser: 6 1000 Isl. Jan. 1; 1 Robt. Moses Dam Jan. 2-5. Com. Merganser: 4000 Robt. Moses Dam Dec. 1 to 102 Feb. 25. Red-breasted Merganser: 1 or 2 till Jan. 25; 1 Cornwall Isl. Feb. 25.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: 1 Massena Dec. 28. Sharp-shinned: 1 Robt. Moses Park Jan. 15; 1 Coles Crk. Jan. 19; 1 Jacques Cartier Park Feb. 12. Cooper's: 1 Henderson Dec. 4 & Feb. 4; 1 caught Starling and ate in full view on Feb. 5 (Chamberlaine); 1 additional bird Watertown killing homing pigeons on Feb. 25, caught, banded, and released in Henderson area (Chamberlaine). Red-tailed: 40 Watertown Dec. 17; 18 lake plain Jan. 29 (Rusk). Rough-legged: 46 Watertown Dec. 17; 5 Massena Dec. 28; 23 lake plain—more common in So. Jefferson—8 dark phase Henderson in one field Feb. 4. **BALD EAGLE:** 1 imm Deferiet on Black River Dec. 27-29—probably the bird later found shot on Oneida Lake?; 1 imm Chippewa Pt. in Feb. (Smith); 1 adult Oak Pt. Feb. (Smith); 2 imm vicinity American Isl. Feb.; adult and imm Jan.-Feb. north of Galop Isl. (Smith). Marsh Hawk: 3 Sulphur Springs Dec. 3; 2 Pt. Peninsula Dec. 3; 2 Watertown Dec. 17; some improvement. Am. Kestrel: 6 Sulphur Springs Dec. 3; 10 Watertown Dec. 17; 2 Massena area thru. Gray Partridge: im-

proved—59 Watertown Dec. 17; 49 (3 coveys) lake plain Jan. 29; 8 Pt. Peninsula Feb. 18. Turkey: 17 (5 toms, 12 hens) released on Fort Drum thru. Glaucous Gull: 14 (2 mature) Hawkins Pt. Jan. 12—down to 4 Feb. 25. Iceland Gull: 14 Massena Dec. 28; 18 Hawkins Pt. Jan. 12 down to 5 Feb. 25. Great Black-backed Gull: 5 Watertown Dec. 17; 1100 Massena Dec. 28; 38 Massena Feb. 25. Herring Gull: 863 Massena Dec. 28 down to 25 Feb. 26. Ring-billed Gull: 39 Watertown Dec. 17; 18 Massena Dec. 28 down to 1 Jan. 8. **IVORY GULL**: 1 imm Hawkins Pt. Dec. 8 (VanRiet); 1 imm same location Jan. 13 (VanRiet); good description and comparison with other gulls. **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: 1 imm Hawkins Pt. Dec. 2 (VanRiet); 1 imm same location Dec. 24-28 (VanRiet, mob).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: 6 Watertown Dec. 17; 10 per day Henderson feeder thru. Screech Owl: 2 Watertown Dec. 17; 1 Massena Dec. 28. Great Horned Owl: thru. Snowy Owl: none reported. Barred Owl: DeKalb Feb. 11 & 19 (Crowell)—seldom reported. Short-eared Owl: 1 Mansville Feb. 27 (Brouse). Belted Kingfisher: 2 1000 Isl. Jan. 1; 1 Eisenhower Lock beginning of Dec. Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Massena Dec. 28; 1 Robt. Moses Park Jan. 14. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 imm wintering in Massena area at feeder (mob). Hairy Woodpecker: 12 Watertown Dec. 17; 7 Massena Dec. 28; more common than Downy—St. Lawrence Valley (Smith); down in Henderson area (Chamberlaine).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: 85 Watertown Dec. 17; 16 Massena Dec. 28; some improvement. Blue Jay: 66 Watertown Dec. 17; 89 Massena Dec. 28; numbers in Henderson area up. **COM. RAVEN**: 1 near Tupper Lake Hamilton Co. Whitney Park Jan. 19 (Chamberlaine). Com. Crow: 99 Watertown Dec. 17; 17 Massena Dec. 28; 152 Madrid Feb. 17; more than normal wintered this year. Black-capped Chickadee: about the usual numbers. White-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce—11 Watertown Dec. 17; 7 Massena Dec. 28. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 Watertown Dec. 17; 1 Massena Dec. 28. Brown Creeper: 1 Watertown Dec. 17; 1 Massena Dec. 28. Am. Robin: 5 Watertown Dec. 17; 12 Waddington Jan. 7-20; 1 Ogdensburg State Hospital Jan. 7; 2 or 3 wintering Robt. Moses Park thru. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: 11 north of Massena Jan. 8 (Smith). 12 Feb. 4; 1 Feb. 18, 300 Feb. 21; 100 Feb. 22, 60 Feb. 23—all Dry Hill (Walkers). Cedar Waxwing: 35 Watertown Dec. 17; 1 Robt. Moses Park Dec. 25—no others reported. Northern Shrike: 8 Watertown Dec. 17; 7 Massena Dec. 28; less common than last year St. Lawrence Valley (Smith), more common in Henderson area than previous two years—an imm killed an Am. Goldfinch in trap Jan. 15; an adult attempted to kill Tree Sparrow in trap Feb. 2. Starling: have been food base for Cooper's Hawks in Henderson area; 1050 Watertown Dec. 17; 632 Massena Dec. 28 down to 442 Feb. 24; up in St. Lawrence Valley.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Redwinged Blackbird: 1 Massena Dec. 17; 1 Potsdam feeder Dec. 24; 9 Jan. 29; 2 Pierrepont Feb. 11. Com. Grackle: 1 Pt. Peninsula Dec. 3; 1 Henderson Dec. 4; 1 Potsdam Dec. 24; Massena Dec. 17. Brown-headed Cowbird: 21 Henderson Dec. 6; 2 Watertown Dec. 17; 5 Pierrepont Dec. 26; 1 Massena Dec. 28; 4 Feb. 18. Cardinal: 10 Watertown Dec. 17; 1 Massena Dec. 28; 1 Norwood feeder thru; few singles near Morris-town. Evening Grosbeak: 125 Watertown Dec. 17; 58 Massena Dec. 28; 10 to 30 per day Massena thru: 100 daily Dry Hill thru; less common than Pine. Purple Finch: 14 Watertown Dec. 17; none thereafter. Pine Grosbeak: 28 Watertown Dec. 17; 58 Massena Dec. 28; a major invasion in Jan. with 40 to 150 per day—most in eastern section of Region at higher elevations, Feb. showed a decrease but still 20 per day. Com. Redpoll: 42 Watertown Dec. 17; 82 Massena Dec. 28; up to 40 daily Henderson Feb; 20 daily Feb. Dry Hill. Pine Siskin: 7 Watertown Dec. 17; 2 Massena feeder Feb. 18. Am. Goldfinch: 35 Watertown Dec. 17; 22 Massena Dec. 28; 16 Henderson Feb. 13; 20 Henderson Feb. 20; 10 daily Dry Hill end of period. White-winged Crossbill: 70 Watertown Dec. 17; 1 Henderson feeder thru; 2 to 4 per day sheltered areas near feeders St. Lawrence Valley. Tree Sparrow: scarce—168 Watertown Dec. 17; 30 Massena Dec. 28; very few thereafter; 70 banded thru—should be hundreds. White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Colton Dec. 19 (Crowell). White-throated Sparrow: 3 Watertown Dec. 17. Song Sparrow: 2 Watertown Dec. 17. Lapland Longspur: 4 Watertown Dec. 17. Snow Bunting: scarce—278 Watertown Dec. 17; 137 Massena Dec. 28; 8-10 per day Feb.

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Ivory Gull—Details by observer J. VanRiet

Seen from Hawkins Point Overlook Massena Dec. 8, 1977. 4:00-4:10 P.M. Clear sky, setting sun.

Immature bird—compared to Ring-billed Gulls, among which it was flying, it appeared to be smaller. Its wingbeat was faster, it moved faster. Wings and tail narrower. Wingtips more pointed.

Noticed this bird by its whiteness and by a smudge on the front part of its small head. It had a dark eye and a small dark bill. Followed the bird with a 20 power Balscope. It settled on the water and drifted along for 1/4 mile. It rose and returned within about 80 yards. As it banked at that distance, rows of spots were visible on the upper wing. Too far to see any tailband.

Jan. 13, 1978. 4:00-4:15 P.M. Fog off water. Light snow.

Looking over a flock of gulls (Great Black-backed, Herring, Iceland and Glaucous) resting on the ice-edge between the Dam and Hawkins Point, a small white gull was seen with a 20 power Balscope. It had a dark smudge on the head which was accentuated by a small dark bill and dark eye. Dark tips on primaries running along the bird.

As this bird was only barely visible and it was snowing, I approached the flock. The Ivory Gull flushed last. It flew over Hawkins Point Overlook, made a turn and flew over at a height of less than 30 feet. It was smaller than an Iceland Gull. Noticed spots on the upper part of the wing, dark tips on the primaries, also dark tips on the tail. Narrow pointed wings. Tail almost square, not fanned out much.

Two dark spots on the body where the feet were tucked in. The rows of spots on above birds were not nearly as dark as shown in Robbins "Birds of North America."

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

This was a cold winter for the inland region. There were two days in January that were above freezing, but none in February. February's coldest day at Paul Smith's was -40° F. Many days were -30° F. or colder. Any day with a low of -20° F. or warmer was a decent bit of weather. The cold combined with snow seems to drive birds out of the area. Obviously, waterfowl must retreat to Lake Champlain, if open water exists there, or else go further south, but the passerines seem to be driven out as well. The Adirondack area is not so vast that most birds can't fly out if lack of food and cold feet so indicate. This seems to be exactly what most of them did. Perhaps birds wintering in more northern areas do not have as easy a choice. One day in February, Gary Randorf climbed Mount Marcy and returned without once seeing or hearing a single bird. Several others had similar days. At the start of winter, Common Redpolls passed southward with few lingering. By late February flocks of this same species had returned as afternoon temperatures became more reasonable.

Lake Champlain characteristically had the most unusual species. The presence of a rather stationary flock of over 200 Bohemian Waxwings was noteworthy but overshadowed by the Great Gray Owl and Black Guillemot sightings. Two adult Little Gulls and a Glaucous Gull were new species for the Essex County list.