

the end of period, Edward's Circle, Oswego (mob), 1st modern regional record; Barred Owl: one on Dec. 16, KCBC; no Short-eared Owls; Long-eared Owl: one on Dec. 16, (KCBC); Belted Kingfisher: max eight on Dec. 16 (SYCBC); Red-bellied Woodpecker: max eight on Jan. 1, Howland's Island (MSR), with one reported from Lacona (BBFS); Red-headed Woodpecker: one on Dec. 16 (KCBC) and one in West Winfield Feb. 14; Hairy Woodpecker: max 46 on Dec. 16 (KCBC); max 24 on the SYCBC; Downy Woodpecker: max 80 on Dec. 16 (KCBC), max 69 on the SYCBC.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: max 35 on Feb. 28, Clinton (DeSimones), scarce; Blue Jay: max 67 per day on Jan. 27, Sangerfield (GH); Common Crow: max 327 on Dec. 16 (KCBC), no Derby Hill flights in Feb.; Black-capped Chickadee: max 366 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC); Tufted Titmouse: 10 for the Region with a first time pair in Holland Patent Dec. 9 (VanDresar); White-breasted Nuthatch: max 61 on Dec. 16 (KCBC), one to nine per day; Red-breasted Nuthatch: max eight on Dec. 16 (SYCBC), scarce; Brown Creeper: max 19 on Dec. 16 (KCBC); Winter Wren: one on Dec. 16 (MSR), no other wrens; Mockingbird: a total of ten in the Region, one at Pulaski Dec. (BBFS) marks a northward expansion; Am. Robin: unusually common with a max of 300-500 at Rice Creek Bio. Station, Oswego (GAS); Golden-crowned Kinglet: a total of seven for the Region, very scarce; Cedar Waxwing: max 333 on Dec. 16 (KCBC); No. Shrike: one to three per day, moderate flight.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Icterids extremely scarce; E. Meadowlark: three on Dec. 16 (KCBC); Red-winged Blackbird: one to two per day up to end of Dec., none afterwards; Rusty Blackbird: a total of three birds for the Region; Common Grackle: a total of four birds for the season up to mid-Dec.; Brown-headed Cowbird: a total of 14 birds up to Jan. 7; Cardinal: max 72 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC); **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:** a single male Nov. 23-Dec. 18, Chittenango (MacKenzie Stewart); Evening Grosbeak: max 123 on Jan. 27 Brookfield (GH); Purple Finch: one to five per day thru the period, very low; House Finch: max 45 on Feb. 21, DeWitt (Bob Long), expanding; Pine Grosbeak: max 50 on Feb. 18, Starr Hill no. Oneida Co. (E. VanDresar) limited to perimeter of Adk's; Common Redpoll: one to two per day in scattered locations, very scarce; Pine Siskin: max 23 Feb. (BBFS), Pulaski, scarce; Am. Goldfinch: max 182 on Dec. 16 (KCBC); Rufous-sided Towhee: three in the Region from feeders at Jamesville, Pt. Pleasant and Clinton; Dark-eyed Junco: max 40 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC) to four on Feb. 7, Oakwood Cem. (MSR); Tree Sparrow: max 160 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC) to five on Feb. 10, Oswego & Scott Sw. (FGS); White-crowned Sparrow: one at a feeder Dec. 18-27, Oneida (B. & S. Peebles); White-throated Sparrow: max 45 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC) to one at the end of the period; Swamp Sparrow: one to two per day till mid-Dec.; Song Sparrow: max 42 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC) to one end of Feb.; Lapland Longspur: one on Dec. 7 LOL (FGS); Snow Bunting: max 200 on Jan. 27, Skyline Drive (E. VanDresar).

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE CHAMBERLAINE

Winter of 1978-79 started out on Christmas Eve. Up until that point, Fall carried through with cool temperatures and open waters. January was a wet, windy, snowy month with many false winter storm watches. Heavy squalls did occur in narrow bands across Jefferson and Lewis Counties. Freezing rains made

travel challenging, if not impossible. February was a cold, cold one, with unofficial temperatures of -60° F. at Barnes Corners, -38° F. at Henderson, and Watertown recorded an official -32° F. On February 23, the temperature was $+46^{\circ}$ F. and winter seemed over—at least for a while with the subzero spell broken. Snow depths were below last year's, but Tug Hill sections got their extremes of 50+ inches of snow and Adirondack sections reached 35+ inches.

Birding for the period started out with an excellent Christmas Census in Watertown, with new species and some unusual species. The Massena Christmas Count was also good. January was discouraging when winter finches did not show, raptors dropped and nothing unusual or rare was reported. Then it happened: the Great Gray Owl invasion and birder invasion which continued right through February despite the subzero weather. The increase of outside birders, newspaper coverage, and general interest brought forth other owl records and some excellent field observations. Perhaps, the owl outbreak fostered a keen competitive attitude. Highlights for the period were at least six Bald Eagles wintering along the St. Lawrence River and releases of more Turkeys in the Region in St. Lawrence County. Great Gray Owls—a total of about 28 individuals accounted for, which includes two dead specimens and one rehabilitated individual. Long-eared and Short-eared Owls also showed up, but no Boreal or Hawk Owls, which were visiting our Canadian friends—so close and yet so far away. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen and photographed in the Region and may now be added to two previous records, the last being 1968 by Dave Gordon. Mockingbird and House Finch on the Watertown Christmas Census and a few Bohemian Waxwings round out the period. Winter of 1978-79 will be long remembered as the year of the Great Gray Owl invasion. Many life lists added a species that the birder thought would never be obtained without a Canadian trip. Visitors to the Region found the trip worthwhile and provided the Region with excellent information in the way of field notes.

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Abbreviations: MCC—Massena Christmas Count held on December 18, 1978; WCC—Watertown Christmas Count held on December 16, 1978.

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: one WCC—late and unusual. Canada Goose: 350 WCC; 134 MCC; two St. Lawrence River Jan. 6—many remained until freeze-up. Mallard: one WCC; 30 MCC. Black Duck: two WCC; 65 MCC; 89 Jan. 6, down to 38 Feb. 24. Gadwall: one MCC. Redhead: three MCC; one the end of Feb. Canvasback: one Massena Hill Jan. 6. Greater Scaup: 4015 WCC; two MCC. Com. Goldeneye: 72 WCC; 297 MCC; 520 on Waterfowl Count Robert Moses Dam Jan. 6; 300 Massena area at end of period. Bufflehead: one male all winter Robert Moses Power Dam. Hooded Merganser: one male diving in No. Branch of Sandy Creek Feb. 19—unusual. Com. Merganser: 20 WCC; 5000 Robert Moses Dam; 553 MCC; 420 Robert Moses Dam, Jan. 6; 94 same Feb. 5; 44 same Feb. 19; 31 same Feb. 24. Red-breasted Merganser: four WCC near Chaumont.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: one MCC; one Stony Point Jan. 29; one Cape Vincent Feb. 3; one West Pierrepont Feb. 4; one Robert Moses Park Feb. 12; one Stony Point Feb. 18; one Henderson Feb. 24—numbers up? Sharp-shinned: none reported. Cooper's: one

Pierrepont Feb. 5—at feeder. Red-tailed: eight WCC; three MCC; four Feb. 10; not in usual numbers. Rough-legged: seven WCC; two Chaumont Jan. 20; other singles but not in usual numbers—few dark phases. **BALD EAGLE**: at least six birds wintered along St. Lawrence River primarily between Chippewa Bay and Morristown. Marsh Hawk: one Henderson Dec. 9—none thereafter. Am. Kestrel: eight WCC; one Jan. 20; one male seen eating a female Evening Grosbeak Henderson Feb. 2—seen again Feb. 5 and found headless grosbeak—other visits to feeder but no visual proof of kill (L. Chamberlaine). Ruffed Grouse: regular all winter—numbers up. Gray Partridge: eight WCC; one covey Snell Lock Area; six Sherwins Bay Jan. 1; seven Henderson Jan. 21—formerly seen at this location; five Woodville Jan. 27; ten Three Mile Bay Feb. 1; six Case Road Feb. 3; ten Depauville Feb. 4; four Pillar Point, four Chaumont and five Depauville all Feb. 10; four Point Peninsula Feb. 25; increasing birds or increasing birders? Turkey: still no proof of reproduction on Fort Drum releases; three male juveniles released near Pleasant Lake Town of Macomb. St. Lawrence Co.—hens were not available for transfer (L. Chamberlaine). Glaucous Gull: five MCC; 13 Jan. 3; 16 Jan. 6; 24 Jan. 14; two Feb. 5; none in the middle of Feb.—all in Massena. Iceland Gull: six MCC; four Jan. 3; eight Jan. 6; one Jan. 14; none in Feb.—all in Massena. Great Black-backed Gull: 14 WCC; 153 MCC; 161 Jan. 3; 206 Jan. 6; 120 Feb. 5; 42 Feb. 19; 32 Feb. 28. Herring Gull: 26 WCC; 404 MCC; 960 Jan. 6 down to one Feb. 28. Ring-billed Gull: 200 WCC; 40 MCC; gone by the middle of Jan.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: thru period but in small numbers—six in Henderson all winter; 17 WCC. Screech Owl: one WCC; one MCC. Great Horned Owl: two WCC; two MCC; two Dry Hill, Jan. 20. Snowy Owl: regularly through period—many more than last year; one east of Rodman on Williams Road—Tug Hill Plateau, Dec. 28—not normally seen on Tug Hill—elevation + 870' (D. Gordon). Barred Owl: one Pierrepont Jan. 24 (K. Crowell)—seldom reported at any time of the year. **GREAT GRAY OWL**: listed by date, location and individual—an overwhelming list of about 28 individuals: first report Robert Moses State Park, Jan. 27-28 (J. VanRiet & B. Bond); one Jan. 28 (F. Clinch & W. Pesold)—probably same individual seen on Feb. 7. One shot at North Lawrence, St. Lawrence Co. Jan. 28 by N. Newton who was eventually fined—specimen was sent to New York State Museum—had been present in area for about two weeks; one Winthrop middle of Jan. (Mr. Stanka & Mrs. Streeter) present about one week; two at Depauville Jan. 30—first in Jefferson Co. (R. Brouse); three Depauville Jan. 31 (R. Walker); one at Depauville Feb. 1 and 2 (mob); four Depauville, Feb. 3 (Warren Lloyd); four Depauville Feb. 4 (F. Scheider & P. DeBenedictis); one Rogers Crossing Road outside Carthage Feb. 4—photograph in Watertown Times (Edward Hadley); two Depauville, Feb. 6—photograph in Times (T. Carrolan); one Snowshoe Road Town of Henderson Feb. 6 (J. Franke); one reported seen Jan. 9 Pierrepont-South of Co. Route 101 between Plains Road and Howardsville Road (D. Hamelin)—did not realize what it was when he saw it; one Helena Feb. 7 and 8 called in by R. Cornell; three Depauville Feb. 7 (R. Walkers); one reported from Feb. 2 through Feb. 22 Merz Road Castorland Lewis Co.—seen catching mice and pictures taken (C. Wakefield); one Massena Springs Feb. 9 reported by R. Brownell—it could not be located in the afternoon—on Feb. 16 one owl was observed for 25 minutes four miles east by a M. Dempsey as owl caught a mouse—well described; one Louisville Feb. 9; one French Creek near Clayton Feb. 10 (J. Wilson); three Depauville Feb. 10 (R. Walker); one two miles south of Antwerp on Fort Drum—observed for 20 minutes or more Feb. 12 (Dave Hurley). The following reports were gained from Conservation Officers and occurred between late Jan. and Feb. 14: one owl each at Antwerp, Town of LeRay, Canton-Waterman Hill, Rutland-Middle Road, Three Mile Point, Colton and two birds at Cobsville Swamp near Adams; one Snowshoe Road Henderson Feb. 15 (R. Basolt & D. Riedman)—probably Franke's bird of Feb. 6; one Brick Chapel and Post Office Road Town of Canton St. Lawrence Co. Feb. 13 and 15 (J. Montan & W. Gordon); three at Depauville Feb. 17 (Ohio Birders); one Millens Bay Road two miles from Chaumont Feb. 19 (E. Smith); one road kill between Hammond and Oak Point in Town of Hammond St. Lawrence Co.—specimen to State Museum (John Rogers); one near

Fargo Jefferson Co. on Fort Drum, Feb. 28 (Richard Adams); Depauville birds thru with reports in next period. **LONG-EARED OWL**: one near Watertown on Parker Road Dec. 27 and 28 (Tim Dawson); one at dump on Point Peninsula near Three Mile Bay late Feb. (Lloyd Higgins). **SHORT-EARED OWL**: one WCC; one Parker Road Dec. 27 and 28. Belted Kingfisher: one Ogdensburg Bridge Jan. 6. Pileated Woodpecker: through. Common Flicker: one Robert Moses Park Feb. 11 (J. VanRiet). **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**: one adult in back yard feeding on cracked corn or sunflower seed in snow near feeder in Henderson Feb. 25—familiar with species—two years in Florida—two pictures taken—total time eight minutes (L. Chamberlaine). A bird seen on Amherst Island in Ontario on Feb. 22—very strong NW winds on that day when observation made—same bird? Hairy: 14 WCC; nine MCC; numbers still down in Henderson. Downy: 20 WCC; 11 MCC; some improvement in Henderson area.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: seven WCC; one MCC; 12 Three Mile Point Feb. 17; four, Point Peninsula Feb. 25; numbers way down. Gray Jay: "have seen more than last year" South Colton and vicinity (L. Wallace); seldom any reports on this species. Blue Jay: 102 WCC; 105 MCC—numbers up? Common Crow: stayed late and returned early—more than usual wintered on Lake Ontario Plain. Black-capped Chickadee: 106 WCC; 133 MCC. White-breasted Nuthatch: 21 WCC; four MCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: two WCC; one Brasher Center Feb. 1. Brown Creeper: two WCC no others reported for period. **MOCKINGBIRD**: one WCC at feeder through (D. Nagle). Am. Robin: one WCC; two Dry Hill Feb. 11; two all season Robert Moses Park. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: one mixed in with flock of Cedar Waxwings Jan. 31 (B. Bond); one Robert Moses Park Feb. 1 (J. Van Riet). Cedar Waxwings: 42 WCC; few in February. Northern Shrike: two WCC; four MCC; more than last year.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird: one WCC; two MCC. Brown-headed Cowbird: six WCC; one immature Henderson Jan. 14, Feb. 4 and Feb. 18—until last winter (1977-78) five or six always wintered (L. Chamberlaine). Cardinal: three WCC; two in Henderson all winter; numbers down. Evening Grosbeak: 65 WCC; 474 MCC; daily through; one partial albino Dry Hill Jan. 10 (R. Walkers). Purple Finch: eight WCC; daily at feeder Dry Hill since Jan. 17; numbers down. **HOUSE FINCH**: two WCC. Pine Grosbeak: one Brasher Center Feb. 3; six Feb. 11; eight Feb. 13 and 14 (J. VanRiet)—only ones reported. Common Redpoll: 14 Robert Moses Park Dec. 21; two Dry Hill Feb. 9 and 11; four Dry Hill Feb. 10—very scarce. Am. Goldfinch: 36 WCC; 42 MCC; 20 daily Henderson through. Dark-eyed Junco: nine WCC; 1 MCC; Tree Sparrow: 115 WCC; 36 MCC; six Feb. 4—very scarce. White-throated Sparrow: 2 WCC; one Watertown feeder Jan. 22 and 27 and Feb. 25. Song Sparrow: one Jan. 27 at feeder. Snow Bunting: 172 WCC; 25 MCC; 12 Feb. 11, 8 Feb. 15, 1000 Pt. Peninsula Feb. 25—generally a poor year.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE MACK

This was apparently a reasonable winter for birds in this region. Snow cover was about two-and-a-half to three feet in the Paul Smiths area with less as you neared the more tropical (?) Champlain Valley which seemed to have perhaps six inches on the ground near Plattsburgh much of the time. The chief weather factor for the period was a bitter cold spell lasting about two weeks in February. January had some cold mornings with -25° F. at Paul Smiths on the twelfth, not