

OswegoCBC Dec. 16 (mob); Screech Owl: one to three/day; Great Horned Owl: one to four/day; Snowy Owl: one near Munnsville thru the period, the only one for the Region (GC); Barred Owl: one along Stone Rd. Oswego Co. Jan. 20 and on the SKCBC Dec. 23; Belted Kingfisher: one-two/day with a notable record of one in Holland Patent, Bob Evans; Com. Flicker: max 20 SKCBC Dec. 23; Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 15 SKCBC (Camillus area) Dec. 23, now found in Holland Patent and in the Sauquoit Valley of Oneida Co.; Red-headed Woodpecker: a total of four for the Region, but only three survived, one imm was eaten by a Sharp-shinned Hawk in Oneida (B. & S. Peebles); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only two for the Region, one on the south side of Syracuse and one in Ilion; Hairy Woodpecker: max 14 SKCBC Dec. 23; Downy Woodpecker: max 44 SKCBC Dec. 23.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: max 290 s. Madison Co. Feb. 26 (GC); Blue Jay: max 68 SKCBC Dec. 23, not very plentiful; Com. Crow: max 206 Feb. 18; Black-capped Chickadee: max 96 Higma Jan. 1 (mob); Tufted Titmouse: expanding in the last twelve years, an approx. total of 47 birds from 24 different localities ranging as far north as Holland Patent and Sandy Pd. to as far east as the Sauquoit Valley; Red-breasted Nuthatch: one to four/day very scarce for the season; House Wren: one in Fayetteville Jan. 27; Winter Wren: one in the Camillus Valley Dec. 23; Carolina Wren: one at the home of Mrs. Charles Riley DeWitt Rd. Dec. 6 and one in Oneida; Mockingbird: a total of 12 reported for the Region with one in Westernville Feb. 2 (Shirley Glessner); Brown Thrasher: one at the feeder of Mr. Warren Kompe, Mattydale Feb. 3; Am. Robin: an astounding 3,450 roosting on Onondaga Hill the first week of Jan. to a few hundred by the end of Feb (GS); Hermit Thrush: one at FH & LSB. Dec. 2, one on the SyCBC Dec. 15, and one at the home of Susan Blackshaw Feb. 12; Golden-crowned Kinglet: one-five/day LOL Feb. 23; Ruby-crowned Kinglet: only one at Higma Jan. 1; Cedar Waxwing: max 130 FH & LSB Dec. 2; No. Shrike: a total of seven birds for the Region, very, very scarce this winter.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: max three SKCBC Dec. 23; Com. Yellowthroat: one on the SyCBC Dec. 15 and one at Higma Jan. 1.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: max seven SyCBC Dec. 15; Red-winged Blackbird: max 201 SyCBC Dec. 15, with one in Holland Patent Jan. 1 (E. VanDresar); **NORTHERN ORIOLE:** one in N.Y. Mills, Oneida Co. (Gary Webb); and one at the feeder of Mr. Warren Kompe Mattydale Feb. 1; Brown-headed Cowbird: max 208 Onondaga Valley Feb. 3; Evening Grosbeak: no exceptional numbers for the period, max 108 in the Rome area Feb. 23 (Shirley Glessner); Am. Goldfinch: max 34 Oneida Feb. 17 (B. & S. Peebles); Rufous-sided Towhee: a total of four reported for the Region, three in Onon. Co. and one in Oswego Co.; Tree Sparrow: max 163 SKCBC Dec. 23 (mob); Field Sparrow: one each from both the SyCBC & SKCBC Dec. 15, Dec. 23; Swamp Sparrow: one/day reported up to Jan. 1, none afterwards; Song Sparrow: max 23 SKCBC Dec. 23 with one to four/day after Jan. 1; Snow Bunting: max 42 s. Madison Co. Jan. 20 (GC).

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE CHAMBERLAINE

The winter of 1979-80 was the mildest seen in a long time. Snow was almost nonexistent by normal winter standards. No major snowstorms were evident except in those sections of Lewis County on the Tug Hill Plateau, and even then the

snowfall did not exceed 40 inches total on the ground at any one time. Our friends to the south in the Oswego County area and Syracuse got more snow than we did and most major storms tracked way south of us.

Temperatures were very undecided and Watertown recorded a 60° F high on December 12th, and people played golf with Christmas presents on December 30. On New Year's Day it was possible to launch a small boat on Lakeview Pond after breaking some rim ice. January 11th it was 53° F in Watertown and 8° F the next day and then 44° F on the 18th. Talk about being fickle—this winter was that. The low for the period in Watertown was about -10° F and no lengthy cold spells were experienced.

Water stayed open late or in many cases never really froze and provided some better than average waterfowl observations for the winter months. Lake Ontario water levels dropped significantly through the period and with low snowfall the spring levels may be very low. Wildfood crops varied from excellent to fair and birds held back from feeders until late.

Trends for the period which were very evident were as follows: many stay-late or wintering species; few accipiters; more Red-tails than for a long time; fewer Rough-legs around Watertown but more than normal around Massena; increases in Bald Eagles; increases in Marsh Hawks; slight increase in Huns (Gray Partridge); release of female Turkeys in St. Lawrence County; low numbers of Snowy Owls; many Short-eared Owls; low numbers of Northern Shrikes, and winter finches other than Evening Grosbeaks were a disappointment.

Rarities for the period included Red-throated Loon, King Eider, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Common Raven, and the best for last—the third Varied Thrush for the Region. Unfortunately this bird was aware of our Christmas Census and could not be found on that day.

Abbreviations: WCC—Watertown Christmas Census on Dec. 15, 1979; MCC—Massena Christmas Census (American side only) Dec. 27, 1979.

Contributors: Matt Brown; Stewart Brown; Richard Brouse; Carol Budd; Tom Carrolan; Stu Cameron; Lee Chamberlaine; Bill Chaisoon; Frank Clinch; Kenneth Crowell; Buzz Devan; John Green; Chris Handley; Dee Hungerford; Nick Leone; Dot Nagel; David Newton; Terry Perkins; Alex Pfister; Anton Schobel; Gerry Spaziani; Joe VanRiet; Robert & June Walker; Lou Wallace.

LOONS—DUCKS: RED-THROATED LOON: one in Lewis Co. found grounded Dec. 13—released the following day on Stillwater Reservoir in Herkimer Co. (T. Perkins). Horned Grebe: one Sherwin's Bay, Dec. 15 (R & J Walker); one Henderson Harbor Jan. 13 (L. Chamberlaine). Canada Goose: 600 Wilson Hill Dec. 9; 1870 WCC; 212 MCC; 190 Massena and vicinity Jan. 6. Mallard: 66 WCC; 77 Robt. Moses Dam Feb. 19—many more than normal wintered in Region. Black Duck: max 90 Robt. Moses Dam Feb. 19; scattered groups on open waters thru. Am. Wigeon: 25 Wilson Hill Dec. 8. Redhead: 560 on ponds at Snell Lock Dec. 2; two all winter below Robt. Moses Dam. Ring-necked Duck: 123 on ponds at Snell Lock Dec. 2. Greater Scaup: 3475 WCC Black River Bay, Pillar Point. Com. Goldeneye: max 422 Robt. Moses Dam Feb. 15. Bufflehead: one thru period Robt. Moses Dam. Oldsquaw: 20 WCC Pillar Point; 60 Henderson Harbor Jan. 1. **KING EIDER:** one imm male Tibbetts Point Rd., Cape Vincent Dec. 23 (T. Carrolan & M. Brown). Com. Merganser: 2400 MCC; Robt. Moses Dam—down to 100 on Feb. 19. Red-breasted Merganser: one MCC Robt. Moses Dam; eight Henderson Harbor Jan. 13.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: TURKEY VULTURE: three WCC near Sulphur Springs (F. Clinch & L. Tinney) the first winter record—no doubt due to the very open and mild conditions of the winter to that date. Goshawk: one imm Dry Hill Dec. 16; one MCC. Sharp-shinned: one Dry Hill Dec. 10. Cooper's: one Watertown Jan. 25 (F. Clinch); one around feeder in Henderson Jan. 30 (L. Chamberlaine). Red-tailed: 34 WCC; seven MCC; the most common hawk for the period; one nearly completely white on Route 37 near Waddingham Rd. Dec. 18 & 30 (R. Walker). Rough-legged: four WCC; three MCC. Few seen in Jan. and Feb. **BALD EAGLE:** one imm at Cape Vincent on Dec. 6 flying toward Wilson Bay (J. Spaziani & C. Handley); one, age unknown, South Colton heading SW very fast Dec. 19 (L. Wallace); one adult near LaFargeville Dec. 29 (R. Walker); St. Lawrence River wintering area did not have birds until Feb.—most activity was in the Chippewa Point area and maximum birds were probably six, with one-half being adults (DEC). Marsh Hawk: one WCC; 13 Chaumont Bay area Jan. 6. Am. Kestrel: eight WCC; one MCC; a few thru period but down for the open type winter we experienced. Ruffed Grouse: 11 WCC; seven MCC; Ring-necked Pheasant: one near Perch River Dec. 15 (I. Biggers). Gray Partridge: eight Perch River Village Dec. 3; 11 Perch Lake Road and Dog Hill Road Dec. 5; some slight improvement noted in Jefferson Co. birds—St. Lawrence Co. no birds reported. Turkey: six trap and transfer females released in St. Lawrence Co. Town of Macomb on Feb. 29 where males were released last winter (L. Chamberlaine). Glaucous Gull: max 35 Robt. Moses Dam Feb. 23—unprecedented high (J. VanRiet). Iceland Gull: max seven Robt. Moses Dam Feb. 23. Great Black-backed Gull: six WCC; 15 Henderson Harbor Jan. 13; 300 Robt. Moses Dam Jan. 26—down to 190 on Feb. 23. Herring Gull: 52 WCC; 520 Robt. Moses Dam Jan. 31—down to 250 Feb. 23. Ring-billed Gull: eight MCC Robt. Moses Dam.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: ten WCC; one MCC; five to eight at feeder in Henderson thru. Snowy Owl: one WCC; one Robt. Moses Dam thru; one Three Mile Point Feb. 20; one Gunns Corners Feb. 26; none reported for Jan. and early Feb. Short-eared Owl: one Ashland near Three Mile Bay Dec. 6 (S. Cameron); four Chaumont Jan. 1 (Walker & Leone); nine Chaumont Jan. 6 (Walker & Leone). Com. Flicker: one Pierrepont Dec. 9 (K. Crowell); one Watertown Dec. 14 (F. Clinch); two Watertown Jan. 25 (*fide* F. Clinch). Pileated Woodpecker: spradically thru period. **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:** one in Watertown Dec. 1-Feb. 13 (D. Nagle, mob); one female at Henderson feeder regularly—feeds on cobcorn, sunflower seed and cracked corn. A bird was seen here last year on Feb. 25—is this bird a breeder? (L. Chamberlaine). Hairy Woodpecker: 12 WCC; seven MCC. Downy Woodpecker: 27 WCC; ten MCC; some improvement in the Henderson area.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: few in Dec. & Jan.—showing up in late Feb. in very modest numbers. Blue Jay: 82 WCC; 31 MCC; very abundant in Henderson and vicinity. **COMMON RAVEN:** two (one seen and one heard) Joeindian Pond Town of Parishville St. Lawrence Co. (L. Wallace). Com. Crow: many more than normal wintered along the Lake Plain. Black-capped Chickadee: 95 WCC; 118 MCC; superabundant in many areas. White-breasted Nuthatch: 27 WCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one WCC. Am. Robin: two WCC; 18 Robt. Moses State Park Feb. 8; one Brownville Feb. 29. **VARIED THRUSH:** one in Watertown at Carl Bachman residence Dec. 12-Dec. 24 (unfortunately not seen for WCC) identified by Mrs. Bachman and later by several other birders—the *third* recorded for the Region. Cedar Waxwing: 25 WCC; 25+ Henderson Jan. 16 Robt. Moses Park Feb. 8. No. Shrike: one Watertown Dec. 17; one WCC; two MCC; one Point Peninsula Jan. 6; one Canton Feb. 27; none Jan.—very few this winter.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Clayton Dec. 14.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird: two WCC. No. Oriole: one (not adult male) briefly on suet in Watertown Dec. 14 (F. Clinch). Com. Grackle: one WCC. Brown-headed Cowbird: 112 WCC (R. Brouse); six MCC; two Jan. 29. Cardinal: seven WCC; two MCC; seven in Canton and vicinity thru; three or four wintering in Henderson area. Evening

Grosbeak: six WCC; 490 MCC; few in January increasing thru Feb.—40-60 per day at feeder in Henderson with fewer adult males and then increasing in males to one for every three females and immatures. Purple Finch: a few showing up in mid-Feb. House Finch: ten WCC; two or three but not on a daily basis—Watertown (F. Clinch). Am. Goldfinch: 13 WCC; six MCC; about 20 daily at feeder in Henderson mid-Jan.-Feb. Vesper Sparrow: one WCC Watertown (A. Schobel). Dark-eyed Junco: seven WCC; one Henderson Jan. 4. Tree Sparrow: 48 WCC; two MCC; more than last winter but still low numbers. White-throated Sparrow: seven WCC at feeder in Watertown, one Canton Feb. 23 & 27. Song Sparrow: three WCC. Lapland Longspur: six MCC; one Haverstock Rd. near Massena Feb. 24. Snow Bunting: four WCC; 415 MCC; very few thru Jan. & Feb.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

This was a remarkable season for lack of snow and the presence of reasonable temperatures. At the last week of February there was only an inch or two of snow at Paul Smiths. Temperatures were cold enough to build up a good ice cover on lakes and ponds but in the afternoons one could expect 20° to 25° F. Some people joked about the possibility of a heavy black fly hatch at Lake Placid during the Olympics. The Olympics did have the effect of keeping several local enthusiasts employed up to seven days a week and thus not available to note birds. Three of these people worked nights, seven shifts a week and slept days so few February reports were possible for them.

Birds were rather hard to find. Feeders did not seem to attract much in most instances. Perhaps the light snow cover made natural food more readily available than usual, so that birds were there but not concentrated near towns and feeders. Several people said Blue Jays were scarce. True, but you could find one or two in deep woods such as the headwaters of the Chubb River where one would ordinarily not expect this bird in midwinter. They were there, but spread out thru the woods due to the mild season.

Winter finches were primarily represented by Evening Grosbeak, American Goldfinch, and Purple Finch in that order of abundance. There were three Christmas counts during the period. The Saranac Lake count had a record 38 species including Brant, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, and Tufted Titmouse.

Contributors: Deborah Anson, Geoffrey Carleton, Bernard Carvan, Charlie Delehanty, Richard Guthrie, Robert Hagar, Elspeth Johnson, Heidi Johnson, Heather Knott, William Lee, Ted Mack, Margaret and Robert McKinney, Karen Mout, John Parke, John (Mike) Peterson, William Peterson, Gary Randorff, Walt Sabin, Carole Slatkin, Pat Tabor, Donald Timmons, Janice Timmons.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: Lake Champlain had two mid-Dec. birds. BC spotted one flying over Keene Dec. 18. A Com. Loon remained at Little Clear Pond at Saranac Inn, keeping a 50 to 75 foot area free of ice at the outlet by the hatchery. A Red-throated Loon was at Westport Jan. 6 (EJ, HS, HK, JP, WP). One of the counts turned up a Red-necked