

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

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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.

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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

Grebe Dec. 15 on Champlain, always a good find. The same count had two Horned Grebes while six were on Champlain Jan. 6. A Pied-billed Grebe was at Westport in early Jan. (EJ, DT, JT). Canada Goose: max 1360 on Champlain Dec. 15; 18 Tupper Lake Dec. 18. JP spotted a Brant at Lake Flower in Saranac Lake Dec. 30. It stayed most of the winter, with a mixed flock of ducks, and became very tame. Two Mallards were at Tupper Lake Dec. 13, and one was at Indian Lake Feb. 9. The New York State Waterfowl Count at Champlain turned up over 500 Canvasbacks, a Greater Scaup, six Oldsquaws, and 495 Common Mergansers. A Black Scoter and two Hooded Mergansers were on Champlain Dec. 15. One Hooded Merganser was at Tupper Lake Dec. 6. Four Com. Mergansers were still at Indian Lake Feb. 10. Two Red-breasted Mergansers were at Tupper Lake Dec. 7 (CD). These are not to be expected away from Lake Champlain.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: J Pa had two Goshawks flying north over Essex Feb. 21 and one was seen on the Elizabethtown count Dec. 22. The Saranac Lake count had a Sharp-shinned Hawk Dec. 30. Champlain Valley had regular reports of Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks. A Rough-legged over Keene Dec. 18 was unusual away from the lake (BC). GC saw an imm. Bald Eagle at Westport Jan. 21. Several Marsh Hawks lingered in the Champlain Valley. Gary Randorff saw one at Essex Feb. 14. Six Ring-necked Pheasants spent the winter at a Tupper Lake feeding station. An Am. Coot was at Westport Dec. 9 to Jan. 6 (PT).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: The Elizabethtown count had 14 Mourning Doves and a count in the Champlain Valley had five. A Great Horned Owl was seen several times at Tupper Marsh and one was seen on the Saranac Lake count. A Belted Kingfisher was seen at Plattsburgh in late Jan. (TM). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was at Chubb River Swamp Jan. 20 (RG, EJ, WL, JP, WS). A Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was seen upriver Dec. 30 on the Saranac Lake count, near the Chubb.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: WP had a Boreal Chickadee at a Bloomingdale feeder Jan. 20. Others were seen in the usual places. Five Tufted Titmice were reported from the Champlain Valley and one was at Lake Placid for the Saranac Lake count. 21 Brown Creepers were also listed for that count. A Winter Wren was seen on a Champlain Valley Christmas count Dec. 15. Am. Robin: Elizabethtown Christmas Count Dec. 22 had one and the Champlain Valley had 50 in Jan.; one was at Tupper Lake Dec. 10 (CD). Essex had one flock of Bohemian Waxwings Feb. 1-3 (J Pa). 25 Cedar Waxwings were recorded on the Saranac Lake count. A total of four Northern Shrikes were noted with Bloomingdale, Tupper Lake and Elizabethtown reports included in this total.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: The three Christmas counts each had at least one Red-winged Blackbird and two were at Tupper Lake Dec. 14. Two counts had one Com. Grackle each. Brown-headed Cowbird: 58 at Tupper Lake Dec. 10 being reduced to four by Jan. 14. The Saranac Lake count had 17 Dec. 30. The three Christmas counts recorded ten Cardinals and three wintered at Tupper. Pine Grosbeak: seven on the Saranac Lake count and six at Indian Lake Feb. 9 (R McK). Redpolls were absent. Pine Siskin: seven on the Saranac Lake count: 30 at Paul Smiths in Jan.; one Indian Lake Feb. 9; and four all winter at Tupper. Red Crossbill: scarce but a few at most inland areas at some time during the winter. White-winged Crossbill: about the same frequency as the preceding species; singing males at Chubb River Jan. 3 (KM, JP, JR, CS) and one singing male Indian Lake at Parkerville Road Feb. 9 (MR McK). A Vesper Sparrow was a good find at Westport Dec. 15 (GC). A few Dark-eyed Juncos were at feeders. On Feb. 10 PT recaptured a Tree Sparrow that had been banded March 18, 1977 at Wadhams. A Chipping Sparrow was at a Moriah feeder Dec. 8-11 (GC). White-throated Sparrow: one Saranac Lake Count and one all season at Tupper Lake (CD). Song Sparrow: one Dec. 15 on the Ferrisburg count and one at Tupper thru Feb. 8 (CD). Tupper Lake and Paul Smiths had Snow Buntings as did most areas.

Paul Smiths, New York 12970