

Jan. (RE). Am. Robin: to 930/day southern Onondaga Co., and widespread and somewhat more numerous than usual in the northern part of the county; no influx at the season's end. Hermit Thrush: only three or four reported, somewhat low. Eastern Bluebird: arr DH 21 Feb., first Feb. record for Oswego Co. No. Shrike: six birds reported from four localities, non-persistent, very low.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: "Myrtle" Warbler: two Syr. on 20 Dec., one Nedrow on 24 Jan.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird: last (except one or two stragglers at feeders) in mid-Dec., then arr 17 Feb., widespread and numerous by 21 Feb.; total of 117,000 seen passing DH between 17 and 22 Feb. Rusty Blackbird: three to five DeWitt through the winter, no migrants yet. Com. Grackle: same story as Red-winged Blackbird, arr 19 Feb. Brown-headed Cowbird: to 40/day, mostly at feeders, through the winter, and only a small increase during late Feb. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Marcellus early Dec. (BBFS). Evening Grosbeak: widespread but only to about 70/day. Purple Finch: singles during Jan. and Feb. were the only reliable reports, now that House Finches are ubiquitous. Pine Grosbeak: mostly reported from the highlands, to about 18/day. Com. Redpoll: to about 100/day, best counts from Pompey township. Hoary Redpoll: one probable (rump not seen) Pompey township, 13 to 30 Jan. (DWC). Pine Siskin: very widespread, to about 20/day; 50% higher on Feb. BBFS than previous record. Red Crossbill: two at DH 23 Feb., only report. White-winged Crossbill: two Pompey 9 Dec., then eight reported from three localities after 14 Feb. Rufous-sided Towhee: one Eaton 18 Dec. to 8 Feb. (GC), four on Jan. BBFS, none in Feb. Savannah Sparrow: one in DeWitt on 31 Dec. (MSR), very late. Dark-eyed Junco: scarce, best counts only 10/day. Tree Sparrow: low, best counts about 60/day. White-crowned Sparrow: adult Oneida 3 Dec. to 15 Feb. (B & SP), imm Syr on 4 Feb. (MSR). White-throated Sparrow: widespread, to 16/day through the winter, highest on BBFS since 1974-75. Song Sparrow: very scarce, no more than 3/day, and just a hint of an influx in late Feb. Lapland Longspur: arr early Feb., about 30 over DH at end of month. Snow Bunting: almost none Dec. and Jan., arr early Feb. and 1223 over DH during the last two weeks of that month.

Corrigendum: Summer 1980 report, Cape May Warbler: Georgetown is in Madison, not Monroe, County.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE CHAMBERLAINE

Winter of 1980-81 was a strange one indeed. Snowfall was way below normal with even Tug Hill not exceeding the sixty inch mark.

December started out warm and a temperature of 51° F. was experienced on the 8th, but on Christmas Day the official temperature in Watertown was -34° F, which was an indication of things to come in January.

Two words—*bitter* and *cold*—can best describe January. Temperatures of -20° F. to -45° F. were the rule, rather than the exception. Highs for the day got up to anywhere from -20° F. to -10° F. If one took time to figure out the wind chill factor they wished they hadn't since on some days they were in the -60° F. range and caution to protect any exposed flesh was the rule.

February was a complete turn around with spring-like conditions. On February 18th Watertown set a new record with a 57° F. temperature, and on the 22nd of the month it was 63° F. and everyone thought winter was over. Red-wings, geese, and grackles took advantage of the situation and the winter visitors moved back north.

Lake Ontario water levels continued to drop and were very low at the end of the period. The thaw in February resulted in very little rise in water levels and the lack of normal snow may well result in a water problem this summer. The wild food crop was well used up by the end of the period.

Although the weather had its ups and downs, the birding held through the reporting period and some excellent observations were made. Positive trends for the period were: good waterfowl numbers even with the cold weather; extremely high numbers of Rough-legged Hawks; at least seven wintering Bald Eagles on the St. Lawrence River; numerous winter finches and some late "hangers on." Negatives for the period: few Snowy Owls; very few Northern Shrikes; low numbers of cowbirds; low numbers of Purple Finches and Tree Sparrows.

Rarities for this period included: Barrow's Goldeneye; Bald Eagle; Mockingbird; and Bohemian Waxwing.

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Abbreviations: MCC—Massena Christmas Count, Dec. 21, 1980 American side only; WCC—Watertown Christmas Count, Dec. 20, 1980, center near Brownville; SLR—St. Lawrence River.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: one SLR north of Cornwall Island Feb. 7. Great Blue Heron: one SLR at Hawkins Point till Dec. 13. Canada Goose: 250 WCC; five MCC; migrants arrived in Watertown about Feb. 23. Mallard: 30 Stony Point Dec. 27; 500+ at spring hole on Lakeview W.M.A. Jan. 19; 400 Robt. Moses Dam to Cornwall Island Jan. 14; increasing toward end of period. Black Duck: 100 SLR Hawkins Point, Dec. 20; 300+ at spring hole with Mallards Lakeview Jan. 19; 400 SLR Hawkins Point Jan. 23; 240 SLR Hawkins Point Feb. 7. Gadwall: 17 MCC; last one seen Hawkins Point, Jan. 12. Redhead: one female through period Hawkins Point. Ring-necked Duck: two MCC at Hawkins Point. Canvasback: two MCC; one Hawkins Point Feb. 7; 12 Hawkins Point Feb. 14. Greater Scaup: two Hawkins Point till Jan. 14. Com. Goldeneye: 800 Robt. Moses Dam to Cornwall Island Jan. 14; 245 MCC; 900 Hawkins Point Jan. 30 through Feb. 14, decreasing thereafter. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** one female Hawkins Point through period (J. VanRiet). Bufflehead: one female Hawkins Point through period. Oldsquaw: two SLR Coles Creek Dec. 6; 30 Stony Point Dec. 27. Hooded Merganser: three SLR east of Jacques Cartier State Park Dec. 7; three WCC; one Hawkins Point Feb. 14. Com. Merganser: 8000+ Hawkins Point at the beginning of Dec.; 5000 MCC; 4000 Robt. Moses Dam to Cornwall Island Jan. 14; 50 Hawkins Point area Feb. 14. Red-breasted Merganser: max through period of three at Hawkins Point.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: one WCC near Watertown; one MCC Robt. Moses Park; one on Iroquois Dam SLR Jan. 9; one Louisville Jan. 20. Sharp-shinned: one near Cornwall Bridge Jan. 9; one adult and one imm at Canton feeder mid-Jan. to mid-Feb. Cooper's: three WCC. Red-tailed: 76 WCC; three MCC; decreasing toward end of period. Rough-legged: 164 WCC unprecedented numbers and decreasing through Jan. with a surge back north in mid-Feb.; max at Massena of six MCC with a few singles at end of period. **BALD EAGLE:** first St. Lawrence River bird, an adult on Dec. 17; four birds (two adults, two imm) SLR Dec. 23; seven birds (three adults and four imm) SLR aerial survey Jan. 20; five birds (three adults, one sub-adult and one imm) SLR Jan. 28; two imm SLR Jan. 31; one adult

SLR Feb. 6; one adult SLR Feb. 27 (all S. Brown); VanRiet saw on SLR one adult and one imm at Blind Bay on Dec. 26; again VanRiet saw one imm at Robert Moses Park on Dec. 28 and Jan. 1. A three-year old imm female was found dead on Atlantis Island in Chippewa Bay SLR Jan. 10—carcass was turned over to DEC for environmental contaminants. Cause of death may have been starvation? (S. Brown). Marsh Hawk: two WCC; one male Pillar Point Feb. 15. Am. Kestrel: six WCC; fewer than normal in Jan. and Feb. Ruffed Grouse: seven WCC; two MCC; fairly common through period. Ring-necked Pheasant: seven WCC—more overwintering than normal. Gray Partridge: 207 WCC; eight MCC; five to six coveys for the period in Massena area—increase; excellent numbers in Jefferson Co.—DEC trapped and transferred 92 birds to Ontario Co. DEC Region 8. Turkey: two birds near Pope Mills Dec. 6; 25 birds near Redwood, Jan. 5 (*vide* J. Lamendola). Glaucous Gull: two at the beginning of Dec. to a max of 42 on Dec. 26—decreasing to three at end of Jan. at Robert Moses Dam. Iceland: one at beginning of Dec. to max of 10 on Dec. 24—last two were seen on Jan. 12—all at Robt. Moses Dam. Great Black-backed: max in Massena of 1000 through Dec.—700 through Jan. and down to 40 the middle of Feb. Herring: 2000 through Dec. with max numbers of 50 in Jan. and six in Feb.—in Massena. Ring-billed: ten WCC; in Massena 2000 at the beginning of Dec.—departed Hopkins Point on Dec. 21 and returned early with three on Feb. 22. Black-legged Kittiwake: one last seen at Hawkins Point on Dec. 3 (J. VanRiet).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: 114 WCC; small flocks through in Henderson; not a single bird for the period in Massena; one Pierrepont Feb. 20. Screech Owl: at two locations in Massena; one bird (gray phase) rehabilitated and released—banded after collision with car (L. Chamberlaine). Great Horned Owl: increased calling as nesting season approached. Snowy Owl: very low this year; one MCC; one Pamelia Dec. 23; one Point Peninsula Jan. 13; one Cape Vincent Jan. 15; two Chaumont and Point Peninsula Feb. 15. Barred Owl: one SLR Coles Creek, Dec. 27 (J. VanRiet); two Upper and Lower Lakes Feb. 26 (J. Brady); seldom reported. Short-eared Owl: seven WCC. Com. Flicker: one WCC (A. Smith). Pileated Woodpecker: one in Massena Feb. 27; frequent in Canton and vicinity. Red-bellied: one adult male in Henderson at feeder through. Red-headed: one WCC near Perch River (S. Brown & R. Wakefield). Hairy: 15 WCC; 11 MCC. Downy: 31 WCC; ten MCC.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: 64 WCC; one MCC. Gray Jay: three regularly South Colton at feeder (L. Wallace). Blue Jay: 115 WCC; 51 MCC. **COMMON RAVEN:** two Pierrepont Feb. 18 (K. Crowell). Com. Crow: 167 WCC; 26 MCC; regular throughout winter in Pierrepont—unusual; more than normal wintered on the lake plain. Black-capped Chickadee: 174 WCC; 191 MCC; very abundant at feeders in Henderson and Pierrepont. White-breasted Nuthatch: 21 WCC; ten MCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one WCC; four Pierrepont Feb. 14 and 15; a few at feeders in Massena area which is more than usual. Brown Creeper: two WCC; one Canton Feb. 14. **MOCKINGBIRD:** one WCC near Depauville (L. Chamberlaine). Am. Robin: three WCC; two MCC; one in Pierrepont until Jan. 15; two Canton Feb. 22. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** one to nine at Pierrepont Dec. 1 & 7 (K. Crowell); 12 Massena Dec. 19 (J. VanRiet); three MCC. Cedar Waxwing: 46 WCC; 22 MCC; 30 Stony Point Jan. 12. No. Shrike: three MCC; one near Watertown Dec. 22; one Robt. Moses Park Feb. 22; very few and far between. Starling: 1841 WCC; 179 MCC; 600 Massena Dump Dec. 24; numbers in Henderson and vicinity are down from previous years.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: no reports.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark: two WCC; one Massena Dec. 23. Red-winged Blackbird: one male WCC; returning Watertown Feb. 22; returning Massena Feb. 27. No. Oriole: one found dead Canton Dec. 16 (K. Crowell). Com. Grackle: five WCC; four Canton Feb. 22. Brown-headed Cowbird: one WCC; two MCC; nine Massena Dec. 24. Cardinal: 26 WCC; two MCC; at three locations in Massena area—a slight increase. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one female Pierrepont Dec. 8 (K. Crowell). Evening Grosbeak: 234 WCC; 257 MCC;

increasing toward end of period. Purple Finch: three Stony Point Jan. 12; very few and very scattered. House Finch: seven WCC. Pine Grosbeak: five Stony Point Dec. 7; 37 WCC; 40 MCC; ten to 20 per day Massena; frequent in Pierrepont groups of three-101; 30 Stony Point feeding on red cedar berries with Evening Grosbeaks. Com. Redpoll: 200 in Massena Dec. 13; 40 WCC; 35 MCC; unusually abundant in Canton and vicinity; 45 overhead at Henderson Jan. 25; 50 Massena Feb. 22. Pine Siskin: 20 MCC; a few at feeders in Massena area through the period; very few in Henderson and vicinity. Am. Goldfinch: 34 WCC; 31 MCC; abundant throughout area of Canton and Pierrepont. Common at feeders in Henderson and vicinity. Rufous-sided Towhee: one WCC, a male at feeder near Watertown (L. Grant). Dark-eyed Junco: 20 WCC; two MCC. Tree Sparrow: 186 WCC; 35 MCC; two to four per day in Jan. decreasing in Feb. White-throated Sparrow: 18 WCC; one all winter at Dry Hill. Song Sparrow: three WCC. Lapland Longspur: one WCC (R. & J. Walker); one MCC. Snow Bunting: 679 WCC; 100 MCC; 50 to 60 per day through Jan. and none in Feb. in Massena area.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE MACK

We had two periods of extreme weather conditions this winter. January was bitterly cold, while February was ridiculously warm. Lake Champlain was completely frozen over on January 14 which is the earliest date for this since the winter of 1900. December was cold also, with -33° F. Dec. 20; -33° F. Dec. 25; and -35° F. Dec. 26. A Taylor minimum-maximum thermometer registered 12 January days at -20° F. or colder at Paul Smiths.

February was unusually warm, or at least about ten days of it were. Temperatures at Paul Smiths were well into the forties and bare ground was to be found in areas outside the mountains. The sudden runoff caused considerable flooding at lower elevations where temperatures were in the fifties.

The chief effect of the prolonged extreme cold was to keep waterfowl out of the interior of the Region because even the rivers were heavily iced over. (Pickup trucks were driving on the Saranac River near Redford.) One Christmas count was sabotaged by the extreme condensation from relatively warm Lake Champlain water in contact with frigid air. The Plattsburgh count missed some common species because of this heavy fog.

The chief effect of the warm period in February was to open up water for waterfowl. Most land birds seem to be more oriented to migrate in relation to the length of daylight in 24 hours or to some other factor than warmth. This is fortunate because February and March did become more normal. Some species such as Red-winged Blackbirds did make earlier than usual appearances, however.

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