

females Canton 12 Feb (K. McCarthy). Cardinal: 30 WCC; 3 MCC; several in village of Canton thru—up to three females and one male seen at once. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK: one WCC (J & P Pattengill). Evening Grosbeak: 233 WCC; 193 MCC; few and seldom at Watertown feeder (FC), increasing at Henderson in Feb—sporadic at feeders—mostly males; very few in St. Law Co. at the end of the period; five Pierrepont 13 Feb. Purple Finch: 23 WCC; decreasing at Henderson from Jan on. House Finch: one WCC; one to three daily Watertown—down from ten daily last year (FC). Pine Grosbeak: 33 WCC; 109 MCC; flocks of three to six in Dec and early Jan in Canton area then only two singles 8 Feb and 11 Feb; scattered singles at Henderson, 5 Robt Moses State Pk 16 Feb. HOARY REDPOLL: one regularly in a flock of hundreds of Commons at Potsdam feeder 12 Feb—aggressive toward other birds (J & N Ackermann); one Watertown 20-21 Feb (R & JW); one Watertown 26 Feb (FC); two at feeder at Henderson with Com. Redpolls—one male and one sex unknown 27 Feb—banded and photographed by LC. Com. Redpoll: most common finch of the winter—ten to 20 at feeders from the middle of Dec thru—decreasing toward end of period; 127 WCC; 513 MCC; 1500 Pt. Peninsula 2 Jan (R & JW). Pine Siskin: three WCC; no other reports. Am. Goldfinch: 21 WCC; 14 MCC; one to ten daily at Watertown feeder (FC), 60+ at Henderson feeder thru. Red Crossbill: one Watertown 18 Feb (Nagel). White-winged Crossbill: one MCC; “a few in Watertown last week of Feb for at least two days” (FC). Dark-eyed Junco: six WCC; one MCC. Tree Sparrow: 290 WCC; 155 MCC; at feeders thru mid-Feb in Canton; one or two daily, numbers seem down (R & JW), common Jeff Co., increasing thru period Henderson (LC). White-throated Sparrow: one WCC; one MCC. Song Sparrow: two MCC. Lapland Longspur: two Massena 26 Dec; ten or so Rt. 3 near Fort Drum 22 Jan (A. Brayton). Snow Bunting: 30 WCC; 387 MCC; six Robt Moses Power Dam 3 Dec; 300 and 500 near W. Lowville 9 Dec; 200 W. Lowville 12 Dec; 200 Pierrepont 1 Jan; 80 Housefield 21 Jan; 600 (one flock) Rt. 3 near Fort Drum 22 Jan (Al Brayton); 145 Three Mile Pt. 1 Jan. Flocks of five to 40 Canton-Pierrepont area thru; 16 Massena 21 Feb.

R.D. 4, Canton, New York 13617

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE MACK

The winter season was not marked by any appreciable thaws. Temperatures were in the twenty below to twenty above range for much of the period. Winds were moderate for the most part but bitter just the same, so that outdoor activity for humans could be an unpleasant experience. This may have discouraged birders if not birds.

Evening Grosbeaks were fewer than usual. Perhaps they went farther south. Purple Finches were absent. This probably indicates a better food supply elsewhere and not scarcity of the species. There were quite a few Common Redpolls and at least two Hoary Redpolls, as well as a few Bohemian Waxwings. A number of Hawk Owls were seen in the eastern border states. Our region had one for at least two months. No Great Gray Owls were reported.

Observers: Merry Baker; Dirck Benson; Mary Benson; Geoffrey Carleton; Dan Christmas; Denise Christmas; Dean Cook; Marnie Cook; Warner Cook; Charlie Delehanty; Mark Gretch; Anne Hungerford; Elsbeth Johnson; Harold Klein; Paul Koehler; Anne Lacy; Bruce Landon; John Lemieux; Dorothy McIlroy; NYSWC—New York State Waterfowl Counts

Clinton and Essex Cos. 9 and 10 Jan; Ray Payson; John Peterson; Helen Potter; William Rutherford; Gary Randorf; Don Timmons; Cecelia Wojciukiewicz; David Young.

LOONS-DUCKS: A Great Blue Heron was at Plattsburgh 19 Dec. Another flew over Tupper Marsh 29 Dec (CD) and one was near Saranac Lake on the river 2 Jan, as was an Am. Bittern (RH). The NYSWC yielded the following: Horned Grebe 1, Canada Goose 444, Snow Goose 1, Mallard 93, Black Duck 220, Pintail 1, Canvasback 606, Greater Scaup 5, Com. Goldeneye 579, Bufflehead 15, White-winged Scoter 1, Com. Merganser 820. A small flock of Snow Geese in flight was over Saranac Lake 2 Jan. A late Lesser Scaup was at Lincoln Pond 16-21 Dec (CW). Six Hooded Mergansers were at Tupper Marsh 1 Dec. A Com. Merganser was on the Saranac River near Saranac Lake all of Dec, and one spent Dec on the St. Regis River near Paul Smiths.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: A Goshawk was seen near Elizabethtown 27 Dec. A Sharp-shinned Hawk preyed on feeder birds until 28 Feb at Tupper. A Cooper's Hawk did the same at Bloomingdale thru Jan, and one was at Rockefeller Park 17 Jan. One was at Plattsburgh 19 Dec and one at Cadyville since 15 Feb. Three Red-tailed Hawks and three Rough-legged Hawks were seen on the Elizabethtown Christmas count 27 Dec. The Champlain Valley had a few of the former and many of the latter as usual. A Rough-leg was at Tupper 29 Dec. A Bald Eagle was perched in a hemlock along the Raquette River near Tupper 3 and 4 Dec (CD) and an adult was at Ticonderoga 20 Jan (HP). One adult and one imm were at Rouses Point 6 Dec and at Wickham Marsh 26 Jan. DC and MC watched a gray phase Gyrfalcon winging south along Lake Champlain 10 Jan. Eight Gray Partridges were in northern Clinton Co. 8 Feb. (MG). There were 26 Great Black-backed Gulls from Willsboro Bay to Whallon's Bay 10 Jan.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: There were 50 Mourning Doves on the Elizabethtown Christmas count, several at Tupper thru the period, a few at a Gabriel's feeder and two were at Bay Pond 18 Dec. A Great Horned Owl was perched in a Tupper Lake Marsh tree 14 and 15 Dec (CD). A Snowy Owl was seen at Ticonderoga 20 Jan (SL). **HAWK OWL:** one was at Port Henry 23 Jan (NM); and one was seen by many people near Keene Valley, where it stayed close to the road. The bird's yellow eyes, long tail and black head markings could be studied at leisure. This bird spent at least two months in the area, where it fed on mice and voles. A few Barred Owls were reported as usual. A Belted Kingfisher was at Plattsburgh 8 Jan. The Elizabethtown count listed six Pileated, 29 Hairy, and 40 Downy Woodpeckers.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: A Horned Lark was at Bay Pond 28 Feb (Dan & Denise Christmas), with good numbers all winter in no. Clinton Co, becoming more vocal since last week of Feb (MG). Gray Jays were at Brandon and Bay Pond as usual. One was at Ray Brook 2 Jan. A pair were at feeders in Owls Head (AH). Ten Com. Ravens were soaring together near Elizabethtown at Raven Mountain on 24 Jan (EJ, JP). This appeared to be an invasion year for Boreal Chickadees. Several visited feeders beyond their usual haunts, including two Jan birds at Plattsburgh. Tufted Titmouse: at feeders in Cadyville, Crown Point, Elizabethtown, Moriah, Saranac Lake, and Ticonderoga, as well as Tupper Lake where it is not to be expected. 12 Brown Creepers were on the Elizabethtown Count. Six Mockingbirds were at Plattsburgh on their big count 19 Dec. They always have this species. One was at Ticonderoga. A Brown Thrasher was on the Saranac Lake Christmas count. Plattsburgh had two Am. Robins. Up to five E. Bluebirds were at Ticonderoga to 19 Jan (DT). 14 Golden-crowned Kinglets were tallied at Elizabethtown 27 Dec. 14 Cedar Waxwings were on the Plattsburgh count. There were two Bohemian Waxwings at Witherbee eating frozen apples on 13 Dec (CW) and 12 were at Ticonderoga 31 Dec (WC, *fide* DC). A flock was seen on the Saranac Lake count 2 Jan. This species is seen each winter. At least eight No. Shrikes were counted during the period including one at Tupper Lake, that chased feeder birds.

VIREOS-WARBLES: A Yellow-rumped Warbler appeared 24 Dec at a Plattsburgh feeder and remained.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: 231 at Elizabethtown and 295 at Plattsburgh

on their Christmas counts. An E. Meadowlark was at Essex 16 Jan (AL, GR). Red-winged Blackbird: several from Bay Pond and Tupper Lake to Champlain Valley. A male No. Oriole was at Moriah 10 and 11 Dec (GC). Com. Grackle: two Plattsburgh; one Tupper 6 Jan. Brown-headed Cowbird: three at Piseco Lake, 16 at Tupper, 37 at Plattsburgh, seven at Elizabethtown. Cardinal: seven Saranac Lake; 32 Plattsburgh; two Tupper Lake; four at Piseco. There were fair numbers of Evening Grosbeaks with over 450 on two Christmas counts. The only Purple Finch report was 12 at Plattsburgh, where 102 House Finches were also reported. This was an excellent Pine Grosbeak year with 136 at Saranac Lake and 78 at Tupper Lake. A Hoary Redpoll with white rump and frosty look was at Tupper Lake 25 Jan-24 Feb (CD). Another was seen by several in Gabriel's at Dave Young's feeder. There were plenty of Com. Redpolls. High count was 216 at Plattsburgh. Both Pine Siskin and Am. Goldfinch were extremely localized. There were 43 of the former at Elizabethtown and 137 of the latter at Plattsburgh, while these species were absent in most areas. Red Crossbill: nine 6 Jan Tupper Lake and ten 20 Dec at Macomb Park in Clinton Co. White-winged Crossbill: 70 feeding on white and red pine cones 12 Dec at Ausable Point on Lake Champlain; 25 12 Dec and 3 Jan feeding on spruce cones which CD saw them remove, fly to a perch, position the cone between their feet and then feed on the seeds. Dark-eyed Juncos were hard to find. Six were seen on the Elizabethtown count and three at Plattsburgh. 87 Tree Sparrows were counted at Elizabethtown. They were generally scarce. A White-throated Sparrow spent Dec at a Tupper feeder. A Song Sparrow was seen on the Elizabethtown count. No. Clinton Co. had up to six Lapland Longspurs. The Snow Buntings seemed to have stayed near Malone where there was a flock of over 200.

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

Numerous exotic species in and around Region 8 this season made winter '81-'82 most interesting for the cold weather birder. Temperatures never got as low as last year, but the rainfall persisted as a snowy winter possibly signaled an end to the drought conditions of the past few years. The snow seemed to intensify feeder activity, which included a Dickcissel in Berne, a Pine Warbler in Colonie, a Red-bellied Woodpecker in Amsterdam, a Carolina Wren in Glensville, a mysterious blue-colored grosbeak in Cobleskill, an European Goldfinch in Charlton and an Ivory Gull, described as the "feeder bird of the century" in Saratoga Springs.

Outside the region, but near enough and regular enough for viewing by many local birders, were a Harris' Sparrow in Dutchess Co., a Golden-crowned Sparrow in Holyoke, Mass., and a Hawk Owl in Keene, Essex Co.

An Ivory Gull at a feeder? Yes, and not only that, but the nearest open water was estimated to be at least ten miles away! This unlikely feeder bird appeared near Saratoga Springs on 14 January. It was banded the next day and its wing cord of 342 mm indicated that it was an adult male.

A bird that would more likely be expected at your feeder, assuming that you put out your sunflower seeds in South America, is the Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*). A blue grosbeak that was not our North American