

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: last LOL 5 Dec, arrival s. Onon Co. 29 Jan. Am. Crow: 10,000 past DH after 19 Feb. Tufted Titmouse: widespread, to four/day. Red-breasted Nuthatch: to three/day widespread thru winter. Carolina Wren: only report of one overwintering Fayetteville. Winter Wren: last Skaneateles CBC 29 Dec. Golden-crowned Kinglets: late winter max ten, best since 1968. E. Bluebird: four Oneida in Dec (*fide* EV), five W. Camillus valley thru 27 Jan (GAS). Hermit Thrush: one northern Pompey twsp 22 Jan (DWC) only report for winter. Am. Robin: mid-winter max 20 most unexceptional. Gray Catbird: last Syracuse CBC 18 Dec. N. Shrike: about nine reported, seldom persistent, rather sparse.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: last two Camillus valley 13 Jan. Com. Yellowthroat: last Skaneateles CBC 29 Dec, late.

TANAGERS—WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: mid-winter max 30/day, low. Field Sparrow: last Syracuse CBC 16 Dec. Song Sparrow: 28 on 9 Jan, to five/day after mid-Jan. Swamp Sparrow: one overwintered S. Onon. White-throated Sparrow: to 25/day, rather widespread. Dark-eyed Junco: to six/day; two "Oregon"-type northern Pompey twsp 22 Jan-6 Feb (DWC), first reports since 1973. Snow Bunting: max only 100 near Phoenix, low. Red-winged Blackbird: small numbers overwintered Syracuse (max 17), arrival DH 21 Feb. E. Meadowlark: only two singles reported all winter. Rusty Blackbird: last n. Onon Co. 11 Dec, usually overwinters. Com. Grackle: two mid-winter reports only, arrival Phoenix 16 Feb. Brown-headed Cowbird: mid-winter max nine. Pine Grosbeak: 20 Carter Circle on 6 Jan (MS) only report. Purple Finch: to 50/day, best numbers since 1968; FGS noted a close association between this species and ash samaras. House Finch: widespread, singing nearly everywhere by late Feb, but no large concentrations noted. Com. Redpoll: 12 Snake Swamp 15 Jan and one there 6 Feb (GM) only reports. Am. Goldfinch: max 100, about normal. Evening Grosbeak: not in numbers until early Jan, max 55, low.

ADDENDA: Com. Scoter: 56 Beaver Lake 22 Oct is a very high count away from LOL. Ruddy Duck: 308 Beaver Lake 10 Nov (GS) is new regional high count.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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The mildest winter in thirty years produced correspondingly unremarkable birding. No rarities were reported. Be it shrikes or redpolls, there were few northern visitors. Of course this can not be directly attributed to the mild weather here, but more likely to a good cone and lemming year in the Far North. Minimal freezing of the St. Lawrence River meant greater dispersion of wintering eagles and waterfowl.

Except at higher elevations, there was no snow accumulation between storms. Here at 600 ft. the maximum fall was about 10 in. 1 Feb. There was snow in mid-December, but rains soon washed it away. Over half the days each month reached temperatures above freezing, and only ten days in January and February had readings below zero. For January and February mean (and extreme) daily high and low temperatures were: Jan—high 35 (47), low 10 (-20); Feb—high 32 (47), low 16 (-4). There were 13 days in January and eight in February with measurable precipitation. Total precipitation for the two months was 1.60 and 2.43 in., respectively.

The 46th Watertown Christmas Count 18 Dec recorded 50 species and 7,050 individuals—the latter being up 31% from 1981. The 12th Massena CC reported 68 species and 11,107 individuals, as opposed to 46 species and 6,692 individuals last year, the increase being largely attributable to the expertise of a contingent of Canadian birders. The Thousand Islands CC recorded 66 species and 13,205 individuals.

A total of 93 species was reported for the regional report. Positive trends include increased wintering populations of Canada Goose, about which Joe Van Riet expresses concern. There were also unprecedented numbers of wintering crows, whether to honor or mislead the survey sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, we don't know. Lingering summer residents included Belted Kingfisher, House Wren and Field Sparrow, as well as Northern Mockingbird and more American Robins than usual. There were fewer reports of species expanding ranges than usual. While Northern Cardinals have become commonplace, House Finch was reported only from Canton in St. Lawrence County, and there was only one report each for Tufted Titmouse and Red-bellied Woodpecker—both from Jefferson Co.

The absence of expected species was perhaps as interesting as those recorded. In addition to the dearth of arctic and boreal raptors, the only Barred, Eastern Screech-Owl, and Northern Saw-whet Owls reported were on the Christmas Counts. There were no Bohemian Waxwings, no Pine Grosbeaks, and only one report of Pine Siskin.

Perhaps the closest thing to rarities were a Black-backed Woodpecker somewhat out of place on the Thousand Islands Christmas Count, and a Gray Jay in Rensselaer Falls.

Abbreviations: MCC—Massena Christmas Count; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; SLR—St. Lawrence River; ULL—Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Mgt. Area; WCC—Watertown CC; TICC—Thousand Islands CC.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: two TICC; four MCC. Red-necked Grebe: one MCC. Great Blue Heron: seven singles Lake Ontario 18 Dec to 9 Jan; one MCC; three Canton 31 Dec & 10 Jan. Mute Swan: three WCC; two Brownville 2 Feb. Snow Goose: one MCC; one Hannawa Falls 15 Jan. Canada Goose: exceptionally high numbers, 924 MCC, 1,997 WCC; large numbers wintering thru period—580 SLR Massena 22 Jan; 1-200 Oak Point, 2-300 Henderson and Henderson Harbor; ca. 100 Brownville, where they are pairing early (SB); flock over Canton 26 Feb, (early arrivals?). Fifteen species of ducks reported, for which max were: Am. Black Duck: 159 MCC. Mallard: 310 MCC. N. Pintail: one TICC. N. Shoveler: three MCC. Gadwall: 11 MCC; ten Henderson Hbr, 16 Jan. Am. Wigeon: one MCC; Canvasback: ten MCC. Ring-necked Duck: one TICC. Greater Scaup: 140 WCC. Lesser Scaup: one MCC. Oldsquaw: two WCC. Com. Goldeneye: 1,392 TICC. Bufflehead: 33 TICC. Hooded Merganser: ten Ray's Bay 27 Dec. Com. Merganser: 6,456 TICC. Red-breasted Merganser: five MCC.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: two TICC; pair ad PRWMA 29 Jan (LC); three (ad, fifth year, third year imm) Chippewa Pt. to Oak Pt. 30 Jan (GS). N. Harrier: max three Pt. Peninsula 9 Jan; only seven other reports thru. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one TICC; one Canton thru (MEH); one Henderson 17 Dec; one Watertown 6 Jan. Cooper's Hawk: one Pierrepont 1 Feb; one Rodman 11 Feb: one Henderson in Feb. N. Goshawk: three TICC; one MCC;

two near ULL 13 Jan (PVD); one RMSP 15 Feb; one LeRay 5 Feb (JE); several ad between Alexandria Bay and Ogdensburg mid-Jan to mid-Feb (GS). Red-tailed Hawk: five thru RMSP; nine scattered reports; very common (JVR); increasing in Feb (LC); populations down (SB). Rough-legged Hawk: max seven MCC; only seven other reports, mostly before mid-Jan. Am. Kestrel: only a few scattered reports; three to five on Christmas Counts. Gray Partridge: 17 both MCC & TICC; down from last year, broods number five to eight (SB). Ring-necked Pheasant: female Canton 15 Dec; cock, three hens Brownville mid-Feb. Ruffed Grouse: 58 TICC; one per day—low (KC). Ring-billed Gull: 250 WCC; four arr Hawkins Pt 20 Feb (JVR). Herring Gull: 1,700 MCC; 1,600 Hawkins Pt. 22 Jan; five Southwick Beach 27 Dec. Iceland Gull: 14 Hawkins Pt. mid-Feb (JVR), most ever. Glaucous Gull: 51 Hawkins Pt. mid-Feb. Great Black-backed Gull: 600 Hawkins Pt. 22 Jan; 18 Southwick Beach 1 Jan.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: one on each CC. Great Horned Owl: six MCC; pair resident Dry Hill; singles ULL and Philadelphia. Snowy Owl: singles MCC, WCC, Bogg's Corners 17 Jan. Barred Owl: one TICC, only report. Long-eared Owl: one WCC; two MCC. Short-eared Owl: one WCC; three MCC. No. Saw-whet Owl: one TICC. Belted Kingfisher: one MCC. Red-bellied Woodpecker: male at feeder in Henderson 11 Feb (LC). Red-headed Woodpecker: one Brownville 28 Jan (JE). Downy Woodpecker: several reports; way up (LC). Hairy Woodpecker: same as Downy, though about half as many. **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER:** one TICC. N. Flicker: one MCC. Pileated Woodpecker: five scattered singles.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: few reports; 200 Oak Pt. to Chippewa Pt. 1 Jan (GS). **GRAY JAY:** three Chandler Pd., two Dead Creek, two Jock Pd., one near Catamount Mt.—all in Colton (LW); one ULL 27 Feb (MEH). Blue Jay: one to five at feeders. Am. Crow: ten to 50 per day along western SLR (GS); 40 Bogg's Corners 9 Jan; 80 Canton 14 Jan; 100-150 in pre-roost gathering Canton 13 to 15 Feb. Com. Raven: three Canton early winter (MEH); one So. Colton (LW). Black-capped Chickadee: about same as last year, up to 12 per feeder. Tufted Titmouse: pair Henderson thru (LC), only report. Red-breasted Nuthatch: up in WCC & MCC; two reports from Canton. White-breasted Nuthatch: pairs at five out of eight feeders. Brown Creeper: 35 TICC; one Henderson 30 Jan; one Canton Dec & Feb (MEH); one Canton 3 Dec. House Wren: one "calling" Orleans 20 Feb (JE). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 73 TICC. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two TICC. Am. Robin: 19 TICC, 13 Pt. Peninsula 1 Jan, amazing! (GS). N. Mockingbird: one Lisbon early fall thru (GH). N. Shrike: six MCC; four WCC; five singles at Canton, Potsdam, Stony Pt., Pt. Peninsula and Orleans 13 Dec to 3 Feb. Cedar Waxwing: numbers up on Christmas Counts; several reports in Jan; max 48 on our Mt. Ash Pierrepont 17 Jan.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: No reports.

TANAGERS—WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: max 25 Potsdam 12-18 Jan (SDeG); numbers generally low, three to ten per feeder. Chipping Sparrow: one Canton (MEH). Field Sparrow: three TICC. Song Sparrow: 18 TICC; one at feeder in Henderson thru. Swamp Sparrow: TICC. White-throated Sparrow: six WCC; one Pierrepont 10 Dec thru. Lapland Longspur: two MCC only report. Snow Bunting: 273 MCC; none WCC; 40 Pierrepont 13 Feb, first since Nov; three flocks of 90-150 in Brownville, Housefield and Orleans in mid-Feb only other reports. Red-winged Blackbird: one Brownville 22 Feb; three arr Westcott Beach 26 Feb. Com. Grackle: two TICC. Brown-headed Cowbird: flocks of 30-50 Canton late Jan; ten Potsdam 1 Feb. Purple Finch: max 65 TICC; two to eight at feeders thru. House Finch: 53 WCC; none TICC; MCC, three Canton 12 Dec (JG); four Canton thru (MEH); max 38 Henderson (LC). Red Crossbill: six MCC. White-winged Crossbill: ten MCC. Com. Redpoll: max 17 WCC. Pine Siskin: three Canton Dec (MEH), only report. Am. Goldfinch: three to 60 (MEH) at feeders thru. Evening Grosbeak: max 114 Canton early Feb, most ever seen (MEH); 100 Pierrepont 25 Feb, 90% females (KC); flocks averaging 20 or so thru, but numbers not high.

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