

five Clay Marsh 17 Dec, last 9 Jan. White-throated Sparrow: to four/day, scarce. White-crowned Sparrow: last Holland Patent 3 Dec. Dark-eyed Junco: max 21 Hannibal 20 Dec, scarce. Lapland Longspur: four Oxbow Rd near Canastota 7-8 Jan, five Peterborough Rd, MADI, 25 Jan. Snow Bunting: max 500 Peterborough Rd, MADI, 25 Jan. Red-winged Blackbird: max 150 24 Dec, last Dart's L, Adks, 21 Dec late for so high elevation. E. Meadowlark: last four Maltby Rd, Pulaski, 5 Dec. Rusty Blackbird: max five 17 Dec, last 20 Dec. Com. Grackle: to four/day until 17 Jan. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 31 Sangerfield 24 Feb. Purple Finch: max nine Highland Forest 23 Jan, 18 reports for the season. House Finch: max 185 14 Jan. Red Crossbill: two SVB 26 Dec, only report. White-winged Crossbill: six Limekiln, Adks, 27 Feb. Com. Redpoll: arr s ANON 23 Jan, max 220 27 Feb. Hoary Redpoll: one Clay 27 Feb, only report. Pine Siskin: arr Hastings 12 Dec, max 130 Erieville. Am. Goldfinch: max 120 Hastings 6 Feb. Evening Grosbeak: max 150 s MADI, low and infrequent elsewhere.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL AND GERALD A. SMITH

This winter season was generally mild and dry, though snow and cold prevailed in mid February. December temperatures were 4-6° above normal and precipitation was an inch below normal. Temperatures ranged from the mid-50's on 9 and 10 Dec to 10-12 below zero on 30 and 3 Dec. Total snowfall ranged from 7.8 in. on Wellesley Island to 54.6 in. at Highmarket on Tug Hill. January temperature ranged from slightly below normal in Lewis Co. to 5° above normal in St. Lawrence Co., with readings running from the upper 50's on 31 Jan to about -30° on 14-15 Jan. Snowfall was scant, except in lake effect areas. Highmarket had a total of 108 inches, of which 70 fell 4 through 6 Jan. February temperatures were also above normal, ranging from highs in the upper 50's on 1 Feb to -25° a week later. A winter storm brought blizzard conditions to the snowbelt from 6 to 9 Feb and a more general storm brought snowfalls of a foot or so on 12 and 13 Feb. In the St. Lawrence Valley snowfall for the month was considerably above normal.

Winter birders found large concentrations of raptors feeding on peak vole populations. On Pt. Peninsula at the eastern end of L. Ontario, sightings of N. Harrier ran 20-40 per day; there were 80-110 Rough-legged Hawks, of both color phases, per day with a maximum of 130 in late Dec. Red-tailed Hawk counts ran 15-30 per day. Numbers of these hawks and other raptors declined with increasing snow depth in February as birds moved south or onto the islands. Less impressive, but still unusually high, numbers of Red-tails and Rough-legs were found in Robert Moses State Park. Diurnal owl numbers also were above average. Snowy Owl sightings between Cape Vincent and Pt. Peninsula averaged 3-6 per day with a maximum of 12 in mid January; two Snowys were seen near Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area in Canton, and singles were reported from Hawkins Pt. and elsewhere throughout the period. A **Great Gray**

Owl was seen by Bob Cerwonka on Hatch Rd., Potsdam, from 15 to 17 Dec and in the same spot by Norbie Ackerman on 3 March was it there all winter?! Sightings of Short-eared Owl were frequent east of Lake Ontario, running 3-6 per day with a peak of 30 at Pt. Peninsula from 20 Dec to 2 Jan!

Winter finches were mixed. Com. Redpoll was up but usually outnumbered 10:1 by Siskins, though a flock of 50 was reported at a feeder. Pine Siskin was unusually abundant. Lee Chamberlaine reported 40 per day in Henderson and Peter O'Shea had 100 in Cranberry Lake. There were **NO** reports of Pine Grosbeak or either crossbill.

The moderate winter yielded an interesting assortment of half-hardy species. There were two N. Flicker in Massena 24-31 Jan, and 1-2 per day on the Pt. Peninsula. G. Smith found 5-10 Robin on the Pt. Peninsula through the winter. Crowell had a Brown Thrasher at his feeder in Pierrepont after 3 Jan; and Marilyn Badger had a N. Mockingbird until 2 Jan in Louisville, where she also had a Yellow-rumped Warbler (no date) and a N. Oriole keeping company with Evening Grosbeaks until 11 Jan. Com. Grackle was reported from Henderson on 5 Dec and from the Pt. Peninsula on 2 Jan. Ten Red-winged Blackbird, ten Brown-headed Cowbird and one Meadowlark were all seen on the Pt. Peninsula on 26 Dec.

With regard to species whose range is expanding into the Region, in addition to the N. Mockingbird noted above, Lee Henderson reports Red-bellied Woodpecker through the period in Henderson, where he also had a pair of Tufted Titmouse. There were two unconfirmed sightings of Titmice from Canton. Crowell enjoyed as many as two male and three female N. Cardinal — a family? — in Pierrepont after 17 Dec. Numbers of House Finch, at 3 to 10 per day, almost equaled Purple Finch in Massena.

Evening Grosbeaks lacking black pigment were reported from both Morley and Parishville. Norbie Ackerman described the latter bird, which was there for most of the winter, as being "lemon yellow with snow-white wings and tail."

Wintering rare and endangered species included Com. Loon, Bald Eagle, N. Harrier, Short-eared Owl, and Com. Raven. Can't Peter O'Shea turn up a Spruce Grouse in his trampings through southern St. Lawrence Co.? If Barrow's Goldeneye and Thayer's Gull are almost regular at Moses-Saunders Dam, then the only rarity was the Great Gray Owl cited above. A total of 81 species was reported, including 15 waterfowl, 6 gulls, 7 hawks, 6 owls and 37 passerines.

It is good to have Bruce Di Labio's regular coverage of the St. Lawrence River between the Cornwall Bridge and Wilson Hill. The GM Central Foundry dump site and alleged discharge from the Reynolds Metal plant make this important wintering area a hotspot for PCB's and other toxic substances. Like the Native Americans on the adjoining St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, birds don't vote and need our voice in regional environmental issues.

Contributors: Norbert Ackerman, Marilyn Badger, Rick Capuso, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Robert Cerwonka, Bruce Di Labio, John Green, and Gerry Smith.

Abbreviations: HPt-Hawkin's Pt.; MSD-Moses-Saunders Dam; PR-Perch River WMA; PtP-Pt Peninsula; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park; SLR-St. Lawrence River.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two Polly's Gut and one MSD 7 Dec, late! Canada Goose: wintering numbers increasing, 2500 in Henderson 25 Dec; 45 HPT 7 Dec. Am. Black Duck: max 35 MSD 24 Jan. Canvasback: male MSD 24 Jan and 25 Feb (BDiL). Ring-necked Duck: male MSD 25 Feb, unusual. Greater Scaup: max 70 MSD 24 Jan. Lesser Scaup: two pair MSD 24 Jan (BDiL). Oldsquaw: two MSD 7 Dec; 200 Pt Penn 26 Dec. Com. Goldeneye: max 250 MSD 24 Jan. Barrow's Goldeneye: max six (two pairs ad, ad male, imm male) downstream of MSD 25 Feb (BDiL). Hooded Merganser: female MSD, male downstream 24 Jan. Com. Merganser: max 3500 MSD 7 Dec.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: six to ten SLR mid Dec to mid Feb; imm PtP all of Jan (GAS). N. Harrier: *intro*. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one killed in Henderson pursuing birds at feeder into window. Cooper's Hawk: one Henderson chasing Mourning Doves and House Finches at feeder; one Canton 19 Dec. N. Goshawk: none! Red-tailed Hawk: *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*. Gray Partridge: 12 RMSP 11 Feb. Wild Turkey: 48 Alexandria 28 Dec; flocks of 100 near Gouverneur; tracks near Cranberry Lake and Seevey's Corners, Colton. Ring-billed Gull: max 75 MSD 7 Dec. Herring Gull: max 150 MSD 7 Dec. **Thayer's Gull**: one Basic I MSD 15 Feb (BDiL). Iceland Gull: three MSD 7 Dec; 26 to 32 from 24 Jan to 25 Feb. Glaucous Gull: one MSD 24 Jan, max 14 on 25 Feb. Great Black-backed Gull: max 350 MSD 15 Feb.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: "wintering everywhere, even on Tug Hill" (LBC). Snowy Owl: *intro*. **Great Gray Owl**: *intro*. Long-eared Owl: max 12 PtP in Jan (RC); one HPT 15 Jan. N. Saw-whet Owl: two roosting in spruce, one found dead Massena Pt 24 Jan. Red-bellied Woodpecker: *intro*. N. Flicker: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Horned Lark: three Pierrepont 7 Feb unusually early. Blue Jay: 15-20 at many feeders. Am. Crow: present all winter; 100 Canton 17 Dec. Com. Raven: present in same areas of s STLA as during breeding season, max four at Seevey's Corners (PO'S). Tufted Titmouse: *intro*. Am. Robin: *intro*. Brown Thrasher: *intro*. Cedar Waxwing: max 10 MSD 10 Feb, scarce. Bohemian Waxwing: 35 Pierrepont 14 Dec. N. Shrike: one to two per day on PtP (GAS); three in five days SLR, Massena (BDiL); ten reports.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-rumped Warbler: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: *intro*. Am. Tree Sparrow: numbers up, but not high. Song Sparrow: one MSD 24 Jan. White-throated Sparrow: one Pierrepont 29 Dec. Dark-eyed Junco: a few overwintering, max three Massena 15 Jan. Snow Bunting: small numbers, max 200 Canton 2 Dec. Red-winged Blackbird: *intro*. E. Meadowlark: *intro*. Com. Grackle: *intro*. Brown-headed Cowbird: *intro*. N. Oriole: *intro*. Purple Finch: max 15 Massena 11 Jan. House Finch: *intro*. Com. Redpoll: *intro*. Pine Siskin: *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: *intro*.

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