

regularly found Old Forge area only, a few on CBCs, not this low on BBFS since 1966.

Corrigenda: *Kingbird* 38(3):185 — Solitary Vireo: arr 20 Apr; 38(3):208 — Am. Kestrel (in Table): last 21 May; 38(3):209 — Semipalmated Plover: max 31. Pectoral Sandpiper; max 55 Phoenix 22 Apr, last 33 there 30 Apr; 38(4):268 — Philadelphia Vireo: delete 9 Jun report.

Educational Communications, SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse, 750 East Adams, Syracuse NY 13210

REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

This was a generally mild winter, with temperatures throughout most of St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties a degree or two above normal and precipitation 30% lower than normal. December was unusually dry; January temperatures were almost six degrees above normal, whereas December and February were slightly colder than normal. Snow accumulation was less than a foot in most of the region, with the exception of the Tug Hill and southern St. Lawrence County. The weather was extremely variable — cold snaps alternated with thaws, rain and ice.

While the birding during this mild winter was correspondingly bland, this can not have been cause and effect. There was a good local cone crop and fair to good vole populations. But were conditions also favorable to the north? Was this a good cone and lemming year? Open water allowed waterfowl to be dispersed, and Bruce DiLabio found gull numbers down at Moses-Saunders Dam. Raptors were also sparse, though all three accipiters were reported. There was only a sprinkling of Rough-legged Hawk and a few Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl and Northern Shrike. Horned Lark was reported in small numbers throughout the period, and Snow Bunting were few and far between. Winter finches were scarce, but most species were reported.

Significant birds out of season included single Wood Duck and **American Coot** on the Thousand Islands CBC, a Turkey Vulture in Louisville on 7 Dec, eight **Rusty Blackbird** in Louisville after 2 Jan, and one well described first-year White-crowned Sparrow in Massena on 26 Dec and 10 Feb, the last three were all reported by Marilyn Badger. The Massena CBC turned up a record four Northern Flicker; elsewhere there were several Great Blue Heron, two Belted Kingfisher, the usual Am. Robin, one Eastern Meadowlark, more Brown-headed Cowbird than usual and two Song Sparrow. Two Red-bellied Woodpecker were sighted, and Northern Cardinal is cropping up widely in rural areas of St. Lawrence Co., but again no Tufted Titmouse were reported. More American Crow and European Starling than usual overwintered. Numbers of Ruffed Grouse, Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet also were up.

The Massena CBC reported a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at the Reynold's Plant in Massena on 27 Dec, but it was not there 3 Jan. A probable **Great Gray Owl** was reported in mid February. In total there were 79 species reported,

including 24 water birds, 14 raptors, 31 passerines and 10 others. Uncredited reports from the Moses-Saunders and Massena areas are from Bruce DiLabio.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Richard Brouse, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Bruce DiLabio, Jim Farquhar, John Green, Lee Harper, H. & R. Kriescher, Peter O'Shea, Bob Wakefield and Brian Watson.

Abbreviations: HP - Hawkin's Pt, Massena; MCBC - Massena-Cornwall CBC; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; PR - Perch River WMA; RP - waterfowl roost above Reynold's Plant, Massena; TICBC - Thousand Islands CBC; SLR - St. Lawrence River.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Greater White-fronted Goose:** *intro.* Snow Goose (white phase): one TICBC. Wood Duck: *intro.* Am. Black Duck: max 42 HP 19 Feb. Canvasback: male RP 12 and 19 Feb. Redhead: one 29 Jan. Greater Scaup: 27 Dec to end of period, max 18 RP. Com. Goldeneye: from 85 RP on 21 Dec to 1500 19 Feb. Barrow's Goldeneye: max three ad males RP 19 Feb. Bufflehead: max three males RP 19 Feb. Hooded Merganser: one to two entire period. Com. Merganser: 170 at RP 23 Jan, max there 5000 on 9 Jan, much fewer than usual.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: *intro.* Bald Eagle: 14 (seven ad, seven imm) on SLR by DEC aerial survey 17 Feb (BF,LBC); ad male MSD 19 and 24 Feb. N. Harrier: one E. Hounsfield 2 Feb. N. Goshawk: one MCBC and one Lorraine 18 Jan, only reports. Sharp-shinned Hawk: two Louisville 20 Feb. Cooper's Hawk: one 11 Jan, one taking Mourning Doves at feeder 17 Feb, both Watertown. N. Goshawk: singles Massena 5 Dec, TICBC, Pitcairn early Jan. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Louisville 9 Jan. Rough-legged Hawk: max 13 TICBC; two Pierrepont 5 Dec and a very dark bird 28-29 Feb. Am. Kestrel: singles reported through period. Gray Partridge: five near MSD 4 Jan. Wild Turkey: widespread, including near Carry Falls Reservoir, T Colton and Oswegatchie Inlet, T Fine. **Com. Black-headed Gull:** ad in winter plumage early Dec and 8 Jan (BDiL). Ring-billed Gull: max 125 first-year on 8 Jan. Herring Gull: max 75 on 21 Dec. Iceland Gull: max seven on 23 Jan and 19 Feb. Glaucous Gull: max 14 on 21 Dec. Great Black-backed Gull: max 400 on 21 Dec. Black-legged Kittiwake: a few ad 21 Dec (BDiL).

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: one in Massena, only one near Pt Peninsula is unusual, one in Lewis Co. for most of period. Barred Owl: one calling Fine 26 Feb. **Great Gray Owl:** seen twice perched in daytime in old field in Parishville mid Feb (H & RK). Short-eared Owl: four Ashland Flats WMA, T Lyme. N. Saw-whet Owl: one PR 17 Jan only report. Red-bellied Woodpecker: ad male Henderson for entire period; one near Woodville 14 Jan.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Horned Lark: ten Pierrepont 31 Dec, unusually early. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 18 Louisville 31 Dec; on both CBC's. Cedar Waxwing: a few reports, max 33 feeding on sumac and juniper fruits Stony Pt 18 Dec. N. Shrike: very few, total of eight including CBCs.

VIREOS-WARBLES: none.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: White-crowned Sparrow: *intro.* Dark-eyed Junco: three Massena 15 Feb and two Louisville 18 Feb indicated winter population. Lapland Longspur: three TICBC. Snow Bunting: max 110 Louisville 29 Dec. E. Meadowlark: one Stony Pt 14 Jan. Rusty Blackbird: *intro.* Pine Grosbeak: one Massena 25 Feb, only report. Purple Finch: arr Henderson 19 Feb. House Finch: 60-80 per day in JEFF. White-winged Crossbill: five in white spruce near HP 12 Jan, a few Morley mid Feb. Com. Redpoll: 13 TICBC and 20 Louisville 16 Feb only reports. Pine Siskin: arr Louisville 16 Feb, max 25 Massena 22 Feb. Am. Goldfinch: at feeders near Fine in Jan is unusual. Evening Grosbeak: generally scarce or absent.

RD 4 Box 97, Canton, New York 13617