

## REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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The winter season of 2000-2001 began with temperatures in the 20°s F and snow cover over the entire Region. Temperatures remained 4° to 7° lower than the norm throughout December. Continuous snow cover with an additional 10–18" created problems for grassland feeders, causing many species to depart early. January temperatures were average in St. Lawrence County and slightly warmer in Jefferson and Lewis counties. Snow fall for the month was 18", adding to the 6–8" already present in the lowlands. The Adirondacks and Tug Hill accumulated a total of 4–6' over the three-month period. A cold front, preceded by a warm push of temperatures in the 60°s and wind gusts as high as 60–70 miles per hour, hit the area on 10 February. Thereafter, winter conditions continued for the rest of the period. The St. Lawrence River, however, was open in several locations throughout the season, allowing several species of ducks to remain.

Bald Eagle numbers were again at an all-time high, with a total of 56 and reports from all three counties. The main source of food continues to be White-tailed Deer. Eight Northern Goshawk reports were above average. Rough-legged Hawk numbers returned to normal for the season, probably due to the recovery of voles on Point Peninsula. The appearance of an immature Golden Eagle on the Massena CBC, reported by Bruce DiLabio, was unusual for the season.

Positives for the period were good numbers of Northern Shrikes, with 18 reports, 22 reports of Common Ravens away from the Adirondacks and large flocks of Cedar Waxwings and Snow Buntings. Both House and Purple finches were in good numbers and a massive invasion of White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins began to develop at the end of the period.

Negatives included fewer American Black Ducks and Mallards due to snow cover and lower numbers of Red-tailed Hawks in Jefferson County. There were no reports of Bonaparte's Gull, Eastern Bluebird or Bohemian Waxwing and numbers of Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks were low.

Rarities included **Harlequin Duck** and **Barrow's Goldeneye**.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CL – Collins Landing SLR at the Thousand Islands bridge T Orleans JEFF; CV – T Cape Vincent JEFF; FL– Fisher's Landing T Orleans JEFF; FWC – Federation Waterfowl Count 15–22 Jan; KC – Kelsey Creek T Watertown JEFF; MCBC – Massena CBC STLA 23 Dec; NBCBC – New Boston CBC LEWI 28 Dec; PIPt – Pillar Pt T Hounsfield JEFF; PRWMA – Perch R WMA T Orleans JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; RMPD – Robert Moses Power Dam T Massena; SLR – St. Lawrence R; TICBC – Thousand Islands CBC T Alexandria, Orleans, Clayton JEFF 30 Dec; TLou – T Louisville STLA; TMas – T Massena; TMor – T Morristown STLA; WB – Wilson Bay CV; WBM – Wilson Bay Marsh CV JEFF; WCBC – Watertown CBC JEFF 16 Dec; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA TLou STLA; WI – Wellesley I T Orleans JEFF.

### LOONS – DUCKS

**Great Blue Heron:** 4 WCBC; 2 TLou in open water to 30 Dec.  
**Snow Goose:** 25 flying along SLR CV 9 Jan; blue morph with flock of Canada Geese over CV 17 Jan.  
**Canada Goose:** max 2942 WCBC; 40 over CV 17 Jan; last 12 Adams JEFF 22 Jan.  
**Mute Swan:** 6 Dexter Marsh T Hounsfield JEFF 4 Dec.  
**Tundra Swan:** 11 PtPen 15 Dec; 10 SLR CV 21 Dec; max 17 WCBC; last 2 WB on the ice 20 Feb.  
**Wood Duck:** KC 14 Jan.  
**Gadwall:** 3 TICBC; 5 MCBC.  
**Am. Black Duck:** 200 WHWMA 14 Dec; 88 WCBC; 27 TICBC; 35 FWC 17 Jan; last 2 Adams JEFF 22 Jan.  
**Mallard:** plentiful thruout until heavy snows in late Dec; 39 WCBC; 2000–2500 mixed with small numbers of Am. Black Duck and N. Pintail T Watertown Jeff 29 Dec; 9 FWC 14 Jan.  
**N. Pintail:** FL 6 Feb.  
**Canvasback:** 4 PIPt 4 Dec; 12 WB 10 Dec; FL 6 Feb.  
**Redhead:** 20 WB 20 Dec; 60 10-mile survey SLR TMor T Oswegatchie STLA 11 Feb.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** 5 WCBC.  
**Greater Scaup:** 1500 PIPt 4 Dec; 10 WCBC.

**Lesser Scaup:** 10 MCBC.

**HARLEQUIN DUCK:** ad male FL 12 Jan–6 Feb (NL)

**Bufflehead:** 30 SLR CV 10 Dec; 15 WCBC.

**Com. Goldeneye:** 402 WCBC; 272 TICBC; max 1347 SLR T Mor 16–19 Feb.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** ad male Blackstone Bay TMor 30 Jan.

**Hooded Merganser:** 10 SLR TLou 11 Dec; 10 TICBC; 10 FL 13 Jan; last 4 RMPD 18 Feb.

**Com. Merganser:** 93 TICBC; 501 WCBC; 208 CV FWC 13 Jan.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 2 CV FWC 14 Jan; max 35 10-mile survey SLR TMor T Oswegatchie 11 Feb.

### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** 30 ad 11 imm TICBC; 1 ad 1 imm MCBC; 4 TMor 11 Feb; 2 T Parishville STLA 19 Jan; 6 Sevey's Corners T Colton STLA 10–13 Jan; 2 T Lorraine LEWI 10 Jan.

**N. Harrier:** male PRWMA 13 Dec; female PRWMA 28 Jan; TICBC.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 3 singles JEFF; NBCBC; 2 TMas, max 4 WCBC.

**Cooper's Hawk:** WCBC; MCBC; TICBC; 3 other reports scattered thruout Reg.

**N. Goshawk:** KC 20 Dec; WCBC; 2

TICBC; CV village 28 Jan; 3 NBCBC.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** 6 NBCBC; 34 TICBC; 57 WCBC; numbers down 50% on CBCs, perhaps due to snow cover prior to 1 Dec.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** 3 MCBC; 9 NBCBC; 7 TICBC; 47 WCBC; numbers back to average after poor count last year.  
**Golden Eagle:** imm MCBC (BD).  
**Am. Kestrel:** 3 WCBC; 3 CV 1 Jan; 2 TICBC.  
**Merlin:** T Watertown JEFF 16 Dec- 10 Jan; Ogdensburg T Oswegatchie STLA 13 Jan.  
**Gray Partridge:** 24 in 4 coveys CV.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 6 WCBC; 2 males CV 31 Jan.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** 3 MCBC; 3 NBCBC; 32 TICBC.  
**Wild Turkey:** 90 TICBC; 91 MCBC; 194 NBCBC.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** 14 WCBC; 5 MCBC; 28 TICBC; low numbers.  
**Herring Gull:** 22 WCBC; 12 MCBC; 17 NBCBC.  
**Great-Black-backed Gull:** 14 MCBC; 9 WCBC; 4 TICBC.

#### DOVES – WOODPECKERS

**Rock Dove:** max 936 WCBC.  
**Mourning Dove:** 393 WCBC; 25 NBCBC; 253 MCBC.  
**E. Screech-Owl:** WHWMA 4 Feb.  
**Great Horned Owl:** 3 separate pairs south village CV early Jan; 2 NBCBC; 4 TICBC; MCBC.  
**Snowy Owl:** 4 JEFF; TICBC; 2 STLA; all imm.  
**Barred Owl:** NBCBC; 2 MCBC; TICBC; 1 catching a Hairy Woodpecker T Potsdam 8 Feb; 2 TLou 15 Feb.  
**Short-eared Owl:** 2 WCBC.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** 2 WCBC; 1 thru 23 Feb; TICBC.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 5 WCBC.  
**N. Flicker:** TLou 4 Jan.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**N. Shrike:** 5 NBCBC; 5 MCBC; 4 WCBC; 4 TICBC; 3 T Canton STLA 28 Jan; 2 Ogdensburg T Oswegatchie STLA 13 Jan; TLou 20 Dec; 2 RMPD 18 Feb; 2 Redwood JEFF thru Dec; a very good year.  
**Com. Raven:** 9 NBCBC; 2 WCBC; 9 TICBC; 2 MCBC; 12 on deer carcass near Sevey's Corners T Colton STLA.  
**Horned Lark:** 210 TICBC; 3 NBCBC; 120 WCBC.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** MCBC; TLou 2 Jan.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 33 NBCBC; 3 MCBC; 2-3 TLou, TMas thru; max 34 TICBC.  
**Brown Creeper:** NBCBC; 4 WCBC; 2 MCBC; 2 CV thru.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 8 NBCBC; 10 TICBC; 3 MCBC.  
**Am. Robin:** 64 TICBC; 101 WCBC; 10 MCBC.  
**N. Mockingbird:** MCBC; T LeRay JEFF 25 Jan.  
**European Starling:** 6278 WCBC; 327 NBCBC.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** 118 WCBC; 91 NBCBC; 201 TICBC; 50 RMPD 27 Jan.

#### WARBLERS

None

#### TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** 157 WCBC; 59 MCBC; 314 TICBC; 40 NBCBC.  
**Song Sparrow:** 6 TICBC; 3 WCBC; KC thru.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** 2 TICBC; 5 WCBC; 6 KC thru.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** 46 WCBC; 149 TICBC; 18 MCBC; 20 NBCBC; at several feeders all winter.  
**Lapland Longspur:** 7 River Rd CV 10 Dec; 14 CV 1 Jan.  
**Snow Bunting:** 262 WCBC; 182 TICBC; 131 MCBC; max 500-600 CV 17 Jan.  
**N. Cardinal:** 28 WCBC; 6 TICBC; 66 MCBC.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** TICBC.

**E. Meadowlark:** WCBC.

**Rusty Blackbird:** T Lorraine Lewi 8-13  
Dec at feeder (DL).

**Com. Grackle:** 6 Rt 37 TLou 26 Dec; 3  
TICBC; WCBC.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 2 MCBC; 2  
WCBC; 5 NBCBC; 4 TICBC.

**Purple Finch:** 22 NBCBC; 28 MCBC;  
18 TICBC.

**House Finch:** 30 TMas 20 Dec; 81  
MCBC; 119 WCBC; 8 NBCBC; 207  
TICBC.

**White-winged Crossbill:** 2 NBCBC; 4

PtPen 12 Feb; large flocks T Greig LEWI  
24 Feb and T Colton, Fine, Piercefield  
and Colton STLA 15 Feb thru.

**Com. Redpoll:** 16 TMas 27 Jan; 20  
WCBC; 10 TICBC.

**Pine Siskin:** large flocks in the  
Adirondacks and Tug Hill with White-  
winged Crossbills after 15 Feb.

**Am. Goldfinch:** 102 WCBC; 107  
MCBC; 208 TICBC; large flocks thru.

**Evening Grosbeak:** 5 NBCBC; 2  
WCBC.

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