

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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The winter season of 2001–2002 began with temperatures in the 20°Fs and a snow cover over the entire Region. Temperatures remained 4–7° 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 and slightly warmer in Jefferson and Lewis counties. Snowfall for the month was 18", adding to the existing 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 mph, 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.

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

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 numbers of 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 there were low numbers of Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CI – Collins Landing SLR at the Thousand Islands bridge T Orleans JEFF; CV – T Cape Vincent JEFF; FI – Fisher's Landing T Orleans JEFF; 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 Ri WMA T Orleans JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; RMPD – Robert Moses Power Dam T Massena; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri; TICBC – Thousand Islands CBC T Alexandria T Orleans T Clayton JEFF 30 Dec; TLou – T Louisville STLA; TMor – T Morristown STLA; WCBC – Watertown CBC JEFF 16 Dec; WB – Wilson Bay CV; WBM – Wilson Bay Marsh CV JEFF; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA TLou STLA; WI – Wellesley I T Orleans JEFF.

LOONS – DUCKS

Great Blue Heron: 4 WCBC 16 Dec; 2 TLou in open water to 30 Dec.
Snow Goose: 25 flying along SLR CV 9 Jan; blue morph with flock of Canadas

over CV 17 Jan.

Canada Goose: max 2942 WCBC 16 Dec; 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 16 Dec; last 2 WB on the ice 20 Feb.

Wood Duck: KC 14 Jan.

Gadwall: 3 TICBC 30 Dec; 5 MCBC 23 Dec.

Am. Black Duck: 200 WHWMA 14 Dec; 88 WCBC 16 Dec; 27 TICBC 30 Dec; 35 FWC 17 Jan; last 2 Adams JEFF 22 Jan.

Mallard: plentiful throughout until heavy snows in late Dec; 39 WCBC 16 Dec; 2000-2500 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; FI 6 Feb.

Redhead: 20 WB 20 Dec; 60 SLR TMor & T Oswegatchie STLA 11 Feb, in 10 mile survey.

Ring-necked Duck: 5 WCBC 16 Dec.

Greater Scaup: 1500 PIPT 4 Dec; 10 WCBC 16 Dec.

Lesser Scaup: 10 MCBC 23 Dec.

HARLEQUIN DUCK: ad m FI 12 Jan-6 Feb (NL).

Bufflehead: 30 SLR CV 10 Dec; 15 WCBC 16 Dec.

Com. Goldeneye: 402 WCBC 16 Dec; 272 TICBC 30 Dec; max 1347 SLR TMor 16-19 Feb.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: ad m Blackstone Bay TMor 30 Jan.

Hooded Merganser: 10 SLR TLou 11 Dec; 10 TICBC 30 Dec; 10 FI 13 Jan; last 4 RMPD 18 Feb.

Com. Merganser: 93 TICBC 30 Dec; 501 WCBC 16 Dec; 208 CV 13 Jan.

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

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 30 ad & 11 imm TICBC 30 Dec; ad & imm MCBC 23 Dec; 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: m PRWMA 13 Dec; fem PRWMA 28 Jan; TICBC 30 Dec.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 4 WCBC 16 Dec; NBCBC 28 Dec; 2 T Massena; 3 singles JEFF.

Cooper's Hawk: WCBC 16 Dec; MCBC 23 Dec; TICBC 30 Dec; 3 other reports scattered throughout.

N. Goshawk: WCBC 16 Dec; KC 20 Dec; 3 NBCBC 28 Dec.; 2 TICBC 30 Dec; CV 28 Jan.

Red-tailed Hawk: 57 WCBC 16 Dec; 6 NBCBC 28 Dec; 34 TICBC 30 Dec; numbers down 50% on CBCs, perhaps due to snow cover prior to 1 Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk: 47 WCBC 16 Dec; 3 MCBC 23 Dec; 9 NBCBC 28 Dec; 7 TICBC 30 Dec; numbers back to average after poor count last year.

Golden Eagle: imm MCBC 23 Dec (BD).

Am. Kestrel: 3 WCBC 16 Dec; 2 TICBC 30 Dec; 3 CV 1 Jan.

Merlin: T Watertown JEFF 16 Dec- 10 Jan; Ogdensburg STLA 13 Jan.

Gray Partridge: 24 in 4 coveys CV.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 6 WCBC 16 Dec; 2 m CV 31 Jan.

Ruffed Grouse: 3 MCBC 23 Dec; 3 NBCBC 28 Dec; 32 TICBC 30 Dec.

Wild Turkey: 91 MCBC 23 Dec; 194 NBCBC 28 Dec; 90 TICBC 30 Dec.

Ring-billed Gull: 14 WCBC 16 Dec; 5 MCBC 28 Dec; 28 TICBC 30 Dec; low numbers.

Herring Gull: 22 WCBC 16 Dec; 12 MCBC 23 Dec; 17 NBCBC 28 Dec.

Great Black-backed Gull: 9 WCBC 16 Dec; 14 MCBC 23 Dec; 4 TICBC 30 Dec.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: max 936 WCBC 16 Dec.

Mourning Dove: 393 WCBC 16 Dec; 253 MCBC 23 Dec; 25 NBCBC 28 Dec.

E. Screech Owl: WHWMA 4 Feb.

Great Horned Owl: MCBC 23 Dec; 2 NBCBC 28 Dec; 4 TICBC 30 Dec; 3 prs south village CV early Jan.

Snowy Owl: 4 JEFF; TICBC 30 Dec; 2 STLA, all imm.

Barred Owl: 2 MCBC 23 Dec; NBCBC 28 Dec; TICBC 30 Dec; 1 catching a Hairy Woodpecker T Potsdam 8 Feb; 2 TLou 15 Feb.

Short-eared Owl: 2 WCBC 16 Dec.

Belted Kingfisher: 2 WCBC 16 Dec, 1 thru 23 Feb; TICBC 30 Dec.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 5 WCBC 16 Dec.

N. Flicker: TLou 4 Jan.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: 2 Redwood JEFF thru Dec; 4 WCBC 16 Dec; TLou 20 Dec; 5 MCBC 23 Dec; 5 NBCBC 28 Dec; 4 TICBC 30 Dec; 2 Ogdensburg STLA 13 Jan; 3 T Canton STLA 28 Jan; 2 RMPD 18 Feb; a very good year.

Com. Raven: 2 WCBC 16 Dec; 2 MCBC 23 Dec; 9 NBCBC 28 Dec; 9 TICBC 30 Dec; 12 on deer carcass near Sevey's Corners T Colton STLA.

Horned Lark: 120 WCBC 16 Dec; 3 NBCBC 28 Dec; 210 TICBC 30 Dec.

Tufted Titmouse: MCBC 23 Dec; TLou 2 Jan.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 3 MCBC 23 Dec; 33 NBCBC 28 Dec; max 34 TICBC 30 Dec; 2-3 TLou & T Massena thru.

Brown Creeper: 4 WCBC 16 Dec; 2 MCBC 23 Dec; NBCBC 28 Dec; 2 CV thru.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 MCBC 23 Dec; 8 NBCBC 28 Dec; 10 TICBC 30 Dec.

Am. Robin: 101 WCBC 16 Dec; 10 MCBC 23 Dec; 64 TICBC 30 Dec.

N. Mockingbird: MCBC 23 Dec; T LeRay JEFF 25 Jan.

European Starling: 6278 WCBC 16 Dec; 327 NBCBC 28 Dec.

Cedar Waxwing: 118 WCBC 16 Dec; 91 NBCBC 28 Dec; 201 TICBC 30 Dec; 50 RMPD 27 Jan.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 157 WCBC 16 Dec; 59 MCBC 23 Dec; 40 NBCBC 28 Dec; 314 TICBC 30 Dec.

Song Sparrow: 3 WCBC 16 Dec; 6 TICBC 30 Dec; 1 KC thru.

White-throated Sparrow: 5 WCBC 16 Dec; 2 TICBC 30 Dec; 6 KC thru.

Dark-eyed Junco: 46 WCBC 16 Dec; 18 MCBC 23 Dec; 20 NBCBC 28 Dec; 149 TICBC 30 Dec; at several feeders thru.

Lapland Longspur: 7 River Rd CV 10 Dec; 14 CV 1 Jan.

Snow Bunting: 262 WCBC 16 Dec; 131 MCBC 23 Dec; 182 TICBC 30 Dec; max 500-600 CV 17 Jan.

N. Cardinal: 28 WCBC 16 Dec; 66 MCBC 23 Dec; 6 TICBC 30 Dec.

Red-winged Blackbird: TICBC 30 Dec.

E. Meadowlark: WCBC 16 Dec.

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

Com. Grackle: WCBC 16 Dec; 6 TLou 26 Dec; 3 TICBC 30 Dec.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 2 WCBC 16 Dec; 2 MCBC 23 Dec; 5 NBCBC 28 Dec; 4 TICBC 30 Dec.

Purple Finch: 28 MCBC 23 Dec; 22 NBCBC 28 Dec; 18 TICBC 30 Dec.

House Finch: 119 WCBC 16 Dec; 30 T Massena 20 Dec; 81 MCBC 23 Dec; 8 NBCBC 28 Dec; 207 TICBC 30 Dec.

White-winged Crossbill: 2 NBCBC 28 Dec; 4 PtPen 12 Feb; large flocks T Greig LEWI 24 Feb & T Colton, T Fine, T Piercefield STLA 15 Feb thru.

Com. Redpoll: 20 WCBC 16 Dec; 10 TICBC 30 Dec; 16 T Massena 27 Jan.

Pine Siskin: large flocks Adirondacks & Tug Hill with White-winged Crossbills after 15 Feb.

Am. Goldfinch: 102 WCBC 16 Dec; 107 MCBC 23 Dec; 208 TICBC 30 Dec; large flocks throughout.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 WCBC 16 Dec; 5 NBCBC 28 Dec.

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