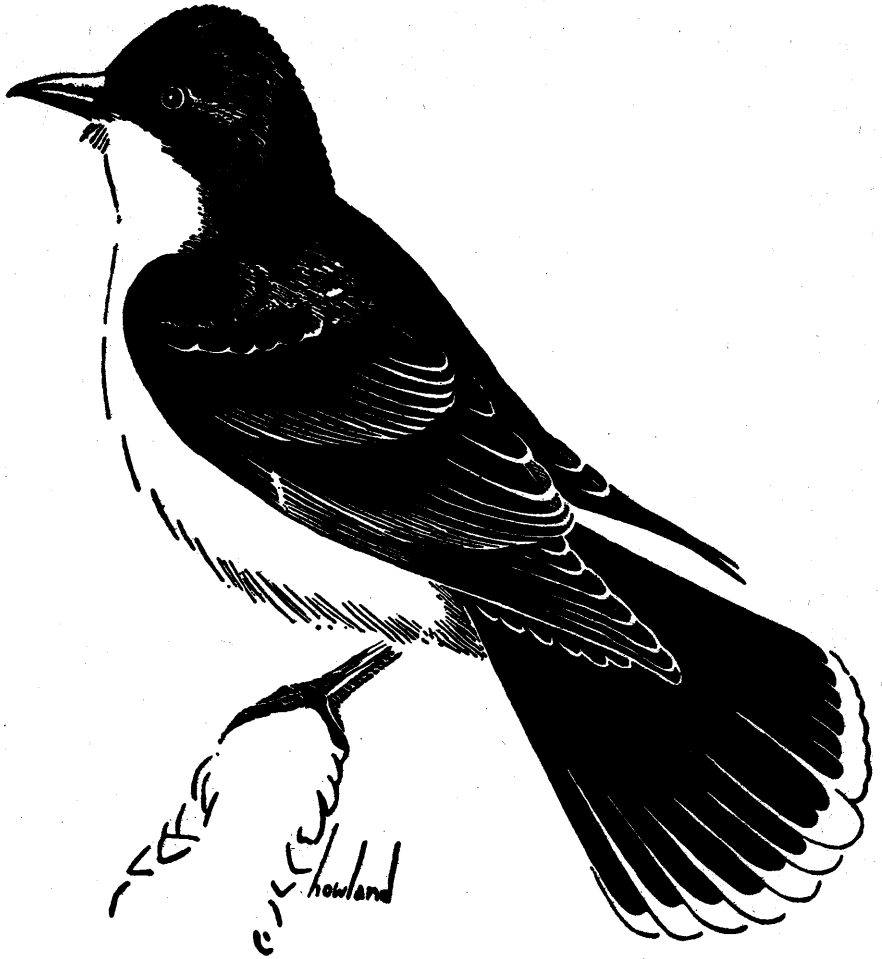


The **KINGBIRD**



VOLUME II, NO. 1

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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS



The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

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APPLICATION for membership should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee:

MISS AUDREY L. WREDE
3109 BEVERLY RD.
BROOKLYN 26, N. Y.

OUR PRESIDENT SAYS — — — —

As the Federation enters its fifth year, the time is ripe to take stock. Dr. Gordon Meade and Winston Brockner, the two men most responsible for its organization, have guided the Federation as President in its critical, formative years and have left a permanent imprint. It is said that any human institution is the lengthened shadow of a man; but too many men and women have played, and are playing, a vital part in the activities of the Federation to make the epigram narrowly applicable.

The Federation was conceived to facilitate cooperation among the bird clubs and bird students of the State, and to promote interest and conservation of bird life. The usefulness of the Federation is attested by the fact that almost every regional bird club in the State is now a member. In fact the Federation has actively promoted and encouraged the organization of such clubs in areas where none previously existed. Consideration of the extent to which the Federation has fulfilled its purpose may indicate the respects in which more can and should be done.

Conservation

There had long been a need for a state-wide organization to voice the views and mobilize the opinion of bird students before the State Legislature and State officials on conservation matters. The national conservation organizations frequently hesitated to inject themselves into State controversies on the ground that they might be regarded as intermeddling outsiders. Local clubs were often ignorant of the existence of pending measures affecting wildlife, were out of touch with other clubs, and thus were unable to make their weight felt. The organization of the Federation has worked a vital change — chiefly because of the devotion and enthusiasm of Walter Elwood, who served as Chairman of our Conservation Committee until the present year. Our various affiliated clubs have been apprised of important proposed legislation, and their members have been urged to write to State legislators and other officials when the time seemed appropriate. In the field of conservation, to be effective a citizen must do more than vote, he must be willing to write. Constant vigilance is essential not only to promote desirable legislation, but to prevent emasculation of existing conservation laws and forestall the ever-present threat of encroachment on existing sanctuaries, parks and wildlife refuges. The present New York hawk and owl law was essentially the product of our efforts, aided by a number of other conservation organizations, whose assistance was enlisted by the Federation. Not all our battles have been crowned with success; but in this field a vigorous fight is never wholly a loss, for it emphasizes and increases the popular realization of the importance of conservation.

Publications

The Federation's quarterly magazine, *The Kingbird*, provides an important medium for recording knowledge and stimulating bird study. The national ornithological magazines cannot afford to publish much useful material that is essentially of State interest, and few local clubs have the means

of maintaining a permanent publication. The Federation is very fortunate in having the services of our able and energetic Editor, Allan Klonick. He requires support from our membership in the form of articles and notes. We hope that in time the Federation may be able to sponsor other publications, notably an up-to-date distributional account of the birds of New York. The Federation affords an ideal medium for the collection and evaluation of State records.

Exchange of information regarding club activities

The Federation has afforded means of contact among the various clubs scattered throughout the State. Some of these clubs have been in existence for decades. Exchange of information as to methods of establishing and maintaining local sanctuaries, dealing with local conservation problems, keeping bird records, handling club meetings could be very useful. It should be possible for clubs to arrange for periodic exchanges of speakers, field trips, and the like. The newer clubs should not hesitate to seek the advice of the more experienced societies.

Cooperative studies

Students working on field problems frequently need, or could effectively use, reliable observations of watchers in other parts of the State. Through the Federation it is now easy to make contact with other such students of similar interest. The Snowy Owl incursion surveys were facilitated by the existence of the Federation and an effort has begun to correlate hawk migration studies.

The Annual Meeting

The annual convention of the Federation, open to all bird students in the State, has proved a thoroughly enjoyable and instructive event. The paper program, field trip and dinner have resulted in acquaintanceship and cooperation among bird-watchers throughout our State, and have stimulated and encouraged conservation activities. Incidentally these meetings have promoted interest in birds in the localities where they have been held.

Needs of the organization

To encourage maximum affiliation and participation, dues payable to the Federation by affiliated clubs have been made almost nominal (10c for each member of the affiliated club) and members of such clubs can hold any Federation office even though not themselves Individual Members of the Federation. The Federation thus operates on a very restricted budget, and must depend to a large extent upon the dues of Individual Members. Individual membership is obtained by the annual payment of only \$2 (though larger contributions are welcomed). The Individual Member receives a subscription to *The Kingbird*, and personal notices of meetings, but over and above that, he has the satisfaction of knowing that he is making a vital contribution to the one organization representing the viewpoint of New York bird students on a state-wide basis.

EUGENE EISENMANN

SUMMER RECORDS OF RED CROSSBILLS

LILLIAN C. STONER

Two small family groups of Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) seen in midsummer in east-central part of the state, by a well known ornithologist who recently related the facts to the writer, give suggestive nesting records of this subspecies in New York in 1951.

On July 22, 1951, Mr. Herbert G. Deignan of the Division of Birds, United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., while motoring from Gilboa to Conesville, N. Y., in the southeastern section of Schoharie County, was surprised to observe Red Crossbills feeding at the edge of the highway. Fearful that his car might have struck one of the startled birds, he stopped as soon as possible and walked back on the road. The small flock of four to six individuals had settled in a nearby pine tree. It appeared to be a family group as there was a bright red male and a greenish female; the others, apparently juveniles, were of duller streaked plumage. On the same day another similar group in both number and plumage was seen by Mr. Deignan a short distance from this location which was about ten miles from the southwestern corner of Albany County.

There are numerous coniferous trees in this area and while this is not a particularly high spot, within ten miles to the east, south and west there are five peaks of elevations 2885 to 3599 feet. This type of habitat provides plenty of suitable nesting places and it has a supply of cones and other food upon which these birds which are known to be erratic wanderers can live.

Chapman, *Birds of Eastern North America* (1932), says Crossbills have "no home ties" and that they may rear their young in foreign land which is far south of their normal breeding range.

On May 27, 1951, S. E. Fordham and S. R. Madison of Delmar, N. Y., noted a flock of 12 to 15 individuals near East Berne, N. Y., which is some 20 miles northeast of Gilboa and 15 miles southwest of Albany.

Red Crossbills from one to 50 birds were observed in Washington Park, in Albany between April 22 and May 31, 1951. Other observers reported the birds in other Albany County localities in May.

In New York State Museum files there is a record by Dr. D. H. House of one male Red Crossbill seen on July 1, 1934, one and one-half miles west of Berlin, Rensselaer County; there are other records for March and April 1941 for West Albany and Watervliet Reservoir districts. Stoner and Stoner *Birds of Washington Park, Albany, N. Y.* (1952 State Museum Bulletin in press) describe the March 30-May 9, 1941 visit of these birds in this city park.

May, *Natural History of the Birds of Eastern and Central North America* (1939) says that this erratic bird may nest either in January or in midsummer. Silloway, *Syracuse Univ. Bull.* Vol. 22, No. 4 (March 1923) refers to summer records as follows: "This (Common) Crossbill was seen and heard every day, often only a pair or a group of four or five —." While Eaton, *Birds of New York* (1914), cites eight summer dates for the bird from 1888 to 1906 in Niagara, Hamilton, Ontario, Monroe and Tompkins Counties and gives six egg or breeding dates 1875-1904.

To these records we now add Schoharie County, as the two family groups seen by Mr. Deignan on July 22, 1951 give circumstantial evidence of the Red Crossbills nesting in this county.

CONSERVATION NEWS AND NOTES

SAMUEL R. MADISON, *Chairman Conservation Committee*

This column misses your retiring conservation committee chairman, Walter Elwood. We know he deserves a rest after his years of strenuous and excellent endeavor on behalf of the Federation, but we hate to see him go.

The Legislative session is on in Albany with the usual mad rush toward adjournment underway. At present it looks as though the Federation will have several things for which to be thankful.

The Hammond-Ostrander resolution which would amend Article 14, Section 2 of the State Constitution has passed the Senate and Assembly. It strikes out the provision that the legislature may provide for use of forest preserve lands for the construction of reservoirs to regulate the flow of streams. This is the result of the fight, now several years old, to prevent the construction of the Panther Mountain Dam on the south branch of the Moose River in Herkimer County. Two years ago the Legislature enacted a bill directing the Black River Regulating District to abandon the Panther Mountain project, and the law is now being tested in the courts.

The Constitution since 1913 has contained a provision permitting the flooding of 3% of the 2,500,000 acres of forest preserve for reservoirs regulating the flow of streams. The Hammond-Ostrander amendment would repeal this provision. It would make it impossible to undertake a stream control project in the forest preserve without amendment of the Constitution.

The Senate approved the measure by a vote of 49 to 5. The vote in the Assembly was 131 to 14. But we must not be too elated over this success. Before the amendment becomes a part of the Constitution it must be approved again by the Legislature which is to be elected this fall, and by the voters at the 1953 November election.

A bill which makes it unlawful to pollute the Hudson or Mohawk rivers by dumping or throwing oil, acid, sludge, cinders or ashes from vessels has been passed in both the Senate and Assembly.

The fate of the Wood Duck bill (Senate Int. 2767, Print 2956) — about which several conservation bulletins have been issued — is still uncertain at this writing. It provides that there shall be no open season on the Wood Duck or any specie of eider duck before 1955. It has passed in the Senate, thanks to the whole hearted support of Senator W. Stokes, Chairman of the Senate Conservation Committee. We are hopeful for its passage in the Assembly. The battle will be over by the time you read this. Perhaps the deciding factor will be the number of letters which you write to your legislators. If you have responded generously by pen, phone or wire to Bulletins 44 and 45 it should be a success. The letters we ask you to write are important: Stokes was for the bill. It took no urging to get him to introduce it. But even after it had successfully passed the Senate, he commented upon the number of letters he had received in its support. Incidentally, whether we win or lose, it would be fine if some readers would send him a thank you note for his support.

The bill for the regulation of timber cutting on private commercial lands (Senate Int. 2041, Print 2174) will die in committee, according to reports.

As a final note, no attempt has been made to take the Snowy Owl off the protected list. Let's hope that that battle has been won.

1952 CONVENTION NOTES

Chairman of the program committee for the fifth annual convention of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, at Schenectady May 24 and 25, is Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, New York State College for Teachers, Albany, N. Y. All those desiring to present papers or motion pictures at the Saturday afternoon meeting should communicate with her promptly, letting her know full title, length of presentation, type of projection equipment or other facilities required, and supplying an abstract of from 100 to 150 words. This should be done immediately to insure inclusion in the program. It has also been asked that those participating in the program supply the committee with full text by May 1 so that copies may be distributed after presentation. Both individual and club members are eligible for places on the program.

Speaker at the Saturday night dinner at the Edison Golf Club will be Morris Mandel Cohn. He is City Manager of Schenectady. Our speaker has a national reputation as engineering consultant, author and speaker in the field of sanitary engineering. He has a real message about *Clean Waters*, a subject of vital interest to all of us. The state's streams, lakes and shores need attention aplenty.

What'll you have? Marsh birds — Prairie Warbler — Upland Sandpiper — Pine Warbler — Pileated Woodpecker — King Rail — Traill's Flycatcher — Worm-eating Warbler — there's quite a selection of summering and late-migrating birds in this unique conglomeration of upper austral — transition — Canadian area. A wide variety of territories will be covered in the Saturday and Sunday morning field trips. The Saturday trips are for those not attending the business and committee meetings of the official delegates. The Early Birders, never-sleeping individuals within S B C, have volunteered for any amount of pre-dawn and post-dusk birding that any visitors may desire. But don't let that bunch scare you — there'll be plenty of trips starting well after sun-up, if that's what's wanted. Incidentally, no scopes will be set up for an all-night vigil with the moon — it's a new moon May 23.

Samuel R. Madison, 18 Oakwood Place, Delmar, N. Y., is local chairman for the convention; he's also the new Federation conservation committee chairman. He will be glad to see that your questions are answered, and to receive your suggestions concerning the convention program.

Clubs should let Schenectady know the names of delegates and alternates as soon as they are named. The host club — *Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.* — expects to find itself in a peculiar position. Indications are that neighboring *Sassafras Bird Club* of Amsterdam will break all attendance records at the convention, and will register a total in excess of Schenectady's own club. It's an older and larger club, and it thinks nothing of chartering a special bus to attend a meeting or program of the Schenectady club.

Complete details about the convention — routes, hotels and motels, program, trips — are available from S B C. It is none too soon to put it down on your calendar — May 24 and 25 at Schenectady, a MUST for all New York birders. We're expecting you.

Nelle G. Van Vorst, President
Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.
67 Snowden Avenue
Schenectady, N. Y.

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

With the announcement of the Membership Committee by President Eisenmann on page 3 of this issue of *The Kingbird*, we hope to increase the membership of the Federation over that of previous years.

We welcome to the Federation our newest member club, *The Naturalists of Binghamton*. Congratulations! You are the first new club to join in 1952.

Mrs. Frederick Marsi, 6 Euclid Avenue, Binghamton, New York, is the President. Mrs. H. R. Fisher, 304 Vestal Road, Vestal, New York, is Secretary and Mr. Robert P. Sheffield, 29 Arthur Street, Binghamton, New York, is their Treasurer.

The Naturalists' Club of the Triple Cities covers an area of the state not heretofore represented. The Membership Committee hopes to welcome to the Federation, within a short period of time, clubs from other areas also not now represented.

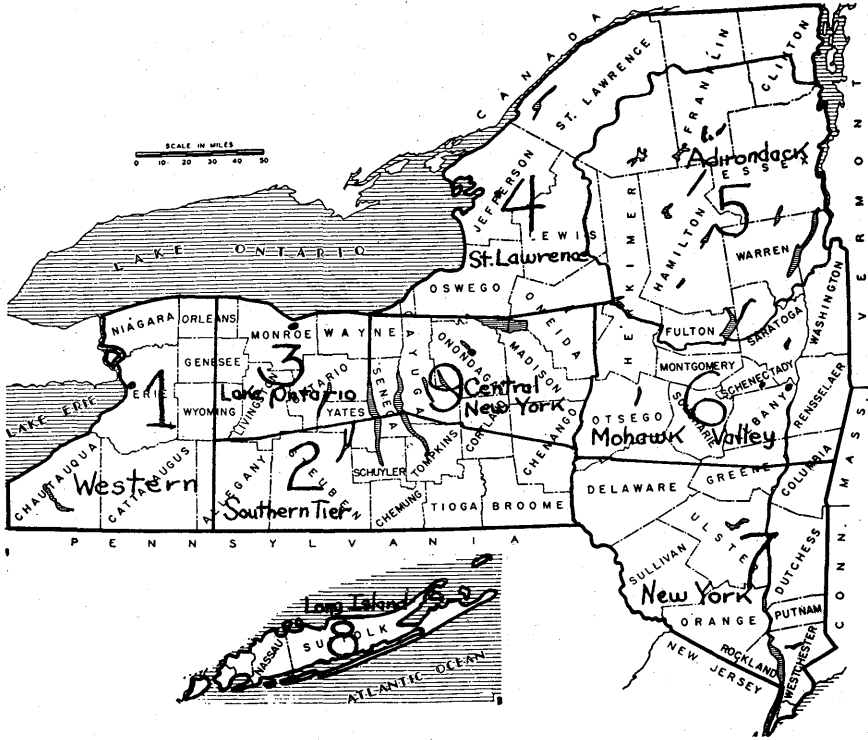
Membership applications, either for individual or clubs, may be secured from members of the Committee or the Chairman.

Audrey Louise Wrede
Membership Chairman
3109 Beverly Road
Brooklyn 26, N. Y.

CONTENTS NOTED

The *Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York*, Nos. 58-62 appeared in December. There is a 35 page lead article "Territorial Behavior in the Eastern Robin" by Howard Young. Other articles deal with food habits of owls, a year's migration of shorebirds on Long Island, bird-watching in a Manhattan back-yard, and the northward movement of certain birds in the Lower Hudson Valley. There are also a number of short notes. We observe that one of these cites *The Kingbird* to show that a 'wave' occurred in Buffalo when a heavy flight was noted on Long Island.

The Smithsonian Institution has just published a pamphlet by our president, "Annotated List of Birds of Barro Colorado Island, Panama Canal Zone" *Smith, Misc. Coll. vol. 117, no. 5*. Students are welcome at this biological station, from which, in an area of only 5.6 square miles, 306 bird species have been recorded, about 200 of them believed to be breeders. The paper contains information on status, voice and breeding dates of many neotropical birds. There are also previously unpublished migration dates in Panama of a number of North American birds.



FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE
BIRD CLUBS

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Miss Audrey L. Wrede
3109 Beverly Rd.
Brooklyn 26, New York

REGIONAL REPORTS FOR WINTER MIGRATION IN NEW YORK STATE

REGION 1 – WESTERN NEW YORK

Winter started out early and with a vengeance in this region. During the first week of November, we experienced a record breaking cold wave, sleet and heavy snow. The first snows, 12"-18" arrived north of Buffalo between November 2nd and 4th. However, up to 28" fell south of Buffalo on the 4th and 5th. The temperature dropped to 12° above on the 6th and 7th. December, the weather reversed itself, with the month's average temperature above normal. January continued the pace set the previous month, and practically duplicated the temperatures of a year ago. February and the first half of March were seasonable.

LOONS – DUCKS:

Holboell's Grebe – November and December records from Niagara River and Lake Ontario. Great Blue Heron was observed the first week in January (1-5th) between Grand Island and Niagara Falls. Whistling Swan seen on Chautauqua Lake until December 8th (Bursewicz, Jurkowski). Blue Goose, November 3rd – 1, Buckhorn Island, (Schaffner). Gadwall, November 18th – 1, Niagara Falls (Hall). Pintail – 5 were found on January 11th at Goat Island (Mitchell). Wood Duck – January 12th – 2, Frewsburg (Anderson, Roger Sundell).

Harlequin Duck, first observed on November 18th by Alice Ulrich and others at Niagara Falls. Has been observed since by many people. Scoters, all three species, observed throughout the winter, mainly on Niagara River.

HAWK – OWLS:

Turkey Vulture, one picked up dead in Buffalo's Forest Park on December 8th (Schaffner, Nathan). Rough-legged Hawk hit a low during the winter season. Bald Eagle, one early in January around Navy Island. During February, interest was shown in the nest on Navy Island. Virginia Rail, November 3rd, one late record at Burntship (Schaffner). Coot, a maximum of 1,000 on Chautauqua Lake till November 11th (Bursewicz). Black-bellied Plover, November 1st, late, Beaver Island Park, Grand Island (McCanns). Wilson's Snipe, January 5th, one at Frewsburg (Roger Sundell).

Red Phalarope, November 25th, one, Fort Niagara on a *Buffalo Ornithological Society* trip led by Wendling. White-winged gulls were here in sufficient numbers to guarantee daily observation. As many as eight Glaucous Gulls were observed by Mitchell, Nathan, and Schaffner on the Buffalo Waterfront on January 5th. It was possible to see an Iceland Gull from November 3rd on, at various points between the south of Buffalo city line and Niagara Falls. Bonaparte's Gulls were missing most of the winter, unusual for this region. One was seen on January 20th at Dunkirk Harbor by Bursewicz. On November 29th a Black-legged Kittiwake was spotted by Schaffner, Hall and Nathan from Buffalo's Bird Island Pier. A late Common Tern was found on Squaw Island (Buffalo) by Nathan & Schaffner on November 18th. Wintering Mourning Dove, one, near Avon, by Schaff-

ner, January 7th. One Snowy Owl lingered from December 1st to January 5th, on Buffalo's southern border, along Tift St.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

Contrary to usual procedure Kingfisher's did not winter in the territory. Wintering Red-headed Woodpeckers and Flickers were reported with a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker being observed on December 5th at Lackawanna (Brockner). Prairie horned Larks seemed to be down in numbers, none being found in November and December. Twenty were found at Frewsburg on January 4th (Folker). Brown-capped Chickadees hit a new high here. On November 24th, two were found in nearby Canada by Andrie and Gamble. The latter half of December one was under observation at Jamestown (Jurkowski, Bursewicz, R. Sundell et al). Orchard Park, Derby, Dunkirk also had records. Larkin reported Tufted Titmouse from Derby on Lake Erie Shore from November 5th-7th. Quite a number of Red-breasted Nuthatches wintered. Brown Creepers were missed during most of the winter. Carolina Wrens are increasing. Robins definitely were not here in the numbers they were last year. Kinglets were also on the scarce list, one Ruby-crowned being found in Buffalo's Humboldt Park on November 9th (Hall, Mitchell). Two Pipits were late at Jamestown on November 11th (Bursewicz, Jurkowski). One Cedar Waxwing at Frewsburg, December 18th (R. Sundell) and again on January 26th by Folker. One Gray Shrike was found on January 12th on Grand Island (Thorpe, Pratt).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

An Eastern Meadowlark, January 12th, was found near E. Aurora (Mitchell, et al). Scattered Red-winged Blackbirds were reported in December and January. One Grackle was reported by R. Sundell on December 18th at Frewsburg. A few isolated records of Cowbirds. From October 11th on, it was possible to see Evening Grosbeaks (100 — November 25th, Niagara Frontier — Wendling et al) in good numbers at Hamburg, East Aurora, Niagara Falls, Batavia, Jamestown and Wellsville to name points of concentration. Old timers can't recall when Pine Grosbeaks were more in evidence. On November 4th, one was reported in Kenmore (North of Buffalo) by Beardslee. A Hoary Redpoll was reported at Braddock's Bay (Region 3) on January 27th (Braunberns et al). 80 Common Redpolls were seen on the same trip. A few Pine Siskins were found during the winter. Oddly enough, Goldfinches and Crossbills were not to be found. Two E. Towhees were seen on the Christmas Census on December 30th. The first Harris's Sparrow for the region was observed at Hamburg November 9-11 (Avery). A White-crowned Sparrow lingered at the same feeding station throughout January and February. Song Sparrows were scarce with no Lapland Longspurs. Snow Buntings reached their maximum on January 12, 500 at Holland (Creighton, Griffiths).

Winston Wm. Brockner
63 Ardmore Pl.
Buffalo 13, N. Y.

REGION 2 – SOUTHERN TIER – (PART 1)

(Including some records from adjacent regions)

Our first snowfall of any consequence came early this year (November 1), but the winter as a whole was relatively mild and open. There were few long periods of snow, and none of the freezing rains like those of last winter. Temperatures, too, reached no extremes. Warm weather in February gave hopes of an early spring, but these hopes were premature, and the first migrants have been arriving about on schedule. All correspondents mention low numbers of many small land birds this winter.

LOONS – DUCKS:

Pied-billed Grebe – Wintered in greater numbers than usual. 14 counted on February 10 Finger Lakes waterfowl census.

Whistling Swan – Rare on small bodies of water in this region. Two crippled birds reported from Dryden Lake October 30 were captured and released in the waterfowl pond at Stewart Park, Ithaca. They survived less than a month.

Ducks – The 2nd annual Finger Lakes waterfowl census, covering the 6 major lakes from Canandaigua to Skaneateles, was held February 10. A total of 11,027 Anatidae were recorded, an increase of 675 over 1951. Species seen in 1952 but not 1951 included Whistling Swan (Keuka Lake; cripple?), Gadwall (2, Keuka), Pintail (1, Seneca; 3, Skaneateles), Lesser Scaup (4, Keuka) and Ruddy Duck (1, Keuka).

HAWKS – OWLS:

Rough-legged Hawk – A notable concentration of 9 individuals at the Seneca Ordnance Depot February 10 (Census group).

Osprey – First winter record for this area; one seen February 8 at southwest corner of Cayuga Lake (W. Dilger, L. Spiegel).

Coot – As mentioned in October report, Coot production at Montezuma last summer was low. This is reflected in low Finger Lakes winter population; 63 seen on February 10 census, 500 last year.

Long-eared Owl – There were two roosts of at least 7 birds each reported; one near Horseheads (Mrs. Welles) *See Spiker Report—Part 2* and one near Jacksonville (Mrs. Graham).

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Brown-capped Chickadee – Although many were reported elsewhere in the state, I have heard of but 2 from this region. One was seen at Brooktondale on January 27 (W. J. Hamilton III, R. Rosche). Another was mentioned in a letter from Mr. Rising as having been reported “by a beginner” in the Triple Cities area late in February.

Tufted Titmouse – Definitely increasing in the Ithaca area. Since this species was reported from Stewart Park all through the summer, the 4 seen at a feeding tray February 24, said to have been present there most of the winter (R. Rosche), may possibly represent a family group. Special atten-

tion will be given to this species this spring to establish definite breeding record if possible.

Carolina Wren — One at a feeding tray in Trumansburg, one in Ithaca. An irregular permanent resident here.

Mockingbird — The bird mentioned in the last report as having been seen on September 17 just northeast of Ithaca was seen several more times, the last known observation having been in mid-December (R. Eadie).

VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Ovenbird — First winter record. Found alive on a fraternity house porch in Ithaca on December 19, thriving at date of writing (March 12) at home of P. P. Kellogg.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Rusty Blackbird — Two males were present in Mrs. Hoyt's yard in Etna from January 19 to February 27. This is apparently the second winter record from the Cayuga Lake basin.

Evening Grosbeak — In plentiful numbers everywhere, sometimes associating with Pine Grosbeaks.

Pine Grosbeak — The most notable feature of this winter has been the major invasion of Pine Grosbeaks, which have been with us since mid-November. No flight of this magnitude has occurred in this region for many years. Almost all specimens examined have been of the small north-eastern subspecies, *Pinicola enucleator eschatosus*. One female from Oneonta is referable to the larger *leucura*.

Snow Bunting — A number of flocks of several hundred reported.

Other Fringillidae have been low in numbers. Very few reports of Purple Finch, Redpoll, Crossbill and Longspur. Juncos, Tree Sparrows and especially Song Sparrows seen in lesser numbers than usual.

Kenneth C. Parkes
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER — (PART 2)

The winter in the Southern Tier has been reasonably "snug", with periods of cold and snow that were longer than usual without mild breaks. The thermometer has hit zero and slightly below on a few occasions, and the ground has been white most of the time since before Thanksgiving, with snowfalls of from three to six inches. This correspondent has had more response from points in the area than ever before, having in addition to the *Keuka Park Conservation Club* and *Chemung Valley Audubon Club*, heard from the *Watkins-Montour Bird Club*, and has received items of interest from Mrs. Walter McMurtry at Wellsville, and Mrs. G. J. Carter at Avoca.

Midwinter census were taken between December 29 and January 1st. The Keuka Park group listed 43 species, Chemung Valley 37, Watkins-Montour 20, and Mrs. McMurtry at Wellsville 9. Total number of species listed by all was 55, with 9045 individuals.

LOONS – DUCKS:

Loons were definitely scarce on Keuka and Seneca Lakes this winter, being seen at rare intervals, while in normal years they may be seen frequently from any highway that borders the lakes. Ducks were low in numbers on Keuka, although there were a number of large rafts of Redheads on Seneca. Two Old-squaws were at the Penn Yan end of Keuka Lake until that branch froze over, and there was a lone individual at the head of the lake at Hammondsport through the first half of the winter. Golden-eyes were much later arriving in the fall than usual, not appearing generally until December, and then in scattered small flocks. Red-breasted Mergansers have remained all winter, which is a little unusual; Hooded Mergansers were here until January, reappearing after the first of March. A pair of Whistling Swans came to the head of the lake at Hammondsport in middle October, and the two were there together until March 4, since which time one has been there alone. The other is said to have been shot, as the body was found floating on the water. Some observers have indicated that one of them might have been a Mute Swan, but I was never able to differentiate between the two birds, as each had the black bill and straight neck. A lone Canada Goose appeared at Branchport the last week in February, but the first noticeable migration came on March 11, when flocks were passing north continuously all day. A flock of 25 at Alpine on March 7.

HAWKS – OWLS:

Hawks have not been especially noticeable about Keuka Lake, but a number of species have been reported from farther away. On January 11 a group from the Chemung Valley club saw 11 hawks in a half hour, including Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tail, Rough-legged, Pigeon and Sparrow Hawks. Mrs. McMurtry reports a Marsh Hawk on December 28 at Wellsville, while Mrs. Carter at Avoca identified two Goshawks on March 4.

Groups from the Keuka Park club during February visited an area east of Seneca Lake and north of Sampson where there was a concentration of Long-eared and Short-eared Owls and one Barn Owl. An Osprey was recorded at Elmira on March 2, by A. L. Fudge.

On February 13 Mrs. Welles visited a swamp north of Horseheads where 7 Long-eared Owls had been seen; she found four live owls and one dead one nearby, also some empty shot-gun shells; by the end of that week there were 2 owls. The Chemung Valley club has had eleven Mourning Doves wintering, and a Mockingbird has spent the winter at the feeding station of Paul Graham in Corning. A Red-bellied Woodpecker came to the feeding station of Mrs. R. W. Watson in Montour Falls between December 31 and March 5.

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

A lone Red-wing was at the cat-tail marsh at Hammondsport through January, and a flock of 25 wintered at Watkins Glen. Redwing migration began the second week in March, first flocks appearing at Hammondsport and at Elmira on the 11th. Both the Elmira group and Mrs. McMurtry at Wellsville report wintering Cowbirds, while 8 Grackles visited the feeding

station of Mrs. L. J. Beardsley at Watkins Glen on stormy days. Pine Grosbeaks were reported on the midwinter census at Elmira, and were also seen near Wellsville. This has very definitely been an Evening Grosbeak winter. They have been common in Hammondsport since November, being there yet on March 10; flocks in some numbers have also wintered at Watkins Glen, Elmira, Odessa, Rock Stream and Andover, at the latter place 35 having been banded by Mr. Huber Watson. A few banded grosbeaks came to feeding stations in Wellsville, but were not captured. Cardinals began singing in Hammondsport on February 11, and these birds continue to increase numerically all through the area. A few Redpolls were present in late fall, but none during the winter. I heard first Song Sparrow in song on February 13. Snow Buntings in large flocks have been quite general over the area, some flocks numbering above a thousand individuals, many of them with a scattering of Lapland Longspurs included.

Chas. J. Spiker
Branchport, N. Y.

REGION 3 — LAKE ONTARIO

This has been a normal winter in almost every respect. There have been no really severe storms and the accumulation of snow on the ground has not been great at any time. Yet there has been some snow at almost all times and we have had no extensive periods of thawing weather. Precipitation has been average and there has been little open water on any except the largest bodies of water.

Bird life in this area has shown a similar consistent pattern. The number of half-hardy species wintering is much less than last year. The normal population shifts of late winter have perhaps been less marked than usual, especially among waterfowl. There is no indication to date (March 9th) of how the Spring migration will develop, except in the case of Geese mentioned below.

LOONS — DUCKS:

Loons and Grebes rare all winter. One Great Blue Heron on Feb. 20th (Listman), Canada Geese absent since early January but at this writing, early March, several hundred have been seen over Rochester.

Two Wood Ducks at Ling Road in early January, one last reported Feb. 4 (Miller). Normal wintering ducks present in usual numbers.

HAWKS — OWLS:

Red tailed and Marsh Hawks increasing by mid-February. A few Rough-legged Hawks scattered through the winter. Two Bald Eagles moving west along the Lakeshore on February 15 (Luebner and Moon).

Probable Kumliens Gull at Summerville Feb. 10 (Moon) Gr. Black-backed Gulls plentiful; White winged Gulls rather scarce; Bonaparte's not reported after late December. Owls well represented, except Snowy's. Three Banded Owls at Bergen Swamp, Feb. 24 (G. O. S. Hike). At least 8 Short-eared Owls at Manitou for several weeks in late winter — still present at this writing (Migrants?).

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Red-headed Woodpeckers apparently did not winter at Scottsville. Several reports of Pileated Woodpecker about Mar. 1st. One Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on Mar. 2nd may have wintered (Davis). Several Brown-capped Chickadees in late Fall but none since. A group of Long-billed Marsh Wrens has been wintering at Buck Pond (Barry).

THRUSHES – WARBLERS:

One Catbird at Durand in late December (T. McNett). One Hermit Thrush same place Feb. 27 (Miller). Robins almost entirely absent in contrast to last winter. Only one report of Northern Shrike (Tanghe). A Nashville Warbler was seen at Buck Pond on Dec. 9 (Barry).

BLACKBIRDS – FINCHES:

Several Redwings, two Rusty Blackbirds and two Cowbirds known to have wintered. Pine Grosbeak present all winter in large numbers. At least two separate flocks, up to 60 birds in each. Evening Grosbeak also widespread until about Jan. 1 – rare since. Redpolls, Siskins and Goldfinches present but not common. Six White-winged Crossbills at Highland Park, Jan. 19 (Secker), only report. A Savannah Sparrow on the Christmas census, Dec. 30, was noteworthy (Dolan R.E.) A few Longspurs have been noted in large flocks of Snow Buntings and Horned Larks passing through in recent weeks.

Richard T. O'Hara
100 Fernwood Park
Rochester, N. Y.

REGION 4 – ST. LAWRENCE

Winter began early, with snow and cold weather in November. December brought more snow and cold. January and February were less severe. January thaws reduced the snow cover and there were no heavy snowstorms during the latter part of winter.

LOONS – DUCKS:

An immature Bufflehead was seen on Nov. 30 in the Black River above Carthage, a late date for this species.

HAWKS – OWLS:

Rough-legged Hawk near Lowville Nov. 17 (Bowen).

Marsh Hawk near Dexter Nov. 29 (late).

Killdeer near Watertown Nov. 5 with ground snow covered (late).

Snowy Owl, only report, one seen near Edwards in November.

Glaucous Gull, immature, seen near Watertown Dec. 10.

Great Black-backed Gull, showed a marked increase as a wintering bird in the Watertown area.

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Prairie horned Lark on Nov. 5 with the ground snow covered. There were literally hundreds of this species along the highway between Watertown and Philadelphia, N. Y., evidently migrating. Horned larks returned on Feb. 15 and have been seen regularly since.

Brown-capped Chickadee. One seen near Potsdam Feb. 24 (Mr. and Mrs. Allison).

BLACKBIRD — SPARROWS:

Cardinal reported from Pierrepont Manor Oct. 27 (Mrs. McConnell).

White-throated Sparrow. An individual of this species, evidently with a wing injury wintered at a feeding station near Potsdam (Miss Blake).

Pine Grosbeak reported from numerous localities — best winter flight in several years.

Evening Grosbeak was generally reported, arriving early and in large numbers, later diminishing.

John B. Belknap
92 Clinton St.
Gouverneur, N. Y.

REGION 5 — ADIRONDACK

The winter season — the months of December, January, February and March — has been the fourth mild one in a row in the Adirondacks. After a colder than average November, December was almost the same as last year in average maximum and minimum; January was a few degrees colder than '50 or '51; February was a few degrees warmer than the previous two years, and March is going to prove considerably milder than the past two. The lowest temperature all winter has been -20° as compared with -34 and -33 in '50 and '51. Snowfall, on the other hand, has been more consistent and greater in total fall with fewer thaw-offs than in the past two years.

LOONS — SHRIKES:

American Merganser — Have not appeared in the Saranac River as usual in latter half of the winter period. Snowy Owl — One or two reports near Saranac Lake in late February. Long-eared Owl — A single bird near Lake Placid in early February, by Greenleaf Chase in Conservation Department pine planting. Uncommon bird in this region, I believe. Saw-whet Owl — Single bird found dead in Saranac Lake Village on day of Christmas Census, December 30th. An adequate explanation of why these birds are so often found dead in an emaciated condition in winter in the northeast would be welcome. Horned Lark — A single bird on December 30th at Saranac Lake was the Prairie. Migrants first appeared about February 25th in the central Adirondacks. Raven — A single bird seen by Greenleaf Chase at Sable Mountain near the Loon Lake fire tower in early April. Black-capped Chickadees — My impression is that this has been an "off" year for this species. Brown-capped Chickadee — There have been reports at three feeding stations in Saranac Lake of this species this winter. The first time this has happened in the five years I have been in Saranac Lake. This may tie in with reports of these birds elsewhere in more southern parts of New York this past winter. Gray Shrike — Only one bird reported this winter, December 30th, at Bloomingdale, Essex County.

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

Meadowlark – A flock of 13 outside Saranac Lake first week of December when there was 3 to 4 inches of snow on the ground. Another bird reported well into winter at Tupper Lake. First spring bird at Saranac Lake on February 29th; it is just possible this may have been a wintering bird from the group seen in early December. Cowbird – Failed to winter at Saranac Lake for first time in four years. Evening Grosbeak – Came early this fall, built up good numbers but after November the number fell off markedly. A small number remained through the winter. Purple Finch – Absent this winter. Pine Grosbeak – Fair numbers all winter into March; first time in five years that they have been here in any numbers. Redpoll – Small flocks this winter. Goldfinch – None this winter. Crossbills – None this winter. Lapland Longspur – My first report of this bird from central Adirondacks on December 30th, near Saranac Lake.

This winter has been rather unnoteworthy ornithologically – there has been a dearth of finches except for Pine Grosbeaks which have been present in more than usual numbers.

Gordon M. Meade, M.D.
Trudeau, N. Y.

REGION 6 – MOHAWK VALLEY

Excessive precipitation continued through October, November, and December, making 1951 the wettest year in over 70 years. Temperature has ranged somewhat higher than usual (except November), and the winter remained generally open until the arrival of repeated snows in February.

LOONS – DUCKS:

Double-crested Cormorant at Saratoga Lake November 4 (Stone). Great blue Heron. January 27 at Clums Corners (Wiard). Latest local dates for American Bittern, October 31, and Least Bittern, October 12. Two records of Mute Swan, unusual in winter: December 2 at Saratoga Lake (Wiard), and January 11 in Schenectady (Van Vorst). There has been a striking decrease for the last few years in the numbers of the commoner wintering ducks (Black, American Golden-eye, American Merganser) reported along the upper Hudson in the annual late December Christmas Count. Three unusual records were obtained at Saratoga Lake on November 4: 50 Red-heads, 11 Canvasback and 10 Ruddy Ducks (Stone, McDonald). A Hooded Merganser on the Hudson December 22 was noteworthy.

HAWKS – OWLS:

Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed January 10 and 16 at Loudonville (French). Three reports of Cooper's Hawk in last week of December, and one February 28 (Yunick). A flock of 8 Red-shouldered Hawks was seen at Indian Ladder February 3 (Wiard), and a rare adult Bald Eagle at Tomhannock reservoir December 22. Several Mourning Doves seen at various

locations during December; 16 birds wintered at Delmar Game Farm (Fordham).

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Five late Chimney Swifts, Loudonville October 6 (French). An adult Red-headed Woodpecker was seen in Schenectady November 7. Six very late Eastern Kingbirds seen October 14 between Rennsalaer and Stockport (Fordham). Few Winter Wrens wintered. Gray-cheeked Thrush October 1 at Schenectady and October 5 at Loudonville. A Gray Shrike was reported on Christmas Count at Scotia December 30.

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

Five Cowbirds on January 5 and a Purple Grackle seen on January 6. A female Cardinal was reported at Schenectady December 2 and at Loudonville January 1 through 10.

Evening Grosbeak – Large flocks ranging from 100 to 150 have visited the feeding stations in Amsterdam since the middle of January, males predominating. At "Bird Haven," Amsterdam, from March 5 to 6 the flocks numbered between 200 and 300 daily, 100 Grosbeaks being banded in four days. Mrs. Fitzgerald's banding record as of March 12 was 910 Grosbeaks. The earliest local record of Pine Grosbeaks, 3 at Delmar October 31, many scattered subsequent reports through February 24. A few flocks of 50 to 125 Redpolls were observed during February, and 11 Pine Siskins in a flock Feb. 23. A Vesper Sparrow was seen near Voorheesville Feb. 24. Ten White-Crowned Sparrows were banded at Delmar October 12 to 14 (Fordham). There were four December reports of White-throated Sparrow, and two December reports of Swamp Sparrow.

Lapland Longspur – Six November 6 with Horned Larks and Snow Buntings. A flock of 40 to 50 Snow Buntings were reported near Saratoga Lake on February 24.

Mrs. I. A. Rosa
8 Grieme Avenue
Amsterdam, N. Y.

and
Mr. Fraser R. Turrentine
110 Union Avenue
Schenectady, N. Y.

REGION 7 – NEW YORK – (PART 1 – ROCKLAND COUNTY)

It was a weird winter in the lower Hudson Valley. November and early December were ominously cold and snowy; Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine and Evening Grosbeaks moved in from the north in numbers unmatched in the past 25 years during November. Then the winter suddenly turned soft; Grosbeaks tended to thin out even before Christmas. Birding in January and February was notably poor.

Snowfall for the winter as a whole was less than half of normal, even with early March making a valiant effort to restore a balance. As a whole, too, the winter was not unusually cold or windy.

LOONS – DUCKS:

Ducks were present in disappointing numbers in early winter, then reached unusual abundance in late February. *Rockland Audubon Society* field trip Feb. 24 noted 2300 Am. Mergansers on the Hudson between Tomkins Cove and Haverstraw. Ring-necked Ducks showed an increase over previous years, with 70 on Congers Lake on Mar. 8, the biggest single flock yet recorded here. Am. Golden-eyes remained rather scarcer than in winters a dozen years ago; Canvasbacks and Ruddy Ducks were down from recent winters. Blacks were abundant, though, and 4 to 6 Baldpates were at Congers Lake through February and early March. A male Lesser Scaup, with a female, was identified at close range through a 20X telescope by Mr. and Mrs. John C. Orth at Lake Tiorati, Palisades Interstate Park, on Dec. 2, but Scaup Ducks were scarce all winter. A Mute Swan spent the winter at Rockland Lake; only one or two are recorded each winter. Least Bittern at Iona Island marsh, Feb. 3 (Orth) to Mar. 3 (Joseph Ossman).

HAWKS – OWLS:

A rather early Turkey Vulture near West Nyack on Feb. 24 (Herman Kretschmar, Deed). 150 Red-tailed Hawks at Bear Mountain (Komorowski) on Nov. 6. Several Rough-legged Hawk records, ranging from Nov. 9 (John Bull) to Feb. 10 (Mr. and Mrs. Orth), both at Bear Mountain. Bald Eagles normal in number. Ruffed Grouse apparently increasing and extending their range southward from the Palisades Interstate Park. Great Black-backed Gulls much increased over former years. One Snowy Owl near Tuxedo, Nov. 10, reported (Mrs. J. Y. Dater).

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Many wintering Sapsuckers. Red-breasted Nuthatches consistently numerous well into March. Brown Creepers commoner than usual. Carolina Wren is moving northward from the Palisades; one singing at Haverstraw Feb. 24. Mockingbird passed the winter in Upper Nyack. One wintering Brown Thrasher at Nanuet (Mrs. Walter Bollman). Hermit Thrush at Tappan (Henry H. Haire). Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Bear Mountain Dec. 3 (Orth) and at Stony Point Jan. 12 (Deed). Flock of 50 Prairie horned Larks near New City on Feb. 23 (Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steffens) and smaller numbers on subsequent days.

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

A red-letter find was a Dickcissel wintering at Palisades (Miss Jennie Fox). The first flock of 23 Evening Grosbeaks came on Nov. 4 at Valley Cottage (Mrs. Jamie H. King); smaller flocks were seen in the following three weeks, then no more. Pine Grosbeaks appeared on Nov. 9, near West Nyack (Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper) and on the summit of Bear Mountain (John Bull). John C. Orth, Park Naturalist of the Palisades Interstate Park, compiled records of 42 Pine Grosbeaks in the park through Decem-

ber, then none except a flock of 20 on Mar. 8. In late November and early December, Pine Grosbeaks were almost abundant* in the rest of Rockland County; after that, they were irregular. No Redpolls. Several wintering Towhees.

A phenomenon of the winter was the strange scarcity of Juncos and Tree Sparrows; observers could often be afield for four or five hours without seeing a single bird of either species. On the other hand, White-throated Sparrows were far above normal numbers. A late Fox Sparrow was watched in West Nyack to Dec. 11 (Mr. and Mrs. William G. Irving).

Robert F. Deed
50 Clinton Ave.
Nyack, N. Y.

REGION 7 – NEW YORK
(PART 2 – NEW YORK, BRONX, WESTCHESTER and
RICHMOND COUNTIES)

The winter was abnormally mild with very little snow. Consequently a number of birds that regularly move farther south wintered here and the variety of species reported on the various Christmas counts was greater than usual (103 on the Bronx-Westchester count of Dec. 23). In late October and in November groups of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks began to appear. Scattered reports of Crossbills and Redpolls in our area or nearby, as well as good numbers of Siskins, all gave promise of a flight year for winter Finches; but possibly because of the generally mild weather the flight rapidly petered out, though individuals or small groups have been noted sporadically throughout the winter, especially in northern Westchester. Brown-capped Chickadees (which are reported here at intervals of from ten to twenty years) were recorded for the first time since 1941.

LOONS – DUCKS:

Common and Red-throated Loons and Horned Grebes wintered in usual numbers off the Bronx and Westchester shores of Long Island Sound. One of these Grebes in Van Cortlandt Park on Jan. 5 (Kieran). A few Pied-billed Grebes could be found in the ponds and lakes that remained open. European Cormorants (about 25) wintered, as they have for a number of years, around Rye and Mamaroneck. About 25 Great Blue Herons were present at Playland Lake, Rye, on December 23, and in somewhat reduced numbers through the winter. A Green Heron in Central Park Nov. 5 was very late (Mrs. Messing). An American Bittern, Bronx Park, Dec. 23 (Ephraim) also reflects the mild weather. A Gadwall was observed at Daverport Neck, Dec. 23 (Bull and Darrow). Twenty-three Wood Ducks at Van Cortlandt Park, Oct. 28 (Kieran) were a very good count nowadays in this area. Between 8,000-10,000 Greater Scaup and about 1,000 Canvasback wintered around Pelham Bay and Ferry Point Parks at the west end of Long Island Sound (Norse and Cantor). A Redhead at Pelham Bay

Park Jan. 25 (Kane, Buckley). As usual, there could be found in Pelham Bay Park 20 - 60 Buffle-head, and a few Old-Squaw, Surf and White-winged Scoters on the more open water nearby, and off Rye (Herbert). Hooded and American Mergansers wintered at Playland Lake; Red-breasted Mergansers were common in the Sound.

HAWKS - OWLS:

A number of Red-tails and Rough-legs wintered in the Pelham Bay-Whitestone Bridge area. A Bald Eagle flying over Van Cortlandt Park, Dec. 23 (Solomon, Komorowski); 3 - 6 regularly seen at Croton Point during February. The usual small numbers of wintering Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Marsh Hawks. Peregrine Falcons held their customary urban posts. At least four Clapper Rails wintered in the Pelham Bay area, and possibly as many as three Virginia Rails, two Soras and a Coot in the small marsh at Van Cortlandt Park. Among shorebirds, in addition to the Killdeer and Purple Sandpipers regularly wintering at Rye, were a Woodcock, Baxter Creek Dec. 23 (Norse, Cantor), a Wilson's Snipe, Elmsford Dec. 9 (Ryan), and Greater Yellowlegs at Pelham Dec. 23 (Ephraim). Iceland Gull at Hillview Reservoir, Dec. 23 (Komorowski, Russak, Solomon); Glaucous Gull at same place Jan. 13 (Komorowski), and at Central Park Reservoir Jan. 31 (Mrs. Messing). Two Black-headed Gulls in New York Harbor, Dec. 23, recorded the past few winters (Ryan); five Laughing Gulls at Rye Dec. 23; 35 Bonaparte's Gulls at Baxter Creek December 23. A dead oiled Dovekie at New Rochelle, Dec. 20 (Darrow). A few Barn, Barred, and Long-eared Owls wintered in the conifer groves at Croton Point, Bronx, and Pelham Bay Parks.

SWIFTS - SHRIKES:

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ardsley Swamp; Dec. 23 (Thomas) was very unusual. Horned Larks, about 300 at Van Cortlandt Park Nov. 6; 250 at Crooks' Point, Staten Island Nov. 11, where they winter and breed.

Two Brown-capped Chickadees at Grassy Sprain, Dec. 23 (Bull), were the first reported in ten years.

A singing Carolina Wren at Van Cortlandt Park Nov. 4 (Kane, Buckley); two Winter Wrens at New Rochelle Dec. 23, and a Short-billed Marsh Wren at Pelham Bay Park, Dec. 23 (Ephraim).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were extraordinarily numerous on migration, in Bronx Park 32 were counted on Sept. 26, and 24 on Oct. 20 (Young); a larger number than usual wintered, being well scattered over the area. Catbird at Manursing Island Dec. 23, and Hermit Thrush wintering in Central Park. A Migrant Shrike at Van Cortlandt Park till late November, and one at Iona College Campus, New Rochelle Jan. 3 (Ryan).

The winter Starling roost under the viaduct at 125th Street was estimated to total 82,000 on Dec. 29 (Ryan). The massed flights of birds approaching the roost from all quarters of the compass a half hour before sunset is spectacular.

VIREOS – WARBLERS:

Very late warblers: Pine, two, Bronx Park, Dec. 23 (Kane, Buckley); Black-poll, Rye, Nov. 4 (Ryan); Wilson's, Bronx Park, Oct. 29 (Komorowski); Yellow-throat, Croton Point, Nov. 25 (Ryan, Harrison, Boyajian).

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

A few Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds, Grackles and Cowbirds are always found in the Starling roost; some birds of these species were also noted during the winter at Hillview Reservoir, Bronx and Pelham Bay Parks.

Twelve Evening Grosbeaks in Central Park Oct. 21 (Maumary), 30 at Rye Nov. 4 (Ryan), and 9 at Bronx Park Nov. 5 (Young); the birds soon disappeared from the vicinity of the City, being last reported on Dec. 17 from Bronx Park Solomon), but small flocks have been occasionally seen throughout the winter in northern Westchester. Five Pine Grosbeaks (a rare bird here) noted at Hartsdale Nov. 20 (Oppenheim), 2 at Croton Point Dec. 22 (Ryan, Fischer et al.) and a few through January and February in the Bedford area (Grierson). Other northern finches: Common Redpoll 1, New Rochelle Nov. 21 (Ryan); Pine Siskin, small flocks wintered; Red Crossbill, 1, New Rochelle, Jan. 8 (Ryan); Lapland Longspur, 2-4, Crook's Point, Staten Island Nov. 11 (Ryan), and March 2 (Dawn, Eisenmann); Snow Bunting, Van Cortlandt Park, Dec. 3 and 17 (Kane, Kieran), Crook's Point, March 2 (Dawn, Eisenmann). Other unusual finch records: Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Baxter Creek, Dec. 23 (Norse, Kantor); House Finch, Yorktown Heights, Nov. 10, 11 (Pearl); this bird seems to be wandering from its Long Island breeding area.

George Komorowski
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Bronx 58, N. Y.

REGION 8 – LONG ISLAND

The winter season was characterized by mild weather, few cold periods and very little snow, none lingering. The open winter led to an abundance of Anatinae ducks, Mourning Doves and Towhees. Winter finches occurred rather regularly early in the season but diminished in numbers by mid-winter. Rare or wanting were most species of hawks, white-winged gulls and Lapland Longspur.

LOONS – DUCKS:

Maximum Loon and Grebe count (rather scarce elsewhere) Montauk, February 17, 48 Common and 32 Red-throated Loons, also 40 Horned Grebes. Holboell's Grebe less common than usual; no Eared Grebes reported. Great Blue Heron common; maximum, Lawrence, flock of 21 on February 12. American Bittern wintered in several locations. Usual large flock of Canada Geese at Mecox in mid-winter and some 1,200 American Brant on western bays of south shore.

Among the great numbers of Baldpate and Pintail wintering at Jones Beach in February were a maximum of 50 Gadwall and 32 Shoveller. A European Teal, same location, February 9 was the only winter record of this

bird. There were several large flocks of Canvas-backs from widespread locations. Some 200 Redheads and 50 Ring-necked Ducks were reported at Water Mill, February 17. Harlequin Duck and American Eider were present at Montauk mid-February; no reports came in of King Eider.

HAWKS – OWLS:

The Rough-legged was practically unrecorded until February; other Buteos scarce as was Duck Hawk; Bald Eagle at Water Mill, February 17 and Gyrfalcon at Lawrence, February 11. Among the lingering shore birds were a Semipalmated Plover, Jamaica Bay, January 29; early January Black-bellied Plover, Orient, Short Beach. Purple Sandpiper numerous on breakwaters. There were one or two wintering flocks of Red-backed Sandpipers. Iceland and Glaucous Gulls were scarce; a Kittiwake was irregularly seen at Rockaway from December 23 to February 2. The Black-headed Gull was present at the Narrows, but fewer noted than in the past two years. Two Atlantic Murre records: oiled bird at Jones Beach, December 23; Montauk, one examined closely February 24. Maximum Razor-billed Auks, 12 at Montauk, January 26. The Mourning Dove was reported in many locations, several flocks up to 30. No Snowy Owl reports; Barred Owls rare; several records of Great horned on eastern Long Island, no late winter Saw-whet Owls.

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

There was an abundance of Flickers especially in early winter; a female Red-bellied Woodpecker was found at Cedarhurst, February 10. Tree Swallows wintered at Gilgo ranging from over 150 in November to 41 on March 8. A Brown-capped Chickadee was banded at Idlewild, December 25 (J. Mayer). The Red-breasted Nuthatch wintered commonly. A Mockingbird was found daily at Farmingdale into February, and an Olive-backed Thrush was recorded at Woodmere, January 1. Scarce were Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Waxwing. Some half-dozen reports of Migrant Shrike into January and several midwinter records of Northern Shrike came in.

WARBLERS – SPARROWS:

One record of Orange-crowned Warbler: Baldwin, late December; two of Chat; Oyster Bay into midwinter, one daily at Massapequa. Records of Evening Grosbeak came through regular in early winter, but very few reports from January on; several records of Pine Grosbeak; Redpoll and White-winged Crossbill. Some 300 Pine Siskin spent the winter at Jones Beach; Red Cross-bills were fairly abundant, American Goldfinches were rather scarce; one European Goldfinch, Seaford, March 9. The Tree Sparrow was surprisingly scarce, especially on western Long Island, but the Towhee was abundant and widespread; maximum six wintering at Manorville, all banded. Unvegetated sterile tracts and dunes along the outer strip, although replenishing, are still evidence of the great November 29, 1950 storm with resultant scarcity of sparrows and Lapland Longspurs in these areas. Snow Buntings were more numerous.

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Seaford, Long Island, New York.

REGION 9 – CENTRAL NEW YORK

The Christmas census conducted by the Eaton Bird Club, Geneva, N. Y., was taken on Dec. 30, and 40 species were recorded. The following is a summary of winter records in this area:

LOONS – DUCKS:

1 Common Loon, Skaneateles Lake, Jan. 13 (Terry) and Seneca Lake, Nov. 18 (Gambrell); few Horned Grebes on Seneca Lake by Oct. 21 but remained all winter – 7 seen March 2 (Gambrell), also seen on Cayuga and Ontario Lakes Jan. 1 and Feb. 3 (Scheider and Minor); Canada Geese began moving south in numbers by early in October (75 seen Sept. 27, Gambrell). Mallards and Blacks moved on to Seneca Lake, about 75 and 500, respectively, in late October and have remained all winter. Some movement by these species March 2 even though the ice is still present. Ring-necked Duck, 2 on Seneca Lake, Jan. 27 (Terrys) and 1 on Feb. 24, Oswego River (Kate et al.). Redheads, Canvasbacks and Scaups arrived on Seneca Lake Oct. 21. Numbers increased to approximately 2000 - 3000 Redheads, 25 - 50 Canvasbacks, 600 - 1,000 Lesser and 25 - 900 Greater Scaup. Small numbers of Buffle-head (5 - 20), American Golden-eye (25 - 100) wintered on lake; 1 Ruddy Duck observed Jan. 20; very few American and Red-breasted Merganser, Old Squaw observed during winter (Eaton Bird Club). Similar species were recorded on Oneida Lake (Minor and Scheider) and also 2 Wood Duck, 1 Green-winged Teal, 2 Ring-necked Duck and 13 Hooded Merganser on Nov. 25. Canvas-back, Redhead, Old Squaw on Finger Lakes, Ontario, Oswego River Jan. 13 - Feb. 10 (Syracuse Audubon Soc.).

HAWKS – OWLS:

Red-tailed Hawks present all winter in numbers; 8 in Seneca Ordnance area, Kendaia, on March 2 (Hartzell and Gambrell); courting late Feb. - early March, Marcellus (Flynn); Red-shoulder, 6 on Nov. 9, also 1 on Nov. 22 and 1 Feb. 3 (Gambrell); Rough-legged Hawk, 1 on Feb. 2, Marcellus (Flynn) and several around Cazenovia in mid-December (Trimm) and also common in Seneca Ordnance and Sampson (2 seen Jan. 19, 8 on Feb. 24, 2 on March 2 – Hartzell, Ward, Gambrell); Marsh Hawk, 1 on Feb. 3 and March 2, Geneva (Gambrell); Sparrow Hawk present all winter near Geneva (2 - 6); Goshawk, 1 on Dec. 30 at Fayetteville (Spofford); Cooper's Hawk, 3 on Jan. 1, Syracuse (Kate, Wolf, Scheider, Flynn), also 1 at Fayetteville on Dec. 18 (Spofford), 2 on Jan. 1, Cicero Swamp (Coons), 2 at Onondaga Valley, Jan. 2 (Mrs. Terry); 1 Pigeon Hawk, Otisco Lake, March 2 (Spofford).

1 Killdeer, Sylvan Beach, Nov. 25 (Minor and Scheider), also Jan. 1, Onondaga Lake (Flynn, Scheider); Coot (10 - 25) wintered north end Seneca Lake (Gambrell); Great-black backed Gulls (1 - 5) wintered on Seneca Lake (2 last seen March 2); 2 Bonaparte's Gull on Oct. 21, Geneva (Gambrell) and 33 at Sylvan Beach on Nov. 25 (Minor and Scheider); 1 Common Tern Seneca Lake Oct. 21 (Gambrell). Mourning Dove winter rec-

ords are 1 on Nov. 5, 4 on Jan. 19, 1 on Feb. 20 and 25 in Geneva-Phelps area (Gambrell) and 2 at Oakwood Cemetery (Woolf et al.).

1 Barn Owl on Dec. 30, Kirkville (Flynn); also 1 at Kendaia on Dec. 30 (Ward and Hoskins), and Feb. 3, 24 and March 2. 3 Great horned Owls on Jan. 27; 6 Long-eared and 3 Short-eared Owls Jan. 27 (Gambrell and Ward), 6 Long-eared on Feb. 3, 15 on Feb. 24, and 5 on March 3; also 9 Short-eared Owls Feb. 24 and 11 on March 2 (Gambrell, Hartzell, Ward, Ellis). All observed at Seneca Ordnance and Sampson area. 1 Barred Owl on Jan. 6 (flying on bright, sunny day, Oneida Lake - Scheider). 1 Flicker and 1 pair Pileated Woodpeckers, Green Lakes State Park on Dec. 23 and Jan. 1 (Spofford).

SWIFTS - SHRIKES:

3 Brown-capped Chickadee, Clark's Reservation (Scheider); Red-breasted Nuthatch at Geneva and Syracuse, Oct. 17 into early January. Brown Creeper frequently seen, Geneva, Dec. and Jan. Hairy Woodpecker common at feeding station during winter (Miss Holtby); Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers (courting) several records from mid-Feb. to early March; Ruffed Grouse late Feb. and early March, backyard in center of Syracuse - 3 seen at one time (Mrs. Kate and Miss Woolf).

THRUSHES - WARBLERS:

Few reports of Golden-crowned Kinglets received. Several wintering records of Robin, Onondaga Valley Dec. 20 (Terrys) and 1 at Newark on Jan. 29 (Gambrell). 1 Catbird at feeding station, Geneva, Nov. 18 - Jan. 25 (Miss Wilson). Cardinals are spending the winter in Geneva - 5 were seen at feeding station at one time on Jan. 4 (Gambrells); 1 Bluebird reported Jan. 6, South Onondaga (Terrys).

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS:

25 Evening Grosbeaks, Waterloo from Jan. 3 - Feb. 5 (Walker, Ward), 1 at Geneva, Oct. 20 (Gambrell, Roland.). Scattered reports of 1-13 seen in Syracuse, Oneida Lake and Mattydale, Nov. 11 - Jan. 6 (Flynn, Scheider, Minor, Kate, Woolf); Pine Grosbeaks - numerous reports of small flocks in Oneida Lake region and flocks of 6 - 35 reported between Nov. 28 and Jan. 17 from Cazenovia, Constantia, Fayetteville and Thornden Park. Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Redpoll, Crossbills and Slate-colored Junco all quite scarce (Syracuse). 4 Swamp Sparrows, Cicero Swamp, Jan. 1 (Coons); 1 White-throated Sparrow last reported on Oct. 20 and 1 immature White-crowned Sparrow on Oct. 19; 2 Tree-Sparrows on Nov. 23 (Gambrells). 50 Lapland Longspur, Penn Yan on Feb. 25 (Wards); 50 Snow Buntings on Feb. 19 and 22 (Mrs. Gambrell) and 200 - 300 same area on Feb. 25 (Wards).

Recent or unusual reports. 1 Robin, E. Seneca Turnpike, Jan. 7 (Bruce) and one Geneva March 6 (Wards); 1 Bluebird, north side Syracuse, Feb. 17 (Scheider). "1 Mocking bird seen intermittently since Dec. 1 in the Fayetteville area - seen regularly thru late Jan. and early Feb., last seen on

Feb. 12, first identified by Mrs. Evans — the bird was quite fat and gave every indication of being healthy, well-fed and normal". Above report in letter from Friz Scheider, 151 7th North St., Syracuse 8, N. Y. First Bronzed Grackle report in Geneva, March 11 (Gambrell). Cardinal — reported from 6 or 7 spots in Syracuse where they have not been seen before

Foster L. Gambrell
288 Lafayette Ave.
Geneva, N. Y.

BANDING EVENING GROSBEAKS

It is especially interesting to note that from October 31 to January 7, 1952, Mrs. Gerald Fitzgerald has banded 635 Evening Grosbeaks. She has had recoveries from the following places: Port Credit, Ontario, Canada; Hardwick, Mass.; Pleasant Volley Sanctuary, Lenox, Mass.; and one from Lewiston, Me. From the latter, a male, No. 40-232907, banded Feb. 4, 1947 by Mrs. Geo. E. Ramsdell. The Fish and Wildlife have not yet sent in a report on the other recoveries made. Mrs. Fitzgerald has received word from Mrs. Eleanor Dater of Ramsey, N. J. and from Mr. Bruce Yeager of Northumberland, Pa., that they have recovered birds which she has banded. One was found with a broken wing, illustrating perils of migration.

Mrs. I. A. Rosa

**KINDLY MENTION
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Next Annual Meeting May 24-25, 1952 at Schenectady

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS
MEMBER CLUBS AND CLUB OFFICERS – MARCH 1952

Baldwin Bird Club

Terms expire May 1952

President: Mrs. Heathcote Kimball, 86 4th St., Garden City, L. I.
Vice-Pres.: George H. Peters, 175 E. Seaman Ave., Freeport, N. Y.
Treasurer: Mrs. William Arthur, 98 Fennimore St., Lynbrook, N. Y.
Rec. Sec.: Mrs. J. Sector, 19 Parkwood Rd., Rockville Centre, N. Y.
Cor. Sec.: Miss Lucy Bartholomew, 15 Belmont Ave., Floral Park, N. Y.

Brooklyn Bird Club

Terms expire January 1953

President: Edward J. Whelen, 971 East 34th St., Brooklyn 10, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: David Kreissman, 1078 East 15th St., Brooklyn 30, N. Y.
Gen. Sec.: Miss Audrey L. Wrede, 3109 Beverley Rd., Brooklyn 26, N. Y.
Treasurer: Philip Ebersman, 87 Fenimore St., Brooklyn 25, N. Y.
Cor. Sec.: Mildred Iriberry, 4015 Flatlands Ave., Brooklyn 34, N. Y.
Field Sec.: Elizabeth Feldhusen, 891 Union St., Brooklyn 15, N. Y.

Buffalo Ornithological Society

Terms expire October 1952

President: Winston W. Brockner, 63 Ardmore Pl., Buffalo 13, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: Walter Klabunde, Creek Road Ext., RD 1, Lewiston, N. Y.
Rec. Sec.: Arthur Schaffner, 170 Laurel St., Buffalo 8, N. Y.
Cor. Sec.: Ellen J. Windsor, 144 Jewett Pkwy., Buffalo 14, N. Y.
Treasurer: Elizabeth H. Faul, 154 Woodward Ave., Buffalo 14, N. Y.

Buffalo Audubon Society

Terms expire March 1953

Hon. Pres.: James Savage, Buffalo Athletic Club, Buffalo 2, N. Y.
President: Gertrude Webster, 198 Marjorie Dr., Kenmore 23, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: William H. Almendinger, 15 Niagara St., Buffalo 2, N. Y.
Treasurer: Francis T. Tilley, 26 Mohican St., Buffalo 8, N. Y.
Cor. Sec.: Frances Rew, 527 Abbott Rd., Buffalo 20, N. Y.
Rec. Sec.: Margaret Berryman, 90 Niagara Falls Blvd., Buffalo 14, N. Y.

Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club

Annual Election in November

President: Dirck Benson, 183 Cherry Rd., Rochester 12, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: Dr. Neil S. Moon, 257 Pemberton Rd., Rochester 9, N. Y.
Rec. Sec.: Mrs. Floyd D. Slater, 89 Terrace Pk., Rochester 11, N. Y.
Cor. Sec.: Miss Helen M. Foster, 36 Arvine Pk., Rochester 11, N. Y.
Treasurer: Robert E. Dolan, 53 Turner St., Rochester 11, N. Y.

Chemung Valley Audubon Society

Terms expire April 1952

President: Miss Agnes Orbison, 311 Irvine Pl., Elmira, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: Mrs. George M. Welles, RD 1, Elmira, N. Y.
Cor. Sec.: Mrs. J. Fanning Campbell, 908 W. First St., Elmira, N. Y.
Rec. Sec.: Mrs. Sigurd Arnesen, 625 W. Gray St., Elmira, N. Y.
Treasurer: Carlard Mann, 605 Mt. Zoar St., Elmira, N. Y.

Eaton Bird Club

Terms expire January 1953

President: Miss Rosannah Wilson, 37 N. Main St., Geneva, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: Frederick Z. Hartzell, 111 N. Main St., Geneva, N. Y.
Secretary: Miss Lucy Austin, Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y.
Treasurer: Miss Jessie Gregory, 41 Mason St., Geneva, N. Y.
Recorder: Loren D. Ward, 29 Maple St., Geneva, N. Y.

Genesee Ornithological Society

Terms expire January 1953

President: Allan S. Klonick, 828 Grosvenor Rd., Rochester 18, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: Donald B. Bieber, 20 Rosalind St., Rochester 19, N. Y.
Secretary: Dr. Gerhard W. Leubner, 15 Ellington Rd., Rochester 16, N. Y.
Treasurer: Richard T. O'Hara, 100 Fernwood Pk., Rochester 9, N. Y.

Keuka Park Conservation Club Terms expire May 1952

President: Francis H. Orcutt, RD 5, Penn Yan, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: Frank K. Guthrie, Keuka Park, N. Y.
Secretary: Malcolm Lerch, RD 5, Penn Yan, N. Y.
Treasurer: Mrs. Izora Lerch, R. D. 5, Penn Yan, N. Y.
Cor. Sec.: Miss Mabel Belden, Keuka Park, N. Y.

The Linnaean Society of New York Terms expire March 1953

President: Dr. Dean Amadon, American Museum of Natural History,
Central Park W. at 79th St., New York 24, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: Christopher K. McKeever, 1043 Carroll St., Brooklyn 25, N. Y.
Secretary: Richard Edes Harrison, 313 E. 51st St., New York 22, N. Y.
Treasurer: Dr. Theodora Nelson, 315 E. 68th St., New York 21, N. Y.
Rec. Sec.: John H. Mayer, 122-67 134th St., S. Ozone Park, N. Y.

North Country Bird Club Terms expire October 1952

President: Miss Lucille Grant, 764 Gotham St., Watertown, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: Frank A. Clinch, 313 Brainard St., Watertown, N. Y.
Treasurer: Mrs. Joseph A. Blake, Jr., 140 TenEyck St., Watertown, N. Y.
Secretary: Mrs. Robert E. Nelson, Rt. 3, Watertown, N. Y.

Queens County Bird Club Terms expire January 1953

President: Charles F. Wright, 45-11 158th St., Flushing, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: William W. Reed, Sr., 11-03 157th St., Beechhurst, N. Y.
Sec.-Treas.: Arthur T. Skopec, 48-20 207th St., Bayside 64, N. Y.

Rockland Audubon Society, Inc. Terms expire May 1952

President: Mrs. William Gary Irving, VanHouten Fields, West Nyack, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: John M. Price, South Mountain Road, New City, N. Y.
Secretary: Frank Steffens, New City, N. Y.
Treasurer: Homer Stone Kelsey, Skyview Acres, Pomona, N. Y.

Sassafras Bird Club Terms expire May 1953

President: Miss Lucy J. Collins, Hagaman, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: Miss Marie L. Gilbert, 35 Division St., Amsterdam, N. Y.
Secretary: Miss Dorothy G. Niles, 81 Minaville St., Amsterdam, N. Y.
Treasurer: Miss Nellie Branigen, 66 Prospect St., Amsterdam, N. Y.

Scarsdale Audubon Society, Inc. January 1952 list of officers

President: Joseph A. Jordan, 14 Sherbrooke Rd., Scarsdale, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: Mrs. John Thies
Secretary: Elizabeth S. Manning, 1000 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N. Y.
Treasurer: Mrs. John L. Wolff, 1549 Central Ave., Yonkers 2, N. Y.

Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. Terms expire February 1953

President: Miss Nelle G. VanVorst, 67 Snowden Ave., Schenectady, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, 24 Belvidere Ave., Albany, N. Y.
Treasurer: Miss Viola Mabb, 1624 Becker St., Schenectady, N. Y.
Secretary: Miss Nellie Silliman, 216 James St., Scotia, N. Y.

Watkins-Montour Bird Club Terms expire June 1952

President: Mrs. A. W. Woodward, 607 N. Franklin St., Watkins Glen, N. Y.
Vice-Pres.: Mrs. R. W. Walton, 139 Turner Park, Montour Falls, N. Y.
Secretary: Mrs. L. J. Beardsley, 307 6th St., Watkins Glen, N. Y.
Treasurer: Mrs. Anna Robinson, 108 N. Monroe St., Watkins Glen, N. Y.

Blue Heron Audubon Club

President: Edward A. Lapham, Box 238, Stony Brook, L. I.
Vice-Pres.: John H. VonGlain, RFD Smithtown Branch, L. I.
Sec.-Treas.: Philip A. Nixon, Arbutus Rd., Greenlawn, L. I.

Naturalists' Club Application received Feb. 12, 1952

President: Mrs. Frederick Marsi, 6 Euclid Ave., Binghamton, N. Y.
Secretary: Mrs. H. R. Fisher, 304 Vestal Rd., Vestal, N. Y.
Treasurer: Robert P. Sheffield, 29 Arthur St., Binghamton, N. Y.

Northport Veterans Hospital Bird Club (No regularly elected officers)

Send Federation correspondence to Miss Peggy Zumbach, Assistant
Recreation Chief, Veterans Administration, Northport, N. Y.

Cayuga Bird Club (Inactive)

Contact: Kenneth C. Parkes, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, N. Y.

THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS
1952

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Rec. Sec.: Albert W. Fudge, 326 Larchmont Road, Elmira, N. Y.
Treasurer: Mrs. William J. English, 35 ½ Lincoln Ave., Amsterdam, N. Y.

Editor of *The Kingbird*

Allan S. Klonick, 828 Grosvenor Road
Rochester 18, N. Y.

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John H. Von Glahn, R.F.D., Smithtown Branch, Long Island, N. Y.

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Fred T. Hall, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, N. Y.
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Dr. Neil S. Moon, 257 Pemberton Road, Rochester 9, N. Y.

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Miss Hazel Ellis, Keuka College, Keuka Park, N. Y.
Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, 24 Belvidere Ave., Albany 3, N. Y.

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING — Schenectady — May 24-25, 1952

ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR.,
is one of America's leading ornithologists. For many years he has been a member of the staff of the National Audubon Society and now serves as an Audubon Screen Tour lecturer, a leader of Audubon Wildlife Tours, and a bird instructor at the Audubon Camp of Texas. He is co-author of *SOUTH CAROLINA BIRD LIFE* and is a frequent contributor to *Audubon Magazine*.

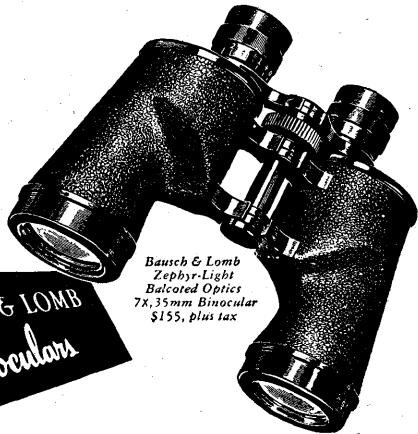
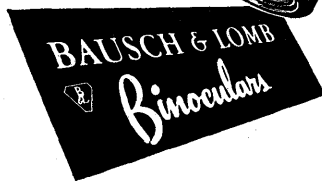


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