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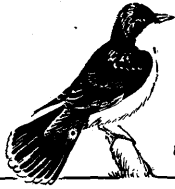
The KINGBIRD



VOLUME X, No. 1

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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.



The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To Member Clubs of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs

As the new president of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs it is my earnest desire to further the purposes of the Federation as stated in the By-Laws which were adopted when the Federation was incorporated in 1956. This can be accomplished only with your loyal cooperation.

"The purposes of this corporation are:

- to further the study of birds, bird life, and bird lore
- to foster, inculcate and disseminate knowledge and appreciation thereof
- to preserve and protect birds and other wildlife and their environment
- to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas for birds and other wildlife
- and to educate the public in the need of conserving natural areas and resources.

"To achieve these objects, the corporation shall be empowered

- to conduce educational programs
- publish and distribute documents and other printed matter
- hold and sponsor meetings and lectures and exhibitions
- and cooperate with governmental agencies and other education and charitable organizations with similar objectives."

With the above in mind will you please let me know the following:

1. How the Federation can best serve your club
2. Specific ways in which your club can and will assist the Federation (such as: serving on a committee; securing more individual members for the Federation; keeping your members informed on Federation activities.)

Conservation

Our interest in birds and other wildlife implies a deep-seated interest in the conservation of our natural resources. Today, more than ever before, it is important to have strong leadership and support on the local, state and national levels. Conservation needs an ever watchful eye, a keen ear and an understanding and factual voice on every single level.

Many of our conservation problems are of a very local nature and can best be handled by the local member club in cooperation with sympathetic organizations in the local club's area. When you need help with problems involving an extensive area in the state, get in touch with the new chairman of the Federation's Conservation Committee, Joseph A. Blake, Jr., of Watertown, or any member of his committee. Tell him all the facts of the situation, what you have done locally and just how you believe the Federation can help you solve your problem.

State Bird Book

The State Bird Book Committee, a sub-committee of the Federation's Publications and Research Committee, has been working on the preparation of a new State Bird Book. This project has progressed at a slow rate of speed. This is true of most monumental jobs done by busy volunteers in their free time. However, the time has arrived when we have reason to believe that this pace will be accelerated this year. Each member club is

urged to help expedite the work by responding promptly to questionnaires and requests for records and other information.

The Kingbird

We are hopeful about getting *The Kingbird* to you on time. We believe that this can be done and no one is working any harder on this problem than our very capable editor, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland. The tardiness in the past was not due to our editor.

"In union there is strength." The Federation is only as strong as the members make it. Let us all be well-informed on Federation activities and see that the members in your own club are kept up-to-date on Federation matters. It is suggested that a brief resume of *The Kingbird* be given at the first meeting of your club after each *Kingbird* is received. Then circulate the magazine among your members or file it in the club's library where it will be available for reference.

Member Clubs

While many of the member clubs are older organizations and quite able to solve their own problems we also recognize the fact that the newer clubs may wish to have some assistance. The Federation stands ready to help in any way that it is possible to do so.

Frances H. Irving

THE JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNT: VI

LEO J. TANGHE

The 1960 Waterfowl Count of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was carried out from January 17 to 25, 1960, and gave a total of 201,840 individuals. Of the five previous counts, two have been higher and three have been lower. In this year's count there were 40 species and the Mallard-Black Duck hybrid. The Common Eider which has usually been seen in small numbers on Long Island did not appear this year. However, this year's count included Whistling Swan and Blue-winged Teal from Howland's Island (Region 5), Mute Swan from the Oswego River, European Widgeon from Long Island, and Barrow's Goldeneye and Smew (*Mergellus albellus*) from Buffalo.

The Smew was discovered, identified and photographed by Robert D. Coggeshall, and it was seen by many competent Buffalo observers on Jan. 17, 18 and 22. There has been no previous satisfactory North American record for this species.

The aerial count by the New York State Conservation Department gave a total of 247,513 individuals. Details of this count were again supplied by Mr. Dirck Benson, Game Research Investigator for the Conservation Department. The aerial count on Long Island was 67,000 higher than the ground count, due largely to off-shore flocks of Black Ducks, Brant and Scaup. For the remainder of the state it was 22,000 lower than the ground count, due in part to missing some 12,000 Common Mergansers and 3000 Canvasbacks at Buffalo. Canvasbacks and Redheads in the Finger Lakes Region were down considerably from the record highs of last year. The Champlain Valley was not covered in the ground count, and the Susquehanna River was not covered in the aerial survey. X-b refers to Long Island, and X-a to the remainder of Region X.

I wish to thank all who took part in this census, either as observers or tabulators of the regional records.

852 Stone Road, Rochester 16

THE JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNT

NEW YORK STATE	1960	I	II	III	IV
Common Loon	-----	1	1	1	
Red-throated Loon	-----	1			
Red-necked Grebe	-----	1		1	
Horned Grebe	-----	5		302	
Pied-billed Grebe	-----	1		1	1
Mute Swan	-----				
Whistling Swan	-----				
Canada Goose	-----	4		27	
Brant	-----				
Snow Goose	-----				
Mallard	-----	480	48	803	370
Black Duck	-----	1520	71	1012	356
Mallard x Black Hybrid	-----				
Gadwall	-----	2			
Pintail	-----	35		1	
Green-winged Teal	-----				1
Blue-winged Teal	-----				
American Widgeon	-----	19		5	
European Widgeon	-----				
Shoveler	-----		1		
Wood Duck	-----			1	
Redhead	-----	194	70	5690	
Ring-necked Duck	-----	2	1	28	
Canvasback	-----	9772	5	1351	
Greater Scaup	-----	9066	3124	6035	
Lesser Scaup	-----	20	88		
Common Goldeneye	-----	6864	2439	731	6
Barrows Goldeneye	-----	1			
Bufflehead	-----	79	90	59	
Oldsquaw	-----	2460	871	49	
Harlequin Duck	-----				
King Eider	-----	3			
White-winged Scoter	-----	14	185		
Surf Scoter	-----	1	1		
Common Scoter	-----	4			
Ruddy Duck	-----				
Hooded Merganser	-----	4	2	7	
Common Merganser	-----	15192	673	59	131
Red-breasted Merganser	-----	448	142	15	
Smew	-----	1			
Coot	-----	1		241	
Unidentified	-----	5	14		15
Total	-----	46200	7826	16419	880

V	VI	VIII	IX	X-A	X-B	Totals
1	1				143	148
				3	17	21
					1	3
18				145	759	1229
3			3		12	21
1				23	471	495
1					9	10
87				197	1022	1337
				1	23113	23114
			1		7	8
1144		132	297	298	2926	6498
2594	99	1245	710	2022	15241	24870
13						13
3					86	91
22	1		2		143	204
1			1		81	84
1						1
				41	4004	4069
					1	1
3					8	12
7					3	11
133	5				11	6103
	2		143		144	320
31	2	1	39	1185	3028	15414
4141	2671	1	20	9622	23628	58308
164						272
1794	1762	52	57	296	3394	17395
						1
61	4		2	293	963	1549
183	179			112	728	4582
					2	2
5	1				3	12
8				21	8207	8435
					456	458
3					137	144
			4	265	90	359
12		1	55	5	115	201
3356	33	40	605	2	79	20170
297	1	10		97	1278	2288
						1
2					500	744
116	1000		12		1680	2842
14205	5761	1482	1951	14628	92490	201842

BIRD FLEAS IN NEW YORK STATE
ALLEN H. BENTON AND VAUGHNDA SHATRAU

One of the more interesting aspects of bird biology is the occurrence of various ectoparasites on the bodies and in the nests of birds. It also happens to be one of the more neglected aspects of ornithology, so that relatively little is known about the occurrence, distribution and host relationships of these tiny creatures.

Probably the most abundant of bird parasites are mites, little eight-legged animals closely related to spiders and ticks. Among the insects, lice are the most common ectoparasites of birds, followed by fleas. The present paper reviews the occurrence and status of the bird fleas known from New York, and reports upon the relatively few collections which we have made at State University of New York College of Education at Albany.

All of the bird fleas which are known to exist in eastern United States are members of the genus *Ceratophyllus*, family Ceratophyllidae. Since related fleas are mostly rodent fleas, it is postulated that the transfer to birds occurred when birds occupied nest holes previously used by mice, or when mice used abandoned bird nests which were subsequently reused by birds. Whatever the mechanism of transfer, only a relatively small group of fleas has made this change of host.

Only five species of bird fleas are known from New York, and three of these five are known from only one or two previous collections, (Geary, 1959). It seems likely that other species of bird fleas remain to be discovered in the state, and certainly the species already known will be found to occur much more widely than present records indicate. Amateur bird students are in a peculiarly favorable position to help in securing such records. Anyone who puts up nest boxes, or who knows the whereabouts of a nest of any of the species listed below, can collect the nests as soon as possible after the young leave, place them in a plastic bag with a pencilled note indicating the locality, kind of nest, and date of collection, sprinkle the nest lightly with water, and seal the bag. Such nests can then be sent to the senior author, who will collect and identify any ectoparasites. Nests which are especially desired are those of the following birds:

- Any bird nesting in a bird house
- Any hole-nesting bird
- Any species of swallow
- Any species of woodpecker
- Chickadees, phoebes, wrens, catbirds

The following discussion includes all the species of bird fleas listed by Geary (1959) as occurring in New York. Additional species have been found on or in the nests of certain sea birds in Canada, and it is probable that they occur in nesting colonies of gulls and terns in New York. The species for which there are definite New York records are as follows:

Ceratophyllus celsus

This flea appears to be associated with the Cliff Swallow, and should be sought wherever this bird nests. At present the only New York records are from Albany, Rensselaer and Oneida counties.

Ceratophyllus diffinis

Fox (1940) listed this flea as occurring in New York, although we have been unable to determine the source of the record. There are no other collections as yet. It has been taken from the Catbird, Veery, Wood Thrush, Robin, Bluebird, Ovenbird and House Wren, so that it is probably not particularly host specific and might occur in almost any passerine nest.

Ceratophyllus gallinae

This is the common poultry flea with which breeders of chickens and turkeys are all too familiar. It is not at all particular in its choice of a host, however, and has been taken from a variety of wild birds. It occurs throughout the state, and because of its association with domestic fowl it is the most commonly taken bird flea.

Fifty specimens of this species were collected during the summer of 1959. Forty-three were taken from the nest of a House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, at the Delmar Game Farm, Town of Bethlehem, Albany county, on July 7. So far as we can determine, this is the first time *C. gallinae* has been recorded from this host. Three specimens were taken from an unidentified nest (probably House Sparrow) at Delmar Game Farm, on July 7. Four specimens were taken from a nest of the House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, at the home of A. E. Hatch, Town of Guilderland, west of the village of Voorheesville, on July 21.

Ceratophyllus idius

This flea is apparently restricted to the Tree Swallow for the most part, and has been recorded, in New York, only from Wellesley Island in the St. Lawrence River (Geary, 1959). It probably occurs throughout the state in nests of the Tree Swallow.

We collected 87 specimens of this species, 86 of which were from the nest of a Tree Swallow, *Iridoprocne bicolor*, collected at the Hatch home, west of Voorheesville, Town of Guilderland in Albany county, on July 9. A single specimen was recovered from the House Sparrow nest mentioned above, probably an accidental transfer from the Tree Swallow nest nearby.

Ceratophyllus riparius

The Bank Swallow appears to be the most common host of this flea, which probably occurs throughout the state. We collected one hundred one specimens, distributed as follows: nests of Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*, New Scotland Road, Town of Slingerlands, Albany county, July 2, 1959, 90 specimens; nests of Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*, in the bank of a gravel pit near Ira Station, Town of Ira, Cayuga county, June 25, 1959, 11 specimens.

The presence of this flea in Starling nests is probably accidental. The Starlings were using excavations which had probably been made, and quite possibly previously occupied, by Rough-winged Swallows.

We are indebted to Mrs. Maurice Hall, Mrs. A. E. Hatch, Gary E. Larson, Fred Hough, and Daniel Smiley for assistance in collecting nests.

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S. U. N. Y. College of Education, Albany 3

THE SPECIES CONCEPT IN ORNITHOLOGY

PART II

GERALD R. RISING

The Subspecies. "The subspecies, or geographical race, is a geographically localized subdivision of the species which differs genetically and taxonomically from other subdivisions of the species." Since only identical twins can be said to be genetically exactly alike the problem of races becomes an almost entirely subjective problem. Some widespread species are different enough at the extremes of their ranges but show regular intergradation from the one extreme to the other. This smooth gradation is called a cline.

There are several interesting rules applying generally to subspecies: Bergmann's Rule, that subspecies are larger as climate is cooler; Allen's Rule, that extremities like feet and tail are shorter as climate is cooler; Gloger's Rule, that pigmentation increases with humidity. Some additional rules applying strictly to birds: (1) more eggs per clutch in cooler climate; (2) wings longer with cooler climate or higher altitude; (3) migration instinct more marked in cooler regions; and (4) longer bills on insular forms.

Differentiation of subspecies and species is, of course, an evolutionary matter. Mutations (discontinuous changes in chromosomes with a genetic effect) may produce adaptive or non-adaptive characteristics. Adaptive characteristics made for better survival, and selection (or the horrid sounding survival of the fittest) tends to lead to strains relatively well adapted to particular ecological niches. Such adaptations are often obscured in nature by changes in environment. Unfortunately early evolutionists exaggerated the importance of mutations which were so great as to produce aberrant individuals. Such gross changes virtually never fit the evolutionary picture. For that reason some systematists use the term micromutation.

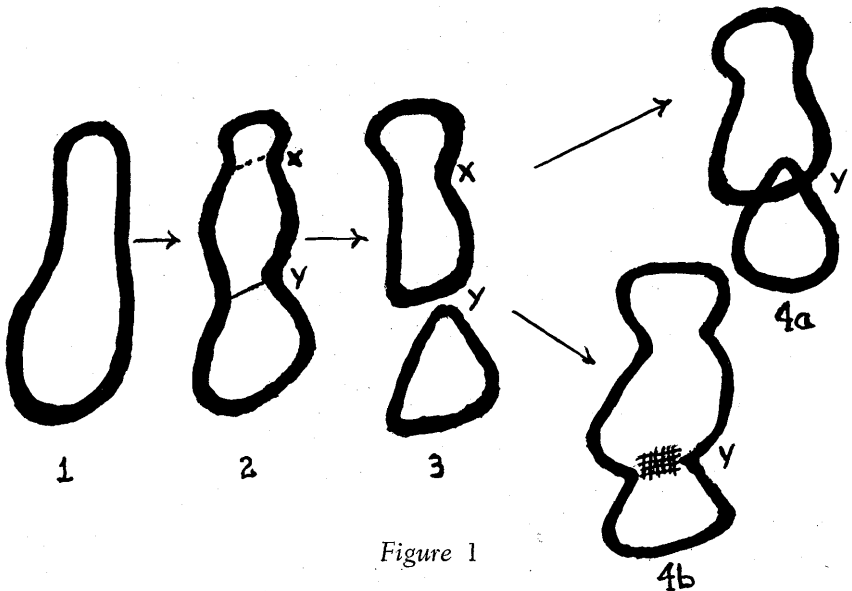


Figure 1

We cannot witness the total picture of speciation or evolution except perhaps in the case of rapidly multiplying bacteria or insects. So once again we have an era of the species problem which becomes subjective. Perhaps the closest we can come to witnessing this process is in paleontology, the study of the fossil records. Almost invariably, however, the fossil record is itself far from complete and provides us with at most another cross-section but at a different time.

This means that the history of Figure 1 and in fact any such consideration of evolution must contain much that is of speculative nature. This problem especially applies to the question of primary (x on the diagram) or secondary (y) contact. Especially in the case of diagram 4b — remembering that this is the only picture we see in modern times — what right have we to assume that there was a real break and that this is not a primary contact? We really have no objective evidence to which to turn and we must make the best decision we can based on our present evidence. In addition we must be ready and willing to accept revisions of our thinking based on later findings.

Darwin's Finches. An almost unique opportunity to reach the very core of the problem of speciation in the western hemisphere is found in the group known as Galapagos finches. David Lack suggests that in relatively modern times (in evolutionary terms but probably thousands of years ago) a mainland finch species made its way from South or Central America across the 600 miles of open ocean to this small island group. Here on these remote volcanic islands with few natural enemies and little competition from other species of birds this initial strain of finches radiated to fill many ecological voids left open to them. Some of the fourteen evolving species took on interesting characteristics: one those of a woodpecker, one a warbler. Lacking the adaptive tongue of the woodpecker, the woodpecker-finch carries a twig with which it forces the sought-for insect out of its hole.

Although this group would seem to substantiate the possibility of speciation occurring without isolation, Lack's careful study has led him to believe that even here isolation was necessary. The various islands afforded the isolation needed even though they are within eyesight of one another. And his studies show that the more remote an island is from the others the more divergent the species on that island. Some statements from Lack's summary should complete his theses:

"Island forms of the same species show every gradation from extremely small differences in average size to differences as great as those which separate some of the species. The differences and to be greater the greater the degree of isolation. Some of them are adaptive and others seem non-adaptive.

"New species originate when forms differentiated in geographical isolation later meet in the same region and keep distinct. . . . There is not as yet any evidence that new species of birds arise in other ways. . . .

"When two related bird species meet in the same region, they tend to compete, and both can persist there only if they are isolated ecologically either by habitat or food. All of Darwin's finches are isolated from each other ecologically. . . .

"The meeting of two forms in the same region to form new species must, when both persist, result in subdivision of the food or habitat, and so to increased specialization. The repetition of this process has produced the adaptive radiation of Darwin's finches. A radiation similar to that of

Darwin's finches is not found in the land birds of single oceanic islands, because these provide no opportunities for the formation of new species in geographical isolation. Instances are rare even on other archipelagos, probably because most archipelagos are too accessible to fresh colonization by more efficient birds from outside areas.

With this further insight we can once again return to our diagrams in Figure 1. The important point here is that the filling of new ecological niches is caused by competition after the birds have become reproductively isolated. At the time of the secondary contact in a situation like that of 4a, the birds may possibly not have diverged morphologically at all. Much of the divergence would come now as the birds are competing in the same area for survival. In the case of the Galapagos finches the adaptation took the form of changing food habits, in the case of some of our game birds and the ducks it has taken the form of striking plumage differences in the males in order to compete for mates. Thus the female plumages resemble one another rather closely. In fact, as Sibley pointed out in a talk to the Wilson Club meeting in Buffalo, an insular form of the mallard not in competition with other waterfowl species, resembles very closely the female in plumage.

An interesting situation in this connection is that of sibling species, species which have become isolated reproductively but which have virtually identical characteristics. This phenomenon is rare in avian systematics, although we amateurs would probably like to think it is the case with the *Empidonax* flycatchers. There are several possible causes of such a situation, one being that we are witnessing the early history of the secondary contact. Another would be that the breeding grounds of these species are actually separate and that they are only together, say, during migration.

So what? Certainly what has been said here does not vitally affect us in our field studies. Still I am convinced that it is well for us to understand within our ability and to appreciate the work of the ornithological taxonomists and systematists. The research on this paper has led me to believe that systematics is important and that those engaged in it are of high calibre. If nothing else I am certain that I'll be more appreciative of the systematic studies in the ornithological journals and a little more tolerant toward the occasional check-list revisions.

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JOHN P. BRUCK

The Federation lost a true friend when John P. Bruck died on January 11, 1960, in his eighty-eighth year. A native of Buffalo, he was educated in its schools and was a graduate of the Buffalo State Normal School. He served with distinction as principal of the old Truant School and for over thirty years as principal of the Opportunity School in Buffalo. John was a pioneer in providing vocational training for problem children in various crafts in the school.

Mr. Bruck lived alone at 218 Potters Road, Buffalo, where he kept well-stocked bird feeding stations. He called his home the "Potters Corners Refuge", and rejoiced in the many feathered friends which visited him and kept him from feeling lonely.

John had been a member of the Buffalo Audubon Society for many years, and was its Honorary President when he died. As chairman of the membership committee Mr. Bruck was instrumental in obtaining many new members. He provided generously for the Society in his will. John was also a member of the National Audubon Society.

Beside his love of birds Mr. Bruck was interested in other forms of nature, becoming a member of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences and a charter member of the Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York. He also joined the Allegany Field and Trail Club. John always had a vital interest in conservation, and became a member of the Erie County Conservation Society and the Izaak Walton League of America.

When our Federation put on a membership drive Mr. Bruck joined as an individual member, and while he could not attend many of our meetings, he felt that our organization was instrumental in the protection of New York State birds, and in adding to our knowledge of ornithology of the state. He left the Federation \$1000.00 in his will to implement our work. May many others follow his example, and may we be faithful to his trust.

Harold Mitchell

BULLETIN EXCHANGES COMMITTEE

A Bulletin Exchanges Committee has been added to those of the Federation for the purpose of stimulating Member Clubs to exchange their local publications with one another. The chairman is Kenneth D. Niven, 61 Broadway, Monticello.

The first list of Member Clubs desiring to exchange their bulletins was printed in the December, 1959, number of *The Kingbird*. Please correct an error that occurred. The Burroughs Audubon Nature Club is in *Rochester*. And add to the list: Onondaga Audubon Society — Margaret B. Mathis, R. D. 2, Baldwinsville, N. Y.

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JACOB POST GIRAUD JR.

JOHN B. BELKNAP

The first regional bird study in our state, "The Birds of Long Island" by Jacob Post Giraud Jr., was published in 1844. Its author was born in New York City on August 22, 1811. The following is quoted from a letter written by George N. Lawrence to William Dutcher: "Jacob Post Giraud was born in New York and his business was that of a dealer in provisions. It seemed to consist mainly of furnishing supplies to the shipping. He had not the lively, companionable manners of his friend P. Brasher, but was rather reserved. He was perfectly reliable, firm in his friendship and very decided in his opinions."

Although he must be classed as an amateur, it is evident that Giraud was, throughout his life, seriously interested in the study of birds. He built up a large collection of mounted birds, corresponded with the leading ornithologists in this country, and was familiar with the ornithological literature of the period.

His contributions to the literature were two in number, consisting of the work mentioned above and a somewhat curious publication entitled "A Description of Sixteen New Species of North American Birds Described in the Annals of the New York Lyceum of Natural History, Collected in Texas 1838", New York, George F. Nesbitt, Printer 1841. This work is now very rare and is a collector's item. At the time of its publication it was the subject of considerable controversy, since most of the species described are Mexican. They were never described in the Annals of the New York Lyceum as stated on the title page. For a complete account of this publication the reader is referred to "Auk", Volume 36, pp. 464-472. (October 1919).

"The Birds of Long Island" contains descriptions of 286 species. It is of historic value today since it gives a reliable picture, particularly of shore birds and other game species, in the early nineteenth century. It has been called "the best piece of local ornithological work that had appeared up to that time."

About 1860 Giraud moved to Poughkeepsie, and, during the last years of his life took a decided interest in Vassar College, which had recently been founded in that city. In 1867 he gave his collection of about 800 mounted specimens of North American birds to the college. Copies of Giraud's correspondence which I have been privileged to examine through the courtesy of Miss Dorothy Plum of the Vassar Library indicate that he attempted to secure additional species in order to present to the college as complete a collection as possible. He provided a fund for the purchase of additional specimens by the college. Later, through his will, Giraud left money to endow a professorship of Natural History at Vassar. Giraud died at his residence on the south road, two miles below Poughkeepsie, on July 19, 1870 and is buried in the Marble Cemetery, Second Street, New York City.

Watertown

FIELD NOTES

Great Horned Owls In Cortland County: Recently, while teaching a course in conservation, I had occasion to visit a privately owned game farm in Cortland County. During my conversation with the owner the topic of predators came up, and I was surprised to learn of the large numbers of Great Horned Owls which he has pole-trapped during the past seven and a half years.

During the winter of 1951-2 the game farm owner attended a meeting of turkey growers at Cornell University, and learned that Great Horned Owls frequently eat only the head and neck portion of the birds they kill. Since he had noticed several of his Ring-necked Pheasants killed and mutilated in this way, he set up three pole traps surrounding his uncovered pheasant pens. During the next seven days he trapped one owl each night, and during the remainder of that winter he trapped another 19 owls. To mid-October 1959 some 138 owls were trapped, and all were killed. (Two of the Great Horned Owls trapped during this period had only one good eye. In both cases the bad eye appeared to have a cracked cornea, which had subsequently clouded over. It occurs to me that this might have been the work of crows or was perhaps due to misjudgment in maneuvering through trees).

Most of the birds have been trapped during the months of December, January, and February. The owner did not set his pole traps during the summer unless he saw evidence of owl activity. However, eight birds were trapped during the summer of 1959. In addition to these Great Horned Owls he has trapped two Screech Owls since 1952, and a small number of hawks of various species, mostly accipiters. He has had very little trouble from the buteos, although Red-tailed Hawks nested nearby every year.

The game farm owner estimated that he had lost only 25 pheasants to owl depredation since 1952. Most of his pheasants are kept under wire, but the older ones are allowed free run in a fenced-in enclosure without top cover. The owner stated that he realized the owls were largely beneficial, but that he felt he must protect his direct interests. He agreed to cooperate in a project to take trapped owls that are relatively unharmed and band them for release in other parts of central New York. If the usual numbers of owls are trapped during the winter of 1959-60, some further information may be forthcoming regarding owl habits. Mr. John Cecil, a graduate student at the Cortland College of Education, is planning to carry out this work.

Although I have seen a number of nesting Great Horned Owls in Cortland County, I had no idea there might be so many coming into a limited area. The game farm where these birds were trapped is in a narrow valley in the uplands, in country typified by reforested areas and run-down farms. It would seem to me that legislation is needed in New York State to require adequate enclosures to protect farm animals from owl and hawk predation. This would remove the attraction which brings these birds to such places, and the necessity for trapping or otherwise controlling them would be eliminated (Ed. — do readers have comments, suggestions, or perhaps personal experiences like those described here that would pertain to such a proposal?) — John A. Gustafson, S. U. N. Y. College of Education, Cortland.

A Partially Albino Chickadee (continued): A partially albino Black-capped Chickadee (see *Kingbird*, Vol. IX, Nos. 1 and 2, field notes section) was again seen on December 6, 1959 at Selkirk Shores State Park at the same site as the May 16, 1959 observation (in a stand of hemlock and red-osier dogwood between the macadam pine grove road and the shore). The part-albino was working the branches for food in the company of three normal-appearing Black-capped Chickadees. The albinistic individual was whiter than the one seen by me the previous February and May. The bird had normally buffy flanks, but the albinism became progressively less from head to tail, as in the case of the Chickadee previously described. The present one also had the black "edging" on a white throat. Its crown and shoulders were white, and it had more white than normal among the gray feathers of the secondaries and tail. The eye was dark, the bill flesh-colored, and the legs were not observed. I am not attempting to state whether this is the same individual observed earlier, now whiter following the moult, or a different one. In any case, it is interesting that albinistic Black-capped Chickadee(s) has (have) remained at Selkirk through two migration seasons. The situation will bear continued observation. — Margaret S. Rusk, 100 Stadium Place, Syracuse 10.

Immature White-headed Eagle in Confusing Plumage: An eagle in a plumage easily confused with that of a juvenile Golden Eagle (white tail with dark terminal band, white patch on the underside of each wing) was observed on several occasions last fall and winter at the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge. On November 1 Mr. Benning of Clyde, New York, saw this bird perched upon a muskrat house, and as he watched it fly to another perch he noted the characters that usually indicate a juvenile Golden Eagle. Two months later Mr. Morse, manager of the refuge, noted the bird flying over the marsh while taking the Christmas Count on January 1.

The following day I identified an immature White-headed Eagle perched upon a low snag on the western side of the refuge. The bird was generally dark above, with the head nearly black. The undersides were also dark, but careful scrutiny with a 30x Balscope showed the breast to be dark brownish heavily streaked with blackish. The folded tail was not easily observed but was largely white with a dark tip. The beak was black and showed the heavy, deep profile characteristic of the sea-eagles, *Haliaeetus*. The lower half of each tarsus was unfeathered and yellow, again diagnostic of the latter eagle.

When the eagle flew slowly across the march to a perch along the woods, the following observations could be made. The tail was largely white but with a dark terminal band similar to that of a juvenile Golden Eagle. The underwing showed



Juvenile Golden Eagle



Immature White-headed Eagle

a pronounced patch of white, which was identified as the small feathering covering the fleshy part of the underwing, and also a separate line of white close to the lead edge of the patagium which joined the rest of the white at the wrist, thus forming a white triangle with a dark center.

Compared with a Golden Eagle, certain differences are to be noted. The tail pattern was similar, but the tail was distinctly shorter and more square across the tip. The white on the underwing was of the small feathering, while that of the Golden Eagle juvenile is the vanes of the bases of the inner group of primary flight feathers (this sometimes extends inward along a few outer secondaries). This is a real difference, because many young White-headed Eagles show white on the underwing but not in the Golden Eagle pattern. Furthermore, this eagle showed no trace of the frequently conspicuous golden nuchal cape characteristic of most Golden Eagles, adult and young. Of course the unfeathered lower tarsus of the White-headed Eagle is diagnostic when observed. The tarsus of the Golden is completely covered with a feltwork of fine soft feathers, contrasting with the yellow toes.

The age of this immature White-headed Eagle is uncertain. It seems unlikely that a bird with so much of the tail white is a juvenile, but again one would expect some white on the forehead and rest of the head after several molts. The head appeared all dark, like a first or second year bird, but the largely white tail could indicate a bird several years old. The well marked terminal bar is unusual, but I recall one similar specimen in the American Museum of Natural History skin collection, and I thought at the time that such an individual might well give a field student pause, not realizing that I might see one myself!

One further note — whether this eagle was also the "Golden" seen at Montezuma on March 28, 1959 (Kingbird, Vol. 9, p. 34) is uncertain. A complete annual molt would have come between these observations, and I doubt that such an unusual plumage would survive the molt. — Walter R. Spofford, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse.

Flight Speed of Starlings: As I was driving from the Laboratory of Ornithology to my home in Etna on the afternoon of September 20, 1959, I noticed a flock of 100-150 Starlings flying parallel to the road, over corn fields. I adjusted my car's speed to theirs and found that for a distance of $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 miles the flock maintained a speed of just under 45 miles per hour. When I drove 45, I gained slightly on them, but when I dropped to 40, they pulled ahead of me fairly rapidly. There was no wind. Finally the flock turned northeasterly and disappeared from sight over a distant woodlot.

This is near the upper limit of the range of speeds clocked for Starlings (18 to 51.4 mph) as summarized by M. T. Cooke (U. S. D. A. Circular No. 428, May, 1937), and it is interesting that the speed was maintained and could be clocked for a considerable distance in this case. — Sally F. Hoyt, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

A Hummingbird Experience: Like many other species of birds, hummingbirds sometimes come to grief by flying into windows or screened-in enclosures. In the case of a bird as tiny and fragile as the hummingbird, death usually results. The particular bird in this episode was luckier than most.

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird had evidently tried to fly across a corner of a screened-in porch and had rammed its bill through a mesh. The bird's speed of flight caused the bill to jam so hard that it pushed the skin away and caused bleeding around the mouth. The bird had evidently been caught for some time when first discovered inasmuch as its body was limp and the blood that had run down on the screen was dry. I was able to gently pull the bird loose and revive him and clean him with some warm water from the kitchen sink. I took the bird outside, opened my hand wide, and off he flew to the top of a tall tree — apparently as good as new. — Marie M. Barteau, Brookhaven, Long Island.

Fearlessness in Pine Siskins: In April, 1950, at Stone Ridge in Ulster County, dandelions were blooming and seeding profusely on a small piece of lawn lying between a driveway and a long rectangular building. Semi-basement windows in this building were slightly above ground level. Finding the dandelion seeds attractive, several Pine Siskins frequented the area for a few days during the month and showed great reluctance to fly when approached. From inside the building the birds

could be watched from as little as two feet away; they usually regarded peering faces in the windows with little concern.

I had a similar experience with Pine Siskins on March 21, 1953, at Kripplebush, also in Ulster County. A pair of these birds was feeding on old pepper seeds near a refuse pile made up the previous fall. I had no field glasses with me at the time, and I decided to walk closer for a better look. Down to about 25 feet distance, I was regarded with little intent. Realizing their zest for the pepper seeds and apparent fearlessness, I continued slowly towards them to see how near I could get before they took wing. Near ten feet they became uneasy and would stop working on the seeds briefly to regard my actions, especially the movement of my feet which they watched very closely. Slowly I edged toward them, and since I made no wild motions to excite them into flight, one would believe they were pitting hunger against the instinctive fear to fly away. The two birds remained at the seeds, and I finally stood, fully exposed, at just three feet from them! They ceased eating and motionlessly eyed me for a few moments until the strain of fear broke and they flew up into the lower branches of a nearby tree.

Let me cite still one further example. In April, 1959, at Kripplebush I saw a lone Siskin feeding near the entrance of a driveway in which I intended to turn. As I slowly did so, the bird was so close that I couldn't see it over the hood of the car. It flew up only at being virtually driven off its ground.

Since all these cases occurred during the spring months, this unusual fearlessness reaction may be collaborated with a dearth of seed supply often found at that time of year and may reflect a hungry bird's desire to stay with a bountiful find until forced at the last minute to fly up. — Fred Hough, Accord 1.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINTER SEASON DECEMBER 1 — MARCH 31

JAMES K. MERITT

The calendar states that spring officially arrives in March, but it certainly could not be otherwise proved this past season. The early part of the winter was generally mild, and just when it seemed we might escape the season relatively unscathed, the cold and snow arrived. March was, without a doubt, the most winter-like month of the period.

The mildish weather that prevailed until the latter part of February accounted for a relatively large number of late lingerers and winterers at feeding stations and elsewhere. There were several reports of such birds as the Brown Thrasher, Catbird, and Baltimore Oriole. Mourning Doves seemed to be present in quite good numbers. There were December reports of the Tennessee Warbler in Region 2 and the Black-throated Blue Warbler in Region 9. The Yellow-breasted Chat was reported from Long Island.

The effect of the March cold wave was apparently merely to delay the arrival of some of the early migrants. While there were a few late winter storms in the middle Atlantic region, there is no evidence at this writing that our early migrants suffered unduly. As you will recall, this was not the case two years ago. Our "southern" birds (i. e. Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird) were generally recorded in very good numbers, but it is a bit early yet to ascertain what effect, if any, the March weather had on these birds. The Mockingbird and Cardinal are quite hardy species, of course, but the Carolina Wren population seems to rise and fall in keeping with the severity of the winter.

— Among our winter birds Redpolls completely dominated the picture. A review of the regional reports which follow will indicate how widespread their movement into the state was. This was unquestionably the greatest

Redpoll invasion in many years, and it may well have been the greatest on record. The birds certainly appeared at feeding stations in unprecedented numbers. As might be expected, the slightly larger and lighter Hoary Redpoll was not infrequently observed, with reports coming from exactly half of the ten reporting regions.

The Evening Grosbeak flight was in some areas an outstanding one, in other areas a good one. On a state-wide basis, however, it could perhaps not compare to some that have taken place in recent winters. Pine Grosbeaks were inexplicably scarce, and some areas had no reports whatsoever. Purple Finches were scarce. There was a fair number of Snowy Owl reports. Pine Siskins were not generally well distributed, and it was one of the poorest Northern Shrike years in some time. Crossbills were observed in their usual few numbers. The Rough-legged Hawk flight was a very good one, certainly one of the best in recent years. Although the Boreal Chickadee was reported on several occasions during the winter in areas just to the south of us, the only observations mentioned in the regional reports come from Region 9. The rare and erratic Bohemian Waxwing was seen in Regions 2 and 5.

Foremost among the individual records was the observation of a Smew at Buffalo, perhaps a first record for the North American continent. This little European duck was independently identified by two parties on January 17, and the bird was present at the same locality for several days (check the Region I report for details). Another real wanderer was the Say's Phoebe observed over a period of seven days in the Rochester area. The very infrequently seen Ivory Gull was reported in Region 9, and a Western Tanager, a bird that occasionally turns up along the eastern seaboard in winter, was also recorded in that region. Other records of especial note include a dead King Rail in Region 3 and a Franklin's Gull and Red Phalarope in Region 5.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

The winter season will long be remembered by most local field observers as one characterized by extremes. Both meteorological and ornithological events made this season outstanding even for the most seasoned and oldest observers. December was generally a mild month, with the temperature 3.3°F. above normal, and the precipitation one inch above the average. Only one major snowstorm deposited 7.2 inches of snow on the seventh, but this soon melted. The most severe ice storm in many years deposited a layer of ice more than half an inch thick on vegetation throughout the region. This lasted from December 28 until shortly after January 1. January temperatures averaged 1°F. above the mean and precipitation exceeded the norm by 1.12 inches. Of the four months included in this report, this one was perhaps the closest to normal. The first half of February continued the trends of the previous two months. However, a series of snow storms then occurred on the fourteenth, nineteenth and twenty-first which brought the total snowfall for the month, 49.5 inches, to near record levels. The old record for total precipitation was broken. Temperatures averaged 2.5°F. above normal. March was perhaps the most winter-like month of the season. A persistent high pressure system produced the longest sustained cold period and the second coldest March on record, the coldest being in 1885. The average temperature was only 24.1°F. Above normal temperatures characterized the last five days, during which a great percentage of the snowfall melted and local flooding occurred. The mercury soared to 54°F. on the twenty-seventh and the previous high of 69°F. was equalled on the thirtieth. Total precipitation for the month was 2.35 inches, thus making it the first month since September 1959 with below normal precipitation.

Most inland ponds and lakes were completely frozen by mid December and remained so through the end of March. However, a few began to open up during the last five days of March. Thick ice was formed on eastern Lake Erie during the last week of February. The ice bridge at Niagara Falls began to form in mid January and remained solid until it showed signs of breaking up in mid March. It was still present, however, at the end of the period.

As might be expected, an unusually large number of half-hardy species remained in the area during the unusually mild early part of the winter. This effect was most readily observable among the dabbling ducks, Icterids and Fringillids. However, the frequency of these species was reduced greatly with the advent of severe weather in mid February. The Fringillids were also in the limelight because of the notable movements of Evening Grosbeaks, Redpolls and Snow Buntings. For many observers, the latter two species were more common and widespread than at any other time in memory. Redpolls were observed frequently at many feeding stations when deep snow covered much of the natural food supply. For the same reason, a few feeding stations near open fields attracted Snow Buntings and also some Lapland Longspurs, species which seldom occur at feeders. The normal March migrants were unusually late in arriving, the first noticeable movement not occurring until the twenty-seventh and after, when the record shattering high pressure system was pushed northward. Most noteworthy were several rarities observed in the region. A Smew, Barrow's Goldeneye and Pomarine Jaeger (see below for details) added to an unprecedented total of at least 110 species observed by members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society during the month of January.

Loons — Ducks: One to three Common Loons remained in the gorge at Niagara Falls until Jan 9. The last was seen Jan 17 near Dunkirk (Stanley). No migrants were reported in March. A dead Red-throated Loon was found Dec 16 (Brownstein et al) and one was observed Jan 8 through 17 in the gorge at Niagara Falls. Single Red-necked Grebes were observed Jan 16 on the Niagara River near Buffalo (Rosche et al), Jan 17 at Shadigee on Lake Ontario (Axtell) and Jan 30 and 31 on Chautauqua Lake (Hiller et al). None were reported during March, in contrast to the noteworthy flight of a year ago. A few Horned Grebes remained on the Niagara River until mid January. The last occurred at Celeron on Chautauqua Lake Jan 31 (Hiller et al). Probable migrants moved into the area Mar 27 at Dunkirk (Bohall et al) and Mar 28 at Grand Island (Mitchell et al). The last migrant Pied-billed Grebe was reported Dec 5 at Attica Reservoir (Rosche et al) while another apparently spent the winter on Lake Erie at Dunkirk Harbor (many observers). Spring migrants were not noted until Mar 29 and 30. Great Blue Heron was unusually scarce in the Niagara River region, with only one being recorded several times prior to Mar 20. Three were seen Mar 20 at Grand Island (Wendling et al), while several observations were reported from Mar 27 through 31, probably indicating migrant individuals. Winter records of this species from areas away from the Great Lakes are few. Hence, one observed Jan 6 and Feb 22 at Chautauqua Lake (Elderkin, Bohall et al) was noteworthy. One Black-crowned Night Heron was reported Jan 1 at Buffalo (Windsor et al), three were observed Jan 23 at Niagara Falls (Schaffner) and another occurred Mar 28 at Grand Island (Mitchell et al). Whistling Swans first occurred Mar 26 when 41 were counted on the Niagara River (Rew). By Mar 29, a maximum of 335 were counted in the same region (Schaffner et al). Four Canada Geese remained in the gorge at Niagara Falls during December and January. They were last reported Feb 6 (Schaffner et al). One was observed Jan 9, Mar 8 and 13 at Newfane (Lehrer). Migrants first appeared Mar 27 when approximately 300 birds were observed in the Oak Orchard Refuge region (Brockner et al). Usually there are at least several thousand in this area by late March. Maximum count for the period was 441 birds on the Niagara River Mar 29. Two Gadwall were reported Jan 23 from Goat Island at Niagara Falls (Schaffner et al). Pintail and American Widgeon lingered in the area until mid February. As many as 18 of the former and four of the latter were observed Feb 13 at Goat Island and Grand Island in the Niagara River (Mitchell et al). Migrant Pintails were first noted Mar 27 and American Widgeon Mar 30 in several areas. No Green-winged Teal were reported during the period. The earliest Blue-winged Teal were observed Mar 29 near Williamsville (Windlings). Noteworthy was a Wood Duck observed Jan 1 on the Allegheny River at Vandalia (Eaton). None were reported during March. Unusually late Ring-necked Ducks were reported Jan 17 at Grand Island (Rosche et al) and Jan 23 at Grand Island and Niagara Falls (Schaffner et al). Small numbers of migrants were noted Mar 28 through 30. For the second consecutive winter, an adult male Barrow's Goldeneye was found Jan 1

on the west branch of the Niagara River (Axtell). It was regularly seen throughout January and periodically during February until the twenty-first (reported by Mitchell). No Harlequin Ducks were observed during the period. At least 15 female and immature male King Eiders are known to have been observed, shot or found dead in the vicinity of the Niagara River during December. Two immature males in the gorge at Niagara Falls (Schaffner et al) and one at Fort Niagara (Nathan et al) Jan 17, ended one of the biggest eider flights in years. Remnants of the impressive autumn scoter flight remained in the area through mid January. Both the Surf and Common Scoter were observed about two and a half weeks later than their average departure dates for the region. Perhaps only the formation of an ice bridge in the gorge at Niagara Falls caused one Surf Scoter and four Common Scoters to be last observed Jan 17 (Nathan et al). White-winged Scoters were also last observed Jan 17 in the Niagara River region, but apparently one spent the winter at Dunkirk Harbor (many observers). An impressive number of 122 were counted Jan 24 off Shadigee on Lake Ontario (Schaffner et al). On Feb 28, 36 were still at that location (Schaffner et al) and five were reported there Mar 27 (Mitchell et al). The last Ruddy Duck to be seen was in the forge at Niagara Falls Dec 13 (Schaffner et al) while the first spring migrant occurred Mar 30 at Grand Island (Mitchell et al). Unusually large numbers of Common Mergansers congregated on the Niagara River at the south end of Grand Island in mid January. A conservative estimate of 20,000 was made Jan 21 (Schaffner et al). Hooded Mergansers were infrequently observed until Mar 28 when 31 were counted on the Niagara River (Lancaster). One of the high points in the history of Niagara Frontier ornithology occurred Jan 17 when Mr. Robert D. Coggeshall identified an immature female Smew, an Old World duck for which there are no satisfactory North American records, in Buffalo Harbor.

Many local observers, including Dr. Harold H. Axtell, Curator of Zoology at the Buffalo Museum of Science who independently identified it, studied it that day and the next. It was last seen there Jan 22 (Andrle). On Feb 21 Dr. James Baillie of the Royal Ontario Museum at Toronto rediscovered what probably was the same individual on the west branch of the Niagara River. Several other observers found it in the same general area Feb 23, 27 and 28 and Mar 13 and 29 through 30.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vultures were not observed during the report period. Before late March, accipiters were probably more common than usual, especially the Sharp-shinned Hawk for which there were at least six reports. Perhaps this was a direct result of the abundance of small landbirds, upon which these birds prey. An adult Goshawk was observed carefully Mar 26 at Arcade in Wyoming County (Rosche et al). Buteos, in general, became rather scarce after early February. Evidences of field rodents after heavy snow covered the region were scarce. Red-tailed Hawks moved into the region in some numbers beginning in early March. Most interesting was a Red-shouldered Hawk noted Jan 25 near Sturgeon Point on the south shore of Lake Erie (Bourne). There are few winter records for this species. An unprecedented count of 26 Rough-legged Hawks was observed on one day in early December along the south shore of Lake Ontario between Fort Niagara and Point Breeze (Axtell). An unusually high percentage, 10 of the 26, were in the dark color phase. This was true, more or less, throughout the winter. This species continued to be more common and widespread than usual until early February, with several being recorded from the hills of the Allegheny Plateau where in most winters they are absent. An adult Bald Eagle occurred Dec 25 near Silver Creek (Loersch rep. Rosche) while another was seen well Mar 16 near Hamburg (Bourne). Marsh Hawks continued to be unusually scarce with only two reports before late March. Several Sparrow Hawks wintered in the Allegheny Plateau region. With rare exceptions, they are usually confined to the Lake Plains during most winters. A notable hawk flight occurred Mar 30 at Sturgeon Point on the south shore of Lake Erie. Watching for about two hours, Schaffer and Brownstein counted 126 hawks as follows: Sharp-skinned Hawk — 4, Cooper's Hawk — 4, Red-tailed Hawk — 34, Red-shouldered Hawk — 55, Marsh Hawk — 17 and Sparrow Hawk — 12. The heavy snow of mid February and March appeared to make heavy inroads on Ring-necked Pheasant populations throughout the region, their numbers being noticeably reduced over those of December and January. The only American Coot record came from Dunkirk Harbor where one bird was reported throughout the period by many observers. One Killdeer was observed Dec. 27 at Grand Island (Clark) and another Jan 1 at Tonawanda (Ulrich et al). Migrants first appeared Mar 27. Two hundred and fifty birds, most of which were flying by, were counted on Mar 30 along the south shore of Lake Erie (Schaffner et al). One Common Snipe was reported Feb 16, 18, 20 and

27 and Mar 24 from Jamestown (Bohall et al). No other shorebirds were reported. Particularly noteworthy was an immature Pomarine Jaeger found by Mrs. Agnes T. Abrams Jan 16 as it rested on an extensive lawn near Buffalo's North Harbor. It was observed at close distances for 20 to 30 minutes by about 25 observers, including Harold H. Axtell and Harold D. Mitchell. Glaucus Gulls were present throughout the period, with a peak of about 15 observed at Niagara Falls in mid January. Iceland Gulls (*L. g. glaucoides*) appeared to be somewhat less numerous than usual after mid January. At Niagara Falls one Iceland Gull (*L. g. kumlieni*) was observed Dec 9 (Andrle et al) and two were reported Jan 17 (Brownstein et al). Record numbers of Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls were tallied Jan 1 in the Niagara River region on the Buffalo Ornithological Society Christmas Count. Ring-billed Gulls appeared to be more numerous than usual on the Niagara River during early March. At least one observer had the impression that the Ring-billed was much more common than the Herring Gull at this time (Schaffner). A Black-headed Gull, perhaps the same individual observed by many during November, was reported Jan 11 on the Niagara River (Schaffner et al). By late December the record breaking population of Bonaparte's Gulls which appeared on the Niagara River in late November was reduced to an approximate 7000 individuals. Several hundred wintered on the river and were seen through the end of the period. One to four Little Gulls were noted by many observers on the Niagara River Dec 1 through 16. Two were seen in the same area during January. Noteworthy was one observed on the Niagara River at Lewiston Feb 28 (Nathan et al) and Mar 6 (Schaffner et al). There are few late winter records for the region. A Black-legged Kittiwake, probably one of the same individuals observed during November, was seen on the Niagara River near Buffalo Jan 10 (Nathan et al). Mourning Doves wintered in scattered localities throughout the region, the highest count being 14 at Niagara Falls Feb 27 (Heilborn). With the exception of Mar 30 when 17 were counted migrating along the south shore of Lake Erie (Schaffner et al), there was little evidence of the normal March movement into the area. About five individual Snowy Owls were reported from scattered localities, including one that was observed and photographed regularly near Colden in southern Erie County, from late December through January. Short-eared Owls continued to be uncommon throughout the period. On Grand Island in the Niagara River, where they usually occur most commonly, the highest reported count was only six on Jan 23 (Rosche et al). Perhaps the scarcity of field rodents affected this species as it probably did the Buteo hawks. Long-eared Owls were regular in their usual habitats, their numbers being about normal.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Belted Kingfishers appeared to be more frequent than usual along open streams in the Allegheny Plateau. A maximum of four Yellow-shafted flickers were noted on Dec 20 at Wilson (Brownstein et al). More than the normal number wintered in the region, including several away from the Lake Plains. Migrant flickers were scarce during the last five days of March. Of interest was a Red-bellied Woodpecker observed Jan 17 and Feb 28 at Point Breeze, Orleans County (Axtells et al). Four Red-headed Woodpeckers spent December and January in open oak woodland near Fort Niagara and were observed by many. Only one was seen there after mid February. Another individual reported Feb 11 from Grand Island (Freitag et al) represents the first known occurrence of this species in winter on the island since December 1957. Formerly certain woodlands there were regular stations. One bird visited a feeding station at Athol Springs (Csont) while two were observed Dec 20 at another feeder at Lewiston (Bingham). Hairy Woodpeckers were more frequent than usual during February and March throughout the region. Noticeable migratory movements of Horned Larks occurred on the first four days of February, on the fourteenth and twenty-eighth. Small numbers of Horned Larks (*E. a. alpestris*) were observed through January, Feb 28, Mar 2 and 6 on the Lake Plains. Only one Tree Swallow was reported for the period — Mar 29 near Jamestown (Beal). During March the usual influx of Common Crows occurred throughout the region. A mild invasion of Tufted Titmice developed during the winter. While their numbers were small, there were at least as many as in any other previously recorded influx. They were frequently seen at feeding stations. Two individuals near Jamestown Dec 27 (Beal et al) and Jan 17 (Hiller et al) were especially noteworthy. Red-breasted Nuthatches continued to be less common than in most winters. Winter Wrens were less common than might be expected, with four of six observations coming from the most severe part of the season. The number of observations of the Carolina Wren increased this winter over those of last, perhaps indicating a general comeback after

the definite drop in populations during winter 1957-58. The Family Mimidae was well represented in the region. A Mockingbird was observed carefully Feb 28 in the town of Porter near the south shore of Lake Ontario (Nathan et al). The same bird or another was observed at a feeder in this region (Vaughan). By the end of March there was an unprecedented number of at least five known individuals at feeding stations in the metropolitan Buffalo-Hamburg region. A single Catbird was noted Dec 27 near Jamestown (Beal et al). Several Brown Thrashers were reported, most of these coming from feeding stations. Robins remained through the winter in about normal numbers. During mid March an increase was detectable, but the normal populations were not yet present at the end of the month. Single Hermit Thrushes were noted Dec 6 at Wilson (Brownstein et al), Jan 1 and 14 at Grand Island (Rosche, Clark) and two were noted Mar 31 at Springbrook (Schafer). The late March land-bird movement brought the only Eastern Bluebird report. One was seen Mar 30 near Hamburg (Bourne). Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared to be less common than usual in the Allegheny Plateau. Among the migrants that passed Sturgeon Point Mar 30 were 32 Water Pipits (Schaffner et al). Small Cedar Waxwing flocks were recorded more frequently than in recent winters. The Northern Shrike flight was generally poor but notable for its penetration into the hills of the Allegheny Plateau where few are observed in most winters. Even throughout the orchard country of the Lake Ontario plain, where they normally are most frequent, numbers were far fewer than in most recent winters. Interesting was the fact that most birds observed appeared to be adults. The first Loggerhead Shrikes appeared Mar 27 in the Genesee County sinks area (Mitchell et al).

Vireos — Warblers: No Myrtle Warblers were reported although a cedar-bayberry thicket where as many as 10 were found last winter was checked on several occasions (Wolfling). Yellowthroats remained in the area much later than usual. One was observed Dec 6 at Grand Island (Schaffner et al). At Wilson one was noted Dec 6 and two were observed in the same area Dec 20 (Brownstein et al).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Eastern Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds wintered throughout the region in unusually large numbers, but the normal March movement of these species did not occur until Mar 27. While Common Grackles also appeared to be more common in the earlier part of the winter, few were reported between late January and Mar 26 when the first migrants moved into the area. A Rusty Blackbird was seen Dec 5 at Arcade in Wyoming County (Rosche). Another was seen Mar 18 and 30 at Springbrook (Schafer). Most noteworthy among the Icterids, however, was a male Baltimore Oriole that visited several feeding stations in the Lewiston area from late November to Jan 18 (Klabunde). An estimated 30,000 to 35,000 blackbirds in mixed flocks passed three points along the south shore of Lake Erie Mar 30. An unusual proportion of these birds were females for so early in the season. The approximate percentages of each species were as follows: Starling — 30%, Red-winged Blackbird — 30%, Brown-headed Cowbird — 20%, Common Grackle — 15%, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird and unidentified birds — 5% (Schaffner et al). Cardinals continued to become more common and widespread and Evening Grosbeaks were more numerous than during recent winters. On the Buffalo Audubon Society Christmas Count Jan 3 in the Hamburg-Chestnut Ridge Park region, 104 Cardinals and 331 grosbeaks were counted, the highest in fourteen years. The highest number of Cardinals in 21 years, 37, were counted in the Grand Island region Jan 1 on the Buffalo Ornithological Society Christmas Count. The only Purple Finches to appear were one at Allentown in Allegany County Feb 1 through 29 (Madden), one at Hamburg Feb 28 (Bacon) and one at Niagara Falls Mar 30 (Tulinoff). Among flocks of Common Redpolls, two Hoary Redpolls were observed well Feb 5 and one Mar 11 near Hamburg (Bourne). An unusual observation was that of a Common Redpoll (*A. f. rostrata*) observed under satisfactory conditions Feb 18 near Hamburg (Bourne). Two were reported Mar 16 from the same area (Bourne). Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches appeared to be somewhat less common than during an average winter. No migratory movement of either species was noted before the end of March. Crossbills were surprisingly scarce. A survey by several individuals in areas where they are most generally found, disclosed a rather poor hemlock cone crop. The only White-winged Crossbills reported were observed Jan 3 near East Aurora (Rosche et al), Red Crossbills were seen only at Youngstown Cemetery Dec 20 (Nathan et al), Allegany State Park Jan 31 (Brownstein et al) and Emery Park Mar 29 (Coggeshall). A male Rufous-sided Towhee spent the winter at a feeding station near Springbrook (Schafer et al) and another visited a feeder at Cattaraugus (Babcock). The first Savannah

Sparrow occurred Mar 31 near Springbrook (Schafer). Among the most noteworthy of the sparrow records was a Vesper Sparrow observed at Point Breeze, Erie County Mar 2 (Schaffner et al). The first migrant was noted Mar 30 near East Aurora (Nelson et al). Slate-colored Juncos began moving through the area in numbers on the last two days of March. Winter Field Sparrows are usually very rare in this region and their presence is probably one of the best indicators of a mild season. Three were seen at Newfane Dec 20 (Lehrer). On the same day five were observed at Wilson (Schaffner et al) and one occurred at Youngstown (Braunberns). At Wilson, eight were present Jan 10 (Schaffner et al) and three were found there Jan 31 (Klabunde et al). Six were observed near Jamestown Jan 12 (Beal) while one was noted Jan 23 at Grand Island (Schaffner et al). One bird visited a feeding station Mar 5 through 27 at Athol Springs (Csont). One White-crowned Sparrow was observed Jan 1 and 4 at Grand Island (Klabunde, Brownstein et al). Another was first noted Jan 24 at a feeding station in suburban Buffalo and it remained there through March. Two others were reported throughout March from Jamestown (Beal). White-throated Sparrows were more common than usual, at least six individuals being reported during the period. An interesting occurrence was that of a Fox Sparrow at a feeder Dec 1 through 5 at Hamburg (Avery). Another occurred during January at East Aurora while the first probable migrant was reported Mar 30 at Hamburg (Avery). Swamp Sparrows were more common than usual during December and early January, but their numbers dropped sharply thereafter. As many as 14 were noted Dec 14 at Wilson and 12 appeared Jan 2 at Grand Island (Schaffner et al). Song Sparrows were more noticeable throughout the area than in most winters. Lapland Longspurs were noted frequently throughout the period. A definite flight occurred Feb 28 along the south shore of Lake Ontario in Orleans County, with 75 individuals being counted (Schaffner et al). A dead Snow Bunting was picked up Mar 21 from a street in West Seneca. Its leg held a band indicating that it had been banded in Denmark. The unusual Snow Bunting flight same to a very abrupt ending during the last few days of March. Few were found after more normal conditions dominated the weather picture in western New York.

48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 15

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

The winter just past broke all records for snowfall, the total being 161 inches. The highest previous fall was 142 inches sixty years ago. The temperature, however, was slightly above average until the first three weeks in March, which set an all-time low for that period with the only three days of subzero temperatures for the winter being recorded during the early part of the month. One of the most severe ice storms on record occurred on December 28-29, doing much damage to trees and power facilities but producing little apparent effect on birdlife. The extremely heavy snowfall seemed to have little adverse effect on the wintering birds, except possibly the Carolina Wren. Several half-hardy species successfully wintered, aided in many cases by increasing numbers of feeders.

Certain species of waterfowl seemed down in numbers, especially Redheads, Canvasbacks, and Ruddy Ducks. The last few days of the period brought good flights of Canada Geese, fair numbers of most regular species of ducks, a good early hawk flight, and a spectacular flight of blackbirds and Starlings. Among the winter birds, Rough-legged Hawks were common, Snowy Owls and Northern Shrikes rather scarce, Redpolls very common, Evening Grosbeaks in fair numbers, and Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins scarce. Lapland Longspurs occurred in small numbers, but Snow Buntings were well distributed.

Loons — Ducks: A Common Loon was seen Jan 2 on Irondequoit Bay (Kemnitzer), and another was observed Jan 17 at Point Breeze (Listman). Two Red-throated Loons were seen Dec 27 at the Irondequoit Bay outlet (Kemnitzer), and two Red-necked Grebes were noted there on Dec 5 (Kemnitzer). Twenty-five Horned Grebes were at the Irondequoit Bay outlet on Dec 5 (Kemnitzer), and six were seen at Canandaigua Lake on Feb 4 (Zeitler). A Pied-billed Grebe was observed Jan 2 at Conesus Lake (Listman, Mitchell), and another was at Charlotte on Mar 27 (Schmanke). Two Great Blue Herons were seen Mar 27 at Braddock's, and four Black-crowned Night Herons were noted at Manitou Beach on Mar 29 (R. Taylor). An American Bittern was at Braddock's on Mar 30 (Dobson). Three Whistling Swans,

seen at Sandy Creek on Mar 30 (Dobson), constituted the first report of the spring migration, and two Canada Geese seen at Manitou on Mar 26 were the first reported for the spring season. This was a very late date. One hundred Canada Geese were seen Mar 27 at Braddock's (Dobson), and numbers rapidly increased from then on. Two Brant seen west of Charlotte on Dec 5 (Listman) were the last of the fall migration. Some 100 Pintail were observed at Braddock's on Mar 30 (Listman). Two Green-winged Teal seen Feb 7 on Irondequoit Creek (Kemnitzer) and three seen Mar 30 at Braddock's (Dobson) were the first of the spring migration. Four Blue-winged Teal at Braddock's on Mar 30 (Listman) were also a spring first. A single American Widgeon was observed at Braddock's on Mar 19 (G.O.S. hike), and 100 were noted in the same place on Mar 30 (Dobson). A Shoveler spent most of the winter on Irondequoit Bay, being last reported on Mar 6. Two were noted at Braddock's on Mar 30 (Listman). A Wood Duck was seen Jan 2 on Hemlock Creek (census), two were noted Mar 30 at Braddock's (Listman), and two were seen Mar 31 at Buck Pond (Dobson). Sixty-four Redheads were counted Jan 17 on Sodus Bay (Foster), but the most seen in the Rochester area through March was five birds. Four Ring-necked Ducks were present at Conesus on Jan 2 (Listman, Mitchell), and ten were seen Mar 30 on Buck Pond (Dobson). Twenty Canvasback seen Mar 30 at Braddock's (Listman) was the largest number of this species reported during the period in the Rochester area. Two thousand Greater Scaup from Hamlin to Point Breeze on Jan 17 represents a rather high count (Listman, Mitchell) as does a count of 57 Bufflehead on the same day along the east lakeshore (Kemnitzer). Eight hundred Oldsquaw Jan 23 at the Irondequoit Bay outlet (Kemnitzer) was the highest total for the period. The King Eider was recorded three times, Dec 27 at Oklahoma Beach (Kemnitzer), Jan 30 at Hamlin (Listman, Mitchell), and on the Genesee River Mar 19 (G.O.S. hike), a single bird in each case. The highest count of White-winged Scoters was one of 400 birds along the east lakeshore Feb 18 (Kemnitzer). One Surf Scoter was reported Jan 17 at Hamlin (Dobson). Two Ruddy Ducks at Conesus on Jan 2 was the only report of this species (Listman, Mitchell). Seven Hooded Mergansers Dec 20 on Irondequoit Bay (Kemnitzer) was the high count for this species.

Hawks — Owls: Five Sharp-shinned Hawks on Mar 30 (Listman) and three Cooper's Hawks on Mar 27 (Listman) represent the high count of these two species to the end of the period. Fifteen Red-tailed Hawks were observed Mar 27 at Braddock's (Listman). Three Red-shouldered Hawks were noted Mar 19 along the west lakeshore; these were the first reports of the year. Thirty-five Red-shoulders were counted Mar 27 at Braddock's (Listman). Rough-legged Hawks were common all winter, a total of nine being seen Dec 27. A count of 14 on Mar 27 at Braddock's (Dobson) probably represents a migratory movement, at least in part. An immature Bald Eagle was seen Mar 13 at Braddock's (Listman). Six Marsh Hawks on Mar 30 at Braddock's (Listman) represents a spring influx, and 30 Sparrow Hawks on Mar 30 at Braddock's (Listman) represents a rather large flight of this little falcon which usually is not very common in the mixed hawk flights. Seventeen Ruffed Grouse were seen in the Honeoye Lake area Jan 2 (census). A Virginia Rail was noted Dec 27 at Braddock's (Bieber). An American Coot was at Sodus Bay on Jan 24 (Foster), and six were seen at Braddock's on Mar 30 (Listman).

A Killdeer was at Braddock's Dec 20 (Listman), one was present throughout February in Fairport (Clarks), one appeared in Penfield Feb 26 (Mrs. Munson), and 40 were seen at Braddock's Mar 30 (Listman). The first Woodcock was seen along the Parkway on Mar 27 (Dobson). A Common Snipe was seen Dec 27 at the Elmwood Ave. marsh (Starling et al), and one was present at a warm water marsh area at Ling Road from Dec 31 to Mar 19. A Pectoral Sandpiper was seen on the early date of Mar 19 at Russell Station (G.O.S. hike), and there was one at Manitou on Mar 30 (Listman). A very late Dunlin was seen Dec 27 at Russell Station (O'Hara et al).

Occasional single Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were reported during the first two months of the period. A typical example of the subspecies "kumlieni" was seen Dec 27 at Summerville (Moons et al). Bonaparte's Gulls, which usually disappear shortly after Jan 1, lingered in some numbers well past that time, seven being seen Feb 13 at Irondequoit Bay (Starling et al). Twenty Mourning Doves seen Feb 26 in West Henrietta (Foster, Tetlow) was the high count for this species during the period, although the species was present and seen frequently during the entire period. The Snowy Owl was reported three times from the west lakeshore and three times from the Webster area, a single bird each time. A Long-eared Owl was

recorded Jan 14 in Bushnell's Basin (Whites). Short-eared Owls were regularly seen in the Braddock's area with a maximum of seven being reported Mar 13 (Foster). A Saw-whet Owl was seen Mar 19 in the "owl" woods near manitou (G.O.S. hike).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A Yellow-shafted Flicker was seen Feb 6 at Tryon Park (Miller). A Red-headed Woodpecker was noted at Conesus on Jan 2 (Listman et al), and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen Jan 9 in Durand (Tetlow, Carlson).

One of the rarest birds reported from this area in several years was the Say's Phoebe first seen Dec 13 in Greece by Listman and Lloyd. They had ample opportunity to carefully study the bird under very favorable conditions. They made a complete report of all field marks and conditions of the observation, and so there can be no doubt as to the care used in the identification of this bird. It was again seen Dec 19 in the same area. Although the dates are rather later than might be expected, the area is well suited for a late straggler, being a marshy area with a creek which at the time was unfrozen. This was the first report of this species in our region (Ed — and apparently the first for the state outside of Long Island). Tufted Titmice continued to occur regularly along the east lakeshore, six or more frequenting the McNeth and Sunderlin feeders in the area. Red-breasted Nuthatches wintered in some numbers at Durand and Highland Parks. Two Carolina Wrens were seen at Conesus on Jan 2 (Listman, Mitchell), and two frequented the Sunderlin feeder east of Irondequoit Bay until the heavy snows of mid-February, at which time they disappeared.

From one to three Mockingbirds were regularly reported in the Webster area, and it seems that possibly up to six birds wintered in this section. The birds adopted the habit of spending much of their time sitting on chimneys. A Brown Thrasher was present at the Kennedy feeder in Irondequoit from Feb 13 to at least Mar 26, another was seen in Webster Feb 21 (G.O.S. field trip), and still another was noted Mar 12-14 near Island Cottage Woods (Starling et al). Robins wintered in rather small numbers and appeared late in arriving, numbers being low at the end of the period. A Hermit Thrush was seen in Durand Jan 17 (Dobson) and again Feb 13 (Starling et al), and one was at the Dakin feeder at Bushnell's Basin at least from Jan 25 to Mar 4. From one to six Bohemian Waxwings were present in Durand during the first six weeks of the period, and nine were seen Feb 9 in Brighton (Listman). The maximum count of Cedar Waxwings was 200 seen in Durand and Webster Jan 24 (Listman et al). Occasional single Northern Shrikes were reported, and three Loggerhead Shrikes were seen Mar 30 at Manitou (Listman). An enormous flight of Starlings occurred with blackbird flights late in March with **250,000** being estimated on Mar 29 at Manitou (Listman).

Vireos — Warblers: An extremely late Tennessee Warbler was noted Dec 2 in Webster (Sunderlin and Miller), and a late Orange-crowned Warbler was observed Dec 5 east of Irondequoit Bay (Kemnitzner, Listman). A Yellowthroat was seen at Ling Road on Jan 16 (Listman).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Ten Eastern Meadowlarks were near Mendon Feb 4 (Zeitler). On Mar 30 Bob Dobson made a careful estimate of the flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles during a 90-minute period from 5:30 to 7:00 P. M. He finished with an estimate of 169,500 Red-winged Blackbirds and 91,700 Common Grackles. On Mar 30 Walt Listman estimated 5,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds in the migrating flocks of blackbirds at Manitou. An adult male Dickcissel was seen Dec 1, 26, and 29 at the Munson feeder in Penfield. It was not seen subsequently. Sixty Evening Grosbeaks spent the winter at the Sunderlin-McNeth feeders in Webster, 40 wintered around the Dakin feeder at Bushnell's Basin, and smaller numbers were reported at other feeders. A few were seen occasionally in Durand. A maximum of ten Purple Finches were reported Feb 21 in Durand (G.O.S. field trip). Pine Grosbeaks and White-winged Crossbills were unreported. Two Hoary Redpolls were seen at Conesus Jan 2 (Listman), and one was seen Feb 6 in Webster (Kemnitzner). These were typical examples, and several more birds not as well seen may have been this species. Common Redpolls were found everywhere in flocks ranging up to 250 birds. Many reports were received of this species appearing at feeders, with a top count of 150 to 200 individuals being present at the Sunderlin-McNeth feeders. This is an unusual habit for this species to adopt, as one heretofore never considered the Redpoll a bird that depended on feeders to any extent. In contrast to the abundance of Redpolls, Pine Siskins were scarce. Aside from small flocks around the Haller feeder in Avon and the Cameron feeder in Pittsford, the species was almost unreported. Common Goldfinches were also rather low in numbers.

One Red Crossbill was seen near Irondequoit Bay on Dec 5 (Kemnitzer, Listman), and a flock of 12 was noted that same day in Powder Mills Park (G.O.S. hike). These were the only reports of this species. A Rufous-sided Towhee was noted in Durand Dec 27 (Moons et al), one was seen at Conesus Jan 2 (Listman et al), and two were observed around the Collins feeder near Durand on Feb. 13. Two Vesper Sparrows spent most of February and early March around the Whites' feeder at Mendon. An Oregon Junco was seen Dec 27 at Greece (Corcoran), and one was an irregular visitor to the Munson feeder in Penfield from Dec 29 on. A Chipping Sparrow was seen near Conesus on Jan 2 (Listman et al). The presence of this species so late is very unusual.

A White-crowned Sparrow was observed near Braddock's Dec 27 (Lloyd, McKinney), one was seen at a feeder in Sodus Point Jan 24 (Foster), and one appeared regularly at John Foster's feeder in Rochester from Feb 6 to Mar 19. White-throated Sparrows wintered in much smaller numbers than a year ago; two were seen Jan 16 at Ling Road (Listman), and single birds spent the winter around the McNeth-Sunderlin and Kemnitzer feeders. An unprecedented record was that of a Lincoln's Sparrow which appeared at the Rohner feeder in Greece Jan 3 and remained at least until Mar 28. It was carefully observed by many of the area's birders. Lapland Longspurs were rather scarce, the largest number being six reported Feb 18 in Webster (Kemnitzer). Snow Buntings, however, were well distributed; a flock of 300 seen Jan 24 in Webster (Lloyd) was the high count.

54 Luella Street, Rochester 9

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

Winter weather and birding conditions leave me fumbling for the proper descriptive terms. December and January were actually slightly above normal in temperature, with December quite wet and January moderately so. The moderate, open conditions continued until almost mid-February, with a complete thaw the second week. Then came the snows and the cold. Most of the region received over four feet of snow the last two weeks of February and the first week of March, and the great number of winter finches which had been driven this far south by conditions to the north found their food supply buried. Coupled with this, the month of March produced record-breaking low temperatures almost every day, the monthly average being almost ten degrees below normal. In Etna, for example, I had below zero readings every morning from March 7-17 (minimum of —20) and again several mornings between March 2-25.

While other years have undoubtedly brought as many Redpolls into the region, they have previously remained in the fields where they were well camouflaged in the weed patches. The sudden burying of food, however, drove them to feeders this year. Typical of the unusual situation was the presence from March 17 on of over 100 Redpolls daily at the third floor feeder of the Robert Fickens at an apartment on E. State Street hill in Ithaca. These scrappy, friendly little birds were everywhere — in downtown gutters, on single weed-tops along sidewalks. Others fed along roadsides, and Dilger reported that he saw "many thousands" of them on March 1 between Ithaca and Waterloo. The numbers dwindled north of Waterloo.

Small numbers of Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and Goldfinches came with Redpolls to the feeders. Horned Larks and Snow Buntings came to feeders in small villages and on farms. Of additional interest is the fact that I had three reports of Redpolls and Snow Buntings "diving into the Snow," hollowing out little burrows, and resting or roosting overnight in these protected spots.

Many Redpolls and some of the other winter visitors were starving by the time they found feeders. Dead birds brought to the Laboratory were exceedingly thin in every case. Many were also hit by cars.

Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills were the other winter finches reported. Waterfowl have been discussed in the body of this report. Montezuma remained iced too late for a March census. The January 17 waterfowl census revealed a drop in divers, with dabblers about normal.

The severe conditions ended on March 27, and migrants, evidently dammed up south of here by snow which extended into southern Pennsylvania, poured into the Southern Tier about three weeks late. The same south wind that brought them in took away the Horned Larks and many of the Redpolls.

Loons — Ducks: While Horned Grebes were seen in good numbers during the winter (and no iced-in or crash-landed birds were brought to the Laboratory of Ornithology, in contrast with the last two years), only one Pied-billed Grebe and one Red-necked Grebe were found on the waterfowl census in mid-January. The Horned Grebe count, on the other hand, was 302 for the Finger Lakes, a 40% increase over 1959. One Great Blue Heron was found at Montezuma Refuge on Jan 1; migrants came the last week in March. One Whistling Swan lingered near Montezuma until Dec 11.

About 200 Canada Geese remained on Keuka until Dec 13, late for this lake. Three stayed with the captives at Sapsucker Woods all winter, and there were about 70 wintering on Cayuga near King Ferry and feeding in fields until heavy snows came. Approximately 1000 stayed at Montezuma until Dec 18, along with four Blue Geese. Seven Canadas spent the rest of the winter there. Geese were late in returning — scattered small flocks were seen in mid-March, but the main migration did not get underway until Mar 26.

On Jan 1 the following waterfowl were found at Montezuma: Mallard 1, Black Duck 4, Pintail 1, Common Goldeneye 15, Hooded Merganser 2, and Common Merganser 15. The same species, plus Canvasbacks, were seen occasionally on the Cayuga-Seneca canal throughout the winter (Morse).

Keuka Lake remained open later than usual, and more waterfowl wintered there than normally (2683 found on the census on Jan 17, almost three times the 1959 count). Seneca Lake, too, had an increase over '59 on the waterfowl count, but Cayuga dropped about 70% in its total. The loss was in diving ducks, particularly Redheads and Canvasbacks. Scaup maintained their numbers. The count of dabbling ducks was comparable to past years. Mallards and Blacks wintered in good numbers at Elmira (Welles), and up to 200 (mixed flock) visited Sapsucker Woods pond almost daily with an occasional American Widgeon and Pintail. Only one Wood Duck was seen on the waterfowl census. Four returned to Montezuma on Mar 29; the first ones at Sapsucker Woods were seen on Mar 31, later than usual.

Over 1000 Redheads remained on the channel at the north end of Keuka until mid-February, when they disappeared, probably going to Seneca. They returned to Keuka at the end of March (Guthrie). Some 320 Redheads and 35 Canvasbacks were at the north end of Cayuga on Mar 20 (Rusk). Goldeneyes appeared in numbers on the river at Elmira on Mar 27. There were more reports of Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers this winter, fewer of Common.

Hawks—Owls: A Turkey Vulture was seen over Elmira on Mar 28 (M. Smith), about on schedule. A Goshawk (rare at any time) spent some time in the airport and Big Flats area of the Elmira region; the bird was seen on Feb 21 by Al Fudge and on Feb 29 by M. Smith and K. Fudge. Of note also is another report of a Goshawk, just outside the region, seen by several observers near Sayre, Pa. (Campbell, Core) about the same time. A male Sharp-shinned Hawk took a sparrow in the village of Forest Home on Jan 24 (E. Little) and ate it ravenously in full view of the house; an immature female was almost a daily visitor to the Sapsucker Woods feeder, but had poor hunting. AAA obtained good photographs of it. There were few reports of Cooper's Hawks this year. Most sections reported more Redtails wintering than usual. Of note is the count of 38 on an 1 just in the Cayuga Basin. We listened enviously to reports of the big Rough-legged Hawk invasion farther north. They were unusually scarce in Region 3 — only one all winter at Keuka, five around Elmira on Jan 1, and until the heavy snows, four at Montezuma. There were two reports at the south end of Cayuga. Both adult Bald Eagles were seen at Montezuma on Dec 5 (Spofford); an adult and the bird with unusual plumage were there on Jan 1. An adult was seen perched in a tree on Mar 1 at the south end of Cayuga (Mrs. Gordon Seldon). The only wintering Marsh Hawks were one seen at Montezuma in early January and another at Sapsucker Woods on Jan 9 (Munroe).

A most unusual record is that of a Peregrine Falcon, in the Elmira airport vicinity, seen repeatedly from December through March. It was observed catching a male Cardinal in late February (M. Welles). Sparrow Hawks seemed more abundant both at Elmira and Odessa (Strath), but they were rarely reported elsewhere.

Kelsey reported that Ruffed Grouse made out well in the region, and several were photographed by Dave Allen feeding on bittersweet berries in a back yard in Ithaca. The species was absent from Sapsucker Woods this year after early January. Pheasants were scarce and were not seen until the deep snows brought them to roadsides in small numbers. More Turkeys have been released in the Connecticut Hill area, and I have an unverified report of one being seen near South Canisteo.

A **King Rail**, rarely reported in the region even in summer, was found freshly dead on the Thruway near Montezuma on Jan 6 (J. Cummings), and a Sora was taken in a muskrat trap on Jan 9 (Morse). Coots were found in expected numbers on the waterfowl census, but again this year they were almost absent at the south end of Cayuga.

Except for a report of a wintering Killdeer near Auburn, which I have been unable to pinpoint, and one seen by Walker on Feb 17 at Waterloo, none was reported until the weekend of Mar 27-28. One Woodcock was found at Elmira on Jan 1. The migrants were almost two weeks late in returning, coming in around Mar 30. The first Common Snipe appeared at Elmira on Mar 27, the first at Ithaca on Mar 31, equally late.

No white-winged gulls were reported in the region this winter. Great Black-backed Gulls were not as numerous at Ithaca as in some years (the maximum count was 21 on Jan 1). Four were reported on Mar 5 at the north end of Seneca (Gambrell). The Jan 1 count of Herring Gulls in the Cayuga Basin this year was 270, of Ring-billed Gulls, 350, unusually low. Twelve Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Elmira on Mar 31 (K. Fudge).

Mourning Doves were reported as wintering at Burdett, Geneva, Waterloo, Elmira, and Ithaca. Again this year the maximum count at Arthur Lane's feeder at Sapsucker Woods was 35. Great Horned Owls returned to Stewart Park, Ithaca, after a two-year absence and are presumed to be nesting there. A Snowy Owl was seen by Morse at Montezuma on Dec 31, and there was one at Geneva on Feb 27. There were no other reports. One Long-eared Owl was seen at Montezuma on Jan 1, but none was found at their "old hang-out" near Ithaca. It was a fairly good Short-eared Owl year. Several were seen regularly near Elmira, where they sometimes came close to buildings and afforded good views. One was found on Jan 1 at Montezuma. Descriptions of several pale owls near Ithaca seemed to indicate Short-eareds. One was wounded near Freeville on Feb 14, had surgery by a veterinarian, and is thriving on my sunporch until he fully recovers. The only Saw-whet Owl report was of one at Geneva on Mar 26 (P. Trail).

Goatsuckers — Warblers: Seven Kingfishers were found at Elmira on Jan 2. Elsewhere few wintered, but there was one along Fall Creek in Etna — the stream remaining open this year. One Flicker wintered in Stewart Park, Ithaca. There were frequent reports of Pileated Woodpeckers within village and city limits during the winter. One bird, near Speedsville, reportedly fed daily on doughnuts (fide M. Guinan). A Red-bellied Woodpecker was infrequently present at a Hornell feeder (Groesbeck), one came to a feeder in Aurora in December (R. Brown), another regularly visited the Nivison home near Jacksonville all winter, and there was one at Sheldrake on Feb 26 (Robinson). There is one apparently good report of a Black-backed (Northern) Woodpecker male at a feeder in Pine Valley (Mrs. Celia Buckholz). Phoebes were late in returning, arriving at the very end of March.

I have contradictory reports on Horned Larks. There were no large flocks at Watkins Glen this year (Bardeen), they were scarce around Elmira until Mar 5 (Welles), but around Ithaca I have never seen so many as from Jan 30 until the last week in March, when they left with the same south wind that brought in other migrants. During most of February and March I could see 150-200 daily in the six-mile drive from Etna to Sapsucker Woods. Walker reported seeing some Northern Horned Larks northwest of Waterloo.

A most unusual winter record is that of two Tree Swallows at the north end of Cayuga Lake on Jan 1 (F. Scheider). Migrants did not appear until Mar 27. At Elmira there were hundreds over the river on Mar 31 (K. Fudge).

A radio request for information on numbers of Blue Jays this year in contrast to other years revealed a drop of from 50% to 70% throughout the region, except at Geneva. Crows were scarce until March — and reportedly absent entirely around Jasper (Margesan). A count of Black-capped Chickadees indicated no drop in numbers and perhaps a very slight increase.

Tufted Titmice have shown a wonderful ability to adapt to our winter conditions. In previous winters, in Ithaca, they have left Stewart Park to visit feeders along the slopes above the lake, but not up to the 900-foot altitude. This year they reached the top, or 1000-foot elevation, and spread out. Tufted Titmice were reported at Sapsucker Woods, Freeville, Groton, Moravia, Dryden, and other villages for the first time. They are well established at Keuka Park (Guthrie). Two pairs wintered at Hornell, where there are only two or three previous records (Groesbeck), and a pair was found in Waterloo. White-breasted Nuthatches seemed somewhat scarcer than usual, but it was a superb winter for Red-breasts. I heard of eight to ten Ithaca

feeders with a Red-breast all winter; the woodlot at Monkey Run usually produced five or six. Avoca was the only part of the region in which they seemed to be missing (Mattice). Winter Wrens were absent everywhere, or else overlooked. While four pairs of Carolina Wrens were found in Watkins Glen, only one was known at Elmira and there were none in Stewart Park. Ithaca did have two pairs and a single, but the birds still have not recouped their losses of a few years ago. A Long-billed Marsh Wren was seen at Montezuma on Dec 5 (Spofford) and was still here on Jan 1 (Scheider).

A Mockingbird came to an Aurora feeder in December (Shakelton), and one turned up in Cayuga Heights, Ithaca, at the Mesics' feeder on Feb 20 and was still there at the end of the period. In the Keuka area, one Mocker was found dead on the road north of Branchport, but a second bird made it through the winter there. A Catbird came to the Lawrence feeder on Lowman Road, Elmira, on Dec 24 and remained all winter. Two Brown Thrashers wintered near Elmira also.

Except for one flock of 25-30 Robins seen in sumac on Feb 28 northwest of Ithaca (deForest), none arrived until almost three weeks later than normal — coming in with the south wind of Mar 27-28. No Bluebirds had appeared by the end of March, although there was one winter record — Jan 1 at the city airport, Ithaca (M. Leighton). Golden-crowned Kinglets seemed scarce around Ithaca, although reported on Jan 1, whereas at Elmira 30 were found on Jan 2. A rather late Ruby-crowned Kinglet came to my feeder in Etna on Dec 12.

Northern Shrikes were scarce this year. There was an individual on Feb 1 on Tug Hollow Road (Bardeen), one report at Keuka, and only three reports around Ithaca. A late one was seen on the Elmira road south of Ithaca on Mar 27 (Dillon, Allan), the same date the first Loggerhead was reported. Starling flocks were everywhere pleasantly smaller this year, but the birds returned in late March in huge numbers. The entire winter produced only one Myrtle Warbler report — at the Smiths' feeder in Elmira on Dec 6. House Sparrows continued to increase, according to census reports.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Meadowlarks, Redwings, Grackles, and Cowbirds did not arrive at Ithaca, Watkins, Elmira, and Jasper until Mar 27 and thereafter — and it was interesting that more female Grackles than usual appeared in the first flocks, probably because of the delays en route (Ficken). The only blackbird to winter in some numbers was the Cowbird, but these numbers were not equal to last year's. I had a small flock all winter in Etna, and Paul Kelsey fed 100 in Dryden after the ice storm in January. We had none at Sapsucker Woods. Five were at the Grosbeck feeder in Hornell, and some were at Watkins Glen feeders. An albino Cowbird was at Elmira on Dec 8. An adult male Rusty Blackbird wintered at Jacksonville (Graham), and three were seen at Horseheads on Jan 12. The first migrant Rusties appeared about the same time as the Grackles. The Redwing flocks reached the Auburn area on Mar 29 (Coalson), and they appeared at Geneva the same day (Ward). One Redwing wintered at Avoca (Mattice).

An immature male Baltimore Oriole was identified by M. Smith at Mrs. Jessup's feeder in Elmira on Jan 2 and was there for some time. An adult male was seen by Mrs. Harry Iszard at her home in Strathmont Park, Elmira. Cardinals seemed to thrive everywhere this winter, in contrast to last year. B. Coalson spoke of a big increase at Auburn. They were called "very numerous" at Elmira, where 49 were counted on Jan 2. At Hornell they enjoyed a good winter, and at Watkins Glen a flock of 25-30 was seen regularly at the Spencer residence just off W. Lake Road. There was a flock of "close to 100" seen near Geneva — almost unbelievable. I had many more phone calls than usual this winter reporting more Cardinals than ever before. My own feeders supported four males and three females.

In early February a male Dickcissel spent some time at the home of the Alfred Grahams in Jacksonville, affording good views as it perched or fed a few feet from the window. Another, or more likely the same bird, appeared later in February at a feeder three miles away. Other reports of this species turned out to be yellowish first year House Sparrows, as is so often the case. Evening Grosbeaks were described as being in good numbers everywhere — but the individual flocks seemed smaller. Banding only on my windowsill feeder, and only a few mornings a week, I trapped 350 before the end of March. Purple Finches turned up at many feeders, but there were only a few birds at a time. The species was absent at Hornell. Two unverified reports of single Pine Grosbeaks at Elmira and one at Ithaca are our only reports of this species.

The bird of the winter was the Redpoll. Appearing in late December and early

January in flocks of 50-300 at various places in the countryside, they seemed, at least around Ithaca, to disappear in late January although Mary Welles reported a flock of 1000 Jan 29 at Elmira. Then came the heavy snows of mid-February, and suddenly we were inundated with Redpolls. Everyone I have spoken to called it the biggest invasion ever noted, but the most remarkable aspect of it was their acceptance, everywhere, of feeders (see also remarks in the introductory section of this report). With the Common Redpolls were a few Hoarries. Pine Siskins were reported at feeders in Watkins Glen, Elmira, Moravia, Ithaca, and Etna, usually in twos and threes. Goldfinches came to many feeders — most unusual in this area — and we had many calls asking about them from people who did not recognize them in their winter plumage (some called them "baby Evening Grosbeaks"). While not a single report of a White-winged Crossbill came in, a flock of 25-28 Red Crossbills remained from early January to the end of the period in the Monkey Run evergreens east of Ithaca, where the Stuart Brown family kept close watch on them. Two were killed feeding on the road. Towhee wintered at the F. Brown feeder at King Ferry, and there was another in Ithaca on Highland Road, at the Meeks' feeder.

Tree Sparrows were in better numbers this winter and were new visitors to many feeders, judging from telephone calls I had. One Chipping Sparrow wintered in Jacksonville (Graham). Field Sparrows were found on the Elmira census Jan 2, and one spent most of the winter at Candor (Hollenbeck) but was found dead at the feeder on Mar 22. Another which probably had wintered turned up at Jacksonville on Mar 8 (Graham). An immature White-crowned Sparrow was banded in Etna in late December and remained in the vicinity until late January. An adult was at the Laboratory of Ornithology feeder for a short time in January. Eight or ten White-throated Sparrows were known to winter in Ithaca, and others were at Elmira feeders. Mary Welles had one immature Swamp Sparrow at her Elmira feeder Jan 25 - Feb 4. Song Sparrows wintered in unusual numbers: 88 were counted on the Cayuga Basin census Jan 1, and 12 were at Elmira on Jan 2. Migrants appeared at the very end of March.

Individual Lapland Longspurs were seen in flocks of Snow Buntings in a number of places. They were quite a few such flocks, but except for one of "2000 or better" seen near Dryden by Paul Kelsey on Jan 1, all were small. Around Ithaca most of them had left by Mar 10, but then I saw 30 on Mar 24 near Etna. In a few places on the edges of villages, the Buntings came to feeders, along with Redpolls.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

This has been a decidedly warm winter on average. On only one day, Dec 23, did the temperature go down to zero at Broome County Airport. Until about the middle of January it was also an open winter. Precipitation was quite heavy in December but most of it was rain, especially at lower elevations. There were appreciable snowfalls Dec 6 and Dec 21-22 but they melted in a few days and it was not until Jan 10 that we had persistent snow cover. From then until about Mar 25 snow fell so frequently that in spite of mild temperatures and fairly rapid melting and evaporation there was snow covering the ground almost all the time. The heaviest accumulation in Binghamton was 13 inches Feb 20.

The mildness of the weather produced a number of winter records of normally migrating species, more interesting for the number of species and individuals than for the species represented. A Wood Thrush and a Catbird were the most out of place. Our three "non-migrant southerners", Cardinals, Titmice and Carolina Wrens, all registered population gains and territory acquisitions and were reinforced by three Mockingbirds. Northern Raptors were well represented by Goshawks, Rough-legged Hawks, Snowy Owls and Short-eared Owls. Evening Grosbeaks, Redpolls and Snow Buntings, and plenty of them, were the main story among the "winter finches".

Although the winter was mild it was in no hurry to leave and many reports complained of the slow arrival of spring migrants. A "probable" Golden Eagle was the prize record of the period.

Loons — Ducks: The only wintering Pied-billed Grebe reported was one seen several times on the Chenango River at Norwich (R. & S. White). No migrants had been reported by the end of the period. A Great Blue Heron that was recorded Jan 1 on the Binghamton Christmas Bird Count at Chenango Valley State Park (R. Sheffield)

was presumably the same bird that became the subject of a newspaper story about a week later when it was rescued from a muskrat trap about a mile away by two teen-agers. Another one was at Homer Jan 27 (J. Gustafson) and at Cortland Feb 3 (Clemens). The first migrants were noted Mar 29 in two flocks; one of six flying over near the Broome County Airport (J. Beaver) and the other of seven over Endwell (L. Memont). Our first Canada Geese were over Endicott Mar 12 (Carmen). Another flock was at Maine Mar 16 (T. Beaver) and a third at Binghamton Mar 25 (H. Kent). From Mar 28 on they were numerous. Of 370 Mallards found during the Waterfowl Census 350 were at the Sherburne Game Farm (R. & S. White). The other twenty, plus another thirteen that seem to have been missed on the census, were in small groups scattered around the region. A few migrants started showing up Mar 29. The total wintering population of Black Ducks was roughly the same as that of Mallards, but only seventy were at the Game Farm. The rest were again scattered throughout the region but generally in much larger groups. A Pintail at the Sherburne Game Farm Dec 24 (R. & S. White) was the only one reported until a total of five were at Campville and Whitney Point Dam Mar 29 (H. Marsi, R. Saunders, N. Washburn). A Green-winged Teal, apparently the same injured bird that has been there the last four years, wintered at the Sherburne Game Farm (R. & S. White). A Wood Duck, the only one reported during the period, was at Campville Mar 20 (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club). Two Ring-necked Ducks at Whitney Point Dam Mar 29 (H. Marsi, R. Saunders, N. Washburn) and two Canvasbacks on the Susquehanna River in Binghamton the same day (R. Saunders) were the first of each species reported. Scaups were first noted near Port Crane Mar 23 (F. Linaberry, H. Marsi) and on Mar 29 seventy-nine were counted on the Chenango and Susquehanna Rivers in the general vicinity of the Triple Cities (H. Marsi, R. Saunders). The six Common Goldeneyes reported during the Waterfowl Census were on the main Delaware River above Lordville (S. Wilson). A few other small flocks were reported during Feb and Mar, the largest of these being seventeen at Chenango Valley State Park Mar 13 (R. & M. Sheffield). A female Bufflehead was at Little York Mar 27 (J. Gustafson) and a pair was on the Susquehanna River in Binghamton Mar 29 (H. Marsi, R. Saunders). The first day they were noted twelve Hooded Mergansers were counted in the Triple Cities area (L. Bemont, H. Marsi, R. Saunders, N. Washburn). The 131 Common Mergansers counted during the Waterfowl Census is the lowest total for the species during the last five years.

Hawks — Owls: There were three different Goshawk reports; two birds at Unadilla Feb 5 (H. Wisner), one at Choconut Center Feb 28 (R. & M. Sheffield) and one at Owego on an unspecified date during the period (M. White). Only in the case of the Choconut Center bird, which was seen so closely with a spotting scope that it was possible to identify it as an immature by eye color, was the report accompanied by observational details. The only Sharp-shinned Hawk reported during the period was found on the Binghamton Christmas Bird Count, but there were several reports of Cooper's Hawks. Red-tailed Hawks were also reported fairly frequently. The only Red-shouldered Hawk during the period was at Gilbert State Park Dec 5 (R. & S. White). More Rough-legged Hawks were reported than in any recent year. They were found at Oxford (A. Stratton), Cortland (L. Bemont) and Upper Iisle (R. & S. White), all before the middle of March. Then in the latter half of March they became especially prominent in the Triple Cities area where on Mar 27 five different ones were seen in little more than an hour (L. Bemont). On Mar 19 what is being classified as a "probable Golden Eagle" was seen at Chenango Valley State Park (H. Marsi, V. Misner). It was so large that a Crow attacking it "looked like a Starling". The white tail, banded with black, was seen clearly, but in the relatively brief time it was in view it was not possible to establish beyond doubt that the light appearance in the head area was merely a reflection as is believed. It is believed that an unknown resident of the area has a mounted specimen of a Golden Eagle which was shot at Whitney Point Dam a number of years ago. No Marsh Hawks until Mar 5 when one was in the Endwell area (R. & M. Sheffield) but several after that. The usual small number of Sparrow Hawks was present all winter until a noticeable increase dating from about Mar 18.

On the last day of their open season one hunter reported flushing 23 Ruffed Grouse in the Whitney Point area (M. Leslie). They were seen "whenever we go to the wood" at Bainbridge (B. Smith). Killdeer were at Unadilla Dec 8 and Feb 12 (H. Wisner) and at Choconut Center Jan 2 (R. & M. Sheffield). Migrants were first noted Mar 27 at Oneonta (J. New) and Marathon (H. Wisner). A Woodcock arrived back at Choconut Center Mar 28 (R. & M. Sheffield) and a Common Snipe was at

Maine Mar 4 (J. Beaver). Herring Gulls were present in the usual small numbers, 38 according to the Christmas Count, in the Triple Cities area with an occasional Ring-billed Gull being noted. One of the latter species was at Homer Feb 8 (J. Gustafson). Fifty Herring Gulls on Mar 29 (H. Marsi, R. Saunders, N. Washburn) and 18 Ring-billed Gulls Mar 28 at Endwell (L. Bemont) were probably migrants. Five at Choconut Center Jan 2 (R. & M. Sheffield) were the largest group of wintering Mourning Doves reported, but there were enough others reported in ones and twos during Jan and Feb to make it difficult to recognize the first migrants. Screech and Horned Owls have been reported in at least normal numbers. There were three Snowy Owl reports: one at Binghamton Jan 10 (Benz), one at Bainbridge Mar 4 (B. Smith) and one at Whitney Point Mar 12 (J. Beaver). The Bainbridge bird rated a newspaper story when it flew around so close to a living room window that it had the parrot inside screeching with alarm. A Barred Owl was found near the Broome County Airport Jan 15 (B. Larkin). A Short-eared Owl was also seen near the Airport Jan 31 (F. & H. Marsi, V. Misener). A Short-eared Owl roosting area was found near Endwell Feb 23. The highest count was five birds on Mar 5 (R. & M. Sheffield). Another one was at Oxford Mar 29 (A. Stratton).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Several wintering Belted Kingfishers were reported. Returning migrants were responsible for a pronounced upswing in numbers starting Mar 27. A Yellow-shafted Flicker was in Binghamton Jan 10 & 11 (H. Marsi) and another wintered at Newark Valley (L. Dean). "A Pileated Woodpecker has been feeding from a suet feeder right in the city of Cortland during March" (Gustafson). A Red-headed Woodpecker was reported from Johnson City Feb 17 (E. Jones). A Phoebe was at Deposit Mar 30 and two were there Mar 31 (S. Wilson) but they were reported from no other area before the end of the period. Horned Larks were quite conspicuous from the beginning of Feb, particularly Feb 7 when "flocks" were noted around Cortland (J. Gustafson) and better than 433 were counted along various roads in the Triple Cities area and Mar 25 & 26 when large flocks were noted in the Oneonta area (J. New) and around Oxford (A. Stratton). At Cortland they came to feeders occasionally (J. Gustafson). Ten Tree Swallows at Whitney Point Mar 29 (H. Marsi, R. Saunders, N. Washburn) were our first. They were also reported from Norwich and Owego before the end of the period. The sixteen Tufted Titmice recorded on the Binghamton Christmas Bird Count were twice the previous high total. They were also reported from Newark Valley and Owego during the period. Black-capped Chickadees: At Bainbridge — "More numerous than ever this winter" (B. Smith), at Newark Valley — "more Chickadees than ever before, or else the hungriest" (L. Dean, at Norwich — "25 - 30 at feeders at one time" (R. & S. White). Lack of comment from other areas and the Binghamton Christmas count seemed to indicate more normal numbers. Reports from Oneonta (J. New), Unadilla (H. Wisner) and the Triple Cities (TCNC) indicated a substantially greater than normal wintering population of Red-breasted Nuthatches. They were also present at Newark Valley and Owego. Sixteen Brown Creepers on the Binghamton Christmas Count was the highest total ever. A Winter Wren on the Christmas Count Jan 1, two in Binghamton Jan 9 (P. Warren) and one at Unadilla Feb 4 (Shaver) are the whole story. A Carolina Wren seen regularly at Unadilla from Oct to mid-Feb (H. Wisner) and another seen at Greene five times in late Nov and early Dec (R. Gray) were the first ever for their areas. They were also reported at Binghamton, Johnson City and Owego. A Mockingbird was at Binghamton from Dec 16 to Feb 14 (Shanley) and another was at Chenango Bridge where it was interested only in a Christmas ham bone that had been hung out (L. Dean). At Greene "on three occasions have seen a bird which we can only identify as a Mockingbird." (R. Gray). The Catbird found at Endwell Mar 18 (F. Linaberry) must have been a wintering bird. There were quite a few reports of wintering Robins. Migrants began moving in in noticeable numbers Mar 26. A Wood Thrush was reported in Binghamton Dec 24 (Minehan). Our first Bluebird was at Endwell Mar 29 (N. Washburn). Only four Northern Shrikes were reported, one of which was banded at Deposit Feb 2 (S. Wilson). Starlings suddenly became very numerous at Unadilla Mar 29 when eight to ten flocks varying in size from 100 to 500 appeared (H. Wisner).

Vireos — Warblers: No wintering Warblers were reported.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A flock of twenty Meadowlarks at a small private airport near Chenango Bridge on Jan 1 for the Christmas Count was only one of several wintering reports, but the others involved only one to three birds each. Migrants Mar 28. There were also several reports of wintering Red-winged Blackbirds from Endicott, Newark Valley, Unadilla and Oxford. Migrants Mar 27. One

Rusty Blackbird at Oxford Mar 6 (A. Stratton). A Common Grackle was in Endicott Feb 8 (A. Carter) and two or three appeared regularly at a feeder in Unadilla "up through Feb 28". Migrants Mar 28. There were many reports of Brown-headed Cowbirds at feeders throughout the region and period.

This year brought a distinct acceleration in the Cardinal population increase that has been going on for years. At Cortland, Oxford and Deposit five or six were seen at a time where one was a noteworthy sight in other years and at Unadilla at least three were regular visitors at feeders (H. Wisner). They have now been reported from Bainbridge, Sidney and Guilford. In fact only the Norwich and Oneonta reports failed to mention them. In the Triple Cities it is becoming commonplace to have otherwise disinterested people describe a Cardinal or its call and want to know what it is. Again it was the "best Evening Grosbeak year, ever" At Deposit 1300 were banded during the period (S. Wilson) and they have been abundant everywhere. During Feb an almost albino was seen at three different feeders (Yateman, Carlin, Washburn) in the Triple Cities and in the middle and again at the end of Mar a similar, if not the same, bird was at Greene (R. Gray). Purple Finches were not especially common and Pine Grosbeaks were reported only twice, eight at Harpustville Dec 21 (Samson) and two at Chenango Valley State Park Feb 21 (B. Evans). Redpolls were everywhere. They were first common Dec 22 and reached a peak in Mid-Jan. They continued very plentiful through Feb then seemed to taper off slowly but were still quite common at the end of the period. Until the middle of Feb they were often in flocks of several hundred but after that they more often came to feeders in small groups or even individually. At Cortland some were feeding from the hands of children (J. Gustafson). A small group of Pine Siskins was near East Maine Dec 22 & 23 (J. Beaver), twenty-one were found during the Binghamton Christmas Count and two were at Binghamton Mar 19 (C. Morehouse) and that's all. Goldfinches were about normal, but after last winter seemed scarce. Two widely separated Rufous-sided Towhees were found on the Christmas Count Jan 1 and on Jan 10 a third one was found at Hillcrest (C. Morehouse).

Slate-colored Juncos were scarce at Unadilla (H. Wisner) and Bainbridge (B. Smith), but were otherwise normal. One Junco banded at Deposit and several banded at Endwell had distinct white wing bars but were believed to be Slate-colored, nevertheless. Tree Sparrows were perhaps a little better than normal. Two Field Sparrows appeared at a feeder in Endwell Mar 1 (G. Smith) and returned for several days. An immature White-crowned Sparrow was at Unadilla from Dec 5 to Dec 14 (H. Wisner). Another was at Union Center Jan 1 to Jan 10 (H. Stevens, L. Bemont). Three White-throated Sparrows were at Endwell from Dec 8 to at least Jan 14 (G. Smith) and one was at Binghamton from Jan 13 to the end of the period after it was banded (H. Marsi). At Newark Valley "a neighbor fed White-throated Sparrows off and on all winter" (L. Dean). One Fox Sparrow was counted during the Binghamton Christmas Count Jan 1 (P. Warren) but no more until four were at Deposit Mar 30 (S. Wilson). There were the usual few reports of wintering Song Sparrows. A few migrants came in Mar 16 but the main waves waited until Mar 27. One Lapland Longspur was at Norwich Jan 2 and three more were at Cortlandville Mar 19 (Mulholland). There were a lot of reports of Snow Buntings with several flocks numbering in the hundreds. A Jan 10 flock estimated at over a thousand near Binghamton (R. & M. Sheffield) was the biggest. One of the census teams picked up a slightly injured one near Endicott Jan 1 and brought it back to the meeting where it was banded. After a few days to recover it was released. On Jan 2 a flock of Snow Buntings was observed "snow bathing", in much the same manner as a hen dusting itself, after they had been feeding in freshly spread manure.

710 University Ave., Endwell

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

"If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" — Shelley.

Yes, darn it! Dec was a mild, wet month with a single zero day (Dec 23), a condition severe enough, however, to promptly ice over Oneida, Beaver, and Delta Lakes, and Sandy Pond. Snow cover was light thru Dec (maximum of four inches on Dec 8); local Christmas counts were essentially snowless (tho' not rain free) and rich in half-hardies. Christmas Count scores include: Dec 26, Oneida, total 35 with five half-hardies; Dec 27, Syracuse, 68 with 11 half-hardies; Jan 1, Montezuma —

HIGMA, 66 with 12 half-hardies; and Jan 3, Oskego, 39 with four half-hardies. The heavy rains of late fall and early winter, along with the rapid melting of what snow did come, produced flood and near-flood conditions along the Seneca and Oswego Rivers; consequently, locally favored riverside areas for waterfowl were inundated, then frozen, and alternate channel areas became too deep for dabblers, and concomitant low counts ensued (vide Dabblers). Further, these same flood conditions prevented channel freezing, and the usual concentrations of Common Mergansers and Goldeneyes at the ice-edged flow holes on the Seneca River did not occur. Bad ice storms (30 Dec - 1 Jan, and 11 - 14 Jan) did extensive tree and shrub damage, especially in the western third of the area, and created difficult feeding conditions. Jan temperatures averaged normal, but snowfall was 30% greater than usual, and nearly three quarters of it came during the week of the Waterfowl Census. Feb temperatures were slightly (approximately 2°) above normal, but the snowfall, the majority of which came during the last two weeks of the month, was excessive — 50.5 inches with 18.3 inches Feb 14 - 15. Of interest is the light ground snow (trace to eight inches of short duration) present to Feb 15, followed by eight to 20 inches of persistent snow cover from that date to Mar 17. This change in snow cover literally buried weed seeds, berry bearing bushes, and most small rodents, and matched neatly the crash in half-hardies (vide infra), the appearance of Tree Sparrows, more Juncos, and hundreds of Redpolls as feeding station and dooryard birds, and a rapid decline in the number of wintering Buteos. Mar was the coldest of record with a mean temperature of 24.4° (9.8° below normal), and daily temperatures were below normal on 27 days. With this sustained cold, ground snow lingered late (Mar 25 - 27). The cold weather and strong NW winds delivered a harvest of pack ice to the south shore of Lake Ontario (Oswego to Sandy Pond). Ice quantity was at its peak (1.5 - 3.5 miles) in late Mar rather than the usual time of late Jan and early Feb. A sharp rise in temperature and south winds Mar 27 - 31 produced much thawing, local flooding, and a rapid influx of migrants. Migration normally extending over three weeks was accomplished in five days, with Robin, Turkey Vulture, Woodcock, Phoebe, and Barn Swallow all reported within a few days of each other.

The mild Dec weather, low Jan snow cover, and abundant food (weed seeds, berries, infected elms, many feeders) induced a notable holdover of half-hardies (Virginia Rail, long-billed Marsh Wren, Brown Thrasher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole). This wealth of half-hardies abruptly dropped with the heavy snows of Feb, and further dwindled with no augmentation from migration thru the cold and snowy Mar. Other positive features included 1) good tallies of Scaup and Goldeneye, 2) excellent numbers of wintering Accipiters and Buteas, 3) a very good white-winged gull flight, 4) an enormous invasion of Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks, and 5) a light movement of Snowy Owls and a fair flight of Gray Shrikes. A thorough waterfowl census tallied 14,205 individuals of 28 species, despite hazardous highways and frequent storms.

Negatively outstanding were 1) the paucity of wintering loons and grebes, 2) the very low counts of Redhead and Canvasback, 3) a poor owl winter, and 4) a near absence of Purple Finches, Pine Grosbeaks, and Crossbills.

Regional rarities for the season include: Harlequin Duck, King Eider, Red Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Bohemian Waxwing, and Dickcissel.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loon: the only wintering bird was a cripple present on Onondaga Lake to Jan 17 (Estoff, Propst). Red-necked Grebe: two, Dec 5, near Lakeview are undoubtedly late migrants, as no wintering birds were noted. Horned Grebe: maximum of 18 seen on Skaneateles (Farnham, Rusk); none wintered at Oswego Harbor, their first winter absence there in eight years. Pied-billed Grebe: three wintered successfully along the Oswego River; one Mar 30 on the Oneida River is an early migrant. Great Blue Heron: first migrant noted Mar 6, rather early in view of local marsh (solid ice) and river (mostly ice) conditions.

Mute Swan: a single adult stayed Jan 12 - 17 on the Oswego River at Oswego, then disappeared as abruptly as it appeared. Equally strange is the presence of an adult Whistling Swan Jan 16 at Howland's Island Game Management Area (Ernst) as it is unknown locally as a wintering bird. Canada Goose: 65 - 70 birds wintered again at HIGMA; they appeared to do well at local cornfields until mid Feb, then became dependent on the largesse of the NYS Conservation Dep't at feeding ponds there (Bauer). First migrants on Mar 13.

Howland's Island GMA near Port Byron must now be considered in the winter an enormous feeding station for ducks. Over 90% (1000+) of the wintering Mal-

lards and 75% (2000+) of the wintering Black Ducks noted on the Waterfowl Census were tallied there; also present thru the winter were: Gadwall (Three), Pintail 22 - 25), one Green-winged Teal (first wintering record), Shoveler (three - six), Wood Duck (ten - 12); also a single free-flying male Blue-winged Teal Jan 16 (not seen since) — Ernst. The situation at HIGMA contrasted strikingly with the paucity of Mallards and Black Ducks (less than 100 and 600 respectively) at Skaneateles and Onondaga Lakes, Baldwinsville, Fulton, and Oswego, and most notably at Brewerton where the construction of a new bridge has reduced open water to a narrow deep channel suitable only for divers. A Gadwall in early Feb at Cross Lake, and scattered Pintail and Wood Ducks along the Seneca River (Port Byron, Weedsport, Jack's Reef) are almost certainly birds wandering to and from the anatine fleshspots at HIGMA. At least 13 Black x Mallard hybrids, a melanistic Mallard, and a beautiful Redhead x Gadwall hybrid also wintered there. However, a Pintail and five Wood Ducks on Dec 20, and two Wood Ducks on Dec 27 at Syracuse were apparently attempting to winter under natural conditions.

Migrant dabblers, primarily Mallards, Blacks, Baldpates, and Pintails, came in a wave in the last five days of Mar. Migrant Baldpate was first noted Mar 13, migrant Pintail first noted Feb 28.

Wintering Redheads and Canvasbacks were at record low counts, especially along the Oswego River, at Oswego, and at Brewerton. Peak counts were 125 (Waterfowl Census) and 55 (30 Mar at Brewerton) respectively. The usual late Feb - early Mar buildup of Canvasbacks did not occur at Baldwinsville and Brewerton, and it is a moot point whether this is due to the scarcity of the species or to severe ice and/or food conditions locally. Greater and Lesser Scaup: Three to four thousand (300: one Greater to Lesser ratio) wintered along the Oswego River along with 700 - 1200+ Common Goldeneye; of note was the rapid appearance of these species in numbers (300+) plus dozens of Buffleheads when flooding created small lakes in the bottomlands around Bridgeport and Kirkville in the last week of Mar. No wintering Ring-necked or Ruddy Duck reported. Oldsquaw: the usual 100 - 150 were seen at Oswego and along Lake Ontario, but their complete absence from all other areas of open water, including the Oswego River, even thru Mar, is most unusual. Harlequin Duck: a female, Dec 25, on Round Lake at Green Lakes State Park (Spofford) is only the third record in six years. King Eider: an immature male Dec 5 at Derby Hill near Texas (Richardson, Estoff, Propst) was prelude to a fine influx of these birds at Oswego; five were noted on the Waterfowl Census, and a maximum of five immature males and four females was attained Feb 28; four remained at least to Mar 26. All three scoters were recorded in the season, a time when only White-winged Scoters can be expected. White-winged Scoter: one - eight/ day thru the winter along Lake Ontario and four, Dec 19, at Bridgeport. Surf Scoter: two Dec 5 at Lakeview and one Jan 3 at Oswego. Common Scoter: one Dec 27 at Brewerton (Whitman) and two, an immature male and a female, intermittently thru the winter at Oswego (Cade, Spofford, Rusk).

Hooded Merganser: 13 noted on the Waterfowl Census with a 12: one female to male ratio, distinctly lopsided, more so in comparison with the Common Merganser (three: one male to female) wintering status. Common Merganser: maximum of 2150 at Oswego Harbor Jan 17 with a steady decline — 1200 Jan 23, 1000 Feb 7, 400 Feb 28 and Mar 13, without any evidence of migratory increase; 1200 at Cross Lake Jan 24 were probably those birds that usually winter at flow holes along the Seneca River when it is ice-bound.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: First reported Mar 27 at Scott Swamp and Texas (Spofford). Goshawk: unreported thruout Dec and Jan; singles (? return flight) reported on Feb 22 at Liverpool and Mar 6 and 13 at Oneida; also three noted Mar 27 in a hawk flight along Lake Ontario. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks: about two species per month noted hunting about feeders; reports of wintering Cooper's Hawks definitely up (two - three/ week), usually singles, rarely two - three birds. Red-tailed Hawk: winter numbers very good, usually five - 26/ day; nest building noted in early Feb and coition noted in three resident pairs Mar 6 (Spofford). Red-shouldered Hawk: one wintered for the second successive year near Baldwinsville (Mathis). Rough-legged Hawk: reported in numbers (three - eight/ day) thru Dec and early Jan; a steady drop to one - two/ day thru Feb except around Bridgeport (Cade), with a fine return of numbers (15/day) in mid-Mar when snow cover decreased. Harrier: a few thru Dec and last noted on Jan 9, Bridgeport; none reported until the general flood of migrants on Mar 27. Kestrel: counts of five - seven/ day may point to a somewhat higher wintering population but more

likely shows the avidity with which this species has been sought out preparatory to a special study (Cade).

Migrant hawks were nil until WSW winds Mar 26 produced a minor flight of 40+ birds near Texas, a mere smidgin compared to the flight of 350+ birds on SW winds there Mar 27 (Spofford), which included 13 Sharp-shinned, 23 Cooper's, 86 Red-tailed, 172 Red-shouldered, five Rough-legged, 14 Harrier (n.b. none on Mar 26), one Merlin, and seven Kestrel. A single Merlin Mar 27 near Amboy (Farnham) is also noticeably early.

Virginia Rail: one Jan 9, Fayetteville, the third winter record in six years, is evidence of the mildness of Dec and Jan. Killdeer: one, Dec 22, at Mycenae (Cade) is late; one, Feb 13, DeWitt, is hard to place — ?? early migrant, stubborn half-hardy; tho reported as early as Feb 27, these birds came mainly in a wave Mar 27, further augmented on Mar 30 when Woodcock were also noted. Red Phalarope: a single tame bird Dec 5 at Sandy Pond Inlet (Richardson, Scheider) is the first locally recorded since the three observations in the fall of 1957.

Glaucous and Iceland Gulls: single Glaucous Nov 1 and Dec 5, Sandy Pond, were forerunners of a wonderful flight of these birds along the Seneca and Oswego Rivers and at Lake Ontario; on Jan 17, 14 Glaucous and 11 Iceland (including two definite Kumlieni) were seen along the rivers from Baldwinsville to Oswego; from Jan 18 to Jan 23 nine different white-wingers (five Glaucous, four Iceland) were noted at Baldwinsville (Richardson) where one - two are the rule; counts thru Feb and Mar were lower (one - four per species per day) but the slightly higher number of Glaucous vs Iceland was quite persistent. Great Black-backed Gull: an all-time high of 330 along the Oswego River Jan 17 with a two: one adult to immature ratio (Spofford et al) is noteworthy, particularly in view of the open conditions of the local rivers and the Lake Ontario bays. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls: the Herring Gull counts of 2000 - 4000 seemed quite low, more so when contrasted with the high number (e.g. 2500 Jan 17) of wintering Ring-billed; the ratio of eight: five Herring to Ring-billed had reversed — one: two by late Feb and went on to two: five in mid-Mar. The expected Ring-billed Gull — as well as the Feb crow movement occurred about ten days later than usual; contrast this with the failure of the Canvasback rise which also usually occurs at this time. Franklin's Gull: a second-year bird observed for 30 minutes at Oswego Harbor Jan 3 (Richardson, Rusk, Scheider) is the second record in as many years; the first was recorded in Mar 1959, and to date no fall birds have been seen.

Mourning Dove: winter numbers distinctly up, with 150 Dec 26 at Oneida, 49 at Syracuse Dec 27, and four - 35 at Fayetteville, Cross Lake, and HIGMA; a few were even noted intermittently in the snow belt at Westerville (May), Rome, and Utica.

Owls were frankly scarce at local roosts, with a maximum of four Short-eared Jan 10, Bridgeport, and there were just two Long-eared Owl reports, both singles. Screech and Horned Owls were somewhat better, with best counts of ten Dec 27 and six Jan 1, respectively. Snowy Owl: singles reported at Canastota (Hoke fide Burt), Camden (Mrs. Snyder), Oneida (Jones, Gregory), and North Syracuse; none noted in the flatlands north of Syracuse or around Oswego Harbor.

Goatsuckers — Warblers: Flicker: scattered birds (one - five) at Oneida, Fayetteville, DeWitt, Syracuse, Port Byron, and HIGMA; one known to winter north of Oneida Lake or along the Oswego River; no migrant Flickers as of Mar 31. Red-bellied Woodpecker: maximum of five Jan 1 at HIGMA; singles wintered at Oneida (Ackley, Nodecker, Paquette) and Port Ontario (Woods). Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: Dr. Burt's feeder survey showed the following Hairy to Downy ratio — Dec 88: 137, Jan 107: 192, Feb 120: 125, Mar 150: 235; the greater feeder patronage (all computations scored as per 100 feeders) is obvious, and the one: one Feb score is quite different (usually one: two).

Tree Swallow: first noted Mar 30 along Lake Ontario; first Barn Swallow Mar 29 near Amboy (Farnham) is a record arrival date.

Blue Jay: a steady rise in the feeder survey — Dec 297, Jan 274, Feb 332, Mar 385, but Feb and Mar numbers in the field were quite low; ?? were they forced to feeders to survive thru the snowy Feb and Mar weather? Horned Lark: first northward movement noted Jan 27 (Cade); several minor flights noted Feb 6 (60+) and 13 (500+) but the major movement (flocks of 100 - 500) occurred Feb 28 - Mar 6 (Ackley, Felle, Farnham); local birds paired by the 3rd week of Mar. Black-capped Chickadee: numbers at feeders built up from a Jan low of 146 to a Mar high of 552; conversely, Jan field counts were good but Chickadees were really scarce in local woodlots thru Mar. Tufted Titmouse: singles reported from Syra-

cuse, Fayetteville, Mexico, Baldwinville, Skaneateles, and a startling total of 12 at Morrisville (Dexter); this number of reports as with the Carolina Wren would indicate another invasion to the north in late fall and winter, said invasion being made more obvious by the proclivity of birds of these species to appear at feeders. Half-hardies for the winter include two Catbirds, Syracuse — Mrs. Webster), two Brown Thrashers (Lacona — Mrs. Hommer, and Syracuse), a Mockingbird (Fayetteville — Evans), few Robins (one - 13), three Hermit Thrushes (Syracuse — Abbott, Eastoff and Propst, MacAndrews), a Long-billed Marsh Wren (Fayetteville — Scheider), and a veritable rash of Winter Wrens. Carolina Wren: reported regularly from Clark's Reservation (Beaver), Chittenango (Stickles), Elmcrest on the Seneca River, HIGMA, and most persistently at Fayetteville. Most appeared to survive the heavy Feb - Mar snows.

Bohemian Waxwing: a single well seen with a flock of 37 Cedar Waxwings Jan 8 near Fayetteville (Estoff and Propsts), and three Jan 10, 13, 19, 22, and 28 at Utica (Curtis) the latter series of observations supported by color photographs; these are the first noted in recent years (past 18) for the area. Gray Shrike: frankly a mediocre season for this species, far poorer than even last year's weak influx, and confined mostly to the flat country north and west of Syracuse and Fayetteville; the monthly score was ten in Dec, nine in Jan, four in Feb, and four in Mar; three of the four individuals in Mar were seen in the last ten days of the month and might point to northbound birds.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Meadowlark: reported on only the Syracuse Christmas count; remarkably scarce thru Dec and Jan, a time when other Icterids were repeatedly reported and ground snow was light; a flurry of reports in late Feb and early Mar (one - 14/day) across the Region might indicate returning birds or, more likely, what few wintering birds were around attracted to recently manured fields, as all but two reports mention this correlation. Dr. Burt's feeder survey showed the following Icterid tally:

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Red-winged Blackbird	21	1	3	1
Grackle	60	34	34	24
Cowbird	88	185	102	137

The rapid decline in Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds and the continuing wintering success of Cowbirds are obvious, as is the lack of an early Mar buildup in Icterid numbers. Of note is the complete absence of Icterids from the lakeshore migrant flight near Texas Mar 27 (Spofford), tho thousands were seen in the next few days. Baltimore Oriole: single birds, certainly rare winter items, at Skaneateles (Sheppard), DeWitt (MacAndrews), and Camillus (Wagner fide Estoff) persisted until mid-Feb, then disappeared. Rusty Blackbird: singles wintered at Syracuse and Oneida (Felle) and two at Fayetteville (Scheider); five years ago no one suspected these birds wintered.

Cardinal: a steady increase in counts at feeders with Dec 107, Jan 152, Feb 146, Mar 203; up to three reported at Westerville, 12 at Oneida (usually only singles at both places heretofore), and 63 were reported on the Syracuse Christmas Count. A total of 22 on one hillside at HIGMA Jan 1 is also notable. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: a winter first was a female Dec 24 - 29 at the Paquette feeder at Oneida; it was carefully checked to be certain it was not a stray Black-headed Grosbeak; it wasn't! Dickcissel: two were seen regularly Dec 12 - 24 at Mrs. Bratt's feeder in Manlius, the first locally since 1953.

Evening Grosbeak: a winter-long flood of these birds; they were besieging feeders early in Dec, and counts of 100 - 200/ feeder were noted; Dr. Burt's feeder survey showed such tallies as Dec 1140, Jan 1440, Feb 1800, Mar 1745; some brief singing noted in late Mar. Purple Finch: these were as scarce as Evening Grosbeaks were common, with the feeder survey thus — Dec three, Jan zero, Feb five, Mar eight; no report listed more than five and no Mar increase was detected. Pine Grosbeak: one Dec 10, Syracuse, and three in late Dec at Camden (Mrs. Snyder) were the only records, quite in contrast to the glut of Evening Grosbeaks. Common Redpoll: the open-country counterpart of the feeding station Evening Grosbeaks, reported by the hundreds thru Dec, Jan, and Feb (maximum of 700+, Jan 9); in late Feb and early Mar, numbers, already high, increased sharply; flocks of hundreds were reported daily, dozens were killed by cars as the birds fed by plowed roadsides, and everybody had them at feeders; contrast 12 at feeders in Dec and Jan with 308 in Feb and 554 in Mar; a sharp decline noted with the thaw of late Mar, but lesser numbers persisted, both at feeders and in the field to the end of the period. Pine Siskin and Goldfinch: small groups of each (five - 55) present thruout

the winter but no seasonal pattern apparent other than a moderate drop in counts in late Feb thru Mar. Red Crossbill: five - 25 reported on and off at Fayetteville, Syracuse, Brewerton, and Selkirk Shores State Park thru Dec and Jan; no Feb and Mar reports, and no White-winged Crossbills noted. Single towhees, both females, wintered at Oneida (Thurber) and Brewerton (Barclay); we have yet to find a wintering male Towhee.

Half-hardy sparrows include a Savannah Sparrow Jan 9 at Fayetteville (first wintering record), five Vesper Sparrows Jan 17 at Onondaga Lake (Estoff, Propst), and three Field Sparrows at Fayetteville Dec 20 to Jan 31 plus one each intermittently at Westernville (May) and Oneida (Felle). White-crowned Sparrow: one stayed at Westernville to Dec 5, and an adult was seen Jan 23 at Manlius (Gould); however, single immatures wintered over at Oneida (Felle), Fayetteville (Biggs), and Syracuse (Chamberlaine).

Slate-colored Junco: winter numbers definitely up with all monthly feeder tallies over 100. Oregon Junco: singles wintered at DeWitt (MacAndrews) and Syracuse (Scheider). Tree Sparrow: Dr. Burt's feeder survey scored 246 in Dec, 456 in Jan, 190 in Feb, and 1040 in Mar; the high Mar count is probably a combination of lack of food forcing these birds to seek feeders and of beginning migration.

White-throated, Swamp, and Song Sparrows: Dec numbers were excellent with three, six, and 90 (a winter peak), respectively, reported on the Syracuse Christmas Count; three - four White-throateds/ feeder were frequent, and a single small marsh or brushy hillside had 20 - 35 Song Sparrows; numbers held up well until the latter half of Feb when all field counts on these species dropped sharply with no compensatory feeding station increase in early Mar. Lapland Longspud: unreported thru the winter until a scatter of reports (two - six birds/ trip) in the heavy Horned Lark - Redpoll movement in early Mar.

Snow Bunting: flocks of 60 - 100 thru Dec and Jan; quite scarce during the heavy snow of late Feb, a time when flocks of thousands can be seen, and flocks of only 80 - 100 reported with the heavy Horned Lark - Redpoll movement of early Mar; two spring-plumage males noted flight singing at Derby Hill Mar 26.

151 Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

There was only light snow until Dec 29 when at least a foot fell. More snow came on several occasions, and there was little mild weather except for a brief time in Jan. This thaw only served to settle the snow and make room for more which soon came. Only about one year out of eight do we have a fall of snow as great as we had by the first of Mar this year. Some of the coldest weather was Dec 20 - 24 and Jan 8 - 12, but there were few days when the temperature was below zero.

Mar was clear and cold; in fact the first 26 days were the coldest in Watertown for this period in the sixty years for which we have records. Jan was the coldest month, but the Mar average before the 27th was less than two degrees warmer. However, the last few days of Mar were mild and the snow began to melt rapidly.

The continued cold of late Dec and early Jan left little open water and as a result waterfowl were scarce. The deep snow seemed to make the birds seek food at feeders. Many people are putting out food for the Evening Grosbeaks and as a result more species are coming to feeders in the winter. The Mar migration was delayed and such birds as Robins, Grackles and Killdeers were not seen until the last four or five days of the month.

Loons — Ducks: A bird, described only as a Grebe, was found by the side of a road in St. Lawrence Co. near the end of Mar. It was kept for a time until open water could be found. A rather late date for Great Blue Heron was Dec 14 near Dexter. The first spring record was about Mar 25 in St. Lawrence Co. Ducks seemed to be scarce most of the winter because there was so much ice. A Pintail drake wintered with Black Ducks near Waddington (Johnston). A King Eider was found on Lake Ontario Jan 17 (Mayhood, Wagner, Allen). Two dates for Hooded Merganser are Dec 15 near Crogan in Lewis Co. and Dec 26 near Sackets Harbor.

Hawks — Owls: Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Marsh Hawks began to appear during the last few days of Mar. The flight of Rough-legged Hawks was first noted as heavy during Nov. and it has been extremely heavy throughout the winter.

Belknap reports a maximum count of 49 Feb 8. Gordon counted 31 Jan 1. Johnston observed four daily from late fall to the end of Feb, but they left as the snow became deeper. They were over Ogden Island and were feeding almost exclusively on field mice or moles.

Sparrow Hawks were seen all winter, and in some places in larger numbers than usual. More were present the last days of Mar. As usual Bald Eagles were seen along the St. Lawrence River. While the snow was deep some observers noted at least 70 Gray (Hungarian) Partridge in one day in suitable terrain. A very late date for Killdeer was Dec 26 at Sackets Harbor (Gordon). A Mourning Dove was found on the Pillar Point Shore Road Feb 6. A few more Mourning Doves began to arrive by the end of Mar. Belknap says the Snowy Owl flight was better than average with a dozen or more birds being seen in northern New York. They were seen near Morley, Bucks Ridge, Philadelphia, Watertown and Sherwin's Bay. Highest counts were four Dec 21 and three Mar 15. Gordon reported the only Short-eared Owls, four near Philadelphia Dec 31. A Saw-whet Owl in dying condition was found near Watertown Mar 3. There was deep snow at the time, and it had not eaten for some time.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: Probably the most unusual winter record for the area was a Red-headed Woodpecker seen Dec 26 near Depauville by Gordon's party. This was the time of our annual Christmas Bird Count, but the place was outside the area. Horned Larks became numerous after the middle of Mar. There seemed to be more Chickadees than usual, especially at feeders in Watertown. A Red-breasted Nuthatch visited Allen's feeder several times Jan 25 to Mar 10. A Mockingbird came daily to a feeder in Lowville from Nov 29 to early Apr. No Bluebirds had arrived by Apr 1. Northern Shrikes were scarce this winter. A very late Myrtle Warbler was at Canton Dec 21 to Dec 24. Gordon saw three Meadowlarks near Antwerp Jan 1. Cardinals continue to increase in this region. They appeared at several places at different times in Watertown. Cardinals visited other places including Morley and Potsdam. Evening Grosbeaks have been very numerous and have been coming to feeders in many places. Perhaps there were more this winter than last. An Albino Evening Grosbeak was seen at Potsdam where it visited the feeders of Dr. Hart. It was said to be a pure creamy color all over. There was only one report of Pine Grosbeaks, on Jan 24 when about 25 were seen. Redpolls seemed scarce the first part of the winter, but became abundant in late Feb and Mar. L. Blake had about 50 at her feeders and some lingered to the end of Mar. They also visited a feeder in Waddington, and several came to Watertown for food. A Pine Siskin was seen at a feeder in Canton, but didn't stay long. Another was seen at Adams Center. Two Pine Siskins came to a feeder early in Feb, and five were at a feeder many times from Feb 12 to the end of the period (F.C.). Two Juncos came to Allen's yard Nov 19 and they must have liked it as they stayed the rest of the winter. He also had a White-throated Sparrow Nov 19 to Jan 3. Near Potsdam L. Blake had four White-throated Sparrows all winter, and she says they have been seen at other feeding stations which is unusual. A Song Sparrow first came to Allen's Jan 23 and stayed at least to late Mar. L. Blake had one, too, but later found it dead. Snow Buntings were plentiful early in the winter but became scarce the latter part.

173 Haley St., Watertown

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS LESPERANCE

This past winter was indeed one of the most open we have had in the last ten years. Lake Champlain never did completely freeze over, and a number of waterfowl stayed over in the area. Total accumulation of snow in Keeseville was about 24 inches. The coldest day was 22° below zero, but there were many bright days that tempered the cold and made it seem quite nice.

There were a number of so-called summer residents that hung on until about Christmas time. Various reports in the papers stated that anything from satellites to nuclear bombs were causing a mix-up in the migration. Relatively few species, however, were seen after Christmas, but some of the species that remained seemed to be in good numbers. The day of the Christmas count was a good one, with favorable travel conditions. Twenty-seven species were noted within the area bounded by a line west from Plattsburgh to Ausable Forks, then south to Keene Valley, thence east to Elizabethtown, and then north again to Keeseville. This total does not include waterfowl, eleven varieties of which were observed.

I am having some luck in securing new correspondents; I have received an offer from Mrs. John Delehanty of Tupper Lake to make her observations and notes available. I want to publicly extend my welcome to Mrs. Delehanty, and I hope it will not be too long before we may build up to the original seven-member group that was in the area five years ago. I earnestly solicit record contributions from those observers in the Adirondack-Champlain region.

A large population of loons, grebes, mergansers, and gulls was present at Lake Champlain throughout the winter, and a few Canada Geese stayed also. Geese returned to Tupper Lake on Mar 29. A Goshawk was reported along the Clintonville Road in late Jan, but there were no other hawk observations of interest. A few Mourning Doves stayed all winter in the Whickman's Marsh area.

Blue Jays and White-breasted Nuthatches kept things interesting at feeders in the interior parts of the area where birds in general were scarce. Mrs. Delehanty successfully taught Black-capped Chickadees to eat from her hand, as a newspaper article and picture will testify. A wintering group of Cowbirds was noted in the Whickman's Marsh region.

Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks generally predominated the feeding station picture in the Tupper Lake area (Amstutz, Delehanty). Pine Siskins were also observed. The rare Hoary Redpoll was reported in the region on more than one occasion.

There was little evidence of any spring migration as the period drew to a close, undoubtedly because of the late winter storms in areas to the south of us.

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

This has been an unusually mild winter, the mercury falling below zero on only two occasions, both in Jan. Snowfall was only light to moderate with the heaviest two-day fall reaching only 9+ inches. Snow did not accumulate. Usually the snow from one storm would disappear before the next arrived. Frequently snow on the ground would persist for days because the temperature would remain consistently below the freezing mark for long periods. The continued cold weather with the thermometer seldom getting above 20° froze up all bodies of water except parts of the Hoosic and Hudson Rivers and fast running brooks.

No rarities were reported for the period, no doubt because there was a noticeable lack of observers in the field. Feeding station reports were plentiful but, except for the Christmas censuses, field work virtually ceased. Perhaps the observers were conserving their energies for the Christmas counts and after they were all over needed the rest of the winter to recuperate. Of course there were a few exceptions to this. To them we say, "Thank you for your records".

Grebes — Ducks: A late Red-necked Grebe was seen on Dec 13 at Tomhannock Reservoir (Yunick), while the last Horned Grebes (8) were seen on Dec 15 at Saratoga Lake (Hallenbeck). (Shortly after the above dates both these bodies of water froze up solid.) To the close of the period there have been no returning Grebes (or loons) sighted. The last fall migrant Canadian Geese (1,500) were seen at Ghent on Dec 15 (Alan Devoe Bird Club). The ADBC also reported the first northbound spring migrants at Stockport Station on Mar 27. The mid-winter duck count, taken on Jan 17, was about the same as last year. However, a Canvasback was seen for the first time on a duck count in this region. Black Ducks were noted at their breeding ground at Meadowdale on Mar 28 (Johnston) while returning Wood Ducks were first reported on Mar 26 at Stockport (ADBC).

Hawks — Owls: The usual wintering Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks were generally reported throughout the region. A Goshawk was present for two days, Feb 21 and 22, at Canaan (ADBC). A migrant Marsh Hawk on Mar 26 and 15 Red-shouldered Hawks on Mar 19 were seen in Delmar (Madison). First Killdeers were reported on Mar 27, and more generally on the 28. An Iceland Gull was seen on the Hudson River near Cohoes on Jan 1 and 2 (Sabin). Black-backed Gulls were slightly more numerous this winter than last with daily counts being as high as eight. No other unusual gulls were reported. Mourning Doves wintered in greater numbers than for several years past. Snowy Owls went unreported until Mar 15 and 16 when they were seen at Palenville (fide Feldhusen) and Dunnsville (Van Vorst). No Saw-whet Owls were reported during this period.

Woodpeckers — Warblers: Flickers were reported in Jan from two different areas, apparently wintering. First Phoebes were seen at Chatham on Mar 14 (ADBC). A Boreal Chickadee wintered at West Sand Lake (Bordt), while a Ruby-crowned Kinglet lingered to Dec 10 at Poestenkill (Kilcawley). A Long-billed Marsh Wren reported on Dec 6 and again on Mar 13, both at Stockport Station, suggests possibly that the species may have wintered (ADBC). A Brown Thrasher did winter in the Chatham area where it regularly came to a feeder (Radke). Robins wintered rather sparingly, while Catbirds apparently were absent. Bluebirds first returned on Mar 21 at Ghent (ADBC). Cedar Waxwings were occasionally seen as were Gray Shrikes. Two Common Yellowthroats were seen on the Schenectady Christmas census, Dec 26, but not afterwards.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Meadowlarks wintered sparingly, also, as did Red-winged Blackbirds and Cowbirds. However, spring migrants of these species were widely reported the latter half of Mar, becoming particularly abundant after Mar 27. A Baltimore Oriole was seen at a feeder in Schenectady on the day of their Christmas census. Another Oriole was seen in Chatham from Dec 13 through 24 (ADBC). Cardinals, Evening Grosbeaks, and Redpolls have been widely reported, the latter two in sufficient numbers and widespread enough to be referred to as an invasion. Among the flocks of Redpolls, a Hoary Redpoll was seen in Chatham on Mar 13 (Reilly). Purple Finches were conspicuous by their absence as compared to a year ago. Pine Siskins were generally reported with a good share being seen at feeding stations, a species one does not usually expect. Pine Grosbeaks were occasionally reported from Columbia County (ADBC). Both the Red and the White-winged Crossbills were reported during the period. Red Crossbills were seen at Delmar (Fordham) in the last week in Jan, on Feb 5 at Old Chatham (Reilly), and the White-winged Crossbill on Feb 7 at Red Rock (ADBC). Towhees first arrived on Mar 10 at South Schodack (ADBC). A late Grasshopper Sparrow, reminiscent of the one a year or so ago, was banded at Nassau (ADBC) on Dec 24. An uncommon wintering species, the Savannah Sparrow, was banded in Jan at Castleton (ADBC) and was seen at least through Feb 2. Fox Sparrows showed up in numbers the last four days in Mar. One or two White-throated Sparrows and more than the usual number of Song Sparrows wintered in the area. Snow Buntings were regularly reported but not in large numbers until Mar when as many as 500 to 1,000 were estimated in the Meadowdale area (Johnston). Careful checking of these large flocks revealed one and sometimes two Lapland Longspurs.

652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Due to its geographical position the Hudson Valley was able to pass through another winter season spared by the raging demons of storm that held many surrounding regions in a grip that can be called a "real winter". Dec, Jan and Feb passed without extremes of temperature or precipitation and this pattern was so consistent that it continued on through the first three weeks of Mar without a single break in terms of spring weather. It looked as if Mar had to absorb some cold that should have come in Feb. Snow came and went particularly in lowland areas and this undoubtedly had a strong influence on attracting wandering winter birds that entered this region. From this we note two outstanding features in the activities of our regional bird-life — First, a tremendous concentration of Redpolls occurred along with a near common-place number of Rough-legged Hawks. Second, the stable cool weather covering much of the eastern seaboard during Mar held any early mass migration flights in check until toward the end of the month when the weather began to change thus permitting migrants to flood in with many species being from two to four weeks late.

Some wandering Western birds were accidental in this region during the season: The House Finch was found in New City, Rockland County on Mar 19 (Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steffans) and up in Ulster County at Naponach on Mar 26 (Chandler Young). A Western Tanager (female) was found dying by George Wood near his residence at Accord, Ulster County sometime in mid-Mar. It was given to Heinz Meng who added it to his skin collection. Oregon Juncos were reported in Putnam (Mabel Little) and Dutchess (Ralph Waterman Bird Club) Counties.

Loons — Ducks: Wintering Great Blue Herons were seen in the following counties — Dutchess (Waterman); Ulster (Pyle); Rockland (LeMaire). A general impression indicates that the wintering duck population was on the low side. Ed Treacy reports the shooting of a Snow Goose near West Point, Orange Co. in early Dec. On Dec 20 two Snow Geese were seen in Rue Harbor near Mammaronneck, Westchester by Eugene Decker. Three Canadas and an unidentified smaller goose were also present. Another Snow Goose wintered with some domestic ducks at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County (RWBC). Six Green-winged Teal were at Cruger Island, Dutchess Co. on Mar 26 (RWBC). The Wood Duck was back at the Tri-Loba Hill Sanctuary, Katonah, Westchester on Mar 24 (Ruth and Stanley Grierson). The Canvasback showed a high on the Christmas census taken in Rockland. Hooded Mergansers were at Kingston Point on Mar 24 (Arthur Cragin) and a nice flock of 25 was seen on the Dutchess Co. side Mar 26 (RWBC). An earlier arrival was at Wappingers Falls, Dutchess Co. on Mar 13 (Jean Wisner).

Hawks — Owls: A wandering Turkey Vulture was seen by Ed Treacy and H. Pembleton on **Jan 23** near Bear Mt. and is an interesting mid-winter record. Excepting the Rough-legged most of the wintering hawks seemed to be about usual in the region. Mr. and Mrs. William Irving had a Goshawk on the RAS Christmas count Dec 26 near West Nyack. This is a first for the Rockland counts. Rough-legged Hawks in both phases made a spectacular show in our region this winter. They were reported in all counties with several known in Ulster Co. alone. Bob Deed found the number of Bald Eagles in the Rockland Co. area for the winter disappointingly low. A Virginia Rail was found in the Bear Mt. - Harriman Section on the Christmas census taken there on Jan 2 (RAS). Most Killdeers were late in their Spring flight but one early fellow was seen near Pine Plains, Dutchess Co. on Feb 7 (RWBC). A lingering Woodcock was located by Frank Steffens on Dec 3 near Pearl River, Rockland. The Spring return of Woodcocks was late, the last days of Mar. Two Common Snipe wintered around Pine Plains, Dutchess Co. (Decker; Palmatiers). One Snipe was reported on the RAS Christmas count and another was seen at Piermont on Feb 14 (Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Cooke). John Orth et al had a Laughing Gull for the first time on the Wildlife census taken at Bear Mt. Jan 2.

At Yonkers, Westchester Co. on Mar 13 Lester Walsh, an experienced birder of the Saw Mill River Audubon group, was going over a bunch of gulls that were flying about a temporary sewage outlet in the Hudson and among them spied an **Ivory Gull**, rare visitant from the Arctic regions. This gull is characterized by being all white with black legs. The Saw Mill River group also had some interesting finds among the Alcids found on the Westchester shore of Long Island Sound. On Jan 31 a Razorbill Auk was identified at a distance off shore and on Feb 21 five Dovekie were first spotted by Arthur Olsen for the group. Wintering Mourning Doves were reported as more common in Dutchess and Rockland Counties. The Owl population seemed to be about normal as usual. There may well have been more but only one **Snowy Owl** was reported during the period. It was seen by Leslie Pearl on Jan 24 near Amawalk, Westchester Co. An injured Short-eared Owl was found in the vicinity of New Paltz, Ulster Co. (March) and was turned over to Heinz Meng. A Saw-whet Owl was hit by a car in Mt. Kisco, Westchester on Dec 22 and over in Rockland Co. another was seen by Gene Brown on Feb 23 right in a village street of Upper Nyack.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Several Kingfishers were observed wintering in the Dutchess Co. area (RWBC). In Putnam Valley, Westchester Co. Mr. Paul Wolf had, among the many birds coming to his feeder, a Flicker that came regularly eating as his main diet — seeds. Several Fish Crows were reported seen along the Hudson River during Jan and Feb by various members of the Ralph Waterman Bird Club. Although the species was scarce this winter one **Boreal Chickadee** did show up in Katonah, Westchester, coming to the feeder of Mr. and Mrs. Robertson Barrett and stayed all winter. Another was seen in Rockland Lake Village on RAS Christmas count. Again the Tufted Titmice reports were common, even showing increase as Mrs. William Grierson states that there has never before been so many seen in northern Westchester. Red-breasted Nuthatches seemed to be more common in Dutchess Co. than in the other areas. Reports indicate a stable population of Carolina Wrens in this region. Two Long-billed Marsh Wrens were at the Piermont Pier in Rockland Co. on the RAS Christmas Count. The increase in Mockingbirds has again attracted attention. One winter report came from Rockland (RAS), another near Patterson, Putnam Co. (Mabel Little), three in Dutchess Co., one at Hyde Park, one near Poughkeepsie and one at Pleasant Valley (RWBC). Martha Earl and

Ed Treacy each had a Mocker for the Orange Co. record — one near Warwick and the other near Highland Falls. Up in Ulster Co. Elizabeth Burroughs Kelly enjoyed a wintering Mockingbird about her place at Riverby. Down in Westchester Co. at Tarrytown Mrs. T. L. Reibling also had one of these birds regularly visiting her feeder. Catbirds did not winter in any great abundance. On Mar 22 a Brown Thrasher was found in Bedford Village, Westchester by Peter McCullum. It had been killed by a car and was turned over to Stanley Grierson's study collection. Robins wintered in low numbers and their return in Mar was late. A very late Gray-cheeked Thrush was seen Dec 18 by Margaret Clare Dye in her yard at Cornwall on the Hudson, Orange Co. Bluebirds appeared disappointingly scarce. Both Shrikes were scarce.

Vireos — Warblers: A late Black-throated Blue Warbler appeared Dec 10 at the feeder of Mrs. Frank McKown in Katonah, Westchester. Wintering Myrtle Warblers were way down. Otis Waterman found a dead Chat near Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co. on Dec 26 following another dead one that was found by Ray Connelly two days earlier near the same city.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Some Redwings wintered. Some Spring arrivals were early or usual but the big flights were late, not arriving until the latter half of Mar. One early Redwing was at Mt. Kisco, Westchester Co. on Feb 22 (Helen Braem). Baltimore Orioles were reported at several places. A female at the feeder of Mrs. Javius Matsumoto in Chappaqua, Westchester Co. on Dec 15 and 17. Another female was seen about the home of Mrs. Jamie King, Valley Cottage, Rockland Co. on Jan 1 and was checked by Dr. M. Hopper. Other Baltimore Orioles were reported at Salt Point and Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co. during the winter (RWBC). There was one record for Ulster Co. near New Paltz in latter Dec (Ralph Johnson). Cardinals are at an all-time high judging from their commonplace occurrence throughout most lowland areas of our region. Five Dickcissels were about the feeder of Mrs. William Irving, West Nyack, Rockland Co. in early Mar. The Evening Grosbeak population in the region was good for the season. Pine Grosbeaks were virtually non-existent although one did show up at Margaret Dye's feeder on Dec 31 at her home in Cornwall on the Hudson, Orange Co. Of the winter flights about the region the Redpoll was widespread and numerically impressive. All counties had them with the greatest concentrations appearing to be in Rockland and Orange Counties. Flocks were so large in Rockland that they were impossible to estimate accurately but Bob Deed felt that one Feb flock certainly had over ten-thousand birds in it. Martha Earl reported similar finds in adjacent Orange Co. Small numbers of Redpolls wandered in cities and towns, especially during snow storms, and many visited feeders. They did not pass up any chance for food. A Hoary Redpoll came to the feeder of Arthur Weeks on Feb 22 at his home in Kitchawan, Westchester and was later photographed by Stanley Grierson. Two Hoarys were at Naponach, Ulster Co. on Mar 2 and were seen by C. Young. Pine Siskins were generally down. A small flock of White-winged Crossbills was seen by William Russell on Dec 22 at Amawalk Res., Westchester Co. Towhees wintered in low numbers. The Ralph Waterman Bird Club had good luck in finding several Savannah Sparrows in their area during the course of the winter. The species was also reported in Rockland (Deed et al) and one was seen near New Paltz, Ulster Co. on Dec 31 (R. Pyle). Rockland County birders are happy to add a new species to their county list. This was a **Seaside Sparrow** at Grassy Point, Dec 27 and credit for the interesting find goes to John Price Jr. and Dr. Marjorie Hopper. Field Sparrows were up on the RAS Christmas Count and Chandler Young reports five at his place in Naponach, Ulster Co. on Mar 5. White-throated Sparrows wintering seemed concentrated down state. Andrew McWaters had seven Fox Sparrows at his place in Mt. Kisco, Westchester Co. on Jan 23. Foxies were late in migration. A high of thirty-eight Swamp Sparrows was reported on the RAS Christmas Count. Thirty-four were concentrated about Piermont Pier. Song Sparrows were about in good numbers. Migrants were also late. Martha Earl reports some very large flocks of Snow Buntings in the Orange Co. area. One flock may well have contained several thousand birds. Snow Buntings were also fairly abundant during latter winter in the Dutchess and Ulster County areas.

Accord 1

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Early winter was comparatively mild with considerable rain. There was very little snow on western Long Island until a two-day snowstorm beginning on Mar 3 brought an official 14 inches in New York City and reports of up to 23 inches in western Nassau County. Although an increase in the numbers of Redwings and Grackles was noted in late Feb, cold weather followed this early Mar storm which retarded further movements northward.

Very strong northwest winds accompanied the first day (Jan 17) of the sixth annual Federation waterfowl count, but fairly good mid-winter weather followed with little snow on the ground and only sheltered ponds frozen.

It was the best flight year in many for Rough-legged Hawks, Redpolls, and Evening Grosbeaks, but it was poor for Horned Larks, Shrikes, and Crossbills. There was a good hawk count in the Staten Island Christmas census and a remarkable two-hour flight of seven species of gulls at Riis Park on Dec 5. It was a good winter for owls, and Dovekies were the most common of the alcids reported. Few, if any, western species turned up at our feeders, but a Lincoln's Sparrow at Little Neck was our first winter record for this bird. Good numbers of Cardinals have apparently extended their range eastward, this year wintering to Orient and East Hampton.

Loons — Ducks: Fairly good numbers of Common Loons were present in the Federation waterfowl count. Horned Grebes also were plentiful (total 904 for the region), but Pied-billed Grebes were way down. An Eared Grebe was reported at Carmans River on Jan 3, 6, and 8; the bird was clearly identified at close range (D. Puleston). Twenty Common Egrets and three Snowies were present at Jamaica Bay on Dec 13 (Norce). A single Common Egret was at Mastic on Jan 24 (Raynor), and another was at Center Moriches on Mar 20 (Wilcox). Nine Whistling Swans were counted on the Federation census at Mecox (McKeever), and a pair was at the Yaphank lake after Feb 28 (Puleston). Rarities on the census were seven Snow Geese, three Wood Ducks, three King Eiders, two Harlequin Ducks, and one European Widgeon; also rare was the Red-necked Grebe; one this year, none last, 21 in 1958. The Canada Goose population on the census shows a steady decline; this year's 1,219 was short of last year's 1,366 and well below the 1,952 on 1958. What was presumed to be a Hutchin's Goose was seen at Little Neck Bay around the end of the year and also on the census (R. Adelson, Queens Bird Club). There was no Common (European) Teal reported during the winter. Some 519 Mute Swans were counted in the Moriches area alone on Dec 26 (Central Suffolk Christmas Count), whereas only 494 were totaled in the entire region on the waterfowl count. This may indicate an off-island movement during freeze-ups. This year the Brant count was over 20,000, but Scaup were way down. A remarkably close Mallard average on Long Island, mostly among feral birds, is: 2,914 in 1957, 2,950 in 1959, and 2,926 in 1960. Green-winged Teal and Pintail were about the same as the last two years, but Shovelers and Redheads hit a record low; eight and 11 respectively. Goldeneyes remained about the same as the last two years with 235 counted on the Staten Island and New York Bay waterfowl count, and there were 265 Bufflehead (Ed Whelen, Brooklyn Bird Club). Perhaps the most seriously affected of all our bay ducks is the Red-breasted Merganser which has shown a continual decrease for all six years of the Federation counts. Other duck reports were Barrow's Goldeneye shot at Oakdale on Dec 6 (J. Strong), Blue-winged Teal at Alley Pond on Mar 27, and several reports of Blue and Snow Geese, Wood Ducks, Eiders and Harlequins.

Hawks — Owls: A Goshawk was at Hillview Reservoir on Dec 27 (Sedwitz, Phelan), and another was at Poundridge on Feb 7 (Buckley). Seen on Staten Island on Dec 26 were two Red-tails, two Red-shoulders, two Rough-legs, one Marsh, and six Sparrow Hawks (Christmas count). A Bald Eagle was at Brookhaven Dec 26; the species was reported wintering (Puleston). Other Brookhaven reports included one Cooper's on Jan 26, three Rough-legs, a Peregrine Falcon on Dec 26, and a Pigeon Hawk wintering. Other falcon records include a Peregrine Falcon at Jamaica Bay on Dec 6 (numerous observers) and single Pigeon Hawks on Dec 6 at Atlantic Beach (Mayer, Rose) and Jones Beach (Dignan, Levine, Ward).

A King Rail wintered at Brookhaven. The bird was first seen Dec 18; it was caught during the big snow in March, banded, and released (Puleston). Other King Rails include two at Lawrence on Jan 2 (Bull) and one at Mastic on Dec 26 (D. L. and W. F. Nichols). One Sora and four Virginia Rails were observed on Dec 26

(Central Suffolk County census). A Sora was in the Baxter Creek area of the Bronx on Dec 27. Clapper and Virginia Rails were recorded at Clason Point that same day (Norse, Cantor, Post).

A Semipalmated Plover was at Atlantic Beach on Dec 13 (Norse), and two Piping Plovers were seen at Moriches on Dec 26 (Wilcox). Seven Black-bellied Plover were at Oak Beach on Feb 27 (Pembleton). An estimated 600 Dunlin were at Jones Inlet on Jan 16 (Bull). There was a good gull count on the Staten Island census with one Glaucous, one Iceland, 22,960 Herring, 256 Bonaparte's, and five Ring-bills. An Iceland Gull was at Clason Point on Dec 27 (Post, Cantor). A two-hour gull flight at Riis Park on Dec 5 included three Laughing, an estimated 600 Bonaparte's, and one Little Gull (Mayer, Rose). An adult Black-headed Gull was in New York bay on Feb 26 (Norse).

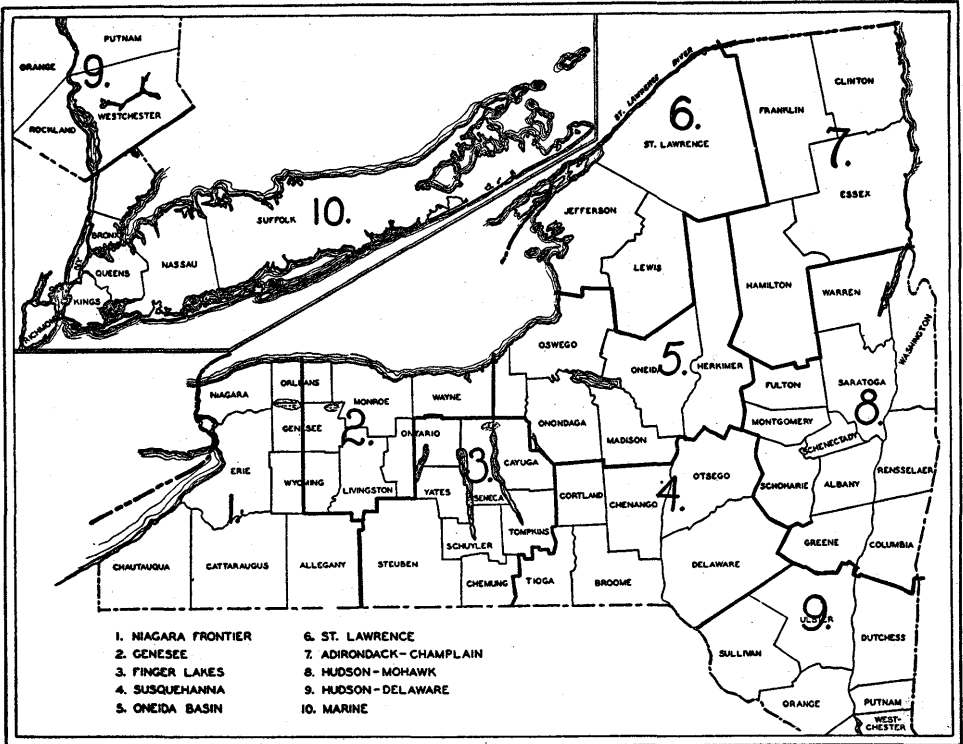
A Razorbill was at Montauk on Jan 2 (Raynor), and a dead bird was found at Jones Beach on Feb 28 (Norse). A Razorbill was present in Pelham Bay, Glen Island area, from Jan 31 - Feb 22 (Buckley, Post, Norse). Many oiled Dovekies were found near Montauk in Dec and Jan. There were numerous owl reports, including three or four of the snowy. Three Long-eared Owls were at Wheatley Hills on Dec 27 (Heck, Davin), and four Saw-whet Owls were seen at Jones Beach on Dec 5 (same observers). There were two Great Horned Owl nesting records, from Brookhaven and Pelham.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was noted at Alley Pond on Mar 27 (Yeaton). Two Phoebe were observed at East Moriches on Dec 26 (Raynor), and the Tree Swallow was reported at Jamaica Bay on Dec 6 (numerous observers). A Magpie was at Jones Beach on Mar 20 (Garland). A Tufted Titmouse wintered at Munsey Park (Mrs. M. B. Cross), and two Carolina Wrens were at Orient during Feb (Latham). Three Winter Wrens wintered at Yaphank, as did a Mockingbird at Westhampton. A Mocker was at Montauk on Dec 28 (Pulston). The Hermit Thrush was seen daily at Monorville (Raynor). Six Water Pipits were at Montauk on Jan 2 (Puleston, Raynor), and four Cedar Waxwings were noted at Dix Hills on Jan 19 (Pembleton, Good). Two Loggerhead Shrikes were at Baxter Creek on Dec 27 (Norse, Cantor Post), and there was one at Dix Hills on Jan 1 (Pembleton, Good).

Warblers — Sparrows: Although hundreds of Myrtle Warblers were seen on western Long Island in the bayberry, poison-ivy dune tracts, with both berries available, only one was reported in the entire eight areas of the Central Suffolk Christmas count around the same time. A Yellow-breasted Chat was present at Far Rockaway from Feb 28 to Mar 15 (Bull), and another was at Brookhaven on Jan 10 (Puleston). Meadowlarks were reported as abundant on the Christmas counts. Four Red-winged Blackbirds on Feb 16 at Orient were the first there, but several Grackles wintered (Latham). Cardinals are increasing yearly on eastern Long Island where they were unknown a decade ago. Fourteen were seen on the Christmas count, they nested at East Hampton last summer, and they wintered there this year. There were four at nearly every feeding station from Orient to Riverhead (Latham). Three House Finches wintered at Center Moriches, and there were about ten at East Patchogue (Raynor). Single Dickcissels were at Wantagh in Feb (Miss Allison) and Tackapausha on Mar 4 (Morgan). There were numerous Evening Grosbeak records, with 20 daily at Freeport (Dignan), nine at Orient in mid-Feb, and a flock at Great River (Wilcox). The only Pine Grosbeak report was from Jones Beach in early Dec. There was a tremendous flight of Redpolls, 110 being banded at one feeding station on Mar 16 (Wilcox). Several Hoary Redpolls were reported. One at Jones Beach on Mar 6 was carefully studied for one-half hour, and a later check with American Museum specimens convinced observers of the identity (L. Garland, Julig). Some 41 Pine Siskins were at Montauk on Jan 2 (Raynor). Crossbills were generally scarce, but 15 White-wings were at Montauk on Feb 21 (Norse, Buckley), and there were one or two other records. Four Ipswich Sparrows were noted on the Central Suffolk census of Dec 26; two were at Montauk on Feb 22 (Raynor), and there was one at Oak Beach on Mar 13 (Elliott). Sixteen Vesper Sparrows were at Manorville on Dec 26 (Raynor), and there were six on Mar 14 at Dix Hill^s. A Chipping Sparrow was observed at Dix Hills on Mar 10 (Pembleton, Good). Twenty Lapland Longspurs were at Spring Creek on Feb 13, and one was at Clason Point on Dec 27 (Norse). Of Snow Buntings at Orient, Latham writes "largest number in many years here — a flock on farm of 600 - 700."

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