

The **KINGBIRD**



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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

The Kingbird is a publication of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need of conserving natural resources and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas. Individual member's dues are **\$3.00** annually and all individual members receive the Kingbird. A member wishing to make an additional contribution may become a Sustaining Member (\$5) a Supporting Member (\$10) or a Life Member (\$100—"payable over a four-year period in equal installments until the full amount is paid", if member so desires.) For all classes of membership contact the treasurer, Mrs. Dayton Stoner, 399 State Street, Albany 10, New York.

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

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The EDITOR'S Page

There are on the mailing list in the files of The Kingbird more than 500 members. Listed among these are clubs, institutions and individuals.

How best to serve all of these through the medium of your magazine is the upper most problem of the editor.

Matters of scientific importance should hold top priority. Under this class and probably most important are the regional records, with authentic and accurate field notes holding close second place.

The editor, however, does not overlook the importance of the amateur, but still active member, who by his subscription and support to The Kingbird, has shown an interest in bird activities of New York State.

The policy shall be to give space to the entire membership in the available pages. Briefness in the records, without sacrificing accuracy and interest, field notes, accurate and in detail without emphasis on the anthropomorphic; and articles of scientific research and information that apply to the specific and general furtherance of the knowledge and activities of birds in New York State, all of these help to give you a magazine that you will care to support and read.

Whether written for the student, amateur or professional, accuracy and reliability shall hold priority. If we care to win and hold local and national acceptance and build The Kingbird into a periodical that shall last into the future.

Jim Meritt who in 1955 began writing the records for Region 8 and since has edited and summarized the regional records for The Kingbird has recently moved from New York State to New Jersey and under that new address has joined the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. That club quickly recognized his ability and offered him the editorship of the "Cassinia". With the pressure of these new duties, he has resigned as regional editor. We have, thereby, lost a very able and supporting worker.

We give Jim our thanks for his past help with The Kingbird and congratulate him and wish him well as editor of the "Cassinia".

NELLIE G. VAN VORST

The Federation has lost a most loyal charter member. Nellie G. Van Vorst was afflicted by a stroke on November 8, 1961 from which she never recovered. Her death occurred on March 20, 1962.

From the Federation Organization Meeting in 1947 to its fourteenth Annual Meeting in 1961 Miss Van Vorst had kept a continued interest through her own membership and that of the Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. She had been the latter's only president throughout the years. Her willingness to co-operate in every way with the officers of the Federation will be remembered. Only a few days before she was stricken she attended to preparations for the forthcoming Federation gathering in Albany. She will be greatly missed when bird groups from all over the State come together for their Annual Meeting in May.

Minne B. Scotland

The treasurer has received from Schenectady Bird Club members and friends a sum of money in the amount of \$160. This sum shall be known as "The Nelle G. Van Vorst Memorial Fund" and has been placed in the savings account, with the provision that the principal and accumulated resources shall eventually be used toward the publication of the book "The Birds of New York State."

Lillian C. Stoner.

YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS:

Our Federation showed its strength a few weeks ago by helping to cause the recent reversal in the voting of the New York State Senate regarding protection of the Great Horned Owl. It therefore remains on the protected list for at least another year. We believe this is largely due to the deluge of letters and telegrams protesting the decision already passed by the Assembly, to take it off the protected list.

Intense interest in the proposed bill to protect the Golden Eagle is also evinced by our conservation committee and vigilance is the keyword toward all other legislation which may shrink or destroy wild tracts or convert them from their present ever wild status.

Strong on conservation was our past president, Mrs. Frances H. Irving, and chairman Joseph A. Blake, Jr., carried our conservation banner to lead state organizations during his years in office. Mr. Blake was forced to resign and Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., of 333 Bedell Street, Freeport is our new chairman since January 1. Other chairmanship changes will show up on the back cover of the May Kingbird.

No doubt we can feel assured that we will progress favorably under these committee changes and sincerely hope that our past chairmen will continue their deep and sincere interest and support. It is also to be hoped that through the tenure of your president's occupancy in office that finances will increase to the extent desirable for at least a 56 to 64 page Kingbird, as written materials have built up. Actually we need a great many more new members. We have much to offer: a fine publication, a tremendously cooperative editor in Mrs. Alice E. Ulrich, cordial and extremely friendly conventions, unbounded enthusiasm in the future and strong convictions of a great Creator who has blessed us with this fine country, its wildlife and still abundant wild lands.

John Jackson Elliott

JOHN T. NICHOLS

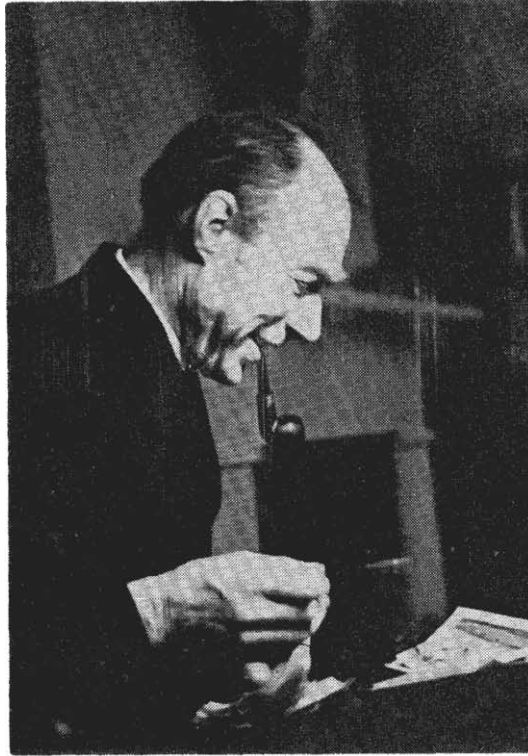
By JOHN J. ELLIOTT and JOHN W. TAYLOR

John Treadwell Nichols, foremost authority on Long Island birds, was born at Jamaica Plain, near Boston, Massachusetts, June 11, 1883. His interest in birds around him began at the early age of eight and after sixty-seven years of continuous study he died in his sleep on November 10, 1958 in his seventy-sixth year. He had been living at his home at 116 Ninth Street, Garden City, Long Island.

His parents, John White Treadwell Nichols and Mary Blake (Slocum) Nichols, moved to New York City when he was two years of age. He, with his family, spent summers in the Rockaways from 1890 to 1900 and while there he studied shore and water birds, getting up early and searching the beaches for an hour or two before commuting to New York City. He was educated in several private schools and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard in the class of 1905.

He visited Museums abroad and took two long oceanic trips on the square-rigged "Nuanu", the first in 1900-01. The ship left the East River, New York City docks for a trip to Hawaii, 41 days of which it fought headwinds off South America's Cape Horn. Another trip around the Horn was made in 1906. On these he collected specimens of albatrosses and

petrels which were later given to the American Museum of Natural History, New York City.



An ichthyologist by profession, he examined marine life in Puerto Rico, The Bering Sea and Nova Scotia; and from 1910 to 1918 served as assistant curator of recent fish (against fossilized) in the Department of Ichthyology and Herpetology in the American Museum of Natural History. In 1920 he became associate curator and was curator from 1927 to 1952 the year he retired. In his professional capacity Mr. Nichols wrote the informative book "Fishes of the Vicinity of New York City", American Museum of Natural History, Handbook Series No. 7, New York, 1918. He, with Paul Bartsch, wrote "Fishes and Shells of the Pacific World", The Macmillan Company, N. Y., 1945. Besides these he wrote hundreds of published articles on fish including "Chinese Fresh Water Fishes", Natural History, publication of the American Museum of Natural History, vol. 25. no. 4, 1925, 346-352.

He founded and was the first editor of the magazine "Copeia" which deals with cold-blooded vertebrates, and was also founder of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

Mr. Nichols married Cornelia Floyd in 1910. He is survived by his widow; four children, Mrs. David Weld, William F. Nichols, John S. Nichols and David G. Nichols; a brother William B. Nichols and two sisters,

Mrs. Edwin P. Taylor and Mrs. Harold T. Pulsifer. (John Taylor, co-writer above, is a nephew.)

Turning to our own interest — ornithology — according to a letter from his son David G. Nichols of Berkeley, California: "Dad started keeping notebooks on birds as soon as he could write at all . . . His first published scientific note was the year before he graduated from Harvard: 1904. Jan. 'Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker and Evening Grosbeak at Wellsfleet, Massachusetts,' Auk, vol. 21; 81-82. Dad was not a taxidermist. He didn't like to hunt . . . He never made an egg collection. The total of his published articles runs to 1,045 titles. This figure includes many reviews in scientific journals and popular articles in such publications as "Forest and Stream". The strictly scientific material (mostly in fishes, next most abundant in birds, then mammals, and lastly some entomological notes) would account for some 800 to 900 titles, depending on how one classified each publication. From 1915 to the time of his death Dad was an active bird bander."

Two outstanding accomplishments in ornithology were: his careful editing of Ludlow Griscom's "Birds of the New York City Region", 1923, with collection of data on the water birds for this publication; and his revision of the Long Island water bird records in Frank M. Chapman's "Second Revised Handbook on the Birds of Eastern North America", 1934. Both Griscom and Chapman acknowledged Nichols as the outstanding authority on Long Island birds then living. During these years and generally thereafter he spent his summers at Mastic and winters at Garden City. He was editor of "Birds of Long Island", from 1939 to 1941, a publication of the now defunct Long Island Bird Club, and with Rudyerd Bolton in one of these issues wrote 33 interesting pages on "A list of the Birds of Oyster Bay and Vicinity" giving Historic background, discussions on status, and in some species references to past records back to the time of Theodore Roosevelt in 1874. For over a decade from 1941 Mr. Nichols continued publishing ornithological researches on Long Island bird life in similarly patterned issues and still entitled "Birds of Long Island". From 1930 to 1932 he was counselor of the New York Academy of Science and was editor of "Field Notes" in Bird Lore, forerunner to the present day "Audubon Field Notes". He was particularly interested in the British Goldfinch and wrote in the Auk of his experiences with this exotic species both in the Englewood, N. J. area and later described it as nesting in the 1920's at Garden City, L. I.

Some 40 years ago, he, with Ludlow Griscom, separated the Wakula Seaside Sparrow (*Ammospiza maritima juncicola*) and Howell's Seaside Sparrow (*A. m. howelli*) from other numerous races of Seaside Sparrows residing in the Gulf and Florida Coast. He was particularly interested in sandpipers and wrote on these authoritatively for Chapman, especially where concerning their call notes.

In his retired years after 1952, Mr. Nichols still came to the Museum regularly in an unofficial capacity, but somewhat more relaxed; he was there to answer newspaper and other inquiries in an authoritative manner regarding some rare fish, or to discuss some ornithological subject. Fond memories of J. T. (as we affectionately called him) will be long-lasting and a visit to the museum without a look-in at his office door was quite incomplete. His big smile and cordial welcome, his settling back into his desk chair as one of us would settle into another, was characteristic of such a visit.

In such moments of complete relaxation in his retired days, out would come his pipe which he would knock out with several sharp raps, carefully load and, upon lighting, would drag out a half-dozen luxuriant puffs; then conversation would be resumed, likely as not his feet would go up on his desk and we would settle down into some serious phase of ornithology. How the time flew! On such occasions he offered freely of his vast store of knowledge, accumulated from more than half a century of bird study. In late years he was particularly interested in wintering sparrows around Garden City, which, reinforced by banding operations, produced "Sparrow Associations" an article that appeared in "The Kingbird", vol. 7, no. 4.; 106-108. This was in the January 1958 issue and was probably the last of his ornithological writings. His consistent records to Region 10 of "The Kingbird" however, came in to within a month of the time of his death.

From "The Grapevine", December, 1958, published by the employees benefit association for employees of the American Museum of Natural History, come the following lines: "To the outside world — he was known as John Treadwell Nichols, eminent ichthyologist . . . But to most of us he was Mr. Nichols, the man who always had time to listen to our problems, both personal and scientific; who always supported our raffles and our parties, altho' he never came, — whose courtly manner made us feel important; and whose dry sense of humor made our day".

"We would like to quote one of his poems which was read at his memorial service, held on November 13, in Cold Spring Harbor. It is called "Smoke":

A ship rides out,
Her iron funnels there
Loosing a trail of smoke
Into the air.

A day rides out,
Quickly it dims and fades
As does a trail of smoke
Into the shades.

A life rides out —
Long may its memory last
Trailing astern like smoke
Into the past."

Yes, J. T. Nichols has passed on, but associations with him are as fresh in our minds as though it were yesterday; and his accomplishments, his books and his thousand or more writings will, like smoke, range far into the future horizon as an assist to those who wish to know more about Long Island's birds and fishes.

WOODPECKERS OF NEW YORK STATE

DAVID C. GORDON

The woodpeckers and similar birds belong to the family *Picidae*. There are 179 species of true woodpeckers, subfamily *Picinae*, distributed throughout the world, except in Madagascar, Australia, Oceania and the polar regions. Twenty-two species are found in the United States and Canada. Of these, the following nine are native to New York State: Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker and Northern Three-toed Woodpecker.

Woodpeckers are birds with structures primarily adapted for specialized arboreal life and peculiar feeding habits. Their legs are short and stout and the toes with strong, sharp nails are arranged with two directed forward and two backward, (except in the three-toed species). This structure enables them to grasp the bark of trees as they creep or climb about on tree trunks in any direction by hopping, not by walking.

The sharp, chisel-like bill is used for drilling and chopping into wood and for tapping and drumming messages. The stiff, spiny tail feathers act as a brace in climbing and drilling activities. Most have fairly long, strong necks and massive skulls to absorb the vibration caused by rapid pounding of bills on wood.

The most unusual modifications of all are in the tongue and hyoid (tongue bone) apparatus. The tongue is long, extensile, and may be covered with sticky saliva. It is hard pointed and barbed on the end except for the sapsucker which has a brush tipped tongue. The branched hyoids at the back of the tongue extend in a sheath to the base of the skull and curl over the top of the skull and forehead to their attachment by muscles in the bill near the eyes. With this remarkable organ, the bird can spear or enmesh and withdraw the insect from a hole deep in the wood.

Most woodpeckers have an undulating flight pattern due to a few quick wingbeats followed by a closing of the wings. This causes the bird to sink downward before resuming its beat. When going from tree to tree they often fly to the bottom and work their way up in spirals when hunting for food.

Woodpeckers tend to be solitary with some exceptions. They are also mostly silent but all have harsh or piercing vocal calls.

All woodpeckers are hole nesters and all lay plain, glossy white eggs. The yolk usually shows pinkish through a translucent shell.

They drill nesting holes that vary in size and shape from the 1¼ inch diameter round hole of the downy to the 3½ inch diameter, almost rectangular, hole of the pileated in dead or living limbs, trunks, stumps or even telephone poles at varying heights above ground. From the hole a tunnel leads down 8 to 26 inches where it widens into a cavity 3 to 8 inches in diameter at the bottom in the shape of a gourd. Only wood chips serve to cushion the eggs. A fresh hole is dug each year although the same tree trunk may be used year after year. Some species excavate separate holes for winter sleeping chambers.

Several bird species nest frequently in old woodpecker holes including the tree swallow, chickadee, bluebird, sparrow hawk, and wood duck. Other forms of wildlife such as white-footed mice and flying squirrels also use abandoned holes.

The young are hatched naked and blind. They remain longer in the nest than most altricial young and acquire the full juvenal plumage before leaving. In the fall they change to the first winter plumage which is almost the same as the adult plumage. Usually adults undergo a complete post-nuptial molt in the late summer or in the fall. There may be a partial pre-nuptial molt in early spring.

Both sexes help in "nest"-building, incubation and feeding the young although in some species the male seems to play the bigger part. The young in the nest are usually fed by regurgitation during the first few days but are fed whole insects later.

There are few published longevity records of known-age birds based on banding. Some approximate maximum ages available are: three years for a red-headed woodpecker, four years for the downy, six years and eleven years for the hairy, and 11½ years for a flicker.

Enemies of woodpeckers include man, several species of hawks, arboreal snakes such as the blackracer and pilot black snake and such nest robbers as the red squirrel, crow and bluejay. There is also competition for nest sites from starlings and house sparrows which are often the winners. Finally, larger species of woodpeckers may displace smaller species in a given territory by their aggression.

The Yellow-shafted Flicker, high-hole or yellow hammer, is the best known, most abundant, and most widely distributed woodpecker in the state. These noisy, conspicuous birds are found as a breeding species nearly everywhere in open or lightly wooded country.

They migrate mostly at night (in the spring) and first arrive in the state from about March 30th to April 20th. However, a few flickers remain as winter residents in central and southern areas of the state. Fall migration takes place in large loose flocks during October.

This, the most terrestrial feeder of any woodpecker, is often seen in cities and towns picking up ants with its amazing tongue from lawns and cracks in sidewalks. Most of the spring and summer food is ants, ground beetles, grasshoppers and other insects. Fall and winter foods are mainly wild fruits.

The lively and elaborate courtship and early reproductive behavior includes drumming, mutual tapping, dance displays, wing noise, bill-touching and vocalizations both for stimulation of the opposite sex and to show territoriality, according to Kilham.

Usually six to eight eggs are laid in the nest cavity in May and incubated from 12 to 16 days by both sexes. The female will continue to lay new sets of eggs indefinitely if repeatedly robbed. The young stay in the nest about four weeks.

Natural enemies include several species of hawks. Bent says its greatest enemy is the starling which competes for nesting sites and for fruits in the fall.

The Pileated, our largest Woodpecker, is a permanent resident and must have been a common bird when the state was virgin wilderness, but with the reduction of the forest areas the numbers diminished and by early 1900, the bird had nearly disappeared. About 30 years ago, an upswing became noticeable and in some unknown manner, for which man can take no credit, the Pileated has now adapted to second growth woodlands and surprisingly may be seen in very small woodlots and occasionally even in

small towns. Perhaps the best places to see the magnificent Black Cock of the Woods or Log-cock, as it was once called, are in the larger forest stands as in the Adirondacks.

Sure signs of the habitat of this bird are the large, nearly rectangular feeding holes several inches deep in both dead and living trees, and the huge chips from the excavations found at the base of the tree. Stumps and fallen logs are ripped apart by this bird which often works close to the ground. Although capable of making a great racket with its drumming and loud flicker-like calls, much of the drilling and excavating work is done silently.

Principal foods of this woodpecker are carpenter ants and wood-boring beetle larvae, and some wild fruits and acorns eaten in the fall and winter.

Early in May a nesting hole is made high up on the trunk of a large tree. The entrance is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and the cavity is 12 to 30 inches deep. Three to six eggs are laid and incubated by both sexes for 18 days.

Few enemies, besides man, are recorded other than the pilot black snake, an arboreal species.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker, generally thought of as a southern species, reaches the northern limits of its breeding range in the counties of central and western New York State and extreme southern Ontario.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker is uncommon with a very localized and largely undefined distribution in the state. Most reports come from localities on the Lake Ontario plains, near Montezuma and the Seneca River marshes and in the Finger Lakes region from November to March. The most northern records for the state are from Oswego County at Port Ontario and Pulaski (Scheider). Although the red-bellied formerly bred on Long Island until the mid-19th century, most recent records from this area and the lower Hudson Valley probably represent migrants or accidental visitors from the south during the off-breeding season.

There is usually a southward movement in fall but there are irregular wanderings during the winter which keep many in the state throughout the season and bring them to home feeders. It is not a shy bird.

This rather noisy and conspicuous bird prefers a swampy, deciduous woods where it lays its three to eight (usually four or five) eggs in a hole in a dead tree. The eggs have a 14 day incubation period with both adults assisting in the duties including care of the young.

The animal food includes beetles, ants and grasshoppers and such small vertebrates as tree frogs and lizards. However, most of its food is grapes, berries and other wild fruits as well as acorns and nuts.

Pearson mentions that this bird has a strong, musky odor.

Much remains to be known about this unusual and misnamed woodpecker in New York State.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. The Red-headed Woodpecker, probably our most beautiful woodpecker, is a migratory species but may linger where food is available until late in the winter. It was never a common bird in this state but now has become scarce because of changing habitat and competition with other species for choice nesting sites. Red heads are rare to uncommon both as migrants and nesters, and their irregularity of numbers from year to year, makes their occurrence worthy of note anywhere in the state.

They nest sparingly in the St. Lawrence and Black River watersheds, Ontario Lake Plain, Finger Lakes region, western New York, the upper Susquehanna watershed and the Mohawk watershed. They seem to be absent in the Adirondacks, Catskills and the Allegheny highlands. They are seen rarely and usually only during migration or in winter in the Lower Hudson watershed and on Long Island, but have nested infrequently there. A detailed survey of the breeding range in this state would be desirable.

Normal spring arrival dates for most localities in the state are during the first two weeks of May. They usually leave in late September, but individuals have spent the winter in widely separated places. The main population winters to the south of New York.

The habitat of the Red-headed Woodpecker is at altitudes of less than 2000 feet "in open groves, slashing and old burns and tracts of half-dead forest where the live trees are scattered and dead stubs are [abundant.]" They are often seen on telegraph poles, fence posts, dead tops of tall trees, or on dead stubs.

¹ Eaton, Elon H. 1914. Birds of New York, part 2, p. 155.

This woodpecker 'hawks' for flying insects like a fly-catcher and also flies to the ground for some insects. They are often highway victims of cars. The percentage of animal and vegetable food matter is about evenly balanced. The diet includes ants, wasps, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, moths, caterpillars, spiders etc., but hardly any wood-boring, beetle larvae. Many wild berries, cherries and other fruits are eaten and in the winter those remaining in the northern parts of their range depend on beechnuts and acorns. They are accused of killing the young in nests of other birds.

The four to seven eggs are laid between mid-May and mid-June and are incubated by both sexes for about 14 days.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is the only species of New York State woodpecker whose habits are not largely compatible with man's interests. More about that later.

An uncommon to common spring and fall migrant throughout the state, it is found during the nesting season mainly in or near the Adirondacks, Tug Hill Plateau, Catskills and to a lesser extent in the Southern Tier and in the Oneida Lake Basin. Spring arrival dates are April 1st to May 15th. Usual fall migration dates are September 20th to October 30th. It winters mainly in the southern states and Central America although there are many early winter records in the New York City area.

The name sapsucker comes from the habit of drilling rows of squarish holes through the bark on trunks and large limbs of trees from which the sap will flow. According to Bent, they use the sap as a principal article of food and not primarily as bait to attract insects. Aided by its brushy tongue-tip it drinks the sap containing sugar that may begin to ferment in the late spring as the temperature rises. Eaton and others write of seeing sapsuckers obviously intoxicated by this heady beverage. Over 250 species of trees are known to be attacked including maple, beech, elm, birch, willow, alder, mountain ash, pine and spruce. The sapsucker returns repeatedly to the same trees and if the holes are drilled deep enough and encircle the tree this may lead to the tree's death. Along with sap, the bird eats some of the phloem and cambium layers. Other foods include ants, beetles, wasps, caterpillars, etc., but almost no wood-boring larvae,

also fruits of several kinds. Like the red-headed woodpecker it catches some insects in flycatcher fashion.

It is very noisy in the spring and early breeding season but is quiet thereafter in its summer habitat of forest at higher elevations.

It does not seem to have as great an ability to hew wood as most woodpeckers. The nest hole is cut in dead or dying trees where the wood is soft and four to seven eggs are laid sometime in June.

HAIRY WOODPECKER. The Hairy Woodpecker is a permanent resident throughout the state although there is a definite southward movement in fall and north in the spring. Therefore, probably most of those seen in winter are not the same ones that are seen in the summer. They are more often seen in the winter when they wander into villages and cities. The hairy is confined to the large wooded areas, especially in summer, more than its smaller relative.

It is more active and noisier than the downy as it vigorously chops into wood or pries off scales of loose bark to reach woodboring insects. It is also a shy and retiring bird which prefers the dry deciduous forest for a home. As the height of the forest crown increases to 80 feet with a corresponding mature forest having more old logs and stubs and larger dead trees, the number of hairy woodpeckers increases.

In a mature oak-hickory woods Saunders found an average of 2.7 hairys per 100 acres or 13 in 503 acres in Quaker Run Valley, Allegheny State Park.

Food habit studies have shown that 78% of the diet is animal matter consisting of wood-boring beetle larvae and adults, caterpillars, cocoons, aphids, spiders, and millipedes. The vegetable matter includes such fall and winter items as poison ivy, other wild fruits, seeds and nuts.

It lays its 3 to 6 eggs, (usually 4), in a nest hole in May. After an incubation period of two weeks the young hatch and stay in the nest for two more weeks. The hairy may renest if the first nest is robbed, otherwise, there is only one brood a year as is the case with all northern woodpeckers.

DOWNY WOODPECKER. The Downy Woodpecker, smallest woodpecker in the country, can be confused only with the Hairy. In addition to body size there are some other notable differences. The best distinction is the proportionately smaller bill in relation to the head. On close inspection the bars on the white outer tail feathers are also evidence in separating the two species.

The downy as a permanent resident may be found anywhere there are trees and in many areas is the commonest woodpecker. Unlike the hairy it is a familiar resident of farmland, village and city park in both summer and winter. It is not as easy to frighten and can be approached closer than the hairy.

The largest numbers of hairy woodpeckers are seen in winter but again as many downy woodpeckers may be seen at that time. Only in the most densely wooded areas or in large forested tracts such as the Adirondacks does the hairy equal or surpass the downy in numbers.

Few careful studies are available of population densities in this state but Saunders found an average of 1.9 Downy Woodpeckers per 100 acres of aspen-cherry growth or 22 pairs in 1166 acres of Quaker Run Valley, Allegheny State Park. There was a lesser density, of course, in less favorable habitat.

This friendly little bird is often miscalled a sapsucker. According to Bent, approximately 76% of its diet is animal food including beetles, ants, caterpillars and insect eggs. The 24% vegetable matter is mostly wild fruit such as poison ivy. In winter you may see a downy drilling in goldenrod galls or the dead canes and stalks of pithy plants such as corn in order to extract insect larvae.

In winter the downy is usually silent and solitary but may travel in company with chickadees, nuthatches and creepers. In spring it becomes more lively and its precourtship tattoo is often heard in the woods in March and April. In May the 3 to 8 but usually 4 or 5 eggs are laid. Incubation lasts 12 days. The young remain in the nest about two weeks.

BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker is the most common of the two three-toed woodpecker residents of the state and also the most often seen during their infrequent invasions south of their breeding range. This species has been described as comparatively quiet, tame and unsuspecting. It has larger, stronger feet than other woodpeckers of comparable size to compensate for the loss of one toe (the hallux or first toe).

Quoting Shainin (1939), "it is fairly numerous throughout Hamilton County, and in Essex County it is most common in the southwestern part, drained by the headwaters of the AuSable, Boquet and Hudson Rivers, where it is more noticeable in the winter." This bird is resident only in the Canadian life zone of the Adirondacks at altitudes above 2000 feet in forests of spruce, balsam fir and other conifers. It nests primarily in more open windfalls, burned over clearings and swampy tracts where there are plenty of dead, standing trees in which to excavate a hole.

In May or early June, the two to six, but usually four eggs are laid and incubated for 14 days. The young stay in the nest for two weeks.

This species eats almost no plant food material but three-fourths of its diet consists of wood-boring larvae of beetles and moths and one-fourth is adult beetles, ants and spiders. It works quietly for long periods as it flakes off the bark on dead white pines and other trees.

During the late fall and winter some birds wander distances up to several hundred miles from their normal habitat. The most recent spectacular irruption occurred in southeastern Canada and the northeastern United States during which thirty-eight were reported from all over New York State between Oct. 11, 1956 and April 27, 1957. The black-backed is particularly attracted to infested elm trees. Downstate records including Long Island are usually from October through February and especially in November and December.

The Adirondack population has apparently declined from what it was a half century ago when Eaton (1914) called it common. More recent writers to note the downward trend are Saunders (1929) and Shainin (1939).

NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. The Northern Three toed Woodpecker is less common than the black-backed and like that species, it is generally restricted during the nesting season to parts of Essex and Hamilton counties in spruce, balsam and tamarack forested mountains and swamps from 2000 to 4000 foot altitudes.

Although more retiring and quieter than the black-backed, this rarest of our woodpeckers has almost the same behavior and food habits.

Shainin compiled the only known summer records of this species up to 1939 in order to highlight the paucity of numbers since Eaton found it common in 1905. These are as follows: 1.—Rogers saw two at Raquette Lake, Hamilton County, summer 1921; 2.—Saunders none 1925-6 in Essex County; 3.—Carleton one at Mt. Ampersand, Franklin County, July 17, 1931; 4.—Darrow one at Mt. Marcy, Essex County, July 23, 1933; 5.—Darrow one at Whiteface Mt., Essex County, Aug. 4, 1936; 6.—Shainin one on Johns Brook Trail, Essex County, July 20, 1937. Few have been reported since. Spofford reported a nesting near Raquette Lake, Hamilton County, June 9, 1957. There are several winter records from Hamilton and Essex Counties.

During the irregular winter movements of three-toed woodpeckers outside their breeding range, the northern does not travel as far and is not seen as often as the black-backed.

In the 1956-57 invasion, only five were seen in the state between Oct 11, 1956 and June 10, 1957. All were seen near Lake Ontario or near the Adirondacks.

Overall, woodpeckers are definitely useful to man because they eat tremendous quantities of injurious insects, especially wood borers. They are, therefore, beneficial to the forests. Their borings are usually in dead wood or in unsound trees where unseen damage has already been done by the insects. It is not the woodpeckers' holes that kill trees. How do the woodpeckers know where to drill? Some insects undoubtedly give themselves away by sounds. However, vibrations received through the woodpecker's beak and the repeated testing or 'sounding' of the wood enables the bird to sometimes drill, for example, directly into a colony of carpenter ants.

During heavy infestations of timber-destroying insects, woodpeckers of several species may concentrate in an area as a natural control such as with the Engelmann spruce beetle outbreak in the Rocky Mountains and the elm bark beetle in the east.

Indians used the crest of the pileated for decorations. The flicker was once shot for food as the partridge or pigeon. All woodpeckers are now protected by law.

On the debit side, sapsuckers do drill in live wood which hurts but seldom kills orchard and ornamental trees. This practice is also said to reduce the value of trees for lumber. Saunders said "All the Sapsuckers of the Adirondacks cannot do as much damage to a forest as one careless man with a cigarette."²

² Saunders, Aretas A. 1929. *The Summer Birds of the Northern Adirondack Mountains*, p. 450.

Flickers, hairy and downy woodpeckers, all have caused some damage to shingle roofs and sidings of buildings, mostly in winter, when they are after insects underneath. These species may also use parts of a house for a drumming post which is an annoyance.

The Pileated Woodpecker has done great damage in some states to electric utility poles. It also has been known to damage houses, barns and church steeples.



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In summary, we find that woodpeckers have a great influence on forests and other wildlife and they help to create interest for nature lovers in the woods, especially in winter when there are few other birds around.

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1347 Sherman St., Watertown, N. Y.

THE JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNT VIII

The 1962 Waterfowl Count of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was carried out from January 13 to 21, 1962. During the period of January 9 to 14, the State Conservation Department, also, conducted a ground and aerial survey. Our count included 38 species and one hybrid in its total of 251,794 individuals. This new high was a good agreement with the Conservation Department's total of 266,490 individuals.

The Western Grebe was reported from Greenport, Long Island by Samuel Yeaton et al, for the first time in this census series. One hundred Hooded Mergansers reported from Howlands Island Game Management Area was a high count of the species for region 5. A high total for the state was 118,787 Scaup.

A relative comparison to the Waterfowl Counts of the previous seven years showed that half of the species seen this year represented new high or low counts. This is shown by + or - values in the table below.

REGION	1	2	3	5	6	9	10A	10B	NY State
Horned Grebe		+							
Western Grebe								New	New
Mute Swan							+	+	+
Canada Goose							+	+	+
Mallard			+			+		+	+
Black Duck		+	+		-				
Pintail								+	+
Green-w. Teal								+	
Ring-necked Duck			+						
Canvasback								-	-
Scaup		-						+	+
Common Goldeneye	+							+	
Oldsquaw					+				
White-w. Scoter		-					-	-	-
Common Scoter								-	-
Hooded Merganser				+		-			+
Common Merganser						-			
Reb-br. Merganser				-					

I would like to thank all who participated in this census: in particular, Leo J. Tanghe for aid and advice, Don Foley for exchange of data with the Conservation Department, and the regional leaders: Regions, (1) Richard C. Rosche, (2) Walter Listman, (3) Sally F. Hoyt, (4) Leslie E. Bemont, (5) David B. Peakall, (6) Arthur Allen, (7) George McChesney, (8) Guy Bartlett, (9) Edward D. Tracy, (10) John J. Elliott.

John L. Mitchell, 345 Conrad Dr., Rochester 16

King Eider	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
White-winged Scoter	50	234	—	—	19	2	—	—	2	6115	6422
Surf Scoter	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1155	1156
Common Scoter	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	55	58
Ruddy Duck	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	115	33	151
Hooded Merganser	5	2	10	—	103	—	1	57	10	174	362
Common Merganser	*6400	342	100	110	3286	25	6	157	14	102	10542
Red-breasted Merganser	78	62	4	—	70	4	—	—	632	2811	3661
Coot	2	—	167	—	4	—	—	1	1	159	334
Unidentified	80	—	5	24	31	—	—	8	200	302	650
TOTALS	28200	6873	25106	1000	18358	4952	1890	2182	36927	126306	251794

* Note: Redhead, Region III, includes 3200 estimate for Canandaigua Lake.
Common Merganser, Region I, is a late in week estimate of the Niagara River area.

NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT — GROUND AND AERIAL SURVEY

	Region										TOTAL	
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X A		X B
Mute Swan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	618	627
Geese	—	—	107	—	232	—	—	—	—	303	3276	3918
Brant	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22480	22480
Mallard	5	—	705	—	503	355	6	—	7	370	4511	6462
Black	1165	32	2155	8	1715	949	228	733	129	1366	30816	39296
Pintail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	140	140
Green W. Teal	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
American Widgeon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	325	5307	5632
Wood Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
Redhead	—	—	4600	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4600
Canvasback	5975	4	7224	—	495	170	—	—	—	2590	2951	19409
Scaup	5303	141	7800	15	2205	7781	300	—	—	21865	76296	121706
Goldeneye	5935	1427	2550	12	1746	4960	697	—	50	600	5931	23908
Bufflehead	—	—	—	—	—	55	3	—	—	407	1199	1664
Old Squaw	—	50	—	—	180	—	—	—	—	—	203	433
Scoter	—	175	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4627	4802
Ruddy Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	100
Merganser	1415	199	2325	145	1110	2930	943	2	64	13	2130	11276
Coot	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	15
Unidentified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	15
TOTAL	19798	2038	27466	180	8186	17200	2179	735	250	27848	160610	266490

SUMMARY TREE AND SHRUB FRUIT CROP IN FALL 1961

STEPHEN W. EATON

The tree and shrub fruit crop this year generally appeared a rather weak "fair". Of 97 commitments on the status of species in various parts of the state 40 were poor or poor to fair, 26 were fair or fair to good, 31 were good. (Last year 70 good, 37 fair, and 9 poor were tallied.)

The conifers of the Adirondacks and the Allegheny Plateau were generally labelled poor.

The great mast producers made up of American Beech, White Oak, and Red Oak were generally poor in all areas.

Wild Black Cherry was poor on the western part of the plateau and fair to good on the eastern part.

Box Elder and Black-berried Elder, the old reliables, were generally considered good.

Across the whole of the plateau White Ash had an abundant seed crop. Seed, as so often happens in a good fruiting year, stayed on these trees until about January 15, 1962. These trees on the western plateau attracted great flocks of Pine Grosbeaks with an occasional Purple Finch.

Regions	Adiron- dacks	Ontario Lake Plain	Western Allegh. Plateau	Eastern Allegh. Plateau	Lower Hudson and L. I.
	5	2, 5, 6	1	3, 4, 8	9, 10
Red Pine					
White Pine	P		P	P, P, P	P, -
Pitch Pine					
Larch	P				
White Spruce					
Black Spruce					
Red Spruce	F				
Balsam					
Hemlock		F	P	P, P-F, P-F	P, -
Arborvitae					
Red Cedar		P			, F
Bayberry					, G
Ironwood (Ostrya)			P	, F, G	
Blue Beech (Carpinus)			P	, F, F	
Yellow Birch			P	, F, F	
White Birch				, F, F	
American Beech	P	P, F, F	P	P, F, P	
White Oak		G, P		P, F, P	P, G
Red Oak		, F	P	P, F, P	P, -
Cucumber Tree			P	, ,	
Mountain Ash	P			, ,	
Thornapple		G, G, F-G		F, F-G, G	
Wild Black Cherry			P	G, F, F	
Box Elder		G, P-G, G	G	G, G, G	G, -
Sugar Maple			P	, F, P	P, -
Grey Dogwood		G, P, G		, -	
Red Osier Dogwood		F, F, P		, ,	
White Ash			G	G, F, G	P, -
Black-berried Elder		G, G, G	G	G, G, F	P, -
Sour Gum					F, G
Russian Olive					, G
Japanese Black Pine					
Multiflora Rose				G, , G	

Dept. of Biology, St. Bonaventure Univ., St. Bonaventure, N. Y.

CONSERVATION NEWS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

As far as legislatures and Congress are concerned, the individual citizen finds it difficult to imagine his own occasional efforts (messages he might send for examples) having anything really to do with what finally gets printed in the law books — or, as in the instance of the Great Horned Owl in New York State, what does not go into the books. But anyone who wrote, wired or telephoned to Albany should feel, in great part, personally responsible for the Great Horned Owl victory.

It was a dramatic (I am not taking any license with this word) demonstration of a public's — in this case, the birding public's — penmanship, typewritership, night lettership or whatever means is used to let the lawmakers know. For the messages that kept the mail carrier and Western Union boys running back and forth to the state senator's offices pulled back the Great Horned Owl bill from the precipice of legislative passage.

The bill, that would have removed this species from the State's list of protected birds, had been swept through the Assembly. Quickly afterwards it came within one vote of the required majority (30 out of 58 senators) in the upper house. The tally was 29 to 18.

This was Wednesday, March 14. Senator Janet Gordon of Norwich, the sponsor, was to bring the bill up for reconsideration the next day. The New York Times declared its "approval virtually certain."

But that day (Thursday, March 15) the New York City bus strike was moving toward a climax in Albany where the Legislature was to approve a city take-over of some of the lines. The senators were off in huddles or hearings. Senator Gordon apparently could not rally enough of them in the Senate chamber at any one time to obtain the 30 votes. That afternoon the Legislature adjourned.

This gave birders the long weekend to avalanche the senators with telegrams. However, by early, Monday afternoon (March 19) the bill's approval that night seemed certain. But it was still too soon to know the effect of these telegrams on the senators — something that would not be known until they had started returning later that afternoon in time for the Monday evening session. The week's proceedings do not begin until Monday evening, giving the legislators all day Monday to return.

But the bill was not called up for consideration that night.

By this time H. Everest Clements of Rochester was in Albany calling on the senators — he was to see more than 30. Mr. Clements, who had a lot to do with New York State's acceptance of a model hawk and owl law, had gone to Albany at his own expense. Good naturedly describing himself as the "unpaid lobbyist for the Great Horned Owls in New York State", he explained why the owl should be saved. He reported that he found many interested senators.

Several of them told him that they were receiving numbers of protests and as a result were going to switch their votes. Several of them were men who admitted that, when they gave their votes to Senator Gordon, they had not thought anyone would care about an owl. The messages from the Federation members alerted them to the fact that this was not true, and hence brought about this switch of crucial votes.

Two days before the Legislature adjourned for the year, Senator Gordon moved to recommit the bill to committee.

I must make an important observation about this victory. Being chairman of the Conservation Committee, I was in touch with many of the clubs throughout the state by mail — and particularly during that crucial weekend, by telephone. I was aware of the state-wide proportions of our effort. I realized that in any such effort, each club — although not in communication with the others — can know that the others are also engaged in the same effort. This I feel, is a fine argument for membership in the Federation.

We, of course, were not alone. The State Department of Conservation issued a statement of opposition. Organizations, like garden clubs, responded when asked by birders. Several county sportsmen's groups also sent in telegrams of protest despite the state organization's (New York State Conservation Council) campaign to pass the bill. In fact, the leader of the opposition in the Senate, Senator Harold A. Jerry, Jr., of Elmira, is himself a hunter and a member of several sportsmen's organizations.

Senator Jerry has warned that the bill could be revived in the next Legislature.

Letters from Federation members have also had their impact in Washington. When the Golden Eagle bill was before the House Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries, one of the New York congressmen on that committee said he wanted to get the bill reported out, simply to stop the great flow of letters urging protection of this bird.

It was reported out. It was passed by the House of Representatives April 2. It was sent to the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. But as of this writing some opposition was developing. New York birders were urged to write the Committee chairman urging him to report the bill, SJ 105, out of Committee — the chairman being Senator Warren G. Magnuson, c/o Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

The Forest Preserve, of course, had to be brought up in the Legislature this year. This time it was in the form of a bill that would have rewritten the "forever wild" clause in the Constitution to split the Preserve into three areas: one for wilderness use; one for mass recreational activities; one for fishing, hunting, but where motorized transportation could also be allowed. Although withdrawn from consideration this year, the sponsors, Senator Warren M. Anderson of Binghamton and Assemblyman Richard J. Bartlett of Glens Falls, asserted it would have to be introduced again — perhaps next year.

The New York Times, in an editorial April 5, attacked the bill. But the editorial did say that, in the interests of areas that could usefully be sold or exchanged and also for permitting additional trails and shelters, that "The Constitution does need some revision to permit such changes."

The editorial cited, as a case in point, the amendment to allow Saranac Lake to exchange forest land for Preserve land that could be used by the community as a dump. This amendment was approved this year. If passed at the next Legislative session, it would go before the voters in November, 1963.

The voters this year will vote on an additional 25-million-dollar park bond issue to supplement the 75-million-dollar bond issue approved two years ago.

The Conservation Department expects within a year or two to conduct a study on the Mourning Dove status in New York State. This could have some bearing on future hunting possibilities of the bird here. There is a bill in Congress to prohibit the hunting of the Mourning Dove throughout the Nation. It is HR 9882 by Rep. Joseph E. Karth of Minnesota, to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to effect this.

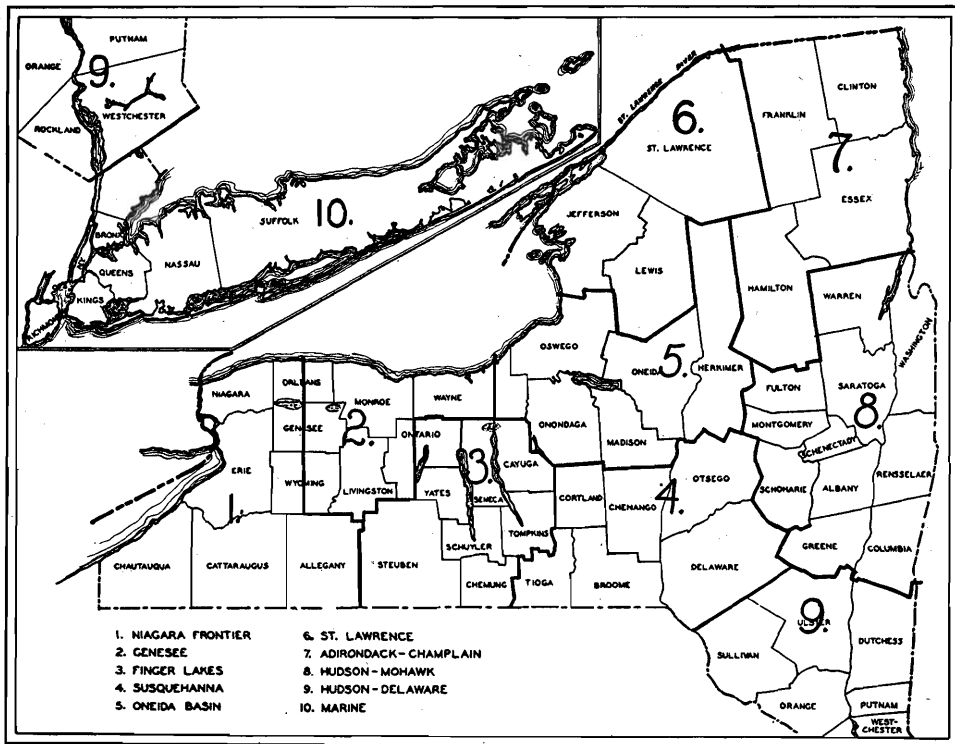
One of the Federation's Conservation Committee members has been appointed a member of the newly created Nassau County Conservation Committee. Cornelius Ward, president of the Baldwin Bird Club, was appointed by Nassau County Executive Eugene Nickerson.

333 Bedell Street, Freeport, L. I.

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REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV, Nos. 1 and 2

FIELD NOTES

Raptors at Point Peninsula: Late in October 1961 David Gordon noted an unusual concentration of Rough-legged Hawks on Point Peninsula. This situation continued into November and the writer decided to keep the area under surveillance throughout the winter season. Between November 1 and March 31 seventeen trips were made. Although Rough-legs predominated, other raptors were present as will be noted later.

Since the name Point Peninsula is somewhat of a misnomer, a description of the area is in order. A glance at the map will show that it is virtually an island in Lake Ontario, joined to the rest of Jefferson County by a narrow neck of land known as "The Isthmus". Relatively flat, it has an area of about eight square miles. Once extensively farmed, there is now a large acreage of abandoned fields, overgrown with grass and weeds — ideal habitat for small rodents. Although wooded areas are few, there are numerous scattered trees, and these, together with fence posts and utility poles afford ample perches. Add to this the open, level nature of the land and the existence of several roads and we have ideal conditions for wintertime observation.

During November and December between 25 and 30 Rough-legs were present. As the winter progressed, the number dropped somewhat, averaging perhaps fifteen for January and February. Lower counts were obtained during March, nine being seen on the 27th of that month. The distribution of this species during the past winter is in marked contrast to two seasons ago (see Kingbird, Vol 10, No. 2, p. 55) when they were scattered widely over northern Jefferson County. An interesting sidelight occurred on December 23 while David Gordon and I were making a tour of Point Peninsula. A Snowy Owl was flushed from an open field leaving behind the remains of a female Rough-leg. Little was left but bones and feathers.

The Snowy Owl population in the area was fairly stable through the winter. Three or four could be seen on most occasions, the maximum count being eight. As was true of the Rough-legs, Snowy Owls tended to stay close to Lake Ontario, few being reported from other parts of Region 6. Marsh Hawks lingered late, six being present on December 23. No more were seen until March 22 when the first spring migrant was noted. Sparrow Hawks remained all winter, one or two being seen on most trips. Northern Shrikes were seen regularly during January and February.

This is the story in a nutshell — an abundance of small rodents on Point Peninsula — and it didn't take the birds long to discover them. — John B. Belnap, 93 Clinton Street, Gouverneur.

Red-tailed Hawk Takes Mouse From Cat: The following observation was made at Ithaca, New York, December 1, 1961, at approximately 2:15 P. M. in a field of closely cropped clover and oat stubble.

While driving west on the Hanshaw Road, I observed an immature Red-tailed Hawk on the top of a telephone pole. As I approached, the bird took off in a glide to the south. I then noticed a yellow and white domestic cat about eighty yards out in the field and the hawk approaching it from the rear. For an instant it appeared that he would strike the cat, but did not and merely skimmed gently a few inches over its head, to land immediately in front of it, about two to three feet away.

The cat instantly arched its back and tail in a threatening gesture toward the Red-tail. Apparently this did not bother the hawk for he very deliberately took a few steps toward the cat and picked up a mouse (or possibly a small rat) from in front of the cat's forefeet. This he did with his beak, then stepped back to almost his original landing position and switched the prey to his talons. All this time the cat stood its ground watching the hawk but making no attempt to retrieve the mouse.

At this point I decided to return to my office (about a mile away) for a camera. This I did and upon my return the hawk was eating the mouse and the cat had turned away and was leaving the scene, supposedly returning home. I secured two pictures showing the hawk and the cat together but the cat walking away. The pictures were taken with a Nikon and a 400 mm lens. — David G. Allen, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

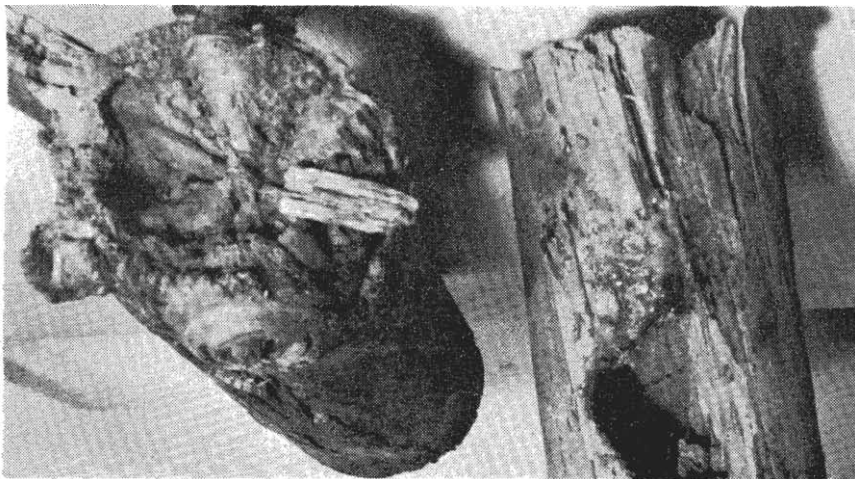
Nesting Red-breasted Nuthatches at Letchworth State Park: On June 4, 1961, as I was resting close by a dense planting of jack and red pine near the Mary Jamison Statue in Letchworth State Park, I heard a faint tapping barely audible among the songs of Black-throated Green Warblers. Upon investigating I located a Red-breasted Nuthatch sitting on a perch about twenty feet from the ground and just below a hole near the broken off top of a dead pine tree.

The short broken off branches formed a circling ring of perches, one row for every year of growth.

As one nuthatch entered the nest, another, leaving, squeezed by in the small hole. The soft pecking sound began again and then stopped as a bird appeared at the entrance hole to let fall from its bill what could be incorrectly called sawdust. The mate returned and exchanged places, and so the work of hollowing continued. I made further observations on June 15 and 18. On June 29 I observed that the lower border of the nest opening was covered with a shiny, gummy substance that formed, at one place, a ball about three eighths of an inch thick. This was the pitch accumulation that is a characteristic of the nesting sites of Red-breasted Nuthatches. One of the birds entered the hole with something in its bill but then left immediately. When I returned on July 13 the nest was vacated. At no time had I seen the numbers of eggs or young.

I took the following close measurements of the nest. The entrance hole was one and three eighths inches wide. The dept of the cavity was six inches, including the two inch entrance. The diameter of the cavity at the base was two and one half to two and three quarters inches. It was interesting to see the floor of the cavity that showed the whorl of branches radiating out from the center of the trunk like spokes of a wheel.

The harder grain of their centers had resisted the pecking of the birds. The inner walls of the nest showed only a light white powdering — testimony to the birds' good housekeeping ability. A nest lining consisted of shredded bark, white hairs three to four inches long, and small gray feathers. There were also some very fine small feathers stuck in the pine pitch that the birds had plastered along the margins of the entrance hole. A barely noticeable amount of gum had been put on the sides, but a considerably larger amount was put along the lower margin. This lower border was up to one and one half inches wide and two localized areas were three sixteenths of an inch thick. — Arthur F. Freitag, 1000 Kensington Ave., Buffalo 15.



Bottom of nest hole.

Nest opening with pitch.

Bohemian Waxwings at Watertown: Bohemian Waxwings were found in Thompson Park, in Watertown about the first week of January, 1962. I did not see any until January 14 when there were eight. During the next few weeks several persons saw the Bohemian Waxwings, and some reported the number to be 30 to 25. There was also a flock of Cedar Waxwings in which no Bohemian Waxwings could be found. Some days no Waxwings could be found. This probably was due to the size of the area covered with shrubs and trees and the fact that deep snow made walking difficult.

On the afternoon of March 17, R. Dudley Ross, Mrs. Ross, Cecil Dake, Mrs. Dake, Mrs. Clinch and I saw three hundred Bohemian Waxwings, and with them a very few Cedar Waxwings. We watched them for several minutes and this gave us time enough to estimate the number. The next morning Arthur W. Allen and Mrs. Allen saw a large flock of Bohemian Waxwings in almost the same place. They estimated the number to be more than 300. The Cedar Waxwings were in a separate flock.

In New York State the Bohemian Waxwings are highly irregular winterers. The records which I have found show only very small numbers, usually only one or two. Examples are the reports from Region 5 (*The Kingbird*, Vol. X, No. 1 and Vol. XI, No. 4). It will be interesting to see what future records of the Bohemian Waxwings may be, either in the winter or during their nesting season. — Frank A. Clinch, 173 Haley Street, Watertown.

Winter Sighting of Scarlet Tanager: During the Christmas Count on December 30, 1961, one of the field teams of the Alan Devoe Bird Club (Chatham) obtained an unusual record in the southwestern part of Rensselaer County. The team, composed of Beatrice Shineman (captain), Juanita Cook, Vivian and Lee Burland observed a Scarlet Tanager for approximately 45 minutes between 8:30 and 9:15 A. M., at distances varying from eight to fifty feet.

The temperature was near 0°F. The sky was clear. There were five to six inches of snow on the ground and the wind was light and variable.

The tanager was first discovered hopping about the lower branches of some shrubs in a hedgerow along the edge of a dirt road. Throughout the period of observation, the bird remained within four to six feet of the ground. Its movements were slow and seemingly uninfluenced by the relative closeness of the observers. At times the bird remained nearly motionless. Occasionally it dipped its beak into the snow on the branches and appeared to be eating the snow. After 25 to 30 minutes in the hedgerow, it flew across the road to a window feeder where it remained for another 10 to 15 minutes. From here, after it had picked around rather leisurely, and disinterestedly, it flew out of sight behind the house.

During the observation, the following features of the bird were noted: The back and head were olive green, the underparts were bright yellowish and unstreaked. The wings and tail were brownish black. There were no distinguishable bars or markings on the wings. The bill was rather horn-colored with the coloration deepening toward the base. At the closer distances it could be noted that the edge of the upper mandible was toothed near the base.

The family living in the house where the window feeder was located, have reported that a similar bird was seen again on January 17, and also sometime in February. — Lee J. Burland, 34 Green Ave., Castleton-on Hudson.

Editorial Note By S.F.H. — The Scarlet Tanager ordinarily winters in South America. This bird evidently was unable to migrate at the usual time, and remained north. The sluggish behavior is typical of Tanagers, and it has been noted in the past that unfavorable conditions turn Tanagers into ground-level feeders (*The Kingbird*, Vol. VI, No. 2). It would appear doubtful that the bird could survive the winter.

A Hawk, a Pigeon, and Two Panes of Glass: On Monday, Dec. 11, 1961, an immature Cooper's Hawk flew through the glass of both a storm window and

the inside window into a house near Sulphur Springs, where it was found by the Calhouns when they returned home from work. There was fresh blood on the wall and floor, showing that it must have happened only a short time before they arrived. The pane of glass in the storm window was 30 in. by 32 in., and this glass was double thickness. The inner pane was smaller, about 12 in. by 16 in. Outside of this window the Calhouns found a pigeon with band CU 61-29040. One wing of the pigeon was injured or broken, but the bird was not otherwise seriously hurt and survived.

The hawk was given to me on Dec. 13, and I banded and released it the same day. It was large for a Cooper's Hawk and very wild. One claw was broken and the toe was bleeding, but there was no blood in the cage. We did not notice any other injury to the bird, and it was able to fly when released. — Frank A. Clinch, 173 Haley St., Watertown.

Boreal Owl in Oswego County: At about 2:30 P. M. on March 17, 1962, while walking down a path which runs from the New Centerville Road (3 miles east of Pulaski) through spruce plantations and native white pine, hemlock, and deciduous trees and brush down to the Salmon River, I noted a small owl perched six feet up in the outer branches of a white spruce. The white spots on the fore-crown of the generally brown and white bird, and the size — which, at 30 feet, I could tell was about that of a Screech Owl, larger than a Saw-whet — convinced me as I observed the bird through 9x35 binoculars that it was a Boreal Owl! I left to fetch camera and Balscope from my car, returning as silently as possible. Such caution and the scope proved unnecessary for observation and photography, as I eventually approached to within four feet to photograph the owl without causing it to move other than to slowly blink its yellow eyes. At this distance, the black "frames" of the white facial discs, the reddish-brown streakings on the sides, and the white tear-shaped spots on the brown wings, as well as the white stippling on the forecrown, were clearly noticeable in detail. Although the owl was not well hidden, there was a remarkable camouflage effect in the similarity of the wing pattern to that of a nearby fungus-covered tree trunk, and the forehead stippling suggested snow caught in spruce needles. The shape of the facial frames gave the owl a flat-headed and very slightly "eared" look. The bill was not yellow, but of a light bluish-gray horn color.

After fifteen minutes of observation I left to notify other birdwatchers of the presence of this rarity, returning at about 5:00 P. M. with Mr. W. D. Bulger of Pulaski, who took still pictures and movies, again at less than four feet, without flushing the owl. The bird would open its eyes from time to time and would become more alert if one squeaked like a mouse; that is, it seemed aware of our presence but completely unafraid rather than blind (a characteristic which Bent notes in his "Life Histories"). Eventually it flushed, at dusk, about 6:00 P. M., when one of us accidentally jostled the branch it was on. It flew off in a rather straight line into the dense spruce plantation, and we lost it from sight.

Examination of the roosting place showed only one pellet and small amount of whitewash, indicating the bird had not roosted for long in this particular spot.

On March 18 at 10:45 A. M., by following sounds of Black-capped Chickadees which apparently were scolding the owl, I rediscovered it about 150 yards away from the previous day's perch, quite out in the open on a white pine branch about eight feet up. On this occasion 24 people, including Dr. Arthur A. Allen and five ornithology students from Cornell and members of the Onondaga Audubon Society, observed and photographed the Boreal Owl at close range. Even with so many people present, the owl did not flush until someone experimentally shook the branch it was on.

At no time was the owl heard to make any noises, either vocally or by bill-snapping.

Parties of two searched unsuccessfully for the owl the following day (Monday), and also on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Possible evidence of other roosting places (whitewash) was noted.

E. H. Eaton's **Birds of New York** gives an Oneida County (1893) and an Essex County (1896) record for the Boreal Owl. Kenneth Parkes' unpublished thesis, "The Birds of New York State and Their Taxonomy," lists Franklin County records for 1878 (presumably), 1914, 1916, and 1922; a Plattsburg record (1922); and one for Westchester County (1951). For the last decade **Kingbird** and **Audubon Field Notes** show New York records for Watertown (1958) and Dutchess County (1960). As far as I can determine, the present record is a first for Oswego County and the only record this century for Region 5. — Margaret S. Rusk, 114 Standard St., Syracuse 10

Grackles Nesting on Bridge Girders: The grackle nest site described by Allen Benton (**Kingbird**, 11, 1961:201) is perhaps not as exceptional as Dr. Benton believed. Bent (**U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.** 211, 1958:400) described grackle nests, reported by several observers, "on the steel beams inside of a large coal briquet plant" (Scranton, South Dakota); "on the girders of a large water tower" (Youngstown, Ohio); "on the girders of a large steel bridge" (Lake Milton, Ohio); and "similar situations." Todd (**Birds of Western Pennsylvania**, 1940:587) wrote "In recent years the Grackle has manifested a tendency, remarked by several observers from various parts of the country, to nest in the steelwork of bridges."

For reasons I do not presently understand, the Common Grackle is anything **but** common in the city of Pittsburgh, just about the only major city of the Northeast in my experience in which grackles are **not** one of the most conspicuous features of the avifauna of the city parks. Immediately behind the Carnegie Museum is a fine, large city park known as Schenley Park, which is traversed by a valley named Panther Hollow. Soaring 150 to 180 feet above the floor of this narrow valley is the Panther Hollow Bridge, part of the roadway system that winds through the park. Somewhere among the girders supporting this bridge, most years if not every year, nest from one to three pairs of grackles and several pairs of domestic pigeons. Although there are certainly other pairs scattered elsewhere around the city, this is the only place I have personally found that I can count on seeing nesting grackles. The height above ground will suggest why I do not know the exact details of nest placement. — Kenneth C. Parkes, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Unusual Nesting Failure in a Purple Martin Colony: In the light of the mention in the October 1961 **Kingbird** of the early departure of Purple Martins in Region 3 this past summer, our observations on our own Martins might be of interest.

For the past 25 years we have had two martin houses and have had exceptionally good luck in having a rather full complement every year. This year was apparently a good one, at least when the season started, as we had, by count, at least 12 pairs. As far as we could tell the season was normal.

However there was a noticeable shortage of young. Normally they leave about August 15, departing for a day or two, then returning and leaving again. This year, however, they left sometime during the last week in July and did not return.

In late September we took down the two houses, to clean out and store them for the winter. Each house has 12 compartments. Often we find two or three dead young, but there were ten this time. In one compartment there was a clutch of 6 eggs that were perfectly clean and apparently had not been incubated at all, and there were six more unhatched eggs in other nests. Along with a few dead birds beneath the house, the nesting failure was great enough to make us wonder if something happened to affect the Martins. — A. H. Barben, 110 Cayuga St., Seneca Falls, New York.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINTER SEASON DECEMBER 1 — MARCH 31

JAMES K. MERITT

The winter season of 1961-1962 was, overall, considerably more pleasant than the preceding one. Temperatures were generally normal or close to it, although the St. Lawrence region reported an abnormal number of sub-zero days in February. Heavy snowfalls were the exception, not the rule, and accumulations were usually light. Far and away the most damaging storm of the season was the coastal blow of early March which devastated the Atlantic seaboard from Long Island south to Virginia.

Insofar as our winter birdlife was concerned, there was again a distinct change over the preceding winter. The Boreal Chickadee and Pine Grosbeak invasions were, of course, well under way by late fall, as has been previously reported, and there was no reason to doubt that these birds would dominate the winter scene. As is indicated in the regional reports which follow, these birds did just that, but the title of most exciting northerner of the year could probably be awarded to the Bohemian Waxwing. During the four-month period ending March 31 Bohemian Waxwings were reported in Region 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9. There was, in addition, a belated late November report from Region 7, and I strongly suspect that there would have been a number of winter reports from the Adirondacks had that vast area had as many observers per square mile as the more populated regions. As Frank Clinch indicates, the Watertown flock of 300 Bohemian Waxwings is apparently the largest recorded in New York State, and to my knowledge it is the largest recorded in any of the northeastern states, either this year or in previous years. While the number of Bohemian Waxwing records was perhaps not high, there can be little doubt that they indicated a very substantial movement of birds into the state. It must be borne in mind that, unlike many of our northern visitors, the Bohemian Waxwing is not a feeding station bird and thus would tend to be not as frequently reported in any case. Also, and again unlike most of the other northern birds, the Bohemian Waxwing can be overlooked, if one is not aware of its possible presence, because of its similarity to another species. A further indication of the extent of the flight is provided by the fact that there were at least three New Jersey reports, the first good records for that state and now the most southerly records for the species along the Atlantic seaboard.

Pine Grosbeaks were observed in all reporting regions, and this flight was undoubtedly the heaviest in many years. Boreal Chickadees were observed in nine of the ten reporting regions, and their presence too attracted much attention. Evening Grosbeaks were generally reported in good numbers, but a definite scarcity of these birds was reported in portions of the Adirondacks. Unlike the two preceding species, Evening Grosbeaks were not evident in peak numbers. Redpolls were observed principally late in the season, as is very often the case, and usually in very modest numbers. Pine Siskins and Crossbills were few and far between everywhere. Snow Buntings were seen in better than average numbers. Three-toed Woodpeckers were unreported except for one Northern in Region 7.

Short-eared Owls put in one of their better showings, especially in Regions 1, 2, and 3 where extensive flockings were noted; on Long Island

they were described as numerous. Most areas reported at least several Snowy Owls, but the only concentration of these birds was in Region 6 where a count of 16 was made. Rough-legged Hawk concentrations were reported in Regions 1 and 6, but elsewhere numbers were few.

A Boreal Owl at Syracuse was one of the highlights of the season, and details of this find are furnished in the field notes section of this issue. There were, as usual, several western birds that appeared in the state during the winter, the most notable being a well-observed Black-headed Grosbeak in Region 1, a Western Grebe on Long Island (on the Federation Waterfowl Count), and two Yellow-headed Blackbirds, also on Long Island. There were the usual sporadic winter reports of such regulars as the Oregon Junco and Dickcissel.

No less than seven warblers were reported, most of the records being in December. In addition to the Myrtle these included Orange-crowned (Regions 9 and 10), Palm (Region 10), Wilson's (Region 9), Ovenbird (Region 9), Yellowthroat (Regions 1 and 4), and Chat (wintering, Region 10). A few other birds abnormal as to date included Baltimore Orioles in Regions 3, 8, and 9, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Region 3, and a Scarlet Tanager in Region 8. Most of the latter records pertained to feeding stations. Of note also is the presence again this winter of numbers of White-crowned Sparrows in Region 2.

The latter part of March produced the hoped-for warming trend instead of (as is sometimes the case) a rash of tantalizing snowstorms. Blackbirds were on the move, and there were reports of such other early arrivals as the Woodcock, Phoebe, and Tree Swallow. The Upland Plover which appeared on Long Island, however, was unexpectedly early. There were notable late March hawk flights in several central and western regions.

There seemed to be a surprising number of relatively large Cardinal concentrations at various feeding stations, and other southern regulars continued to be reported with increasing frequency. It is gratifying to note the continued presence of a few Cardinals in the Adirondacks, and it is hoped they will gain a firm foothold, as their predecessors did several years ago in other eastern parts of the state.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

A mild winter was the prediction late last autumn — and for those who gamble with such unpredictables — they were correct. Many major storms during the period which seriously affected other sections of the country missed Western New York entirely. Weather Bureau data from Buffalo indicate that average temperatures and precipitation during December, January and February were slightly below normal. March, however, was very atypical — with slightly half the normal amount of precipitation occurring and an average temperature about two degree above the normal. January was the most windy month of recent years. The pattern of snowfall deviated greatly from the usual during the period. Metropolitan Buffalo and its immediate surroundings received more than its usual amounts, with a fall of 17.8 inches on December 30 being a near record for any given 24-hour period. Elsewhere, especially in the southern tier counties, snowfall and the resultant accumulations were far below the normal.

Continuing a trend initiated during the fall season, the number of many waterbirds were generally lower than during the average winter in the Niagara River Region. Referring to a probable displacement of gulls in particular, one observer formulated several reasons as such: 1) an early, solid freezing over of Lake Erie

after an open December; 2) an ice-congested Niagara River caused by the weather and some man induced conditions; 3) an extensive and almost solidly packed ice bridge in the gorge below Niagara Falls; 4) the lack of natural food sources in the Niagara River; 5) continued reduction and elimination of raw garbage disposal areas; and 6) the presence of human activity in the form of gigantic construction projects and their attendant change and effect on the topographical features in the Niagara Falls - Lewiston area resulting in the continual agitation and displacement of wildlife (Schaffner).

The notations below probably reflect, more than ever, the generally mild and open winter of 1961-62. The high numbers of half hardy species and the frequency of reports of many of them, as well as the number of late stragglers, appear to be close to record proportions, if not the highest. There are a number of species, especially fringillids, whose frequency and abundance was so high that individual reports had to be omitted from this summary because of space limitations. In past years, however, some of these same species were so uncommon, that each report was noteworthy enough to be included here.

Another item of special significance is evident from the notes below. Almost all of the outstanding passerine birds observed, from the standpoint of their rareness, occurred at feeding stations. In addition, if one adds observations of rare birds seen in habitats composed primarily of fruit-bearing ornamental trees and shrubs planted on estates for the purpose of attracting birds, he would include the remainder of the outstanding passerines in his account. More than ever before, the importance of these human activities, which increase yearly, become evident in the winter records.

Highlights of the season include: 1) a good invasion of some boreal species including Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing and Pine Grosbeak; and 2) a notable concentration of raptorial birds. Other rarities included a Barrow's Goldeneye and a Black-headed Grosbeak.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: BASCC — Buffalo Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count; BOSCC — Buffalo Ornithological Society Christmas Bird Count; JASCC — Jamestown Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count; OCC — Olean Christmas Bird Count; OOGMA — Oak Orchard Game Management area.

Loons — Ducks: An injured Red-throated Loon was found Jan 26 near Dunkirk. It subsequently expired and the specimen is now located in the collection at Fredonia State Teachers College (Stanley). This specimen, in addition to two others located in that collection (Nov 18, 1953 — Dunkirk Harbor and Dec 10, 1954 — Cassadaga Lake) adds significantly to our knowledge of this species, whose distribution and occurrence away from Lake Ontario and the Niagara River is relatively poorly known. Red-necked Grebes occurred in better than average numbers during March on the Upper Niagara River; maximum counts of eight Mar 17 and nine Mar 31 (Able et al). A single Horned Grebe remained on the Upper Niagara River until Jan 14 (Seeber et al). At least one, and possibly five, wintered on the open waters of Dunkirk Harbor. Other scattered individuals were reported throughout the winter from various points along the south shore of Lake Ontario. One-two were observed Feb 4 and 12 at Chautauqua Lake Outlet (Pillsbury et al). Two Pied-billed Grebes were observed Dec 30 in the Olean area where they are uncommon during the winter (OCC). Migrants began to appear during the last few days of March. Two Great Blue Herons wintered in the Chautauqua Lake Outlet area (Beal et al) and a maximum of three remained on Grand Island where one was found dead Feb 28 (Schaffner). Two were found in the nesting colony near Towns Corners, Town of Villanova, Chautauqua County, as early as Mar 20 (rep. Schaffner). The Black-crowned Night Heron was not reported during the period — again accentuating the fact that this bird is disappearing from our area. Four Whistling Swans were present Dec 4 on the Upper Niagara River (Freitag et al). Probably remnants of the large November flight that occurred on Chautauqua Lake, 22 were still there Dec 27 (Potter rep. Pillsbury) and two were last seen Jan 8 at the Outlet (Beal et al). The usual March flight was extremely poor — especially in the Niagara River region and in the Wolcottsville - Oak Orchard area. However, a noteworthy count of 400 was noted Mar 11 over Jamestown (Raistrick rep. Beal). About 300 Canada Geese were counted Dec 2 at OOGMA (Brockner). A single bird was observed Dec 27 at Chautauqua Lake (Potter rep. Pillsbury) and another occurred Feb 12 on Lake Ontario near Wilson (Able et al). A number of observers reported flocks of geese migrating overhead Mar 1-15 but it was not until Mar 21-22 that the major move-

ment into the region took place. On these two dates flocks of geese were reported from all parts of the region. During the last week of the month a maximum of 12,000 were present in the Oak Orchard - Wolcottsville Sinks area — a somewhat greater number than usual for that time of the year. One Snow Goose was observed Mar 20-26 on the sinks near Wolcottsville and two were there Mar 28-31. A Blue Goose occurred Mar 28 on the sinks in the Town of Shelby, Orleans County (Rosche). Among the large rafts of Mallards and black Ducks in the rapids above Niagara Falls, two Gadwall were observed Jan 13 (Rosche) and one Feb 3 (Able). The only other report of this uncommon dabbling was one bird which was observed on the sinks of the Town of Newstead, Erie County, on Mar 13 and 17 (Rosche et al). About 100 Pintail were still present Dec 2 at OOGMA (Brockner). A maximum count of 25 Pintail wintered in the rapids above Niagara Falls. However, the number dropped to about 8-10 by mid Feb. Scattered migrants were reported during the first half of March, but the major movement appeared to have taken place Mar 21-22 — concurrent with the large flight of geese. By the last few days of Mar about 1500 were present in the Oak Orchard - Wolcottsville Sinks area. Waterfowl feeding programs probably account for the unusual number of Green-winged Teal that successfully survived the winter in the region. Four individuals, and perhaps a fifth, were frequently observed throughout the season in places where grain was regularly put out for waterfowl. One pair frequented Forest Lawn Cemetery in Central Buffalo; one male (possibly two) remained at the north end of Grand Island; and another, a female, was observed periodically on the Niagara River opposite Buffalo. A maximum of 12 American Widgeon wintered in the rapids above Niagara Falls. Thirty-two counted Dec 30 was a record high count for the BOSCC. Redheads were generally scarce through mid Feb but their numbers increased greatly Feb 17-24 in most areas where open water was present. Because of their infrequency during most winters, three Ring-necked Ducks Jan 14 on the Niagara River at Lewiston were noteworthy (Klabundes). Of equal interest were three Feb 13 at Dunkirk Harbor (Schaffner et al). Moderate numbers of migrants appeared Mar 21-22. Among the most outstanding observations was the careful study and documentation of a female Barrow's Goldeneye Mar 11 along the south shore of Lake Ontario at Lakeside Park, Orleans County (Able, Brownstein). The bird was studied under optimum conditions and the details noted leave no doubt as to the correctness of the identification. White-winged Scoters appeared to be present in greater numbers than during the average winter. Maximum counts: 50 on Jan 14 along the south shore of Lake Ontario (Axtells et al) and 42 on Feb 22 in the same area (Able et al). Unusually late were two Common Scoters observed Jan 29 at the mouth of the Niagara River (Rosche). Two Ruddy Ducks Dec 30 in Buffalo Harbor (Mitchell et al) and two Jan 14 on Chautauqua Lake (Pillsbury) are of special interest. Hooded Mergansers wintered in better than average numbers on the Niagara River and at Dunkirk Harbor.

Hawks — Owls: The most notable among five reported hawk movements in the region were: 1) Mar 24 over Hamburg — Red-tailed, 105; Red-shouldered, 96 (Able). 2) Mar 27 along the south shore of Lake Erie between Sturgeon Point and Irving — Sharp-shinned, 2; Cooper's, 1; Red-tailed, 12; Red-shouldered, 13; Rough-legged, 5; Marsh, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 3 (Schaffner). For the second consecutive winter a number of Red-shouldered Hawk observations were made under satisfactory conditions in the Derby-Sturgeon Point area along the south shore of Lake Erie. Single birds were noted there Dec 8 (Bourne), Dec 23 (Able), Jan 28 (Mitchell et al), Feb 13 (Schaffner et al); two were observed Feb 18 (Brownstein). Rough-legged Hawks were scattered in moderate numbers on the plains surrounding Lakes Erie and Ontario; elsewhere few were reported. A notable concentration was observed during Dec, Jan and Feb by many observers in the vicinity of some open fields within the City Limits of Lockport. The maximum count reported from this area was 39 on Jan 24 (Bacon et al). An immature Bald Eagle was noted Feb 12 over Hamburg (Bourne) and another, an adult (occurred Mar 29 at Sturgeon Point (Rosche). Single Peregrine Falcons were noted Mar 24 near Hamburg (Bourne) and near Alabama (Rew et al rep. Schaffner). Turkeys continue to be reported with increasing frequency in the southern tier counties. Of special note were two-four birds coming daily to a baited area near West Clarksville, Allegany County (Von Arnims). Two American Coot were reported throughout the winter at Dunkirk Harbor. Reports of spring migrants were scarce, (with one-two birds Mar 7-24 at Chautauqua Lake Outlet (Pillsbury) and one bird Mar 11-28 on the sinks in the

Town of Newstead (many observers) being the only reports. Single Killdeer were observed Jan 14 along the shore of the upper Niagara River (Seeber et al) and Feb 4 at Stockton (Swanson). The first migrant was noted Mar 9 near Armor (Bacon et al); reports from the entire region are numerous beginning Mar 11-12. About 90 were estimated as they flew over Hamburg Mar 21 (Rosche et al). Single Common Snipe were observed Jan 24 and 27 at Jamestown (Beal et al) — where birds have been found during the past several years during this season. Unusually early was a Pectoral Sandpiper Mar 24 (Rosche) and Mar 25 (Mitchell et al) on the sinks near Wolcottsville. Four were in the same locality Mar 28 (Rosche). White-winged gulls were generally more scarce on the Niagara River than during the average winter. Prior to mid Mar only one-two individuals of each species were observed — and mostly in the vicinity of Niagara Falls. Three Glaucous and three Iceland (*L. g. glaucoides*) were noted in the same area Mar 10 and four individuals of each species were noted Mar 17. Single Iceland Gulls (*L. g. kumiieni*) were studied Dec 28 on the Niagara River near Lewiston (Mitchell et al) and Feb 18 and Mar 10 at Niagara Falls (Able et al). It is difficult to realize that only a few years ago Great Black-backed Gulls were rare in this area, when one observer reported a total of at least 126 in two major concentration points on the Niagara River Feb 21 (Schaffner). Both Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were below normal in abundance. However, the latter increased markedly Feb 22-28 when good numbers of migrants were noted passing overhead in several areas. By late December Bonaparte's Gulls are usually concentrated in the Niagara River region but this year about 500 were concentrated Dec 22 on the south shore of Lake Erie at Evangola State Park (Schaffner et al). This probably reflects the general open water conditions in that area, hence a good available food supply. From a maximum of 500-600 birds on the Niagara River in late December, numbers steadily dropped during January. Seven birds were last seen there Jan 21 (Axtells et al), although a straggler was noted Mar 4 near Queenston (Able). Single Little Gulls were observed Dec 10 and 24 (Salisbury et al), Jan 1 (Klabundes) and Jan 13 (Rosche et al) on the Niagara River at Lewiston. For the second consecutive year, an immature Common Tern remained on the Niagara River opposite Buffalo until Dec 3 (Schaffner et al). Mourning Doves wintered in larger numbers than usual throughout the region. Maximum count was about 75 during Feb and Mar at a feeding station near Youngstown (Johnson rep. Heilborns). An injured Barn Owl, found near Fredonia, was brought into Fredonia State Teachers College Jan 28 (Stanley). One Snowy Owl frequented Buffalo Harbor throughout the period and was seen by many observers. Three were seen Jan 21 around the Niagara River at Buffalo (Axtells). Other reports of single birds came from Tonawanda on Jan 11 (rep. Thill), near Eden on Jan 12 (Bourne), near Newfane on Jan 12 (Rosche), at Lockport on Feb 4 (Bacon et al) and at Hamburg on Mar 31 (Able et al). These observations show a tendency toward the maximum number being present during mid Jan. Although the approximate number of individual birds involved appears to be about eight, others were known to occur, but definite data is lacking. Nevertheless, as one might expect, the flight this year was much less spectacular than that of a year ago. Long-eared Owls were scarce, the maximum count being four birds observed Dec 9 near Newfane (Lehrer). Of interest was one picked up dead Mar 9 near Bear Lake (Schaffner). While Long-ears become more scarce each year during winter, the Short-eared becomes more numerous. Eclipsing last year's record numbers, was a count of 45 taken Dec 30 on the BOSCC centering on Grand Island. Frequenting the same fields within the City of Lockport where the large number of Rough-legged Hawks were found, was a maximum count of 32-40 Short-eared Owls Jan 24-Feb 7 (Bacon et al). One Saw-whet Owl was observed periodically throughout the period near Youngstown (Klabundes et al). Another was reported Mar 30 at Buffalo (Axtells).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: One Red-bellied Woodpecker occurred throughout the period at Batavia (Buckland). Other single birds were reported from two feeding stations — one from early Dec through late Dec near Hamburg (Mrs. Selden Daley et al) and the other in the Town of Yates, Niagara County in mid Jan (Mrs. Hector Johnson). Both birds were verified by experienced observers. The Red-headed Woodpecker was not reported during the period — usually a good sign that the acorn crop was poor. Of special interest because of its rarity in winter was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Dec 1-17 and Jan 4 at Niagara Falls (Heilborns). Most observers agreed that both the Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were more common

than usual. The first Eastern Phoebe was observed Mar 25 near Eden (Bourne) and others occurred Mar 29-30 in various areas. The usual mid-winter movement of Horned Larks got off to a rather late start with the peak occurring Feb 11-25. Maximum count (*E. a. praticola*) was 500 on Feb 17 at Hamburg (Able et al). Horned Larks (*E. a. alpestris*) were scarce before mid Feb with five birds Jan 1 near Hamburg (Able) being the only report. However, with the large numbers of larks Feb 11-25 small numbers were reported from many sections of the region including the southern tier counties from where there are usually few reports. Three Tree Swallows were first reported Mar 28 at Jamestown (Beal). Others came in Mar 29-30 in conjunction with the movement of Eastern Phoebes. Blue Jay numbers appeared to be less than normal in the hill country of the central and southern sections of the region — again, probably reflecting the rather poor acorn crop of last autumn. Two large aggregations of Common Crows suggest near-by roosting areas — 1000 Jan 2 at Batavia (Brockner) and about 2000 at Niagara Falls Feb 12 (Rosche et al). Most all observers thought that Black-capped Chickadees were present in their respective areas in, perhaps, the largest numbers in recent years. This was especially true in the hill country of central Western New York. At Olean, they appeared to be less common than usual (Eaton). At least six different Boreal Chickadees were reported, most of which remained in the places where they were first found for extended periods of time. One occurred Nov 14-Dec 15 at a feeder near Pavilion (Annabal). Probably the same individual that was observed Nov 25 occurred Dec 2 (Bourne), Dec 22 (Able et al), Jan 1 (Able) and Jan 27 (Bourne) at Hamburg. Another occurred during Jan at a feeder near Derby and probably was the same bird observed there on several occasions during Dec and late Nov (many observers). One occurred daily at a feeder maintained by Mrs. Victor Gastol Jan 25 - Mar 31 near Niobe. It was observed by many people from all parts of Western New York. Another was seen at East Aurora Feb 10 at a feeder (Able). This bird had been there previous to this and was banded (no data). One bird was noted Mar 3 at Java Lake Bog (Rosche et al). During Dec, Jan and Feb Tufted Titmice numbers appeared to be at an all time high in the region. However, the March records indicate a general decrease over the previous three months, there being only a total of eight individuals reported from regular stations for this species in the area. March records from places such as suburban Buffalo, the Lake Ontario Plains and the southern tier counties — all of which were invaded last autumn — are lacking. Both the White-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper were more common than usual throughout the region. Considering the large flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches that occurred last autumn, very few remained in the region through the winter. The available evidence indicates that most of the flight birds moved farther southward. A Mockingbird was observed almost daily from late Nov through Mar at a feeding station near Lockport (Mrs. Merle Broadbent et al). Another was noted frequently during Jan, Feb and Mar at Lewiston (Klabundes et al). A Catbird occurred Jan 1 at East Aurora (Rosche). Robins were surprisingly scarce during a relatively mild winter such as this one was. Territorial birds were present in Buffalo by March 20 — about average. Good flights over Hamburg took place Mar 21 when about 400 were noted (Rosche et al) and Mar 22 when 115 were noted (Able). Single Hermit Thrushes were observed Dec 6 near Jamestown (Bowman rep. Beal), Jan 1 at East Aurora (Rosche) and Jan 25, Feb 20 and Mar 5 at Niagara Falls (Heilborns). The earliest Eastern Bluebirds occurred Mar 18 at Derby (Brockner). Small numbers were seen Mar 24-31 in several areas. One Water Pipit, the only report, was observed Mar 31 near Wolcottsville (Mitchell et al). Bohemian Waxwings continued to create much excitement among local observers. At Lyndonville, where one was first observed Nov 28, a bird apparently flew against a picture window and later died on Dec 2. The specimen is now located in the Buffalo Museum of Science (Smith et al). A second bird was seen in this locality at the same time. There were no further reports until Jan 27 when four-six birds were located at Derby (Rosche et al). Four birds were studied closely Feb 16 at Hamburg (Bourne) and the largest flock ever seen here, consisting of 18 birds, was observed Feb 18 at Jerusalem Corners near Derby (Ables).

Vireos — Warblers: Myrtle Warblers were reported from more localities than during the average winter but as usually is the case here, none were observed toward the latter part of the winter. A single bird frequented a backyard at Lewiston Dec 1-17, Jan 5, 9 and Feb 7 (Klabundes). Two were noted Dec 2 at Lyndonville

(Lehrer). Three birds were counted Jan 1 on the BASCC in the Hamburg - Orchard Park area. One of these died on the same day. Two frequented a feeding station near Orchard Park in late January and another was noted Feb 11 at Grand Island (Rosche). A Yellowthroat was observed Dec 30 at Grand Island (Rosche).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Wintering icterids, especially meadowlarks and cowbirds, reached unprecedented highs in most sections of the region. Maximum winter count of Red-winged Blackbirds occurred Jan 25 near Wolcottsville when about 20 were counted (Rosche). Single Rusty Blackbirds occurred Jan 1 at Hamburg (Bacons et al) and Jan 28-29 at Derby (Mitchell et al). Five to eight Common Grackles were noted regularly Dec 1 - Jan 31 in Williamsville (Wendlings et al). There were no February reports. Sixty-four Brown headed Cowbirds were counted Jan 1 on the BASCC in the Hamburg - East Aurora area. Other high counts: 100 Jan 25 near Wolcottsville (Rosche) and 17 Feb 3-25 at Niagara Falls (Heilborns). A slight movement of Meadowlarks and Red-winged Blackbirds was evident Feb 22 in the Oak Orchard - Wolcottsville area. About four major flights of icterids over Hamburg were reported Mar 5-27, but total numbers were far below those estimated flying over there a year ago. Several observers commented that they thought Cardinals had increased in abundance during the winter. However, the only definite evidence pointing to an increase is the record high count of 143 individuals counted Jan 1 in the Hamburg - East Aurora area (BASCC). This is the highest count in 16 years. Perhaps the most outstanding bird of the period was a female Black-headed Grosbeak that regularly visited a feeding station Dec 21-Mar 31 maintained by Miss Dorothea Duttweiler near Holland. The highly colored individual was banded — Jan 18 by Mrs. Boynton. Good 16 mm. motion pictures were obtained by Mr. Fred Hall, Director, Buffalo Museum of Science and Mr. Robert Coggeshall obtained good 35 mm. Kodachrome transparencies. During the time that it occurred at the feeder, almost every active field observer in Western New York had ample opportunity to observe and study it. This is the first well documented record for the region. Evening Grosbeaks were present in, perhaps, near record numbers throughout the period. Feeding stations attracted the majority of birds reported. A record high count of 359 birds occurred Jan 1 in the Hamburg - East Aurora area (BASCC). By late Dec most all Pine Grosbeaks reported were concentrated in the southern tier counties where many were seen feeding on the abundant crop of White Ash seeds. Maximum counts occurred Dec 30 — 177 birds — in the Olean area (OCC) and Dec 31 — 121 birds — in the Jamestown area (JASCC). In mid Jan there appeared to be a mass exodus from the southern tier. One observer thought that this was caused by the depletion of the major food source because he noticed at this time that most of the ash samaras were no longer on the trees (Eaton). Reports from widely scattered areas of the region increased after this. Most of the large numbers had left the region during the early part of Mar. Few groups of more than a few individuals were noted after Mar 18. Common Redpolls were generally scarce, although small numbers were regularly observed on the plains south of Lake Ontario. The maximum count of 60 occurred Feb 4 at Lockport (Csont et al). Unlike a year ago, redpolls and siskins were very scarce. Three-ten siskins were noted Dec 5, 12 and 30 near Jamestown (Swanson) and a single bird occurred Jan 6 at Hamburg (Bourne). One Red Crossbill was noted Jan 23 at Wilson (Schaffner) and three were seen Feb 10 at Java Lake (Rosche). The White-winged Crossbill was not reported. A rash of Oregon Junco reports occurred especially during Jan and Feb. One was observed Jan 6 at East Aurora (Able et al). Others occurred Jan 12 at Newfane (Rosche), Feb 1 - Mar 31 at Lewiston (Klabundes), Feb 25 near Newfane (Lehrer) and Feb 25 near Cambria (Klabundes et al). An immature Chipping Sparrow regularly visited a feeder maintained by Mr. and Mrs. James Gregory at East Aurora (Mitchell et al). Field Sparrows and White-crowned Sparrows were reported so commonly throughout the winter that it would be impractical to enumerate all the records here as is usually done. Reports came primarily from the lake plains, but there were unusually high numbers reported from inland areas also. Swamp Sparrows appeared to be less common than usual even in localities where they usually are found in winter. Lapland Longspurs were very scarce during Dec and Jan but a good flight developed Feb 12-15 in conjunction with a good Snow Bunting flight.

Corrigenda: (Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 9, line 21) — "Buffalo's Forest Park" should read "Buffalo's Front Park". (Vol. 3, No. 3, p. 69, line 38) — "A nest of ten

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher" should read "A nest of the Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher" (Vol. 4, No. 2, p. 45, line 44) — "(Schaffner, Fish, Axtell)" should read "(Schaffner, Fisk, Axtell)". (Vol. 5, No. 1, p. 14, line 17) — "Standard" should read "Stannards Corners".

48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 15

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

The past winter was relatively mild, with only February showing steady winter weather. December and January were both above average in temperature. February was sharply below normal, and March, due to three very cold days at the very beginning, averaged slightly below normal. A three-day "heat wave" Mar 28-30 brought the best **early** hawk flight the area has ever experienced plus a heavy movement of land birds. Precipitation and snowfall were both below average except in February. Snowfall for the entire season was only 64 inches, in contrast to 89 inches the previous winter and over 160 inches the two preceding winters (1958-59 and 1959-60).

Outstanding birds reported during the period included King Eider, Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, Dickcissel, and Oregon Junco. White-winged gulls were scarce. A promising fall influx of Snowy Owls dwindled, and the northern finches were represented mainly by good numbers of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks.

Loons — Ducks: Red-thr. Loon — one Dec 17 off Russell Station (Listman); one (early migrant) Mar 17-19 Braddock's Bay (GOS hike). Red-necked Grebe — one Dec 23 off Sea Breeze (Kemnitzer). Pied-billed Grebe — two lingered on Conesus Lake until Dec 23 (Listman); one Irondequoit Bay until Dec 28 (Kemnitzer). Great Blue Heron — one Dec 30 (Barlow, McKinney) and one Mar 13 (Lank), both at Long Pond. Green Heron — one (injured) at a farm pond near Avon until Dec 5, but not later (Haller). Whistling Swan — scarce in the area this spring; one Mar 24-25 at Groveland (Tetlow et al); one Mar 25 near Avon (Haller et al). Canada Goose — one at Summerville Jan 13-14 (Carlson et al); one Jan 14 near Point Breeze (Listman); the spring flight of this species was good, high count 7500 moving past Braddock's Bay Mar 29 (Listman). No Blue or Snow Geese were reported in the area.

Gadwall — one Dec 12 Long Pond (Listman); one Mar 11 Ellison Park (Davis); two Mar 25 Groveland Flats (Listman). Pintail — two wintered on the Genesee River with a large flock of Mallards and Blacks that fed on waste grain mash from a nearby brewery; 1300 Groveland Flats Mar 24 (Tetlow). Green-winged Teal — a male present with other dabbling ducks on the Genesee River Dec 30 - Jan 14 (Starling et al). Blue-winged Teal — two Mar 24 (rather early) Buck Pond (O'Hara et al). Shoveler — two Mar 25 Groveland Flats (Listman). Wood Duck — 150 Groveland Flats Mar 24 (Tetlow). Canvasback — 300 Dec 23 Conesus Lake (Listman et al); 90 Feb 14 Sodus Bay (Kemnitzer); 12 Feb 21 Genesee River (O'Hara). Greater Scaup — 1100 Genesee River Feb 17 (Listman). Oldsquaw — 1300 off Sea Breeze Jan 14 (Foster). King Eider — season's only report was a single bird near Point Breeze Jan 14 (Listman). Surf Scoter — two Dec 10 off Sea Breeze (Kemnitzer, Lloyd); one on the Genesee River Jan 14-28 (Starling et al). Ruddy Duck — one Dec 28 Irondequoit Bay (Kemnitzer); one on the Genesee River from Feb 18 until well into Mar (Leo Miller et al).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture — three at Webster Mar 29, first this spring (Lloyd, Sunderlin). Goshawk — one Dec 6 Barre (Listman); one Mar 10 near Avon (Haller); two Mar 29 Braddock's Bay (during the hawk flight) (Listman). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks — occasional winter reports, with more of the Cooper's; 35 Sharp-sh. and 40 Cooper's Mar 29 Braddock's Bay (Listman). Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks were relatively scarce along the Lake Ontario plain this past winter, possibly due to a small rodent population, but were much commoner inland with max. counts 17 Red-tailed Feb 11 Reed Road area (Foster,

Tetlow) and five Rough-legged Feb 10 same locality (Zeitler); 150 Red-tails Braddock's Bay Mar 29 (Listman). Red-shouldered Hawk — Mar 17 (first) Hamlin Park (GOS hike); **275** Mar 29 Braddock's Bay (Listman, Tetlow). Bald Eagle — one adult Summerville Mar 19 (Maley); four immatures Braddock's Bay Mar 29 (Listman, Tetlow); immature Buck Pond Mar 30 (Doherty, Schmanke). Pigeon Hawk — one Webster Mar 29 (Lloyd, Sunderlin).

Common Gallinule — one, probably injured, Dec 10 Salmon Creek (Listman). Killdeer — two wintered at Fisher's (Young). Woodcock — back in good numbers by the end of Mar and performing their interesting flight displays. Common Snipe — one wintered at Fisher's (Closs et al). Lesser Yellowlegs — one Mar 29 (early) at Braddock's Bay (Listman). Pectoral Sandpiper — three Mar 25 Groveland Flats (Foley et al); three Braddock's Bay Mar 29 (Listman).

Glaucous Gull — one Mar 18 Sodus Bay (Peakall). Iceland Gull — one Jan 21 Summerville (Tetlow); one, possibly the same bird, Irondequoit Bay Mar 6-13 (Sunderlin et al). Great Black-backed Gull — notable are rather high counts of 60 along the lakeshore Jan 1 (Stewart) and 80 on Sodus Bay Mar 18 (Peakall). Bonaparte's Gull — two Irondequoit Bay Jan 20 (Listman).

Mourning Dove — wintered in good numbers; max. counts 100 Fowlerville Jan 1 (Listman) and 70 Penfield Jan 21 (Maley et al). Snowy Owl — one Dec 30 Rochester (Tanghe); one Feb 3 Sodus Bay (Foster et al); one around Braddock's Bay until Feb 10 (Starling et al); one in Avon area until Feb 15 (Haller); no reports after latter date. Long-eared Owl — one pair wintered near Avon (Haller); one in the "owl" woods near Braddock's Mar 10 (Carlson et al); at least seven wintered in dense conifer growth in Hamlin Park and were still present at end of period (Tetlow et al). Short-eared Owl — large concentration in Avon area early Dec, with 15 reported Dec 3 (Haller, Hyder); reports from farmers and fox hunters indicated that up to 100 may have been present early Dec; along the Lake Ontario plain this species, like the "mouse" hawks, was scarce. Saw-whet Owl — one Jan 21 Greece (Tetlow).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Belted Kingfisher — wintered generally in small numbers, max. count three Mar 4 Penfield (Foster et al). Flicker — also wintered generally, max. count four Jan 2 Tryon Park (Miller). Pileated Woodpecker — one Dec 30 Maplewood Park Rochester (Tanghe); one Jan 21 Walworth (Spencer). Sapsucker — one Dec 18 (very late) Bushnell's Basin (Dakin). Phoebe — three Mar 29 (first) Braddock's Bay (Listman).

Horned Lark — large numbers during late Jan and Feb with max. counts 150 Feb 11 Reed Road area (Tetlow et al) and 150 Jan 21 Penfield (Maley et al); most of the birds in the large flocks were typical "alpestris" while "praticola" moved into its nesting territories slightly later. Tree Swallow — one Mar 29 (first of season) Braddock's Bay (Listman). Common Crow: 11,000 counted while going to roost Mount Hope Cemetery Rochester Dec 31 (Foley et al). Boreal Chickadee — one Hamlin Park Jan 6 (Foster et al). Tufted Titmouse — 17 counted at feeders in the Christmas Count area Dec 30; it is believed that between 30-40 birds were present at feeders in the entire region. Red-breasted Nuthatch — wintered in very small numbers. Winter Wren — two Jan 13 Fisher's (Tetlow et al). Carolina Wren — unreported since last summer. Long-billed Marsh Wren — one Tryon Park Dec 27 (Miller). Mockingbird — one Webster Dec 30 - Jan 20 (Sunderlin et al); one wintered successfully at Fisher's (Imms et al) and began singing about mid-Mar; one appeared at a feeder in Greece Feb 13-16 (Rohner). Brown Thrasher — one Forest Lawn Dec 9 (Starling et al); one, possibly same bird, Webster Feb 17 (Starling, Sunderlin). Robin — about 20 wintered in Durand, with scattered winter reports from other localities; 2,000 seen migrating past Braddock's Bay Mar 29 (Listman). Eastern Bluebird — seven near Victor Feb 22 - Mar 4 (Dakins, Whites, et al); one at Fisher's Mar 31 (Foley et al). Water Pipit — two Mar 29 Braddock's Bay (Listman); eight Mar 31 near Mendon (Tetlow et al). Bohemian Waxwing — five Durand-Eastman Park Dec 3 (Davis, Lloyd); one to three were frequently reported during Dec with the last one seen Dec 26 (Miller); one Dec 23 near Hemlock Lake with Cedar Waxwings (Foster et al); two Webster Feb 17-18 (Lloyd et al). Cedar Waxwing — widely distributed with high counts of 100 Durand-Eastman Park Dec 3 (Davis, Lloyd) and 118 in Webster Feb 18 (GOS hike). Northern Shrike — frequently reported with max. count of three along the west lakeshore Mar 24 (O'Hara et al).

Vireos — Warblers: Myrtle Warbler — one wintered in Brighton (Landsman, Lank), one at Cedar Springs, and one in Reed Road Swamp (Starling); at least six wintered near Avon (Haller). In none of these areas is any bayberry known to exist. A bird that may possibly have been a very early migrant was seen in Durand-Eastman Park Mar 29 (Miller).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Eastern Meadowlark — wintered generally and in good numbers, with max. 15 in Greece Dec 30 (Closs) and 22 in Victor Feb 22 (Whites). Red-winged Blackbird — 20 at Dugway Jan 2 (Miller), and other small groups were seen frequently during the winter; migrating birds totalling 100 arrived in the marshes in Greece Mar 7 (Closs); an estimated 8000 migrated past Braddock's Bay Mar 29 (Listman). Grackle — two at the Dugway Jan 2 (Miller); an estimated 2000 at Braddock's Bay Mar 29 (Listman). Cowbird — wintered in good numbers, with a max. count of 100 at the Munson feeder in Penfield during Feb; an estimated 1500 at Braddock's Bay Mar 29 (Listman). Cardinal — present in good numbers everywhere, with a max. count of 17 at the Robinson feeder in Egypt. Dickcissel — one trapped and banded at the Munson feeder in Penfield Dec 11; it seems remarkable that this casual species should have occurred at this one feeder during the late fall for the last three years. Evening and Pine Grosbeak — generally distributed in good numbers, with a high count of 187 Evenings on the "Little Lakes" count Dec 23 and 113 Pines on the Christmas Count Dec 30; 25 Pines still present at the Sunderlin feeder in Webster Mar 29. Purple Finch — in contrast, almost completely absent; only report since Jan 1 a single bird at the Olin feeder in Fairport Mar 27. Common Redpoll — occurred in fair numbers, largest flock 120 in Greece Mar 10 (Carlson et al); a few other flocks of 6-12 were also reported. Pine Siskin — only report since Jan 1 was of a flock of four near Float Bridge Jan 7 (Miller). Red Crossbill — six Penfield Dec 23 (McKinney). White-winged Crossbill — 23 Canadice Lake Dec 23 (McKinney). No other crossbill reports.

Savannah Sparrow — two near Braddock's Bay Mar 31 (Listman). Vesper Sparrow — one carefully observed near Mendon Mar 4 (Foster, Maley, Miller); 12 near Braddock's Bay Mar 31 (Listman). Oregon Junco — a well-marked bird frequented a feeder in Greece from Feb 5 to at least Feb 23 (Izards et al); several other less definite reports of this species were received. Field Sparrow — three Conesus Lake Dec 23 (Listman); one near Glen Haven Jan 1 (Lloyd, Miller); first migrant reported Mar 29 near Braddock's Bay (Listman). White-crowned Sparrow — wintered in unprecedented numbers, with a high count of 20 birds at one feeder in Scottsville Mar 3 (Culver, Starling); until three years ago we had no winter records of this species (it would be interesting to know what has caused this change in the bird's wintering range). White-throated Sparrow — wintered in less spectacular, but still above-average numbers, with a high count of seven at the Dakin feeder in Bushnell's Basin Jan 31. Fox Sparrow — two near Braddock's Bay Mar 29 (Listman) and four at Webster Mar 31 (Sunderlin) represent the first arrivals. Song Sparrow — 150 Braddock's Bay area Mar 29 (Listman). Lapland Longspur — frequently reported, with a max. count of 100 near Scottsville Feb 11 (Foster, Tetlow).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 9

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

The Region experienced one of the mildest winters in many years. The total precipitation and the average temperature do not show the whole picture. There were many frequent light snowfalls, but accumulation was never more than eight inches and natural food was not buried. Temperatures averaged slightly above normal, but the noteworthy fact was that there were almost no periods of extreme cold, except on Feb 11 when it was lower than -20 in some spots. Except in Jan, prevailing winds were northwest, but not strong. Seeming scarcities of some species may not have been actualities. With natural food everywhere, birds did not have to patronize feeding stations or come close to civilization.

Highlights of the season include: the Goshawk at Sapsucker Woods in late Dec; the return of only one eagle to Montezuma; the large invasion of Short-eared Owls; the Boreal Chickadees; the number of Mockingbirds; the Baltimore Orioles and one female Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a feeder; the numbers of Pine Grosbeaks, and the increase in size of Cardinal flocks.

Icterids were a week or more late in arriving, and it seemed surprising in view of the mild weather here, but upon reflection it seems likely that unfavorable conditions to the south of us delayed the migration.

Montezuma Refuge impoundments were frozen this season by Dec 14. The first open water appeared on Mar 1, and it was entirely open by Mar 26.

Loons — Ducks: Loons seemed somewhat scarce on all lakes this winter, but three Commons were found on the waterfowl census at Seneca, and one Red-throated appeared briefly at Cayuga Inlet Dec 9 (Sandberg). Single Red-necked Grebes were on Seneca Lake Feb 25 and Mar 1 (Strath, Fudge). Horned Grebes occurred regularly on the lakes (205 on waterfowl census), but Pied-billed Grebes were hard to find.

Great Blue Heron: Jan 1 near Dryden (P. Kelsey) and Dec 30 at Elmira; migrants returned the last of Mar. Whistling Swan: 10 rested briefly on an open farm pond at Hornellsville on Mar 25 until frightened by a photographer; six on Cayuga Lake from Mar 22 to 31, near Canoga. Canada Goose: 202 found on the waterfowl census, 155 of them (including a few free-fliers from Montezuma) being at the north end of Cayuga, four on Seneca, 17 on Keuka, and nine on Owasco. The 17 seen at Elmira (on the Horseheads dump) may or may not have been the Keuka Lake 17. Migration of Canadas was underway in mid-Mar — the first 400 arrived at Montezuma on Mar 13, and 5000 were there Mar 25 (Peakall). Brant: seen on Seneca Lake Mar 23 (E. MacDougall). Snow Goose: several noted with Canadas on Cayuga. Blue Goose: two at Union Springs Mar 25 (R. Seaman).

The waterfowl census on Jan 13 and 14 showed counts on both Seneca and Cayuga Lakes somewhat higher than in 1960 and 1961, but still below 1959. Mallards and Blacks had doubled their numbers; Canvasbacks increased somewhat; Redheads, Goldeneyes, and Buffleheads held their own; and Scaup decreased slightly. However, it was evident as Jan wore on that the peak had not been reached on waterfowl census weekend, and good-sized flocks of divers were found at the north end of both large lakes by early Feb.

Some 500 or more Mallards and Blacks wintered on Sapsucker Woods pond this year, joined by an occasional Widgeon or Pintail. The Widgeon began to arrive on Cayuga in mid-Mar. While an occasional Green-winged Teal usually winters in the Region — at Howland's Island, for example —, it was most unusual to find Blue-wings at Elmira in Jan. The first migrant Blue-wings were reported Mar 22 on the Cemetery Pond in Waterloo (Jayson Walker), and 18 were seen the same day at Montezuma. This is somewhat early for teal. Except for one female Wood Duck on Cayuga Dec 24, there were no wintering reports. Ring-necked Ducks were very hard to find this winter, but on Mar 25 there were 800 at Montezuma and 300 at the north end of Cayuga (Peakall). Goldeneyes and Buffleheads were abundant on the larger lakes; two on the Chemung River at Elmira Dec 30; one on Fall Creek, Ithaca, Feb 18. However, on Keuka Lake, where all ducks were down in numbers this year for some reason, Buffleheads were reported as scarce. Oldsquaws were rare, and scoters were missed entirely. The first Ruddy Ducks returned to Montezuma on Mar 28. While I have no comparative figures, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers certainly seemed scarcer at the south end of Cayuga and not too abundant at the north end. Ten Hooded Mergansers were spotted on the Waterfowl census, and several arrived at Sapsucker Woods pond the end of Mar.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vultures returned to the Region early this year; there were reports Mar 24, 25, and 26 respectively from near Waterloo, over Italy Hills (Branchport), and near Wellsburg. A Goshawk was reported from the Elmira area (Hickory Grove Rd.) in Feb and Mar as it is almost every year, but its appearance around Ithaca is a rare event. One was photographed by Arthur A. Allen on Dec 29 at Sapsucker Woods as it attempted to take a Mallard, and it was seen several times thereafter.

An occasional Sharp-shinned Hawk or Cooper's Hawk appeared at Sapsucker Woods and also hung around feeding stations in Etna. The Etna Sharp-shin was caught by John Weske after it had been shot by someone; it died a few days later.

Red-tailed Hawks were frequently seen, especially in the northern third of the Region. The Red-tailed Hawk and cat duel over a mouse is described in the field notes section of this issue. Rough-legged Hawks were seen in small numbers, but rarely south of Aurora, and most had left by mid-Mar. A Red-shouldered Hawk, which only rarely winters here, was in Elmira Dec 30. A Bald Eagle was seen over Cayuga Inlet on Dec 10 by David Allen, and one, possibly the same bird, near North Lansing on Dec 12 by Art Lane. As for the Montezuma birds — only one returned this year; it was first seen on Mar 23 by Spofford, frequently thereafter, but always alone. To quote Manager John Morse: "Thus the last active eagle nest in central New York has been abandoned after five years of unsuccessful attempts to hatch young. The last young were raised on the Refuge in the summer of 1956." Marsh Hawks were seen regularly at Montezuma after Jan 25; they appeared elsewhere in mid-Mar. All areas reported more Sparrow Hawks than in most winters.

About a dozen Bobwhite visited the Sapsucker Woods feeder daily, and only two carried the bands of released birds, the others evidently representing young of last summer. Other small coveys were reported. There were scattered reports of Wild Turkeys — Connecticut Hill, Jasper, and South Canisteo (Groesbeck saw 9 at the latter location). One coot wintered at Montezuma. Two reports of wintering Killdeer: three on Dec 30 at Elmira and one at Glenora (Seneca Lake) on Jan 13 (Bardeen, Champion); migrants came in Mar 20-27. Two Woodcock were heard at Horseheads Mar 20 (H. Bates); the first Ithaca bird was heard Mar 18 by Cox. A Common Snipe was seen Dec 31 in Elmira, and an injured one was found in Freeville on Dec 16.

The gull count on Cayuga Lake on the Jan 1 Count was 42 Great Black-backs, 451 Herring, and 162 Rind-billed. Black-backs were missing from Keuka Lake this year but were present on Owasco (Allison). The first Bonaparte's Gulls were reported at Elmira on Mar 31. Wintering flocks of Mourning Doves seemed somewhat smaller this year — for instance, at Elmira no more than five seen at a time. However, the Quinn feeder west of Jacksonville had 22, and A. Lane fed 24 at Sapsucker Woods.

It was a good owl winter. A Barn Owl was found in a silo at Elmira on Dec 31 and another near Ithaca on Jan 1. The latter was probably a hand-reared bird released nearby last Aug. Two Horned Owl nests near Ithaca had both hatched young by Mar 10, but both were later broken up. It was not an invasion year for Snowy Owls; however one and at times two were seen near Montezuma on Rt. 31 in Dec and Jan; one (unverified) near Ithaca on Dec 12; one at Lake Como on Mar 16 (Kelsey); two near Keuka, and one at Elmira on Jan 1. One Long-eared was seen n.e. of Ithaca in Dec (Gebhart); these birds are probably more common but just not found. The Region had one of its best invasions of Short-eareds in many years, and the open winter provided ideal hunting conditions for them. A group of over 50 was discovered by MacDougall and Walker on the Watts Road SSW of Waterloo. There were 18 or more on the Dundee Road in Feb (Whitaker); ten or more near South Lansing, in a housing development; three near Port Byron on Mar 4 (Spofford), and others at Canoga and Elmira. The only report of a Saw-whet was of one at the Joe Smiths' at Wellsburg Mar 5-7.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: As usual, an occasional Kingfisher wintered where open water could be found. There were at least three wintering Flickers: one at Seneca Falls (Barden), one at Interlaken (Knight), and one at Sapsucker Woods. Pileateds moved into Watkins Glen to work on diseased elms on the main streets and were the objects of much attention. For the second consecutive winter there were a half-dozen reports of Red-bellied Woodpeckers at feeders: at the Metcalf feeder in Lyons, at Montour Falls, at Ludlowville (Britt) on the Trumansburg Rd. north of Ithaca, at Lower Enfield south of Ithaca, at Poplar Shore (Van Riper), and one at Seneca Falls (Bardeen). A Red-headed Woodpecker, showing a red head but still some barring on the wings and back, was spotted near Willets in mid-Jan by D. Allen. The only wintering Sapsucker appeared at the Drossos feeder on the east side of Owasco Lake in late Dec and early Jan, then disappeared; an early migrant arrived in Catlin on Mar 22 (Wood). No reports of Three-toed Woodpeckers all winter.

Phoebes began arriving about Mar 20. Horned Larks were hard to find until the second week of Feb, and by the end of Feb they had arrived in good numbers. Both Northern and Prairie were seen. Two Tree Swallows were noted

at Montezuma on Dec 3 by the Cornell Jordani Club, and 12 were on wires along nearby Bostwick Rd. on Dec 30 (MacDougall, Walker); this is the third out of four recent winters that Tree Swallows have been seen in this vicinity in Dec and Jan and certainly indicates the species is hardier than we think. It is not known what they fed on, and it is doubtful they remained (or survived) the entire winter. Migrants returned near the end of Mar. A question on the Ithaca radio as to comparative abundance of Blue Jays this winter brought an extremely varied response, which seemed to point to a slight increase in the northern part of the Region but a decrease in the southern. However, it seems likely that the open winter provided enough food in the woods to reduce feeding station patronage. Mrs. Margeson commented on the unusually large flocks of Crows near Jasper and Addison this winter.

Black-capped Chickadees must have been moving around more than usual, for Olan Dillon banded over 100 at his station near Slaterville Springs. Boreal Chickadees made the news. With not more than two or three previous records in the Region, they appeared at the following locations this year: two at Sheldrake on Dec 3 (Jordani Club); one at Horseheads from late Oct to mid-Mar (Crowley); one at Avoca, unverified; one at Watkins Glen on Dec 3 (R. Steber), one there on Dec 30 and two later reports; and two that visited half a dozen feeders in Cayuga Heights, Ithaca, were photographed.

Reports of Tufted Titmice at feeders were frequent in the southern half of the Region. There were at least four in Aurora, and they reached Auburn this winter. Elmira reported having a number of Red-breasted Nuthatches, but elsewhere they were scarce. Only two were seen in the Ithaca area. Brown Creepers were seen regularly. Winter Wrens were scarce, and Carolinas almost unreported. More Mockingbirds this winter than last: the one that wintered last year on Hampton Road, Ithaca, and which may have been the same bird seen on Cayuga Heights Rd. during the late summer, returned to Hampton Rd. in Oct. One was seen at Hedgesville in Nov, another around Horseheads, another at Willets on Cayuga Lake in mid-Jan, one at Aurora at the Shackleton feeder for the third winter, and still another was seen repeatedly in the Forest Home area and behind Fernow Hall on the Cornell campus. Two Catbirds which appeared at a Penn Yan feeder in mid-Mar must have wintered in some sheltered spot nearby (fide F. Guthrie). A Brown Thrasher was noted Jan 3 in Elmira (E. Ruggles). These latter two species rarely winter with us. It seemed strange, in view of the mild weather, that so few Robins remained. The first few Bluebirds were reported the last week in Mar. There were very few Northern Shrikes seen this year.

Vireos — Sparrows: A Myrtle Warbler was found in Elmira on the Dec 30 census, and one was spotted from time to time on the Cornell campus. None wintered in Stewart Park this year. There were fewer wintering Meadowlarks and fewer early arrivals this year than last, but fields may have been too open to spot them.

Only an occasional Redwing and Grackle wintered, but Cowbirds were numerous. For example, there were 75 at Waterloo, and they were common around Seneca Falls. A Baltimore Oriole was reported in Dec at a Big Flats feeder, and an immature male visited two feeders in Jacksonville for several weeks in Jan (Graham). Both fed on suet. Everyone remarked on the abundance of Cardinals at feeders; this certainly is a change from their behavior when they were first found in the Region. I had several reports of 12-15 Cardinals, and in my own yard 27 were banded from mid-Nov to the end of Mar; several "old" birds returned, and at least one unbanded bird was seen. A most unusual report is of a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the Vincent Davis home in Pine City in Feb, verified by others members of the CVAS. A second Dickcissel for the Ithaca area appeared: one at the Cotts, on Codington Rd., in late Dec and early Jan. Evening Grosbeaks were fairly abundant, although no one reported the enormous flocks seen in some recent years. There were very few Purple Finches. The Pine Grosbeak invasion shaped up into the heaviest in many years. In this Region there were no very large flocks (over 30); most sightings were of six-eight birds, and these were usually females or immature males. They ate a variety of food: frozen apples, larch and spruce buds, sumac, winterberry, multiflora, viburnum, but did not come to feeders, although they were in villages, along city streets, in parks, along roadsides, and were relatively unafraid. Almost no Redpolls this year, and very few Siskins. Goldfinches were abundant for the second straight year, and after bad

freezes in Mar they came to feeders. Small numbers of both crossbills were seen near Elmira, but nowhere else. A Towhee spent Dec at the Webster feeder in Ithaca.

Savannah and Vesper Sparrows arrived in good numbers on Mar 31. One Vesper had wintered near Ithaca. Tree Sparrows were in normal numbers, but not so common at feeders since food was plentiful in fields and hedgerows. Unusual numbers of Field Sparrows wintered around Ithaca and at Elmira, but this was not true further west in the Region. A late White-crowned Sparrow was at the Allison feeder in Auburn on Dec 22. Several Ithaca residents had three or four White-throats all winter, and there were other regional reports. The only Swamp Sparrow report was of two at the Brimmer feeder in Breesport in Feb. The Jan 1 Ithaca census showed 42 Song Sparrows, and there were 39 on the Chemung Valley Aud. Soc. Dec 30 count. While Longspurs were reported as scarce at Elmira, they were fairly easily found in flocks of larks and buntings around Ithaca in Feb. Snow Bunting flocks were unusually large, possibly reflecting more open country here than further north. Up to 3000 were found in one flock, and there were several others of 500 or more.

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

It was a very open winter with snow persisting on the ground for much more than a week at a time only in Feb. The weather stations reported no more than seven inches on the ground at one time. Only once, Feb 10, 11 did the temperature drop much below zero so that it did not seem to be a cold winter although averages indicate it to have been a little colder than normal.

Wild food supplies were not good, making multiflora hedges, apple orchards with frozen fruit on the trees and uncut cornfields particularly popular congregation points. Perhaps the unevenness of the food supply accounts for the "Where are all the birds?" queries on one hand and the references to "unbelievable numbers" on the other. There were really quite a few "seni-hardies" around but it was mostly a matter of the more ordinary species being well represented, a catbird and a Brown Thrasher coming the closest to being spectacular. The higher than normal population of Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks was apparently a response to the light snow cover, with the relative scarcity of Rough-legged Hawks explained by presumed similarly favorable conditions further north.

The winter finch story was almost entirely Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, and Snow Buntings with some Redpolls in Feb. A Dickcissel at Owego was of special interest. Weather conditions would lead us to expect an early return of the spring migrants, but it didn't work out that way. Some species were early and others were late.

The following abbreviations are used in this report: Skaneateles Lake — Skan L, Susquehanna River — Susq R, Binghamton Christmas Count — BCC, Triple Cities Owego — TC-O; Counties — Broome - Broo, Chenango - Chen, Cortland - Cort, Delaware - Dela, Tioga - Tiog. Observers names are used in full once, thereafter by initials.

Loons — Ducks; Common Loon: only report Mar 31 at Owego (M White - MW, C Gerould - CG). Horned Grebe: one wintering on Pepacton Reservoir Jan 13 on Waterfowl Count (S Wilson - SW); Migrants arrived Mar 31 in the TC area and at Owego. Great Blue Heron: Dec 2 at TC area (G Corderman - GC, H Marsi - HM); at Preble, Cort Dec 27 (W Newman - WN); at Candor (D Weber - DW) and at Owego (CG) on Feb 22; First migrants at Sidney, Chen Mar 30 (F Quick - FQ). Canada Goose: seven at Scott, on Skan L Feb 2 (J Osadchey - JO); from Owego Mar 16, 19; literally thousands Mar 28-30 in the western half of the region was the first large movement of the species for the year.

Pintail: two at Scott Dec 23 (Axtell). American Widgeon, Pintails, and Green-winged Teal were all at Whitney Point Mar 24 (M Sheffield - MS). Wood Duck:

two Mar 20, first at Deposit. Redhead: four live and one dead along the Susq R near Vestal Mar 11 (E Washburn - EW, MS); two at Candor Mar 17 (DW); one at Whitney Point Mar 31; first reports of the species in the region for almost two years. Ring-necked Duck: four females on the river at Homer Feb 14 (J Gustafson - JG); no further reports until Mar 31. Canvasback: two at Endicott Jan 28 (L Belmont - LB, R Pantie - RP); several Feb reports of 2-3 birds at Cortland and at Norwich; a flock of about ten most of Mar in Berkshire area, Tiog (L Dean - LD). Scaup (spr): one female at Norwich Dec 6 (R, S White - R, SVV); few along the Susq R at Endwell Feb 22-24 (V Misner - VM et al). The next reports came Mar 31 from several parts of the region and seemed to be "Greater". Bufflehead: quite a few reports — five (first) at Oxford Feb 11 (A. Stratton - AS), the total number of individuals was not great. Oldsquaw: at Lounsberry on Susq R in Tiog Mar 24 (M Stark - MS); fairly large numbers at Endwell and at Whitney Point Mar 31. Hooded Merganser: one male Skan L at Scott Dec 23 (Axtell); one at Sherburne Feb 17 (R, SW); Migrants arrived Mar 18 and at Oneonta at least, they "seemed to be increasing" (J New). Common Merganser: appeared to be back to normal after what must have been a very good year. Red-breasted Merganser: reported from several areas Mar 31.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: at Deposit Mar 29, an early date as compared to the last few years (SW). Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks were reported more frequently than usual. Rough-legged Hawks: several reports in Dec; only one report, Jan 13, at Norwich, after the beginning of the new year (R, SW). Bald Eagle: one at Corbett, Dela Jan 13; one at Deposit Feb 11 (SW); one at Lounsberry Mar 18 (R Williams - RW, MS); one at Whitney Point Mar 25 (RW et al). Marsh Hawk: one most of Feb near Owego, the only report after Dec 23 (T Taylor - TT). Sparrow Hawk: seemed particularly numerous all winter. American Coot: one all winter at Lounsberry (MS). Killdeer: one at Lisle, Broo Jan 14 (V P Hannan - VPH); one at Courtlandville Jan 23 (Stupke); one at Sherburne Feb 25 (R, SW); migrants started arriving Mar 10. Woodcock: at Choconut Center Mar 23 (first) (M, RS). Ring-billed Gull: large flocks at Deposit and at Owego Mar 31. Bonaparte's Gull: eight at Endwell Mar 31 (HM, GC). Mourning Dove: flocks of 20-40 wintered at Newark Valley (LD) and at Homer (LD); similar sized flock a little north of Maine last half of Feb and early Mar (B Burgher - BB). Screech Owl: none too common but present at Newark Valley during the period (LD). Snowy Owl: one at Candor Dec 31 (A Evelin - AE); one at Cortland Feb 19 (Kullman); two unconfirmed in Cortland area. Short-eared Owl: two at the Norwich dump Dec 30, one still there Jan 13 (R, SW).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Belted Kingfisher: numerous reports in Dec and Jan; at least three reports of "wintering" birds; no reports in Feb; frequently reported after Mar 2 at Homer. Migrant Flickers first returned Mar 23 at Oxford (AS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Mar 29 (first) at Chenango Forks (A, MD), ten- 18 days earlier than any of the last three years. Phoebe: arrived at Candor and at Owego Mar 28. Horned Lark: few fairly large flocks, seemingly more than normal, came from most parts of the region in Feb and the first half of Mar. Tree Swallow: at Owego and at Greene Mar 29 (C, JD). Blue Jay: seen regularly all winter but reports from many areas indicate substantially reduced numbers compared to last year, the BCC figures bear this out with 238 in '60 - '61 and only 56 in '61 - '62. Crows: more common this winter than last with comparable census figures of 178 and 268; over 200/day in Cortland area on several days in Jan. Black-capped Chickadee: quite common over all; at Bainbridge "in unbelievable numbers — a constant stream" to the feeders; but distribution was not uniform and at some feeders they seemed scarce. Boreal Chickadee: best winter for the region; no reports from the TC - O areas; reports came from Cortland (Wilkins); at Sherburne (R, SW), Unidilla (H Wisner) and Walton (S Lincoln). Tufted Titmouse: best winter on record, particularly in the TC - O area; other reports were from Spencer (H Meyer), Newark Valley (LD), Cortland (Hall) and Deposit (SW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: were back to normal after a good year and a phenomenal year the year before; regularly at Spencer (HM) and Cortland (MacKecknie) but scattered reports elsewhere.

Winter Wren: Mar 30, only report, near Binghamton (HM). Carolina Wren: at Candor Feb 4 (DW); near Binghamton Mar 20 (R, J Saunders). Mockingbird: not reported. Catbird: at Homer Dec 15 (Albro). Brown Thrasher: at Unadilla Dec 30 (HW). There were the usual scattered reports of wintering robins:

obvious build up in numbers came about Mar 20. Bluebird: three Mar 18 (first near Oneonta (HB); Mar 24 at Maine (J, BB) and at Owego (RW); following reports were encouragingly frequent. Cedar Waxwing: during Feb and Mar in the TC - O area. Bohemian Waxwing: one in a flock of Cedar Waxwings Feb 3-7 at Choconut Center (R,MS); the bird was seen by several other observers during its short stay. Northern Shrike: except from Maine, where they occurred sporadically during the period, only scattered reports were received (B, JB).

Vireos — Warblers: Starling: reported less common than usual at Oneonta (RB) and at Newark Valley (LD). Myrtle Warbler: one on BCC Jan 31 (LB); one at a suet feeder in Spencer Mar 24-25 (HM). Yellowthroat: in a marsh near Cortland Dec 23 on the Chirstmas count (Axtell).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Redwinged Blackbird: wintered in larger numbers than usual; spring build up started in early Mar; first large flocks Mar 10, 12; Females arrived Mar 26. Rusty Blackbird: five spent most of winter at Newark Valley (LD). Common Grackle: 14 on BCC; next report Mar 15 (SL) when spring migrants suddenly appeared en masse. Cowbird: the usual wintering few; only at Unadilla were they "present in quantity during most of the period" (HW), even here and in the region as a whole, their numbers dwindled in Feb and early Mar; Migrants returned around Mar 15. Cardinal: one, a regular visitor at a feeder near Bainbridge (E, J Smith); substantial increases continue to be noted in other areas; at Owego they "seemed to be in flocks of ten or 12" (RW). Dickcissel: one appeared in a flock of House Sparrows at Owego Feb 26 to the end of the period (MW). Evening Grosbeak: present during the period in all areas; max numbers in last week of Dec and first two weeks of Jan; the flocks gradually diminished so that by the end of Mar a half dozen birds would be seen where 50-100 were present in early Jan. Purple Finch: few at end of Dec; except for one at a feeder in Cortland (Wilkins), no other reports until the last week of Mar. Pine Grosbeak: the best winter in ten years; reports tapered off rapidly after Mar 11. Redpoll: ten or so, first report at Vestal Jan 28 (V P Hannan); about 200 birds at Vestal Mar 3 (S Lincoln) was the largest of the flocks reported; there were few after Mar 15. Pine Siskin: six at Vestal Dec 3 (SL); at Owego Dec 31 (D Bendle). Goldfinch: reported regularly from many parts of the region, but never in large numbers. Rufous-sided Towhee: one injured stayed at a feeder in Owego (M Middaugh); one spent last few days of Dec across the river from Johnson City (C Landon).

Savannah Sparrow: one Mar 11 (early) at a feeder in Endwell (B Gendle). Vesper Sparrow: one on BCC; one at Candor Mar 29 (DW). Slate-colored Junco: small numbers of wintering birds were evenly distributed over the region until the last three days of Mar when migrants joined them. Oregon Junco: one, a regular visitor at Chenango Forks Dec 29 (A, MD); one at Choconut Center Mar 31 (R, MS). Field Sparrow: small flocks of wintering birds were along the Susq R at Johnson City Dec 31 (CL) and at Vestal Jan 28 (LB et al). White-throated Sparrow: small folcks wintered at Endwell Dec 31 and at Endicott Feb 12 (HM et al); the more usual ones and twos were noted in several other areas. Fox Sparrow: one at Binghamton Dec 25 - Jan 3 (HM); first spring record from Deposit Mar 21 (SW). Lapland Longspur: on BCC Dec 31 (VPH); Feb 27 just south of Binghamton (C Howard). Snow Bunting: many reports from Dec 31 to end of period; two large flocks numbering in the thousands, one Feb 1 near Whitney Point (J Doren) and one Mar 1 at Cortland (JG).

710 University Avenue, Endwell.

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN
DAVID B. PEAKALL AND MARGARET S. RUSK

Weather this winter was characterized by sunshine well above average (record high for Jan) and low snowfall (record low in Mar). Temperatures were near normal. The low snowfall was responsible for deeper freezing of the ground and for the very limited amount of flooding after the spring thaw.

The most outstanding feature of the winter was the fine flight of Pine Grosbeaks; numbers of other winter finches were normal to poor. There were two reports of Boreal Chickadees. The spread of the permanent resident southern species — Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird, and Cardinal — continued.

The numbers recorded of the Redhead continued to decrease; it should now be considered an uncommon species in the area. The position of the Canvasback is not quite so grave.

On Mar 29-30 there was a wave of migrants when large numbers of geese and passerines were noted. Heavy migration of Robins, Cowbirds, Redwings, and Grackles was noted in the east of the Region at this time by W. Brockner, and spring arrival of several species occurred in these two days.

The following abbreviations are used below: BBFS — B. Burt's feeder survey (numbers of individuals cited are /100 feeder reports unless otherwise indicated); HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area; Hghld For — Highland Forest, Onondaga County Park; Onon L — Onondaga Lake; TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area; SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park; Skan L — Skaneateles Lake; SCC — Syracuse Christmas Count; WFC — Waterfowl Census.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: two winter records, one Skan L Jan 13 and one Oswego Jan 14, both WFC; first migrant Brewerton Mar 30. No Red-throated Loon reported. Horned Grebe: 65 recorded on WFC, 44 of them from Skan L. Red-necked Grebe: single birds at SSSP Jan 14 (E. Estoff, J. Propst); Minetto Mar 10 (J. Weske), and Brewerton Mar 19 (D. Peakall, W. Spofford). Pied-billed Grebe: one remained in the Oswego River until at least Jan 27 (F. Scheider); first migrants Mar 17 Brewerton. Great Blue Heron: reported at HIGMA until Jan 1, and one seen Skan L Jan 13; spring arrival HIGMA Mar 24.

Whistling Swan: one Fulton Dec 23 (MR, WS) is our second winter record; one Fulton Mar 10-31 (D. Gibson) and one SSSP Mar 31 (DG). Canada Goose: wintered at HIGMA and Phoenix; seven Skan L Jan 13 on WFC were the last away from game management areas; fine late Mar flight with 4,000 on Onon L Mar 29 (an exceptional number for "Old Stinky") and 8-9,000 HIGMA late Mar, an early time for the main flight. Snow Goose: earliest spring date ever recorded is Mar 29, two Onon L (M. Thomas).

Record count of Mallard (1224) and near-record of Black (2,568) of WFC indicate the open nature of the early winter. Numbers of both species on the Oswego River remained approximately constant thru the winter. Gadwall: five remained at HIGMA until mid-Jan (R. Bauer); first spring date Mar 25 HIGMA (MR); ten-15 pairs observed by end of period (RB). Pintail: wintered at HIGMA and were also successful on Oswego River away from artificial feeding. Green-winged Teal: two remained at HIGMA until early Jan; first migrant Mar 24 SSSP (R. Seaman). Blue-winged Teal: first date Mar 24 SSSP (RS). Wood Duck: first spring date Mar 27 near Marcellus (RS).

Redhead: 51 reported on WFC, the lowest figure in recent years, was the high count of the season; only indication of a return flight was 50 HIGMA late Mar (RB), possibly locally-reared birds.

Ring-necked Duck: three reported on WFC; one wintered at Phoenix; return passage — first Mar 24, increased to 200 by Mar 31. Canvasback: 160 on WFC, mainly from Skan L and Oswego harbor; not more than 20/day reported during Feb and early Mar; 80 Brewerton Mar 30 indicates some return passage. Greater Scaup: only a few hundred in the Oswego River during Dec, rapid rise to 5-6,000 in early Jan, and numbers remained fairly constant to mid-Mar. Lesser Scaup: usually present in small numbers with the Greater Scaup. Goldeneye: 2,345 reported on WFC, about 1,000 both on Lake Ontario and in Oswego River. Barrow's Goldeneye: a female was observed in Oswego River by J. Foster, H. Miller, and T. Tetlow on Feb 3. They noted, under excellent light

conditions, that the head shape was different from the Common Goldeneye, their bird having more abrupt forehead and a lower crown; the shorter bill was yellow to within a short distance of the base; the general coloration was darker. W. M. Hughes of Vancouver (an area where both species commonly winter) considers that the record is acceptable. Bufflehead: 49 on WFC; considerable increase by Feb 18 when 140 were counted in Oswego River and along Lake Ontario.

King Eider: a female, Oswego harbor Jan 14-27 (WFC) and Mar 10-31 (DG). Common Scoter: one Derby Hill Dec 10 (MR). White-winged Scoter: 35 Derby Hill Dec 10, and 19 Oswego harbor Jan 20 are good counts; otherwise present in numbers of one-eight/day. Surf Scoter: female Oswego Feb 3-14 (JF, HM, TT). Ruddy Duck: one HIGMA Mar 25 (MR) and one SSSP Mar 31 (DG). Hooded Merganser: a flock of 100 at HIGMA remained until early Jan (RB), very late for that number.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: first date is Mar 25 HIGMA (MR); one was seen near Hinckley Reservoir Mar 30, an unusual locality for this species (W. Brockner). Only good hawk flight of the period noted along Lake Ontario was Mar 29 (T. Cade, E. Curtis, WS); tally was ten Goshawk (highest single day's count ever), 44 Sharp-shinned, 22 Cooper's, 197 Red-tailed (mainly in the afternoon), 152 Red-shouldered (mainly in the morning), three Rough-legged, 21 Marsh Hawks, 13 Sparrow Hawks, and one Pigeon Hawk (an early date). No winter records of Goshawks. Only reports of Sharp-shinned were two-three/month at feeders (BBFS). Cooper's: a few isolated winter records; only one recorded on SCC. Red-tailed: 31, a good count, seen in the HIGMA area Feb 25 (EE, JP). Rough-legged: a poor winter — only six noted on SCC (compared to 33 last year); Jan and Feb counts were one-six/day. Bald Eagle: single adult Sandy Pond Mar 11 and Derby Hill Mar 18 (DG).

Virginia Rail: one found freshly dead Jan 14 TRGMA (RS) is the fourth winter record in eight years. Killdeer: last date Dec 2, one Sylvan Beach (R & S White); first arrivals Mar 10 SSSP (EC) and Oneida (D. Ackley). Woodcock: first date Mar 22 Ram's Gulch (MR). Greater Yellowlegs: first Mar 29, two at Derby Hill (WS).

Glaucous Gull: first date is Jan 14, max. count four (plus two unidentified white-wings) Jan 27 Oswego. Iceland Gull: one imm. Jamesville Reservoir Dec 2-9 (MR); one at Syracuse dump Dec 31 (B. Burt); one-two Oswego River and harbor Jan and Feb. The increase of the Great Black-backed Gull continues; max. count 550 (another record) Feb 18 at Oswego; several counts 2-300 Jan and Feb; sharp decrease by mid-Mar. Ring-billed: 4,000 Jan 27 (F. Scheider), early for such a large number. Bonaparte's Gull: last date is Dec 2, one Sylvan Beach (R & SW). Mourning Dove: flock of 98 Tully Feb 4 is a good but not record-breaking winter count (EE, JP).

Nine species of owls were reported during the period, surely a record. Snowy Owl: single birds were seen intermittently on the waste beds of Onon L and near Hancock Field, Syracuse; one Phoenix Mar 18 and 24. Barred Owl: two seen on SCC near Fayetteville (R. Little), an area for which there are no recent records; a pair heard in courtship at Labrador Pond Mar 22 (EE, JP, MR). Great Gray Owl: two watched by Mrs. Bulger at Pulaski while they hunted over a field in mid-afternoon in late Jan were considered to be this species; Mr. Corse reported sighting a Great Gray Owl in the woods near Sandy Creek in Feb. Details of these observations will be given in a subsequent field note. Long-eared Owl: max. five, Franklin Park, E. Syracuse; last seen Mar 18 (J. Duboczy). Short-eared Owl: up to eight near Cross Lake (D. Whitman); two-three at Shepp's Corners. Boreal Owl: one found near Centerville by Marge Rusk Mar 17, seen and photographed by many observers Mar 18 (Ed — this fine discovery is reported in more detail in the field notes section). Saw-whet Owl: one, Oakwood, Syracuse, Dec 27 (MR).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Belted Kingfisher: besides the usual SCC one (Dec 31), wintering birds were found on south shore of Oneida Lake in Jan and at Marietta and Baldwinville in Feb, probably due to the longer periods of mild weather; spring arrival Mar 30 Derby Hill. Flickers likewise overwintered — at Kenwood Feb and Mar (P. Paquettes), Syracuse (D. Dawley); four SCC Dec 31, three HIGMA Jan 1, one Oswego Feb 18. Pileated: reports this winter from HIGMA, Tully, Oneida, Utica, and Clay. Red-bellied Woodpecker: this southerner is steadily becoming more regular apart from the HIGMA colony, with

reports from New Haven, Skaneateles again, and Jordan (Mrs. A. Richards); intermittent reports from nearby Plainville. Unusual, as it is an uncommon species at any season, is an imm. Red-headed which overwintered successfully at Sherrill (apparently without benefit of feeding stations) where they are fairly regular in summer. Sapsucker: one Fayetteville, in swampy deadwoods, Dec 31 (D. McIlroy).

Phoebe: arrived Mar 27, about normal, Oakwood (DP). Horned Lark: their Feb northbound migration was noticeable this year, with high of 600 Feb 17 Tully Valley (E. & C. Farnham); by Mar 11 around Oneida they were paired. Tree Swallow: arrival Mar 20 Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake, extremely early; others noted Mar 31 battling snow squalls at SSSP and along south shore Oneida Lake (DG).

Black-capped Chickadee: BBFS showed Dec numbers 70% higher than usual, and higher thru the winter than in the previous three years of the survey, — the result of last fall's big influx. Boreal Chickadee: one-three Hghld For in larches, at least to Feb 10; a more unusual location is South Bay, Oneida Lake, where one was present in cedars Dec 31 and at least to Feb 10; (correction of Dec 1961 Region 5 **Kingbird** report — there is a previous Region 5 record outside of the Adirondack fringes, — Clark Reservation, Scheider — see **Kingbird**, Vol 2, No 1, p 25. Tufted Titmouse: BBFS showed 22 for Dec (previous high 14 for Dec 1959) and 29 for Feb; four wintered at Messinger's Bay on south shore of Oneida Lake, one-three around Bridgeport, and two at Brewerton; one was at Jamesville in Dec; new locations which represent an extension of range are Jewell (north shore of Oneida Lake) where four have been present, and Oswego — one singing there Mar 10; all these birds have been seen at feeders except the last, where nearby feeders were also available and probably used.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: the normal one-three present in spruce plantations in various parts of the Region, in contrast with last year's virtual absence. Winter Wren: two, one at Kenwood and one on SCC, no later wintering reports; spring arrival Mar 27 Oakwood. Only other wintering wren reported, a Carolina in Syracuse in Dec (Soules). Mockingbird: an imm. wintered at Fulton (Hibbards) using feeders and dooryard plantings of fruited bushes, — unusually far north, tho' there is a record of one seen at Fulton Jul 9, 1951 and one was at Derby Hill in the 1961 spring migration; more usual is a Mocker at Syracuse in Dec (DD). The expected handful of winter reports from feeders or at least around houses for Catbird — one all winter Syracuse (DD); and Thrasher — one Feb and Mar Kenwood (PP), and one Fabius and one Syracuse both BBFS Feb.

Robin: more than the usual numbers reported (due to mild winter?) — 12 SCC instead of the normal two; reports of wintering from Marcellus, Minetto, and one as far north as SSSP in conifers Jan 7 (DG); spring influx about Mar 18 (DA, M. Felle) around normal. Hermit Thrush: only winter record one Oakwood Dec 31 (EE, JP). Bluebird: Mrs. Aspinwall reports that Mar 27-30 two pairs of this scarce but hardy bird already inspecting nest boxes at Rome; a migrant was at Derby Hill Mar 29.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: present in small numbers at suitable locations pan-regionally, with a high of 30 Pleasant Lake, Phoenix, Feb 11. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arrival Mar 31 (early) two Oakwood (DP). Bohemian Waxwing: one-three (first found Nov 11 by Emelie Curtis) intermittently present Dec and until Jan 6 Utica (EC). Cedar Waxwing: unusually high number, 318, Dec BBFS, but the customary drop occurred in Jan. Northern Shrike: good numbers thru the period, i.e. one-two/day in most parts of the Region.

Vireos — Sparrows: Myrtle Warbler: singles wintering reported Syracuse and Solvay (BBFS); one Rome Dec (fide Aspinwall).

Meadowlark: a scattering of reports of wintering birds in manured fields — Utica, Oneida, Fulton, Cicero. BBFS showed Redwinged Blackbird numbers higher but Cowbird slightly lower this winter; one can hypothesize whether the milder weather kept the hardy Cowbird from needing to approach dooryards and feeders as much as usual, but held the less hardy Redwings at this latitude in larger numbers. Rusty Blackbird: two Syracuse Dec 31 (EE, JP), one HIGMA Jan 1 (FS).

Cardinal: SCC 99 (last year's count 90; two years ago 63 was an astonishing new high) and BBFS three/feeder Feb, nearly double any previous year's count, demonstrate that this southern finch is still becoming more numerous in

general; range extension also continues — BBFS Mar listed two Cardinals in Mexico and seven in Pulaski, and from up in Rome Mrs. Aspinwall reports three or four stations, "more every year." Evening Grosbeak: BBFS showed numbers highest in Jan with about ten/feeder, far higher than 1960-61 but not as high as 1959-60; in the field, flocks of up to 20 in most parts of the Region. Purple Finch: extremely scarce, even scarcer than during the past fall, with only two winter field reports — nine Fulton on Christmas Count Dec 23 (R. Williams), none on other Christmas Counts, and one Sandy Pond Mar 11 (EC); BBFS recorded 11 Dec, then only two Feb and four Mar.

Pine Grosbeak: present more ubiquitously (not limited to northern and hilly parts of the Region) and in much higher numbers (125 SCC in contrast with just a handful on 1954 and 1957 SCCs) than in the last two flight years, 1954-55 and 1957-58; highest counts — 60 Erieville Dec 9 (JW), 30+ Rome Dec 19 (C. Adamski), 30 Pulaski Feb 3 (MR), 25 Fulton Feb 10 (OAS field trip), 42 Baldwinsville Feb 10 (EE, JP), 25 Utica Feb 11 (EC), 40 Richland first half Mar (A. Clark); last report Mar 24 Centerville (MR).

Redpoll: much more common than last year, but nothing like the many reports of hundreds of two years ago; scarce in Dec — only 30, one, and four reported by field parties on Fulton, Oneida, and Syracuse Christmas Counts, respectively; highest counts — 70 Hghld For Jan 6 (DG), 230 Pleasant Lake Feb 11 (MR), 100 Tully Feb 17 (EE, JP), 200 Kenwood Mar 11 (Mrs. Thurber), no other counts over 50; still present Mar 31 Utica (EC). Pine Siskin: numbers dropped sharply after the fall migration — 100 Dec 2 Cicero (EE, JP), then only 12 on Dec 31 SCC, and — in contrast with early 1961's hundreds — only three other reports all winter — three on Feb 3 Oneida Lake (JP), 45 on Feb 3 and eight on Feb 11 Utica (EC).

Goldfinch: rather scarce with only seven field reports after Dec; the highest number 25 on Feb 4 near Utica, that winter finch area par excellence (EC). Crossbills: another contrast with last year in the finch situation; Reds unreported, and only three reports of White-winged for the season — five Cicero Bog Dec 31 (DP), 11 on Feb 8 Utica (EC), 30 Feb 10 Hghld For (E&CF).

Towhee: the usual few attempting to winter — one Dec Fayetteville (Lindemer) and another Syracuse thruout the period (DD). Slate-colored Junco: 27 at HIGMA Jan 1, and the continuing open winter forestalled the virtual disappearance away from feeders which sometimes occurs; the wave of early migrants Mar 30 included 100 Juncos Oakwood (DP) and 70 Oneida (MF). Oregon Junco: two probables (both well described) early Jan Syracuse and Jan-Feb Lakeland (BBFS). Tree Sparrow: somewhat low numbers at feeders (BBFS), probably attributable to the mild weather which may also be the reason for the lack of large concentrations in the field: 80 Dec 30 Oneida and 120 Feb 25 HIGMA were the largest flocks reported.

Wintering half-hardy sparrows: single Field at feeders Feb 10-Mar 4 Skaneateles (RS) and first week of Mar Brewerton (Theisen); all-time high for SCC of White-throated is 11, mostly at feeders; scarcer was Swamp with only two SCC and one HIGMA Jan 1 — no other field reports; Song were present in small numbers in the field thruout the winter.

Lapland Longspur: small numbers, with Horned Larks or Snow Buntings, Dec 31 thru Feb in all sectors of the Region: a good count is 18 on Mar 18 Phoenix (RS). Snow Bunting: rather good numbers, e.g. highs 350 Tully Dec 25, 300 Utica Jan 9, 1000+ Hamilton Jan 13, 500 Tully Valley Feb. 17, and 350 Pompey Feb 24; still present in Utica at end of period.

SUNY Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse 10

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

December brought some winter weather, and it was cold enough to freeze most streams before Christmas. The most severe part of the winter occurred during January and February. The temperature reached zero or below on 22 days, and 18 of these were in January and February along with 70% of the winter's snow. February's average reading was 15.6 degrees, which is six degrees below

normal. The coldest was -24° on Feb 2. The heaviest fall of snow was seven inches on Feb 8. Any open water was a good place to look for ducks, but few such spots could be found.

March started with a very cold day, but there were only two zero days that month. There were many sunny days, and the snow melted slowly. By the end of March the ground was bare except in the woods at higher elevations where a foot or two of snow remained in many places. The last week of March was mild, and birds began to arrive in numbers. The warmest days were March 28-29.

An oddity was that there was no measurable accumulation of snow until the last day of March, a month which normally averages about fifteen inches. March 31 and April 1 gave us a few inches of unwanted wet snow which must have made it difficult for some birds to find food.

One feature of the winter was a concentration of Snowy Owls and Rough-legged Hawks in a rather limited area near Point Peninsula, and at the same time their almost complete absence from the rest of the region. Bohemian Waxwings and Cedar Waxwings were seen several times in Thompson Park, Watertown. A flock of unprecedented size, 300 Bohemian Waxwings, was seen by eight observers on March 17-18. We have not found any previous record of a flock of this size in New York State (Ed — further notes on the Rough-legged Hawks and Bohemian Waxwings are included in the field notes section of this issue).

Loons — Ducks: Horned Grebe: last date Dec 21 at Point Peninsula, on Lake Ontario. Canada Geese: about 75 at Perch Lake GMA Mar 25 about 500 Mar 29; several persons reported flocks of geese flying during the last week of March, with the dates most frequently given being Mar 28-29. Mallard and Black Ducks were seen in Black River at Marble St., Watertown, in Feb; this is one place the river did not freeze. Pintail: Mar 21, numerous thereafter. American Widgeon: Mar 24 at El Dorado. The Jan 14-21 Waterfowl Census showed: Scaup 3,175, Goldeneye 1,238, and Oldsquaw 463. Also seen at this time were two White-winged Scoters and a Surf Scoter. A female White-winged Scoter was in the river at Marble St., Watertown, Mar 4. Wood Duck: seen near Watertown, Mar 24. Bufflehead: common along Stony Point Mar 24. Hooded Merganser: Mar 24 at Stony Point and 7 near Watertown Mar 27. Ruddy Duck: one near the docks in Ogdensburg Jan 15 (Hickok).

Hawks — Owls: Red-shouldered Hawk: reported Dec 23 and Mar 29. Rough-legged Hawk: few seen except in the Point Peninsula area, where high counts were: 29 on Dec 21, 30+ on Jan 20, 27 on Feb 21, and 32 Mar 17; eight could be seen at one time Jan 20 and nine Mar 17. Killdeer: Dec 8 at Brownville, late. Great Black-backed Gull: four near Watertown Jan 21. Mourning Dove: in St. Lawrence County one reported before Mar 15, which is early. There were few Snowy Owls except near Lake Ontario, where the best place to see them was around Point Peninsula. High counts were 13 on Dec 23, 12 on Jan 20, and 16 on Mar 17. A Barred Owl was discovered in a tree in Miss Elitharp's yard Jan 5. It was seen there later on several days and by many persons. Long-eared Owl: one near Point Peninsula Mar 17. Short-eared Owl: 4 on Pillar Point Mar 31.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: Belted Kingfisher: reported Mar 29. Phoebe: first seen Mar 26. Tree Swallow: six early birds at Dexter Mar 31. A Tufted Titmouse appeared at a feeder in Watertown late in Jan and was identified Feb 3. It came daily for peanuts and sunflower seeds until the middle of March, when the weather was a bit warmer. It was not seen again until the snow storm of Apr 1. At least 3 White-breasted Nuthatches and 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches ate every day at the same feeder. Two Robins were found in Thompson Park Dec 23. Robins began to return to Watertown Mar 20. An unusual report is that of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at a feeder on Morrison St., Watertown, Feb 13.

Bohemian Waxwings appeared in Thompson Park, Watertown, early in Jan, and in the latter part of that month the count varied from 20 to 35. On Mar 17 a flock of 300 was carefully observed for several minutes (Ross, Dake, Clinch). The next morning Allen saw a flock which he estimated was more than 300. Cecil Dake took several colored pictures which show the markings of the Bohemian Waxwings very clearly. Usually the Bohemian Waxwings were by themselves, but sometimes the flock included some Cedars. Cedar Waxwings were seen in Thompson Park or nearby from late Dec to late Mar.

Northern Shrike: more numerous than in some years. Cowbird: one at a feeder Mar 19; flocks of 30-50 appeared in Watertown Mar 31-Apr 1 and were

eager to eat. Redwing: a male near Point Peninsula Mar 17, many a few days later. Rusty Blackbird: reported Mar 25. Meadowlark: seen in two different places Dec 23; one at Red Mills Jan 15; several by the end of Mar. Grackles began to reach Watertown Mar 19. Cardinals seemed to be about as numerous as last winter. Evening Grosbeaks were present all winter, but in smaller numbers than two years ago. The Pine Grosbeaks were the most numerous and widespread in 25 years (Belknap); some were still around late in Mar. Pine Siskin: at a feeder in Watertown early in Jan, but no others seen. Slate-colored Junco: one at a feeder daily in Adams Center; another all winter at a feeder in Watertown Center; one in Watertown Mar 10, and several at feeders Mar 31-Apr 1. There seemed to be about as many Tree Sparrows as in other years. A White-throated Sparrow survived the winter near Watertown. At Adams Center a Fox Sparrow came to a feeder for several days in the middle of winter. At Potsdam a Song Sparrow came through the winter in fine shape, and in Watertown two were seen daily at a feeder. Lapland Longspur: a few reports of 2 to 7 birds, all in western Jefferson County.
173 Haley St., Watertown

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

The past winter left the lowlands relatively free of snow most of the reporting period. The cold was prolonged and very intense, especially through February when lows of 25 to 30 below zero were recorded and endured, with slowly increasing levels through the first two weeks of March. Heavy snow accumulations were not general throughout the mountain areas, as was publicly manifested by the complaints of the ski resorts. Bird activity was spotty to none at all in the Champlain area and from all reports was none too prolific in other parts of the region.

As nearly as can be ascertained, the Junco sighted and reported last fall by Mrs. Delehanty was the Oregon Junco, Geoffrey Carleton going to great lengths to help in the identification of this particular individual through correspondence with Mrs. Delehanty.

I am in receipt of many notes for this area from visitors who are members of clubs in other regions. I am very obliged to them for these records. These unexpected notes are always welcome and often include those areas where otherwise there is no coverage. Such current notes are included below, with thanks to all.

Summing up the late fall-winter season, it is worth commenting on the scarcity of Crossbills and Siskins, the early arrival of Evening Grosbeaks, the increase of Pine Grosbeaks, and the general lack of "mast" in the seed and nut-producing trees and shrubs. Some of these conditions were first reported to me by Richard B. Fischer, Associate Professor of Nature and Conservation Education at Cornell, while he was deer hunting last fall, and subsequent reports have borne his comments out.

Loons — Ducks: 125 Canada Geese were at Tupper Lake Mar 30, and 25 on Mar 31 (Delehanty). There was a Lake Alice report Mar 9 (Sibley), and a large flock passed over Plattsburg on Apr 2 (Lesperance). The Wood Duck was at Lake Alice Feb 28 (Sibley) and the Ring-neck at Piseco River Mar 30 (Brockner). Common Mergansers and Common Goldeneyes were in open water of Chazy and AuSable Rivers Jan 7 to Mar 25. Common Goldeneyes were at Saranac Lake Feb 21 (Anderson, Delefield), and there were Hooded Merganser reports there Dec 31 (Hart) and Jan 6 (Anderson, Delefield).

Hawks — Owls: Cooper's Hawk: Feb 25 and Mar 31 near Chazy (Sibley). Broad-winged Hawk: Tupper Lake Mar 29 (Delehanty). Bald Eagle: Tupper Lake, Mar 31 (Delehanty); Port Kent (feeding on garbage) (Gurney); and Plattsburg City Beach (harassing gulls) (Lesperance).

Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were at Plattsburgh Mar 21 as the ice broke up (Lesperance). There was a Great Black-backed Gull there Jan 14. Killdeer: several reports late in period.

A Barred Owl was at Saranac Lake Mar 28 (Anderson, Delefield). The observers enjoyed fine views of this bird perched on a bare branch overhanging the Saranac River almost at the foot of Trudeau Road.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: common in reporting areas. Pileated Woodpeckers: several near Augur Pond throughout period, and

one Mar 14 at Saranac Lake (Delafield). Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: one closely studied Feb 9 (Hart) along the Osgood River near Osgood Pond.

Horned Lark: two on Mar 1 at Saranac Lake (Delafield); first noted by Sibley between Chazy and Plattsburgh on Mar 10 in small flocks, then commonly until the end of the period.

Tree Swallow: Mar 28 and 29, two, Saranac Lake (Delafield); Mar 30, Reparius and Johnsbury (Brockner); Mar 30, Chazy (Sibley). Blue Jay: notably scarce in Saranac Lake area (Delafield). Black-capped Chickadee: generally normal. Boreal Chickadee: at least two regular feeder birds at Saranac Lake; one along Trudeau Road Mar 29 (Delafield). White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches: normal in Saranac Lake area (Delafield). Brown Creeper: one Dec 31 Saranac Lake (Hart).

Robin: first at Tupper Lake on Mar 22, increasing to 50 there on Mar 29 (Delehanty); first at Chazy Mar 25 (Sibley); first at Keeseville Mar 30 (Lesperance); 14 on Mar 29 at Saranac Lake (Delafield). Eastern Bluebird: six at Keene on Mar 30 (Brockner).

Cedar Waxwings reported: March 17 at Tupper Lake (Delehanty). Bohemian Waxwing: a belated report of four at Tupper Lake on Nov 29 (Delehanty). Northern Shrike: very common in the Keeseville area throughout the period (Lesperance); seen at Tupper Lake on Jan 25, Feb 1 and 6 (Delehanty). Loggerhead Shrike: one at Tupper on Mar 29 (Delehanty).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Eastern Meadowlark: Mar 11, four, good numbers thereafter, Saranac Lake (Delafield). Redwing: 105 at Saranac Lake on Mar 22 (Delafield); seen at Tupper Lake Mar 23 (Delehanty). Common Grackle: one wintered at feeder at Saranac Lake (Delafield), first migrants there Mar 28; six seen at Tupper Lake Jan 3 (Delehanty); first seen at Keeseville on Mar 24 (Lesperance). Cowbird: first at Keeseville Mar 11 (Lesperance); over 100 at Saranac Lake Mar 31 (Delafield)).

Cardinal: one at feeder at Saranac Lake until mid-Jan (Delafield); another, a male, reported "close to kitchen window feeder" at Essex (Mason). Evening Grosbeak at Tupper Lake they were but "occasional all winter" (Delehanty); at Saranac Lake they were "notably scarce, with feeders deserted" (Delafield); Sibley complains of same situation at Chazy, but reports 10 there on Feb 25, and 30 on Mar 10 near Chazy Landing.

Pine Grosbeak: "good numbers" at Saranac Lake until the middle of Feb (Delafield); groups of from two to 12 at Tupper Lake from Jan 10 to Mar 25 (Delehanty); 10 near Malone on Jan 4 (Sibley); six near Chazy on Jan 6 and 13, and three near Chazy Landing on Mar 16 (Sibley).

Redpoll: small flocks at Saranac Lake in early Mar (Delafield); at Chazy small groups noted on Jan 13 and peaked to flocks of 100 or more by Mar 10 (Sibley); two on Feb 27 and 100 on Mar 26 at Tupper Lake (Delehanty). Pine Siskin: five on Jan 13 at Saranac Lake (Delafield).

Slate-colored Junco: low in numbers in some areas. Fox Sparrow: two at Saranac Lake on Mar 31 (Delafield). White-throated Sparrow: one at feeder all winter at Saranac Lake (Delafield). Song Sparrow: at Saranac Lake "back in good numbers by Mar 30" (Delafield); 78 reported Mar 30 at Lake Placid (Brockner); noted Feb 25 at Chazy (Sibley) and Mar 29 at Tupper Lake by Delehanty. Snow Bunting: "more than usual" in Saranac Lake area (Delafield).

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

Except for February, this was a fairly mild winter. The coldest, snowiest weather of the winter took place during February, when on the 11th the temperature dipped to -18° (a new record for that date), and a total of 34.5 inches of snow fell during the month (the second heaviest February fall of record). The greatest snow depth of 17 inches occurred on February 24th and 25th. December was generally normal. January was near average except that snowfall was over a foot below normal and the ground was bare much of the time. February was colder and wetter by 3.2° and 1.45 inches, respectively. The last three weeks of March were very mild with the lowest temperature during this period of 23° on the 20th, and culminating with a high of 79° on the 30th (a new record for this date). Ice went out of the Hudson River in the Albany-Troy area on the 12th and

13th. Ground frost disappeared in most sections during the second half of the month.

The most notable thing about the birdlife this winter has been the presence of considerable numbers of northern species which do not visit our region every winter. One to several of the species occur almost every winter, but the pattern is different each year. This year it seems as though most all the unusual winter birds showed up together, some more abundantly than others. The list includes Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Shrike, Evening Grosbeak, Redpoll, and Lapland Longspur. Birds which should have gone south last fall but which were reported at least once during the winter were: Flicker, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Mockingbird, Hermit Thrush, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Towhee, Field Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow. The most unusual record for the period is the mid-winter occurrence of the Scarlet Tanager in Columbia Country. (see field notes section).

Loons — Ducks: The last Horned Grebe of the fall migration was seen Dec. 3 at Saratoga Lake (Schenectady Bird Club field trip). A lingering Great Blue Heron was seen at the Coal Pocket Area on Dec. 3 (Tucker). Early Canada Goose spring migrants were seen at Stockport Station on Mar 13 (Radke), and Mar 30 at Chatham Center (Knoll). Mallards and Black Ducks wintered in their usual numbers in the Green Island Area of the Hudson River. Wintering with them were two American Widgeons, two Pintails, two drake Redheads, a female Canvasback, several Lesser and a Greater Scaup, and a female Hooded Merganser. American Widgeon and Pintail arrived on Mar 22 at Niskayuna Widewaters (Hallenbeck), while Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, and Wood Ducks arrived on Mar 20 at Vischer Ferry (Tucker). The first Ring-necked Ducks were seen Mar 25 on the Upper Hudson (Wickham) and Mar. 30 at Marwin's Pond (Radke). On Mar 21 the first Lesser Scaup were seen at Emboght Bay (Bush) and the next day at Niskayuna Widewaters (Hallenbeck). A female Bufflehead was seen on the Mid-winter Duck Count, Jan 13 at Stillwater (SBC). Oldsquaw apparently arrived Mar 31 since it was seen both at Watervliet Reservoir (Arnold) and Lock 7 on the Mohawk River (Hollenbeck), and White-winged Scoter on Mar 24 at Lock 7 (Hallenbeck). A late Ruddy Duck was seen on Dec 3 at Saratoga Lake (SBC), and a Red-breasted Merganser on Dec 22 at Old Chatham (Reilly). Hooded Mergansers were migrating on Mar 25 on the Upper Hudson River (Wickham).

Hawks — Owls: The first Turkey Vultures of the season were seen at Kiskatom on Mar 16 and 17 (Smith) and at Old Chatham (Powell) on Mar 26. Goshawks were seen Dec 24 and Mar 15 at Old Chatham (Reilly) and Feb 14 at Claverack (Thurston). Northbound Red-shouldered Hawks were first observed Mar 24 and 25 at Niskayuna Widewaters (Hallenbeck) and Catskill (Bush) respectively. Rough-legged Hawks still continue present at the end of the period. Peregrine Falcons were seen Dec 17 at Old Chatham, and Mar 26 at Albany (both Reilly) for the only reports on this species. No eagles were reported. On Mar 18 a Pigeon Hawk was seen at Catskill (Bush). Three Bobwhites were seen on Dec 3 at Old Chatham (Reilly). Undoubtedly these are birds stocked by the N.Y.S. Conservation Department in efforts to reestablish this species. Since Region 8 is at the northern limits of its range, it is certain that they will never become common. First Killdeers were reported from Black Creek Marshes on Mar. 17 (Wickham), Woodcock from Collins Lake on Mar 20 (Tucker), and Common Snipe from Black Creek Marshes on Mar 29 (Shedd). The northward movement of Great Black-backed Gulls started Mar 15 at Castleton (Radke). In the next week they were being widely reported. It was also during this time that Herring and Ring-billed Gull numbers were increasing. The seldom observed Barn Owl was reported from South Schodack where two were seen hunting in daylight on Feb 25 (Burland). Snowy Owls were very spotty this winter, with one seen on Jan 19 at Feura Bush (Betts), one at West Charlton on Feb 20 (Halverson), and three at Albany Airport on Mar 1 (Betts). Long-eared Owls roosted in the same group of pines in Delmar they did a year ago. They were first reported in the last week of January, reached a peak of ten individuals toward the end of the first week in February and were last seen on Mar 11 (Madison). Short-eared Owls were reported from Voorheesville Depot at Guilderland Center, Castleton, and the Black Creek Marshes. The latest report at hand is of eight birds seen Mar 11 at Voorheesville Depot (Sabin).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Kingfishers were reported on the Christmas Census in the Tri-Cities area, on Feb 10 at Collins Lake outlet (Hallenbeck) and Black Creek Marshes (Arnold), and not again until Mar 31 at Vischer Ferry (Hollenbeck). Flickers were reported each month except February from Colonie, Old Chatham, Catskill, and Niskayuna River Road. The earliest Phoebe was seen at Kiskatom on Mar 27 (Smith). They became generally common in Columbia County on the 29th, and on the 30th in the rest of the area. Tree Swallows followed a similar pattern except that the first birds were noted at East Greenbush on Mar 24 (fide Wickham). Rough-winged Swallows were first noted at Watervliet Reservoir on Mar 31 (Arnold). Boreal Chickadees were quite widely reported. Most records were of singles and an occasional pair. However, on Mar 27 four individuals were seen at Rensselaerville (fide Sabin) in company with an estimated 100 Black-caps patronizing a well-filled feeding station. Tufted Titmice have been repeatedly reported from all areas in Region 8 south of the Mohawk Valley and occasionally from points just north of it. Red-breasted Nuthatches were about average, as were Brown Creepers. The only Carolina Wren reports came from Greene County in the extreme southern part of the region, and then only as late as January. Several Mockingbirds were reported this winter. The northernmost was seen at Burnt Hills on Dec 20 (Foote). Others were observed Jan 12 at Colonie (Fuller), Feb 16 at Claverack (Thurston), and Feb 23 at Albany (fide Johnston). There was one other individual that remained in the vicinity of a feeding station at Livingston from Dec 20 through the month of February (Munson). The only report of a Catbird is of one at a feeder in Rensselaer in mid-January (H. Smith). The same is true of a Brown Thrasher in early January at Crown Point (Barker). Robins wintered in several areas. A late Hermit Thrush was reported Dec 30 on the Troy Christmas Census (SBC). Bluebirds apparently wintered in very limited numbers in Greene County. Spring arrivals were first detected in southwestern Albany County and northwestern Green County the last week of March (Bondy, Haskins, Kent). Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported on the Schenectady, Troy, and Chatham Christmas Censuses (SBC-ADBC). Ruby-crowned Kinglets however, were seen only on the Schenectady Census (SBC). In addition, one bird was seen Dec 27 at Loudonville (French). Bohemian Waxwings were first reported Jan 7 at Latham (Hicks) and Jan 14 at Slingerlands (Long). Later reports were from Rensselaer and Watervliet (fide Benton). Northern Shrikes were present from Dec 23 at Old Chatham (Reilly) through Feb 16 at Castleton (Cook). A Migrant or Loggerhead Shrike was found dead on Mar 15 at Castleton (Cook). This identification was verified by Dr. E. M. Reilly of the N.Y.S. Museum.

Vireos — Sparrows: Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Cowbirds wintered in limited numbers. The spring blackbird migration started on Mar 9 with just a few Redwings along the Hudson River at Catskill (Bush). By the 13th, 1200+ blackbirds were in the Castleton Marshes (Wickham). These were divided between Redwings (15%), Grackles (25%), and Starlings (60%). By Mar 15 the flocks had increased to 5000+ (Wickham), made up of Redwings (60%), Grackles (20%), and Starlings (20%). By the end of the month the Redwings and Grackles were roosting away from the Castleton Marshes. A female Baltimore Oriole was present in Elsmere from Jan 10 (McNary) to about Jan 25 (LeMaitre). Rusty Blackbirds were not reported between Dec 13 at Livingston (Munson) and Mar 17 at Old Chatham (Reilly). A Scarlet Tanager, referred to above, was at Nassau on the unlikely dates of Dec 30 (Burland) and Jan 17 (Shineman). Cardinals are reported more frequently than Evening Grosbeaks which this winter have been most everywhere. Purple Finches have been relatively scarce. The only prolonged presence of a sizable flock occurred at Ghent where a flock of about 20 were present throughout February. Pine Grosbeaks, like their yellow, black and white cousins, were everywhere. Redpolls did not become common until late January. The only December reports were on the Troy (SEC) and Chatham (ADBC) Christmas Censuses, Dec 30, as well as a late Savannah Sparrow, same date. Vesper Sparrows were noted along the Voorheesville-Altamont Road during January (Shedd, Waite). No others were reported until Mar 27 at Catskill (Bush) and Mar 31 near Westerlo (Kent). Large flocks of north-bound Juncos went through from Mar 21 to 23 and from Mar 27-31, particularly in Columbia County. An Orgeon Junco was present at a feeder in Colonie from Dec. 26 through Mar 31 (Fuller) for the only definite report on this species. An

early Chipping Sparrow was seen Mar 30 at Castleton (Benton). Field Sparrows apparently wintered in southern Rensselaer and northern Columbia Counties (Radke, Cook, and Erlenbach). A very early White-crowned Sparrow was seen at Catskill Mar 14 (Bush), for the only report of this species. White-throated Sparrows wintered in a few locations in the Region. Regular spring migrants began to appear during the last week of March. Fox Sparrows persisted through December in Columbia County. First arrivals were recorded from Mar 14-31 at Livingston (Munson). The last Swamp Sparrow was seen Dec 23 on the Schenectady Christmas Census (SBC). First spring migrants were detected at Black Creek Marshes on Mar 31 (Arnold). Song Sparrows wintered in a surprising number of places, more than usual. Lapland Longspurs were recorded on the Troy (SBC) and Chatham (ADBC) Christmas Censuses, Jan 12 and Feb 21 on the Voorheesville-Altomont Road (Shedd), and on Mar 1 near Delmar (Betts). Snow Buntings were reported in usual numbers from most areas where expected. The latest date was Mar 7 in Columbia County (ADBC).

652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Compared with the winter of 1960-1961, the winter of 1961-1962 was almost tropical. Temperatures remained average throughout most of the region, and although snows were frequent they were of short duration and slight depth. Unfortunately most of them took place on weekends tending to keep Saturday and Sunday birders at home. The ground remained relatively free of snow until February's normally colder temperatures preserved it, but March brought a number of warm days and what promised to be an early spring.

The most common greeting among birders was "What happened to the Blue Jays?", and "Have you seen the Pine Grosbeaks at . . . ?". Where the former bird was conspicuous by its absence, the latter bird was reported more frequently than ever before. Most reporters in the region offered a low acorn yield as the cause of the Blue Jay's disappearance, and surely something must have happened to the seed crop farther north to bring the Grosbeaks in as they were.

This was a winter marked by a serious depletion of Common Mergansers and Canvasbacks, and a marked incursion of Boreal Chickadees, Horned Larks and Snow Buntings.

The following abbreviations are used in this report. Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club — MBC; Rockland Audubon Society — RAS; R. T. Waterman Bird Club — WBS; Counties — Dutchess - Dutc, Orange - Oran, Putnam - Putn, Sullivan - Sull, Ulster - Ulst and Westchester - West.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: a flock of undetermined number was heard Mar 19 over S. Nyack (Deed). Red-necked Grebe — two Mar 18 off Piermont on the Hudson. Horned and Pied-billed Grebes were down in numbers but were passing through the area by mid-March. Great Blue Heron — one Dec 2 (late date) Marlboro, Ulst (Dye). Mute Swan — which have been on the increase of late, have suddenly exploded with reports from most areas, especially in the southern part of the region; two were at Ashokan Res. during Mar; three in Dutc during Dec; about 30 wintered in Rockland Lakes area where several regularly nest. Canada Goose — flying over Rock Mar 14 (Deed); over Putn Mar 29 (Little) and over Dutc Mar 13, 17, and 30, flights were small however. Snow Goose — a flock of 50 to 60 over Dover Plains, Dutc Mar 29 (Decker); one Mar 31 Crugars Island (Waterman). Blue Goose — one Feb 25 on Hudson River at Jones Point, second record for Rock (Deed).

The annual Waterfowl count on Jan 14 showed numbers up almost double due to a high Black Duck count and it also showed Canvasbacks and Common Mergansers seriously down in numbers. Shoveler — seven arrived Dec 19 and remained until Dec 24 at Lederle Lab's in Pearl River, Rock; four returned in early Jan and remained thru Mar 2, the second record of this species for Rock (Steffens). Wood Duck — as last year, two were reported on this year's Waterfowl count, one Basher Kill, Sull (Niven) and one Amenia, Dutc (Strauss); two Dec 22 Katonah, West (S. Grierson). Ring-necked Duck — Several large flocks were reported during the season in Rock, Putn and Dutc. Canvasbacks are down severely in numbers from several hundred in past years to four birds this year which remained to the end of the period. Ruddy Duck — not reported from this region. Common Merganser — 157 was one half of last year's count and only one tenth of the 1957 count.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture — Mar 14 (first) in Rock; in Oran Mar 15; in both Dutc and West Mar 18, this date is generally late in comparison with records of previous years. There were several reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks visiting feeders in Dutc, and not for seeds either. Cooper's Hawks — two Dec 12 Walden area (Phelps). Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks were well represented throughout the season. Rough-legged Hawks — about usual to slightly below in certain areas; four Feb 4 Cornwall area (C. Carnwright). Broad-winged Hawk — one, a most unusual record, Feb 21 Lake DeForest, Rock, the bird was perched for some time offering careful study (Ed. Gamble). Golden Eagle — reports like we've never had them before were made this season; one Jan 14 at Ashokan Res. (Al. Feldman); two immatures wintered in Dutc (WBC). Bald Eagle — only two reported during National Audubon's eagle census were among lower Hudson River (Steffens), though a half dozen birds were known to be residents in this area. Marsh Hawk — two wintered in Verbank area, Dutc (Brown, Davis). Peregrine Falcon — one, on two occasions in Lagrangeville in Jan (WBC). Ruffed Grouse — were well represented again this year from most areas. Bobwhite — two coveys were flushed in Dutc during Dec (Germond).

Virginia Rail — one wintering bird was reported on Bear Mt. Christmas Count one in Dutc during Jan. Common Snipe — one Dec 29 Lake DeForest, Rock which remained through the following week (Steffens). Great-Black-backed Gull — absent from mid-Hudson Valley for local Christmas counts. Owl reports were better than usual, with a number of species being represented, some with rather unusual behavior, Barn Owl — one Dec 17 Hawthorne (Malone); Great Horned Owl — one Jan 1, Waccabuc, West, hunting mice near Mrs. L. Elder's bird feeder; Barred Owl — one, hunting in broad daylight on a fence along the Palisades Pkwy, only a few feet from traffic (Treacy); Snowy Owl — two wintered once more within the walls of Greenhaven Prison, Dutc; other reports were from Vassar College, Poughkeepsie (Chrystal), Walden, Oran (Phelps) and Cornwall, Oran (Faurot). Short-eared Owls — perhaps better represented than other years, at least four were reported from three separate locations in Dutc, one in New Paltz, Ulst and one at Grassy Pt., Rock, a first record for Rock.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Red-bellied Woodpecker — one in West, no details given. This is an extremely rare bird to the Hudson Valley, it was first reported last year wintering in Dutc. Red-headed Woodpecker — one Dec 31 Suffern, Rock (Bruggeman), although this species is resident in Oran only a few miles north, it is rarely found in Rock. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers — maintained good numbers throughout the region. M. Earl banded six Hairy and five Downy, at her home in Blooming Grove, Oran. On the afternoon of Mar 21 there were eight Downy and two Hairy without bands at her feeder. Could this be the date these partially migratory species started traveling thru Oran? Phoebe — returned the last week in Mar, throughout the region; one wintered at Tomahawk Lake, Blooming Grove, Oran (Mrs. B. Whitcomb). Horned Lark — were reported as never before in the area. Christmas counts showed high counts of 264 in eastern Oran and 510 in Dutc and 15 in Rock, first record of the species in this county.

Blue Jay was mentioned in the introduction. There just weren't any! Fish Crow — in late Nov and Dec near Poughkeepsie (K. Davis); Feb 3 Barrytown (Brother Michael); Mar 21 Barrytown (H. Hanson). Boreal Chickadee — made news with reports of one to several birds from five areas in the region, two locations in Ulst; four in Rock; six in West; six in Dutc. Carolina Wren — were not exterminated by last winter's weather, but numbers were definitely down. Mockingbird — wintered in two areas of Oran and three of Dutc. It appears this species is definitely spreading its range northward. Catbird — usual wintering reports. Brown Thrasher — numbers of wintering individuals seem to be up.

Hermit Thrush — Feb 14 Upper Nyack (Hopper); Feb 25 Cornwall (Todd); one spent most of Feb and Mar in Poughkeepsie (H. Saltford). Eastern Bluebird — Usual numbers throughout the season, but all to rare. One record seems worthy of mention, Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Williams of Katonah found five bluebirds on the Christmas wreath on their door eating berries. Bohemian Waxwing — a small flock, in his yard in New Paltz Dec 17 (H. Meng); one on feeder in Valhalla Mar 8 (Fennel). Northern Shrike — one Jan 1 to Feb 12 in the Blooming Grove area, Oran (Earl); reported regularly in Dutc during the winter. Starling — 5 to 6000, the biggest roost ever recorded in Rock were at Mt. Ivy during Jan and Feb (H. Kelsey).

Vireos — Warblers: Orange-crowned Warbler — one Nov 30 to Dec 29 and Jan 25 to Mar 1 in Upper Nyack (Hopper). Wilson's Warbler — one well observed Nov 23 and again Dec 19 Stony Pt., Rock (I. Kennedy) (a truly remarkable record). Ovenbird — One, positively identified Dec 23 at Pond Ridge (Rodosins, Griersons). Yellow-breasted Chat — one, feeding on rose hips, Mt. Kisco (at home of W. Taylor).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Eastern Meadowlark — maintained good numbers throughout the region. Red-winged Blackbird — not reported on Christmas counts of the MBC, WBC, or SMAS this year. 106 a record count for the Rockland group, perhaps this is where they all were!, they returned a bit late, Mar 13, in Oran and Dutc. Baltimore Oriole — were at feeders in Chappaqua, West Feb 26 thru Mar 4 (Wurtzburg) and in three places in Dutc; in Pleasant Valley Nov 8-11 (Van Wagner); in Millbrook Dec 9-19 (Brown); one much of Dec in the Standford area, which died in Jan. Rusty Blackbird — 10 (unusually high) Dec 23 Bear Mt. Christmas Count; three Dec 30 RAS count; migrant birds were first seen at Cornwall Mar 30 (Dye). The following two records give evidence that many *Icterids withdraw from the northern counties only to winter in large numbers in the southern counties of Region 9.* Common Grackle — withdrew completely from Ulst, Dutc, Oran, and Putn only to produce a record count of 394 in Rock Dec 30 (Steffens). Cowbirds — likewise show record lows in Dutc and record highs in West and Rock Christmas counts.

Cardinals — If the trend continues, the northern counties of the state can expect, in a few years, to encounter the flood of cardinals now present in Dutc which only a few years ago reached Rock. 18 or 20 birds are now found about feeders in the Dutc area. Out of our area but worthy of mention is the Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the feeder of J. Worrall, a RAS member from just across the border in Mahwah, N. J. This bird was present Feb 4-14. Dickcissel — reported during the week of Dec 10 from Valhalla (Fennel) and from Pleasantville (Laire) and from Germonds, Rock Jan 2 (Gamble). Evening Grosbeaks — are frequently reported but not in great numbers. House Finch — one remained during Jan in Chappaqua at Mrs. J. Matsumoto's feeder. Pine Grosbeak — as mentioned before, established records in their frequency and numbers. They were first in Dutc Nov 5 and continued to the end of Mar. Goldfinches had a good year. Redpolls were widespread but in modest numbers, first in Dutc and Oran on Jan 31 and continued to the end of the period. Pine Siskins — Feb 28 to the end of the period, Cornwall; four West (SMAS Christmas count); one Feb 21 Pleasantville (Howe); M. Dye had two siskins take seed from her hand. In all, this species was either overlooked or absent to produce so few records. Rufous-sided Towhee — three at Poughkeepsie and one at Clinton Corners, first wintering record for WBC in four years; once again, no record from Ulst; 23, a record count, Dec 30 (RAS). Savannah Sparrow — wintered in New Paltz area (Pyle); there were enough reported from Dutc to suspect wintering there. Vesper Sparrow — few reports from Dutc and Rock through the winter. Field Sparrow — few records from Ulst, Oran, and Dutc. Oregon Junco — Dec 23 Lake Sebago, Rock (Steffens); Dec 19 - Mar 26 Cornwall, Oran (Dye); Mar 10 Lagrangeville, Dutc (Brand, Claire). Tree Sparrow — seem to be in greater number this year. Chipping Sparrow — six, a remarkable count on the RAS Christmas Count. White-crowned Sparrow — Dec 25 Cornwall (Fenton); Dec 2 Mt. Kisco (McWaters). Fox Sparrow — generally late throughout most of the area; one, first migrant, at Poughkeepsie Feb 27 (Butler). Lincoln Sparrow — one late Dec thru Feb 16 (banded) Blooming Grove area, Oran (M. Earl). Swamp Sparrow — one wintered at Stissing, Dutc (Haight); one at feeder in Highland Falls Mar 3, 4 (Trecay). Lapland Longspur — Dutc was amply endowed with this species this season; Dec 31 and Jan 1 near Lagrangeville (Waterman, Key); 10 Feb 1 Barrytown (Brother Michael), two with spring coloration in evidence Feb 22 near Millbrook (Waterman et al). Snow Bunting — best year yet for eastern Oran (M. Earl); 29 on MBC Christmas count; 27 RAS count; 56 RTW count; about 100 Feb 17-21 Viola, Rock and over 300 fed in the fields thru Feb near Amenia, Dutc.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls.

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Cold weather around the end of the year reduced the previous abundance of smaller land birds, but the variety counts on the Audubon Christmas tabulations

were about normal with other years. Snowfall was light on western Long Island and rapidly disappeared in the vicinity of New York City during winter, but on eastern Long Island, in February, drifts ranged to some three feet, in places almost topping the snow fences.

March came in like a lion — windy and cold. For three days, beginning March 6, terrific north and northeast winds raged and in conjunction with the new moon's affects towards higher tides caused flooding of the seacoast and millions of dollars worth of property damage. A break through the barrier beach at Westhampton caused a new, wide inlet to develop and the necessity of filling it in later. After the storm the weather settled down into seasonable temperatures with the early spring migration of Grackles, Cowbirds, Redwings and Song Sparrows on in full swing by the end of the month.

For two previous years the Federation's Waterfowl Counts in mid-January were taken in abominable weather with heavy snow cover and deep freeze covering bays and ponds. This was reflected in a shortage of Anatinae ducks westward on Long Island and a scarcity of divers in the tremendous stretches of the frozen Peconic bays. The comparatively open winter this year yielded a large number of Pintails and more Green-winged Teal and Gadwalls than usual. Likewise the open Peconic bays this year produced large counts of Common Goldeneyes, and White-winged Scoters by the thousand. An interesting note on Alcids: a thick-billed Murre was found grounded in a snow-storm at Wading River; banded and released in the sheltered waters of Carmens River (Raynor).

As for land birds, from December on Pine Grosbeaks put in a more limited appearance than in fall. Redpolls showed in Brooklyn in late December and more wide spread in February along the south shore. It was a good year for owls; Tree Sparrows were scarce but a White-crowned remained into January at Jones Beach.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons were half-again as high as last year on the Federation Count. Red-throated Loons and Pied-billed Grebes were away down. Western Grebe: Greenport, Jan 13 (S. Yeaton, J. Lamoureux and W. Astle). No Red-necked Grebes on Waterfowl census, but several before and since; Montauk, Riis Park, Jones Inlet. Great Cormorant: Rockaway Jetty, Dec 24-30, two, one Double-crested (E. Whelen). Common Egret, Jamaica Bay, Mar 21, one (H. Johnson). Several wintering reports of American Bittern; two at Brookhaven; and a Green Heron wintered at East Quogue creek (Puleston). Several reports of Snow Geese; two, and a Blue Goose, wintered at Mecox (Puleston). European Widgeon: one at East Hampton, early Jan (McKeever) — late winter (Puleston). Maximum Eider count: four Common and 13 King Eiders Montauk, Dec 9. On the Federation count Canada Geese were away up; American Brant about one-third of last year. The Mute Swan topped 600 for a record peak. Some 250 Pintails on Jones Beach pond, Jan 14 was phenomenal, or 10 times the usual winter count (N. Ward). Besides the Pintail peak of 315 Region 10 birds over last year's 32, river and pond ducks were up; there was a fair increase over 1961 in Ring-necked Ducks, Ruddy Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. The Redhead is still drastically low in numbers. The count of 163,233 almost duplicated but did not quite reach the highest of all Region 10 Waterfowl Counts of 165,588 in 1961. This closeness of figures with an absence of 22,487 American Brant from last year's top of 34,545 came about largely by this year's increase of about 16,000 Greater Scaup (for an all time record of 96,193) and an increase of some 2,000 Black Ducks. Listed this year were: 33 species for Long Island and 25 for the New York city area.

Aside from the census, Buffleheads still lingered abundantly into late March. There were no reports of Common Teal or Barrow's Goldeneye. Harlequin Duck records came in from two areas. A European Widgeon report from Hewlett, Mar 5 (Dr. Berliner) and a Common Eider, Jones Inlet, Mar 10 (M. Levine), were the latest records for these species.

Hawks — Owls: Several reports of Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks from Brooklyn and Dix Hills at end of year. A maximum of four Rough-legged Hawks wintered at Brookhaven (Puleston), also two Bald Eagles wintered there (same observer). Peregrine Falcon rather scarce: one at Marine Park, Dec 24 (N. Smith). Rails: several reports of wintering clappers; King Rail, Brookhaven, Jan 17-27 (Puleston); also two Common Gallinules wintered; one at East Hampton (McKeever, Puleston) and one in swamp at Blue Point, the latter coming

regularly to a feeder (Terry, Puleston). First Piping Plover, Short Beach, Mar 10 (Levine). Woodcock: one wintered at Yaphank (Raynor, Puleston) and two at Tackapausha Preserve, Seaford (E. Morgan); first heard performing, Feb 28 — six at Brookhaven (Puleston). First Upland Plover: late Mar, seen on Northern State Parkway strip (R. Cohen). There was a large wintering flock of Dunlin and Sanderlings at Short Beach — a report of 117 Purple Sandpipers on the Jones Beach breakerwater, Jan 13. Both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls reported from western Long Island and Montauk. European Black-headed Gull and Little Gull reported from Rockaway at end of year (Brooklyn Bird Club, E. Whelen); 10,000 Bonaparte's est. at Gravesend Bay late Dec and Jan; and 1,500 to 2,000 est. at Jones Beach, late Jan and Feb. Alcids scarce, Black Guillemot: Montauk, Feb 12, one (R. Cross). Barn Owl: Marine Park, Dec 24, one (N. Smith); Great Horned Owl: wintering at Mill Neck, heard into Mar (Heck); reported nesting in Southampton (Puleston); Snowy Owl: one at Brookhaven, Dec 1 and 2; two later at Mecox (Puleston); one Fire Island, Jan 25; (Alperin) two Brooklyn at end of year (Brooklyn Bird Club, E. Whelen). Barred Owl: Pelham, Dec 9, two (Kallman). Both Short and Long-eared Owls numerous: some 40 to 50 Short-eared and at least two dozen Long-eared reported, well spread, over Long Island alone.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Flickers scarce, no report of Black-backed Woodpecker this winter. Phoebe: Baldwin, Mar 26, one (E. Simon). No Tree Swallow flight to end of period; Prairie Horned Larks scarce. Magpie: Greenwood Cemetery, Bklyn, Jan 13, one (Bklyn Bird Club). Boreal Chickadee: Neponsit, Dec 24, two (N. Smith). Tufted Titmouse: three in Prospect Park at end of year (E. Whelen); Wantagh, one through Dec (Mrs. Gewecke). Mockingbird: Northport, Jan 16, one (E. Mudge); Port Washington, one daily since early Dec. (P. Gillen); one at Babylon, mid-Sept to Jan 14 (Alperin); also singles reported at Sayville, Bayport in early winter. Latest: one at Center Moriches, Feb 22 (Raynor). Latest Catbird, one through mid-Feb, Seaford (Elliott). Hermit Thrush, Dix Hills, Jan 5, one (Good, Pembleton); one wintered at Manorville (Raynor). Robin: influx, Jan 10, Babylon (Alperin); North Baldwin, Feb 16, flock of 18 (R. Snyder). Several reports of Bluebirds; two on Dec 9 at Montauk; two at Manorville, Mar 24 (Raynor); eight at Mill Neck, Mar 10 (Lyman, Langdon Aud. Soc.). Pipit: Orient, Jan 2, one (Latham); Jan 28, flock of 18 (the largest mid-winter flock I can find recorded in Region 10 (Elliott)). Waxwing: maximum, North Baldwin, Feb 14, 30 (R. Snyder). Northern Shrike: Montauk, Jan 14, one (Puleston). Another shrike was seen at Port Washington, Dec 1 (P. Gillen).

Warblers — Sparrows: Palm Warbler, Jones Beach, Dec 28, one (Dignan); Montauk, Jan 17, one (Raynor). There were one or two Orange-crowned Warblers reported and one wintering Chat. Rusty Blackbird: Manorville, four on Mar 14 (Raynor). Other Blackbirds came through about on time; there was an increase of wintering Meadowlarks at Orient. Yellow-headed Blackbird, Hewlett, Jan 13, one (Sloss); one, Wantagh in mid-Jan (Gewecke). Maximum winter grackles: 35 at Little Neck, Jan 4 (E. Klein). A Yellow-billed Cardinal was reported at a feeding station at Middle Island, Nov 2 — Jan 9 (Wilcox). Dickcissel: East Marion, Oct 10 to Jan 18, one (Latham); maximum, two at Oakdale, Jan 2 (Puleston, Raynor, Halame). Half dozen reports of Evening Grosbeak; flock of about 75 Purple Finches at Mill Neck, Mar 10 (Lyman Langdon Aud Soc). Pine Grosbeak reported from half dozen areas on Long Island, also from Westchester, Dobbs Ferry. There were several good flocks of Redpolls in late winter; Goldfinches and both Crossbills scarce. Towhees very plentiful on Eastern Long Island, locally — eight in a group at Orient feeder (Latham); seven males at Brookhaven feeder (Puleston). Maximum Ipswich Sparrows, four at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary, Jan 29 (Alperin). Vesper Sparrow: singles, Dix Hills, Jan 4 (Good, Pembleton); Jones Beach, Feb 25 (Fykes Bird Club); maximum 13 at Manorville, Dec 26 (Raynor). Two Chipping Sparrows were present at Dix Hills, Jan 8 (Pembleton, Good). White-crowned Sparrow: singles, Jones Beach, Dec 30 (Alperin, Dignan); Jessop's Neck, Jan 8 (Liehr); Orient, Feb 8 (Latham). Lapland Longspur: Jamaica Bay, Jan 29, two (Alperin); 10, same location, Feb 3 (Puleston). Snow Bunting: fairly good flocks at Short Beach, Captree; maximum, 400 at Orient, Feb 1 (Latham).

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