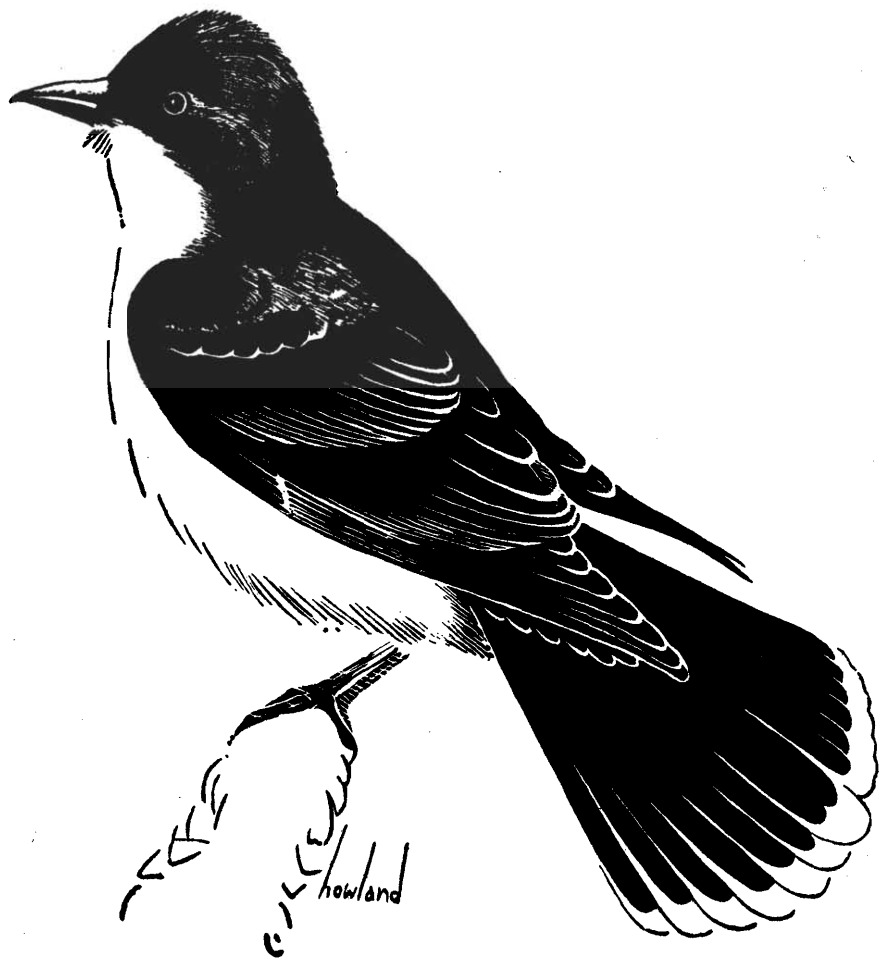


# The KINGBIRD



VOL XVI, NO. 2

MAY • 1966

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

**THE KINGBIRD**, published four times a year (January, May, July and October), 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 \$5.00 annually, of which \$2.75 is for a subscription to *The Kingbird*. A member wishing to make an additional contribution may become a Sustaining Member (\$7.50), a Supporting Member (\$10), or a Life Member (\$100 — "payable over a four-year period in equal installments," if member so desires). Single copies: \$1.50. Student membership \$3.00.

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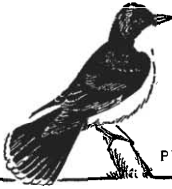
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(Signed) Dorothy W. McLlroy  
Editor



# The KINGBIRD

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*Editor* - DOROTHY W. McILROY

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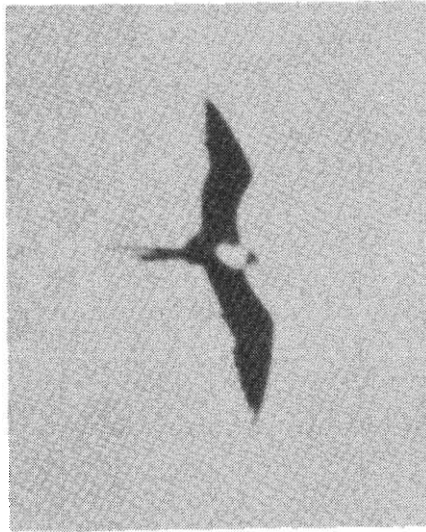
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## PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

### 5. *Magnificent Frigatebird*



*Photograph by Dennis Puleston*

The Magnificent Frigatebird or Man-o'-war bird (*Fregata magnificens*) is largely an inhabitant of tropical and subtropical seas and coasts of the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. In the Atlantic the species ranges: "... along the Caribbean coasts of northern South America and the West Indies, north to southern Veracruz, Texas, Louisiana, and Florida, casually, to North Carolina, and south along the coast of South America to ... Brazil (A.O.U. Check-list, 1957: 40).

The species wanders extensively, and has been recorded along the northeastern coast from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Jersey in addition to our own state of New York. It has also been recorded far inland from Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio (A.O.U. Check-list, *op. cit.*). Most of these occurrences are during summer and early autumn, often after hurricanes (Eisenmann, in Palmer, *Handbook of North American Birds*, vol. 1, 1962:371).

*F. magnificens* has been recorded seven times in New York State:

1. 4 August 1886; an adult female shot on Gardiner's Island, Suffolk Co., by the lighthouse keeper, J. P. Miller (Dutcher, *Auk*, 5: 173, 1888); AMNH No. 11705.
2. 5 September 1934; Easthampton, Suffolk Co.; seen by John Hel-muth following a tropical storm (Cruickshank, *Birds around New York City*, 1942: 66).
3. 19 May 1959; an immature or female seen at Jones Inlet, Nassau, Co. by Gilbert and Richard Rogin (Bull, *Birds of the New York City Area*, 1964: 89).
4. 15 September 1960; an individual seen flying over West Islip, Suffolk Co., by Irwin Alperin, three days after hurricane "Donna" (Buckley, *Linn. News-letter*, vol. 14 no. 6, Nov. 1960).
5. 20 August 1963; an individual seen by G. Simmons, Jr. at Fisher's Island, Suffolk Co. (*Kingbird*, 14(2): 125, May 1964).
6. 3 July 1965; an immature seen at Montauk Point and Harbor, Suffolk Co., by Thomas H. Davis and Leonard Epstein (*Kingbird*, 15(4): 254, Oct. 1965).
7. The most recent record for the state is the bird pictured above. It was seen on 18 September 1965 by Dennis Puleston who writes:

"The bird was seen flying over the lower Carmins River, Brook-haven, Suffolk Co., by several people about 2:00 p.m. It was not pursuing terns, although a number were fishing in the river. It then soared over our house at a height of several hundred feet and headed south towards Great South Bay. About an hour later it was seen again over the mouth of the river off Long Point. Several yachtsmen told me they had seen it earlier that day, about noon, off the barrier beach on the south side of the bay. At one time it perched on a stake off the end of the boat dock where their boats were moored, quite close to shore, and stayed there until an approaching power boat scared it away, when it flew off to the north over the bay. To my knowledge it was not seen again. The bird was in adult female plumage, entirely black except for the pale bill and white belly. All who saw it, myself included, had the impression that it was in good condition."

Peter W. Post, Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla. 32601, and Dennis Puleston, Meadow Lane, Brookhaven, L.I., N.Y.

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

### HELP WANTED – MALE OR FEMALE

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs has several immediate openings for ambitious persons. Prestige is small and pay is non-existent, but rewards in satisfaction and service are considerable. Apply to the undersigned if you qualify for any of the positions described.

**CONSERVATION REPRESENTATIVE:** For service in the Capital area. Must be diplomatic, persistent, and persuasive. Duties involve attendance at legislative hearings concerned with conservation legislation and presentation of Federation point of view when required. Immediate supervisor, Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.

**ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE:** To serve as Kingbird finance chairman. Must be energetic in seeking advertisers, and in publicizing the Kingbird and its advantages as an advertising medium. Age, sex and location secondary.

**CENSUS TAKERS:** In every section of the state, preferably at least one group in each member club. Duties will involve the management of at least one breeding bird census in 1966. Immediate supervisor, Edgar M. Reilly, Jr.

If you do not find any position described above for which you feel qualified, but you are interested in work, contact me anyway. Several of our committees can use additional personnel, and a few of them should have members in various parts of the state. We have been fortunate in retaining most of our key personnel, but we must begin to train new ones in each area of responsibility.

Applications for employment will be accepted at any time, and positions will be offered after due consideration.

*Allen H. Benton  
State Univ. College  
Fredonia, New York, 14063*

## THE 1965 SAW-WHET OWL INVASION

THOMAS H. DAVIS

I was quite amazed to find three Saw-whet Owls in my mist-nets on a pre-dawn net check on October 3, 1965 at Tobay Wildlife Sanctuary. This, I thought, was the earliest local record for this species. It was, therefore, startling to hear of two earlier Long Island records, one on September 28.

Two weeks later on October 17 a similar net check revealed six Saw-whet Owls. On this same date nine others were netted on Long Island at two other banding stations. Subsequent inquiries indicated that this invasion was not confined to Long Island. A banding station at Kent Point, Maryland netted 29 Saw-whets during the night of October 16-17 and a station at Toronto Island, Ontario set the "world record" when they netted 44 owls on the night of October 13-14. *Audubon Field Notes* (Vol. 20, No. 1) mentions one recorded on October 31 in northern Florida, the first for this state.

During the height of the Saw-whet invasion in October and November, daily banding operations on Long Island failed to produce a single "repeat," a bird which lingered a day or more. This would suggest a rapid migration, unlike landbirds which often linger along the coast for several days after their arrival. By the beginning of December it was noticed that many Saw-whets had found winter territories and could be found from day to day in their same roosting spots.

### Marine Region Migration

A total of 91 reports were received from September 28 to November 30. The three Long Island banding stations which left their nets up at night caught 57 Saw-whet Owls, with no fatalities. Their totals were as follows: Huntington (Dr. W. Lanyon), 12, October 10-31; Tobay Wildlife Sanctuary (T. Davis, F. Schaeffer), 14, October 3-31; Atlantic Beach (R. Cohen), 31, September 30-November 30. Whether the owls were netted while migrating or while hunting is not clear; one netted at Huntington had a White-footed Mouse clutched in its talons.

John Bull's *Birds of the New York Area* (1964) mentions October 10 as the extreme arrival date for this species. A September 22, 1961 record at Peekskill, N.Y. is labeled "casual." His highest recent maximum is eight (a mid-winter count) although he mentions 17 shot at Princeton, N.J. on December 10-11, 1878.

Early Records: one found dead Sept 28, Jones Beach (fide John Bull); one netted at Atlantic Beach Sept 30; three netted at Tobay Oct 3; one found dead Oct 3, Tobay (fide L. Epstein); Central Park Oct 3 (R. Sischel); one netted at Atlantic Beach Oct 6; Pelham Bay Park Oct 9 (R. Cooper).

October Maxima: peak Oct 17 (15)—six netted at Tobay, six netted at Atlantic Beach, three netted at Huntington; Oct 24 (six)—one netted at Tobay, three netted at Atlantic Beach, two netted at Huntington; Oct 30 (six)—one netted at Atlantic Beach, one netted at Huntington, one found dead near Tobay (P. Doyle), three at Pelham Bay Park (R. Sutton); Oct 31 (six)—one netted at Tobay, five netted at Huntington.

November Maxima: Nov 4 (seven)—four netted and one seen at Atlantic Beach, one found dead at Cutchogue (fide D. Puleston), one at Bronx Botanical Gardens (S. Stepinoff); Nov 10 (five)—four netted at Atlantic Beach, one found dead at Far Rockaway (fide J. Bull); Nov 27 (six)—four captured and banded at Cedar Beach (T. Davis et al), one at Rye (S. Stepinoff), one at JBWR (E. Thompson).

Of the 91 reports received two were in September, 56 in October (two found dead, ten observations, 44 netted) and 33 in November (four found dead, 17 observations, 12 netted). The most unusual record was that of an individual which flew into a large open Pan American hangar at Kennedy Airport and roosted in an open tractor engine!

#### Migration Elsewhere

From Eastern Canada south thru New England to the Middle Atlantic States banders and birdwatchers commented on the abundance of Saw-whet Owls. At Toronto Island, Ontario Charles Hopkins mist-netted 123 of these owls; his usual fall season total there is "40 to 50." All told, nearly 400 Saw-whets were recorded at the above areas from September to early December.

The earliest migrant Saw-whet appeared at Monomoy, Mass. on Sept 8 (J. Baird) and another there on Sept 18 (W. Bailey). Other early records from localities where Saw-whets do not breed include singles netted at Block Island, R.I. on Sept 20, 22 and 24 (E. Dickerson) and at Island Beach, N.J. on Sept 20 and 22 (fide M. Warburton).

By October 3 the Saw-whets had begun to appear nearly everywhere. At the Toronto Island banding station 34 were netted Oct 3-7. No owls were caught there during the following week of unsettled weather but on Oct 14 they netted 44 Saw-whets. On Oct 17 the east coast recorded its maximum numbers: 15 netted on Long Island; 29 netted at Kent Point, Queen Anne's Co., Md. (D. Bridge); and nine other sight and banding records from Mass., N.J., W.Va. and Md. No banding took place at Toronto Island this day. The flow continued throughout the latter half of the month—at Toronto they netted 18 owls Oct 18-23 and 15, Oct 25-29. Further south at Island Beach, N.J. they netted 16, Oct 24-31. Also see the Long island records above.





*Photograph by Thomas H. Davis*

*Saw-Whet Owls mist-netted at Tobay, October 3, 1965*

November's colder weather curtailed mist-netting operations and consequently few Saw-whets were reported. However, it was apparent that by mid-November little movement was taking place. Richard Cohen's daily netting operations at Atlantic Beach recorded its last multiple owl night on Nov 10 (see Field Note in this issue). There was also a diminishing number of observations after this date from all other localities.

#### Wintering Saw-whets

Ed Manners of Wenonah, N.J. has been studying wintering Saw-whet Owls for several years by trapping roosting birds and color-marking them. Although he was afield throughout the fall he did not find a Saw-whet until November 25. It would appear that birds passing through before this date were not present long enough to show traces of their residence—pellets or whitewash. This is reflected by the lack of repeats at banding stations.

Mr. Manners bands the owls at a strip of land  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide extending about 12 miles along the Delaware River from Bridgeport to Westville, N.J. In this area he marked four Saw-whets during the last week in November, 26 in December, 13 in January, nine in February, and one in

early March. In January he trapped a bird that had been banded at Island Beach, N.J. during the fall of 1965 prior to October 5 (date lacking). This total of 44 birds is not his highest; in his first winter banding he caught about 60. He has never had a banded individual return from a previous winter.

He finds the Saw-whets sociable, often occurring in small groups. Individuals tend to roost in the same spot from day to day. Birds trapped in late November and early December weigh about 80-90 grams, by late February and early March weight has increased "about one-fifth" to 100-110 grams. Birds examined on Long Island during October and November appear lean with little or no traces of fat. (T. Davis).

On Long Island the wintering Saw-whet population was high. Areas at which Saw-whets were constantly observed, and their numbers, include: Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge—one, possibly two; Central Park—one; Jones Beach—seven reported on the Southern Nassau Co. Christmas Count, Jan 2 (including one at Tobay); Cedar Beach—six or seven. Other birds, possibly wintering individuals, were seen at Montauk, Woodlawn Cemetery and Pelham Bay Park.

It was tragic to note the large number of Saw-whets found dead along highways. From December thru February in the vicinity of Jones Beach, Cornelius Ward found 12 dead birds and Richard Cohen found four others. Further inland few car-killed Saw-whets have ever been noticed by Ed Manners. Perhaps this might be attributed to the differences in habitat. Saw-whets might tend to fly at lower heights thru the low coastal thickets than in forested areas further inland. Greater roadway congestion on Long Island could possibly be another factor in the higher mortality rate.

### Summary

The 1965 fall invasion of Saw-whet Owls was easily the largest recorded for this species. Ninety-one birds were reported in the Marine Region from September 28 to November 30 and nearly 400 were reported from Ontario south to the Middle Atlantic States from September 8 to early December. Of this latter figure about 285 were reported by banders operating mist nets at night. The bulk of their migration fell between October 3 and November 10 with a peak October 14-18 when 117 were reported from the above localities. By the last week of November most Saw-whets had established winter territories and could be found roosting at the same places from day to day. In an area 12 miles long by 1½ miles wide along the Delaware River in New Jersey, a bander captured 43 roosting Saw-whets from the last week of November to January 31. The wintering population on coastal Long Island was also high, and many birds were found dead on the highways.

8613-85 St., Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421

## BANDING NOTES ON THE SNOWY OWL

RICHARD COHEN

The following table is a summary of the banding data on fourteen Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) trapped and released on Long Island or in New York City during the winters of 1963-64 and 1964-65.

<i>Band No.</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Date Banded</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Wing Chord</i>
568-15051	—	M	1/12/64	Jones Beach	—	420 mm
568-15052	—	F	3/14/64	Jones Beach	4 lbs 4 oz	440 "
568-15053	Imm	F	11/26/64	Jones Beach	4 lbs 2 oz	453 "
568-15054	Ad	F	11/28/64	Jones Beach	4 lbs 11 oz	440 "
568-15055	Ad	M	11/28/64	Cedar Beach	3 lbs 4 oz	421 "
568-15056	Ad	M	12/20/64	Jones Beach	3 lbs 12 oz	410 "
568-15057	Imm	M	12/20/64	Jones Beach	3 lbs 11 oz	390 "
568-15058	Ad	M	12/25/64	Jones Beach	3 lbs 15 oz	430 "
568-15059	Ad	M	1/3/65	Bronx Co.	3 lbs 12 oz	412 "
568-15060	Imm	M	1/9/65	Jones Beach	3 lbs 0 oz	412 "
568-15061	Ad	F	2/13/65	Tiana Beach	4 lbs 11½ oz	442 "
568-15062	Imm	M	3/6/65	Water Mill	3 lbs 0 oz	395 "
568-15063	Ad	F	3/13/65	Orient Point	5 lbs 6 oz	435 "
568-15064	Imm	F	3/22/65	Kennedy Airpt	5 lbs 3 oz	444 "

### Ageing and Sexing the Owls

In the writer's experience, attempts to age and sex the birds through binoculars met with a minimum of success. The best criterion of sex in the Snowy Owl is size, the poorest field character. Examination of specimens at the American Museum of Natural History and check of published measurements indicate there is very little overlap between the sexes, females being considerably larger than males. Many erroneous field identifications of sex are based on the darkness of the plumage. Local field observers have been heard to identify dark-plumaged Snowy Owls as females; others claim they are immatures. Similarly, light owls are variously called males or adults. Females average darker than males, but there is considerable overlap in this character. The largest owl banded (24" in length), # 568-15063, was an extremely light bird and some males banded were darker. However, the very dark birds are always females and a white owl is invariably a male. Between the extremes, field identification of sex by plumage is not possible. In the hand, a wing chord of 430 mm and a weight of four pounds seemed a dividing line between the sexes. In combination with plumage characters, it was felt that a high degree of accuracy was achieved when using these criteria for sexing the owls. In a larger sample there would undoubtedly be owls that could not be safely sexed.

The plumage of owls of the year averages darker than adult birds of the same sex, but this is of scant value in the field because of the overlap between males and females. In determining the age of the owls two criteria were used. The first was noted in Bent's *Life Histories of North*

*American Birds of Prey*: "Early in the season, at least, and perhaps later, there is more or less of the drab juvenal down concealed under the feathers, especially around the neck in birds of the year." On one occasion the writer tentatively identified an owl as an immature male in the field, when noting two dark spots on either side of the neck. This was later confirmed in the hand, the ruff of dark feathers mentioned by Bent being quite pronounced. Two immature owls banded in March still retained this character and there was 100% correlation with the second criterion of age used, the fault bars in the tail. The rectrices of young birds, developing as they do all at once, often exhibit these structural defects that appear as transparent areas across the feathers. Diet deficiency is generally believed to be the most logical explanation for this condition. The adult bird replaces its tail feathers individually and is also better able to provide for itself. This character has been noted in a number of other species by the writer, and by others as well. It is a mark that does not appear in any field manual, nor is it mentioned in plumage descriptions; but it is often present and is a *guide* to the age of a bird, though not diagnostic. Since the young Snowy Owl retains its tail until the following summer, the presence of fault bars is taken as an indication that there has been only one generation of feathers. Frances Hamerstrom (personal communication), branding the Snowy Owl in Wisconsin, has used this criterion on a much larger sample, obtaining a 1:1 ratio between adults and immatures.

#### Discussion of 1964-65 Banding

A major purpose of banding the owls is to determine mortality on the wintering areas, there being a widely held notion that owls coming south in flight years do not return to their northern breeding grounds, succumbing to gunners or disease. During the winter of '64-'65 the owls were also color marked blue on different portions of the wings and tail, along with an area code on left cheek or right cheek. This distinctive pattern would permit sight identifications of individual owls, thus providing a more accurate census technique, a method of determining daily movements and winter ranges, wider movements along the coast, and hopefully, the routes ultimately followed on the return trip north. Unfortunately, the dyes employed did not live up to expectations and on a few owls the colors ran, obscuring the distinctive patterns. In addition, the pigments faded badly and by the end of the winter the blue was visible only at extremely close range. However, of twelve color-marked birds nine were seen after banding.

Last winter, as has usually been the case, the owls concentrated along the coast in greatest numbers during November and December. On two different occasions only darkness prevented the capture of three owls in one day. Eight different owls were identified in the vicinity of Jones Beach State Park where they were present every month through March,

though becoming scarcer as the winter progressed. One critic of the banding operation attributed this decline in numbers to the trapping, weighing and measuring procedures which "chased" the owls from the area. This anthropomorphic view is not substantiated by any of the data presented below. It should also be noted that several Regional Editors in the May 1965 *Kingbird* mentioned similar declines in reports as the season progressed.

A drive by Jeep the entire length of the Fire Island National Seashore on December 29 failed to turn up a single owl. At day's end as our party approached Moriches Inlet we heard another theory for their scarcity. We inquired of a group taking a Christmas Count whether they had seen any owls, and one fellow, mistaking us for hunters, told us that some of our "friends" had undoubtedly done the owls in. As early as October 12 owls were reported in that area and this chap was terribly disgruntled about missing them on his count ten weeks later. The owls spend the winter hundreds of miles south of the arctic home where they are nowhere permanently abundant. We should hardly expect them to spend the entire winter in one restricted area.

The owls banded on Long Island were accounted for before and after capture as follows. It should be noted that birds were often identified before the banding date on the basis of plumage characters, favorite perches, reaction to the traps and other characteristic actions.

1. Owls seen at location other than the banding site.

#054 First seen Jones Beach, Nov. 11; banded Nov. 28, seen there Nov. 29 and at Gilgo Beach, 5 miles east, Dec. 6.

#055 Banded Nov. 28 Cedar Beach. Seen 1 mile west at Gilgo Beach Dec. 6. Seen on the beach at Great Kills, Staten Island Dec. 19 (L. Mills at al), 30 miles from the banding site.

#058 First seen Jones Beach area Nov. 14, captured there Dec. 25. On Jan. 1 reported 55 miles east at Tiana Beach (Mrs. R. Maynard). Present there a few days thereafter (L. Wilcox).

#061 Banded Tiana Beach Feb. 13. On Mar. 6 was at Sagaponack Lake, 10 miles east, and on Mar. 28 was back at Tiana Beach about ½ mile east of the banding location. When flushed it returned to the exact perch from which it was originally captured.

An unidentified owl with blue on its wing was reported from Jamaica Bay Sanctuary in mid-February (fide H. Johnson).

2. Owls not seen elsewhere that returned to the banding site.

#053 First seen Jones Beach Nov. 11. Banded there Nov. 26 and remained there through Dec. 28. Not seen again until Mar. 6 when it was perched on a light pole a few yards from the banding site.

#060 First seen Gilgo Beach Nov. 28 and again on Dec. 6. Moved to Jones Beach Dec. 19 where it was banded Jan. 9. Not reported again at that location until Feb. 27 and 28.

3. Owls subsequently reported only where banded.

#056 First seen Jones Beach Nov. 7. Banded there Dec. 20 and remained through Jan. 3 (G. Coheleach).

#057 Banded Jones Beach Dec. 7, seen there until Jan. 2.

#059 Seen in the Bronx Dec. 14, banded there Jan. 3, present at least through Jan. 14 (D. Cooper).

4. Owls not reported again.

#062 and #063 Banded on eastern Long Island, an area not covered regularly during trapping operations. Owls were subsequently seen by others in locations where these two were banded but no definite identification.

#064 Removed to Jones Beach from Kennedy Airport where an owl had been killed earlier by aircraft.

Due to the failure of the dyes, the tracing of color-marked owls was sketchy despite the great number of observers in the area. However, it was not just the dyes but the owls themselves that seemed to fade away after their initial concentration along the coastline. Those subsequently reported from other locations evidently moved along the barrier beach and the dunes and marshes immediately behind it, for none were seen more than half a mile from the ocean. It is probable that others moved to interior points on Long Island where they were not sought out by birders. On the basis of this small sample, it would seem that the owls are not apt to spend the winter in a limited area. Further banding and color marking may demonstrate that the actions of #061 and #053 moving in and out of a favored hunting area within a radius of ten to twenty miles are most typical of the winter range of the owls. One deterrent to trapping more individuals was the difficulty in locating the owls after receiving a report on their presence in an area. On a number of occasions, an intensive search the following day failed to locate the owl. Yet when present they repeatedly used the same perches, especially as evening approached. The wider swings of #055 and #058 emphasize the deficiencies in census techniques. Without color marking it would be impossible to know that the owl seen at Jones Beach one weekend was the same one seen the next weekend at Tiana Beach. Similarly, the two or three owls at Jones Beach reported by observers actually numbered eight.

There have been reports of Snowy Owls shot on Long Island in each of the last two winters and others that came to grief by airplanes and automobiles, but there have been as yet no recoveries of banded birds. Despite their apparent reduction in numbers as winter progressed, no

evidence can be presented to indicate that the species suffered significant losses due to hunting, disease or misfortune. The mobility of the population seems to account for the departure from favored birding areas by January and it is more than likely that the bulk of the Long Island wintering population *does* return to the breeding grounds.

133 Broome Avenue, Atlantic Beach, N.Y. 11509

## SHRUB AND TREE CROP

Fall and Winter 1965-66

Regions	Adiron- dacks 5,6	Ontario Lake Plain 2,5,6	Western Allegheny Plateau 1	Eastern Allegheny Plateau 3,4	Long Island 10
White Pine.....	P-F,P		F	P,F	
Pitch Pine.....					
Larch.....	G,G			-G	
White Spruce.....	P-F,G			-G	
Black Spruce.....	P-F,G				
Red Spruce.....	P-F,-			-F	
Balsam.....	P-F,P				
Hemlock.....			G	F,G	
Arbor Vitae.....				-G	
Red Cedar.....		F,F,G		-F	G
Bayberry.....					F
Ironwood ( <i>Ostrya</i> ).....			F	-G	
Blue Beech ( <i>Carpinus</i> ).....			F	-G	
Grey Birch.....	G,G		-		
Yellow Birch.....	- -	- -	G	-F	
White Birch.....	G,G			-G	
American Beech.....	F,G		F	P,G	
White Oak.....		F,-,-	F	P,G	F
Red Oak.....		F,-,-	F	G,G	
Cucumber Tree.....			G		
Mountain Ash.....	G,G		-	-G	
Thornapple.....		G,G,F	F	G,G	
Wild Black Cherry.....	G,P		P	P,G	
Box Elder.....		G,G,P	F	F,G	
Sugar Maple.....			F	F,G	
Grey Dogwood.....		G,F,G	-	F,G	
Red Osier Dogwood.....		F,F,G	-		
White Ash.....			P	G,F	
Black-berried Elder.....		G,G,G	G	-G	

The wild shrub and tree seed crop over most of the State, as judged by 7 reporters in 7 different regions, was fair to good in spite of the drought (reports from Regions 7, 8, and 9 were not received).

The Adirondack cone crop was judged in Region 5 to be poor to fair except for larch and in Region 6 pine and balsam poor but white and black spruce good.

On the Ontario Lake Plain seed was judged fair to good but, of course, here shrub and tree fruits are not as important a winter food source as on the more heavily forested Allegheny Plateau.

The Plateau west of Seneca Lake produced good hemlock, yellow birch and black-berried elder fruits but poor wild black cherry and white ash seeds. Beech and oak were only fair. On the eastern portion of the Plateau crops were apparently better, particularly the wild black cherry in Delaware County. Oliver H. Hewitt spoke of their great abundance there in October during a limited Turkey hunting season and 2 weeks later he noted their complete absence in Region 1. Cherry often seems to have good crops every other year, like their relatives the apple, and the eastern part of the Plateau seems to be out of phase, in this regard, with the western part.

My thanks to Thomas H. Davis, Les Bemont, Sally Spofford, Fritz Scheider, Frank Clinch and Howard Miller for helping with this report.

*Stephen W. Eaton, Dept. of Biology, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, N.Y.*

#### THE NORTH AMERICAN NEST-RECORD CARD PROGRAM FOR 1966

The first year of the North American Nest-record Card Program went very well. The Laboratory of Ornithology mailed out over 45,000 cards to individuals and regional centers from Florida to Alaska. We were encouraged at the response; over 23,000 completed cards were received from 700 individuals. We have accumulated over 500 cards each for several species; among these are Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Catbird, Eastern Bluebird, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle. The Red-winged Blackbird has been selected for a trial run on the computer, and the data from our 2,300 cards on that species are now being punched onto IBM cards.

The principal aim of the program is to accumulate a large amount of data on the breeding biology of birds of the entire North American continent. This data will be stored on IBM cards in a form ready for analysis. This data, once processed, will be available to researchers interested in many areas of avian biology, such as annual and geographical variations in breeding seasons, clutch size, fledging periods, and nesting success. We hope that the program will also play a key role in the study of man's modification of his environment through marsh drainage, urbanization, and the use of pesticides.

We need data from all parts of the country. Observations from city parks and back yards, of the commonest species, are as important as those from remote parts of the continent. We need the co-operation of all competent field observers; please get in touch with your local organization and find out if it is cooperating as a regional center for the distribution of cards. If they are not, you may want to help organize a club effort. Individuals may also obtain cards directly from us. In any case, write for information and cards to North American Nest Record Card Program, Laboratory of Ornithology, 33 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850. Be sure to include your zip code with your return address.



## 1965 HERONRY SURVEY

In the Spring of 1965, as in 1964, the Bird Clubs of the State were asked to check any Great Blue Heron nesting sites in their respective areas and report to the author on the location, number of nests and breeding success. Reports were received from sixteen Clubs and from a number of interested individuals. Harold Mitchell of Buffalo commented that Great Blue Herons are much less common in Region 1 than formerly, and that a former colony of over 100 nests on Grand Island is now completely abandoned.

The purpose of the survey is to determine the breeding status of the Great Blue Heron in New York State and to learn whether it is declining as a breeding bird in the State. To do this will require a continuing survey over several years. We thank those who have cooperated in this effort and ask that they continue their reports in the coming season. We also solicit reports from any Club or individuals who may have any information on heronries in the State. Because the use of DDT and other chemicals is suspected of unfavorably affecting the breeding success of some birds, particularly the fish eating species such as the Great Blue Heron, it becomes important to establish the actual direction in which the breeding status of the species heading.

<i>Location</i>	<i>1965 nests young</i>	<i>1964 nests young</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>Region 1</i>			
1. Farrington Hollow Rd. . . . . North of Town's Corners Town of Arkright Chautauqua County	23	43	1949— 4 nests 1950— 6 nests 1963—42 nests
2. Coes Rd. Chautauqua Co. . . . .	25	25	
3. Oak Orchard—Genesee Co. . . . .	10-12		Over 100 a few years ago
4. Hood Hill, Belmont. . . . . Alleghany County	5	9	Observed 7-9-65
5. 4 mi. NW of Vandalia. . . . . Cattaraugus County	no report	19	
<i>Region 2</i>			
1. Marengo Swamp S of Clyde, Wayne County	50	40	1-3 per nest
<i>Region 3</i>			
Keuka Park Conservation Club, Penn Yan, Yates Co.	No known heronries in the area		
Cayuga Bird Club. . . . . Ithaca, Tompkins County	No known heronries in the area		

<i>Location</i>	<i>1965 nests young</i>	<i>1964 nests young</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>Region 4</i>			
1. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile SW of Candor..... Tioga County	15	15	Observed 5-31-65
2. Owego, Tioga County.....	Heronry reported but no data given		
3. 3 mi. E of Whitney Point, Broome County	15	60-70	3 locations 1000 ft. apart
4. German, Chenango Co.....	Heronry reported but no data given		
5. Cold Brook Rd..... Scott, Cortland County	7	17	Located in beech grove which was cut in Fall 1965 but nest trees spared.
6. Charlottesville near Otsego- Schoharie Co. line	Active but no numbers given	Reported but no data given	

*Region 5*

1. Cross Lake, Onondaga Co. . .	35	65-75	Observed 4-24-65
2. Scott Swamp, Phoenix..... Oswego County	20	15	
3. Bridgeport, Madison Co.....	4		Observed 4-8-65
4. North Victory..... Cayuga County	Heronry reported but no data given		
5. Skaneateles, Onondaga Co... Cortland County	Heronry reported but no data given		
6. East Freetown..... Cortland County	Heronry reported but no data given		

*Region 6*

1. Ironsides Island..... Alexandria Bay Jefferson County	Over 100 "about as last year"	130-140	
2. Perch River Game..... Management Area	25	no data	
3. Camp Drum.....	Reported but no data given		

*Region 7*

Agnes Amstutz reports no heronries in the Tupper Lake area

*Region 8*

Peter Wickham reports no known heronries in Region 8  
Sassafras Bird Club, Amsterdam, N.Y. reports no known heronries

*Region 9*

1. Bontecue Farm, Town of Washington, Dutchess Co.	9 2 per nest	7 2-4 per nest	Observed 3-23-65 to 6-26-65
Sullivan Audubon Society reports no known heronries			
Rockland Audubon Society reports no known heronries			

*Walter E. Benning, Clyde, N. Y.*

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## KEEP THE FOREST PRESERVE 'WILD FOREVER'

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

Strung out from the party emblems on the voting machines this fall will be found, among those hustling for governor, congress, legislature, etc., candidates for delegate positions at the 1967 Constitutional Convention. Depending on how a voter feels about the gubernatorial hopefuls, he will probably click down the levers for delegates as though he were running off a bunch of zero's on an adding machine after having taken more care on the bigger numbers in front. Yet, these delegate aspirants could well be the most important for conservation. The elected delegates will draw up a new constitution to see New York State through years that will probably witness continued urban population spread, amassment of idle time leaving millions running to authorities like siblings beseeching their parents "What can we do now?," and increasing mobility in search of something to do. The delegates could accede to these pressures and do away with the constitutional protection of our Forest Preserve in the Adirondacks and Catskills as 'forever wild.'

New York's has been an example of the most permanent type of wilderness preservation found anywhere in the country. Only last year in his new book, *A Wilderness Bill of Rights*, U. S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas declared that "at the federal level there is no constitutional guarantee that we will have even an acre of wilderness left out of the vast public lands owned by the central government. At the state level, New York leads the way."

Yet, this exemplary protection could be penciled out in response to an already rising demand to make a simple and efficient constitution for these increasingly complex times. It appears so cumbersome to have to push a constitutional amendment through two different elected legislatures and then have it approved by the electorate before allowing a ski tow, highway, power plant, etc., in the Forest Preserve. However, it has been this so-called cumbersomeness that has often prevented the Forest Preserve from having been an easy prey to pressures for power projects, lumbering, resort areas, highways, etc.

Conservationists have started working early to inform the public as well as the candidates for delegates. The Constitutional Council for the Forest Preserve was formed Jan. 15, 1966 at Rhinebeck, N. Y. and is now holding meetings throughout the state. If one is held in your area, please make every effort to attend and show your support.

These meetings have proved to be chances to meet other Federation members and friends. At this writing, David Bigelow, an artist at a Buffalo science museum and a member of the Council executive committee, was helping to plan a meeting in that city. Present at the preliminary meeting in December was Daniel Smiley of the John Burroughs

Natural History Society. Mrs. Robert L. Reed, conservation chairman of the Scarsdale Audubon Society, was a leader in setting up the Council. At a recent planning session in her home were Robert Arbib, former Federation president, and Sheldon E. Merritt, president of the Buffalo Audubon Society. A few weeks later, Mr. Merritt and another former Federation president, Harold Mitchell, drove over roads all but obliterated by a slushy snow to a Council meeting in Schenectady. Walt Sabin, president of the Schenectady Bird Club, was present there with other members.

What can your club do? Plan a meeting this fall to which candidates for delegates will be invited to speak. Three delegates will be elected from each senatorial district. Inviting these candidates to speak will spur them to do their conservation homework in preparation for your meeting. It can serve as education about the Forest Preserve for delegates who actually may know little about it. At the meeting they will be able to learn the views of your club. The Council is planning to prepare materials that can be distributed at such meetings — inquire by writing:

Constitutional Council for the Forest Preserve  
Suite 1625  
500 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10036

The Council is seeking to show broad support for the Preserve. It is felt that this was an important factor in retaining the 'forever wild' protection at the 1938 Constitutional Convention.

Your Club could send the following statement to the Council:

"It is the position of (name of your organization) that the present wording of the first two sentences of Section 1 and all of Section 4 of Article XIV of the New York State Constitution, as given below, should be retained in any new or revised Constitution that may be presented to the people for approval by the New York State Constitutional Convention, and that protections accorded the Preserve by these key policy statements should be strengthened, not weakened or compromised by any changes in other parts of the Constitution.

#### **Article XIV New York State Constitution**

Section 1. The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed.

Section 4. A violation of any of the provisions of this article may be restrained at the suit of the people or, with the consent of the supreme court in appellate division, on notice to the attorney-general at the suit of any citizen."



David Newhouse of Schenectady, chairman of the Council, has asked for donations of \$5 or more from individual members to support this work. Club memberships are also available. It is the purpose of the Council to disband when its work has been completed. This would probably follow final ratification of the revised Constitution by the electorate.

333 Bedell Street, Freeport, N.Y. 11520

## JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNT, 1966

JOHN L. MITCHELL

The twelfth January Waterfowl Count of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. was conducted from the 15th through the 23rd. The State Conservation Department survey was conducted from the 4th through the 12th. The data from each count are included in the accompanying tables. Our total of 155,999 birds is ten percent below the Conservation Department's total of 170,862. This difference reflects the extremes of weather plus the fact that neither Lake Champlain within Region 7 nor Lake Canandaigua within Region 3 was covered by the Federation this year.

Of special note in 1966 is the high count of Mallards and the low count of Brant. The Double-crested Cormorant in Region 1 is a new species for the list. A full review of the twelve years will be presented in a later report in this journal.

I wish to thank the following Regional leaders for their help in this census:

- |        |     |                         |
|--------|-----|-------------------------|
| Region | 1.  | Mr. Harold D. Mitchell  |
|        | 2.  | Mr. Walter Listman      |
|        | 3.  | Dr. Sally Hoyt Spofford |
|        | 4.  | Mr. Leslie E. Bemont    |
|        | 5.  | Dr. David B. Peakall    |
|        | 6.  | Mr. Arthur W. Allen     |
|        | 8.  | Mr. B. R. Seguin        |
|        | 9.  | Mr. Edward D. Treacy    |
|        | 10. | Mr. Maxwell Wheat       |
|        |     | Mr. Cornelius Ward      |

Rochester, N.Y. 14616  
345 Conrad Drive

NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION DEPT. AERIAL WATERFOWL SURVEY — JANUARY 4-12, 1966

DATE:	Jan.	4, 5	4, 5	4	4	4, 5, 12	12	10	7, 10	7			Total
Within Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10A	10B		
Geese .....	200	—	69	—	495	—	—	—	—	120	2139		3023
Brant .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10950		10950
Mallard .....	313	107	1359	30	2749	1300	127	255	3	434	5736		12413
Black .....	378	351	1781	4	1549	2009	484	746	75	1110	15527		24014
Pintail .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4		4
Green-winged Teal .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	136		136
American Widgeon .....	—	—	5	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	1741		1796
Redhead .....	—	20	1270	—	2100	125	—	—	—	—	—		3515
Canvasback .....	1076	615	176	—	165	201	350	—	37	2665	4347		9632
Scaup .....	927	636	1185	—	788	952	700	3	1	19125	17952		42269
Goldeneye .....	8967	711	1137	11	1506	7272	216	2	3	275	8015		28115
Bufflehead .....	38	114	158	—	10	—	2	—	15	166	1785		2288
Oldsquaw .....	78	261	68	—	20	275	—	—	—	125	640		1467
Scoter .....	—	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15980		16015
Ruddy Duck .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1500		1500
Merganser .....	7707	228	615	86	140	732	118	14	87	80	3352		13159
Coot .....	—	—	85	—	75	—	6	—	—	—	400		566
Total	19684	3078	7908	131	9647	12866	2003	1020	221	24100	90204		170862

## FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS WATERFOWL CENSUS — JANUARY 15-23, 1966

Regions:	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	Total
Common Loon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	111	111
Red-throated Loon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
Horned Grebe	—	—	39	1	80	—	—	—	285	405
Pied-billed Grebe	2	—	3	1	—	—	—	4	6	16
Double-crested Cormorant	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mute Swan	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	55	519	580
Canada Goose	10	—	29	43	4	7	—	126	1668	1887
Brant	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3314	3314
Snow Goose	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	8	10
Mallard	1438	34	1705	342	661	38	75	383	7422	12098
Black Duck	1590	16	980	113	419	363	718	751	21426	26376
Mallard x Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Gadwall	1	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	213	225
Pintail	38	—	1	—	4	—	1	—	97	141
Green-winged Teal	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	110	114
European Widgeon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
American Widgeon	32	—	2	—	1	—	—	62	2027	2124
Shoveler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	94	94
Wood Duck	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	1	17	24
Redhead	66	13	2165	130	161	5	—	—	98	2638
Ring-necked Duck	—	—	6	—	2	—	2	120	155	285
Canvasback	2937	5	728	75	53	12	1	—	4222	8033
Scaup	1218	829	1520	10	3759	3205	—	9	48791	59341
Goldeneye	3625	3374	430	44	1613	987	—	18	2661	12752
Bufflehead	60	85	56	—	170	19	—	6	1505	1901
Oldsquaw	1489	240	—	—	323	—	—	—	1199	3251
Common Eider	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
King Eider	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
White-winged Scoter	316	26	—	—	6	—	—	—	4757	5105
Surf Scoter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	132	132
Common Scoter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	351	351
Ruddy Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	209	209
Hooded Merganser	2	1	4	—	3	5	—	25	240	280
Common Merganser	6924	187	24	54	2608	574	—	34	297	10702
Red-breasted Merganser	25	91	11	—	48	—	—	—	1574	1749
Coot	—	—	35	1	2	—	—	80	329	447
Unidentified	877	72	74	1	—	200	—	32	32	1288
Total	20653	4975	7826	816	9924	5415	798	1710	103882	155999

## FIELD NOTES

**Saw-whet Owls in Atlantic Beach:** The Saw-whet Owl invasion during the fall of 1965 was well documented by the large numbers netted at coastal banding stations. My experience with this tiny predator may be of interest. Banding was done in the garden half of our 85' x 120' plot in densely residential Atlantic Beach, just outside the New York City limits. The barrier beach here is about 600 yards wide, separated from Long Island proper by about 400 yards of water. The garden is dominated by three Norway Maples and bordered by ornamental evergreens and shrubs, creating an open park-like area which the Saw-whets evidently found to their liking. One hundred eight-five feet of Japanese mist nets of the type designed for taking warblers (1½") were operated day and night from mid-August on. The nets were checked regularly after dark until our retirement which, on flight nights, was often well past midnight.

Thirty-one Saw-whet Owls were banded here between September 30 and November 30. Thirty of these were mist-netted; one entered a wire trap baited with dripping water shortly after nightfall. At no time was an owl seen roosting in the garden during the day and only one other was seen at night besides those netted. An attempt to hand catch that individual failed. The time of discovery in the nets and the date of banding were as follows:

1. 9/30 6:30 AM	12. 10/24 10:30 PM	22. 11/4 11:15 PM
2. 10/6 6:30 AM	13. 10/25 5:30 AM	23. " 11:30 PM
3. 10/11 9:30 PM	14. 10/28 7:00 AM	24. 11/6 6:15 AM
4. 10/17 6:00 AM	15. 10/29 8:30 PM	25. 11/7 6:00 AM
5. " "	16. " "	26. 11/10 6:30 AM
6. " "	17. " 9:30 PM	27. " "
7. " "	18. " 11:15 PM	28. " "
8. " "	19. 10/30 6:00 AM	29. " 6:00 PM
9. " 9:30 PM	20. 11/4 9:45 PM	30. 11/25 7:00 AM
10. 10/24 8:30 PM	21. " "	31. 11/30 10:15 PM
11. " 9:30 PM		

Multiple owl nights were associated with north or northwesterly winds with one exception. On that occasion a cold front had passed thru the previous night. The owls, appearing at all hours of the night, were apparently hunting actively in the garden since all but a few were caught in the lower shelves of the nets. Nor were they the only owls present, for on December 1 a Long-eared Owl was seen perched on the bird bath from where it was flushed toward the net. The fine netting stopped it long enough to permit its capture.

Some measure of the magnitude of the Saw-whet Owl flight can be gleaned from the above statistics, for if that many owls could be caught in one garden, however strategically located, how many were actually passing thru Atlantic Beach, Long Island and New York State this fall?

Richard Cohen, 133 Broome Avenue, Atlantic Beach, N.Y. 11509

**Hawk Owl in Adirondacks:** On November 24, 1965 at about 11:00 AM as I drove along Route 30 about one mile south of the village of Tupper Lake, Franklin County, shortly before the road crosses the Raquette River, I noticed a hawklike bird perched in the top of a 30-foot deciduous tree. The tree was about 100 yards from the road and dominated a small marsh bisected by the road. I watched the bird for about 20 minutes with 7 x 50 binoculars under good light conditions.

I drew a sketch, the conspicuous markings that I noted being: white spot on back of head, crow size, accipiter-like tail, barred chest, white throat which resembled a cleric collar. I hurriedly left and returned with a copy of Peterson's Field Guide. As I drove up, the bird flew down in a long, low arc and settled high in another deciduous tree. At this time I noted long wings and white underparts. I drove ahead to get a rear view and noted that the bird constantly rotated its head and that the wings had a black and white checked cloth pattern. I was baffled, as it did not resemble any of the hawks pictured in Peterson. A chance opening of the book at the owl plate settled the identification — a Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*).

I have since learned that a Hawk Owl was observed last year on about the same date at approximately the same location by Mrs. Charles Chapman and Maurice Villeneuve of Tupper Lake.

Bill Frenette, Tupper Lake, N.Y. 12986

**Another Oswego County Boreal Owl:** On November 21, 1965 at about 4 PM of a gray day, I noted from my car a smallish owl perched about 6 feet up in a deciduous sapling over the berm of Nine Mile Point Rd. at the corner of Lake Rd., about half a mile south of Lake Ontario. Because of the open habitat I expected it to be a Short-eared Owl. Observation from about 12 feet with 9 x 35 binoculars proved it to be a Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) in plumage similar to one I had seen in 1962 (*Kingbird* 12 (1): 25, 1962). The nearest conifer plantation was a quarter mile away, the nearby vegetation being deciduous brush, alder-willow along a creek and deciduous woods.

For about 35 minutes I studied the owl perched in the sapling and in the denser alders over the creek, where I was able to approach too close to focus my binoculars. The following points were noted: fine white spots on dark-brown fore-crown, black-outlined facial discs with black vertical markings over the eyes, trace of ear tufts, yellow eyes, yellowish bill (more yellow than in the 1962 owl), vertical white markings on back of head (which created a suggestion of a "false face" as in the Kestrel), vertical dark streakings down breast and belly, and the height of the owl — observably greater than a Saw-whet but less than a foot.

At 5 PM, when it was quite dark, I left the Boreal Owl perched. Four individuals on the 22nd and a party including myself on the 25th were unsuccessful in locating the bird again.

This is the fourth record of the species in four years (Feb 22–29, 1964; Feb 24–26, 1965; March 17–18, 1962; Nov 21, 1965) near the south shore of Lake Ontario (see *Kingbird* 15 (2): 74, 1965). These records suggest a possible early spring and late fall migration along the Ontario lakeshore. While all four birds have been in adult plumage, the differences in bill color noted among the four may possibly correlate with age differences. Contrary to what one might expect from their breeding habitat, none of these individuals was found in dense coniferous forest.

Searching for migrant Boreal Owls is a project with low probability of success; nevertheless, field observers should be on the lookout and aware of the possibility of coming upon another one, and thereby filling in the picture of the species' occurrence in New York State.

Margaret S. Rusk, 805 Comstock Avenue, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210

**The Turkey Vulture in Northern New York:** Prior to 1960 the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) was considered a rare visitor north of central New York. Since that time a distinct change has taken place, at least in one section of northern New York. In 1960 and 1961 several Turkey Vultures were observed in the vicinity of Somerville, a small hamlet on U.S. Route 11 near the Jefferson-St. Lawrence County line. During the same period reports were received of birds seen in the Theresa-Redwood lake district and in the nearby town of Rossie.

Early in October 1961 I saw a group of eight circling over a wooded hillock about four miles southwest of Gouverneur. In July of the following year it was discovered that Turkey Vultures were spending the night on this hillock. Some twenty or more returned nightly to roost here. On the afternoon of August 28, 1962 no less than thirty-eight were seen circling over the roosting area. It is believed that the roost was last occupied in 1963.

However, Turkey Vultures continue to be seen regularly in an area which includes the extreme northern portion of Jefferson County and nearby parts of St. Lawrence County, centering around the Theresa-Redwood district. Birds are seen from April to October, indicating the possibility of nesting.

John B. Belknap, Gouverneur, N.Y.

**Goldfinch Picking on Salt Block:** On July 12, 1965 a male Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) was observed picking on a salt block located beside a three-acre artificial pond near Farmersville, N.Y. The block is used as a saltlick frequently by deer, which also paw and lick the ground under the block and for two or three feet around it. The Goldfinch flew directly to the block, hopping around on top of it for approximately one minute picking frequently at the block. I watched from 25 to 30 feet away with binoculars. The bird then flew down and continued picking at the earth below the block. Subsequent observation of the surface of the salt block showed no evidence of seeds or insects.

Donald F. Clark, 178 West Girard Bld., Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

**Ed. Note:** It is known that all birds require some salt. Finches in particular have been observed frequenting salt licks. B. P. Burt has reported Goldfinches feeding on beet and Swiss chard leaves, possibly for salts in the leaves (*Kingbird* 10 (4): 168, 1960).

## BULLETIN EXCHANGE

Two additional requests have come in for bulletin exchange with other Federation member clubs:

Buffalo Ornithological Society — **The Prothonotary** monthly  
Mrs. Whitney W. Mallam, Editor  
545 Fourth Street  
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301

Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. — **Feathers** bimonthly  
Guy Bartlett, Exch. Ed.  
1053 Parkwood Boulevard  
Schenectady, N.Y. 12308

Corrections or further additions should be sent to Miss Elizabeth S. Manning, Bulletin Exchange Committee, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10028.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINTER SEASON

December 1 – March 31

David B. Peakall

In contrast to the previous winter, the winter of 1965–66 provided a good flight of northern finches. There was a large flight (using the terminology of James, *Audubon Field Notes* 12:256) of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks and of Redpolls in much of the state, although the lower Hudson Valley and Long Island had smaller numbers. Hoary Redpolls were observed in four regions (2, 3, 5 & 8). There was a fair to good flight of Pine Siskins and Crossbills (especially White-winged). Purple Finches however, were scarce throughout the state all winter. There was a fair flight of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers, the species was recorded in five regions and the Northern Three-toed was reported near Rochester.

Increases in the numbers of wintering Mockingbirds were noted by several regional editors. The increase of the wintering population of this species during the last decade can be documented from the regular Audubon Christmas counts.

	64/65	63/64	62/63	61/62	60/61	59/60	58/59	57/58	56/57	55/56
Long Island and New York City	50	36	19	5	7	10	6	2	1	3
Upstate	22	17	16	8	5	2	0	4	0	0

This winter 81 Mockingbirds were recorded on the New York City and Long Island counts used to provide the data in table 1. Davis and Heath also note a further increase in the wintering numbers of the Mourning Dove. This phenomenon has been detailed recently in these summaries (*Kingbird* 13:99 & 15:99). No further increases of the House Finch were noted on Long Island but the increase in the Hudson Valley continued. There were no records away from the normal areas.

The waterfowl count was the lowest in recent years. The largest decreases occurred with Scaup (down 26 thousand), Brant (down nine thousand) and Redhead (down seven thousand). Probably the decrease of the Redhead is the most significant since the numbers of Brant depend completely and Scaup largely on coastal flocks which are easily missed.

The discovery of a winter roost of Cowbirds in Albany is of considerable interest. Although this species winters in coastal areas in good numbers, wintering inland in the numbers reported appears to be unprecedented. However there seems to be little reason why, with feeders and dumps for foraging and buildings to roost on, icterids should not be able to winter in the manner of the Starling.

Notable rarities included Eared Grebe (Region 1 & 2); Western Grebe (Region 2); Barrow's Goldeneye (Region 3 & 10), Varied Thrush (Region 8 & 9), Tufted Duck and Bullock's Oriole (Region 10).

*Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse 13210*

Abbreviations used in all regional reports: Co—county; imm—immature; L—Lake; max—maximum one-day count; mob—many observers; Pk—Park; Pt—Point; R—River; Rd—Road.

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ALICE E. AND EDWARD C. ULRICH

The temperature and precipitation for the period from December 1 to March 31 held to a close average for Western New York. The milder temperature of December was offset by colder weather in January. The slight previous covering of four inches of snow was augmented on the night of January 22 and 23 by a fall that left 18.2 inches of snow. Later, on the 30th the addition of 16 inches accompanied by gale winds created conditions with bare spots alternating with larger areas of deep drifts. During February, the temperature averaged 0.8 degrees above the mean and precipitation .61 inches below normal. March evened off and was constant except when a high 78 degree temperature on March 23 was followed by a drop to 28 degrees and a heavy fall of snow on March 24.

This late March storm resulted in a change that brought many migrants into view along the highways. The numbers of birds observed on the road shoulders ran into the thousands. Many persons reported hundreds of birds within a few miles of travel along the road and in all cases the following order in numbers—Song Sparrows, Robins and Meadowlarks in the ratio of 6:3:1.

Horned Grebes remained until early January. Wintering ducks were normal in numbers with a few of the rarer Gadwall, Redhead, and Ring-necked. The Herring and Ring-billed Gull population in the Niagara River remained comparable with that of other years as did the Glaucous and Iceland Gulls. In late December and early January the presence of a Black-headed Gull in the Niagara River at the Falls excited interest.

Reports of wintering Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks came from the east and south of Buffalo as well as from the usual areas in the plains to the north. A record of a Bald Eagle from Barcelona and several in February from Grand Island are encouraging. Snowy Owls were reported every month of this season. The sighting of eleven Whistling Swans in a field near Hamburg on February 12 marked the first arrival date of spring waterfowl migrants.

A Saw-whet Owl, heard calling near Hamburg; a Boreal Chickadee at Ashville; a Red-throated Loon on the snow at Springville are of special interest.

Abbreviations used; Alleg—Allegany; arr—arrived; BACC—Buffalo Audubon Society Christmas Count, ctr—Chestnut Ridge Park; BIPk—Beaver Island Park; BCC—Buffalo Ornithological Society C C, ctr—Grand Island; Bflo—Buffalo; Chau—Chautauqua; CCs—Christmas Counts; DCC—Dunkirk CC; Cr—Creek; Gen—Genesee; H—Harbor; Is—Island; ISP—Island State Pk; JCC—Jamestown CC; L—Lake; Lo—Lower; mig—migration or migrating; Nia—Niagara; F—Falls; N—north; nr—near; OCC—Olean CC Ont—Ontario; OO—Oak Orchard area; opp—opposite; Reg—Region; S—south; SCC—Scio CC; SSLE—South Shore Lake Erie; Spgs—Springs; TGMA—Tonawanda Game Management area; thru—throughout; up—upper; v—ville; WWC—Winter Waterfowl Count.



Contributors: RFA—Dr. Robert F. Andrie; HRA—Dr. Harold and Rachel Axtell; CMB—Clarence M. Beal; PB—Paul Benham; TLB—Thomas L. Bourne; RB—Richard Brownstein; GB—George Buckland; JB—Joanna Burger; LDB—Lou and Doris Burton; WC—Wilma Csont; DD—Dorothy Danner; HBD—Harold and Barbara Dodge; MME—Mary Louise and Marjorie Emerson; AF—Dr. Arthur Freitag; RF—Richard Freitag; HF—Harold Freund; JG—Joseph Grzybowski; CWK—Clarence W. Klingensmith; JK—Joseph Kikta; WHK—Dr. Walter and Harriette Klabunde; CK—Clayton Knox; LK—Dr. Lewis Kibler; WAM—Willard and Alice McKale; mob—several observers; HDM—Harold D. Mitchell; OOGMA—Oak Orchard Game Management Area; EO—Edwin Olmstead; EP—Elizabeth Pillsbury; FMR—Frances M. Rew; RDR—Richard and Dorothy Rosche; RR—Robert Rybczynski; HCS—Mrs. Harry C. Schafer; WGS—William and George Smith; AS—Arthur Schaffner; WFS—Dr. Willard F. Stanley; RS—Robert Sundell; KOS—Kenneth and Ora Swanson; JFT—Joseph F. Thill; GGW—Gertrude G. Webster; MMW—Margaret and Marie Wendling.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one Dec 6 S Pk, Bflo (JK); Two Jan 1 Dunkirk H (DCC). Red-throated Loon:rare; one Dec 9 Sturgeon Pt (TLB); one Dec 11 Nia R opp Bflo (HDM); one Dec 25 Nia R. opp BISPk (RF); one Feb 2 nr Springville (RFA), found alive grounded on the snow in a field. Horned Grebe: three Dec 9 Nia R (RF); eight max Jan 1 (DCC). Several reports of one or two thru Reg during the season. EARED GREBE: one Mar 13, 14 Dunkirk H (RR, JG), rare visitor. Pied-billed Grebe: one Dec 6 S Pk, Bflo (JK); two Jan 1 (DCC); one Jan 3 and Feb 23 Alleg Co (LDB); two Jan 16 (WWC). Double-crested Cormorant: one Jan 16 Nia R (FMR). Great Blue Heron: eight reported on CCs; one Mar 8 f Celeron (RS); ten Mar 22 nr Cassadaga L (EP); three Mar 28 Belmont (LDB); a few single reports thru Mar. Black-crowned Night Heron: two Dec 2 Bowmansv (JG). Whistling Swan: 14 Dec 26 La (JCC); 11 Feb 12-16f, 18, 28 nr Hamburg (mob); regular thereafter with 400 max Mar 27 Chau L (Elderkin). Canada Goose: 20 Dec 10 Lyndonv (WGS); ten Jan 16 OO area (WWC); 15, 11 Feb 28f Athol Spgs (WC) Eden (TLB); increasing to 18,880 max Mar 27 OO area (HDM). Ducks: Mallard: 1438 Jan 16 (WWC). Black: 1590 Mar 16 (WWC); 188 Mar 3 Dunkirk H (RB). Gadwall: Dec 26 one (JCC), six (BCC), five Dec 27 BISPk (HRA); various regular reports during the period; becoming more common winter resident. Pintail: Dec 26 one (JCC), 33 (BCC); 25 Jan 1 Nia F (HRA); 38 Jan 16 (WWC); TGMA 650 Mar 5 and 550 Mar 13 (JB); OOGMA 1000 Mar 22 (AF) and 1500 Mar 27 (RB). Green-winged Teal: four Dec 26 (JCC); one Mar 5f TGMA (RB); two Mar 14 Kiantone (EP); one Mar 14 TGMA (JG). Blue-winged Teal: one Mar 21 Cheektowaga, three Mar 23 Lancaster (JG); one Mar 23 Hanover (RB). American Widgeon: four Dec 26 (JCC); 75 Jan 9 Nia F (RDR); 32 Jan 16 (WWC); 100 Mar 27 OOGMA (HDM); 50 Mar 29 Cuba (EO). Shoveler: one Dec 26 (BCC); one Dec 29 BISPk (HRA, HDM); several widely scattered reports max four during Mar (Mob). Wood: one Dec 5-8 Forest Lawn, Bflo (HDM); one Dec 26 (BCC); one Jan 16 (WWC); three Mar 13 Lancaster (JG); two March 19 Nice Rd sinks (RB). Redhead: 25 Dec 26 (BCC); 40 Jan 1 up Nia R (HRA); 66 Jan 16 (WWC); 35 Jan 29 BISPk (HRA); 119 Mar 19 Grand Is (JB). Ring-necked: two Dec 30 up Nia R (FMR); one Dec 30 Nia R opp Bflo (FMR); one Feb 22 W Nia R (RFA); one Mar 3f Celeron (EP); one Mar 4 Wehrle Dr (MME); 40 Mar 29 Chau L (EP). Canvasback: 3034 Dec 26 (BCC); 74 Jan 1 (DCC); 3500 Jan 1 up Nia R (HRA); one Jan 2 (BACC); 2937 Jan 16 (WWC); 650 Mar 29 Chau L (EP); winter population on Nia R still going down. Greater Scaup: 14 and 1177 Dec 26 (JCC, BCC); two Jan 2 (BACC); 1218 Jan 16 (WWC); 1000 Feb 21 Lo Nia R (JG). Lesser Scaup: four Dec 3 S Pk (DD); one Dec 31 up Nia R (HRA); two Mar 3f Dunkirk H (RB); two Mar 14 Kiantone (EP); 650 Mar 29 Chau L (EP). Common Goldeneye: 1486 and 18 Dec 26 (BCC, JCC); 48 and 3000 Jan 1 (DCC) up Nia R (HRA); 74 Jan 2 (BACC); 3625 Jan 16 (WWC). Bufflehead:

160 Dec 26 (BCC); 27 Jan 1 (DCC); 60 Jan 16 (WWC). Oldsquaw: one Dec 26 (BCC); 1489 Jan 16 (WWC); 400 Feb 21 Lo Nia R (JG); 1000 Feb 26 Lo Nia R (PB). King Eider: one Jan 16 (WWC).

Scoter: White-winged: two Dec 26 (BCC); 316 Jan 16 (WWC). Surf: one Dec 9 Sturgeon Pt (TLB); two Dec 26 (BCC). Common: one Dec 26 (BCC). Ruddy Duck: eight Dec 12 Chau L (FMR); one Dec 22, 29 Bflo H (JK); one Mar 13 f Dunkirk H (RR); one Mar 24 Silver Cr. Res. (GGW); 12 Mar 27 Chau L (Elderkin). Mergansers: Hooded: 14 Dec 12 Chau L (FMR); one, four, three Dec 26 (OCC, JCC, BCC); two Jan 6 up Nia R (AF); two Jan 16 (WWC); one Feb 12, 13, 22, 26, up Nia R (PB, RF, RFA); one Mar 3f Celeron (CMB). Common: six, 4,748 Dec 26 (JCC, BCC); 25, 4000 Jan 21 (DCC); Nia R (HRA); 53 Jan 2 (BACC); 5300 Jan 7 Nia R (Bflo—Fort Nia) (GGW); 6924 Jan 16 (WWC); 1500 Feb 17 Grand Is (AF). Red-breasted: 43 Dec 26 (BCC); 14 Jan 2 (BACC); 25 Jan 16 WCC).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: one Mar 17 Lancaster (JG); two Mar 19 OOGMA (RB). Hawks: Goshawk: one Mar 13 OOGMA (RR). Sharp-shinned: many single records thru Alleg Co (LDB); other scattered reports, mostly singles—Jan 1–31, Feb 5 N Boston (HDB); Jan 23 Snyder (RB); Feb 11 Nia F (JB); Mar 19 Hamburg (RFA); five Mar 18 Evans (JB). Cooper's: more winter reports of singles thru period and more widely distributed than former species. Spring Mig arr Mar 3 reaching nine max Mar 18 Evans (JB). Red-tailed: seven Dec 19 Youngstown—Wilson (WHK); two, five, 31 Dec 26 (OCC, JCC, BCC); two Jan 1 (SCC, DCC); 17 Jan 2 (BACC); four Mar 3f Evans (RB); 63 Mar 18 SSLE (JB); 32 Mar 23 Silver Cr (RB). Red-shouldered: one Feb 23 E Aurora (JK); two Mar 2 Kiantone (EP); 61 Mar 18 SSLE (JB); 19 Mar 23 Silver Cr (JB). Broad-winged: one Mar 18 Evans (JB). Rough-legged: frequent reports of small numbers from Dec 19 through Mar and seven Jan 24, eight Feb 19 Lancaster (RR, JK); ten max Mar 10 TGMA (AF). Bald Eagle: one Jan 29 Barcelona (RS); single records—Feb 20, 22, 24, 27 Navy Is opp Grand Is (JFT, PB, GGW, JFT); Mar 4 Grand Is (GGW); Mar 6 Navy Is (AF) (changing imm with white tail, dark head); one Mar 6 Langford (TLB). Marsh Hawk: one Dec 26 (JCC, BCC); two Dec 28 Elma (DD); one Jan 22 Grand Is, Wilson (PB, WHK); one Feb 17 L View (TLB); two Mar 6f OOGMA (PB); one Mar 7 Belmont (EO); nine Mar 27 Lyndonv (WGS). Peregrine Falcon: one, two Jan 21, 22 Belmont (EO, LDB). Sparrow Hawk: 11 Dec 19 Youngstown—Wilson (WHK); many CC reports with max 26 Dec 26 (BCC); 25 Mar 23 Silver Cr (RB). Ruffed Grouse: on five of six CCs—max 18 Jan 1 (SCC). Bobwhite: nine Mar 27 OOGMA (MMW). Ring-necked Pheasant: 408 Jan 2 (BACC). Chukar: one Dec 18 Fowlerv (RFA, TLB). Turkey: eight, one Dec 14, 24 Wellsv (LDB); three Dec 21 Angelica (EO); three Jan 1 Belmont, 16 Feb 10 Wellsv, nine Mar 3 Alma Hill (LDB). American Coot: 447 Dec 12 Chau L (FMR); one Jan 29, four Mar 3 Dunkirk H (RS, RB); two Mar 23f Kiantone (EP). Killdeer: present all winter. American Woodcock: ten Mar 13 Cheektowaga (JK); one Mar 20 Elma (WC). Common Snipe: one Jan 16 Napoli (CK); one Mar 22f Bear L (EP); two Mar 23 Lancaster (JG). Greater Yellowlegs: one Dec 4 Grand Is (WHK); one Mar 19 Bay View (TLB); one Mar 22 TGMA (AF). Pectoral Sandpiper: one Mar 27 Alfred (CWS). Dunlin: one Jan 2 Chau L (RS), one of a flock of 12 similar birds—shot by hunter—feathers filed with BOS verification write-up. Red Phalarope: one Dec 6 Dunkirk H (WFS et al). Gulls: Glaucous: all winter, Nia R from Falls to L Ont; seven max Dec 26 (BCC); one Jan 13 Jamestown (CMB). Iceland (*L.g. kumlieni*); one Dec 9 Sturgeon Pt (TLB); thru Dec and Jan; five max Dec 31 (HRA). Great Black-backed: 147 Dec 26 (BCC); 15 Jan 1 (DCC); seven Jan 2 (BACC). Black-headed: one Dec 31 Lo Nia R (HRA); one Jan 1 Nia R (RDR). Bonaparte's: 14, 524 Dec 26 (JCC, BCC); 103 Jan 1 (DCC); two Jan 2 (BACC); 75 Jan 9 Lo Nia R (RDR). Little: one Dec 18 Lewiston (WHK). Common Tern: one Dec 16—Jan 5 Nia R opp Bflo (RF,

AF, HRA). Mourning Dove: groups of three, four, five, seven on CCs; 35, 18, 16, Dec 17, 19, 28 Lyndonv (WGS); 36, 125 Dec 22, 28 Elma (DD); 100 Jan 22 Marilla (DD); 42, 43 Jan 29, Feb 13 Belmont (LDB). Owls: Barn: one Jan 28 Hamburg (TLB) died soon after. Screech: four Dec 26 (BCC); one Jan 1 (SCC, DCCO). Great Horned: one Dec 26 (JCC); two Jan 1 (SCC). Snowy: winter flight light, mostly singles, Dec 1–Mar 15. Barred: one Jan 2 (BACC). Long-eared: one–ten (max) Dec 2–Mar 21 Lyndonv (WGS); several reports thru Jan and Mar 20 Grand Is (PB, GGW); four Jan reports Lancaster (JG); one Hamburg, Brant (TLB, DD). Saw-whet: one Feb 1, 2 Hamburg (TLB).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: one–seven (max) CCs; good reports along the Genesee R in Alleg Co; one–three Dec 1–31, one–two Feb 1–28 (EO, LDB); many Jan and Feb records along the large Crs and Rs where open water was constant; Mar none. Yellow-shafted Flicker: two–six (max) on CCs; regularly reported through each month except Mar–seven max Dec 29 Lancaster (JG); two Mar 4 L View (TLB). Woodpeckers: Pileated: two Dec 26 (JCC); six max Jan 1 (SCC); one Mar 13, 27 Clarence, Akron (WAM, HDM). Red-bellied: one–Jan 2 (BACC); Dec 17, Mar 28 Lyndonville (WGS); Jan 22, 29, Feb. 5 Caneadea (LDB); Feb 6 Taylor Hollow (JG); Feb 26, Mar 2, Batavia (GB, GGW); Mar 12 OOGMA (PB). Red-headed: one Mar 15 Belmont (EO). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Jan 2 (BACC). Hairy: all reports from CCs—eight, 31, 14 Dec 26 (OCC, JCC, BCC); 39, 4 Jan 1 (SCC, DCC); 47 Jan 2 (BACC). Downy: eight, 51, 56 Dec 26 (OCC, JCC, BCC); 91, 14 Jan 1 (SCC, DCC); 142 Jan 2 (BACC). Black-backed Three-toed: one Dec 8 Lancaster (JG). Eastern Phoebe: one Mar 21, 24 Amherst, Belmont (GGW, EO).

Horned Lark (*E.a. alpestris*): four, one, one Feb 15, 17, 26, N Boston, S Dayton, Wolcottsv (TLB, CMB, MMW); one–ten Mar 1–30 Belmont (EO); 18 Mar 27 TGMA (MMW). Horned Lark (*E.a. praticola*): 100 Dec 22 Elma (HCS); 45 Feb 15 N Boston (HBD); 142, 74 Feb 19, 26 Lyndonv (WGS); 200 max Feb 28 Wellsv (LDB). Tree Swallow: one Mar 23, 24 Kiantone, E Eden (EP, TLB). Purple Martin: one Mar 30 Depew (JG). BOREAL CHICKADEE: one Jan 15, 19, 27 Ashville (feeder) (RS) bird was trapped, measured, banded, photographed on Jan 19 (LK); one Mar 6–20 Alfred (CWK), this bird was probably the same bird, band was observed but not read (not retrapped) (LK, RS). Tufted Titmouse: Reported on four CCs; one, two, three, or four reported thru the winter; one Dec 12 Maryvale (FMR); two Dec 12–31 Lewiston (WHK); three Mar 1–31 Athol Spgs (WC); four max Jan 1–Feb 28 Athol Spgs (WC). White-breasted Nuthatch: well represented on CCs—117 Jan 1 (SCC); 133 max (BACC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: good showing, two–three Dec–Feb (DD); two Jan 1–31 N Boston (HBD); two Jan 1–31, Feb 6 Lyndonville (WGS); one Feb 23, 25 Fluvanna (CMB); eight max Jan 9 Alleg S Pk (FMR). Brown Creeper: nine max Dec 26, Jan 2 (JCC, BACC); two–three Mar 1–31 Elma (DD); one Mar 1–31 Alfred (CWK). Carolina Wren: one Dec 28 (JCC), Jan 21 Lewiston (WHK). Mockingbird: one Feb 1–5 Frewsburg (RS). Catbird: one Dec 1 Lyndonville (WGS). Brown Thrasher: one Dec 26 (BCC); Mar 24 Alfred (CWK). Robin: small numbers reported thru the winter and Region; mig started 26 Mar 3; 117 max Mar 18 Evans (JB). Hermit Thrush: one Dec 2, Jan 2 BISP (AF, PB). Eastern Bluebird: 16 Mar reports with nearly one-half from Alleg Co—one Mar 1 Lancaster (JG); Mar 9 L View (TLB); four Mar 17, 18 Somerset Lyndonv (PB, WGS); one–five (max) Mar 21–31 Belmont (EO); three Mar 26 Clarence (HF). Golden-crowned Kinglet: three, 16 Dec 26 (JCC, BCC); 18 Jan 2 (BACC). Water Pipit: 33, 25 Mar 23, 24 Hanover Ctr (RB, GGW); 50 max Mar 24 Belmont (LDB). Cedar Waxwing: six, seven Dec 26 (OCC, BCC); 16 Jan 1 (DCC); 18 Jan 2 (BACC); one Jan 31 Belmont (LDB); 15, 16 Jan 6, 18–15, 25 Feb 24, 27 Lyndonv (WGS); 75 Feb 11 Hamburg (TLB); Mar none. Northern Shrike: numerous winter reports thru Region—eight Dec 26 (BCC); one Mar 1, 13 Lancaster (JG), Mar 24 Eggertsv (WAM); Mar 26 Grand Is (PB). Loggerhead: one Mar 27 Lancaster

(JG); Mar 27 TGMA (MMW); Mar 28-29 Belmont (LDB); two Mar 31 nr Akron (GGW). Starlings: 678, 30,000 Dec 26 (JCC, BCC); 1036 Jan 1 (DCC); 600 Jan 2 (BACC); 1398 Mar 18 Evans (JB).

Eastern Meadowlark: one Dec 2, 6, 8 Eden, Lancaster, Cheektowaga, (TLB, JK, RR); nine Jan 1 (SCC); two Jan 2 (BACC); five-20 (max) Jan 5-29, four Feb 16 Lancaster (JK); two Jan 20 Orchard Pk (TLB); three Jan 22 Porter (WHK); two, 131 Mar 2, 18 Evans (JB). Blackbirds: Wintering blackbirds, except Rusty, were fairly numerous esp to the E and S of Bflo. Red-winged: increased from a single Dec report to 21 Jan 5 Lancaster (JK); 45 max Jan 15 Pt Breeze (HRA); decreased to five Feb reports with max four Feb 28 Evans (JB). Rusty: one Dec 11 Belmont (LDB). Common Grackle: numerous, well distributed, mostly singles; seven Jan 21, 50 max Feb 19 Elma (DD); 12 Feb 11 Wellsv (LDB). Brown-headed Cowbird: tend to winter S of Bflo, most reports of one or two. Light flights of blackbirds started Mar 3 increasing to, the max by mid-Mar. Red-winged: 81 Mar 3 Evans, 1558 Mar 13 SSLE 269 4 max Mar 18 Evans (JB); 1800 Mar 26 Riverside (RS). Rusty: five, 125 Mar 3, 9 Jamestown Roost (CMB); 70 Mar 20 TGMA (PB). Common Grackle: one Mar 2 (JK); 40, 148 Mar 3, 18 Evans (JB). Brown-headed Cowbird: 84 Mar 3 Evans (JB). Cardinal: well represented on CCs with max 146 Jan 2 (BACC). Evening Grosbeak: few records N of Rte 5; eight, two Dec 11, 12, one Feb 6, 24-five Mar 26 Lyndonv (WGS); scarce in Bflo-E Aurora-Hamburg area this season; the southern tier esp Alleg and Chau Cos well covered by varying numbers thru the period-47 Dec 2, 100 max Jan 22, eight-50 Feb 1-28, 30 Mar 1-31, 12 Mar 13 Alleg Co (LDB, CWK); eight Jan 1-31; one-60 Feb 1-28, one-45 Mar 1-31 Jamestown (RS); five-30 Mar 1-31 Frewsburg (Gulvin); eight-40 Feb 1-28 Hamburg (RFA). Purple Finch: one Dec 23 Belmont (KP); Dec 26 (OCC); 2, 1 Jan 1 (SCC, DCC); slight movement in Feb-one Feb 5-28 Belmont (EO); one Feb 24 Wellsv (LDB); one Feb 25 Hamburg (TLB); one Mar 1-15, 20, 24-31 Belmont (EO, LDB, EO); one Mar 29 Eden (TLB). Pine Grosbeak: small numbers well scattered thru the Reg and nearby Canadian Frontier, (mob) max number reports in Jan; five-12 Dec 4-29 Lyndonv (WGS); two, 19 Dec 26 (OCC, DCC); 15 Dec 28 Dunkirk (KOS); four Jan 9 Forest Lawn (HDM); 11 Jan 9 Alleg SPk (FMR); 28 Jan 29 L Erie SPk (RS); 30 Feb 7 Belmont (EO); 50 max Feb 19 Phillips Cr (CWK); 27 Mar 3 Andover (LDB); six Mar 13 OO area (JB). Common Redpoll: fair showing thru winter-28 Dec 3 Belmont (LDB); 45 Dec 28 Orchard Park (TLB); 90 max Jan 9 Ellery Ctr (LK); 85 Jan 14 Orchard Park (TLB); 40 Jan 15 Pt Breeze (HRA); 28 Feb 5 Lyndonv (WGS); 19 Mar 3 Evans (JB); three Mar 15 Athol Spgs (TLB); one Mar 27 Lancaster (RFA). Pine Siskin; 16 Dec 26 (OCC); nine max Dunkirk (FMR); three Jan 16 Newfane (WHK); three Jan 27, five Mar 10 Hamburg (TLB); two Feb 7 Alfred (CWK). Red Crossbill: 20 Mar 9 nr Chestnut Ridge Pk (WC). White-winged Crossbill: two Mar 4 Jamestown (EP), five, two Mar 13, 17 Lancaster (JG); four Mar 20 Wehrle Dr. quarry (PB). Rufous-sided Towhee: one Mar 28 Bflo (MME); two Mar 30 Lyndonv (WGS). Sparrows: Savannah: Mar 26 one-Cuba (LDB), Jamestown (CMB), Falconer (RS, LK); six Mar 27 Elma-Lancaster (RFA). Vesper: two Mar 25 Belmont (LDB); three, two Mar 26 Lancaster, Cuba (RR, LDB). OREGON JUNCO: one Jan 26, 30 Youngstown (WHK). Field: three Mar 29 Frewsburg (CMB); one Mar 29 Clymer; two Mar 30 Kiantone (EP). White-crowned: one Dec 4 Belmont (EO); one Dec 28 Dunkirk (KOS); one Jan 24 Hamburg (TLB). White-throated: one Jan 1-Mar 31 Snyder (RB). Swamp: one Dec 29, 30 Lancaster (JG). Song: two Dec 1-31, four Feb 1-28 Belmont (EO); four Jan 1 Buckhorn Is SPk (FMR); spring mig peak Mar 17, 18. Lapland Longspur: one Dec 7, Jan 11 Elma (HCS, DD); five Jan 25, one Feb 2, 70 Mar 5 Lancaster (JG); eight, six Mar 7, 9 Elma (DD, HCS). Snow Bunting: Good winter reports esp in Lo Erie and Alleg Cos; 25 and 250 Feb 6, 12 Lyndonv (WGS); 300, 500 (max) Jan 17, 22 (peak) Belmont (LDB).

193 LaSalle Ave., Buffalo 14214

## REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

December was warm and wet, with the ground bare much of the time. Because of these conditions, more than the usual number of half-hardy species lingered late. January was cold and set an alltime record for snow. A storm on January 23 brought 20 inches and a severe blizzard on January 30–February 2 buried the area under another 28 inches with severe drifting. The total fall for the month was over 60 inches. The rest of February and March produced below normal precipitation and the heavy snow cover disappeared without much flooding. Birds rushed to the feeders and except for the lingering half-hardy species did not seem to suffer unduly. Early March was mild and waterfowl appeared rather early with a good flight of both Whistling Swans and Canada Geese. There was a good early hawk flight March 18–19 although the Goshawk was not reported. Accompanying this was an early influx of the usual land birds. After this the weather turned colder with a temperature as low as 4° F on March 27. Very little migration took place from March 20 to the end of the period among the landbirds. Fair numbers of the wintering northern finches occurred, especially Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins. Outstanding birds reported included Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, King Eider, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Hoary Redpoll and Oregon Junco.

Observers listed in text: JWB—John W. Brown; WC—William Carlson; AC—Arlene Cornell; GD—Gertrude Davis; WD—William Dobson; JJD—James J. Doherty; MD—Michael Doherty; LD—Louella Drivness; JF—John Foster; RG—Richard Garnham; JH—Jeanne Haller; WH—William Hartranft; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitzer; EL—Edith Lank; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WL—Warren Lloyd; RM—Ruth MacRae; RGM—Robert G. McKinney; JM—Joseph McNett; TM—Thelma McNett; MM—Maryanne Menuhin; HSM—Howard S. Miller; JM—Jack Mitchell; LM—Laura Moon; NM—(Dr) Neil Moon; WM—(Dr) William Muchmore; DN—Donald Nelson; FP—Frank Phelps; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; NR—Nestor Ross; HS—Hugh Schaefer; OS—Oscar Schaefer; AS—Arthur Schaffner; ES—Esther Stiles; MS—Maryanne Sunderlin; ST—Stephen Taylor; FT—Frank Templeton; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow; PW—(Dr) Paul Weld; RW—Robert White.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock's Bay; CL—Conesus Lake; DEP—Durand-Eastman Park; ELS—East Lake Shore; GR—Genesee River; HSP—Hamlin State Park; HL—Hawk Lookout; IB—Irondequoit Bay; LL—Little Lakes; SP—Seneca Park; SB—Sodus Bay; WSP—Webster State Park; WLS—West Lake Shore.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe Chimney Bluffs Dec 4 (AEK), two SB Dec 15 (JF). Eared Grebe on CL Jan 2 (JWB, WCL). The latter observer has had previous records of this species locally. A Western Grebe Oklahoma Dec 5 (AEK, WL et al) studied very carefully under favorable conditions. Kemnitzer has observed the species in the west. The bird was looked for subsequently but not seen again. Single Pied-billed Grebes on CL Jan 2 (JWB, WCL, JN and FT), at Newark Jan 27 (MM, ES), on GR Feb 19 (HSM, RTO). A very late Great Blue Heron was at Honeoye Lake Jan 2 (Dort Cameron, RGM, et al). 43 Whistling Swans were on BB Mar 13 (JF, WCL), 28 at Manitou Beach the same day (LD), 61 on BB Mar 19 (GOS Hike), and 200 on the Groveland Flats Mar 24–27 (AC, JF, WCL, FT, and TET). An early flock of 25 Canada Geese over Rochester Mar 1 (HSM) and 10,000 on WLS Mar 19 (GOS Hike).

800 Mallards and 600 Black Ducks still on CL Jan 2 due to the late freezing of these small lakes (JWB, WCL, JM & FT). Single Gadwalls were on IB Dec 26 (JM, TM et al), and east of SB Dec 29 (WCL). Seven Green-winged Teal appeared on Groveland Flats Mar 13 (WC, TET). A lone Shoveler lingered on IB until Dec 29 (AEK), and two Wood Ducks were still at Newark Jan 14 (MM, ES). 40 Redheads SB Mar 13 (Lance Sunderlin, MS), and 75 were there Mar 26 (AEK, RGM). Ring-necked Duck max 185 on the ELS March 26 (AEK, RGM). 455 Canvasback were seen on the LL Jan 2 LL Census), and 350 were on SB March 26 (AEK, RGM). An estimated 1,000 Greater Scaup on the GR Feb 18 (AS) max for this wintering species. 800 Common Goldeneyes were moving west off Manitou Feb 2 (WCL), just after the blizzard. A sub-adult male King Eider was seen at Oklahoma Dec 4 (WCL, RW), and possibly the same bird was seen at Manitou Feb 2 (WCL). A flight of 267 White-winged Scoters was observed at Manitou Feb 1 and 500 Feb 2 (after blizzard) (WCL). 200 along the WLS March 6 (RD). Two Surf Scoters, an uncommon species here except in the fall, at HSP March 6 (RD). 12 Common Scoters were at Oklahoma Dec 5, and two Jan 1 (JM, TM); four were noted at HSP March 26 (RTO). This bird also is uncommon locally except during the fall flight. 12 Hooded Mergansers were seen along the ELS Dec 29 (AEK).

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Two Turkey Vultures seen at the HL Mar 19 (GOS Hike) were the first of the year. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Webster Feb 2 (JM, TM) and seven were noted during a hawk flight at the HL Mar 18 (mob). Single Cooper's Hawks at Conesus Dec 18 (WCL), at South Park Dec 26 (WN, DN), and at SP Jan 16 (JJD, FP). Six at the HL Mar 19 (GOS Hike). 60 Red-tailed Hawks at the HL Mar 19 (GOS Hike) was the early spring peak count. Red-shouldered Hawk max 186 HL March 18 (mob) and 100 there Mar 19 (GOS Hike). Five Rough-legged Hawks were seen along the WLS March 5 (RD), seven at the HL March 18 (several). Two adult Bald Eagles were seen at Hemlock Lake Jan 2 (WL, MS) and possibly the same birds were seen at Springwater March 23 (WCL).

Eight Ruffed Grouse were seen in the LL area Jan 2 (LL Census). A Killdeer was still at Hemlock Lake Jan 2 (WL, MS). The first spring migrant was observed at BB Mar 5 (JJD, HSM). White-winged gulls were scarce, one Glaucous Gull CL Jan 2 (JWB, WCL). The latter observer saw an Iceland Gull of the subspecies "kumlieni" at Point Breeze Jan 16. An immense concentration of Herring (est 21,000) and Ring-billed (est 4000) Gulls occurred along the WLS Dec 11 (WCL). Three hundred Bonaparte's Gulls were on IB Dec 19 (JJD). High counts of wintering Mourning Doves: 100 along Lake Shore Jan 16 (RTO), 32 in Penfield Feb 1 (GD), 85 in Webster Feb 2 (JM, TM).

11 Great Horned Owls were recorded in the LL area Jan 2 (LL Census) and a pair at their nest were noted in Webster Feb 5-24 (AEK). The Snowy Owl was unrecorded. A Barred Owl was heard near Sodus Mar 30 (JF, TET). The only Long-eared Owl reported was seen in HSP Mar 5 (RD). The Short-eared Owl continued scarce with only one report, a bird in Webster Jan 20 (WL). Saw-whet Owl: one, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rochester Mar 30 (NM).

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING.** Four Yellow-shafted Flickers were seen at Mt. Morris Feb 26 (FT) and eight on the WLS March 19, (GOS Hike). Five Pileated and ten Red-bellied Woodpeckers were at Mt. Morris Feb 26 (FT). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was in SP Dec 5 (NR), two in Penfield Dec 26 (HS, OS), one at Canadice Lake Jan 2 (JJD, MD). One to three Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers (possibly four) frequented an area consisting predominantly of dead elms in the Camp Cutler Woods of WSP until at least Mar 13 (JF, WCL). They were tame and gave ample opportunity for observing their habits. Several local observers added a "lifer" to their lists with little effort. One of this species was seen

at Hemlock Lake Jan 2 (WL, MS). A good count of 100 Horned Larks was made along the WLS Mar 6 (RD). Long-billed Marsh Wren Cranberry Pond Dec 24 (WCL). Four Mockingbirds were in Webster Dec 26 (B. Kemnitzer, JM, TM), one at CL Jan 2 (WCL et al), one wintered in Penfield (JJD et al). About 20 Robins wintered in DEP (several) and 400 were migrating along the WLS Mar 26 (GOS Hike). A Hermit Thrush was in SP Dec 26 (JM). Eight Eastern Bluebirds were at Manitou Mar 14 (LM). A large, early flock of 80 Water Pipits was reported from Fowlersville Mar 25 (FT). Northern Shrikes were uncommon but an occasional bird was reported.

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS:** An E. Meadowlark was seen at Mt. Morris Feb 26 (RT) and an estimated 300 birds passed Manitou Mar 19 (GOS Hike). Two Rusty Blackbirds were at a feeder in Penfield Dec 19 (GD). On Feb 1 (after the blizzard), there were five there. Most of the blackbirds appeared rather early. High counts of Evening Grosbeaks were 29 at Honeoye Lake Jan 2, 30 on WSP Feb 18 (AS) and 25 in Webster Feb 19 (JM, TM). The Purple Finch was unreported. A flock of about 25 Pine Grosbeaks wintered in DEP. Six stayed until Mar 6 (GD). A Hoary Redpoll was carefully studied and compared with the commoner species in Parma Dec 26 (WCL). Common Red-polls: max 200 Irondequoit Mar 13 (LM, NM). Pine Siskins: max 200 Irondequoit Mar 5 (JJD, HSM). 60 Amer. Goldfinches were seen near Egypt Jan 20. Two Red Crossbills seen Feb 23 (RTO) was the only report. White-winged Crossbills were reported from Rochester, Canadice Lake, Webster and Irondequoit with max 6 in DEP Dec 26 (PW). An Oregon Junco was seen at a feeder in Egypt Feb 24 (AEK). Less well marked juncos were seen in Greece and Irondequoit. Whether these were obscure "oregonus," hybrids, or the subspecies "cismontanus" is unknown.

A Field Sparrow was in HSP Dec 20 (WCL), four at CL Jan 2 (WCL et al), one in Newark Feb 23 (MM, ES), one at Mt. Morris Feb 26 (FT). White-crowned Sparrow one, Avon from Jan 15-31 (JH), one Palmyra Jan 29 (WH). White-throated Sparrows were scarce but an occasional bird was reported. Lapland Longspurs: max 42 Jan 16 (WCL) and 110 Jan 25 along WLS (ST). Peak counts on Snow Buntings were 500 near Point Breeze March 20 (JJD, HSM) and 200 at Manitou Feb 18 (NR).

2080 E. Main Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14609

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## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

DOROTHY W. McILROY

Sally Spofford and I temporarily changed places. While she was in the Southwest, I compiled the Regional Report, then she took over printing and mailing of this issue while I was in England.

Until mid-January the weather was warmer than usual with no snow cover. Montezuma Refuge did not freeze over until Jan 9. Waterfowl Census day, Jan 16, was very cold and windy with poor visibility thru a mist layer swirling over the surface of all open water. The Jan 30-31 blizzard dropped about 17 inches of snow that was piled into drifts by winds up to 60 miles an hour, but by mid-February much of the snow had disappeared. A mid-March warm spell which brought in Robins, Song Sparrows and Woodcock was followed by cold and snow. John Morse reported that at Montezuma Refuge "all pools were free of ice March 19, the earliest date, by a full week, for the past nine years."

Due to the open pools, waterfowl stayed at Montezuma into January in larger numbers than usual. From Sally Spofford's report, Waterfowl Census "species count

was 19, the same as '62 and '63 but below '64 and '65. . . . Every body of water (Note: Canandaigua Lake was not covered in '66) showed a decrease in numbers. . . . Redheads had really crashed. Poor visibility might account for such misses as Common Loon, but no additional large rafts were reported after the census, the general feeling being that the ducks were really scarce."

Most of the winter finches were reported throughout the period, but only in small numbers, except Evening Grosbeaks. Slate-colored Juncos and Tree Sparrows were scarce, Snow Bunting flocks were mostly small. Late March migration seemed delayed—for example, Savannah Sparrow was still unreported on Mar 31.

Rarities included Bohemian Waxwing, Boreal Chickadee, Hoary Redpoll, Barrow's Goldeneye for fourth consecutive winter and Lesser Black-backed Gull for third consecutive winter.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; Sen—Seneca; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; WFC—Federation Waterfowl Census Jan 16.

Contributors frequently cited: JBar—Jamesine Bardeen; WEB—Walter E. Benning; JB—Jack Brubaker; HF—Helen Fessenden; FG—Frank Guthrie; WG—William Groesbeck; WH—Wilifred Howard; JM—John Morse; BS—Betty Strath; JW—Jayson Walker; MW—Mary Welles.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: very few. Red-throated Loon: not often reported—one Mar 12 s. end Cay L (Grzybowski et al). Red-necked Grebe: more than usual—one Mar 20 MNWR (WEB); three near Sheldrake, Cay L Mar 22 (BS) when large numbers of Horned Grebes were also seen; two Mar 22 Sen L at Lodi (BS). Horned Grebe: 39 on WFC compared with 198 in '65; increase evident Mar 9 Cay L; 200 Cay L, Sheldrake to Cay State Pk Mar 22 (BS). Pied-billed Grebe: three on WFC; one wintered s. end Cay L. Great Blue Heron: still present Jan 1; first spring Mar 24 Chemung R (WH). Mute Swan: Cay L Feb 26 (D. Lancaster); four Cay L Mar 20 (WEB). Whistling Swan: one stayed at MNWR to Jan 5; first spring, two Mar 19 MNWR (WEB); near and on Sen L Mar 22 (JBar); only large flock, 60 Keuka L near Penn Yan last week of Mar (FG).

Canada Goose: usual large numbers Cay L in Mar; at MNWR (JM)—200 until pools froze Jan 9, first flocks returned Mar 11, 26,000 Mar 24, only 10,000 Mar 31 (pools partly frozen again); more than usual Sen L both wintering (90) and migrating (FG); heavy influx Mar 11, 12 and 16, 17 Elmira (MW). Snow Goose: at MNWR—last, three Dec 5 (WEB), first 60 Mar 19 (WEB); flock of about 200 Hector Falls, Sen L Mar 23 (fide BS). Blue Goose: at MNWR—last, nine Dec 5 (WEB), first spring 180 Mar 19 (WEB), 280 Mar 24 (JM).

Mallard: 1450 still at MNWR first week of Jan (JM). Gadwall: 11 WFC compared with none in '65, eight at Hammondsport being first winter record for Keuka L (FG). Pintail: Jan 7 SWS (A. Lane); first spring, one Mar 4 MNWR (WEB). Blue-winged Teal: one Mar 24 MNWR (JM), early. Am. Widgeon: 15 still at MNWR mid-Jan (JM); two wintered s. end Cay L; migrants in Mar except at Elmira where there were none by end of Mar although usually common after mid-Mar (MW). Shoveler: two Mar 5, very early, MNWR (JM). Wood Duck: two wintered SWS, one female wintered s. end Cay L. Redhead: 3350 still at MNWR first week Jan (JM); 2165 on WFC compared with 6981 in '65. Canvasback: seemed scarce. Scaup: 1520 on WFC compared with 1705 in '65; very scarce Sen L, no more than four or five seen together (FG). Common Goldeneye: numbers seemed low. BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: female with Common Goldeneyes Cay L at Sheldrake Feb 8 (E. Johnson) to mid-Mar (mob)—fourth consecutive winter at same place. Oldsquaw: a few Cay L, first Mar 9 (S. Spofford); two reports Mar 30 Hornell area (FG). Ruddy Duck: 15 at Perry's Pt, Mar 16 Keuka L (M. Lerch) "unusually large number for this date". Hooded Merganser: female s. end Cay L.



**HAWKS—OWLS:** At MNWR JM reported that "during the first three weeks of Jan we had a relatively large number of hawks using the area"—max, Red-tailed 11, Rough-legged 4, Marsh 2, Sparrow 1-3; a drop in numbers after Jan 23 snow-storm. Goshawk: seen frequently just n. of Ithaca, three different imm (B. Gebhart); one adult Jan 1 Ithaca (W. Spofford); one found shot Six Mile Creek, Ithaca Jan 14; one s. of MNWR in Feb and one MNWR Mar 18 (Refuge personnel). Sharp-shinned Hawk: very scarce; one Elmira Jan 11 (MW), one Union Springs Mar 5 (WEB). Cooper's Hawk: also scarce; pair seen Nov or Dec, West Hill, Ithaca, and male seen six dates Jan 11—Feb 8 in same area (Hannan); one Montour Falls Feb 2 and 5 (BS); one near Trumansburg Feb 6 (E. Hemphill); imm found dead, May's Pt Fishing Area, near MNWR Apr 5, had been dead at least a week (JM). Red-tailed Hawk: a few wintered in Region. Red-shouldered Hawk: only one Jan 9 Ithaca (HF). Rough-legged Hawk: only concentration was at MNWR, other scattered reports. Marsh Hawk: several reports up to Jan 23, few after; female with several primaries missing and body plumage disheveled Jan 18 Jasper (WG). No eagles. No Peregrines. Sparrow Hawk: a few present most areas all winter.

Bobwhite: scattered reports; largest flock 11, Feb 4 Jacksonville (Mrs. J. Knight). Turkey: larger number of sightings and reports of fresh tracks indicate spreading in hills s. of Dryden and Ithaca; 50 seen Conn. Hill mid-Mar (Mrs. J. Barton). Virginia Rail: one Jan 21, very late, MNWR (JM). Killdeer: for first time none wintered Elmira area, first Mar 3 (MW); appeared generally by mid-Mar but none in Hornell area to Mar 31 (WG). Am. Woodcock: a late one during Christmas Census period near Burdett (M. Bardeen); first spring Mar 5 Ithaca (C. Page) about a week early; 18 calling in four miles near Ithaca late Mar (HF). Common Snipe: first Mar 19 Montour Airport (JB). Glaucous Gull: three reports Cay L Dec 12—Feb 10. Iceland Gull: three reports (two imm, one adult) s. end Cay L. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: slaty-backed adult seen irregularly Stewart Pk, Ithaca Jan 1 to Feb 14, third successive winter there. Ring-billed Gull: seemed increasing at Keuka Pk (FG).

All owls were scarce at Elmira, no Barn, Barred, Long-eared or Short-eared (MW). Great Horned Owl: at least two pairs wintered at MNWR, one nesting w. of Route 89 (JM); pair nesting SWS. Snowy Owl: only reports—one Dec 3-5, Jan 26, Mar 5 at or near MNWR (WEB) possibly all same bird; one Mar 26 MNWR (R. Walker). Short-eared Owl: two reports—one Jan 15 and one Feb 16 Clyde R (WEB). Saw-whet Owl: one Eaton Bird Club Christmas Count; one Mar 19-23 in a hole where a Pileated nested last summer in a tree standing in water in a beaver pond at Staches, Town of Caton, Elmira area (fide MW).

**GOATSUCKERS—SPARROWS:** Yellow-shafted Flicker: very few wintered, none in Hornell to end of period (WG). Red-bellied Woodpecker: increasing Keuka Pk, at least six (FG); one at feeder Reading Center late Nov to first week Jan; two Eaton Club Christmas Count; at least two Ithaca area. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one still at Penn Yan Feb 5 (F. Orcutt). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: the male at Beebe L, Ithaca seen occasionally until just after Christmas. E. Phoebe: one first week Mar Alpine (E. Bishop); elsewhere late—next report Ithaca area Mar 23 (in three locations). Tree Swallow: late dates—two Jan 2 MNWR (WEB), also MNWR Jan 21; first spring, three Mar 23 MNWR (Menuhin, Stiles). Common Crow: on increase once more Geneva (JW); heavier than usual migration Keuka Pk (FG); "contrary to years past, very few wintered" MNWR, one seen Jan 21, two Feb 25, by Mar small numbers present (JM). COMMON RAVEN: very rare—one Feb 9 Ithaca (C. Kepler). BOREAL CHICKADEE: one at feeder in Montour Falls after the Jan snowstorm (J. Barton). Red-breasted Nuthatch: fairly numerous. Winter Wren: only two, one each Schuyler Co and Ithaca Christmas Counts. Carolina Wren: wintered at two feeders Ithaca; pair all winter Watkins Glen (L. Banners); scarce Elmira for second winter (MW).

Mockingbird: two Chemung Valley and three Ithaca Christmas Counts; five records Keuka area. Brown Thrasher: one Jan 1 Ithaca. Hermit Thrush: one at feeder Feb 9 thru Mar, Ithaca (W. Brosseau). Bluebird: still scarce; back at four nest box projects near Watkins Glen (JBar). Water Pipit: small flocks reported Montour Airport Mar 27 (JB) and Mar 28 at Odessa (BS) and King Ferry (D. McIlroy). Golden-crowned Kinglet: scarce everywhere. BOHEMIAN WAXWING: one Jan 1 Ithaca (R. Fischer)—very rare. Northern Shrike: five reports Dec 12—Feb 28. Myrtle Warbler: *none*. Baltimore Oriole: one wintered Indian Pines, Keuka L (FG). E. Meadowlark: almost none wintered. Few Red-winged Blackbirds, Grackles and Cowbirds wintered, large flocks began arriving Mar 3 and 4. Rusty Blackbird: two wintered Penn Yan (F. Orcutt).

Cardinal: fewer on Chemung Valley Christmas Count. Evening Grosbeak: the most common winter finch. Purple Finch: very scarce Watkins area (JBar), a few in Ithaca, common in some Elmira areas. Pine Grosbeak: small flocks most areas to late Mar. Common Redpoll: common in Geneva area, regular Watkins and Ithaca in small numbers, only three reports Elmira and one Homell. HOARY REDPOLL: S. Wheelock and W. Getty reported two in a flock of Common Redpolls Mar 30 on Reed Rd, between Geneva and Gorham (fide JW). Red Crossbill: small numbers Watkins and Ithaca areas throughout period; only two reports near Elmira. White-winged Crossbill: a few small flocks into Feb most areas, scarcer thereafter. Rufous-sided Towhee: one Jan 1 Ithaca (C. Treman), one Jan 29 Elmira; Mar 31 Geneva (JW). Few sparrows wintered and some spring arrivals were late: Savannah—none; Vesper—only report Mar 27 Watkins Glen (R. Champion); Field—still present Jan 1, no spring reports; Swamp—one report Mar 23 Montour Airport (BS). Slate-colored Juncos and Tree Sparrows scarce except in Geneva area. Oregon Junco: one Mar 28 Elmira (E. Ruggles). White-crowned Sparrow: a late one Jan 2 Watkins Glen (JB). Fox Sparrow: a few reports, first Mar 1 Ithaca (W. Brosseau). Song Sparrow: in good numbers in late Mar. Lapland Longspur: several reports of one to three Elmira and Ithaca area. Snow Bunting: scattered reports of small flocks to late Mar, almost no large flocks.

419 Triphammer Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

It was a generally mild winter, the severe blizzard of Jan 30 through Feb 3 notwithstanding. The only other major snowfalls came Jan 23–24, Feb 24–25 and Mar 24–25 but there were several other dates when more than one inch fell. Temperatures averaged below normal only in Jan and went below zero only seven days, all between Jan 16 and Feb 20. The below average precipitation of 1965 continued through Dec but totals for Jan and Feb were appreciably higher than normal and for Mar only a little below. Temperatures were well above normal Mar 1–5 and Mar 18–23 but well below normal Mar 7–9 and Mar 25–29.

The variety of "winter finches" was the outstanding feature of the winter. All the reasonably to be expected species were reported and all but Red Crossbills and Purple Finches in fairly large numbers. Boreal Chickadees were also present in some places and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Robins and Song Sparrows wintered in larger than normal numbers. Mockingbird reports continue to increase but cowbirds were absent and Tree Sparrows were substantially reduced in numbers.

Winter raptors were disappointing although Bald Eagles around the Pepacton

Reservoir provided some interest. Northern Shrikes were generally, if not thickly, distributed.

The only observed cold weather casualties were three Blue Jays and a misguided Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The warm spells in Mar produced some early migrants, most notably a Mar 24 Purple Martin.

Observers: LA—Mrs. L. Atkinson; LB—L. Bemont; DB—D. Bendle; WB—W. Breidinger; HC—H. Colby; MC—M. Cubberly; C, JD—C. & J. Davis; M, AD—M. & A. Davis; RD—R. Dirig; AE—A. Evelien; CG—C. Gerould; SG—S. Gorton; JGt—J. Grant; JGr—Mrs. J. Gray; JG—J. Gustafson; CH—C. Howard; FL—F. Linaberry; HM—H. Marsi; AM—A. Morey; RO'N—R. O'Neil; JO—J. Osadchey; RP—R. Pantle; RS—R. Saunders; MS—M. Sheffield; RPS—R. P. Sheffield; DW—D. Weber; MW—M. White; R, SW—R. & S. White; EW—E. Williams; RW—R. Williams; SW—S. Wilson, Jr.; HW—H. Wisner.

Abbreviations used: Bing—Binghamton; CC—Choconut Center; CVSP—Chenango Valley State Park; Chen—Chenango; IH—Ingraham Hill; Pep Res—Pepacton Reservoir; Skan L—Skaneateles Lake; Sky—Skyline, Tioga Co., WP—Whitney Point.

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: singles on Skan L Jan 1 and 16 (JO); migrants Mar 13, WP (MS, RPS). Pied-billed Grebe: one Jan 2 Endicott (LB); migrants Mar 27 Norwich (R, SW). Great Blue Heron: one Feb 4 Cortland (JGr); one Feb 15 Homer (JG). Mute Swan: one Feb 1 (RO'N, mob), spent all of Feb and Mar on Chen R in Bing. Whistling Swan: four Mar 19 (MW, CG, RW). Canada Goose: ten Jan 16 Owego (RW, et al), same day 33 Skan L (JO, JGt); 30 plus Feb 1 Chen Bridge (SG); one all winter at Candor (DW), an unusual number of winter reports; migrants Mar 5, heavy flights Mar 11 to 20. Snow Goose: one Jan 16 Skan L (JO, JGt). Gadwall: one Jan 2 Endicott (HM), injured. Pintail: five Mar 13 WP (MS, RPS). Green-winged Teal: one Mar 13 WP (MS, RPS), one same day Little York (WB). Blue-winged Teal: Mar 16 Campville (FL), early. American Widgeon: five Dec 31 Skan L (JG); Mar 5 Lounsberry (CG). Wood Duck: one male all winter at Scott (Tinker); one female Bing with Mute Swan from Feb 25 (RO'N); Mar 5 Lounsberry (CG). Redhead: 130 Jan 16 Skan L (JO, JGt). Ring-necked Duck: Mar 20 WP (MS). Canvasback: 75 Jan 16 Skan L (JO, JGt); one Mar 21 Pep Res (MC). Scaup: ten Greater Jan 16 Skan L (JO, JGt); 25 (sp?) Mar 20 WP (LB). Common Goldeneye: a few all winter. Hooded Merganser: Mar 19 WP (MW, CG, RW). Red-breasted Merganser: Feb 10 Owego (CG, MW).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: one Mar 20 Hancock (RD); Mar 23 Chen Bridge (SG); 50 Mar 31 counted between Deposit and Long Eddy (RW). Goshawk: one Jan 27 and 31 CC (MS, RPS). Red-tailed Hawk: eight Dec 31 Cortland Christmas Count; migrants Mar 5, max 10 Mar 14 Skyline (RW). Red-shouldered Hawk: one Mar 6 Owego (RW); no others. Rough-legged Hawk: one Mar 10 Owego (RW), the only report. Bald Eagle: at least three, one adult and two imm wintered around Pep Res frequently feeding on dog-killed deer (MC); two Mar 2 Hancock (RD); two Mar 15 Owego (RW, MW, CG). Marsh Hawk: Mar 28 South Apalachin (CG). Osprey: one Mar 31 South Apalachin (CG), early. Sparrow Hawk: migrants about Mar 18. Turkey: reported at Newark Valley State Lands (MW, CG), Candor (DW) and South Owego (AE). American Coot: one during Jan Skan L (JO, JGt). Virginia Rail: one killed in muskrat trap Dec 17 Unadilla (HW). Killdeer: one Jan 14 Owego (EW); migrants Mar 4. Woodcock: Mar 10 Owego (RW). Great Black-backed Gull: one in Feb Skan L (JO). Ring-billed Gull: 125 Dec 5 and six Dec 31 Cortland (JG); one Jan 2 Bing (HM); no more until Mar 19. Mourning Dove: max wintering 30 E. Homer (LA); migrants Mar 17. Screech Owl: 6 reports all period. Horned Owl: eight Jan 2 Bing Christmas Count. Barred Owl: one Mar 23 Hancock (RD).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: five Jan 2 Bing Christmas Count; a few other winter reports. Yellow-shafted Flicker: two Mar 7 McGraw (JG); three later Mar records. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Dec 31 Cortlandville (J. Siedenbergl), seen again in Jan. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Mar 27 Cortland (AM). Phoebe: Mar 12 Owego (AE). Horned Lark: reports since Jan 2, max 200 Feb 23 IH (CH). Tree Swallow: Mar 22 Greene (C, JD) and Chen Forks (M, AD). Purple Martin: one very early female Mar 24 Homer (JG). Blue Jay: very numerous all winter; 77 returns and 194 new bandings at Deposit (SW); three found frozen in bad weather Hancock (RD). Crow: 157 Dec 31 Cortland Census and 96 Jan 2 Bing Census; numbers increasing from mid Feb. Black-capped Chickadee: 84 returns and 190 new bandings Deposit (SW). Boreal Chickadee: Jan 1 and 16 CVSP (R, SW, MS); Jan 2 Chen Bridge (SG, RS); also at Owego during period (HC). Tufted Titmouse: reported only at Bing and Hancock. Red-breasted Nuthatch: eight Dec 31 Cortland Census; 69 Jan 2 Bing Census; quite common in most of Region all period. Winter Wren: one Jan 2 Endwell (LB); the only report. Mockingbird: four Jan 2 Bing Census; one at Nichols (Mrs. C. Stauff); one at Owego (EW, DB); one at Unadilla in Mar (HW). Brown Thrasher: Mar 31 South Apalachin (CG). Robin: larger numbers wintering than usual; max in winter ten plus Jan 23 CC (MS, RPS) feeding on multiflora; migrants from about Mar 8, large numbers from Mar 17. Eastern Bluebird: Mar 9 Candor; promising numbers. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 11 Jan 2 Bing Census; very few others. Water Pipit: 12 Mar 28 and 29 Homer (JG), "eating small insects caught in thin ice on flooded pasture." Cedar Waxwing: not very numerous during winter. Northern Shrike: only seven specific reports during period. Loggerhead Shrike: one banded Mar 25 Deposit (SW); Mar 26 South Apalachin (CG, MW).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Myrtle Warbler: one Jan 2 Bing Census (RP); no more.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: one Jan 27 (Mrs. C. Hills); two Feb records; migrants Mar 18. Redwinged Blackbird: the usual small number wintering; migrants regular after Mar 3. Rusty Blackbird: Mar 7 Chen Bridge (SG) and Deposit (SW). Common Grackle: seven Dec 31 Cortland Census and 11 Jan 2 Bing Census then none until Mar 3. Brown-headed Cowbird: no winter reports; migrants Mar 2. Cardinal: 77 Bing Census. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: imm banded Dec 19 Deposit, around until found dead Jan 8 (SW). Evening Grosbeak: common all winter, more at feeders after Jan 10. Purple Finch: scarce, but not completely absent. Pine Grosbeak: one of the best years on record; common to the end of Feb and still at Greene Mar 26 (M, AD). Redpoll: became common in Dec; several flocks numbering in the hundreds during the winter; still at Sidney Mar 30 (F. Quick). Pine Siskin: common all winter. Goldfinch: common all winter, but became more so, at least at feeders, after Jan 29. Red Crossbill: 50 Jan 2 CVSP (MS, RPS); no others. White-winged Crossbill: reported frequently in Dec and Jan but noticeably less numerous thereafter; seven Mar 13 E. Homer (F. Newman). Rufous-sided Towhee: one Jan 21 and 26 E. Homer (LA); Mar 1 Cortland (JG); Mar 24 Hinman's Corners (RS, J. Saunders). Slate-colored Junco: the usual small unevenly distributed numbers wintering; heavy migratory flight evident about Mar 25. Tree Sparrow: much reduced numbers all winter swelled somewhat by migrants in mid Mar. Field Sparrow: Mar 24 Chen Forks (M, AD). White-crowned Sparrow: three Dec 31 Cortland Census. White-throated Sparrow: one all winter at Andes (MC) and Cortland (AM); three other reports during period. Fox Sparrow: one Feb 17 on Chen Forks (M, AD); no others until Mar 20. Swamp Sparrow: Mar 31 Owego (S. Turner). Song Sparrow: more than usual wintering; migrants about Mar 10. Lapland Longspur: three Feb 23 IH (CH), no others. Snow Bunting: only five reports; max 600 Feb 23 IH (CH).

710 University Ave., Endwell 13763

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

December gave promise of a mild, open winter and Oneida Lake had open water to January 2. However, January cancelled the promise and produced severe freezing weather (the worst ice conditions on the Oswego River and Lake Ontario in 20 years) and a people-disrupting, bird-decimating blizzard (Jan 30–Feb 2). Much of the blizzard snowfall had gone by mid-February and a few Killdeer and Lapland Longspur returned only to be met by more snow and more cold, the latter continuing to Mar 17 when the first major influx of spring landbirds and hawks occurred. A veritable heat wave and strong south winds for the next week gave hope for an early spring (Oneida Lake was open by March 28) but this was not to be. Cold weather, north winds, rain, and snow in unremitting sequence started and have not ended as of this date (April 20).

Positive features for the winter include 1) a massive winter finch invasion, dominated by Redpolls and Pine and Evening Grosbeaks with lesser numbers of Pine Siskin and both Crossbills—Purple Finches were, however, scarce; 2) moderate numbers of Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes; 3) a light flight of both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls; 4) small incursions of both Boreal Chickadee and Black-backed Woodpeckers; and 5) an “echo flight” of Snowy Owls.

Minus items in this season's ornithological ledger are 1) a marked drop in the wintering numbers of Common Merganser and Greater Scaup; 2) a continuing paucity of both Canvasbacks and Redheads; 3) extreme scarcity of both Long-eared and Short-eared Owls (even more notable in view of the numbers of Rough-legged Hawks about); 4) the loss of the many December half hardies by the late January blizzard; and 5) the lack of any large spring flights of Snow Buntings.

Rarities for the season include Golden Eagle, Saw-whet Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Hoary Redpoll, and Oregon Junco.

Abbreviations: BBFS—B. Burt's feeder survey, held the first week of each month (all figures are for 100 reports); HIGMA CC—Howland's Island Christmas Count Jan 1 ( $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Montezuma Audubon circle); Oneida CC—Oneida Christmas Count Jan 2; Oswego CC—Oswego Christmas Count Dec 23; Syr CC—Syracuse Christmas Count Dec 26; Derby Hill—migration observation site on L Ontario near Texas; HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; N Syr—North Syracuse; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski; Syr Airport—Syracuse Airport; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville; VBSP—Verona Beach State Park; arr—arrival, arrived.

Observers: DA—D. Ackley; J & BB—J. and B. Barker; VB—V. Billings; GL & MC—G. L. and M. Church; MLE—M. L. Estoff; JRH—J.R. Haugh; SH—Stuart Hosler, P & SP—P. and S. Paquette; DBP—D. B. Peakall; JWP—J. W. Propst; AR—A. Raynesford; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F.G. Scheider; EMS—E. M. Starr.

LOONS—DUCKS: Single Common Loon and Red-necked Grebe on Oswego CC, unreported thereafter despite mild weather of early Jan. Horned Grebe: max 80 on L Ontario Jan 20; none reported from Skaneateles L, a reversal of the wintering birds' usual distribution. Pied-billed Grebe: three wintered at Baldwinsville (SH) Feb 2 to early Mar; arr Mar 4, one, Brewerton (JWP)—very early.

Great Blue Heron: singles reported on three of the four area Christmas counts; an imm Feb 27 near Kirkland (DA, PP) successfully wintered.

Canada Goose: winter flock at HIGMA down to four (lowest in ten years); spring arr Mar 3, Brewerton; max tallies 2200 Mar 26 and 2500 Mar 30, both HIGMA (JWP).

*Wintering ducks*—Mallard and Black Duck: both down in numbers, Blacks particularly so—max 661 Mallard and 419 Black on WFC, the first year Mallards have exceeded Blacks; severe ice and late hunting may explain this pattern. Half-hardy dabbling ducks: four Pintail, a male Baldpate, and a male Green-winged Teal attempted to winter at Oswego; only Pintail persisted after the severe freezing and great blizzard; *all* of the above dabblers plus a Blue-winged Teal were tallied on Oswego CC, anatine evidence of the very mild Dec.

Redhead: extremely scarce; max 161, Skaneateles L; at Oswego, max six Jan 16; just two reported at Baldwinsville all winter. Ring-necked Duck: a male at Fulton and a female at Oswego attempted to winter; the female persisted but the male was not noted after Jan 16. Canvasback: very low, 53 WFC; most tallies one-20/day; scarce but not as scarce as Redheads. Greater Scaup: winter numbers low with max 3700 Feb 6 Oswego R and Harbor; counts at Skaneateles L 300±, very low. Common Goldeneye: 1613 for WFC; other high counts include 500 Feb 8 and 820 Feb 23, Oswego; low tallies of late Jan thru early Mar are undoubtedly secondary to the severe icing, but no concomitant rise in numbers noted on the few open pools along Oswego R. Oldsquaw: max 323 WFC, second highest in ten years; active courtship noted Jan 16. White-winged (two), Surf (four) and Common (two) Scoters noted on L Ontario Dec 31; only the White-winged survived the early Jan duck hunting season and the severe cold of late Jan and early Feb.

Common Merganser: 2600 on WFC is quite low; no improvement in numbers with severe late Jan weather as sometimes occurs; a complete freeze-up of Cross L eliminated any concentration of this species there. Red-breasted Merganser: winter tallies low—max 48 for WFC, and counts at Oswego averaged only six-eight/day.

*Spring ducks*—Mallard and Black Duck: vernal flight frankly poor—max 75 Mallards and 150 Blacks Mar 28, and 91 Mallards Mar 31 (combined tally) HIGMA and Seneca R floodlands. Similarly low is a tally of 45 Baldpate Mar 31 HIGMA; also Gadwall were in two-six/day only, Feb 27 (early—MLE, JWP) to Mar 31, quite in contrast to the high counts of last fall. Pintail: arr Mar 13 Derby Hill (JRH) is late; numbers fairly good—700 Mar 17 and 300 Mar 31, both at HIGMA; lesser numbers, 19-60/flock, at Clay Swamp, Bridgeport, Bolivar, and Derby Hill (mob). Green-winged Teal arr Mar 19, Clay Swamp, with Blue-winged Teal there Mar 23; numbers of both species less than ten/day (very low) for remainder of Mar. Wood Duck: Mar 4, two, early; Mar numbers low (only two-four/day).

Migrant Canvasbacks appeared in better numbers this spring with 650 Mar 24, but Redhead extremely low—max *eight* Oneida L Mar 27, and Apr tallies are no better. Ring-necked Duck: max tally 150 Mar 27, eastern Oneida L (P & SP). Hooded Merganser: arr Mar 14, four Derby Hill (JRH, JWP); max 45, Mar 27, Oneida L. Common Merganser: migrants at Cross L peaked at 1660, Mar 20 (MSR); Oneida L tallies, however, much lower (35-60/day) thru Mar.

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Accipitrine hawks—winter numbers (including Christmas counts) are Goshawk ten, Cooper's 12, Sharp-shinned three, for all observers—the extreme scarcity of the last two is obvious as are the increased numbers of Goshawks (two-four/winter more likely).

Wintering buteos seemed confined to three intraregional enclaves—around Mexico, Texas, and SSSP, max 14 Rough-legged and six Red-tailed with one-three Kestrels; around Phoenix and Peter Scott Swamp seven Rough-legged and four Red-tailed; and some 20 Red-tailed at the various Syracuse dumps on the northern perimeter of the city. With increasing snow cover in early Jan, a light passage (? dispersal) of Rough-legged Hawks was noted—three Jan 4 near Sherrill (DA, AR), one at Syr Airport Jan 7 (FGS), one (?two) at Syracuse dumps and Onondaga L Jan 10-17

(DBP); these birds quickly disappeared and, after the severe blizzard of Jan 30–Feb 1, numbers of Rough-legged at the above enclaves decreased further (? snow-covered mice), and scattered birds were noted moving thru areas devoid of them heretofore, e.g. Tully Lakes area (JWP), Syr Airport and Cicero Swamp (FGS). Red-shouldered Hawk: wintering singles at SSSP Jan 23 (JRH) and Cicero Swamp Feb 6 (FGS).

Bald Eagle: an imm, Brewerton, Dec 26 (JW & K. H. Propst, MLE) is a first for Syr CC and the *only* winter record. Harrier: less than six reported in all of Dec; single noted Jan 1 HIGMA (JRB, CGS); unreported thru remainder of winter (extraordinarily scarce!).

Hawk migration—arrival dates (all Derby Hill): Goshawk Feb 24 (first migrant raptor); Sharp-shinned Mar 3; Cooper's Mar 9; Red-tailed Feb 24; Red-shouldered Mar 3 (two); Rough-legged Mar 6 (ten); Harrier Mar 11; Bald Eagle Mar 17 (one ad); Golden Eagle Mar 18 (two ad); Merlin Mar 14 (one, very early); Kestrel Mar 13—(JRH, mob). Date ranges and totals to appear in spring report.

Ruffed Grouse: numbers as in fall still up—five on Syr CC, 15 each on Oswego CC and HIGMA CC; as many as eight-ten/day in various L Ontario woodlots, notably SSSP and Nine Mile Point.

Killdeer: not recorded on any Christma scout but one Dec 26, Eaton (GLC) and six Jan 9, Otisco L (EMS); first migrants, three Feb 11, Derby Hill (JRH), but major numbers not in until Mar 8–17. Amer. Woodcock and Common Snipe: arr Mar 4, one, Derby Hill (JRH) and Mar 23, two (in courting flight) Peter Scott Swamp (MSR) respectively.

Glaucous and Iceland Gulls: lesser numbers for both species as compared to 1964–65; max five Glaucous and four Iceland, both Feb 6, Oswego; very few at Oswego R pools—most were found at Syracuse and Oswego dumps. Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls: winter max 200 and 22,000 Jan 20, Oswego Harbor and Ontario lakeshore (FGS); the major share of these left the area with the Jan blizzard and severe freezing thereafter, as the Feb and Mar max for the same Oswego harbor sector is only 75 Great Black-backed and 3200 Herring Gulls. Mourning Dove: max 80, TRGMA Dec 9 and 55, HIGMA Jan 1; the many smaller wintering flocks seemed to be cornfield-dependent, a feeding habit made more obvious with the deep Jan snow.

Screech Owl: winter regional total only 13; definitely growing more scarce. Horned Owl: max five, HIGMA Mar 30 (JWP), four Jan 29 and Mar 6, Eaton (GLC); the frequency of reports suggests that this species and also Red-tailed Hawks are holding their own. Snowy Owl: at least seven reported thru winter—two at Syr Airport (mob), two at Phoenix (mob), one Onondaga L (M. Woolley), one Mexico (JRH), one Oneida (DA)—a distinct echo to the superb 1964–65 flight. Barred Owl: single birds at SSSP Dec 2 and VBSP Jan 2–16 (PP, P. & A. Jones), probably northern emigrants as they are not reported regularly from these areas. Long-eared Owl: one, Dec 16 SSSP (FGS) and one, Feb 14 Taberg (D. Lynes) are the only winter records; one netted Mar 14 Derby Hill (JRH) may be either a wintering bird or an early migrant. Short-eared Owl: *only report* Mar 23, one netted Derby Hill (JRH); extraordinarily scarce, especially in view of the numbers of Rough-legged Hawks (q.v.). Saw-whet Owl: two in Wood Duck boxes HIGMA in Jan (George Gage); unreported thereafter until Mar, with first Mar 6 Shackleton Point, one (?three) toot-whistling in Cicero Swamp Mar 8–26, one Mar 20 HIGMA roosting in deciduous thicket, one netted at Derby Hill Mar 23 (JRH). An account of spring owl captures at Derby Hill will appear in a subsequent field note.

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Belted Kingfisher: birds attempted to winter at Eaton (GL & MC) and Oneida (DA), but the only bird surviving was at Baldwinsville (SH). Yellow-shafted Flicker: many reports of single birds, especially in dying elm woods along creeks and rivers (DeWitt, Oneida, Fulton, HIGMA); three-ten/

BBFS; apparently increasing as a wintering bird. Red-bellied Woodpecker: new site (pair) at Muskrat Bay area of Oneida L Jan 21, seen intermittently to early Mar; this occurrence and the many Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers there are undoubtedly secondary to the great food supply provided by the many dying elms and maples of that area; max of eight on HIGMA CC. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: wintering singles at Oneida (DA) in Dec and thru Jan at Fayetteville (fide B. Burtt) but survival to Mar not established for either. Hairy and Downy Woodpecker: 55 and 107 respectively Syr CC; field counts range two-13/day for Downy, somewhat better than last year. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one male and two females noted Dec 26—Jan 13 at DeWitt; also single females reported Dec 12 in the University section of Syracuse (MSR) and Feb 23, Tioughniaga State Game Management Area in s. Madison Co. (F. Welch) and a male Mar 6, Camp Woodland, Constantia (R. L. Richardson).

Phoebe: first noted Mar 23 Derby Hill; reported in next week but very scarce thereafter—did most succumb to the protracted cold weather of late Mar and early Apr? Horned Lark: first returning birds at Syr Airport Jan 27; high counts include 150 Feb 18 Oneida, 110 Feb 24 Airport, 140 Feb 27 along roadside near Utica, 200 Mar 18 Derby Hill. Tree Swallow: Clay Swamp and Derby Hill Mar 19, somewhat early; Purple Martin, one Mar 23 (record arrival date) Derby Hill; fortunately only a few Martins arrived in the Mar 17–22 warm spell as the protracted cold of late Mar certainly killed the locally present birds.

Common Crow: roost at Onondaga Hill active but not surveyed this winter; 1000 at Utica in Jan (VB); migration began Feb 10 with 45 passing Derby Hill; peak tally 10,253 Mar 14 Derby Hill; total spring tallies regularly falling from 1963 on; another victim of the pesticide-laden American world? Boreal Chickadee: the Westmoreland spruce plantation held at least 12 individuals thru the winter (J & BB); also reported at Shackleton Point (MSR, JRH), Fulton (FGS), Brewerton (FGS), Taberg (D. Lynes) and Fayetteville (D. Lindemer); definitely a flight winter; it will be interesting to see whether any pass Derby Hill on migration. Tufted Titmouse: the colony at Oneida L is now up to five-six birds, at three separate sites in the swampy woods; also noted at Otisco L in Feb (fide EMS) and Cazenovia (Mrs. C. Cook), both localities in the higher southern hill country, heretofore devoid of Titmice. Red-breasted Nuthatch: up to 16 Jan 9 at Westmoreland spruce plantation; lesser numbers, one-nine/day, in other spruce plantations locally, yet small numbers were noted at Big Moose Feb 26–27 (MSR, PP, DA), indicating some sedentary individuals persisted thru winter there. Brown Creeper: 20, Jan 1 HIGMA, is an excellent winter count. Winter Wren: reported until mid-Jan; none known to have survived the late Jan blizzard.

Mimids—Single Mockingbirds at Wampsville (fide DA), Bull Hill Rd, Lafayette (Clark), Utica (VB), Chittenango (Mrs. J. Fisher, L. Walker); two Catbirds at feeder in Richfield Springs Jan 1 (Mrs. P. B. Culbert); Brown Thrashers overwintered at Fairmount (Mr. Barlow) and Earlville (Mrs. J. Winslow), and were also reported at Sandy Creek (Mrs. Henderson) and Chittenango (Mrs. Coon). The survival of these half-hardy mimids is certainly helped by and may be dependent on the growing plethora of well-stocked feeders.

Robin: reported on all Christmas counts, noted in multiple numbers at various feeders, and in smaller numbers at Cicero Swamp and White Lake near Syracuse; unreported from north of Oneida L. Hermit Thrush: one Jan 3–31, Utica (VB) apparently did not survive the blizzard. Bluebird: migrants noted Mar 12 Constantia and Manlius, Mar 16 Utica (VB), and Mar 17 Derby Hill (JRH); max eight Mar 18 Derby Hill (mob). Golden-crowned Kinglet: frankly scarce this winter (one-three/day, mainly in spruce plantations at Westmoreland, SSSP, Fulton, Brewerton, N. Manlius), in contrast to the better tallies of Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Black-capped and Boreal Chickadees.

Water Pipit: arr Mar 29, one Derby Hill (JRH). Northern Shrike: scattered birds (one-two/trip) about equally divided between ad and imm, Dec thru Feb; light



return movement Feb 24—Mar 29; singing birds noted Mar 17—20, Brewerton. Loggerhead Shrike: first noted Mar 26 at Cicero, Derby Hill, Bridgeport, and HIGMA, a pleasant confirmation that this was indeed the arrival date and not the "weekend effect."

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Myrtle Warbler: one at feeder near Fulton mid-Dec thru the 20th (Mrs. R. Parker); none on any Christmas count.

ICTERIDS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: present on only the Syr CC; surprisingly scarce considering the mild Dec; one, Jan 6, Utica (VB), two only, Jan 22, Cayuga Co, and none after the severe Jan blizzard; spring arr Mar 6 Brewerton (R. J. Smith); max tallies at Derby Hill 149 Mar 19 and 142 Mar 23 (JRH). Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Cowbird: first two present on three of four Christmas counts, Cowbirds on only two but with better numbers (75+); all three present on BBFS thru winter but Cowbirds showed a sharp drop in numbers after the Jan storm (438 in Jan pre-blizzard to 53 in Feb post-blizzard); major movement of early black icterids began Mar 3 Derby Hill; max 20,000 Redwings and 12,000 Grackles Mar 19 in the evening flight to a local roost. No wintering Rusty Blackbirds. Baltimore Oriole: one attempted to winter in N Syr but did not persist beyond late Dec.

Cardinal: range extension continuing—now present at Talberg (Lynes), Stokes Hill (Adamski), Barneveld (fide VanDresar), all southern Tug Hill Plateau vicinity; increasing numbers in N Syr and Cicero areas (JRH); BBFS tallies now fairly stable (200±/survey). Evening Grosbeak: large wintering population with abundant feeder patronage—300± thru winter at Utica feeder (K. G. Hanson); 15–120/day in most areas including Madison Co highlands (GLC) but lesser numbers at HIGMA and Baldwinsville. Purple Finch: scarce throughout winter; present on only Syr CC and singles only at feeders. Pine Grosbeak: a tremendous incursion with daily tallies six-90 throughout Region (mob); sharp drop in numbers around Mar 4–12 with only one-three/day thereafter. Common Redpoll: dominant winter finch, present widely, 100s to 1000s, especially in weedy fields around Syracuse and L Ontario; 1500 still about Mar 30. Hoary Redpoll: a male Mar 18–19, Syr Airport (FGS, JWP), first record in seven years. Pine Siskin: scarce this winter; on only two of four Christmas counts (max CC 34); some 50, Marcy, Jan 25 (VB); some at feeders but in very low numbers; returning Siskins noted Mar 10–11 at Derby Hill, Syracuse, and Utica (mob). Red and White-winged Crossbills recorded but rather uncommon, especially when compared to Redpolls and Pine and Evening Grosbeaks; max for Red seven, SSSP Jan 3 (JWP) and for White-winged 200, Westmoreland Dec 1 (JWP, MLE); Jan and Feb numbers much lower (five-19/day), correlating with progressive cone crop consumption.

Rufous-sided Towhee: singles present during winter at Taberg (D. Lynes), Syracuse (C. J. Scheider), Oneida (P. Wayland-Smith) and Mexico (Leah Knapp), a bit above the usual one-two reports. Vesper Sparrow: Mar 30, one Liverpool (DBP), is early.

Tree Sparrow: max daily tally 40–50, extraordinarily scarce; return flight began Mar 20 but late Mar tallies low with max only 80, Mar 26; BBFS showed reduced numbers thru the winter and only a moderate early Mar increase. Oregon Junco: one, Mar 27–28, Beaver L (MSR, JWP, FGS). Field Sparrow: a single at Baldwinsville thru winter (SH). White-crowned Sparrow: two, Jan 27, Oneida (DA) and one, Feb BBFS, Brewerton (Mrs. Sibig) are the only wintering birds. White-throated and Song Sparrows: on all Christmas counts, but few survived the severe Jan blizzard except for feeder-frequenting individuals. Lapland Longspur: only winter(?) records, one, Feb 15, and two, Feb 16, both Derby Hill (JRH); four-ten, Mar 16–20, Syr Airport, are the only migrants noted. Snow Bunting: winter figures 30–50/day with max 200, Feb 15, Tully Valley (JWP); return flight poor with some 100–200/day, but no early Mar hordes (1000+) recorded anywhere in the Region.

427 S. Main St., North Syracuse 13212

## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

DAVID C. GORDON

The first half of Dec was cold with little snow on ground but some rain and snow flurries. During the second half of Dec cold and mild temperatures alternated; it snowed on 17–18 but snow had disappeared by the end of the month. Jan started with no snow and open water but turned colder with snow thru end of month including the big blizzard Jan 30–Feb 1. Lots of snow and colder until second week of Feb, then mild weather and thawing. The last half of Feb was colder with rain, sleet and snow. Mar weather was changeable with mild and cold periods alternating and considerable precipitation in the form of rain, snow and sleet. Unseasonably warm temperature on Mar 18, 19 and 23, much like summer, was followed by return of cold and snow which seemed to confuse the bird migration.

Winter birds relatively high in numbers were Northern Shrike, Pine Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak and Redpoll. Species relatively low in numbers or conspicuous by their absence were Cedar Waxwing, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, goldfinch, crossbills and Snow Bunting. Although not as numerous as last winter, the Snowy Owl numbers this winter (as they have for ten winters) belie any pronounced cyclic appearance in this Region.

Best finds for this period probably are Glaucous Gull, seen for comparison with three other species of gulls, White-fronted Goose and the Snow Geese. Probably due to an early but temporary end to winter the most unusual early dates for spring arrival were of Woodcock and Phoebes.

Another favored birding spot has suffered the effect of road improvement and flood control in the Ives St. road marsh area, Watertown where considerable good bird habitat has been lost since last summer.

Localities: BCW—Brookside Cemetery, Watertown; L Ont—Lake Ontario; PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area; Pt Pen—Pt. Peninsula; SLR—St. Lawrence River; Wat—Watertown; WC—Watertown Center; WHGMA—Wilson Hill Game Management Area.

Observers: AWA—Arthur W. Allen; JBB—John B. Belknap; FAC—Frank A. Clinch; HED—Herbert E. Doig; PNG—Peter N. Gaskin; DCG—David C. Gordon; HRJ—H. Rae Johnston; RCW—Robert C. Walker.

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: last Dec 9 Adams Cove (JBB). Great Blue Heron: first Mar 31 (JBB). Canada Goose: more than 50 PRGMA Dec 5 (DCG), more than 100 flying south Dec 6 near Adams (JBB), six near Stony Pt Jan 16 (AWA); first spring, est. 75 PRGMA Mar 18 (JBB), more than 350 PRGMA Mar 19 and building up thru end of period; also many Chaumont Bay, Pt Pen, WHGMA and elsewhere. WHITE—FRONTED GOOSE: (about) Jan 15 an adult was seen with four Snow Geese north of Pamela, Jeff. Co. in a spring seep for about two weeks when all were driven off by severe winter weather (HED, John Wilson, R. Adams). The bird was photographed at 75–100 yards but the photographs were not seen by the recorder. (In view of the tameness of both the White-fronted Goose and Snow Geese and the unusual date the possibility of all these birds being escapes is considerable. Almost all upstate records of White-fronted Geese are in spring and Snow Geese are scarce in winter. Ed.) SNOW GOOSE: one feeding with Canada Geese PRGMA Mar 24 (PNG) thru end of period (mob); as many as seven seen with Canadas this spring (HED); one feeding with Canada Geese WHGMA Mar 27 (HRJ).

The late ten day duck season began Jan 1. Overall duck hunter success was poor to fair (HED). Mallard: hundreds at PRGMA and along L Ont thru Dec; some on

open water in SLR during Jan; first spring report inland Mar 19. Black Duck: still numerous thru Dec and Jan wherever open water, occasional in Feb with increase starting Mar 19. Pintail: late male Pt Pen Dec 23 (DCG); first spring date Mar 18. Green-winged Teal: first Mar 26. Blue-winged Teal: first Mar 23. Am. Widgeon: Mar 18. Redhead: five Jan 16 near Stony Pt (AWA); one Mar 26 Chaumont Bay (DCG). Ring-necked Duck: Mar 18 thru period; est. 60 PRGMA Mar 26 (DCG). Canvasback: 12 Jan 18 Tibbets Pt; several Mar 26 Chaumont Bay. Greater Scaup; 3,205 counted in Jan waterfowl census in L Ont and SLR. Common Goldeneye: common thru period. Bufflehead: small numbers present Dec-Feb, increase Mar 22 thru period. Oldsquaw: numerous Dec and Jan; 18 Feb 26 Stony Pt (AWA); good numbers Stony Pt to Pt Pen Mar 19 thru period. White-winged Scoter: one dead Lakeview Mar 31 (PNG). Hooded Merganser: small numbers present Dec and Jan; male Feb 13 Black L, St Lawrence Co (JBB); first spring date Mar 21. Common Merganser: ten males Pt Pen Dec 29 (DCG); 556 Jan waterfowl census SLR (HRJ).

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Goshawk: one near Evans Mills Dec 3 (JBB); one near Wat Jan 22 (RCW) and Feb 5 (AWA); one near Antwerp Feb 16 (JBB) Red-tailed Hawk: a few thru the winter. Rough-legged Hawk: present all winter, counts of 27 Dec 20 (JBB) and 22 Jan 9 (RCW). Bald Eagle: one Jan 23 Massena Pt on SLR (HRJ). Marsh Hawk: last Dec 23 (DCG); first Mar 19 (RCW). Sparrow Hawk: a few present all winter, increasing in late Mar. Gray Partridge: low numbers—seen Honeyville, Sackets Harbor, Pillar Pt, Pt Pen, WHGMA. Killdeer: first Mar 19. Woodcock: first heard near Wat Mar 10, 18 (RCW, AWA), to end of period; early. **GLAUCOUS GULL:** one in Black R, Wat Feb 5-6 (DCG et al). Great Black-backed Gull: Pt Pen Dec 29 and one Wat Feb 5-6. Herring Gull: small numbers thru winter. Ring-billed Gull: several during winter, increase in late Mar. Mourning Dove: three Pillar Pt Dec 29 (DCG); three Tibbets Pt Jan 22 (DCG). Screech Owl: gray phase Pt Pen Feb 6 (RCW). Great Horned Owl: seen beside Black R Jan 26 (AWA) and heard Mar 21 (PNG). Snowy Owl: one to three, many trips Pillar Pt to Cape Vincent along lakeshore Dec thru Mar (mob); max 6 Dec 22 (JBB); one adult? Mar 19 Three Mile Bay conspicuous on fencepost amidst snowless brown fields (DCG). Short-eared Owl: near Brownville Dec 25 (AWA).

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING:** Belted Kingfisher: first Mar 31. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: at feeders and in woods thru period. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: female near PRGMA Dec 4 (Dake) where an extensive area of downed tree limbs were worked on; one Wat first week Feb (Houghton). Phoebe: first Mar 19 Stony Creek (DCG); Mar 26 Wat (DCG); Apr 2 BCW (DCG), all early dates. Horned Lark: first Feb 10, common late Feb and Mar, most are Prairie Horned Larks which nest in Region; a few Northern Horned Larks, last Feb 26 (DCG). Blue Jay: common thru period. Common Crow: small numbers in early winter, first big buildup noticed, 90 near Wat Feb 4; spreading out in countryside thru late Feb. Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch: usual numbers at feeders thru winter. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one at feeder WC Dec to early Mar. Robin: first Mar 17. E. Bluebird: pair Mar 19 Gouverneur (JBB); single Mar 19 and four Mar 21 near Wat (RCW). Cedar Waxwing: ten feeding on rose hedge Wat Dec 4 (DCG); few reports during Jan-Feb; 20-100 in late Mar near Wat (RCW).

Northern Shrike: seen by most observers thruout Region Dec-Feb; one flew into middle of thornapple tree on bank overhanging frozen Black R Bay at Sackets Harbor battlefield and started eating fresh-killed meadow vole (*Microtus*), impaled on the stub of a branch. The front half of mouse was gone. When driven off by observer to identify prey and take picture it flew to another tree and continued to make squawking sounds with peculiar high notes interspersed, Feb 4 (DCG); last Feb 26.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark: first Mar 18. Redwinged Blackbird: first Mar 5. Common Grackle: last, two Pt Pen Dec 23; first Mar 13. Brown-headed Cowbird: flock Pt Pen Dec 23; last, at feeder Wat thru Dec 24; first spring Mar 5. Cardinal: at feeders all winter, max eight early Feb Wat (AWA). Evening Grosbeak: numerous at feeders in Jefferson Co all winter, flocks of 12 to 50 common nearly every day; 650 banded Wat Dec 19—Mar 31 (FAC). Pine Grosbeak: most numerous within memory, from Dec to Mar 5 thruout Region; flock size varied from a few to 30 or 50; max count 93 Jan 16 (AWA). Common Redpoll: est. 200 near Cape Vincent Dec 23 (DCG); large flocks of 50–100 noted by several observers Jan—Mar; est. 300 S Edwards, St Lawrence Co Jan 2 (AWA); last Mar 26. Pine Siskin: very scarce; at feeders, five Wat Mar 11 (AWA); two Carthage Mar 24 (Wright). White-winged Crossbill: five male and three female near Sulphur Springs Feb 6 feeding on hemlock cones (AWA). Slate-colored Junco: two at feeder all winter (AWA); first spring influx Mar 19 (DCG). Tree Sparrow: common thru period. White-throated Sparrow: one at feeder thru period WC (Tucker). Song Sparrow: one at feeder during winter WC; first Mar 18, became very numerous in last week of Mar. Lapland Longspur: two Pt Pen Feb 27 (AWA). Snow Bunting: lower numbers than usual but several flocks Jan—Mar; last Mar 26.

1347 Sherman St., Watertown, N.Y. 13601

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## REGION 7 — ADIRONDAK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

According to Robert Kampf of the weather station at Ray Brook, December, around Saranac Lake, was "characterized by above normal temperatures." This undoubtedly accounted for our outstanding bird—a Great Blue Heron seen three times during Christmas Count Period but hidden, of course, on Count Day. We had a green Christmas and a green New Year's. January also was a month of above normal temperatures with unusually light snowfalls until the 24th when we had 10". There were many days with southwest winds instead of the usual north to northwest. February was more normal with a good deal of snow and some cold, the lowest temperature being minus 23 degrees on the 7th and the 20th. Snow on the ground was up to 27" on the 26th.

March temperatures were slightly below normal; winds well below normal. There was a good deal of snow-shower activity until the end of the month. On March 16th it was minus five degrees while a plus 62 degrees on the 19th, only three days later, brought Song Sparrows, Robins and quantities of "black birds."

The mast crop in the area was down and winter finches were not numerous. Only one flock of Purple Finches reported, no Pine Siskins and very few crossbills.

Apparently our Goshawk records—we had more probable but unauthenticated reports than appear in the record—were not unusual, as Geoffrey Carleton writes us of the Hudson—St Lawrence Region: "Was a great winter for Gos."

Our Christmas Count was average but there were many days when we could bird the favorite spots without seeing a single individual.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; EB—Elisabeth Barnet; ED—Ethel Dyer; HD—Harriet Delafield; EG—Ed Gardephe; JH—Joseph Hart; RH—Richard Hagar; GK—Grace Kains; JK—Joseph Keji; MK—Marguerite Kingsbury; RM—Ruth Miers; DY—David Young; CDT—Count Day Team; mob—many observers.

Abbreviations: B—Brook; Mi.—Mile; RB—Ray Brook; TL—Tupper Lake; SL—Saranac Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: eight Dec 3 Westport (RH). GREAT BLUE HERON: one Dec 24, 27, 29 (mob). Canada Goose: no large numbers around SL, RB, or TL, max twelve Mar 18 Saranac R (MK); 20 Mar 18 Cascade L (Chase); 30 Mar 20 Chazy Landing (Perry); 100 Mar 21 L Alice (Orcutt); 400 Mar 25 Cooperville (EG); 250 Mar 19 Cooperville (JH). Black Duck: ten Dec 3 Westport (RH); six Mar 20 L Alice (EG); two Mar 23 Wickham Marsh, six Mar 25, 100 Mar 29, Cooperville (JH). Wood Duck: 25 Mar 24 Cooperville (EG). Common Goldeneye: 50 Dec 3 Westport (RH); 25 Feb 28 Port Kent, two Mar 23 Wickham Marsh (JH).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: one imm 3 mi. west of Malone Jan 8 (RH); one Jan 14, one Jan 19 Beekmantown, two Jan 21 Vermontville (Chase). Rough-legged Hawk: two, one light, one dark phase Dec 3 Ticonderoga (RH); one dark Jan 19 Beekmantown (Chase). Bald Eagle: one Dec 17 Moody (DY). Sparrow Hawk: one Dec 31, Mar 31 SL (EA, HD); one Mar 21, two Mar 29 L Alice, one Black B Mar 23, two Ausable Marsh Mar 21 (JH). Ruffed Grouse: very few reports; five Dec 31 (CDT); one Dec 16 RB (JK); one Mar 9 TL (RM); two Mar 5, one Mar 9 SL (GK). Killdeer: three Mar 20 TL (RH). Herring Gull: six Dec 3 Westport (RH). Ring-billed Gull: 13 Dec 3 Westport (RH). Mourning Dove: one Mar 24 Ausable Point (EG); one Mar 25 Ausable Marsh (JH).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: one Dec 31 SL (EA, HD). Pileated Woodpecker: two Dec 31 SL (CDT); one at feeder SL Mar 2 8(GK); one Mar 8 Santa Clara, one Wickham Marsh Mar 23, one L Alice Mar 31 (JH). Hairy Woodpecker: normal all areas reporting. Downy Woodpecker: same as Hairy. Eastern Phoebe: one Mar 24, 25, 28, SL early (EA, HD, GK). Horned Lark: five Mar 9, three Mar 12 SL (HD). Gray Jay: one Mar 8 Santa Clara (JH). Blue Jay: slightly above normal numbers from all areas reporting. Common Crow: Feb 27 TL (MK); two displaying Mar 3 SL (HD); return Mar 3 RB (JK); return TL Mar 6 (RM). Black-capped Chickadee: normal all areas reporting except "fewer" Mar TL (RM). Boreal Chickadee: three Dec 20 McMasters (HD); three feeder birds all winter SL (CEB); one Bloomingdale Dec 29 (RH); one Mar 8 Santa Clara (JH). White-breasted Nuthatch: one or two every day thru period from all areas. Red-breasted Nuthatch: very few reported; seven Dec 31 SL (CDT). Brown Creeper: two Dec 31 (CDT); one Jan 3 SL (GK); one Mar 19 RB (JK). Robin: one Dec 7 thru Dec 11 SL (EA, HD); one Dec 11 TL (RM); back RB & TL Mar 18, SL Mar 19, L Alice Mar 29. Golden-crowned Kinglet: seven Dec 31 (CDT). Northern Shrike: one Jan 24 SL (EA, HD). Loggerhead Shrike: one Dec 4, one Dec 31 SL (EA, HD). Starling: a few in Dec, many from middle of Mar all areas.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: large flocks all winter. Eastern Meadowlark: three Mar 29 TL (MK). Red-winged Blackbird: a few all winter; extra large numbers, in the hundreds, late Mar all areas reporting. Common Grackle: back after the middle of Mar all areas reporting. Brown-headed Cowbird: first Mar 17 TL (RM); Feb 4 RB (JK); Mar 22 SL (HD); large numbers after those dates all areas. Evening Grosbeak: large flocks, 50 to 115, RB (JK); SL (HD) and TL (RM). Purple Finch: only one report, 40 Dec 31 SL (GK). Pine Grosbeak: many reports of small numbers thru early Mar. Common Redpoll: good reports from all observers, max 150 Dec 8 Black B (RH). Pine Siskin: no reports. American Goldfinch: 100 Jan 1 SL (EB). Red Crossbill: flock Malone rd Dec 19, six TL Jan 25 (RM). White-winged Crossbill: three Dec 20 SL (HD). Slate-colored Junco:

very small numbers, one to seven, after Mar 21. Tree Sparrow: "not very many this winter" RB (JK); same for other areas. White-throated Sparrow: one Jan 1 thru Mar SL (ED); one Dec 16 thru Jan RB (JK). Song Sparrow: one Dec 31 (RH, DY); back Mar 13 SL (GK); Mar 26 RB (JK); Mar 29 TL (RM). Snow Bunting: four Dec 31 L Placid, 30 Feb 28 Port Kent (JH); 30 Feb 3, six Feb 28, seven Mar 3 SL (HD); 100 Malone Jan 8, three L Placid Jan 21 (RH); 50 TL Jan 31 (RM).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

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## REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

After a December which was mild and very dry, Jan, Feb and March were near normal in temperature and provided us with a surplus over the usual average precipitation. Temperatures in Dec (all data taken at Albany) averaged 31 degrees, 4 degrees above normal, and precipitation totalled only 0.97 in., 1.62 in. below normal. Temperatures in Jan, Feb and Mar averaged 22, 23 and 34.3 degrees, respectively; these were one degree below mean average temperatures for Jan and Feb and about one degree above that usual for Mar. Total precipitation: Jan—2.29 in., 0.18 in. below normal; Feb—2.17 in., 0.51 in. above normal; Mar—3.63 in., 0.91 in. above normal.

Due to the late onset of cold weather, ducks and gulls remained in good numbers into late Dec and Jan on larger lakes, reservoirs and the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. Numbers of gulls were even higher than last year in early Jan. The expected widespread movement of finches materialized; Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks were especially abundant, but Pine Siskins, goldfinches and, to a lesser extent, crossbills were all frequently reported. Purple Finches, however, were decidedly uncommon. The discovery of a cowbird roost of at least 1000 birds in Albany was also of much interest.

Migration in Mar seemed closely related to three periods of above-average temperatures during the month: Mar 1-5 (featured by Killdeer, the blackbirds, and the early ducks and gulls); Mar 18-20 (many more ducks, Woodcock, C. Snipe, Robin, E. Bluebird, E. Meadowlark, Fox Sparrow); and Mar 23-24 (Sparrow Hawk, E. Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Savannah Sparrow, Field Sparrow).

The local highlights of the period was the bright male Varied Thrush which appeared at a Rensselaer Co feeder. Other rare or unusual species reported during the period included Mute and Whistling Swans, Shoveler, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Glaucous Gull, Red-bellied, Red-headed and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers, four Dickcissels, Hoary Redpoll, Oregon Junco and a wintering Lincoln's Sparrow.

Abbreviations used: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; ADCC—Alan Devoe (Chatham) Christmas Count; GCC—Greene County (Catskill-Coxsackie) Christmas Count; SCC—Schenectady Christmas Count; TCC—Troy Christmas Count; MR—Mohawk River; nr—near; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; RL—Round Lake; SL—Saratoga Lake; SS—Stockport Station; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; UH—Upper Hudson R (between Troy and Stillwater).

Observers: GA—Gus Angst; GB—Guy Bartlett; TB, AB—Thomas and Arlene Brown; HFB—Hazel Bundy; LB, VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; JHB, BB—James and Barbara Bush; JC—Juanita Cook; HE—Hazel Eddy; PE, GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; JF—John Fuller; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; VH—Vernon Haskins; MK—Marcia Kent; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; SRM—Samuel Madison; PM—Peggy McGuirk; MM—Mary Mickle; WN—Wendy Neifus; DR—David Rothaupt; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; DS, MS—David and Muriel Stoner; DJT—Dr. Donald Tucker; BW—Beverly Waite; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; GMZ—Gladys Zimmer; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin and Barry Havens.

LOON-DUCKS: Due to the late freeze of SL, TR and the rivers, many waterfowl remained later than usual in the Region. Common Loon: reported to Dec 18, SL (bsh); no spring reports. Red-throated Loon: present to Dec 5, SL (bsh). Horned Grebe: at SL to Dec 18 (bsh). Several Mar reports, first Mar 20, NWW (HFB, SRM, EH, PM) and nr Castleton (JC). Pied-billed Grebe: early report Mar 8, Chatham (MM). Great Blue Heron: first Mar 25, Palenville (Jean Hervey) and Mar 31, Alplaus (HFB). MUTE SWAN: two Embought Mar 20 (JHB). WHISTLING SWAN: one Dec 18 SL (bsh). Canada Goose: no Dec reports; first spring Mar 5, Latham (HFB, PM); small groups in Mar, max 100 Embought Mar 20 (JHB). Amer Widgeon: no winter reports, first Mar 6, SS (PPW). Pintail: one remained UH through Jan 19 (SBC); very com in Mar, groups of up to 40, first Mar 4, SS (WN). Green-winged Teal: one remained at TR to Jan 1 (SBC) and one SS to Jan 2 (TB, AB); first spring Mar 8, SS (WN), widely noted Mar 19. Blue-winged Teal: first Mar 22 (GB, DS, MS), widely following week. SHOVELER: two males and a female appeared in pond at NWW Mar 31 (early) (HFB, MS). Wood Duck: first Mar 8, Castleton (JC) and SS (WN), widely Mar 19–25. Redhead: two at RL Dec 5 (bsh) and six at Cementon Mar 28 (JHB, BB). Ring-necked Duck: three on UH to Jan 19 (HFB, PM); first spring Mar 8, Castleton (JC), rapid influx after Mar 19. Canvasback: one Jan 8 Green Island (SBC) and three Feb 12 and 27 Stillwater (HFB, PM); one Mar 9 nr Castleton (PPW) with seven additional records later in Mar, max six Mar 28, Cementon (JHB, BB). Scaup: last Dec 26, SS (ADBC); also six Feb 5, Stillwater (HFB, PM); first spring Mar 19, NWW (GB, BRS). Common Goldeneye: remained on UH through winter, with modest passage noted in Mar. Bufflehead: at SL through Dec 11 (bsh); one on MR nr Niskayuna Dec 26 (SBC); first spring Mar 23, NWW (PPW). Oldsquaw: seven at SL to Dec 18 (bsh); two Mar 20, NWW (HFB, EH, SRM, PM)—early. White-winged Scoter: at SL to Dec 18 (bsh); three Mar 27, on MR nr Crescent (bsh)—early. Ruddy Duck: two nr Castleton Mar 8 (JC)—very early. Hooded Merganser; remained to Dec 18, SL (bsh); first spring Mar 10 Castleton (PPW). Common Merganser: a few on UH throughout winter. Return flight in Mar relatively low in numbers. Red-breasted Merganser: first spring Mar 26 MR (PPW, HFB, PM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: only report—one Mar 10 Catskill (BB). Goshawk: only report—one Mar 6, Greenville (CK). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one report each in Dec, Jan and Feb; probable migrants noted Mar 13 and 24 Schodack Center (LB, VB). Cooper's Hawk: at least nine reports, Dec 26—Mar 9. Red-tailed Hawk: most com hawk of winter, max 15 TCC. Red-shouldered Hawk: no reports Dec or Jan, four reports Feb 12–22; probable migrants observed Mar 19 (GB, BRS) and Mar 25 (WN). Rough-legged Hawk: widely seen this winter but not numerous, last of period Mar 20 Altamont (BW). Marsh Hawk: reported at SS Jan 2 (TB, AB) and sporadically during winter at Ghent (PE, GE). First spring Mar 26, Berne (MK). PÉREGRINE FALCON: an immature flew low over several observers nr TR Jan 1 (SBC)—only record. PIGEON HAWK: a female or immature bird of this species was seen at close range perching and flying on at least three occasions by one group: Jan 2 nr Lock 7, MR; Feb 12, Meadowdale; and Mar 6, Meadowdale (all

bsh)—very likely same individual. Unfortunately, no other observers were able to see this bird. Sparrow Hawk: widely but sparsely reported through the winter; evidence of a return movement in late Mar; for example DS recorded eight Mar 21–27, and BB six Mar 23. Bob-white: scarce, reported only from Catskill and Meadowdale. Pheasant: markedly decreased throughout Region this winter. Virginia Rail: one Mar 17 Tygert Rd marsh nr New Salem where species has wintered some recent years (EH, GA). Coot: a flock of remained at SL to Dec 18 (bsh). Killdeer: no Dec records; first spring Mar 3 Schodack Center (LB, VB), Mar 6 Meadowdale (GB, BRS); more widely Mar 11–19. Woodcock: first Mar 8, Castleton (JC), widely Mar 18–25. Common Snipe: three Feb 5 Tygert Rd marsh nr New Salem (bsh) where usually 1–2 have wintered through severe weather in other recent years. First spring Mar 17 Collins L (DJT). GLAUCOUS GULL: an adult on the UH Jan 1 (WBS, SRM, PM)—lone record. Great Black-backed Gull: remained until Jan 8, UH (SBC), max 44 TCC Jan 1; first spring Mar 4, SS (WN), max 50 Mar 6, SS and 40 Mar 19 (PPW). Composition of migrants changed from predominantly adult Mar 6 to largely immature in late Mar. Herring Gull: remained in numbers into Jan with 475 on TCC Jan 1. A few seen throughout winter, rapid influx Mar 3 on. Ring-billed Gull: less com than preceding two species in late Dec and early Jan, only 34 TCC Jan 1; a few individuals reported through the winter. First spring Mar 6, SS (PPW); in late Mar the most abundant gull. In contrast to Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls present (at this time mostly immature birds), these were almost exclusively adults. Mourning Dove: again wintered in high, though local, numbers. Screech Owl: very scarce—reported once in Gallupville in Dec (GMZ), once in Old Chatham in Dec (Dr. E. M. Reilly, Jr.) and at West Sand L Mar 20 (Katherine Bordt) but missed on all local Christmas Counts. Great Horned Owl: fairly com in less settled parts of the Region, with six recorded on local Christmas Counts. Barred Owl: reported at Canaan (one), TR (new area, two), Altamont (one) and Lisha Kill (one). Short-eared Owl: only report one Feb 20 Niskayuna (SRM, PM).

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Kingfisher: very scarce—reported to Dec 18, SL (bsh); also—two Jan 1 Cohoes Area (TCC); one Mar 12 Lock 7 MR (GB, BRS); one late Mar West Sand L (Katherine Bordt). Yellow-shafted Flicker: more reported this winter than usual, from at least ten localities; a light influx during Mar. Pileated Woodpecker: not particularly com but recorded in most reporting areas. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: one Dec 26 in an orchard nr Catskill, Greene Co (JHB)—the first record for Region 8 for several years. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: one was reported as wintering in Oak Hill, Greene Co (VH)—very unusual. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: a female was observed and banded in Jan and a male appeared several times in Feb at a feeder in Niskayuna where this species has appeared in previous winters (RPY)—it is usually unreported at this season in the rest of Region 8. BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: one reportedly ate suet at a feeder in Catskill Jan 26–27 (BB)—lone report. Phoebe: marked influx Mar 23–27 (mob). Horned Lark: rather scarce in early winter, much more com in Feb and very early Mar. Tree Swallow: only record—three Mar 25 Vly (JHB). Common Crow: pronounced migration occurred late Feb and most of Mar. Black-capped Chickadee: com in all areas, with 445 TCC Jan 1. Boreal Chickadee: at feeders in Catskill (*vide* JHB), Chatham Center (ADBC) and West Sand L (C. W. Greene and mob) and one was seen at Meadowdale Feb 20 (bsh). Tufted Titmouse: widely reported, especially in southern areas; total of 31 individuals recorded on four area Christmas Counts. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one or two individuals reported at a number of local feeding stations as well as the regular resident populations in some of the larger evergreen tracts. Winter Wren: one reported Dec 26 (GCC) and one was fitting about a stone wall in Niskayuna Feb 3 (HE). Carolina Wren: one at a feeder in Chatham Dec 12 and remained into Jan (MM); two were seen at a feeder in Catskill Jan 5 (E. Rusack); one singing Mar 6 SS (PPW). Mockingbird: continuing its recent rapid increase; at least 22 reported



during the period from eleven localities in five counties. Catbird: one at a feeder in West Glenville Jan 19, remained in vicinity until Feb 21, when found dead (Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Harris). Brown Thrasher: lone report—one, Jan 8–10 Glenville (*vide* Nancy Slack). Robin: widely reported throughout winter, with a general influx Mar 18–20 in most areas. VARIED THRUSH: a male in bright orange and soft gray plumage appeared at a feeder in Sliters' Corners, Town of West Sand L, Rensselaer Co on Jan 20 and remained until Mar 17 (mob). Surprisingly, this thrush fed exclusively on typical "birdseed." When the ground was free of snow, it usually disappeared from the feeding area. Hermit Thrush: only reports—one Feb 6 TR (WBS *et al.*) and one late Feb Colonie (Mrs. W. H. Enos). Bluebird: wintering birds reported only from Greene and Columbia Cos. In Chatham area, Bluebirds roosted in a hole in a tree during sub-zero periods (MM). Marked influx of the species occurred Mar 15–20. Cedar Waxwing: wandering groups of up to 40 seen occasionally. Northern Shrike: twelve reports for winter, with no particular pattern, last Mar 14 Schodack Center (LB, VB).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: one feeding in low brush along the shore of TR Jan 1 (PPW, DS, JF, DR). Eastern Meadowlark: more than usual number of reports from at least six areas, max ten Jan 9 Kiskatom (JHB, BB) and eight Jan 19 UH (HFB, PM). Noticeable influx Mar 15–20 in many areas. Redwing: ten reports Dec 20–Feb 28. One reported Catskill area Mar 1 (JHB), 28 Mar 2 Castleton marshes (PPW); on Mar 3, 1500 were present, Castleton marshes (PPW); also reported from many other localities. Grackles also arrived in many sections Mar 3. Rusty Blackbird: recorded Dec 18 SL (bsh), Feb 6 Meadowdale (EH, GA) and Mar 6 (bsh). Cowbird: a large winter roost was discovered in Jan in the city of Albany independently by Paul Connor and PPW. Evening counts at the roost: about 780 Jan 24 and 1040 Feb 5 (PPW). These counts far exceed the largest previous winter max of the species for Region 8. To my knowledge, this is the first icterid winter roost found in Region 8. Cardinal: somewhat less com this winter than last; on ADCC, GCC, SCC and TCC combined, 101 reported compared with 139 in 1964–1965. DICKCISSEL: two at feeder nr Chatham in Dec (ADBC). Another discovered at a Niskayuna feeder Dec 26 (RPY *et al.*), remained there until mid-Jan when it was attacked and injured (presumably fatally) by a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Still another appeared in the Gallupville area about Jan 10, seen in that area occasionally through Mar 31 (GMZ). Evening Grosbeak: very com all winter, with apparent influx in late Dec and early Jan, max 511 TCC (a record number). Numbers peaked at a Niskayuna banding station the first two weeks in Feb (RPY); throughout Mar, the population dwindled, although many still present end of Mar. Purple Finch: very scarce all period. Pine Grosbeak: fairly com in small groups, especially in highland areas, Dec–Feb. By Mar 15 very few left, although still present at Taborton Mar 27 (PPW). Common Redpoll: abundant throughout winter; 845 reported on ADCC, GCC, SCC and TCC combined; some representative max: 600 Jan 9 (bsh); 325 Feb 19 (SRM, PM); 700 Feb 20 (bsh). HOARY REDPOLL: one banded, photographed and released Mar 20, Niskayuna (RPY, DS). The bird was pale, with white, unstreaked rump, short bill (7.8 mm.) and only faintly streaked sides of breast, and was with a large group of Common Redpolls. Pine Siskin: widely reported, but not in very large numbers. Red Crossbill: five reports of three–twelve during winter, last Mar 4 Karner (JF, DR). White-winged Crossbill: ten reports, scattered throughout winter, max 14 Feb 12 nr New Salem (bsh), last Mar 9 Lisha Kill (HFB, PM). Rufous-sided Towhee: one at a feeder East Ghent Jan 24, remained the rest of the winter (Marion Kern). Savannah Sparrow: one arrived Mar 23 Ghent (PE, GE). Slate-colored Junco: scarce in all sections this winter. OREGON JUNCO: a junco with very dark hood, brownish gray back (with sharp line of demarcation between hood and back) and tinge of pink on the sides appeared at an East Greenbush feeder in Jan and Feb (Mrs. Robert Don). Tree Sparrow: still not as com as two years ago, but more com than in

1964-1965. Field Sparrow: flock of about 12 wintered in Colonie (JF, DR); first spring Mar 24, Altamont (BW). White-throated Sparrow: at least 18 individuals reported, including five at one feeder in Chatham (MM). Fox Sparrow: reported into mid-Dec in Greene and Columbia Cos, two were still coming to a feeder at Oak Hill in Jan (VH). An abrupt spring movement occurred Mar 18-20, although this was less widespread and spectacular than that of 1965. LINCOLN'S SPARROW: a medium-sized sparrow with striped brown and white crown, prominent buff breast band and thin but noticeable eye ring was noted at a Cropseyville feeder Jan 27-Feb 10 (WBS, bsh, PPW, *et al.*). Swamp Sparrow: remained in some of the denser local marshes well into Feb. Lapland Longspur: only reports—one ADCC Dec 26, two with flock of Snow Buntings nr Muitzeskill Feb 26 (JC). Snow Bunting: scarce early in winter; groups of up to 75 noted Jan and Feb; 200 Feb 21 Greenville (CK) and 600 Feb 26 nr Nuitzeskill (JC)—possibly evidence of spring movement. No Mar reports.

12 Columbia Drive, East Greenbush 12061

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## REGION 9 — DELEWARE — HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The past winter season did much to alleviate the drought conditions in the Region, with most reservoirs either full or at the worst about 75% of capacity. Late January and February brought the best snows in several winters, but March was very dry with almost no snow reported. Temperatures for the most part were as expected, although milder fall weather seemed to persist late into the season. Christmas counts found lakes and rivers completely open, and they did not freeze until just prior to the Waterfowl Count on January 16 when temperatures dropped to near zero for several days. The freeze was extensive enough to cut the census to about half as many individuals as last year.

The period was about normal for species and numbers of birds observed and reported. There were a few highlights, but in general, no unusual trends. Almost all species of northern finches were found, some in good numbers compared to an almost total absence last year.

Your reporter must include a word of thanks to Margaret and John Dye who will be leaving the Region in a few months to live in Pennsylvania. They have faithfully contributed the records for Eastern Orange Co. for as long as your reporter has been on the job. They will be sorely missed.

Abbreviations used: First four letters of each county; RAS—Rockland Audubon Society; WBC—Waterman Bird Club.

Contributors: BA—Bob Austustine; A & MB—Arlene & Martin Borko; ID—Iris Dean; ME—Martha Earl; FG—Florence Germond; SG—Stan Grierson; MH—Marjorie Hopper; FH—Fred Hough; DJ—David Junkin; MK—Mary Key; HM—Helen Manson; JO—Jack Orth; EP—Eleanor Pink; AP—Alma Polhemus; ET—Ed Treacy; MV—Marion VanWagner

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: one very late fall record Dec 5 White L. Sull (A & MB). First spring arrival Mar 18 Vanderberg Cove, Dutch. Very few from then to end of period. Pied-billed Grebe: one wintered Tomahawk L Oran (ME). Green Heron: one very late date Dec 5 Iona Is. (JO). Little Blue Heron: one unconfirmed report of adult at Mt. Kisco, (DJ). American Bittern: one at very close range Jan 17 Katonah, West (SG). Canada Goose: earliest record six Mar 12 Dutch. Many reported since. At end of period, several pairs present on number of east Oran lakes. Snow Goose: winter birds reported several areas. Migrating flocks reported last week Mar. Putn and Dutch. Relatively good numbers compared to previous seasons. Ducks: Poor throughout Region from mid Jan thru Feb due to hard freeze. Populations good before and after that period. Gadwall: four persisted Iona Is. Marsh thru Jan 2, unreported afterward. Pintail: at Basher Kill as early as Mar 12 (A & MB). 26 in Otterkill Cr at Hamptonburg Mar 14 (ME). Blue-winged Teal: none till Mar 28 when one at Pleasant Valley Dutch (MV). American Widgeon: several Mar 19 Basher Kill (ID). Few reported before end of period. Shoveler: two at Rock L. from Dec 16 thru Jan 8 (RAS). Redhead: four Kensico Res. Dec 26 (Howard Spendelow). Canvasback: several Dec reports from Dutch and Oran. Largest count 125 MBC Christmas Count. Spring birds appeared Mar 12 on with two spending last week Mar on small pond in village square at Monroe, Oran (Jack Kniep). Ruddy Duck: as usual wintered on Hudson off Piermont. Estimated 2,000 Dec 14 (MH & AP). Hooded Merganser: two at Iona Is. Dec 5 (JO). First spring record Mar 10, one pair at Basher Kill (ID).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first reported Mar 3. Most residents arr by Mar 14. Goshawk: one Neversink, Sull Dec 16. Another shot at Mt. Kisco, West, now in possession of Dutch Comm. Coll., Poughkeepsie. An unprecedented report of six trapped by a game "preserve" in the area of Red Hook during Feb and Mar. Sharp-shinned Hawk: two winter birds: one from Oran, the other from Sull, none elsewhere. Cooper's Hawk: one only, WBC Christmas Count. Red-tailed Hawk: wintered in good numbers throughout Region. An interesting account of two Red-tails pursuing a hen pheasant about 75 ft. above ground at Golden's Bridge, West on Jan 11. The pheasant easily escaped. Red-shouldered Hawk: continues quite scarce. Missed on most Christmas counts, only two reported during season. Rough-legged Hawk: single birds reported on several occasions in Oran, West, and Dutch. Always scarce, but better than usual this season. Bald Eagle: winter population somewhat better than last year, with birds returning to usual haunts. Not more than a half dozen birds reported. Marsh Hawk: one Dec 26, MBC Christmas count, one Mar 17 nr Stanford, Dutch (HM). PIGEON HAWK: One Stone Ridge, Ulst Mar 17 (FH). Sparrow Hawk: wintered well. Numbers excellent from Mar on. Ruffed Grouse: numbers not quite as good as last year, but still plentiful. Bobwhite: a few reported from Dutch, Jan Feb & Mar, also reported on MBC Christmas count in Oran, and earlier (Dec 8) in Dutch. Coot: about 50 wintered at Rock L. Killdeer: earliest Mar 3 near Hyde Park. Many reported in the Blooming Grove area by the end of Mar. Woodcock: first birds reported in several counties on Mar 3. Numbers good at the end of the season. Common Snipe: more winter reports from Rock West and Oran than usual. Gulls: normal for season. Unusual numbers of Ring-billed and Herring gulls inland away from Hudson during late Mar. ICELAND GULL: only white-winged gull reported for season; Feb 19 Croton Point. (Westport Aud. Soc.). Mourning Dove: wintered in fair numbers. Some feeders supported unusually large flocks. Owls: more reports than during most winter seasons. Great-horned Owl: many reports of roosting birds. Only one nesting, Stony Point. Two young from Mar 11. SNOWY OWL: One only, at Ashoken Res. in late fall. Long-eared Owl: two killed by cars in West, four near New City thru Dec and Jan, four near Blooming Grove Oran thru Feb and Mar. Short-eared Owl: one near Crugar's Is. Dutch Mar 19 (EP). Saw-whet Owl: Several trapped and banded in Ward's Pound Ridge Reserv. this fall by DJ. One heard frequently at Kripplebush, Ulst. during Mar (FH).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: maintained good numbers despite freeze. Flicker: usual scattered winter reports. Mar movement relatively light. Pileated Woodpecker: high counts in Dutch. Normal elsewhere. One report of a bird eating berries of Virginia Creeper at Mohonk Mt House Feb 7. Red-bellied Woodpecker: an unverified report of one at a feeder Nov 18 and Jan 26 Hamptonburg, Oran (Louise Albert). Red-headed Woodpecker: Good numbers thru season in Town of Blooming Grove (ME). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: unreported throughout season. Fall birds in Dutch did not persist. E. Phoebe: arr late thru much of region. One Feb 7 & 8 Poughkeepsie (MK). Horned Lark: few birds reported thru Dec and Jan, many in Dutch during Feb. Mar numbers reduced. Tree Swallow: first arr Oran Mar 19. Few reported to end of period. GRAY JAY: one first reported Nov 24, spent greater part of Dec at feeder in Somers, West (Harry Peyton). Common Crow: about 4,700 reported during Dec at roost near Poughkeepsie. Many more wintered near Monroe, Oran. FISH CROW: one and possibly two wintered Poughkeepsie. At least ten reported there in Mar. Black-capped Chickadee: very plentiful all winter. BOREAL CHICKADEE: at Hawthorne, West from Dec 20 thru mid-Feb. Reported there for the past several winters. (BA). White-breasted Nuthatch: plentiful all season. Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported in good numbers from all areas. Best year in memory for Region. Winter Wren: none reported in Ulst, but the usual few elsewhere. Carolina Wren: a few Jan and Feb reports from Rock. None elsewhere except at West Park, Ulst, where one bird was reported by Mrs. Hugh Kelley. Mockingbird: remain in regions where they bred last year. Robin: numbers lower than expected in winter. Spring arr on time, but numbers not as high as usual. Flocks small, few, and far between. VARIED THRUSH: at feeder of Mrs. Edwin K. Merrill Bedford Village, West from Jan 30 to Feb 5 (mob). Hermit Thrush: wintered at Sparrow Bush, Oran Jan 14 to Mar 5 (Mr. & Mrs. Maynard Hammond). Other winter reports: Fowlersville, Sull Jan 16 (A & MB); Dutch Feb 6 (FC). Eastern Bluebird: as usual, scarce, but many encouraging reports thru month of Mar. Golden-crowned Kinglet: numbers reduced, none some areas. Pipit: only report 15 at Hamptonburgh Apr 2 (ME). Cedar Waxwing: numbers reduced in Ulst, normal elsewhere. Northern Shrike: single birds reported each month of season in Dutch. Loggerhead Shrike: one Mar 25 nr Unionville, Dutch (HM).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: one Dec 8 and Jan 15 Dutch, another WBC Christmas Count Jan 2, one Dec 11 to Dec 19 at feeder of (A & MB) in Monticello. Palm Warbler: at Armonk, West Dec 1 (SG). E. Meadowlark: scarce Redwinged Blackbird: first flock Mar 3. Few in early Mar, more later. BALTIMORE ORIOLE: one WBC Christmas Count Jan 2. Rusty Blackbird: one pair at Chapaqua, West Feb 16, another pair nr Poughkeepsie Feb 25, max 19 during Mar in Dutch. Common Crackle: scattered individuals throughout winter. First flock Mar 3, many late Mar. Cowbird: winter numbers high. After snow of Jan 23, more than 300 at feeder Highland Falls (ET). More than 600 in Dutch Jan 15. Heavy concentrations not noted thru rest of season. Cardinal: unaccountably sparse in Rock thru season. Normal to plentiful elsewhere. Evening Grosbeak: flocks small but everywhere thru winter. Purple Finch: sparingly reported thru season, scarce in some areas. House Finch: continues to increase. Observed in the southern and eastern portion thru winter. From 12 to 15 thru Mar in Dutch. Pine Grosbeak: reported thru season from all areas. Numbers small, most flocks less than 12. Common Redpoll: many single birds reported. Flocks generally scarce and small. Red Crossbill: more reports than usual. One flock of 30 Mar 31, in Dutch (MK). White-winged Crossbill: also well reported in most areas. Many single birds, and a number of small flocks. Savannah Sparrow: wintered again on the New Paltz flats Ulst. (Hans Wever & Heinz Meng). First migrant Mar 14 in Dutch. Vesper Sparrow: ten during Feb in Dutch. None there in Mar. Slate-colored Junco: generally scarce thru season. Inc in

late Mar. OREGON JUNCO: two adult males at Poughquag Dutch all winter. One at Cornwall Feb 26. (C. Klanka). Tree Sparrow: same as Slate-colored Junco, scarce thru season. Flocks few and small. Field Sparrow: reported each month during season in Dutch. Max six in Jan. Only one in Mar. White-throated Sparrow: reported every month of season. Max 36 on WBC Christmas Count. Fox Sparrow: every month in Dutch. Max nine in Dec. First migrants Mar 3 in Oran. Swamp Sparrow: two during Dec in Dutch. Song Sparrow: wintered in fair numbers. One at feeder Mohonk Lake. First record there. Many in Basher Kill area by Mar 20. LAPLAND LONGSPUR: One Feb 7 at Salt Point, Dutch. Snow Bunting: Max 50 Jan 28 Dutch. Smaller flocks Oran, Sull and Ulst.

Spring reports due no later than June 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls 10928

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## REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND FRED HEATH

Much of the data for the winter season report comes from eleven local Christmas Counts: Brooklyn (abbreviated Bk)—Dec 26, 90 species; Bronx-South Westchester (Bx)—Dec 26, 99; Captree (Ca)—Dec 28, 82; Central Suffolk Co. (CS)—Dec 27, 122; Montauk (Mk)—Dec 26, 75; Northern Nassau Co. (NN)—Dec 26, 89; Queens (Qn)—Jan 2, 87; Quogue-Watermill (QW)—Dec 29, 75; Staten Island (SI)—Dec 26, 68; Smithtown (Sm)—Dec 27, 81; Southern Nassau Co. (SN)—Jan 2, 113.

A table of 23 species, showing numbers of individuals recorded on each of the counts will provide an easy comparison with future years' counts. Most of the species chosen are important winter residents; both gulls, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, both nuthatches, etc. Other species have shown tremendous increases in recent years, either as permanent residents (Tufted Titmouse, Cardinal or House Finch) or as winter residents (Mourning Dove, Brown Thrasher). The crossbills are included to chronicle last fall's invasion. The Pied-billed Grebe and the Belted Kingfisher were chosen as weather indicators. Usually each count's success in recording numbers of these two species depends upon mild weather which results in open water.

The table shows a fantastic number of Mourning Doves on this year's counts. The total number recorded is nearly twice the last two year's totals. Titmouse, Cardinal and House Finch showed no appreciable gains over last year's numbers. The Mockingbird continues its expansion throughout Long Island with marked increases every year. Myrtle Warblers were far below numbers, perhaps due to the poor bayberry crop.

Hérons were exceptionally good this winter. Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night herons were recorded in unusually large numbers on the Christmas Counts. Two Green Herons, a Yellow-crowned Night Heron and a Glossy Ibis were also recorded, all very late. The return flight of egrets and Glossy Ibis was earlier than usual.

Notable rarities included Tufted Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye and Bullock's Oriole. There were extremely late occurrences of Little Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, House Wren, Parula Warbler and Northern Waterthrush. Mid-winter records also included a Least Bittern and dowitchers, probably Long-billed.

COUNTS OF SELECTED SPECIES ON THE MARINE REGION CHRISTMAS COUNTS. A DASH (—) INDICATES THAT NO INDIVIDUALS WERE RECORDED, A BLANK SPACE INDICATES LACK OF INFORMATION.

	Bk	Bx	Ca	CS	Mk	NN	Qn	QW	SI	Sm	SN	TOTAL
Pied-billed Grebe.....		3	2	7	1	—	4	—	1	6		24
Great black-backed Gull.....	1,120	240	1,000	236		48	291	123	571	148	1,171	4,948
Herring Gull.....	24,246	1,250	5,325	2,219		7,120	6,309	1,704	18,500	6,930	15,305	88,908
Mourning Dove.....	80	385		773		483	400	392		98	398	3,009
Belted Kingfisher.....	—	3	1	13	1	12		4	2	9		45
Downy Woodpecker.....	11	114		95			69	2		26	89	406
Blue Jay.....	32	440	150	1,402		422	165	74	94	165	230	3,174
Black-capped Chickadee.....	43	400	127	320		429	99	68	109	48	250	1,893
Tufted Titmouse.....	8	110	—	—	—	4	2	—	11	1	6	142
White-breasted Nuthatch.....	10	76		68	1	122	40	3	28	35	54	437
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	3	11		10		43		3		2		72
Mockingbird.....	1	3		8	8	18	9	11	15	1	16	90
Catbird.....	—	—		2		1	3	—		2		8
Brown Thrasher.....	1	2		6		3	5	1		2		20
Myrtle Warbler.....	2		120	20		4		—	5	2	155	308
Cardinal.....	4	100	7	40		187	91	10	52	60	39	590
House Finch.....	149	388	35	86	4	572	80	127	10	47	239	1,737
Red Crossbill.....	1	—	—	20	40	—	—	9	—	—	—	70
White-winged Crossbill.....	—	—	—	3	—	7	—	12	—	3	22	47
Slate-colored Junco.....	29	670	83	258		376	93	41	198	22	422	2,192
Tree Sparrow.....	21	120		316		99		2		38	132	728
White-throated Sparrow.....	25	175	47	149		276	231	47	100	67	289	1,406
Fox Sparrow.....	17	40		60		52		15		4	213	401

Abbreviations used: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; arr—arrival; CC—Christmas Count; Atl Bch—Atlantic Beach. For the following locations only the first word is used: Jones Beach State Park and Tobay Wildlife Sanctuary.

Contributors frequently cited: FB—Frank Bader; PB—Paul Buckley; RC—Richard Cohen; TD—Thomas Davis; OD—Orville Dunning; AD—Adrian Dignan; FE—Frank Enders; LE—Leonard Epstein; RF—Robert Fisher; KM—Kevin Malone; LM—Lee Morgan; WN—William Norse; DP—Dennis Puleston; GR—Gilbert Raynor; RS—Robert Sutherland; SS—Si Stepinoff; WT—Walter Terry; LW—Leroy Wilcox.

LOONS—DUCKS: Eared Grebe: Pt Lookout Feb 7 (SS)—“in surf.” Great Blue Heron: 175 SNCC Jan 2, 108 CSCC Dec 27—highest winter counts for Region. Green Heron: Lloyd Harbor Dec 26 (S. Ruppert, J. Dayton); Center Moriches Dec 27 (D. Schaeffer)—unusual at this season, only four previous winter records. Little Blue Heron: imm, Speonk Dec 27 (WT, LW)—latest record for Region. Common Egret: Tobay arr Mar 26. Snowy Egret: to Dec 9 JBWR (WN); JBWR arr Mar 20 (LM). Black-crowned Night Heron: max 205 SNCC Jan 2; 108 CSCC Dec 27; Cedar Beach arr (40 plus) Mar 13 (TD, FB). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: adult, Jones Jan 2 (fide R. Sloss)—only five previous winter records. Least Bittern: injured bird found Seaford Feb 17 (fide A. Van Sant)—died same day, specimen now at Nassau Co. Museum of Nat Hist. Only four previous winter reports. Glossy Ibis: one present JBWR to Jan 1 (H. Johnson, et al)—latest record for Region; JBWR, arr (four) Mar 25 (H. Johnson)—earliest record for Region. Mute Swan: max 688 CSCC Dec 27. Snow Goose: Woodlawn Cemetery Mar 12–13 (WN, JH, PB)—rare in Bronx at this date. Blue Goose: adult, North Babylon late Dec thru Jan 10 (K. Malone)—only two previous winter records. FULVOUS TREE DUCK: eight East Moriches Nov 15 (LW)—belated report, two other reports last fall. Black Duck: max 2670 Tobay Pond March 13 (TD). Common Teal: drake, Hempstead L Pk Feb 19—Mar 1 (O. Dunning, et al). Blue-winged Teal: East Moriches Dec 27 (P. Stoutenburgh); Southaven Dec 27 (DP); Bronx Zoo Dec 26–27 (E. Edler). TUFTED DUCK: male, Hudson River vicinity of George Washington Bridge, mid-Jan to end Mar (F. Lohrer, et al)—unfortunately there is no reliable way of determining whether this might be an escaped cage bird. Canvasback: max counts—1200 plus JBWR Dec 12 (FE); 600 Jerome Reservoir Dec 11 (FE). BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: drake, in bay off Wolfe's Pond Pk Dec 11—Feb 6 (F. Wolfarth, H. Cleaves, et al). Harlequin Duck: one drake wintered Pt Lookout, present to end of period (mob).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: imm, Hillview Reservoir Dec 26 (F. Heath, et al); Pelham Jan 1 (SS)—same individual?; imm, Great Neck, Mar 1 (G. Coealach) Red-Tailed Hawk: max counts—15 NNCC Dec 26; 20 BxCC Dec 26. Red-Shouldered Hawk: two banded Jones, Feb 20, Mar 13 (RC)—rare here. Bald Eagle: imm, Brookhaven Dec 27 (DP); imm Canarsie Pol Dec 26—Mar 13 (mob)—first NYC wintering record in years. Pigeon Hawk: seven reports—Montauk Dec 26 (PB); Moriches Dec 27 (E. Lukert); Fire Is opposite Mastic Beach Dec 27 (A. Cooley); two Mastic Dec 27 (DP et al); Captree Dec 28 (LM); JBWR Jan 15 (TD, SS). Clapper Rail: Northport Feb 4 (E. McMullen). Sora: Calverton Dec 27 (GR, et al). Common Gallinule: bird with broken wing at JBWR to Dec 26 (mob); Piping Plover: arr (eight) Mecox Bay Mar 19 (LW). Golden Plover: JBWR Dec 4 (LE, HH, FB, et al)—equals latest record. Ruddy Turnstone: three, New Rochelle Dec 26 (R. Sloss, E. Levine); 12 SICCC Dec 26. Knot: three Jones Dec 11 (WN, RF). Dunlin: max 900 CaCC Dec 28. Dowitcher sp?: five Montauk Feb 20 (E. Good, H. Pembelton)—one bird which was closely examined had an exceptionally long bill and gave a keek call when flushed, typical of the Long-billed Dowitcher. There are no previous Regional records of either dowitcher in Feb. Semipalmated Sandpiper:

two Jones Dec 11 (WN, RF). Western Sandpiper: Jones Dec 11 (WN, RF). Black-headed Gull: Jerome Reservoir Dec 25 (PB)—first Bronx record. Bonaparte's Gull: max 1268 SNCC Jan 2. Razorbill: two Montauk Pt Dec 5 (LE, RS); oiled bird Pt Lookout Mar 1 (SS). Thick-billed Murre: oiled bird Midland Beach, S. I. Feb 4 (J. Stoneck, et al)—banded and released next day; Quogue Mar 2 (LW)—banded and released. Dovekie; four Shinneck Inlet Dec 5 (M. Cashman); two Montauk Pt Dec 12 (FB, et al); East Moriches Dec 12 (LW); four Montauk Pt Dec 15 (LE, RS); Shinneck Inlet Dec 17 (LW). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: pure white albino found injured at Arverne Nov 29, died following day (T. Eicher fide JB)—specimen at AMNH, latest record for Region. Great Horned Owl: three NNCC; two CSCC. Snowy Owl: only three reports—Dec 21 Riverhead (LW); Jones Dec 11—Jan 2 (CW, WN, et al); Kennedy Airport "sometime in Feb" (fide JB). Long-eared Owl; migrant netted at Atlantic Beach, Dec 1 (RC). Saw-whet Owl: see Field-Note elsewhere in this issue. In addition to road-killed birds mentioned in this article, ten were brought to Nassau Co. Museum of Natural History (A. Van Sant).

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING:** Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Mastic Dec 27 (DP); Brookville Jan 15 (A. Bell, R. Cioffi). *Myiarchus* Flycatcher: Babylon Dec 19 and 26 (D. Eckelberry)—probably a Great Crested, (although possibility of Ash-throated cannot be ruled out. Ed.) latest Regional record for a flycatcher of this genus. Eastern Phoebe: arr (six) Tobay Mar 20 (A. Dignan). Tree Swallow: flock of up to 14 birds wintered at Tobay (mob). Boreal Chickadee: Montauk Pt Feb 5 (SS). House Wren: Speonk Dec 27 (LW, WT). Winter Wren: arr Tobay Mar 20 (A. Dignan)—early. Hermit Thrush: max six NNCC Dec 26. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 17 NNCC Dec 26. Water Pipit: one wintered at Baxter Creek Pk, Bronx (WN). Northern Shrike: Clason's Pt, Bronx Feb 17 (SS); one wintered in Port Washington area (J. Waite).

**WARBLERS:** Parula Warbler: an individual visited a feeder at Noyack daily to Dec 23 (LW et al)—latest record for Region. Pine Warbler: Montauk Pt Dec 26—Jan 16 (KM, MC, et al); Quogue Feb 6 (SS). Palm Warbler: Max six CSCC Dec 27. Northern Waterthrush: Mill Neck Dec 26—27 (O. Dunning, W. Astle, et al)—latest record for Region. Yellowthroat: Mamaroneck Dec 28 (R. Arbib); Calverton Dec 27 (GR).

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS:** Baltimore Oriole: Rockville Center Jan 2 to end of period (E. Denniston). BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: male, Woodmere Jan 23 thru period (S. Sternberg, et al)—photographed in color, second Regional record. Rusty Blackbird: max 53 BxCC Dec 26. Dickcissel: Moriches Dec 27 (D. Schaeffer, E. Lukert, et al). Evening Grosbeak: max 58 CSCC Dec 27; seven Northport Jan 26 (E. McMullen)—other scattered reports in vicinity throughout winter. House Finch: 300 banded at Atl Bch, Mar 1—27 (RC). Pine Grosbeak: JBWR Dec 16 (E. Chalif, O. Boief); seven Mill Neck area mid-Dec to late-Jan (mob). Red Crossbill: 30 Montauk Pt Jan 16 (RS, BT); 12 Mill Neck Dec 19 (A. Bell). White-winged Crossbill: 35 Cedar Beach Feb 12 (WN, PB, CW); about two dozen, Mar Tobay (mob); three JBWR Dec 1 (B. Connolly, A. Dove); 20 Glen Head Feb 5 (D. Mills); 25 Jones Mar 20 (A. Baker); 30 Brookville Mar 31 (B. Connolly). Ipswich Sparrow: max 10 CSCC Dec 27. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: max nine CSCC Dec 27. Seaside Sparrow: max five CSCC Dec 27; Vesper Sparrow: max 26 CSCC Dec 27; Field Sparrow: max 87 CSCC Dec 27. White-crowned Sparrow: Fire Is Dec 27 (A. Cooley, et al); adult QnCC Jan 2.

Corrigendum: The Sept 2 and Oct 4 records for Acadian Flycatcher in the previous fall report should be deleted.

Note: Please have spring reports in by June 7 (preferably a week earlier).

Davis, 8613-85 St., Woodhaven, NY 11421; Heath, 11-15 F.D.R. Dr., NYC 10009.



## BOOK REVIEWS

*The Bird Watcher's America*. Edited by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. McGraw-Hill, 1965. 441 p. illus, index. \$7.50.

If the reader can keep from dipping into a chapter on one of his favorite areas long enough to read the editor's Introduction first, he will find there the list of instructions which Dr. Pettingill sent to each member of his "team of authors"—an intriguing preface to the forty-six area descriptions by forty-four naturalist-writers. These instructions were suggestions on what each author *might* wish to include, plus blanket permission to handle his area as he saw fit, within very broad limits. Hence the delightful variety of presentations which follows, with articles arranged by: the altitudinal zones on the way up a mountain, a duck's-eye view of the seasons, the steps to obtaining a new breeding-warbler record, stages in ecological succession after a forest fire, etc.

This is a "Baedeker" to consult for advice before visiting one of the areas described and to bring along on the trip for evening-before anticipatory reading. It is broadly informative as well as fascinating to browse through in the absence of any plans to visit an area (though it may have the effect of galvanizing academic interest into plans). As Jeanne Goodwin put it in her *Audubon Magazine* review, this book "may function better for the birder who wants to know where to go than for the birder who wants to know what is offered in an area he already has selected."

The collection seems very well balanced ecologically as well as geographically. There is some ecological repetition from one chapter to another, but by the nature of the beast this is bound to be so, and I wouldn't choose any for omission in favor of a different area to be described instead. After all, the criterion of ornithological interest should outweigh that of even-handed coverage.

Since this is not just a guide to facilitate checking off life birds but a compend of expert presentations on habitats and migration habits, it seems regrettable that ecological and geographical terms aren't indexed. Though the geographical and ecological arrangement of the contents makes it easy enough to look up a *place*, this isn't an adequate key to the fund of ecological information in the various chapters.

A second minor complaint; several times I felt the need of a map, especially while reading the Nova Scotia chapter, where understanding of the author's points requires a good grasp of the ins and outs of the Nova Scotia coastline; a simple sketch map accompanying each selection would have been helpful. But perhaps the authors' excellently drawn verbal descriptions make maps not really essential.

Margaret S. Rusk, 805 Comstock Avenue, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210

*The Giant Canada Goose*. Harold C. Hanson. Southern Illinois University Press, 1965, 226 pp., illus. \$9.75

The story of the prolonged efforts from 1922 to 1951 have the Giant Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis maxima*, recognized as a distinct race of the Canada Goose is a study of perseverance in the face of official skepticism and lack of interest. For most of the time W. B. Meshon and R. P. Holland were the persistent proponents of the validity of this race, which was considered to be practically extinct when it was finally recognized. It is so labelled in Peter Scott's *Key to the Wildfowl of the World* (1957). This story and Dr. Harold Hanson's discovery of geese of this race wintering near Rochester, Minnesota in 1962 comprise the introductory chapter of *The Giant Canada Goose*. Later Dr. Hanson found that breeders in the upper mid-west and great plains had been propagating this race for decades.

Statistics of the physical characteristics of the various races of the Canada Goose are presented in detail. Data on the life cycle of *maxima* necessary for successful management of the population are given, with frequent comparison with other races. Maps of breeding and wintering ranges, and photographs are included. The captions for A and B of Figure 58, wings of yearling and adult male Canada Geese, appear to be reversed.

The non-professional will find much interesting information scattered thru the book, although he may not wish to study the tables of measurements in detail. Chapters on feeding habits, nesting, physical changes caused by the stress of molting, and behavior all contain details of interest to the birdwatcher as well as the professional in game management. I suspect that after reading the summary of field characters, many readers will scan flocks of Canada Geese for *maxima* this fall, as they now do for *hutchinsii* or *minima*.

Dorothy McIlroy

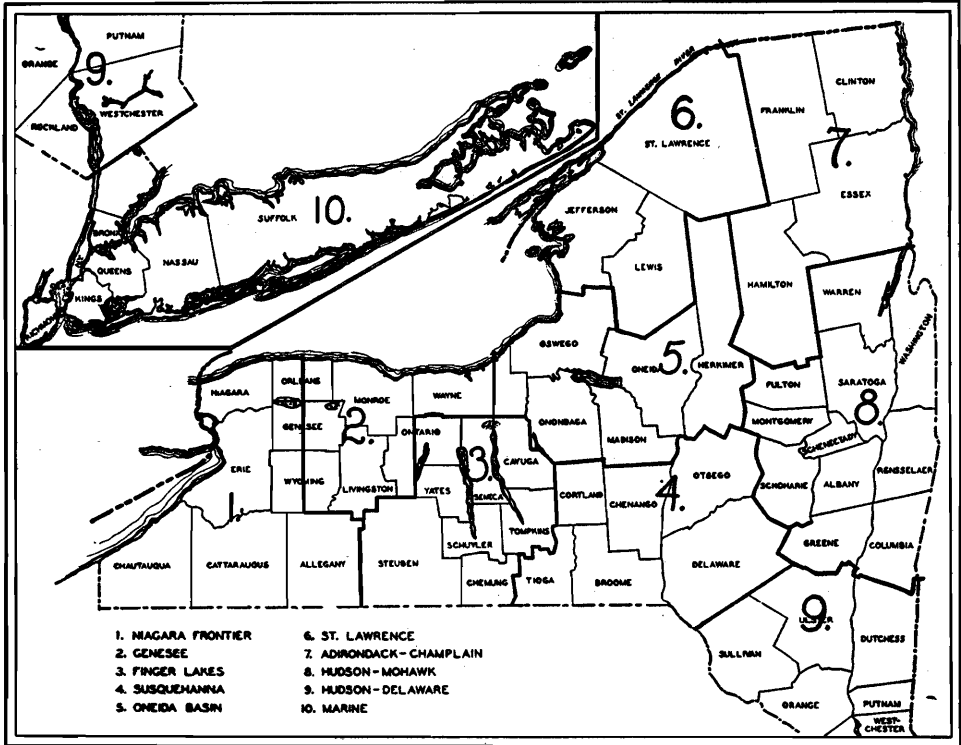
*The Birds of Kentucky*. Robert M. Mengel. Ornithological Monographs No. 3, American Ornithologists' Union. xiv + 581 pp. \$10. Copies may be ordered from Mr. Burt L. Monroe, Treasurer, Ridge Road, Anchorage, Kentucky 40001.

The introductory section, approximately a quarter of the book, includes in part: description of the physiography, climate and vegetation of the various regions of Kentucky; discussion of the distribution of breeding birds; comments on species that have increased in numbers, decreased, or vanished; the relation of vegetational stages and disturbances to present bird distribution in Kentucky. The detailed species accounts of the 296 species considered to have been reliably recorded in Kentucky include status, seasonal population changes, breeding records and distribution, and subspecies. A list of all references cited or mentioned is appended. Students of Kentucky birds will find this not only a useful reference to the status and history of the birds of Kentucky to 1960, but also a guide to studies needed to fill in gaps in knowledge.

The following comments are pertinent to the Federation's projected New York State bird book. First, preparation took an astonishingly long time: field work 1948-1952; first draft completed 1956; records added thru 1960; publication August 1965. Fortunately, New York State has a good earlier bird book to build on. Second, under species accounts there frequently appear remarks about scarcity of breeding records. For example, under Red-bellied Woodpecker - "Although . . . conspicuous and common over large areas only 5 more or less precisely dated breeding records are available." Mengel states in the introduction that "severest difficulty was posed by the scarcity of precise quantitative data concerning population structure. Local students today can perhaps pursue no activity more worthwhile than accurately measuring bird populations in representative habitat types." Federation members take note, for this ties in with Allen Benton's hope that each club will conduct at least one breeding bird census each year, and also with the nest record card program. Third, possibly not applicable to New York State conditions, is Mengel's statement that he has appended lists of specimens examined to the species accounts because "so many of the specimens I have seen are in advanced stages of deterioration and decay, and in danger of early loss." This suggests possible future importance of our Photographs of New York State Rarities series in the *Kingbird* in which photographs and accurate data on the sighting are on record.

Dorothy McIlroy

# REPORTING REGIONS



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



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### Editor of THE KINGBIRD

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419 Triphammer Rd., Ithaca, New York 14850

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