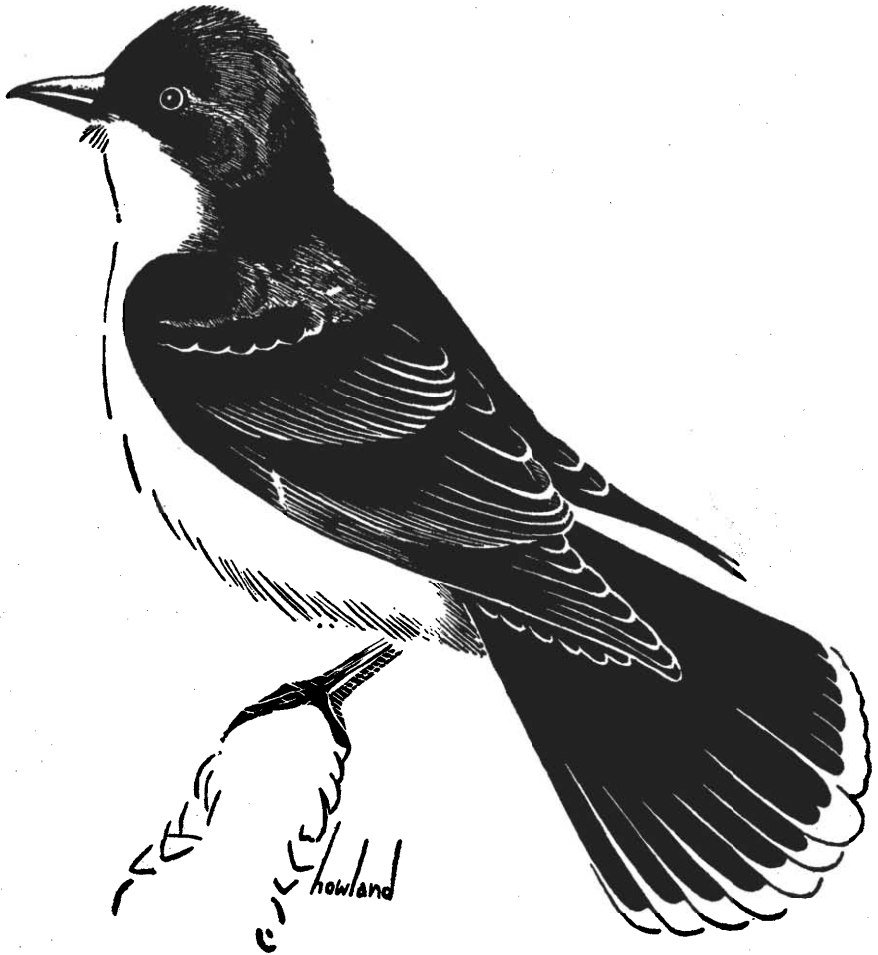


The KINGBIRD



VOL. XVIII, NO. 2

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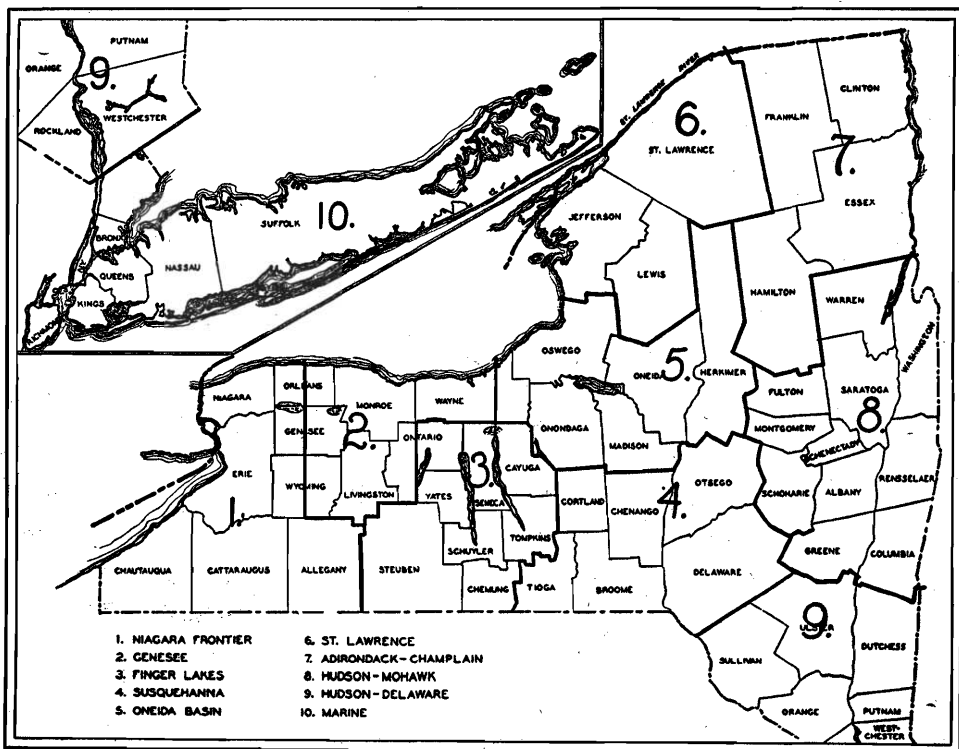
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PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

13. *Yellow-nosed Albatross*



Photograph by Joseph R. Jehl

Two miles off Jones Beach, Nassau Co., 29 May 1960

The Yellow-nosed Albatross, *Diomedea chlororhynchos*, ranges widely through the South Atlantic and southern Indian Oceans. The smallest of the southern mollymauks, with a wing span of 6-6¾ feet, it is known to breed only on Gough Island and the Tristan de Cunha group, in the South Atlantic, and on St. Paul Island in the Indian Ocean (*A.O.U. Check-list*, 1957: 10).

Perhaps one of the best known of the state's accidentals is an adult Yellow-nosed Albatross approached within 40 feet by about 60 observers, two miles off Jones Beach, Nassau Co., on 29 May 1960. For full details see Bull, *Linn. News-letter*, 14(4): June 1960, and Bull, *Auk*, 78: 425-426, 1961.

Rather than reproduce the previously published photograph of the

bird resting on the water, which clearly shows the identifying color of the upper mandible, a photograph of it taking flight is shown instead. Note the characteristic under-wing pattern of the species: a large central area of white with well defined margins, a little wider in front than behind. For a recent discussion on "Albatross identification in the North Atlantic" see *British Birds*, 59: 376-384, 1966.

Most writers usually ignore mention of a single albatross feather found by David G. Nichols at Jones Beach on 7 November 1948. The feather, in the American Museum of Natural History collection (uncatalogued), was thought by Robert C. Murphy to belong to *D. chlororhynchos*. "While it is very worn, it appears to have been not long moulted . . . and was, in all probability, a naturally moulted feather" (*Auk*, 67(3): 379-380, 1950).

Elsewhere in eastern North America Yellow-nosed Albatrosses have been reported on several occasions:

1. A bird collected on 20 August 1885 near the mouth of the Moisie River, Quebec (Dionne, 1906: 61-62, *Les Oiseaux de la Province de Quebec*, Dussault & Proulx, Quebec). There is some question about the year; some authors state 1884 (Palmer, *Handbook of North American Birds*, vol. 1, 1962: 135). Originally in the Musée de l'Université Laval, Quebec, the specimen is now presumably in the collection of Le Séminaire de Québec (G. Filteau, *in litt.*).
2. An adult collected near Machias Seal Island, off the coast of Maine on 1 August 1913 by Ernest O. Joy (*Auk*, 39: 58-65, 1922) is now no. 748984 in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, New York.
3. Norton (*Auk*, 51: 507-508, 1934) recorded an unidentified albatross seen by E. D. Rackliff "on one of his trips to the Cod Ledges [Maine], earlier in the summer." Presumably this means 1934. Quoting this same paper Palmer (*Maine Birds*, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 102: 28-29, 1949) interprets this as meaning 1913, and gives the location of the "Cod Ledges" as "off Casco Bay," Cumberland Co.
4. Norton (*op. cit.*) also reported the finding of a Yellow-nosed Albatross by a small boy, about 40 miles from the coast, in East Fryeburg, Oxford Co., Maine, a few days prior to 23 July 1934. The bird died, was mounted, and is now in the collection of the Portland Society of Natural History, Portland, Maine. C. M. Packard informs me (*in litt.*) that it is an adult.
5. A bird seen on 13 July 1958, 20 miles southeast of New Smyrna Beach, Brevard Co., Florida by James B. Johnson, Jr. (*Aud. Field Notes*, 12(5): 406, Oct. 1958). Johnson, who is familiar with the species from the South Atlantic, informs me (personal communication) that the bird, an adult, was approached within 25 feet and was well seen by all 20 persons aboard.

6-7. Mark Libby, who, like Johnson, spends a large part of the year fishing offshore, but in Maine waters, and who also gained familiarity with albatrosses while in the Navy, has seen Yellow-nosed Albatrosses on two occasions in the vicinity of Monhegan Island, Lincoln Co.: 21 March 1960 (*Records of New England Birds*, 16 (3), March 1960) and 12 May 1964 (*Records of New England Birds*, 20(5), May 1964). The 21 May 1960 date given by Palmer (*Handbook . . . op. cit.*) for the former report is incorrect, as is the 21 May 1960 date given by Bourne (*Ibis*, 109: 148, 1967) for the latter report.

Both birds were adults. The 1960 individual followed Libby's boat for four miles. He then stopped the boat and fed the bird fish scraps within a distance of 40 feet. The 1964 albatross came even closer: within a foot or two of Libby's hand as he fed it fish entrails (Libby, *in litt.*)!

Elsewhere in the North Atlantic there is a "probable" record of a Yellow-nosed Albatross collected near Iceland about 1844, and one "possible" record from France in 1889 (Bourne, *op. cit.*).

The only other albatross likely to occur in our area is the Black-browed (*D. melanophris*), which is the commonest southern vagrant in the North Atlantic. There are a number of old European records (including specimens), and in recent years there have been numerous sight records from the British Isles (Bourne, *op. cit.*). Elsewhere in the North Atlantic specimens have been taken off Greenland in the end of August 1935 (Horring & Salomonsen, *Medd. om Gronland*, 131(5): 59-60, 1941), and off Martinique on 12 November 1956 (Bond, *Fourth Supplement to the Check-list of Birds of the West Indies (1956)*, Acad. Nat. Sciences, Phila., 1959: 10).

As pointed out by Bourne (*op. cit.*) the distribution of these two species of albatrosses in the North Atlantic tends to follow a distinct pattern. The Black-browed occurs in the higher (colder) latitudes of the north and east while the Yellow-nosed occurs in lower (warmer) latitudes of the west and south. There are as yet no records of the Black-browed Albatross from the United States or Canada. The one November record from Martinique, which lies in the path of the northeast trade-winds, probably represents a bird on return passage to the southern hemisphere.

Peter W. Post, 575 West 183 Street, New York, N.Y. 10033; Present address: Columbia University Field Station, Apartado 1-U, Calama, Chile.

IN MEMORIAM
WATSON B. HASTINGS

On March 20th, in his home town of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., Watson Hastings passed away after a short illness. He had just retired, at the age of 65, in November 1967 after a long and successful career with the firm of Lord and Burnham.

The Scarsdale Audubon Society has suffered a most grievous loss. Watson was one of our most beloved and valued members. He joined soon after the society was founded in 1947, and was extremely active from the start. He served two outstanding terms as president, in 1953 and 1954, and since then has many times been a member of the Board of Directors.

After serving as president he assumed the full responsibilities of Field Trip Chairman. This was the capacity in which he most delighted to serve as he was first and foremost an outdoor man and an expert birder. His life list of birds was an imposing one, and in his constant pursuit of new areas and experiences he had visited and recorded bird life in every one of the National Parks in continental U.S.A. and Hawaii. He took great and justifiable pride in this singular accomplishment.

He led the Scarsdale Society on the annual spring trip to Cape May Point, N.J. which included Stone Harbor and Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, and he took us to Hawk Mountain, Pa. On Long Island, among his favorite areas for water birds were the Roosevelt Sanctuary at Oyster Bay, Tobay Beach Sanctuary and Jones Beach. In New Jersey he programmed and led trips to Troy Meadows, Tuckerton and Hadfield Swamp. Closer by, there were exciting visits, always at the times best calculated to find interesting species. These trips included Old Greenwich Point, Croton Point and Westchester Playland.

In 1957 and 1958, together with John Cannon and Eliot Hirshberg he conducted an extensive course in Bird Identification at the Scarsdale Adult School.

For years Watson was an active member of the Federation of N.Y. State Bird Clubs. He was often our delegate, and in 1962 was elected recording secretary. In 1966 he became Vice-President and was elected President for 1968. He had already begun to bring his great organizing talent into this new responsibility and was looking forward with great zest and anticipation to this opportunity. His loss to the Federation is a most tragic and untimely one as it is to Scarsdale.

For the National Audubon Society, he organized and directed the Annual Christmas Bird Census in the area assigned to the Scarsdale Branch.

In April 1954, at the National Audubon Society Southeast Convention, Watson was honored with a Special Conservation Citation. He received this award for his efforts which resulted in a donation by the Lee Tide-

water Cypress Company of a parcel of land and a stand of virgin cypress which became an important addition to the famous Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in southwest Florida.

Thus we must sorrowfully speak our farewells to Watson Hastings. We will miss him greatly . . . his warm greeting and ready smile, his expert knowledge and counsel in the field of nature, his always willing helpfulness, his supervision of our motion picture program with professional equipment and projection.

We extend to his wife, Myrtle Hastings, the profound and heartfelt sympathies of us all.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Jordan, reprinted from The Scarsdale Audubon Society Bulletin, Vol. 22, No. 4, April 1968

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I would like to thank all the officers and committee chairmen of the Federation for their support during the period following the untimely death of Watson Hastings.

I had originally intended not to write a presidential message in *The Kingbird* until later. However, two matters arising at the council meeting of the Federation call for comment.

(1). The question of whether or not to affiliate with the New York State Conservation Council was hotly debated. Persons whose opinions I value spoke on both sides of the issue. Finally the decision to affiliate was passed by a substantial majority. This step is not an irreversible one; should the minority prove to be correct it will be possible for the council to reverse its 1968 decision. However we have already begun discussing with the chairman of the Conservation Council ways of halting the slaughter of hawks on game farms. Had we been affiliated sooner we would have seen the proposed falconry bill (S. 4255) sooner and a member of our Federation and a national authority on hawks, Walter Spofford, could have worked on this bill at an early stage. In short I think that the affiliation is a good move that will aid our conservation efforts. Let's give it a fair trial.

(2). Almost hidden in the reports dealing with membership was the fact that we had a net loss of members last year. Ed Somers, chairman of the publicity committee, is spear-heading a drive for new members. It is also important that we work at recruiting among the members of the local clubs. I would like to have in each member club a person to act as the representative of the Federation. This person would report the activities of the Federation at the meetings of the member club. This could serve as a means of communication in both directions. Conservation issues of importance to the member club could be communicated by this representative to the conservation committee for advice and action. I would like volunteers or names of persons who might be persuaded to volunteer for this work for each member club.

David B. Peakall

WEATHER AND PURPLE MARTIN MORTALITY IN WESTERN NEW YORK

ALLEN H. BENTON AND HERBERT TUCKER

In western New York, Purple Martins nest abundantly in bird houses set up by bird lovers or insect-conscious homeowners. The usual date of spring arrival is April 9–20, although an unusually warm spring may find an occasional bird flying around one of the houses by April 1.

Since Martins are almost exclusively insectivorous (Beal, 1918) and feed almost entirely on the wing, cold weather in late April and early May can present a serious hazard. In 1966, the Martins arrived as usual, and by April 20 most houses were occupied. The weather was cool and damp with frequent precipitation until the first week in May. There was then a period of several days when the temperature did not rise above 50°F., with almost daily precipitation (Figure 1). On May 7, we received the first reports of dead Martins, but the temperature rose sharply, and we thought the danger was averted. On May 9, however, the temperature dropped to below freezing, and there was a two-inch snowfall, represented by the "S" in Figure 1. The temperature did not rise above 50° again until the 14th, by which time reports of dead Martins had multiplied.

Because of the large number of local complaints in northern Chautauqua County, we sent out a questionnaire to more than 100 owners of Martin houses, whose names we secured through a notice in the newspapers of western New York. We received reports from almost all of these people, but only 30 of them were sufficiently detailed to be useful. These reports detailed the fate of 552 Martins, which had arrived by the time the cold weather began. Of these, 323 were found dead around the houses or nearby, a known mortality of 58.5%. Since many owners reported that the first arrivals had "disappeared," and since a few Martins were picked up at some distance from a house, it is probable that this known mortality is lower than actual mortality. Our best estimate is that 75–80% of the Martins which had arrived in New York prior to May 5 died during the period from May 7–15.

Western New York was not the only area struck by heavy Martin mortality in 1966. The cold weather struck from Ohio to Central New York, with estimates of mortality ranging from 50–95%. Weather data for this period indicated that temperatures for the first half of May ranged from 10–12 degrees below normal for that period, while there was significant precipitation on 14 of the 30 days between April 15 and May 15.

Conditions which cause severe Martin mortality, then, are relatively easy to define:

1. Unseasonably cold weather, with the temperature remaining below 50°F. for several days.
2. Continued wet weather, with almost daily precipitation either as rain, sleet, or snow.
3. Following several days of the above conditions, which undoubtedly weakens Martins because of limited food, a sudden dip in temperature, with freezing conditions.

We were able to check the above conclusions during the spring of 1967, when a similar but mercifully shorter cold period in May caused some mortality, at least in northern Chautauqua County. The cold period was brief and was followed by a sunny period and slowly rising temperatures, which came in time to save a majority of the birds.

Although Bent (1942) reported that Martins have been observed picking up food from the ground, we were unable to find any evidence that the birds did so during these unseasonable periods. While other insectivorous birds are often seen during a May freeze picking up moribund insects from the ground, Martins appear not to do so. It was noted repeatedly by our observers that Martins crammed into the houses during bad weather and seldom left the house at all. Those found on the ground appeared to be those which were unable to jam themselves into the occupied boxes, although they could certainly have found space in an unoccupied nest. Mrs. W. J. Harmelink of Findley Lake wrote:

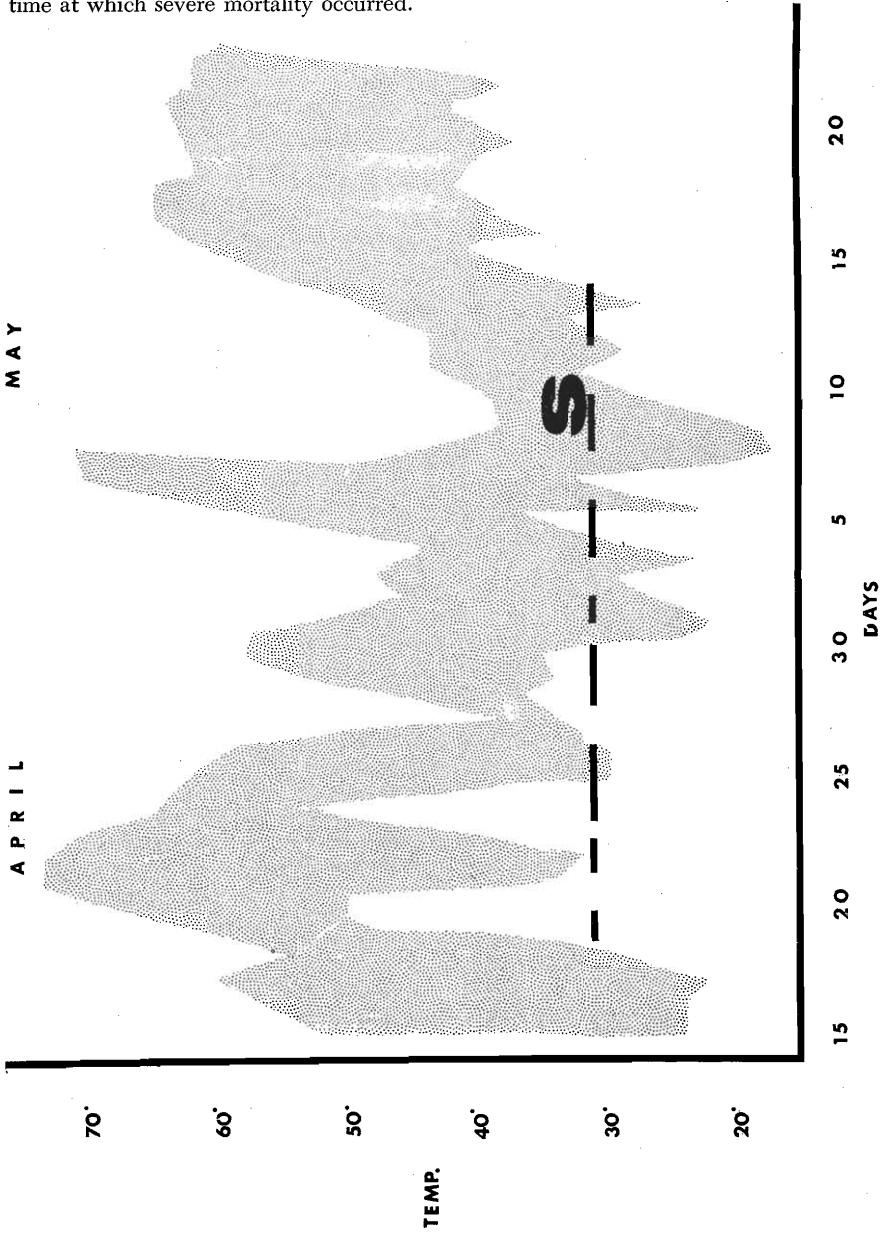
“One bird got pushed out on the ledge, and
I watched as first one claw let loose and
then it swung down and hung upside down
until it fell to the ground. Ten minutes
later it was dead. The temperature was 27°.”

Mrs. Harmelink, and some other observers, tried to save their birds in a variety of ways. Mrs. Harmelink placed a charcoal fire under the house and maintained it through the night. This apparently helped, since she lost only four birds and by midsummer had a full house. A few individuals were saved by artificial feeding of mealworms or canned dog food, but most birds which were weak enough to fall to the ground were too far gone to survive.

The evidence suggests that Martins are poorly adapted to continued low temperatures, and that they respond to poor weather conditions by entering a semi-comatose condition in the nest boxes. If weather conditions continue to be unfavorable, starvation enters the picture, and the birds seem unable or unwilling to seek food in unorthodox methods such as ground feeding. No loss of other insectivorous birds was noted, and resident Tree Swallows, Bank Swallows, and Barn Swallows were evidently able to find enough food to survive.

Figure 1 — A summary of weather conditions in southwestern New York, April 15-May 15, 1966.

Mottled area represents high and low temperatures each day. Dark line represents precipitation. Large "S" indicates a two-inch snowfall, and indicates also the time at which severe mortality occurred.



Extensive kills of Martins by inclement weather have been recorded frequently in the past. In 1903, a cold period in June killed thousands of Martins in western New England. Forbush (1929) reported an earlier occurrence in which all the Martins in eastern Massachusetts were destroyed. We have not found, however, any past disaster of such widespread occurrence as the 1966 mortality. Destruction seemed to be rather spotty, but in the whole area affected, the total kill must have been many thousands of birds.

Aside from the results of our survey of Martin mortality, we received a great many interesting letters which produced interesting observations on Martin life in general. A few of these are of sufficient interest to warrant verbatim quotation.

Mr. W. R. Kuhns of Olcott writes:

"Each summer during the growing season, the parents bring a few dried and odorless small fish to the perches. I have never seen any taken into the house, always being left on the porch with no more attention being paid to them by either the young or parents. The fish is eventually blown or kicked off."

Mr. Edwin Wilhelm of Collins reports an unusual feeding habit, the only observation of its kind:

"For the past month, quite a few martins have been landing on our feeding station and eating some of the smaller seeds."

Mr. Joseph Hannon of Orchard Park was one who tried to save his birds by force-feeding:

"We brought (two) into our house and after they were warmed up, fed them some ground round steak by placing small bits behind their tongue, which they readily swallowed. We were able to save the female bird, but the male bird was dead the following morning."

Mr. Raymond Ryan of Westfield was one of the few whose houses were eventually filled:

"We had 12 pairs equally divided, male and female. Of the group, we found 8 dead males on the ground and 3 in the house, no dead females. The females disappeared and we thought all had died. However, as soon as the weather warmed up, one pair returned. Thereafter, females returned until we had 12 females and one male."

A number of observers mentioned the predominance of males among the dead birds. Those who had nesting groups in 1966 included several who had more females than males in the final nesting count. I know of no reason why there should have been a differential mortality, but all the evidence suggests that females survived the adverse conditions better than males.

Summary

Purple Martin mortality in May 1966 approached 75–80% in western New York. Sustained cold wet weather, with temperatures below 50° for several days, appeared to trigger the losses. Female mortality was reported as less than male, although no precise figures are available. Few western New York houses were fully occupied in 1966.

Department of Biology, State University College, Fredonia, New York 14063

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SUMMARY OF THE 1967 F. & W. S. BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

ROBERT P. YUNICK

Through the cooperation of 58 observers and numerous support personnel who helped with recording birds, driving routes and recruiting people to participate, 74 breeding bird surveys were completed in New York State during the 1967 breeding season. This survey is sponsored by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of Interior. It was begun experimentally in 1965 in Maryland and Delaware and first run in New York State in 1966. The 1967 counts amassed data on 64,188 birds of 156 species and one hybrid.

The purpose of the survey is to measure changes in abundance of breeding birds as brought about by changes in environment, land use and a multitude of other factors. To be statistically valid, the survey routes are selected on a random basis at the present density of eight per degree block. Thus there are 112 such counts in New York State. The coverage afforded by the 74 counts was adequate in all areas except the Adirondack Mountains and fringes. Twenty-three of the 38 counts which were not run were in this area.

The total value of this survey on a grand scale remains to be determined with time. However, even in its infancy, benefits appear to be accruing. The survey affords a quantitative handle for students of local bird populations. It is enlightening to know with some degree of reliable comparison the conspicuousness of species which for the most part has been previously determined quite casually. This impact is already noticeable in the use of survey data by regional editors in the October issue of *The Kingbird*. New birding areas that otherwise might not be visited are being assayed and hopefully are becoming the subjects of subsequent, more thorough investigation. In addition, there is a personal satisfaction

in knowing that one's efforts are contributing to a valuable, needed study of birdlife. Many people are finding that pleasure and scientific data collection can be one and the same.

Highs and Lows

Table I lists counts and observers. Included are the species counts, total counts, commonest species, and most widely distributed species.

The highest species count was 74 on the Randolph route, the lowest was 39 on the Mendon route. On the average, about 55 species were recorded per count. The highest total count was 1463 on the Oriskany Falls route and the lowest was 279 on the Sabattis route. The average per route was about 868 birds. I would like to emphasize that this information is provided to be informative only, and not to imply any value to a high count or lack of value to a low count. These counts are intended to be objective and accurate, and not in the competitive spirit of an Audubon Christmas Count, or "Century Run" or "Big Day" that many clubs schedule in May. A high count is no more valuable than a low count, and no attempt should be made to build a species list. Accuracy is of utmost importance.

Most Common

The Red-winged Blackbird was recorded as the most common species on 41 counts. The Starling was next on 21 counts, Common Grackle on four and Red-eyed Vireo on two. Occurring as most common on one count each were: Common Tern, Robin, House Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Veery and Barn Swallow. Alternately, if one looks at commonness or conspicuousness by totaling the numbers of each species recorded on all the counts, there are 27 species with totals of over 500. These are listed in Table II in descending order with the percentage of the total each represents, as well as the cumulative percentage of the total. Again the list is headed by the red-wing and Starling. It is revealing to see that five species accounted for one-half of the total recorded, and also revealing to see which five they were.

Least Common

There were 22 species and one hybrid for which there was recorded only one individual on one count. They were: Common Loon, Laughing Gull, Least Tern, Black Tern, Black Skimmer, Cooper's Hawk, American Widgeon, Black-crowned Night Heron, Clapper Rail, Common Gallinule, Solitary Sandpiper, Turkey, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Fish Crow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Brewster's Warbler, Parula Warbler, Carolina Wren, Boreal Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

TABLE I
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE BREEDING BIRD COUNTS
NEW YORK STATE — 1967

Count	Cooperator	Species Total	Total Count	Commonest Species*	Most Distributed Species**
N-1 Westhampton	G. S. Raynor	44	869	C. Grackle	Bobwhite
N-2 Manorville	G. S. Raynor	46	754	C. Tern	Blue Jay
N-3 Huntington	W. A. McAneny	40	1066	C. Grackle	C. Grackle
N-4 Jones' Beach	F. Enders	40	1336	Starling	Starling
N-5 Hauppauge	F. Enders	42	651	C. Grackle	House Sparrow
N-6 Bedford	S. R. Lincoln	54	691	Robin	C. Grackle
N-7 Somer	E. Ditterline	49	1025	Starling	Robin
N-8 Rhinebeck	O. T. Waterman	59	1053	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-9 Highland	E. Rifenburg	47	766	C. Grackle	Robin
N-10 Warwick	Mrs. I. W. Dean	40	535	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-11 Middletown	A. Merritt	50	1020	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-12 Rifton	H. W. Weber	52	883	House Sparrow	Robin
N-13 Westbrookville	E. D. Treacy	57	1301	Starling	Starling
N-15 Mt. Hope	E. D. Treacy	57	988	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-16 Austerlitz	G. Erlenbach	61	483	R.-W. Blackbird	Song Sparrow
N-17 Petersburg	P. P. Wickham	67	788	R.-W. Blackbird	Song Sparrow
N-18 Catskill	J. H. Bush	46	655	Starling	Robin
N-19 Ghent	P. P. Wickham	56	1037	Starling	R.-W. Blackbird
N-20 Ballston Lake	B. R. Seguin	61	1022	Starling	R.-W. Blackbird
N-21 Durham	O. A. Knorr	58	679	Starling	Robin
N-24 Meridale	Mrs. L. Clark	52	640	R.-W. Blackbird	Song Sparrow
N-25 Cobleskill	W. B. Sabin	51	1209	Starling	R.-W. Blackbird
N-26 Duanesburg	W. B. Sabin	51	931	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-27 South Berne	C. E. Parker	68	835	Starling	Robin
N-30 Whitney Point	D. R. Bystrak	52	787	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-31 Coventryville	I. E. Bemont	65	790	Starling	Starling
N-32 McDonough	C. R. Howard	61	409	R.-W. Blackbird	Robin
N-33 Corbettsville	P. G. Kalka	56	740	Starling	R.-W. Blackbird
N-35 Oriskany Falls	E. T. Farnham	59	1463	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-36 Oxford	H. T. Marsi	67	1160	R.-W. Blackbird	Robin
N-38 Lisle	R. J. Pantle	56	953	Starling	R.-W. Blackbird
N-39 E. Newark	R. Williams	59	812	Starling	R.-W. Blackbird
N-41 Dryden	S. H. Spofford	57	948	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-43 Trumansburg	D. W. McIlroy	50	829	R.-W. Blackbird	Song Sparrow
N-44 Vestal Center	N. R. Washburn	51	843	Starling	R.-W. Blackbird
N-45 Phillips Creek	L. L. Burton	61	1102	R.-W. Blackbird	Robin
N-46 Swain	C. Klingensmith	63	612	R.-W. Blackbird	Song Sparrow
N-47 Orleans	P. R. Trail	62	1285	Starling	Song Sparrow
N-49 Branchport	M. J. Lerch	55	839	R.-W. Blackbird	Starling
N-51 Mendon	W. Hartranft	39	681	R.-W. Blackbird	Song Sparrow
					C. Crow
					Robin
					Starling
					House Sparrow
					R.-W. Blackbird
					Am. Goldfinch
					Song Sparrow
N-52 Mt. Morris	A. E. Ulrich	60	1057	Starling	Song Sparrow

* Species with highest total count.

** Species recorded at greatest number of stops.

TABLE I—Continued

Count	Cooperator	Species Total	Total Count	Commonest Species*	Most Distributed Species**
N-53 Hamburg	E. L. Seeber	49	1069	Starling	Robin
N-54 West Seneca	M. A. Wendling	62	1213	R.-W. Blackbird	Song Sparrow
N-55 Gainesville	R. F. Andrie	59	1222	Starling	R.-W. Blackbird
N-56 Cattaraugus	D. M. Bigelow	54	739	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-57 East Java	P. M. Benham	60	542	R.-W. Blackbird	Robin
N-58 Castile	H. Klabunde	52	1348	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-59 Randolph	S. W. Eaton	74	665	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-60 Centerville	R. Brownstein	63	877	R.-W. Blackbird	Robin
N-61 Sheridan	F. M. Rew	60	1264	R.-W. Blackbird	Robin
N-62 Cherry Hill	R. A. Sundell	62	1407	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
					Robin
N-63 Nashville	E. L. Seeber	68	959	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
					Song Sparrow
N-64 St. Johnsburg	Mrs. W. McKale	43	1318	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-65 E. Youngstown	H. Klabunde	47	1319	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-66 Byron	G. Seamans	54	703	Starling	Song Sparrow
N-69 N. Victory	J. W. Propst	58	896	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-70 Cicero Center	J. W. Propst	59	1004	R.-W. Blackbird	Song Sparrow
N-71 Watertown	A. W. Allen	42	621	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-72 Pulaski	R. C. Walker	46	503	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-75 Kasoag	M. S. Rusk	68	702	Starling	R.-W. Blackbird
					Song Sparrow
N-76 Highmarket	K. G. Hanson	49	881	R.-W. Blackbird	A. m. Goldfinch
					R.-W. Blackbird
					Field Sparrow
N-77 Number Four	E. T. Farnham	63	922	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-78 N. Wilmurt	R. Williams	63	536	R.-W. Blackbird	Robin
N-85 Speculator	R. Williams	58	357	Wh.-thr. Sparrow	Wh.-thr. Sparrow
N-88 North River	W. B. Sabin	58	790	Red-eyed Vireo	Red-eyed Vireo
N-89 Salem	P. F. Connor	65	848	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-91 North Easton	W. G. Gorman	67	1210	R.-W. Blackbird	C. Grackle
N-93 Warrensburg	W. B. Sabin	55	608	Veery	Veery
					Wood Thrush
N-94 Fowler	J. B. Belknap	45	344	Starling	Robin
N-101 Sabattis	M. S. Rusk	49	279	Red-eyed Vireo	Red-eyed Vireo
N-107 Underwood	D. H. Young	52	331	Barn Swallow	Barn Swallow
					Robin
N-110 Willsboro	G. T. Chase	47	437	R.-W. Blackbird	R.-W. Blackbird
N-111 Naples	S. W. Eaton	57	1043	R.-W. Blackbird	Robin
					Song Sparrow
N-112 S. Vandalia	S. W. Eaton	59	704	R.-W. Blackbird	Robin

* Species with highest total count.

** Species recorded at greatest number of stops.

Most Widely Distributed

Table I lists 16 species that were recorded at the greatest number of stops per count. This list is also headed by the red-wing, but contains three species not noted on the list of commonest species. The 16 species, with the number of counts in parentheses on which each was seen most frequently, are: Red-winged Blackbird (33), Robin (21), Song Sparrow (15), Starling (6), Common Grackle (3), House Sparrow (2), Red-eyed

TABLE II
COMMONEST SPECIES BY TOTAL COUNT

Species	Total Count	Percent of Total	Cumulative Total
1. Red-winged Blackbird.....	10,351	16.1	16.1
2. Starling.....	8753	13.6	29.7
3. Robin.....	4414	6.88	36.6
4. Common Grackle.....	4408	6.87	43.5
5. House Sparrow.....	3712	5.87	49.2
6. Song Sparrow.....	2910	4.55	53.8
7. Common Crow.....	1918	2.99	56.7
8. American Goldfinch.....	1805	2.81	59.5
9. Barn Swallow.....	1346	2.09	61.6
10. Eastern Meadowlark.....	1291	2.01	63.6
11. Chipping Sparrow.....	1082	1.69	65.3
12. Bobolink.....	915	1.42	66.7
13. Yellowthroat.....	910	1.42	68.1
14. Brown-headed Cowbird.....	872	1.36	69.5
15. Catbird.....	860	1.34	70.8
16. Yellow Warbler.....	857	1.33	72.1
17. Baltimore Oriole.....	846	1.32	73.5
18. Rock Dove.....	787	1.23	74.7
19. Wood Thrush.....	776	1.21	75.9
20. Mourning Dove.....	771	1.20	77.1
21. Rufous-sided Towhee.....	764	1.19	78.3
22. Blue Jay.....	762	1.19	79.5
23. House Wren.....	701	1.09	80.6
24. Savannah Sparrow.....	697	1.09	81.7
25. Field Sparrow.....	693	1.08	82.7
26. Red-eyed Vireo.....	670	1.04	83.8
27. Yellow-shafted Flicker.....	580	0.90	84.7

Vireo (2), American Goldfinch (2), and one each for White-throated Sparrow, Veery, Barn Swallow, Bobwhite, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Field Sparrow and Wood Thrush.

In considering the matter of distribution from the point of view of what species were recorded on the greatest number of routes, one gets a similar list. The following are the species seen on the indicated number of counts. All but the kingbird are on the list of commonest species.

74 Counts: Common Crow	72 Counts: Yellow-shafted Flicker
Red-winged Blackbird	Starling
Common Grackle	Yellowthroat
Song Sparrow	71 Counts: Brown-headed Cowbird
73 Counts: Blue Jay	Baltimore Oriole
Chipping Sparrow	American Goldfinch
Barn Swallow	Wood Thrush
Catbird	70 Counts: Eastern Kingbird
Robin	Field Sparrow

The names of all species included here refer to those given in the 1957 A.O.U. Check-list.

Acknowledgements

It is impossible to acknowledge by name all of the individuals who contributed to the 1967 survey. To those who are mentioned here in connection with their respective counts go my thanks for their cooperation and valuable assistance. To the numerous unnamed people who assisted in other ways goes no less a thank-you for their contribution to the success of the survey. I look forward to their assistance in 1968.

There are three people, however, whose efforts deserve special mention. They are Walter Klabunde of the Buffalo Ornithological Society who coordinated 17 routes in the Buffalo area, thereby relieving me of the task of contacting each person individually, Peter Wickham of the Schenectady Bird Club who coordinated 12 routes near Schenectady, and Walton Sabin, also of SBC, who for the second year in succession ran four counts, the greatest number run by anyone in the state.

1527 Myron Street, Schenectady, N.Y. 12309

LITTLE GALLOO ISLAND — A TWENTY YEAR SUMMARY

JOHN B. BELKNAP

Since my initial visit to Little Galloo in May 1948 there has been a continued expansion in the Ring-billed Gull colony located there. It is now considered to be the largest breeding colony of the species in North America. The increase in gulls since the passage of the migratory bird act in 1918 has been particularly noticeable during the past two decades. For many years the Ring-billed Gull bred mainly in the prairie regions of the United States and Canada, eastward to the upper Great Lakes. An eastward expansion began some forty years ago and the colony on Little Galloo was established around 1940.

Our first definite knowledge came as the result of a visit to the island on June 7, 1945. At this time Dr. H. L. Kutz found Ring-billed Gulls well established on the southwesterly end of the island. During the past twenty years numerous visits have been made to Little Galloo by the writer and others, mainly in the months of May and June.

Little Galloo Island, about 43 acres in extent, lies near the eastern end of Lake Ontario some 5½ miles from the mainland. Roughly oval, it is three-sevenths of a mile in the longer dimension. The island is composed of rock with a thin covering of soil. Grass and weeds constitute much of the vegetation. The number of trees is limited and these are mainly around the perimeter. The interior resembles a level, grassy meadow.

The recorded history of the gulls on Little Galloo began in 1945 when Dr. Kutz estimated a population of 2000 adults, with a ratio of ten Ring-bills to one Herring Gull. At the time of my visit in 1948 the Ring-bills were occupying an area of nearly ten acres and showed a considerable increase in numbers. On the other hand the Herring Gull population was

little changed and has remained nearly stable ever since.

In 1950 an attempt was made to make an accurate estimate of the number of gull nests on the island. Nests in representative sections of the breeding area were counted and a density figure expressed in nests per acre arrived at. The total nesting area was estimated and the population found by simple arithmetic. Based on several years sampling the density was found to vary from 2000 to 2500 nests per acre.

Over the years the Ring-billed colony has expanded until it now occupies all available space, with one exception. This is an area of about four acres retained by the Herring Gulls. The Ring-billed colony has gradually encircled this area with the Herring Gulls maintaining their ground. In 1967 the Ring-billed Gull population was estimated at 85,000 pairs.

The amount of food required to maintain a colony of this size during the period the young are being raised must be tremendous. Gulls eat many kinds of animal food and are natural scavengers. I have come to the conclusion that the fertile agricultural land in southern Jefferson County, adjacent to the lake provides a considerable portion of the food supply. Ring-billed Gulls devour many varieties of arthropods and frequently follow the plow in search of food. There is a large acreage of cultivated land within twenty miles of Little Galloo Island. In late spring gulls can be seen as far as thirty miles from the island following branches of Sandy Creek well onto the Tug Hill Plateau. During the nesting season gulls can be seen trading back and forth between the island and the mainland. On May 28, 1966 counts were made showing that from 6000 to 8000 birds were making the crossing in each direction hourly.

Banding of young gulls has been carried out sporadically during the past twenty years. In the spring of 1967 over one thousand adults were banded, having been caught by the "boom net" technique. The best time for banding young birds is the second week in June and thousands could be captured provided the necessary manpower were available.

Aside from the gulls a number of other nesting species have been found on the island. Waterfowl include a few Mallard and Black Ducks, one or two pairs of Canada Geese, and in 1967 at least one pair of Pintails. In the early nineteen fifties Common Terns had a flourishing colony on Little Galloo but this has been gradually wiped out by competition from the Ring-billed Gulls. On the other hand, a small group of Black-crowned Night Herons has expanded into a sizable colony of over seventy-five pairs. The herons build their stick nests in low bushes that fringe the southwestern end of the island.

Three factors seem to be responsible for the success of the Ring-billed Gulls on Little Galloo. One is the previously mentioned availability of food. Another is the lack of disturbance by humans and natural predators. In addition, the large acreage of open land provides room for the thousands of nests found every year.

92 Clinton Street, Gouverneur, N.Y. 13642

1967 GREAT BLUE HERONRY SURVEY

During 1967, the fourth year of the survey of Great Blue Heron nesting colonies in Upstate New York, there were eleven new heronries reported. This included one from Franklin County which is the first report we have received of the nesting of the Great Blue Heron in the Adirondack area. Whether this increase is due to an actual increase in the number of heronries or whether it simply reflects increased interest on the part of Bird Clubs and individuals in locating and reporting nesting colonies, is open to question.

TABLE I

	1964	1965	1966	1967
No. of heronries on which data was received	11	14	11	24
Approximate no. of active nests	450	350	250	421

Table II lists all the heronries which have been reported to us as active at anytime in the past four years and gives their status as reported to us for 1967.

TABLE II

Location	Nests	Young	Dates visited in 1967	
Region 1				
1. Farrington Hollow Rd. Town of Arkwright Chautauqua County	42		Feb.-April	(3)
2. Coes Rd. Town of Stockton Chautauqua County	18	32	Feb.-April	(4)
3. Oak Orchard		No report in 1967		(1)
4. Hood Hill, Belmont Alleghany County		No report in 1967		(2)
5. 4 mi. NW of Vandalia		No report in 1967		(1)
6. 5 mi. N of Olean		No report in 1967		(1)
7. Kennedy, Chautauqua Co.	6			* (1)
8. 2 mi. E of Markam's Corners, Cattaraugus Co.	19		Feb.-April	* (1)
Region 2				
1. Marengo Swamp, Clyde Wayne County	175	440	May-July	(4)
2. Scottsville Monroe County	34			* (1)
3. Groveland Flats Livingston County	5	7	June	* (1)
Region 3				
1. S of Corning Steuben County		no report in 1967		(1)
2. Town of Benton Yates County	5	5	June 15	* (1)
Region 4				
1. Candor, Tioga County	3			(4)
2. Owego, Tioga County		No report in 1967		
3. 3 mi. E of Whitney Point Broome County		No report in 1967		(2)
4. German, Chenango County		No report in 1967		
5. Cold Brook Rd., Scott Cortland County	17	34	July 12	(4)

TABLE II—Continued

Location	Nests	Young	Dates visited in 1967	
6. Charlottesville near Otsego-Schoharie County line	No report in 1967			
7. Andes, Delaware Co.	6			(1)
8. Chollechester Township Delaware County	No report in 1967			
9. East Freetown, Town of Solon Cortland County	4	8	July 10	(1)
10. Virgil, Cortland County	11	On July 4 it appeared no young had been raised.		* (1)
11. W of Richford, Tioga County	20			* (1)
12. Greene, Chenango County	7		May 28	* (1)

Region 5

1. Cross Lake, Onondaga County	22	33	July 5	(4)
2. Scott Swamp, Phoenix Oswego County	17	31	July 2	(4)
3. Bridgeport, Onondaga County	2		April 23	(1)
4. Skaneateles, Onondaga County	No report in 1967			
5. Old Fly, Town of Pompey Onondaga County	6	12	July 4	* (1)
6. Morrisville Swamp Madison County	2		May 25	* (1)

Region 6

1. Ironsides Island Alexandria Bay Jefferson County	110	250	July 1	(4)
2. Perch River Game Management Area	37		July 17	(3)
3. Camp Drum, Jefferson County	Heronry deserted July 16			
Regional Editor, David C. Gordon, reports no other known heronries in Region 6.				

Region 7

1. Oseetah Lake Franklin County	3 (at least one active)			* (1)
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Region 8

Greene County Bird Club reports no known heronries in this area.

Region 9

1. Bontecue Farm, Town of Washington, Dutchess County	6	12	April 16, May 13 June 27	(4)
Regional Editor, Ed Treacy, reports no other known heronries in Region 9.				

Figure in parentheses () indicates the number of years on which definite data has been reported.

* Heronry reported for the first time in 1967.

For eleven heronries, reports have been received for each of the four years of the survey. This is summarized in Table III.

TABLE III
NUMBER OF ACTIVE NESTS

	1964	1965	1966	1967
Region 1—Coes Road.....	25	25	17	18
Region 2—Marengo Swamp.....	40	50	100	175
Region 4—Candor.....	15	15	5	3
Cold Brook.....	17	7	3	17
Region 5—Cross Lake.....	70	35	35	22
Scott Swamp.....	15	20	9	17
Region 6—Ironsides Island.....	135	100	85	110
Region 9—Bontecue Farm.....	7	9	6	6
Totals.....	324	261	260	368

We wish to thank the many Clubs and individuals who cooperated by sending in reports. We ask anyone who knows of an active Great Blue Heronry in 1968 to please send a report on it. We are interested in the location, the number of active nests and the number of young raised. Reports may be submitted thru your local Bird Club or direct to the author.

Walter E. Benning, Clyde, N.Y. 14433

ADDITIONS TO BONAPARTE'S GULL RECORDS, REGION 5

Syracuse, 1 May 1968

To the Editor:

In "The Status of Bonaparte's Gull in New York State" by Joanna Burger and Richard Brownstein, *Kingbird* for January 1968, there are a few omissions and some citations which may be interpreted differently in the Region 5 section, which we wish to call to the reader's attention.

- 1) There is a record of a juvenile at Onondaga Lake July 14, 1963 not cited in the article, which could be considered an "irregular summer visitant" or an unusually early fall arrival.
- 2) "Usual spring migration records [are] of 15 or fewer" according to the authors. But the Region 5 editor comments in 1960: "No count over 20—scarce" and the maximum for one day in 1967 was 30 on May 21.
- 3) Two 1958 winter records are cited, but a third—an adult Feb. 12, 1956 at Oswego Harbor—was omitted.
- 4) Under maxima, 104 Oneida Lake Nov. 24, 1960 is omitted although two slightly lower counts are given.

All above records are from the *Kingbird* for the pertinent season.

M. S. Rusk
F. G. Scheider

FIELD NOTES

Varied Thrush at Candor: Following an extreme cold spell at the end of December 1967 and January 1968, a Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) appeared at the feeding station of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hull, Water Street, Candor, Tioga County.

On January 8, 1968 the Hulls noticed a strange robin-like bird apparently feeding on cracked corn scattered on the snow near their feeder. The bird appeared to have an indistinct breast band crossing the orange-yellow breast. The orange eye stripe was plainly visible, as was the colorful orange throat. The two wing bars appeared a pale yellow. The mottled underparts and overall appearance of the thrush suggested an immature specimen.



Photograph by Donald Weber

The thrush subsequently appeared daily and was observed by approximately sixty birders from various parts of New York and Pennsylvania, the large picture windows about 60 feet from the feeding area providing an excellent vantage point. It maintained a quite regular feeding schedule and could be expected to appear for its last feeding at about 4 p.m. (except on the Saturday the Hull's livingroom was filled with expectant observers!). During the bitter cold weather, with temperatures ranging from 15° above to sometimes 20° below, the bird fed frequently and appeared to eat only cracked corn, although apples and raisins were provided. The presence of feeding Blue Jays, Cardinals, sparrows, etc. seemed to cause the thrush no concern.

On January 31, after a few days of mild weather, the thrush disappeared and was thought to have departed, but it was observed again on March 4, 5 and 6 at the same place by Don Weber, who was maintaining the feeding station after the Hull's departure for Florida on February 6.

The Hull residence is located on the bank of the Catatonk Creek in the village of Candor. The yard contains scattered apple trees, one of which near the feeder was used by the thrush as a resting place, where it perched quietly for long periods of time. Across the creek an island with heavy growths of thorn apples also provided it with shelter. A large spring flows past the feeding area and the bird was often seen going to the edge of this open water.

A casual check of New York State records for the Varied Thrush indicates 7 downstate records (New York City area) and three upstate records (Watertown; West Glenville, Schenectady Co.; Rensselaer Co.).

Donald Weber and Robert Pantle, Candor, N.Y. 13743

Feeding Note on Wintering Purple Sandpiper at Dunkirk: A Purple Sandpiper successfully wintered at the Dunkirk Harbor, being reported from 26 Dec 1966 to 23 April 1967 [*Kingbird* 17(2):91, 17(3):154]. The bird was probably one of three that were reported as a group as late as 10 and 11 Feb. A single bird had successfully spent the winter at the same site in 1963-64 [*Kingbird* 14(2):95].

On 22 and 23 April 1967 the authors studied and photographed a Purple Sandpiper feeding on earthworms for a period of 4 hours at Dunkirk. The bird remained on the lee side of an eight inch wall for most of this time while a steady 35-40 m.p.h. wind was blowing from the west. The bird frequented shallow rain pools and soft muddy areas, probing stilt-like for worms which it secured with great dexterity. The authors were semi-hidden in a standing vehicle, which the Sandpiper approached as close as four feet. Although many small worms (2-4 inches) were taken, a particularly large one (later measured at 5 inches) proved to be too large, and after many attempts the bird abandoned the mangled remains.

Purple Sandpipers normally forage on rocky shores, feeding on insects and small crustaceans (Bent. 1927, Bull. 142, Smithsonian Inst.). Feeding behavior as described above would normally occur only in the summer on the breeding grounds. The bird was almost completely in the brown nuptial plumage.

Joanna Burger, Biology Department, State University College, Buffalo, New York.
Richard Brownstein, 530 Walbridge Bldg., Buffalo, New York.

Ed. Note. There are a number of records of Purple Sandpipers feeding in muddy pools and even on turf at high tide (Darling, *A Naturalist on Rona*, 1939; Waters, *British Birds* 59:346, 1966; Feare, *British Birds* 59:347, 1966). It seems likely that the unusual feeding behavior described above was caused by its normal feeding grounds being covered with water due to the high winds.

More Hybrid Flicker Notes from Watertown. Since writing a previous note (*Kingbird* 17(1):18, 1967) more information has been developed on this subject. Three hybrid flickers collected by D. Blais 1964-65 have been preserved as specimens in the collection of Jefferson Community College. Their descriptions are as follows:

1. Female—wings combination of yellow and salmon-red color; tail yellow.
2. Female—wings same as #1; tail mostly salmon-red.
3. Male—wings same as #1 and 2; tail combination of both colors.

A hybrid collected by P. Gaskin near Watertown May 1966 is as follows.

4. Male—wing feathers mostly yellow, except that two on each wing are salmon; tail—outer two feathers on each side salmon, other six yellow.

A male I found Burrville July 25, 1967 is as follows:

5. Male—wing feathers about half yellow and half salmon; tail—outer two feathers on each side mostly salmon, the central two salmon, the rest yellow.

All birds examined were symmetrical in color.

No. 2 specimen and another bird banded and released were reported in the earlier note. All birds have a red nape, gray crown, brown throat and cheeks, and the males have black moustaches, which makes the Yellow-shafted heredity seem dominant to that of the Red-Shafted Flicker. From descriptions and dates it appears that the known total is six hybrid flickers seen in the Watertown area in four years. Is this unusual so far east of the overlapping ranges of these two?

David C. Gordon, 1347 Sherman Street, Watertown, N.Y. 13601

Ed. Note: See note on hybrid flickers in New York State by E. M. Reilly, *Kingbird* 11(2):89, July 1961. Dr. Reilly recently suggested that helpful additional knowledge of the proportion of hybrid flickers in the state could be gained if a few bird-watchers would look carefully at every flicker they see and keep accurate notes on

whether evidence of hybridization, such as red in wings or tail and moustache color, is present. Museum specimens may be unintentionally biased by the tendency to collect the odd-plumaged birds.

In his doctoral thesis (Cornell University, 1959), "Hybridization in the Flickers (*Colaptes*) of North America," Lester LeRoy Short, Jr. stated (p. 73) that "the incidence of orange or reddish shaft color in eastern *auratus* population is rather high (table 20)." This table showed that of 266 specimens of Yellow-shafted Flicker from beyond 1000 miles east and north of the center of hybridization in Nebraska about one-third showed this color in some of the shafts and vanes of wings or tail, usually symmetrically. He also commented that "it would appear that the original source of this character in the eastern flicker population was the *cafer* population" probably by introgression. He concluded that "the various North American flickers, exclusive of *Colaptes fernandinae* of Cuba, . . . should be recognized as comprising one species, *Colaptes auratus*" with five subspecific groups—*auratus* (Yellow-shafted), *cafer* (Red-shafted), *chrysoides* (Gilded), *mexicanoides* and *chrysocaulosus*.

A hasty check of 59 New York State Yellow-shafted Flicker specimens, mostly Tompkins County, in the Cornell collection showed that at least eight of these had some orange or red color in the shafts and vanes of the wing and tail feathers.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINTER SEASON

December 1—March 31

DAVID B. PEAKALL

The term old-fashioned winter conjures up pictures of iced-over lakes and huge snow drifts; whether they were really more severe than some recent ones in New York State is open to doubt. It is, however, interesting to contemplate the differences in the species that the bird watcher might expect to see now as compared to fifty years ago. The old-timer probably saw more Sharp-shins and Cooper's Hawks than could be found today, but the total list has increased over the years. The Great Black-backed Gull did not penetrate into the Great Lakes until the mid-1930's and has increased greatly both on the coast and in the Great Lakes basin since then. The ratio of Mallards to Blacks has increased, due to an increase in the number of Mallards. The state-wide average from the waterfowl census for 1955-59 was just under 5000, compared to over 10,000 in 1962-66. It is among the landbirds that the increase in variety of species is the most marked. The Mourning Dove is now a common winter resident. The Evening Grosbeak was rare before the early 1940's. Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, and Mockingbird are all part of the winter scene now. The increases of these species on Christmas counts has been tabulated previously in these summaries (*Kingbird* 16:93, 17:87). Undoubtedly some of these changes have been aided by the availability of food at feeders. Baltimore Orioles and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks winter regularly in small numbers. An Orange-crowned Warbler was at a Long Island feeder for a few weeks in January. While not related to feeders it is of interest that on December 31, King and Virginia Rails were re-

ported in Region 1, a rail of one or other of these species in the Adirondacks and five Gallinules were seen in Region 2.

It was, for most of the state, a poor winter for finches. The table used previously (*Kingbird* 14:93) is brought up to date. In this table, 1 denotes a slight flight, 2 a fair flight and 3 a large flight.

	58/59	59/60	60/61	61/62	62/63	63/64	64/65	65/66	66/67	67/68	67/68		
											A	B	
Evening Grosbeak	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3				3	2
Purple Finch	2				3	1	1					1	1
Pine Grosbeak				3		1		3				3	
Redpoll		3		1		1		3					
Siskin	1	1	2		2	2		2				3	1
Red Crossbill			3			3		1				3	
White-winged Crossbill			2			3		2					

The contrast between the Adirondacks (A) and the remainder of the state (B) is clearly seen. The large flight of Pine Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills did not reach the lower regions at all, and the modest flight of Evening Grosbeaks was largely in the later part of the winter.

The reports of northern raptors were highly variable. Record numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were reported in the Finger Lakes and Hudson Valley. Other areas had very few. The Finger Lakes also had good numbers of Short-eared Owls whereas neighboring regions reported the species to be very scarce. A fine count of 36 Long-eared Owls was reported from Long Island. The flight of Snowy Owls and Northern Shrikes was light.

Over much of the state the spring flight of Whistling Swans was the largest ever recorded. The main flight started on March 22 and continued until the end of the month, the record numbers apparently being due to a combination of westerly winds, followed by a rain and snow storm which grounded the swans. In Region 1, where the species is regular in fair numbers, a count of over 1000 was made on March 26 in Conewango Valley. This appears to be the second largest flock ever recorded in the state, the record being 3000 on Chautauqua Lake on March 20, 1955 (Beardslee and Mitchell, *Birds of The Niagara Frontier Region*, p. 111). However the 1955 flight of swans was not as widespread as this year. In Region 2 there was a build-up in numbers from March 22 on the lake front, with a maximum count of 650 on March 30. A flock of 125 was reported from Montezuma and flocks of 30-100 were noted throughout the Finger Lakes Region. In Region 5, the maximum was 34, Oneida Lake, March 25; in Region 8, maximum 20, Watervliet Reservoir,

March 25. Both of these counts were regional records. Two reports from Dutchess County were the first for a quarter of a century. No Whistling Swans were reported on Long Island.

It is regretted that the Region 4 report was not available for the compilation of this summary.

Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210

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

All numbers given are the numbers of individuals unless otherwise stated.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT A. SUNDELL

December brought severe winter weather during the first few days tapering off rapidly to mild conditions with temperatures considerably above normal until Christmas. At this time cold temperatures and snow brought a quick return to seasonal conditions and inland waters froze up rapidly. The first half of January and especially the second week were characterized by some of the coldest temperatures ever recorded. On January 12 at least six communities in Chautauqua County reported unofficial readings of -30°F or lower including -40° at Clarks Corners. Temperatures during the second half of the month, particularly after the twentieth, were above average with a typical January thaw. Both months had average temperatures several degrees above normal. February was several degrees colder than average while the second week in March finally brought some relief from the firmly entrenched frigid arctic air and at the beginning of the third week temperatures rose into the fifties. Precipitation was generally below average throughout the Region but a notable exception was Little Valley in Cattaraugus County where 200 inches of snowfall accumulated compared with the winter norm of about 160 inches.

As is often true for this Region, interest centered around the gulls. On December 11 and 17 single adult specimens of *Larus argentatus thayeri* or *Larus thayeri* (depending upon the authorities followed) were collected at Lewiston on the Niagara River. This represents the first occurrence of this form in New York State. Of additional interest is the fact that there may have been as many as six individuals present during mid-December and furthermore that birds probably representing *thayeri* have been observed during the winter of several years dating back at least to 1954. It is possible that this form may be an occasional (or perhaps regular) winter visitor on the Niagara River. Other gulls of interest were Black-headed in December and March, a Franklin's lingering until the unusually late date of December 23, an estimated 15,000 Bonaparte's (well below the November peak) just above Niagara Falls on December 16, five Little on the Buffalo Ornithological Society Christmas Count December 23 and at least three immature Black-legged Kittiwakes.

Typical winter species such as the Rough-legged Hawk, Short-eared Owl and Northern Shrike were present in very modest numbers. About 12 Snowy Owls gave rise to approximately 20 reports. Except for the Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak (in Allegany County) the winter finches were poorly represented again this year. Interesting reports of unseasonal occurrences were those of Snow Goose, King and Virginia Rails, Phoebe, Yellowthroat, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Dickcissel (the last three at feeders).

March brought the usual surge of waterfowl, hawks and blackbirds plus numerous other less conspicuous types. There was a count of over 1000 whistling Swans north-

west of Randolph and an unofficial estimate of 60,000 Canada Geese in the Oak Orchard area. Unusually early Golden Plover occurred late in March in at least four separate localities.

Rarities, in addition to the gulls already mentioned, were Eared Grebe, Mute Swan, Barnacle and White-fronted Geese, Harlequin Duck, King Eider and Western Meadowlark.

Abbreviations: BISPk—Beaver Island State Park; Bflo—Buffalo; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; CC—Christmas Count; FWC—Federation Waterfowl Count; Han—Hanover Township, Chautauqua County; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; Nia—Niagara; Ont—Ontario; OOGMA—Oak Orchard Game Management Area; TGMA—Tonawanda Game Management Area.

Contributors: RFA—Robert F. Andrie; HHA—Harold H. Axtell; PB—Paul Benham; TLB—Thomas L. Bourne; RB—Richard Brownstein; LB—Lois Buck; JB—Joanna Burger; LDB—Lou and Doris Burton; AC—Arthur Clark; WC—Wilma Csont; DD—Dorothy Danner; FE—Flora Elderkin; AF—Arthur Freitag; RJ—Ramon Jordan; JK—Joseph Kikta; WHK—Walter and Harriet Klabunde; CK—Clarence Klingensmith; VL—Virgil Lunardini; WAM—Willard and Alice McKale; HDM—Harold D. Mitchell; ECP—Elizabeth C. Pillsbury; FMR—Frances M. Rew; AGR—Archie G. Richardson; RR—Robert Rybczynski; HS—Mrs. Harry Schafer; WGS—William and George Smith; RAS—Robert A. Sundell; EAU—Ed and Alice Ulrich; GW—Gertrude Webster; MMW—Marie and Margaret Wendling.

LOONS—DUCKS: Loons scarcer than ever during this season, one Common Dec 16 Nia Falls, Ont (RB). Red-necked Grebe: good flight starting with one Feb 24 Cuba (LDB,EO) and one Feb 25 Dunkirk Harbor (FE), max five Mar 3 Dunkirk Harbor (FMR *et al*) and four Mar 31 Lyndonville (WGS); Horned Grebe: modest flight Mar 24—110 Dunkirk Harbor, 60 Celoron (RAS *et al*); *EARED GREBE*: one Mar 24 Dunkirk Harbor (FMR *et al*). Double-crested Cormorant: one imm mid Oct to mid Mar Dunkirk Harbor (mob). Great Blue Heron: eight birds on four of five area CCs; no Feb reports; four Mar 17 at Arkwright heronry (FMR, Rathbun) Black-crowned Night Heron: one Jan 6 BISPk (EAU,WAM). *MUTE SWAN*: one Dec 11 BISPk (PB); Whistling Swan: last—46 Dec 24, 25 Stow (Don Powers); first—30 Mar 15 over Han (RJ); max 1007 Mar 26 Conewango Valley northwest of Randolph (ECP *et al*). Canada Goose: late starting—30 Mar 15 and 1400 Mar 16 Lyndonville (WGS), unofficial estimate 60,000 Mar 28 Oak Orchard area (AF). *BARNACLE GOOSE*: one Mar 30, OOGMA (PB, RB, PR *et al*). *WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE*: one Mar 24 INWR (MMW); one Mar 30, OOGMA (RB, RR *et al*); Snow Goose: unusually late—five Dec 20 (Scio CC); arr two Mar 26 Oak Orchard area (GW, Karlak), max 17 Mar 28 OOGMA (PB). Blue Goose: one Mar 17 TGMA (PB), max 76 Mar 28 OOGMA (PB).

Mallard: 1930 (FWC). Black Duck: 2197 (FWC). Gadwall: high winter counts—54 Dec 20 Nia R (HHA), 55 Nia R (BOSCC). Green-winged Teal: two Dec 23 BISPk (BOSCC). Blue-winged Teal: unusually early—five Mar 11 Houghton (Burton, Wilson). American Widgeon: high winter counts—290 Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC), 143 Jan 13—21 (FWC). Shoveler: late—two Dec 11 BISPk (PB). Wood Duck: one Dec 6, 10, 23, Jan 1, Feb 27 Forest Lawn Cemetery, Bflo (mob); one Feb 4, 24 Dunkirk Harbor (RAS, AGR). Redhead: max 214 Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC); 60 Mar 23 Celoron (FE). Ring-necked Duck: one or two on Nia R most of period; arr—one Mar 7 Celoron (RAS). Canvasback: max 2727 Jan 13—21 (FWC); 60 Mar 22 Alfred (Brooks), 60 Mar 23 Celoron (FE), 75 Mar 23 Cuba L (LDB). Common Golden-eye: 5640 Jan 13—21 (FWC). Bufflehead: 390 Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC); 1111 Jan 13—21 (FWC). *HARLEQUIN DUCK*: imm male Feb 27, Mar 2, 3, 9 Queenston, Ont (JT, RB, RR *et al*). *KING EIDER*: five Jan 13—21 (FWC); two Jan 27 mouth of Nia R on L Ont (Hess, Wilcoves). White-winged Scoter: 77 Jan 13—21 (FWC). Surf Scoter: highest ever on BOSCC 14 Dec 23 Nia R. Common Scoter: five Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC). Ruddy Duck: three Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC); one Dec 1 to Jan 1

Nia R (mob); first—one Mar 24 Wellsville (LDB). Hooded Merganser: first—two Mar 14 Belmont (LDB), 15 Mar 23 Frewsburg (FE). Common Merganser: 5800 Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC), 10766 Jan 13–21 (FWC).

HAWKS—OWLS: Hawk flight of modest numbers on lake plains last five days of Mar and very small numbers earlier. Turkey Vulture: arr—one Mar 23 Town of Newstead (HDM, Hammond); 11 Mar 25 OOGMA (RB *et al*); 11 Mar 28 Han (VL). Goshawk: one Mar 3 Town of Newstead (WAM). Hawks: Sharp-shinned, six on three of five area CCs, few during Mar hawk flights; Cooper's, seven on three of five area CCs including four Dec 30 Hamburg, four Mar 26 Lyndonville (WGS); Red-tailed, population well below last winter—22 Dec 23 (BOSCC), three Dec 30 (Hamburg CC) compared with 38 and 16 last year, 29 Mar 28 Han (VL); Red-shouldered, early—one Feb 18 Youngstown (PB), 15 Mar 26 Lyndonville (WGS), 16 Mar 26 Han (VL); Rough-legged, population well below most winters but scattered individuals present, missed on BOSCC for second time since 1929. Bald Eagle: single imms Jan 17 Navy Island, Nia R (EAU,AM), Mar 19 Lakeview (TLB), Mar 30, 31 OOGMA (PB,WHK,WAM), Mar 31 INWR (GW *et al*); Marsh Hawk: a few birds mainly on lake plains during Dec—four Mar 19 and 27, two Mar 24 and 29 Lyndonville (WGS). Osprey: early—one Mar 28 Han (RJ). Sparrow Hawk: population above last winter—28 Dec 23 (BOSCC), 16 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC) compared with 14 and 13 last year.

Rails: King, one captured Dec 31 Elma (HS); Virginia, one Dec 31 (Jamestown CC). Am. Coot: numbers well below last winter—15 Jan 13–21 (FWC), 16 Jan 25 Dunkirk Harbor (RAS, Allen H. Benton). Killdeer: a few scattered individuals including two throughout winter at Riverside (RAS,AGR); six Dec 31 (Jamestown CC); arr—two Mar 4 Jamestown (RAS); max 55 Mar 16 Han (VL). Am. Golden Plover: earliest arr ever—one Mar 24, 25 South Pk, Bflo (JK); one Mar 25 Eden (TLB); three Mar 27 Han (RB, HHA *et al*); six Mar 31 Conewango Valley (FE). Am. Woodcock: arr—two Mar 17 Lyndonville (WGS). Common Snipe: four throughout period at Frewsburg (mob) and two at Riverside (RAS,AGR); four Jan 21 Jamestown (Lewis F. Kibler); three Jan 30 (Ed Olmstead, LDB *et al*); a few migrants last seven days of Mar. Greater Yellowlegs: one Mar 29 Conewango Valley (ECP *et al*); 15 Mar 31 INWR (GW *et al*). Lesser Yellowlegs: two Mar 31 INWR (WAM). Pectoral Sandpiper: four Mar 26 Conewango Valley (FE,ECP). Gulls: see introductory comments—usual small numbers of Glaucous, max 5 Jan 1–20, Fort Erie to Queenston, Ont (mob) and Iceland, max five Dec early Jan Queenston, Ont (mob); Great Black-backed, max 214 Mar 3 Dunkirk Harbor (FMR,LB); Herring, 24000 Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC); Thayer's or L.A. *thayeri*, adults collected Dec 11 and 17 Lewiston (RFA,AC); **BLACK-HEADED**, single adults Dec 16 Nia Falls (RB *et al*), Mar 2, 3 Queenston, Ont (PB,RB *et al*); Franklin's, very late—one through Dec 23 (BOSCC) Fort Erie, Ont across from Bflo (mob); Bonaparte's, 12000 Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC), arr—two Mar 23 Celoron (RAS), 75 Mar 24 Dunkirk Harbor (RAS,AGR), 2848 Mar 28 Queenston, Ont (JB,RB); **LITTLE**, max five Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC), early—one Mar 31 Queenston, Ont (RB). **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one found dead Dec 5 Bflo Harbor (AC); one Dec 16–30 Nia Falls (mob); one Jan 28 mouth of Nia R on L Ont (Black); one Feb 3–Mar 7 Dunkirk Harbor (mob).

Mourning Dove: max counts 91 Dec 23 (BOSCC), 74 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC). Owls: Barn, one Jan 5 Hamburg (TLB); Snowy, see introductory comments—as last year most along lake plains but two penetrated hills—female Feb 18–Mar 17 Bemus Pt (mob), male Mar 29–31 Jamestown airport (RAS,AGR); Long-eared, now scarce at any season—one or two Jan through Mar Youngstown (mob), two Mar 23 Somerset (RR,PR), one Mar 31 Lyndonville (WGS); Short-eared, most reports from Lyndonville max 10 Mar 1–30 (WGS) and Grand Island max 8 Dec 23 (BOSCC); Saw-whet, one or two Jan 22–Mar 23 Youngstown (RR,PB *et al*), one Mar 23 Yates (RR,PB), one Mar 27 Jamestown (Castol).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: as last year large winter count—10 Dec 30 (Scio CC); might this be due to more unpolluted water here than in other areas sampled? Yellow-shafted Flicker: unusually large numbers in Dec—12 Dec 23 (BOSCC), eight Dec 30 (Hamburg CC), six Dec 30 (Scio CC). Red-bellied Woodpecker: male at feeder Feb 23, 29 Bemus Pt (Otto and Gretchen Carlson). Red-headed Woodpecker: one Mar 12 Tonawanda Indian Reservation (MMW,GW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: rare in winter—singles Dec 23 Grand Island (BOSCC), Jan 3 Lyndonville (WGS), Jan 31 Shongo (LDB); arr—one Mar 31 South Pk, Bflo (JK), two Mar 31 Sheridan (RB). Eastern Phoebe: arr—one Mar 21 Spring Brook (HS).

Horned Lark: *E. a. alpestris*, a few scattered reports of up to six except at Elma where six Jan 21 increased to peak of 35 Mar 28 (DD,HS). Tree Swallow: arr—one Mar 23 Riverside Marsh (FE); eight Mar 31 Oak Orchard area (MMW, Schwenger). Blue Jay: unusually high winter counts—393 Dec 30 (Scio CC), 330 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC). Tufted Titmouse: decidedly lower than last winter—max 4 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: mostly singles sparsely distributed—unusual concentration ten Mar 10 Town of Birdsall (LDB). Brown Creeper: max 21 Dec 23 (BOSCC). Winter Wren: one Feb 8 Athol Springs (TLB). Mockingbird: at least eight birds at scattered localities. Brown Thrasher: singles Dec 29 Town of Tonawanda (Zehr, Cooper), Jan 1 Town of Ward (LDB). Robin: scattered reports of individuals or small flocks—max 13 Jan 3—22 Lewiston (WHK). Hermit Thrush: one Dec 23 (BOSCC); arr—one Mar 21 Eden (TLB). Eastern Bluebird: arr—one Feb 29 Orchard Pk (TLB); six Mar 26 Lyndonville (WGS). Golden-crowned Kinglet: large winter count—45 Dec 23 (BOSCC). Water Pipit: arr—two Mar 24 Frewsburg (FMR,LB). Cedar Waxwing: a few small to medium sized flocks scattered throughout Region—high counts 158 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC), 115 Mar 16 Lakeview (TLB), 100 Mar 17 Alfred (CK). Northern Shrike: small numbers with max of two individuals well scattered throughout Region ;last—one Mar 18 Boston (TLB). Starling: 85000 Dec 23 (BOSCC).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: four Dec 30 (Hamburg CC); arr—one Mar 31 Sheridan (JB,RB). Yellowthroat: one Dec 23 BISPk (BOSCC); one Dec 30 Belmont (Scio CC). Eastern Meadowlark: again this winter fewer than usual on lake plains with none on BOSCC and an extraordinary total of 94 Dec 31 (Jamestown CC); arr—one Mar 16 Han (VL). WESTERN MEADOWLARK: early—one Mar 31 Lancaster (RR,JK). Red-winged Blackbird: small numbers widely scattered in six localities; winter max ten Dec 23 (BOSCC); arr—three Mar 5 Lakeview (TLB); 15800 Mar 16 Han (VL). Baltimore Oriole: one Dec 22 to Feb 12 when recovered dead at feeder Lakeview (WC, Rose). Rusty Blackbird: one Dec 4 Belmont (LDB); two Dec 31 Amherst (Zehr, Inskip); one Jan 28 Spring Brook (HS); arr—one Mar 20 Eden (TLB), 30 Mar 24 Frewsburg (FMR,LB). Common Grackle: a few birds at scattered locations during winter; max 12 Dec 30 (Scio CC), 12 Jan 11 Wellsville (LDB). Brown-headed Cowbird: individuals and small flocks scattered throughout Region during winter; high counts 136 Dec 30 (Scio CC), 60 Dec 23 (BOSCC); 100 Mar 21 Elma (HS).

Cardinal: CC totals considerably below those of last year—126 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC), 69 Dec 30 (Scio CC), 68 Dec 23 (BOSCC), 57 Dec 31 (Jamestown CC). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: female carefully observed at feeder Dec 24 to Jan 4 Cassadaga (Ora Swanson, Joan Boyd). Dickcissel: a regular fall migrant in very small numbers joining flocks of House Sparrows and therefore most often detected at feeders—two Dec 30 (Hamburg CC); one Jan 2 Hamburg (TLB). Evening Grosbeak: well represented in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties Jan through Mar including max 250 Jan 4 Wellsville (LDB) but only a single record elsewhere—one Feb 25 Youngstown (WHK). Purple Finch: individuals or small flocks at feeders mostly in Alleghany Co with max 40 Feb 26 Alfred (Brooks). Common Redpoll: three Jan 31 Orchard Pk (TLB); nine Feb 24 Lakeview (TLB); two Mar 19 Bel-

mont (LDB); 12 Mar 20 Alma (LDB). Pine Siskin: mostly small flocks and individuals scattered throughout Region during winter—high counts 152 Dec 31 (Jamestown CC), 70 Feb 11 Villanova (HDM *et al*). Am. Goldfinch: small flocks scattered throughout Region during winter—high counts 207 Dec 30 (Scio CC), 111 Dec 31 (Jamestown CC). Red Crossbill: five, one Dec 23, Jan 20 Gerry (AGR); 16 Feb 23, eight Mar 3 and 4, Belmont (LDB); White-winged Crossbill: one Dec 25 Emery Pk (JK), 12 Dec 30 (Scio CC).

Sparrows-Savannah: arr—two Mar 23 Cuba (LDB). Vesper: arr—one Mar 23 Cuba Marsh (LDB). Slate-colored Junco: 175 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC); 172 Dec 30 (Scio CC) Tree; 659 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC); 522 Dec 30 (Scio CC); 500 Feb 11 Wilson (WHK). Field: a few singles or small groups during winter including five on two of five area CCs; arr—one Mar 21 TGMA (AF). White-crowned: a few singles or pairs during winter and a flock of eight Dec 30 (Scio CC). White-throated: more than ever on CCs—19 Dec 23 (BOS), 11 Dec 30 (Scio), eight Dec 31 (Jamestown), six Dec 30 (Olean), four Dec 30 (Hamburg); a few during rest of winter. Fox: one Dec 30 (Scio CC); arr—one Mar 14 Spring Brook (HS). Swamp: nine Dec 31 (Jamestown CC), a few other singles or small groups during winter; arr—one Mar 23 Cuba Marsh (LDB). Song: high winter counts 34 Mar 31 (Jamestown CC), 26 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC), 26 Dec 30 (Scio CC). Lapland Longspur: small numbers on lake plains Jan and Feb. Snow Bunting: at least five reports of flocks numbering between 200 and 600 scattered throughout Region; max 2500 Mar 3 Dunkirk (RAS,AGR).

ADDENDUM AND CORRIGENDUM. Vol XVIII, No. 1, January 1968, Region 1 report: add *COMMON RAVEN* one Oct 11 Langford (Bournes). Additional records of *YELLOW RAIL*: singles (one of which was collected) Sep 23, 24, Oct 1 Tonawanda Game Management Area (Gavutis). *WHEATEAR* (p. 31) should read two Sep 27 Hamburg (Bourne).

19 Chestnut Street, Jamestown, N.Y. 14701

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for December were about average with the smaller Finger Lakes (Conesus, etc.) open until after Christmas. The first half of January brought the coldest temperatures experienced in many years, with extensive ice formations on Lake Ontario and the complete freezing of all smaller bodies of water. Most of the half-hardy wintering species present in December disappeared at this time. Mid-January to mid-March were about average and above normal temperatures prevailed during the latter part of March, producing an early start of the spring migration. Snowfall was somewhat below average, and total precipitation was well below normal.

There was a very heavy spring flight of Whistling Swans. Geese and ducks were about average. Good early hawk flights occurred March 23, 26, and 28. Except for some Evening Grosbeaks and a very few Pine Siskins, northern finches were unrecorded.

Noteworthy birds reported include Snow and Blue Geese, Common and King Eiders, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Carolina Wren, Western Meadowlark, and Oregon Junco.

Observers cited: AC—Arleen Cornell; RD—Robert Dobsin; KD—Kay Doris; JJD—James J. Doherty; RE—Robert Erwin; JF—John Foster; WH—William Hartranft;

RHJ—Robert H. Jones; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitzer; AK—Allen Klonick; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WL—Warren Lloyd; TDM—Ted D. Mack; RM—Ruth MacRae; AM—Alfred Maley; JM—Joseph McNett; TM—Thelma McNett; MM—Maryanne Menuhin; HSM—Howard S. Miller; LM—Laura Moon; NM—Neil Moon; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; FP—Frank Phelps; ES—Ester Stiles; MS—Maryanne Sunderlin; ST—Stephen Taylor; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow; RW—Robert White; DW—Doris Wilton; llc—little lakes census.

Localities: BB—Braddock's Bay; CL—Conesus Lake; DEP—Durand-Eastman Park Rochester; GR—Genesee River; HSP—Hamlin State Park; HL—Hawk Lookout at Braddock's Bay; HSC—Holy Sepulchre Cemetery Rochester; IBO—Irondequoit Bay Outlet; OB—Oklahoma Beach; WL—West Lakeshore; WSP—Webster State Park.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: two Dec 17 OB (WL,MS); two Dec 24 Hemlock L (AM *et al*); one Mar 30 Manitou (WCL). Great Blue Heron: one Dec 18 HSC (TDM); one Dec 31 Genesee Valley Pk, Rochester (RE); one Jan 20 Mumford (WCL); one Jan 27 Russell Station (HSM, RTO); seven Mar 23 WL (GOS hike). Common Egret: one Mar 30 (very early) BB (AEK, WCL). Am. Bittern: one Dec 3 BB (AEK, TDM).

Whistling Swan: seven Dec 24 CL (WCL,RW); seven Mar 16 BB (JJD,HSM, RW); 26, Mar 22 Payne Beach (Cullen); 94 Mar 24 WL (AEK,TDM); 184 Mar 25 WL (TDM); 657 Mar 30 Groveland Flats (AM,TET). Canada Goose: 12 Dec 3 WL (WCL,NM,ES); 22, Dec 17 Sodus Bay (AEK,TDM); three Jan 7 Sodus Bay (JF); one Dec 31—Feb 11 Manitou (WCL); spring flight average. Snow Goose: 13, Mar 23 WL (GOS hike). Blue Goose: 16, Mar 23 WL (GOS hike).

Gadwall: eight Mar 25 WL (TDM). Pintail: 600 Mar 23 WL (GOS hike). Green-winged Teal: one Dec 31 GR Rochester (TDM). Blue-winged Teal: one Dec 2 (late) OB (WCL); three Dec 3 (late) BB (WCL,WL,MS). Am. Widgeon: nine Dec 24 (late for that number) CL (WCL,RW). Wood Duck: one Dec 31 at U of R "duck pond" (RE), the fourth winter a male of this species has appeared here. Redhead: 300 Dec 24 CL (WCL). Ring-necked Duck: three Dec 31 BB (census). Canvasback: 500 Mar 24 BB (JJD,RHJ *et al*). Greater Scaup: 2000 Jan 22 GR (TDM); 1500 Feb 25 GR (RHJ *et al*). Common Goldeneye: 629 Dec 31 Rochester census. Bufflehead: 213 Dec 31 Rochester census; 110 Feb 25 WL (WL,MS). Oldsquaw: 422 Dec 31 Rochester census. Common Eider: one imm male Mar 31 IBO (RTO). King Eider: one imm male Mar 17 Manitou (WCL). White-winged Scoter: 355 Dec 31 Rochester census. Surf Scoter: four Dec 24 CL (WCL); two Feb 19 GR (TDM); four Feb 24 GR (HSM,RTO); five Mar 9–23 GR (several). Ruddy Duck: one Dec 24 CL (llc); two Mar 24 Round Pond (FP *et al*). Hooded Merganser: nine Dec 24 CL (llc); eight Dec 29 Irondequoit Bay (AEK); five Dec 31 Rochester census. Common Merganser: 309 Dec 31 Rochester census.

HAWKS—OWLS: Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 35 Mar 26 HL (LM). Cooper's Hawk: two Dec 24 (llc); one Jan 14 East Lakeshore (WH *et al*); one Jan 28 Long Pond (JJD); max 11, Mar 28 HL (LM). Red-tailed Hawk: 34 Dec 24 (llc); 15, Dec 31 Rochester census; max 107 Mar 23 HL (GOS hike). Red-shouldered Hawk: 44 Mar 23 HL (GOS hike); max 85 Mar 26 HL (LM). Rough-legged Hawk: 25, Dec 24 (llc); ten Dec 31 Rochester census; max 50 Mar 23 HL (GOS hike). Golden Eagle: one Mar 23 HL (GOS hike); one Mar 26 WSP (WL). Bald Eagle: the pair nesting in the Hemlock L area have returned to their nest—one seen Mar 2 (AM), both seen the next day (JF); an adult and an imm Mar 26 HL (LM); an imm Mar 27 WL (KD, DW). Marsh Hawk: four Dec 24 (llc); seven Dec 31 Rochester census; max 26, Mar 23 HL (GOS hike). Peregrine Falcon: an adult Mar 26 Brighton (Sarah Talpey). Sparrow Hawk: 11 Dec 31 Rochester census.

Ruffed Grouse: nine Dec 24 (llc). Ring-necked Pheasant: 179 Dec 31 Rochester census. COMMON GALLINULE: five Dec 31 in marsh on GR (TET), an almost incredible number at so late a date. Am. Coot: 77 Dec 24 CL (WCL *et al*). Killdeer:

one Jan 2 Barge Canal in Greece (WCL); one Jan 14–28 Newark (ES); six Mar 16 WL (JJD). Common Snipe: one Dec 31 Brighton (RE). Purple Sandpiper: one Dec 2–3 BB (WCL). Pectoral Sandpiper: 30, Mar 30 Hamlin (AEK *et al.*). Short-billed Dowitcher: one Mar 30 (very early) Hamlin (AEK,TDM). Glaucous Gull: two Dec 31 Rochester census; one Mar 23 Long Pond (GOS hike). Great Black-backed Gull: 137 Dec 31 Rochester census. Bonaparte's Gull: 213 Dec 31 Rochester census; 23, Mar 24 IBO (WL). Mourning Dove: 34 Dec 24 (llc); 167 Dec 31 Rochester census. Snowy Owl: three Dec 31 Rochester census; three Feb 11 WL (WL,RM); four Mar 9 BB (AEK,WCL). Short-eared Owl: six Dec 31 Rochester census; ten Mar 9 Newark (ES). Saw-whet Owl: one found in a vacant house in Manitou Mar 17 (Luella Drioness); one Mar 22–23 HSC (NM *et al.*); two Mar 29 in the same place (NM).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: three Dec 24 (llc); three Dec 31 Rochester census. Yellow-shafted Flicker: 11, Dec 24 (llc); eight Dec 31 Rochester census. Pileated Woodpecker: two Mar 14 Webster (MS). Red-bellied Woodpecker: 15, Dec 24 (llc); four Dec 31 Rochester census. Hairy Woodpecker: 14, Dec 24 (llc); 25, Dec 31 Rochester census. Downy Woodpecker: 51 Dec 24 (llc); 77 Dec 31 Rochester census. Horned Lark: 75 Dec 24 (llc); 19, Dec 31 Rochester census. Tree Swallow: five Mar 22 Webster (MS). Blue Jay: 111 Dec 24 (llc); 138 Dec 31 Rochester census. Common Crow: 1092 Dec 24 (llc); 3048 Dec 31 (rather low) Rochester census. Black-capped Chickadee: 214 Dec 31 Rochester census. Tufted Titmouse: 26, Dec 31 (highest recorded count) Rochester census. White-breasted Nuthatch: 64 Dec 31 Rochester census. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 13, Dec 31 Rochester census. Brown Creeper: 13, Dec 31 Rochester census. Carolina Wren: one frequented the Sea Breeze area from Jan 8 to the end of the period, visiting the Sassaman and Dutcher feeders irregularly. Long-billed Marsh Wren: two Dec 31 (rare in winter) BB (WCL).

Mockingbird: seven Dec 31 (highest winter count) Rochester census. Catbird: two Dec 31 DEP (AK); one Dec 31 OB (JM,TM); two Jan 20 Rock Beach (TDM). Robin: 111 Dec 31 (high) Rochester census. Hermit Thrush: one Feb 18 (rare in winter) DEP (AC,JF). Eastern Bluebird: one Dec 24 (rare in winter) Livonia (Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dakin). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 23, Dec 24 (llc); five Feb 18 HSP (AC,JF). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Dec 3 HSP (WCL *et al.*); one Dec 18 HCL (TDM); one Dec 24 Lakeville (WCL,RW); one Dec 25 OB (AEK); one Dec 31 Greece (WCL). Cedar Waxwing: 226 Dec 31 Rochester census; 165 March 29 Mendon Ponds (FP). Northern Shrike: a fair flight, six Dec 31 Rochester census.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Myrtle Warbler: two Jan 11 Reed Rd, Rochester (S. Orwin)—this species has wintered here previously although no bayberry is present; five Mar 23 Greece (RD); one Mar 31 Island Cottage Woods (JJD *et al.*).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Western Meadowlark: one Mar 31 Chase Rd, Hamlin (TDM), same place as last year—identified by both song and *call notes*. Red-winged Blackbird: 433 Dec 31 Rochester census. Rusty Blackbird: two Dec 31 Rochester census. Common Grackle: nine Dec 31 Rochester census; three Jan 17 BB (WCL). Brown-headed Cowbird: 30 Dec 31 Rochester census. Cardinal: 160 Dec 31 Rochester census. Evening Grosbeak: five Dec 31 at Sunderlin feeder in Webster (WL,MS); one Jan 31–Feb 1 at McNett feeder in Webster, found dead on latter date (TM); one Feb 24 WSP (RTO); five Mar 30 DEP (JJD); a flock of about 100 was reported to have arrived at a feeder in Scottsville early in March. Purple Finch: after a winter's absence, 15 appeared in HSP Feb 25 (AC,JF); five Mar 3 DEP (Paul Weld). Am. Goldfinch: 213 (high) Dec 31 Rochester census. Rufous-sided Towhee: one Dec 31 Greece (HSM); one Dec 31 DEP (AK). Slate-colored Junco: 99 Dec 31 Rochester census. Oregon Junco: one Dec 3 HSP (WCL,MM,ES); one in same place Mar 3 (RHJ,FP)—a well-marked bird both times, probably the same bird. Tree Sparrow: 530 Dec 31 Rochester census. Field Sparrow: three Dec 17

Webster (WL,MS); one Dec 31 Greece (WCL); three Dec 31 HSC (TDM). White-throated Sparrow: five Dec 31 Rochester census; heard singing in DEP Mar 23. Fox Sparrow: one Mar 23 DEP (HSM); two Mar 30 Manitou (RTO). Song Sparrow: 31, Dec 31 Rochester census. Lapland Longspur: scarce, three Feb 3 WL (WCL); one Mar 30 Hamlin (RTO). Snow Bunting: 1000 Jan 21 Hamlin (AEK, ST); 100 Mar 3 Parma (RHJ).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

December had average temperatures and precipitation, and January was fairly open, with little snow accumulation. The second week in January brought record-breaking cold temperatures which undoubtedly took a toll of bird life. The end of the month and early February saw thawing weather, with ice going out on streams, but the end of that month again was extremely cold, and this persisted into March, with strong winds and ice remaining on streams and ponds until the third week of the month. Then spring suddenly arrived with the thermometer reaching almost 80 on March 31.

Unusual numbers of Mallards, Blacks and Canada Geese remained over-winter in the Cayuga Lake area, possibly because of the incomplete harvesting of grain in the fields in last fall's wet weather—as pointed out by Benning. An abundance of available food, combined with strong winds and bad weather west of here, may possibly explain the unprecedented numbers of Whistling Swans that migrated through here in March, the most outstanding feature of a waterfowl migration that was noteworthy in all respects, especially in the period of March 20–24. Rough-legged hawks were unusually numerous all winter in portions of the Region, and a big feature of the winter was the discovery of several concentrations of Short-eared Owls, one consisting of 27 individuals at a roost near King Ferry. The anticipated winter finch visitation failed to materialize—some flocks of Evening Grosbeaks and quite a few Purple Finches in February and March were all that turned up. All in all, it was not a particularly exciting winter season.

Observers cited: WEB—Walter E. Benning; TB—Theodore Brimmer; JBr—Jack Brubaker; TC—Tom Cade; KF—Kay Fudge; WMG—William M. Groesbeck; FG—Frank Guthrie; CH—Clayton Hardy; WH—Wilifred Howard; MHH—Margaret H. Hundley; BJ—Brad Jacobs; PMK—Paul M. Kelsey; RK—Roberta Knapp; ACL—Arthur C. Lane; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; PM—Peter Murtha; ER—Esther Ruggles; MS—Mary Smith; SHS—Sally H. Spofford; WRS—Walter R. Spofford; BS—Betty Strath; VD—Van Duzer; JW—Jayson Walker.

Area compilers: Jamesine Bardeen, Walter E. Benning, William M. Groesbeck, Frank Guthrie, Clayton Hardy, Jayson Walker, Mary Welles.

Localities: Cay L—Cayuga Lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen L—Seneca Lake; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; KPRA—Kanakadea Park Recreation Area; Chem Co—Chemung County; Schuy Co—Schuyler County.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: few sightings, two only on waterfowl census of Finger Lakes. Red-necked Grebe: none on waterfowl census; Mar 1 Valois Pt Sen L (JBr); one Mar 10 Cay L (G. Smith); one Mar 20 Sen L (WEB); two Mar 23 Horseheads Dump (RK). Horned Grebe: scarcer than usual on all lakes this winter; one assuming spring plumage Mar 23 MNWR (WEB). Eared Grebe: one throughout period, carefully identified, north end Sen L (mob), beginning molt Mar 20. Great Blue Heron: at least one was spotted during winter at Horseheads, Ithaca and at

Watkins Glen; migrants appeared last week in March. *LITTLE BLUE HERON*: an astounding report is of one of this species in adult plumage Mar 23 Branchport (Dr. James White); carefully observed with telescope. Whistling Swan: the largest and most wide-spread migration in recent history took place beginning Mar 22 and continuing for nine or ten days. Reports of 30 to more than 100 are too numerous to list, throughout the Finger Lakes, on lakes, rivers and ponds; there were 125 at MNWR at one time. Canada Goose: 700 at MNWR until Dec 24—open water. Probably as numerous in spring migration as a year ago, when 100,000 were estimated on Cay L and MNWR combined. Biggest migration was Mar 20, and for several days thereafter when flock after flock went over, sometimes forced to low levels by bad weather. The Hornell area had the highest counts of Geese and Swans ever (WVG). Snow Goose, Blue Goose: unusually high numbers of these, 800–1000 MNWR on Mar 31 (CH,WEB) in ratio of 3 or 4 Blues to 1 Snow.

Black Duck: slight increase over previous years except on Keuka L; about 225 wintered at SWS. Gadwall: one late Dec Elmira (WH); migrants second week Mar. Pintail: returned in early Mar in good numbers; 9,000 at MNWR Mar 31 in contrast with 2,000 in 1967. Green-winged Teal: at least two winter records; first migrant Mar 24 SWS. Wood Duck: pair wintered SWS; migrants there Mar 25; first appeared MNWR Mar 22. Redhead: showed some overall increase this year, esp on Keuka L, but Cay L had fewer than usual—max 1300 Feb 21 (WEB). Ring-necked Duck: nine on Jan 14 census, but returning migrants seem scarce. Canvasback, Scaup and Goldeneyes were in slightly better numbers on waterfowl census (Jan 14) than a year ago, but failed to show their normal increase later in the winter. Three sightings (Jan 6 PM, Feb 11 BJ, Mar 26 BS) at Sheldrake of what appeared to be the same Barrow's Goldeneye female of recent years (not seen in 1967). White-winged Scoter: more reports than usual—one Jan 10 Big Flats (WH); one Jan 14 Sen Lake (JBr); three Jan 21 Sen L (WEB,JW); four Feb 18 Sen L (WEB); one Mar 5 Hornell (WVG). Hooded Merganser: 35 Dec 10 Waneta L (JBr); 14 on Jan 14 census, Cay L, Keuka L and Chemung R; migrants Mar 26 on, SWS. Other Mergansers seemed scarce. Ruddy Duck: one Keuka L and one Horseheads Dump Jan 14; latter remained rest of winter.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: four Mar 31 MNWR (WEB). Goshawk: one only, Jan 8 Rte 13 e. of Ithaca (TC); several other unconfirmed sightings. Cooper's Hawk: two sightings in Cay L Basin, four winter reports at Montour Falls and Watkins Glen, one bird shot near Ovid. Sharp-shinned Hawk: scattered sightings; one imm male spent two weeks in March at feeder at Stuart Observatory, Sapsucker Woods picking off House Sparrows. Red-tailed Hawk: in normal numbers. Red-shouldered Hawk: a rare winterer, one was seen at Sapsucker Woods Jan 1 (SHS). Rough-legged Hawk: unprecedented numbers at south end Cay L and in Elmira-Coming area; e.g., eight individuals in six mile radius of Etna Dec 31 (WRS), five on Jan 14 along Cay L, 17 in a several-mile stretch near Elmira Jan 13 (WH); normal numbers, or below normal, north end Cay L, and at Keuka (FG). No eagle sightings. Marsh Hawk: eight or more sightings during period, mostly Cay L Basin and Watkins Glen. Peregrine Falcon: one Mar 1, Van Duzer farm, near Horseheads, made passes at a Rough-leg and a Red-tail; same area where a Peregrine has been reported in past winters, but not for last five or six years. Ring-necked Pheasant: in good numbers, even abundant; a white hen pheasant was seen around Interlaken. Wild Turkey: several sightings southwest, east and north-east of Ithaca as in past few years; one Dec 20 Horseheads, for "count period" in Audubon census. Virginia Rail: very few records of this species in winter in Region, so a report by trappers that they are caught in traps regularly in marshy area near Horseheads is of interest and bears checking next year. American Woodcock: first reports weekend of Mar 16–17. Extremely unusual is the carefully-detailed report of a Golden Plover Mar 24–25 near Elmira, with Killdeer (mob, including KF,MS,WH). Pectoral Sandpiper:

8 Mar 27 Dryden Lake "unhappily sitting around on the ice" (PMK); other reports that week. Common Snipe: one winter record, Jan 6, Rte 13 in Tompkins Co (JBr); returned to MNWR Mar 23 (WEB).

Glaucous Gull: one Dec 17 and Feb 3 Stewart Pk. Ithaca (DM); one Dec 19 Freeville (PMK); one Dec 21-23 Watkins Glen (JBr). Iceland Gull: one imm plumage, Dec 21-23 Watkins Glen (JBr); one Jan 29 Horseheads dump (WH). Great Black-backed Gull: below usual numbers on Cay L, rarely more than a dozen. Lesser Black-backed Gull: continued to be seen regularly until ice line too far distant at Stewart Pk Ithaca. All characters noted as in past years, including mouth lining (see Jan. 1968 *Kingbird*). Mourning Doves: various reports individuals or small wintering flocks; largest group, late Dec, 40-50 at Taylor Merrill home n. of Ithaca.

Screech Owl: only scattered reports including one killed by police at Hornell (WMG). Snowy Owl: reported from various locations—Peruville Rd, Irish Settlement Rd (Tompkins Co), Alpine, MNWR, West Hill Ithaca, Trumansburg Rd; last report Apr 2 (late) Troy Rd s.e. Ithaca. Long-eared Owl: only records, two pole-trapped during period at Ithaca Game Farm. Short-eared Owl: numerous reports, from Keuka L area where up to 12 birds could be found at 7 or 8 locations, a group of up to 20 near ChemungCo airport on Hickory Grove Rd, and a roost n. of King Ferry with up to 27 birds, some still present Mar 31. Several birds under observation near Ovid were found shot. Saw-whet Owl: reported in two locations near Ithaca in late Feb.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: as usual a few wintered. Yellow-shafted Flicker: wintering reports were mostly from Watkins area, but one was at the Taylor Merrill feeder off and on, one in down-town Ithaca and one on Trumansburg Rd. Red-bellied Woodpecker: reported on increase in some areas, but few at Ithaca. Red-headed Woodpecker: one winter report, Sheldrake Jan 6. (PM). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one winter report, Ithaca. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: reported as "scarce" by those with feeders. A probable Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, reported near Halliday home Corning, Jan 10, description satisfactory. Phoebes returned last week in March. Horned Lark: good-sized flocks seen all winter throughout Region. Tree Swallow: 21 on Dec 17 MNWR and some of these were seen off and on until Jan 6 when probably killed by extreme cold (WEB,CH). First spring report, Mar 15 Chemung R (WH). Blue Jay: unusually abundant around Hornell. Black-billed Magpie: two, origin unknown, seen on Euclid Ave in Elmira late March. Black-capped Chickadee: all reports commented on their scarcity, and likewise for the White-breasted Nuthatch. Red-breasted Nuthatch: almost no reports this year; one Feb 11 on, SWS (ACL). Carolina Wren: doing poorly everywhere except Watkins Glen, where seven are known in five localities. Mockingbird: reports too numerous to list, species obviously increasing. Catbird: reports of these wintering at feeders, Ithaca, Burdett and Montour Falls. Bluebird: a small wintering flock (about 12) noted by the Bulkleys Jan 6 on Wilkins Rd Ithaca catching insects around a school building, and some were seen occasionally thereafter in that area through the period. Cedar Waxwing: far fewer reports of flocks than in most winters.

WARBLERS—SPARROWS: Very few wintering Myrtle Warblers this year. One found dead, W. Green St. Ithaca, mid-March (MHH). Watkins Glen again had a wintering Yellowthroat—in fact two Feb 27 Rock Cabin Rd, one Mar 29 (JBr). A most unusual record is of a female Redstart Dec 14 at Keuka (M. Polis & Mr. Sabold, verified FG). Redwings, Grackles and Cowbirds wintered in small numbers throughout Region Baltimore Oriole: several wintered, Ithaca and Schuy Co. Cardinal: scarce around Hornell, other areas also remarked on there being fewer than usual at feeders—a pair instead of half a dozen. Dickcissel: what could only have been a male of this species was seen and carefully described Elmira Reservoir area Mar 19 (Dick Carlson). Evening Grosbeak: only scattered reports of very small groups until

mid-Feb when flocks of 25-30 were at a number of feeders. Purple Finch: became fairly abundant in late Feb and through Mar. No Pine Grosbeaks. Common Redpoll: only one report, three Jan 1 on Federal Rd Elmira (TB). No Pine Siskins. American Goldfinch: fairly abundant. White-winged Crossbill: only report, Dec 28 Cornell campus (F. Marcham). No Red Crossbills. Oregon Junco: one Jan 13 at least to March 18 at McIlroy feeder (several obs.), pink-sided form; one Dec 21 through Jan Elmira (ER *et al*); Tree Sparrow: better numbers than last few years—flocks of 25-30 at feeders, in bad weather. An imm Chipping Sparrow and an imm Swamp Sparrow spent part of winter at Elmira feeders; this is uncommon. Fox Sparrow: Keuka noted good early migration, end of March; none noted in other areas. Lapland Longspur: very few reports this year, the species had to be really hunted. Snow Bunting: locally abundant in flocks of several hundred, but this was not a "big year" for them.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

No report received. See field note in this issue for record of *VARIED THRUSH* at Candor.

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

December proved persistently warm, wet, and windless with only moderate and transient snowfalls until the annual Syracuse Christmas Count blizzard December 23rd. The warm weather, open water, and abundant berry crop undoubtedly contributed to the lingering of many half-hardies, especially mimids, warblers, and sparrows (q.v.). January promptly demonstrated the folly of trusting a central New York winter. A protracted freeze with unremitting sub-zero cold and snow cover in the first half of January sealed most water areas and virtually eliminated most half-hardies. Snowfall through the rest of January proved moderate, and great accumulations did not occur in February (total for season less than 80 inches). However, a second severe sub-zero session in February further reduced the few surviving half-hardies; even certain locally common wintering species (Sparrow Hawk, Flicker) seemed scarce after the February cold snap. Ice conditions along the Seneca and Oswego Rivers and on Lake Ontario were as severe as ever recorded in 25 years (see Oldsquaw). In contrast to the severity of January and February, March had day after day of warm, mild weather, with one enormous exception—a rainstorm March 21-22nd followed by a snowstorm the 23-24th which grounded thousands of geese, ducks, and other early migrants across the Region and precipitated the greatest influx of Whistling Swans in the 25 years of the editor's experience. Late March was so warm that the ice was out of Oneida Lake by the 31st (a record early breakup!).

Positives for the winter include: 1) a heavy spring flight of Whistling Swan, Canada, Blue, and Snow Geese, and Pintail; 2) a slight increase in Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks and Screech Owl; 3) increased numbers of white-winged gulls; 4) high numbers of wintering Mourning Dove; 5) a light flight of Snowy Owls; 6) greater numbers of wintering woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Brown Creeper; 7) greater-than-normal number and variety of half-hardies, but only in the first half of winter; 8) an extremely heavy flight of winter finches in the Adirondacks, with lesser numbers in non-montane sectors; 9) increased tallies of wintering towhees and Field, White-throated, and Song Sparrows.

Negatives include: 1) abysmal tallies of wintering loons and grebes; 2) very low counts of wintering Redhead, Canvasback, Scaup and, even more striking, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers; 3) very few Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes wintering and no Marsh Hawks; 4) a paucity of non-Adirondack Red-breasted Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet; 5) very poor tallies of both wintering and migrant Lapland Longspurs, made notable by contrast with the large flocks of Snow Buntings.

Rare aves include Common Eider, Gray Partridge, Purple Sandpiper, Common Raven, Bohemian Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellowthroat, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Oregon Junco, and Harris' Sparrow.

Two unlooked-for man made sources of bird mortality were abundantly documented this winter—1) numbers of oiled waterfowl and gulls in early and mid-December along Lake Ontario, undoubtedly secondary to oil spillage from Great Lakes vessels; 2) a tremendous carnage of Adirondack winter finches (in early December about 60 birds/60 miles/day) by speeding vehicles as the birds foraged for grit on the highways.

Abbreviations-places: DH—Derby Hill near Texas; HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; Onon—Onondaga; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski; Skan—Skaneateles; Syr—Syracuse.

Other: BBFS—Dr. B. Burt's feeder survey, conducted the first week of each winter month, with all numbers given per 100 surveys; CC—Christmas count—Oswego Dec 21, Syr Dec 23, Old Forge Dec 28, Oneida Dec 30, HIGMA (north-east quadrant of the Christmas Count circle) Jan 1; WFC—NYS Federation Waterfowl Census, Jan 13–21.

Observers: DWA—D. W. Ackley; VB—V. Billings; C&EF—C. & E. Farnham; FLF—F. LaFrance; SM—Stephen Morgan; JWP—J. W. Propst; TMR—T. M. Riley; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; GS—G. Smith; CGS—C. G. Spies Jr. RJS—R. J. Sutliff; J&EVD—J. & E. VanDresar.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: singles to Jan 23 Skan L (TMR); none thereafter and none in late Mar. Red-throated Loon: one Oswego CC (G. Maxwell *et al*); none thereafter. Horned Grebe: max 11, Dec 10; one on WFC is the record low; arr Mar 21 Brewerton; max 29, Mar 23 Bridgeport to Brewerton; numerous reports of singles in swamp areas, floodlands, and tiny leads in small ponds following the Mar 21–24 storm. Pied-billed Grebe: max four, WFC; arr Mar 23 Oswego (FLF) and Bridgeport. Great Blue Heron: singles to severe freeze Jan 1–2 at HIGMA and Skan L (TMR); an adult Feb 18 Fulton (RJS) is very unusual in view of the severe cold of early Jan and Feb.

Mute Swan: Skan L colony survived the winter thru human help and shelter (does this make them semi-feral?); free-flying individuals on Oneida R in early Feb (M. Woolley) and at HIGMA Mar 21 (GS). Whistling Swan: initial flock of five on Mar 14 at Brewerton; a regionwide storm Mar 21–24 grounded numbers of these birds—ten Mar 24 Seneca R flats (MSR), 38 Mar 25 Brewerton (C&EF), five Mar 25 Onon L (JWP); nine at L Moraine in Madison Co; numerous lesser flocks from ice free areas around Oneida L in the next week.

Canada Goose: last noted at HIGMA Jan 2 (R. Loveless); the severe freezing and corn-covering snow there caused an exodus of these plus the normally hardy Mallards and Black Ducks, and *none* of the three species wintered at HIGMA; first migrants Mar 15 DH (JWP); the evening of Mar 21–22 in foggy drizzle many flocks were heard over Syr; max at Brewerton 1100 Mar 25; also 1335 passing over DH Mar 26 (JWP); and smaller flocks were widely noted grounded after the Mar 21–24 storm. Blue and Snow Geese: first noted DH (where they are rare in spring) Mar 16, 150 and 30 respectively; also 325 and 75 respectively Seneca R flats Mar 24 (MSR, FGS).

Mallard and Black Ducks: 1604 Mallards plus 763 Blacks noted in apparent

exodus from HIGMA Jan 1; max Mallards 899 and Blacks 545 on WFC; note that Mallards are now almost double the counts for Black Ducks locally. Pintail: max wintering, nine at Oswego (mob); also singles at DeWitt thru winter where feeding maintained these and many Mallards; first arr DH Mar 21 (very late); a huge flight of 6000 noted Mar 24 Seneca R flats. Green-winged and Blue-winged Teals: arr Mar 20 and 21 respectively, both Clay Swamp; numbers low, three-16/day, thru remainder of Mar. Am. Widgeon: last Dec 31, the Pond at Fair Haven Beach State Pk (MSR); none wintered; arr Mar 9 Brewerton (SM); max 300 Mar 24 Seneca R flats. Wood Duck: max wintering, eight Jan 4 Baldwinsville (FGS); at least 12 attempted to winter (HIGMA, Syr, Fulton, Oswego), a sharp increase from the usual three-four; arr Mar 20 DH; max 25 DH Mar 23 (FLF).

Redhead: WFC total *five*, a record low (in part due to the near-complete freeze-over of Skan L before WFC); winter max 40 Feb 14 Skan L (TMR); Mar max 70 at Bridgeport and Brewerton. Ring-necked Duck: a male Skan L Jan 13 and a female Phoenix Jan 14; arr Mar 10, two, Oswego R. Canvasback. Dec max 50, Jan max 16 on WFC, Feb max 30 on Feb 3—increasingly scarce for a normally common wintering duck; Mar max 670 Mar 23 Brewerton to Bridgeport. Greater Scaup: WFC 3569; max day count 3000 Feb 4-11; the severe ice conditions undoubtedly reduced the wintering flocks along Oswego R and in the harbor. Common Goldeneye: winter max 1414 WFC; 300-500/day in the last half of Mar Bridgeport and Brewerton. Bufflehead: WFC 136 (mob); max 120 Feb 11 Phoenix to Oswego. Oldsquaw: WFC 188, half the previous three years' average; the low tally may be a function of the extensive icing (eight plus miles off Texas and Derby Hill) along the L Ontario shoreline. *COMMON EIDER*: an imm male well seen Mar 2 Oswego Harbor (FLF,RJS), the third Regional record in 13 years. King Eider: total of four individuals at Oswego Harbor Dec 21—Mar 16 (mob).

White-winged Scoter: very low winter tallies—Dec max ten DH-SSSP; *only two* on WFC; only four at Oswego Harbor in Mar. Surf Scoter: singles Jan 14 SSSP (JWP) and Oswego Harbor Jan 7 and Feb 3 (CGS,JWP). Common Merganser: very scarce throughout winter—WFC 567; max for winter 1000 Mar 3 Oswego Harbor—? wintering birds plus migrants (MSR); other Oswego and Oneida L Mar tallies ten-70/day (very low). Red-breasted Merganser: 28 Oswego CC; WFC 20; has grown quite scarce as a wintering bird recently, as 1955-58 numbers approximated 150/WFC.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: very scarce this winter—four singles only—Nine Mile Pt E of Oswego (JWP), Camden (B.&S. Peebles), Old Forge (W.R.Spofford), and an adult Three Rivers GMA (JWP). Sharp-shinned Hawk: winter total eight (up slightly); only one noted on BBFS. Cooper's Hawk: also up slightly—total 18, primarily from Syr and Oneida. Red-tailed Hawk: max 26 Syr CC; 18 on HIGMA CC (only northeastern quadrant of the circle); lesser numbers on S portion of Oneida L plain and at N edge of the Allegheny highlands, particularly Tully Valley; scattered reports at Utica, unreported from Adirondacks. Rough-legged Hawk: on CCs—nine Syr, 14 Oneida, one HIGMA, one Oswego; seven/128 miles Liverpool-to-Vernon Jan 6 (SM,CGS,MSR)—cf. nine Red-tailed same trip; numbers definitely down this winter, especially after some snow accumulation in late Jan. Marsh Hawk: *none* until Mar migrants; formerly a regular wintering bird! Sparrow Hawk: one-seven/day thru Dec and Jan; a definite drop after the severe cold of Feb, and the bird was frankly scarce in that month—max three/day and many days with none. Hawk migration data will be given in spring report.

GRAY PARTRIDGE: at least three coveys surviving from 1966 introduction in Pompey Center area (FLF); combination of windswept fields, sand-treated roads, and manure spreading appears to provide winter survival necessities; it will be interesting to see whether these birds persist.

Killdeer: three attempted to winter at DeWitt, of which two are known to have survived, remarkable in view of the extremely cold winter; arr Mar 9 DH; max 40

Mar 16 and 30 Mar 20 both DH. **PURPLE SANDPIPER**: one Jan 14 Oswego Harbor breakwater (CGS, MSR, F. Dittrich), first winter record for Region. Heavy incursion of white-winged gulls with max 14 Glaucous and 15 Iceland Gulls Jan 14 Oswego R and Harbor (mob); lesser numbers thru winter; Syr dumps devoid of *all* gulls after Onon L froze over. Great Black-backed Gull: max 260 Oswego R and harbor Jan 14; Feb max 150 Feb 11 Oswego. Herring and Ring-billed Gull: max 4000 and 6000 Dec 14 SSSP to Oswego; also 4000 Herring Mar 4 Oswego (JWP); almost no Ring-billed Gulls noted from the early Jan freeze-up to the first migrants in early Feb. Mourning Dove: 411 on Oneida CC is a record tally; also 144 Jan 1 HIGMA and 130 Baldwinsville Feb 1; definitely increasing as a wintering bird—from CCs and BBFS it is estimated some 1100 Mourning Doves attempted to winter in the Region; one at Forestport Dec 9 (CGS), rather late for that area.

Screech Owl: total for winter 25, primarily from Oneida, HIGMA, and swamps along Oneida R and Seneca R (mob). Horned Owl: pairs noted at HIGMA (two), Short Pt Bay on Oneida L, Hamilton (two), Pompey Township (three), Sherrill (two)—(mob). Snowy Owl: max for winter three, Syr Airport; singles at Salisbury, Oneida, Munnsville, Fairfield, Cicero Center, and two at Oswego—conservative estimate of 15 birds wintering in the Region. Barred Owl: two actively hooting Pompey Center (FLF) and one Holland Patent (J&EVD)—new locations; one at Woodgate Mar 9 (K. G. Hanson). Long-eared Owl: single record, one Feb 29 Syr (MSR)—incredibly scarce! Short-eared Owl: two Sherrill Mar 8–12 (DWA) and one at Brewerton Feb 28—Mar 18 (FGS)—very scarce, especially in contrast to the high numbers in adjacent regions.

SWIFTS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: 13 wintering individuals, mainly at open streams E of Syr and along Seneca and Oswego R; only five survived the severe cold of Jan to Feb; arr Mar 23 Oswego Harbor. Yellow-shafted Flicker: three-seven/BBFS; max of 15 Jan 1 HIGMA; eight on Syr CC; definite decrease to only one-two/day in Feb; arr Mar 20, one near Utica (VB). Pileated Woodpecker: new locations at Clayville (VB), Nedrow (RJS), Camden, Lysander, Jamesville, Fair Haven, and Clinton (BBFS), and Cardiff (JWP); this may represent a slow local increase or increased winter observers or both. Red-bellied Woodpecker: HIGMA max 17 on Jan 1; new sites at Fulton, Marcellus, Camillus, Elbridge, Jordan, Baldwinsville, Clay Swamp, and Toad Harbor near W Monroe on N shore of Oneida L; an increasing concentration around Otisco L (at least six sites). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one attempted to winter at Syr (Mrs. E. A. Eaton) but was found dead in early Jan. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: high tallies for season from dying elm swamps around HIGMA with 50 and 86 respectively on CC; these two species, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Brown Creeper are the temporary beneficiaries of the Dutch elm disease die-off in the river swamps. Perhaps the recent increase and spread of the Red-bellied Woodpecker is also correlated with this newly abundant food source.

E. Phoebe: singles arr Mar 24 at Brewerton, Utica, and Clayville in a snowstorm!; max five Mar 28 DH; widely reported by Mar 31. Horned Lark: winter max 118 Oneida CC and 100 Wampsville Dec 28; migrants by Jan 25; flocks 75–150 Feb 7–Mar 15 with peak 273 Mar 7 DH (JWP). Tree Swallow: arr Mar 21 (early) two DH (FGS, J. Karp); max 43 Mar 26 DH, but smaller numbers around Clay Swamp and Oneida L. Purple Martin: arr Mar 24 (very early), Oneida L (VB). Unidentified swallow (? Barn) noted Jan 7 Phoenix (MSR, M. Pastel)—amazing to survive to that date in view of the prior severe cold of early Jan.

Common Crow: low counts thru winter (five-40/day) except in immediate roost area at Onon Hill (2000); at least 22,000 in Mar flights at DH—lower counts than 1967 may reflect fewer Crow-counters as the primary concern there has been raptor tallies. **COMMON RAVEN**: one Dec 10 Okara L near Old Forge (FGS, DWA, P.R. Paquette) first record since 1964 and the first winter record; the bird may have been feeding on the numerous road-killed winter finches. Boreal Chickadee: max 14, Old

Forge and Big Moose L Feb 25 (W. Thurber *et al*). Tufted Titmouse: on both HIGMA and Oneida CC; also reported at Otisco L, Cazenovia, and Brewerton; BBFS numbers would indicate no irruption this winter. White-breasted Nuthatch: 39-64/CC with best tallies from Old Forge, Oneida, and HIGMA (again concentrations in the extensive dying-elm swamps); first migrant Mar 28 DH (mob). Red-breasted Nuthatch: virtually unreported away from breeding sites such as Rome Sand Plains and Highland Forest; abundant (22-28/day!) in Adirondack sector of Herkimer Co. Brown Creeper: another beneficiary of the dying elms-47 Jan 1 HIGMA; three-eight/day in Adirondacks, Brewerton-Bridgeport, TRGMA, Pompey, Fish Gulf, Tully. Winter Wren: at least six attempted to winter at Syr and Oneida, but only one still present in early Feb and none thereafter. Carolina Wren: singles at Oneida in Dec to Jan (DWA *et al*) and at Fish Gulf near Otisco L Feb 28 (JWP).

Wintering mimids and thrushes-Mockingbird: three-four/BBFS; newly reported at Makyas Rd in Onon Township (GS) and in N Syr (A. Hogsholm); one passing DH Mar 31 (Triple Cities Naturalist Club field trip). Catbird: one Syr CC (D.B. Peakall); none at feeders. Brown Thrasher: singles Dec 9 Pompey Center (FLF) and Syr CC (MSR). Robin: wintered in increased numbers with 42 at Fish Gulf 30 Camillus, five-11 DeWitt, HIGMA, and Jamesville, and even a few at Pompey and Taberg, both snow belt areas. Hermit Thrush: singles attempted to winter Cazenovia (Huddleston) and DeWitt, but none survived into Mar. Bluebird: flock of five lingered into first week of Dec (C&EF) at Lafayette.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: wintered in very small numbers (one-ten/day) with several singles at Old Forge and Big Moose; no migration noted as of Mar 31. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: singles at Syr Dec 10 (RJS) and SSSP Dec 16 (CGS), both late; more surprising were two on Oswego CC and one on Syr CC; none thereafter. Cedar Waxwing: eight-100/day, mostly around Syr and Utica but widely reported; slight decrease in Feb and Mar. *BOHEMIAN WAXWING*: single with large flock of Cedar Waxwings Jan 27-Feb 1 DeWitt (SM, MSR *et al*). Northern Shrike: seemed scarce -totals are ten in Dec, 16 Jan, nine Feb, and seven Mar (mob plus BBFS).

VIREOS-WARBLES: *ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER*: single attempting to winter DeWitt Dec 23 (FGS), not located thereafter; first winter record. Myrtle Warbler: single wintered at Liverpool feeder (H. Frankland). *YELLOWTHROAT*: singles at DeWitt Dec 23 (FGS) and Oneida Dec 30; the Oneida bird was captured in a local supermarket on count day and has survived the winter indoors.

ICTERIDS-SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark: winter max 44 Oneida CC; three-six/day in early Jan but apparently none survived the snow accumulations of late Jan. Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, and Grackle wintered in small numbers (one-three/day); in contrast, Cowbirds wintered in greater numbers of 42-60/day and were abundantly reported on BBFS-Dec 418, Jan 118, Feb 180, Mar 97. *BALTIMORE ORIOLE*: single immature male into early Jan at Chittenango (Mrs. M. Stickles).

Cardinal: winter max 94 HIGMA CC; also 71 (down somewhat) Syr CC; new stations at Brewerton, Bridgeport, Sylvan Beach, Utica. *ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK*: one wintered at D. Dawley's feeder Syr Jan 10 thru end of period. Heavy winter finch flight in Adirondack sector with large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks (50-130/day), Purple Finch (20-250/day), Pine Siskin (16-400/day), Goldfinch (15-400/day), Red Crossbill (25-200/day), and lesser numbers of Pine Grosbeaks (six-45/day); Dec counts seemed significantly higher than Jan and Feb. Away from the Adirondacks, numbers were lower and the majority of reports were in the latter half of the winter. Evening Grosbeak: three-70/day in Syr-Utica-Oneida area; sequential BBFS shows sharp rise-Dec 46, Jan 415, Feb 1164, Mar 1248. Purple Finch: one-20/day in Pompey, Brewerton, Utica, etc.; 100 (the only non-Adirondack high count) Mar 16 Mycenae (W.F.Minor). Pine Siskin: 15-200/day, mainly from N shore of Oneida L and N of Rome, with the larger counts in late Feb and early

Mar. Red Crossbill: one-20/day in Feb and Mar at Cicero Swamp and Constantia. White-winged Crossbill: only a single report, two, Alder Creek Feb 24 (J&EVD).

Rufous-sided Towhee: total of 12 attempted to winter; most unusual is one at 1400 ft S of Pompey Center (FLF) in the snowbelt; first migrants Mar 24 Holland Patent (J&EVD) and Otisco L.(E.M.Starr). Slate-colored Junco: BBFS 73 Dec, 124 Jan, 126 Feb, 107 Mar; scarce away from feeder situations. OREGON JUNCO: one Dec 1 at feeder Oneida (S.Paquette), the only record. Tree Sparrow: numbers definitely up in Dec and Jan with 1230 on Oneida CC and 667 on HIGMA CC; 800/month on BBFS (892 in Jan is an all-time high!). Field Sparrow: total of five individuals attempted to winter; two present into Feb. HARRIS' SPARROW: imm at well-sheltered feeder and pine plantation Oswego mid-Jan to Mar 26 (H.K.Sheldon, FGS, mob), first Regional record. White-crowned Sparrow: four individuals wintered. White-throated Sparrow: 18 (record high) on Syr CC; BBFS tallied 6 in Dec, 15 in Jan, 17 in Feb, and 8 in Mar; also 15 in several sectors of Syr Mar 15 (RJS). Fox Sparrow: first migrant Mar 19 Holland Patent (J&EVD). Swamp Sparrow: max four HIGMA CC; only one noted in Feb. Song Sparrow: wintered in increased numbers—45 HIGMA CC and 25 on Feb 1 Baldwinsville; BBFS 22 Dec, 41 Jan, 41 Feb, 54 Mar; first migrants Mar 10 with heavy influx Mar 20-24 panregionally. Lapland Longspur: very scarce—six reports involving ten birds. Snow Bunting: large flocks (700-1000) thru the winter roving in open areas near Pompey, Cicero Center and Texas; 1100 (migrants) Mar 10 DH (JWP).

Our thanks to F. LaFrance, S. Morgan, Mrs. J. W. Propst, C. Smith, and R. J. Sutliff for assistance in compiling the above information.

427 South Main Street, North Syracuse 13212

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

DAVID C. GORDON

December snowfall of five and one-half inches was 21 inches below normal at Watertown. There was also some rain. Temperatures averaged above normal with a record high of 58 degrees on Dec 22. Record low temperatures were set in January and average temperatures were below normal for the month. Precipitation and snowfall were below normal. Snowfall was 14.2 inches compared with normal of 24.4 inches. February had below normal temperatures and about average amount of snow. Average temperatures and snowfall were above normal for March with a record official high of 74 degrees Mar 31. In summary, it was one of the coldest winters in this century but the total Watertown snowfall of 65.6 inches was 33.8 inches below normal, one of the lightest in 68 years.

This was a second consecutive winter with a scarcity of the usual winter species but in a different way than last year. Although common elsewhere in the state, almost no Short-eared Owls were seen although specifically searched for. No waxwings were reported all winter and there was a poor showing of Northern Shrikes. Most half-hardy species such as Mourning Doves and Robins went unreported until spring migration. Other species entirely absent this winter were redpolls and siskins. The numbers of all winter finches were extremely low outside of the Adirondacks. No rarities helped compensate for a hard cold winter that was very dull for birders. However, the last week of March brought a flood of migration with early dates for several species and the changing weather promised a very early Spring.

Localities: BCW—Brookside Cemetery, Watertown; Car—Carthage; ED—El Dorado; Gouv—Gouverneur; HH—Henderson Harbor; Jeff Co—Jefferson County; PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area; Pt Pen—Point Peninsula; SL Co—St. Lawrence County; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; Wat—Watertown; WC—Watertown Center.

Observers: AA—Arthur Allen; JB—John Belknap; FC—Frank Clinch ;DG—David Gordon; J&MK—Jim & Mary Key; WW—Winifred Wright.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one Dec 2 HH. Horned Grebe: last Dec 7 HH. Pied-billed Grebe: first Mar 23. Mute Swan: one at Pillar Pt and Brownville Jan 5-6 (DG *et al*); two PRGMA Mar 30 (DG). Canada Goose: first Mar 19, several hundred PRGMA Mar 30. Mallard: spring arr Mar 23. Black Duck: small numbers overwintered, influx Mar 23. Pintail: first Mar 21. Green-winged Teal: first Mar 21. Blue-winged Teal: first Mar 30. Am Widgeon and Shoveler: first Mar 30 Wilson's Bay. Wood Duck: first Mar 27. Redhead: eight near Stony Pt Jan 20, at PRGMA Mar 23. Ring-necked Duck: first Mar 23. Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Oldsquaw: common wintering ducks. White-winged Scoter: one ED Dec 2, one near Sackets Harbor Dec 2-9 (DG), one near Stony Pt Jan 20. Hooded Merganser: last Dec 9, spring arr Mar 21.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: one near Philadelphia Feb 23 (DG). Cooper's Hawk: one near feeders Wat Jan 14 (AA). Red-tailed Hawk: one Dec 2 near Wat, two near Depauville Dec 23, two near Perch Lake Feb 24, first spring record Mar 23. Rough-legged Hawk: seen regularly Dec 2—Mar 16 many places thruout Jeff Co with highest daily counts in Pt Pen area of 11-13 in Jan; not as numerous as some winters. Marsh Hawk: last Cape Vincent Dec 4, first Depauville Mar 4, several seen thereafter thru Mar. Sparrow Hawk: several present thru winter, increase last week Mar.

Gray Partridge: usual flock size 6-8 thru winter with highest daily counts 208 Jan 14 (AA), 54 Jan 27 (DG) Pt Pen area, "huns" paired off Mar 16. Killdeer: first Mar 18. Great Black-backed Gull: Jan 17 Wat. Ring-billed Gull: buildup of low winter population Mar 23. Bonaparte's Gull: one PRGMA Mar 23 (DG)—a rare spring date. Mourning Dove: no winter reports, first Mar 30. Great Horned Owl: one Jan 8 Wat (AA). Snowy Owl: one ED, one south Wat Dec 2 (DG), one to three Pillar Pt—Pt Pen—Cape Vincent area Jan—Feb (mob), high count six Jan 14 (AA), one near Evans Mills mid Feb—Mar 25 (JB). Short-eared Owl: one probable near Adams Mar 11 (DG)—only report.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Flicker: first Mar 29 Wat. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: first Mar 30 (fide FC)—early. Hairy Woodpecker: seemed scarce this winter. Three-toed woodpeckers not reported, but several trees with recently flaked-off bark noted in wooded areas during winter. Eastern Phoebe: first Mar 24. Horned Lark: prairie subspecies seen each month of winter but noticeable influx after Feb 20; paired off Mar 16 and common; two of northern subspecies Pillar Pt Jan 13. Tree Swallow: first arr four PRGMA Mar 23 (DG)—early; Mar 25 (JB), Mar 30 (FC) same place. Blue Jay: more numerous this winter than last year. Common Crow: several wintered in scattered localities; influx in large numbers Mar 2-9. Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch: common winter residents. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Feb 11 Wanakena, SL Co; two Mar 2 Camp Drum. Brown Creeper: three Dec 23, one Feb 23, two Mar 2, one Mar 10—probably overwinter sparingly. Brown Thrasher: one at feeder Dec 11 Wat (AA)—late. Robin: first arr Mar 17 Wat. Northern Shrike: scarcest in many years; one early Dec near Adams Center (Gaskin), one Dec 3, 23, 30 near Wat (AA), one dead on road near PRGMA Dec 15 (JB), Jan 14 Pt Pen (AA), last Feb 24 Pt Pen (DG). Loggerhead Shrike: one Mar 30 near Cape Vincent (DG)—early.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: seven Dec 30 Rodman (DG); first spring Mar 21. Red-winged Blackbird: first Mar 16. Common Grackle: one Dec 31 Wat; first spring Mar 16. Brown-headed Cowbird: Jan 17, Feb 19, Mar 9; first spring arr Mar 24. Cardinal: thru winter several locations Car and Wat. Evening Grosbeak: second consecutive year of relative scarcity; three Jan 16, nine Jan 24-26 Wat (AA); from about Feb 1 to Mar 25 they were present in small flocks up to 50 at one time Car, Gouv, Wat; est 100 at Wanakena and Cranberry Lake, SL Co Feb 11 (DG);

130 banded Wat (FC). Purple Finch: at feeders Car and Wat Mar 3-31 (WW,AA, FC). Pine Grosbeak: small flock Sears Pond, THP Dec 30 (DG). Amer. Goldfinch: one Dec 31 WC; 60 Feb 28 S Edwards, SL Co, one Mar 10 BCW. Red Crossbill: one pair dead on road Feb 11 near Sevey, SL Co. (DG). Slate-colored Junco: two Dec 11; first spring Mar 20 thru period. Tree Sparrow: thru period everywhere. White-throated Sparrow: two Dec 31 WC, one first week Jan Wat. Song Sparrow: first Mar 20. Lapland Longspur: eleven Pillar Pt and one Pt Pen Jan 13 (DG); two Pt Pen Jan 14 (AA); two near Three Mile Bay Feb 23 (J&MK); one Pillar Pt Feb 24 (DG). Snow Bunting: over 300 south of Wat Dec 2, many small, scattered flocks Jan 13-14 Pillar Pt-Pt Pen; est 300 near Sulphur Spr Jan 20; over 150 Pt Pen Feb 24 of which 50 perched in a tree briefly (DG); last one Mar 16 Sackets Harbor.

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

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

The 1967-68 winter season was characterized by cold but little snow. December started off with zero and minus 4 degree readings but soon went into the upper twenties and thirties. Humidity was high, precipitation low though many days produced fog, rain, sleet and snow all in twenty-four hours and automobile travel was hazardous. Road kill, particularly among Pine Siskins, Pine Grosbeaks, Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills, was heavy. One to three inches of snow came and went on the ground and finally five inches accumulated on December 29. The first skiers took to the slopes of Mt Pisgah on December 30.

January was bitter cold with an average temperature of 9.5 degrees. According to Bob Kampf of the Hilltop Meteorological Observatory, Ray Brook, the lowest daytime high ever recorded at the station was minus 16.5 degrees on January 9. Mr. Kampf says, "Precipitation was very low as one might expect with the polar front exerting maximum effort for most of the month. . . . Snow depth on the ground averaged about 10 inches."

February again gave us a record cold average of 11.5 degrees and the snowfall was only 29 inches as compared to a normal of four feet. Feeders were well patronized and it was comforting to think of the abundant mast crop, large spruce cones in particular, still in evidence in the woods.

March temperatures were only slightly above normal but the thin snow covering disappeared rapidly. The lowest temperature for the month was minus 15 degrees on the 14th, highest plus 69.5 on the 31st.

The presence of winter finches—with the exception of Common Redpolls (one record) and White-winged Crossbills (no records)—made birding a bit more exciting this winter than last. Some species, such as blackbirds, Killdeer, and Eastern Meadowlark, may have come back a little earlier than usual because of muddy fields and surface pondlets but the notably early bird was Keji's Eastern Bluebird at Ray Brook. The only rarity was the rail on the Saranac Christmas Count. Hagar and Young went out to look for it again but had no luck.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; EB—Elisabeth Barnet; GTC—Greenleaf T Chase; HD—Harriet Delafield; JH—Joseph Hart; RH—Robert Hagar; JK—Joseph Keji; RM—Ruth Meier; IW—Isabel Williams; DY—David Young.

Abbreviations: Aus M—Ausable Marsh; B—Brook; P—Pond; RB—Ray Brook; SL—Saranac Lake; TL—Tupper Lake; CDT—Count Day Team; Wick M—Wickham Marsh.

LOONS—DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: one Dec 31 Saranac R (RH,DY); one Mar 28 RB (JK); two Aus & Wick M (GTC). Canada Goose: three flocks Mar 20 RB

(Bombard); 77 Mar 20 Great Chazy (*vide* GTC); 75 Mar 27 Little Chazy R (Buckley). Mallard: two Aus M Mar 29 (GTC). Black Duck: one Dec 31 Saranac R (RH,DY); eleven Aus M & Wick M, three Mar 29 L Flower (GTC). Wood Duck: six Mar 29 Aus M (GTC). Ring-necked Duck: six Mar 29 L Flower (GTC). Common Merganser: five males Clintonville Mar 29 (GTC).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: one Malone Dec 29, one L Titus Mar 26, one Clintonville Mar 29 (GTC). Golden Eagle: one Mar 15, one Mar 26 northern Adirondacks (*vide* GTC). Sparrow Hawk: one SL Mar 28 (HD); one Clintonville Mar 29 (GTC). Ruffed Grouse: six Dec 31 (CDT); one or two thru period TL (RM) and RB (JK). **RAIL:** one (King or Virginia) Saranac R Dec 31 (RH,DY) The observers, traveling by canoe, "saw clearly the long, slightly downcurved bill, rusty wings and neck, black barring on rump, characteristic walk, run and gawky flight with legs trailing." No size comparison was available and cheek color could not be determined. Killdeer: one Mar 28 RB (JK); four Mar 31 Norman's Ridge near Vermontville (EA,HD). Herring Gull: Aus R Mar 29 (GTC). Ring-billed Gull: Aus R Delta Mar 29 (GTC). Mourning Dove: Aus M Mar 29, two (GTC). Great Horned Owl: one Dec 29, flew across road a few feet in front of car at State Bridge between TL and SL, good view in good light (JH). Snowy Owl: one east of Malone last week Dec, first week Jan, one west of Malone second week Jan might have been same bird (Orcutt, Cobb *vide* GTC).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: one Saranac R Dec 31 (RH, DY). Pileated Woodpecker: two Dec 31 SL (CDT); one Mar 29 Aus M (GTC). Hairy & Downy Woodpecker: normal RB, TL, SL (one to four seen in a day HD). Eastern Phoebe: one Aus M Mar 29 (GTC). Horned Lark: 45 Malone area Feb 8 (GTC); back late Mar Gabriels (DY); one Mar 31 Norman's Ridge (EA,HD). Tree Swallow: three Mar 29 RB (GTC); one Mar 31 SL (HD). Gray Jay: two Dec 31 near TL Rd (GTC). Blue Jay: 16-20 at feeder thru Feb TL, RB & SL, individual feeding mate Mar 9 SL (EB). Common Crow: one Dec 1-5, six Mar 28 RB (JK); three Jan 2, small numbers back Mar 4 TL (RM); three McMaster's Rd, between SL and SL Inn Jan 13, three Feb 8 and 28, displaying Mar 14 SL, 23 Mar 31 Norman's Ridge (EA,HD). Black-capped Chickadee: normal—small flocks, two to ten any day; 135 Dec 31 SL (CDT). Boreal Chickadee: five Dec 31 (CDT); four Jan 24 Onchiota Rd (HD); ten Mar 3 and 5 Faust (RM); one, end Mar SL (EB). White-breasted and Red Breasted Nuthatches: normal, one to three in a day; 11 and 14 Dec 31 (CDT). Brown Creeper: one Dec 12 and 21 SL (EB,HD); six Dec 31 (CDT); one or two daily RB (JK). Robin: back Mar 20 SL and RB, Mar 21 TL. Eastern Bluebird: Mar 28, early, RB (JK). Golden-crowned Kinglet: two SL Dec 24 (EA,HD); six Dec 31 (CDT); one or two off and on Jan 5 thru Mar 29 RB (JK). Northern Shrike: one Dec 17 and Jan 28 SL (EB); one Jan 21 and 22 RB (JK). Starling: 70 Dec 31 (CDT); 25 Mar 25 RB (JK); 50 Mar 20 SL (HD).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: no large numbers reported. Eastern Meadowlark: one Mar 29 RB (JK); four Mar 31 Norman's Ridge (EA,HD). Red-winged Blackbird: one or two all winter, 30 Mar 20 RB (JK); three Mar 20, 18 Mar 21 TL (RM); one Mar 12, 15 Mar 20, 35 Mar 31 SL (HD); 30 Aus M Mar 29 (GTC). Common Grackle: back in small numbers all areas mid-Mar; ten Mar 18 SL (EB). Brown-headed Cowbird: back small numbers after mid-Mar; four Mar 26 RB (JK); four SL Mar 21 (HD).

Cardinal: only the male in Bloomingdale this winter, seen Dec 3, 4 and 29, also all of Jan, Feb and Mar (IW); two pair reported near TL (Kingsbury, RM). Evening Grosbeak: big year for this species, seen in the one and two hundreds Bloomingdale (IW); TL (RM); RB (JK); SL (EB,HD); 419 Dec 31 (CDT); one albino Feb 4-Mar 18 RB (JK); tapering off end of Mar though still 100 Mar 22 TL (RM). Purple Finch: flocks of eight to 18 seen off and on thru period in all areas reporting; ten to 20 all period, one singing Mar 8 TL (RM). Pine Grosbeak: this was our most out-

standing winter visitor; 59 Dec 31 (CDT); 40 Feb 8 Malone Rd (GTC); much road kill reported. The birds stayed in the area until late Feb and early Mar. Common Redpoll: seven Dec 31 (GTC). Pine Siskin: another visitor in large numbers; 186 Dec 31 (CDT); diminishing thru Mar. American Goldfinch: fewer than above species but small flocks in evidence all period; 100 Dec 31 (CDT). Red Crossbill: flocks of five to 20 Dec 2–Feb 23 TL (RM); 15 Dec 24, two Jan 1, 12 Jan 25, eight Feb 18 SL (EA,HD); one singing Jan 10, groups up to 25 thru Mar 28 RB (JK). Slate-colored Junco: one or two thru period all areas except TL, mostly feeder birds. Tree Sparrow: more reports than usual thru period; 25–30 Dec 28 thru Mar 1 TL (RM); eleven thru Mar 12 SL (HD); two Dec 1 thru Mar 26 RB (JK). Field Sparrow: two Mar 28 RB (JK). White-throated Sparrow: one at feeder Dec 3 thru Mar 30 SL (EB); one to three at feeder Dec thru Jan, one Feb 17 RB (JK); three Dec 31 (CDT). Fox Sparrow: feeder birds, one Jan 31 thru Feb 4 Lower Saranac L (GTC); one Mar 24–27 SL (EB); one Mar 24–26 RB (JK). Song Sparrow: a few feeder reports thru period; back Aus M Mar 28 (GTC), SL Mar 24 (HD). Snow Bunting: 15 Dec 30 SL (HD); 57 Dec 31 (CDT); six Jan 11 SL (EA).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

HAZEL F. BUNDY

This past winter was erratic, and in general was very dry. We had about 50 per cent of the snow we usually get in a season. Precipitation during December was 3.9 inches, 1.31 inches greater than average. There was a heavy rain of 1.48 inches on Dec 12, and a deep snow on the 28th and 29th resulting in 12 inches of snow on the ground. We had intensively cold weather in Jan, averaging eight degrees below normal, with precipitation about three-fifths of the normal 2.47 inches. The snow on the ground steadily diminished during the month, from nine inches on Jan 1, to one inch on Jan 31. Feb was cold, with average temperatures 2.6 degrees below normal. Ground cover during the entire month was of an amount too small to measure. March was rather sunny and dry, with a four-inch snow on the 11th and heavy rain of about one inch on the 17th and 18th. An intense high pressure system dominated the area for the first week of the month, delaying migration until about the 9th, when the temperature moderated.

Birds at the feeder were more common in Dec and Jan than in the same period in 1966–67. However, the dry winter with the thaw of late Jan and generally open country caused a marked decrease of birds at feeders in Feb and Mar. Hawks appeared to be holding their own, with the now usual small numbers reported in this Region. Owls were recorded in about the usual numbers, also. The following species of land birds wintered in unusually high numbers: Robin, Horned Lark, Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow. On the other hand, winter finches were a disappointment after an encouraging fall season. Crossbills were entirely absent.

Many interesting facts and some unusual species were turned up when the countryside was scoured for the Christmas Counts. Total numbers provided statistics for the noting of population changes, unwelcome though some of them may be—see the main body of the report for the vast number of Starlings, and for other comparisons.

The highlight of the period was a Kittiwake, the first ever reported in this Region. Other unusual or out-of-season species included Whistling Swan, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Saw-whet Owl, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Dickcissel, and Oregon Junco. A probable Lark Bunting was also described, the second listing for the Region.

Abbreviations used: CM—Castleton marshes; Emb—Embought; Gr Co—Greene Co; Gr—Greenville; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; SS—Stockport Station; GCBC—Greene Co Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; Christmas Counts: ADCC—Alan Devoe (Chatham), Dec 30; SCC—Schenectady, Dec 23; SRCC—Southern Rensselaer, Dec 31; TCC—Troy, Dec 30; GCC—Greene Co.

Observers cited more than once: GA—Gustave Angst; GB—Guy Bartlett; HFB—Hazel Bundy; L&VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; JB, BB—James and Barbara Bush; PC—Paul Connor; P&GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; M&AG—Murray and Alice Giddings; MDG—Monte Gruett; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; VH—Vernon Haskins; RK, MK—Ralph and Marcia Kent, Jr.; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; PMcG—Peggy McGuirk; PM, MM—Philip and Mary Mickle; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; NS—N. Snare; HHS—Harvey Spivak; AS—Alice Stevens; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin, and Barrington Havens.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: no report for Dec, a surprising omission. Horned Grebe: to Dec 9 SL (bsh); many Mar reports beginning Mar 22 Gr (CK). Pied-billed Grebe: to Dec 9 SL (bsh, HFB, PMcG); first spring Mar 23 (bsh). Great Blue Heron: arr Mar 30 (GE, MM) and Mar 31 (mob). WHISTLING SWAN: a flock of 20 on Watervliet Reservoir Mar 25 (MK)—the largest flock ever reported in this Region. Canada Goose: the only Dec reports were of small flocks—Dec 12 (M&AG) and Dec 13, 14 (VH); earliest spring reports Mar 16 (MDG, PPW). Snow Goose: one Valatie Pond Dec 2, 27 (M&AG, PM, MM) and again in the same area Dec 30 (ADCC).

With the exception of a few wintering ducks, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead and Hooded Merganser were last recorded on Dec 9 SL (bsh, HFB, PMcG). Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Scaup, Common Goldeneye, White-winged Scoter, and Common Merganser were last recorded Dec 17 (bsh). One Oldsquaw was reported Dec 8 SL (EH). Surf Scoter and Common Scoter were reported Dec 8 SL (EH), evidently a remnant of the unusually good flight of these species in Oct and Nov.

Wintering ducks: Mallards and Black Ducks present in somewhat lower numbers, max 158 Mallards and 427 Blacks (bsh); two Pintail Dec 30 (TCC); one Green-winged Teal, a few Common Goldeneye, one Hooded Merganser, and a few Common Mergansers were reported to be winter visitors (bsh, SCC, TCC); one Scaup Green Island Feb 24 (PMcG).

Spring duck reports: arr Mar 10—Pintail, Wood Duck, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser; at the same time, Mallards and Blacks were reported in increasing numbers; arr Mar 15 and 16—Green-winged Teal, Am. Widgeon, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser. Six Gadwall were reported Mar 17 (PM, MM) and a total of ten from Mar 28 to Mar 31 (mob). Canvasback and Scaup reported beginning Mar 23 and 24. Oldsquaw: singles at SL and SCR, arr Mar 24 (bsh); one Mar 27, 28 SCR (GA, HFB). Blue-winged Teal: arr Mar 26. Three male Shoveler were noted Mar 27 CM (MDG).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: one Feb 3 Spencertown (H. and M. Webb), one Mar 19 Kiskatom (JB, BB), two Mar 27 Helderbergs (GA). Goshawk: one Jan 13 Meadowdale (GB, BRS), two Feb reports (bsh), one Mar 10 Schodack Center (PC), and one Mar 16 Hillsdale (NS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: five scattered reports Dec through Mar. Cooper's Hawk: eight reports Dec 21 to Mar 9. Red-tailed Hawk: seen in many areas, max 16 Dec 30 (TCC). Red-shouldered Hawk: three winter reports—one Dec 19 Chatham (M&AG), one Feb 25 and two Feb 28 Gr Co (CK, JB, BB); probable spring migrants were singles, Mar 24 (bsh) and Mar 28 near SCR (HFB). Broad-winged Hawk: one Mar 25 Catskill area (JB, BB); two Mar 26 Meadowdale (Robert and Mary Lou Shedd). Rough-legged Hawk: numerous reports, max 23 Dec 30 (ADCC). Marsh Hawk: six scattered reports Dec 10 to Feb 7. OSPREY: one seen sitting in a tree at a distance of 30 to 40 feet, and then flying,

along the Hudson R near Glenmont, Dec 31, by six weeks the latest date ever recorded (SRCC) and was seen in the same area for about three weeks. *PEREGRINE FALCON*: one Dec 31 (SRCC). *PIGEON HAWK*: one Jan 14 near Saratoga Battlefield (GB,BRS). Sparrow Hawk: widely reported, max 11 Dec 31 (SRCC).

Bobwhite: unreported in entire Region since Jul 17, 1967. Ring-necked Pheasant: max 14 Dec 31 (SRCC). Am. Coot: to Dec 17 (bsh). Killdeer: Dec 2-18 Ghent (P&GE); first spring Feb 28 Alphaus (HFB), with many reports from Mar 9 on. Am. Woodcock: Mar 20, two locations in Gr Co (JB,BB,CK); four reports Mar 25-30. Common Snipe: one wintered at Tygert Marsh; first spring Mar 10 NWW (HHS). Greater Yellowlegs: one unusually early, Mar 31 Hudson R (MDG,PPW).

GLAUCOUS GULL: one Dec 9 (bsh). *ICELAND GULL*: one at sewer outlet on Hudson R, just below Albany Dec 17 (PPW). Great Black-backed Gull: a total of only three on the five Christmas Counts in the Region; first spring Mar 11, max 60 Mar 16 near SS (PPW). Herring Gull: max 64 Dec 23 (SCC); first spring Mar 8 near SS (MDG,PPW). Ring-billed Gull: total of only four on three Christmas Counts; first migrants Mar 9 NWW (HHS). Bonaparte's Gull: one Mar 24, unusually early, Lock 7 Mohawk R (GA). *KITTIWAKE*: first report for Region—one in imm plumage observed flying up west side of Hudson R, north of Castleton, opposite Van Wies Point, at an elevation of forty feet, Mar 15 by two observers (WBS and Hudson Winn); black mark on back of head seen, as well as black-tipped tail; wing pattern showed predominantly black angular pattern along wing with trailing edge white. Mourning Dove: reported widely, max 453 Dec 30 (ADCC).

Owls: Screech: tallied on two Christmas Counts—one Dec 30 (TCC) and two Dec 31 (SRCC); one Jan 1 Ghent (P&GE) and Mar 2 Emb (JB,BB). Great Horned: reported from several localities; a total of nine on five Christmas Counts. Snowy: reported in Jan in Gr Co (*vide* JB), Loudon Heights (MK), Long Lake, near Selkirk (*vide* Helen Budlong), and in Feb at Rensselaerville (MK). Barred: only one report for second consecutive year—Feb 14 Catskill (JB). Short-eared: four Jan 20 Selkirk (WBS), and three Jan 21 in the same location (Sam Madison, A. Kass). *SAW-WHET*: two reports—Jan 21 Gr (*vide* CK), and Feb 25 Ghent (GE).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Common Nighthawk: a record early date of Mar 27 Vly (BB,GCBC). Belted Kingfisher: several scattered winter reports; spring arr Mar 20. Yellow-shafted Flicker: a few individuals wintered in several localities; many reports from Mar 27. Pileated Woodpecker: reported regularly from several areas; apparently increasing, as evidenced by Christmas Counts: 1967 total for SCC, TCC and SRCC was 15, as compared to a total of two for 1966. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Dec 31 (SRCC); one male wintered at Niskayuna feeder for fourth or fifth year. Hairy Woodpecker: Christmas Count totals down slightly this year. Downy Woodpecker: numbers almost constant. *BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER*: one heard, and then seen, de-barking hemlocks in Thacher Pk Feb 24 (bsh).

Eastern Phoebe: an unusual report of two in Durham Dec (VH); numerous spring reports, beginning Mar 24. Horned Lark: unusually large total of 1843 on five Christmas Counts. Tree Swallow: first Mar 23 SS (SBC) and Chatham (MM). Black-capped Chickadee: Christmas Count totals in two areas about the same as those of 1962, with appreciably higher totals in 1963. Tufted Titmouse: increasing *very* slowly. Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported from the usual areas, max 10 Thacher Pk Feb 24 (bsh). Brown Creeper: max 15 Dec 23 (SCC); several Mar reports. Winter Wren: one Dec 21 Chatham (PM), three Dec 30 (SCC), and one Dec 30 (ADCC). Carolina Wren: only one, Dec 23 (SCC).

Mockingbird: continuing to appear in a few new areas. Robin: wintered in unusual numbers, part of the time in large flocks, including a flock of more than 150 Dec 23 (SCC), and one flock of more than 100 in Niskayuna Feb 22 and 23 (RPY). Her-

mit Thrush: one report—Dec 30 (TCC). Eastern Bluebird: a few wintered in Gr Co and Columbia Co; first spring Mar 9 Catskill (Harry Miller).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Christmas Count total of 24 in three areas rather high when contrasted with total of 14 for the same Counts the previous year. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two Dec reports; one Feb 26 Gr (AS), first migrating by Mar 31 (RPY). Water Pipit: on an unusually early date, Mar 24, three flocks totalling 17 were seen in three locations—SCR, along the Hoosick R, and near the Saratoga Battlefield (bsh). Cedar Waxwing: a few observers remarked on their scarcity; Christmas Count totals, however, were higher than those of previous years; a few flocks were seen Jan through Mar, max 300 in Jan (bsh). Northern Shrike: only six reports—five in Dec, one in Jan. Migrant Shrike: singles, Feb 3 French Hollow (bsh) and Mar 23 Colonie (HHS). Starling: included in the SRCC is the startling count of 15750 at the roost at the Dunn Memorial Bridge and the Plaza area in Albany; the counts for SCC and TCC each tripled in 1966, and tripled again in 1967, with the result that the totals on the 1967 SCC and TCC are over ten times as large as those for 1965; a nesting pair with four young was reported in southern Albany Co in Dec.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: one Dec 21 Ghent (P&GE). Eastern Meadowlark: several Dec reports, max 25 Dec 10 South Schodack (L&VB); two Jan reports: migrants beginning Mar 19 NWW (HHS). Red-winged Blackbird: large flocks, notably 200 Mar 8 CM (MDG,PPW), 120 Mar 9 Meadowdale (GA), 2300 Mar 10—17 NWW (HHS); large flocks Mar 9 and 10 and hundreds Mar 20 CM (PC); “poured north with mild spells Mar 16, 20, 21” (RPY), thousands Mar 24 (MDG); the main movements were from Mar 8 to 17, and Mar 20 to 24. Baltimore Oriole: an uncommon winter record—one Dec 31 in SRCC area (L&VB). Rusty Blackbird: three Dec reports, max four Dec 30 (TCC); first spring arr, two Mar 10 East Greenbush (PPW). Common Grackle: several winter reports; main migration movements Mar 8—10 and Mar 20, 21. Brown-headed Cowbird: about 800 in one flock on farm fields near Guilderland Dec 23 on the SCC, an unprecedented number outside of a roost (WBS,PPW); migrants from Mar 8 on, with waves paralleling those for other icterids.

Cardinal: total count generally holding steady, with the exception of a notable decrease in the TCC area, where 45 were reported in contrast to the previous year's 95. *DICKCISSEL*: after skipping the previous winter, two reports—two Dec 30 (ADCC), and one Feb 17 Ghent (GE). Evening Grosbeak: small to moderate numbers reported in Dec and on the Christmas Counts and thereafter, a general influx the first two weeks of Feb and a general decline by mid-March; present in small numbers through Mar. Purple Finch: several reports of small numbers during Dec and Jan, max 12—20 Jan 18—31 Chatham (P&MM); max for Mar, 20 Mar 2 Glenville (EH), and 17, banded Mar 16 (RPY); virtually absent after Mar 16. Pine Grosbeak: two reports in Feb—seven Feb 21, 23 Berne (RK), and three Thacher Pk Feb 24 (bsh). Common Redpoll: meager reports—120 Dec 30 (ADCC), 50 Jan 23 Mitzekill Rd (L&VB), and two Feb 16 (bsh). Pine Siskin: one lone individual in the entire Region, Dec Emb (JB). Rufous-sided Towhee: total of three on Christmas Counts; two feeder reports Jan through Mar—Berne (MK) and Earleton (Lillian Halloran). Lark Bunting: a bird which was more than likely a female of this species was seen Mar 23, and briefly the following morning, at Ghent; it was described as having a bunting bill, striped breast, white wing patches, head and back greenish-brown-striped, white edging on sides of tail, and tail not forked; it was feeding at a sunflower feeder which hangs under the porch roof and stayed about an hour about a bush near the porch; the bird was observed at a distance of five to six feet, between 3:00 and 4:00 P.M. on a rainy day (P&GE).

Sparrows: Savannah: one at feeder Jan 18 Emb (JB), one Meadowdale Feb 25 (EH), and one Mar 31 NWW (HHS). Vesper: Mar 5 Emb (JB,BB), and Mar 31 Gr (CK). Slate-colored Junco: noticeably more common this winter, as evidenced

by larger total on Christmas Counts, and by numerous feeder reports including feeders from which they have been absent the past few years. *OREGON JUNCO*: two reports—one male Dec 30 in the TCC area (John Fuller), and one Mar 24 Delmar (Owen Knorr). Tree: reported widely in large numbers; the SRCC total of 1349 was twice as many as that of the previous year. Chipping: unusually early, Mar 23 Hillsdale (NS). Field: two Dec 30 (TCC); first migrants Mar 27 (PC and GCBC). White-crowned: more wintered than in any previous years. White-throated: wintered in very high numbers; a flock of more than 50 near Lock 7 Dec 23 (SCC); the total of 59 on the SCC compared with only two the previous year; numerous feeder reports from many localities. Fox: reported from all sections of Gr Co Mar 16 (GCBC), in other areas Mar 20 on. Swamp: five reports during period. Lapland Long-spur: unreported for first time in nine years! Snow Bunting: only a few, medium-sized flocks; last Mar 14 (EH,GA).

R.D. 1, Box 55, Scotia, N.Y. 12302

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

A very heavy snowfall of about 12 inches in late December combined with below zero cold in January kept the ground covered for most of the period. But, in reality, the period was marked by very little snow. Almost none was reported in February, and with the exception of that one storm in late December, very little in any other month. At the close of the period numbers of brush fires have been reported indicating the dryness of the season.

What we lacked in snow, we made up for in low temperatures. After a mild December which produced record numbers of birds on most Christmas Counts, the thermometer spent most of the first three weeks of January below freezing, and much of that time below zero. Icing conditions on the lakes and rivers brought the Federation Duck Count to very low numbers, with most species being driven out to open water. February remained cold; but March was warmer than most years, with many warm days.

Resident birds appeared to hold their own, but only time will tell any temperature effect on the more susceptible southern species that have been spreading their range northward. So far no obvious changes have been reported. Ducks maintained their relative numbers, although much lower as mentioned above. With the warmer temperatures of March, the thaw was rapid and mid to late March saw a flood of waterfowl streaming back to breeding territories. Blackbirds, Robins, Tree Swallows, Fox Sparrows, pipits and bluebirds were moving by mid-March, with the latter nesting in many areas by the end of the month.

Winter finches were scarce but not completely absent as they were last year. The season did have its few rarities to buoy the spirits of birders, including Whistling Swan, a few late-lingering warblers, and the first Dutchess record of Harris' Sparrow.

Observers cited: EBr—Edward Briggs; EB—Enid Butler; MB—Martin Borko; RFD—Robert F. Deed; ME—Martha Earl; TG—Tom Gilbert; FG—Florence Germond; SG—Stanley Grierson; WG—Mr & Mrs Wm. Grierson; FH—Fred Hough; AJ—Alice Jones; J,MK—Jim and Mary Key; ML—Mabel Little; BL—Betty Lang; HM—Helen Manson; JM—John Marsh; A,BM—Al and Barbara Merritt; PM—Peg Moon; JCO—John C. Orth; VP—Vivian Parkhurst; W,TS—William and Trixie Strauss; ET—Ed Treacy; SU—Sarah Uyehlyi; MV—Marion VanWagner; OW—Otis Waterman; WBC—Waterman Bird Club.

Area Compilers: Robert F. Deed, Martha Earl, Mrs William Grierson, Fred Hough, Mabel Little, Al Merritt, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Otis Waterman.

Abbreviations: BCC—Bear Mt. Christmas Count, NE Rock, Dec 23; MCC—Mearns Bird Club Christmas Count, SE Oran, Dec 30; RCC—Rockland Audubon Society Christmas Count, SE Rock, Dec 30; WCC—Waterman Bird Club Christmas Count, W Dutch, Dec 30.

Localities: C-on-H—Cornwall-on-Hudson; Dutch—Dutchess Co.; Oran—Orange County; Putn—Putnam Co.; Rock—Rockland Co.; West—Westchester Co.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: three Rondout Res. Feb 13 (AJ). Red-necked Grebe: one Croton Pt, West Mar 9 (JM *et al.*). Three Mar 20 New Hamburg, Dutch (AJ *et al.*), first Dutch record in five years. Horned Grebe: extremely large flight from Mar 20 to end of period; most reports from Hudson R, max 25 Mar 27 (WBD). Great Blue Heron: several reported on Christmas Counts in area; none thereafter till Mar 7, a few regularly thereafter. Mute Swan: one Mar 24–30 at C-on-H. joined by two others Mar 27 (A,BM). WHISTLING SWAN: one, Fishkill Plains Mar 16, two Hudson R at Rhinecliff—first Dutch records in 25 years (WBC). Canada Goose: excellent spring flight from Mar 15 to end of period, most residents established by end of period.

Pintail: from one to four in Dutch during third week of Mar; max 15, Mar 24 C-on-H (A,BM); also at Basha Kill same date. Green-winged Teal: arr most areas Mar 23–24, good numbers thru end of period. Blue-winged Teal: arr Basha Kill Mar 24 (PM,MB); arr Dutch Mar 30. (WBC). Am. Widgeon: one BCC; migrants arr all areas Mar 24, numbers good to end of period. Shoveler: always rare, one Basha Kill Mar 24 (PM,MB); two males and one female Mar 31, Poughkeepsie (WBC)—second county record in six years. Wood Duck: arr Mar 10, West Pt (Gene Le-Bleu); did not arr in numbers till Mar 23, 24 and then very few. Ring-necked Duck: arr Mar 10; in limited numbers thru end of period, from 30, Mar 24 C-on-H, to 50 on Hudson R in Dutch. Canvasback: best movement for mid-Hudson in recent years; about 60 Mar 24 C-on-H, to 300, same date, Crugers Is. & 100 Rhinecliff. Greater Scaup: all reports were of this species; 30, Mar 24 C-on-H; 50, Rhinecliff; 100 Crugers Is; 250, Rockland L. Common Golden-eye: scattered individuals Hudson R thru season; max 36, Mar 24 (JM,OW). Bufflehead: good numbers last week of Mar-18 on Mar 24 Hudson R. Dutch (WBC); 30 or more Rockland L Mar 30 (RFD). Oldsquaw: one, Mar 24 (A,BM) at C-on-H; one Vanderburgh Cove, Dutch Mar 30. (JM,OW). White-winged Scoter: one Dec 10–17, joined by five more on latter date, at C-on-H (A,BM); four on Hudson R at Rhinecliff Mar 27–30 (AJ,W&TS). Ruddy Duck: one Sylvan L, Dutch Dec 30 (AJ *et al.*), two Mar 25, Iona Is (JCO). Hooded Merganser: scattered winter reports; found on several Christmas Counts; about 30 reported in Dutch from Mar 10 to end of period. Common Merganser: numbers better than in recent years; 100 or more, Hudson R last half of Mar. Red-breasted Merganser: new species on Federation Waterfowl Count for Region—one on Hudson off Nyack; best spring movement ever reported—eight at C-on-H Mar 24 (A,BM), WBC reported seven on Hudson R Mar 23, 24 on Mar 24, and two on Mar 31.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture; two records for Feb 28—one, Queensborough, Bear Mt Pk (JCO) and one Clove Valley, Dutch (HM,EB); bulk of residents returned Mar 10–15. Goshawk: one, Carmel, Putn Jan 1 (ML). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one imm in vicinity of feeder on property of Ronald Wells, Mt Kisco, Dec 6; one Feb 4–20, Pleasant Valley, Dutch (MV). Red-tailed Hawk: more wintering reports than usual; excellent movement the latter half of Mar; 23 over Blooming Grove Mar 26 (ME). Red-shouldered Hawk: one at Mianus Gorge Jan 20 and Jan 22; two reports in Dutch at Hillside L, one in Jan and one in Feb. Rough-legged Hawk: best season in years, reported from most areas; six at one time at Hamptonburgh Feb 4 (A,BM&ET), and six on Mar 26 at nearby Blooming Grove (ME); max seven, Feb 16 Pine Plains, Dutch (VP,FG). Bald Eagle: usual winter reports, about as rare as in the recent past. Marsh Hawk: more winter records than usual; one MCC; two Feb

along Hudson R; three in Mar- two in Dutch and one in Oran. *PEREGRINE FALCON*: one last week of Mar near Carmel, Putn (ML).

Ruffed Grouse: still regularly reported but numbers appear to be declining. Bobwhite: 50 or more reported from Dutch (WBC); few reports elsewhere. Ring-necked Pheasant: reported down in numbers in Ulst (FH), normal elsewhere; five using shelter at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct. Katonah, on Jan 9 (SG). Virginia Rail: calling regularly from Mar 17 at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct. (SG). Am. Coot: sev Dec records; migrants arr last week of Mar, numbers low. Killdeer: sev winter records; migrants arr on time in mid-Mar, numbers good. Am. Woodcock: arr most areas Mar 13-14; numbers good. Common Snipe: one wintered Briarcliff Farm, Pine Plains (VP); first migrants Mar 11 Blooming Grove (ME) and Mar 22 Dutch (WBC). Greater Yellowlegs: three at Wawarsing Mar 23 (JCO); one Poughkeepsie, Mar 21 (AJ). Lesser Yellowlegs: one, Mar 24 C-on-H (A,BM). *PECTORAL SANDPIPER*: rare in spring; one Mar 30-31 in Dutch (AJ,MK,TG) observed at 50 feet with 20x scope; only other record for Mar, was one Mar 27, 1954 (RAS). Iceland Gull: one Dec 24, C-on-H (ET); two Croton Pt. Mar 9 (OW *et al*). Great Black-backed Gull: numbers good thru season on Hudson. Ring-billed Gull: good numbers thru season; outnumbered Herring Gulls by three to one at times. Bonaparte's Gull: one, Mar 2 on Hudson R at Staatsburgh very early (JM,AJ,OW). Mourning Dove: normal to better.

Screech Owl: more reports than usual; one at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah residing in Wood Duck box. Great Horned Owl: normal to better. *SNOWY OWL*: one report—one Larchmont Dec 8-20 (Bob Augustine). Barred Owl: usual winter numbers. Long-eared Owl: frequently reported in Dutch; eight at Pleasant Valley, and 15 at Poughkeepsie—some may be repeats since areas are not too far from each other. Short-eared Owl: one, Tri-Loba Hill Sanct. Katonah Jan 3 (SG); one Jan 28, Salt Pt (AJ). Saw-whet Owl: one in Dec at Verbank killed by car (HM); one Feb 22, 23 at Millbrook (BL).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: better numbers than usual in spite of ice conditions. Yellow-shafted Flicker: usual few wintered; numbers good at end of period. *RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER*: one report—one, L Lucille, New City Jan 3 (Joe Weise) and Jan 8 (Ruth Steffens). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one, Feb 14 and 17 in Dutch (EB,AJ). Hairy Woodpecker: number down in Dutch, condition not noted elsewhere. Eastern Phoebe: one RCC and one WCC; migrants arr most areas Mar 20-21. Tree Swallow: first, Mar 24, 25; numbers few to end of period. Blue Jay: plentiful thru Region. Fish Crow: two or three along Hudson R in Dutch (WBC), none elsewhere. Black-capped Chickadee: local scarcities of last year not reported except in Rock; most Christmas Counts show numbers up as much as two or three times that of last year. Tufted Titmouse: low on RCC, but normal to better elsewhere. White-breasted Nuthatch: also low on RCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: wintered in several areas but only a few. Brown Creeper: usual numbers thru winter; one singing at Basha Kill Mar 20 (ID).

Winter Wren: more reported than usual. Mockingbird: a record 25 on RCC and 18 on MCC; numbers good elsewhere. Catbird: more winter records than usual; most Christmas Counts had several. Brown Thrasher: one thru early part of season at New Paltz (Hans Weber); one thru late Mar at Hyde Pk (WBC). Robin: good winter numbers; migrants in large numbers by Mar 21-23. Hermit Thrush: one on RCC and 2 on MCC; migrants low in late Mar. Eastern Bluebird: two, MCC; residents arr mid-Mar, nesting most areas by Mar 30. Kinglets: both species unreported most areas, but usual few in Dutch; two Ruby-crowned on MCC. Water Pipit: four RCC, five WCC very late date of Dec 30. Cedar Waxwing: very few reported; max 30 Mt. Kisco Feb 5. Northern Shrike: none from most areas; three on WCC, with single birds noted Jan, Feb and Mar; one at Chester Mar 25 (SU).

VIREOS-SPARROWS: *MAGNOLIA WARBLER*: one Dec 1, Red Oaks Mill, Dutch (MK). Myrtle Warbler: only one reported from Rock where some regularly

winter. *PALM WARBLER*: one on WCC (J,MK). *YELLOWTHROAT*: one on RCC at Mt. Ivy (Homer Kelsey). Eastern Meadowlark: max 18, Katonah Jan 27 (SG); numbers normal to less. Red-winged Blackbird: good numbers wintering along Hudson R; early Mar brought large flights, males on territory most areas by Mar 20, and females arr by Mar 30. Baltimore Oriole: one at Tomahawk L feeder Dec 21, and one at feeder of Mrs. John Knudsen, Mt. Kisco Jan 5. Rusty Blackbird: only report 26 wintered at Stissing (TG); WBC reports migrants on Mar 30. Common Grackle: status same as Redwing.

Cardinal: numbers good with no evidence of change. *DICKCISSEL*: one Dec 31—Jan 11 at feeder in Chester (SU); one Jan 13—31 at Millbrook (FG). Evening Grosbeak: many reports, but few from any one area, numbers small—definitely not a flight year. Purple Finch: reported normal to better in Rock, but few elsewhere. House Finch: continues to increase—81 on RCC, 57 of them reported by Wesley Hennessy in Clarkstown. Pine Grosbeak: only reports, four at Mt. Kisco Jan 18 (WG), and one on MCC. Common Redpoll: only report, one small flock at Mt. Kisco Feb 26 (WG). Pine Siskin: only report on Mar 16 and Mar 19, two at C-on-H (Carol Klanka). Am. Goldfinch: fewer than usual. Rufous-sided Towhee: more winter reports than usual and well represented on most Christmas counts; migrants moving in by Mar 29. Savannah Sparrow: scarce in some areas, but nine at Lamontville Dec 30 (Dr. Robert Pyle), and 16 on MCC. Slate-colored Junco: numbers better than usual—double the average on MCC, and the second highest count for this species on RCC. *OREGON JUNCO*: one report—one Ward's Pound Ridge Reservation, banded by Pat Valkenburgh and photographed by SG. Tree Sparrow: status same as Slate-colored Junco. Field Sparrow: three near Eddyville, Ulst on Dec 30 (Hans Weber); five on MCC. *HARRIS'SPARROW*: first Dutch record—one at home of Mr & Mrs James Sweeney near Dover Plains from Jan 15 thru Mar, photographed on both 8 mm and 35 mm film (OW,EB, mob). White-crowned Sparrow: three on RCC; two wintered in Dutch and one in Oran. White-throated Sparrow: wintered in better than usual numbers. Fox Sparrow: more winter records than usual; migrants heavy by Mar 17, last report Mar 30. Swamp Sparrow: winter numbers less than usual; most Christmas Counts had at least one. Song Sparrow: normal to better; numbers definitely higher than usual especially in southern portion—twice as many as usually reported on MCC, and a record high on RCC. Snow Bunting: reported on RCC; 30 in Dutch all winter; 50 or more at Blooming Grove, Oran on Feb 29.

Spring Reports due by June 5.
Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND WILLIAM POST

The weather in December was very mild. Numbers of birds lingering through to the Christmas Count period remained high. All the counts had ideal weather and near-record lists. We birded in our shirtsleeves the day of the Captree Count, Dec 21. The reasons new high counts were not made appeared to be: a) the lack of winter finches—no crossbills, redpolls or Pine Grosbeaks and very few Pine Siskins or Evening Grosbeaks; b) low feeder populations with few rarities reported; c) no Tree Swallows—this species was missed entirely (see previous two issues for details on its poor breeding success and fall migration).

Data from seven Christmas Counts is available this year: Brooklyn (abbreviated BkCC)—Dec 23, 74 species; Captree (CaCC)—Dec 21, 110; Central Suffolk (CSCC)—Dec 26, 115; Bronx-Southern Westchester (BxCC)—Dec 23, 98; Montauk (MkCC)—Dec 30, 118; Northern Nassau (NNCC)—Dec 30, 98; Southern Nassau (SNCC): Dec 30, 121. As is usual, Southern Nassau and Central Suffolk recorded 115 or more

species. The surprising Montauk total may be attributed to the number of observers and to Robert L. Gardiner, who permitted a party of six people to invade his island. This is the first time that Gardiner's Island, lying within the Montauk circle, has been covered on the count. The declining totals of Bronx and Brooklyn are due to loss of bird habitat to "development" and an exodus of resident birders. Northern Nassau tied its previous high species total and also recorded a very impressive number of high individuals counts. Captree recorded a new species high. This count is still growing, and with a few more observers and experience with the area, its total may soon rival that of the two perennials mentioned above.

As the count period ended "winter" began. From this point on, birding was so unrewarding that most birders sat by the fireside or flew south (via yellowbirds or whatever). The first extended cold spell began Dec 29. The temperature did not rise above freezing for more than six hours until Jan 14 (all weather data for Kennedy Airport). In this 16-day period, all coastal marshes and shallower bay waters were frozen. At Oak Beach marsh, Clapper Rails and American Bitterns were present through Dec 21. After this date, no signs (including rail tracks) were seen of either until late March (FE,WP). The temperatures from the last half of Jan through Feb were near average. Temperatures during Mar were 1.5 degrees above normal. The last two days of freezing temperature in Mar were Mar 12: 8 hrs, 31-32 degrees; Mar 25: 8 hrs, 31 degrees.

There was little snow during the period. Light snow cover was on the ground Dec 28-Jan 21 (max: 3 inches on Dec 31 and Jan 11), Feb 29-Mar 3, and Mar 12-Mar 15.

Notable rarities included Eared Grebe, Tufted Duck, and Boat-tailed Grackle. Unseasonal occurrences were Osprey, House Wren, Solitary Vireo, three Orange-crowned Warblers, two Prairie Warblers, Ovenbird, and four Grasshopper Sparrows.

Abbreviations used: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; Jones—Jones Beach State Park.

Contributors frequently cited: PB—Paul Buckley; BC—Barbara Connolly; TD—Thomas Davis; AD—Aline Dove; FE—Frank Enders; LM—Lee Morgan; WP—William Post; GR—Gilbert Raynor; BT—Benjamin Trimble.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 455, Dec 30 MkCC. *EARED GREBE*: Mar 9-10, Patchogue (M.Hemmerick,DP,GR,A.Cooley). Double-crested Cormorant: two, Dec 21, Fire Is. (PB,J.Horowitz)—"seen quite close, obviously not *carbo*". Cattle Egret: arr Mar 26, Upton (H.Halama). Snowy Egret: seven, Dec 30 SNCC—an unusual number for such a late date; Dec 23, JBWR (Queens CC). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: adult, Dec 30 SNCC. White-fronted Goose: sub-adult, Feb 19 Mill Neck (E.Warburton,BC)—escapee? Blue Goose: the bird mentioned in the fall report remained at Southampton until Jan 1. Blue-winged Teal: Dec 26, CSCC; female, Dec 30 Montauk (PB,B.Scully). *TUFTED DUCK*: male, mid Dec to ?, Hudson R vicinity of George Washington Bridge and East R near Randall's Is. (mob)—third consecutive year it has appeared at this spot. Canvasback: max 4509, Dec 23 BkCC—a very high count. Harlequin Duck: two, Dec 30, MkCC; max 17, Feb 27, Pt Lookout (S.Roman)—by far the highest Regional count. Many other observers recorded 12-16 Harlequins here nearly every day during Jan-Feb. White-winged Scoter: max 30,000 plus, Jan 20 Montauk Pt (N.Boyajian,G.Tudor *et al*)—one hour's observation of birds flying from the ocean into Block Is. Sound.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: Feb 17, Planting Fields, Oyster Bay (O.Heck). Red-tailed Hawk: max 14, Dec 30, NNCC. Bald Eagle: imm, Dec 13-Jan 20, Belmont L State Pk (mob); imm, late Dec-Jan 21 JBWR (H.Johnson *et al*); imm, Jan 22-24 Beaver Dam Pond, Mill Neck (mob). Osprey: Jan 13, along Loop Causeway, Jones (LM)—seen sitting and flying, third midwinter report; arr Mar 16, Orient (GR)—very early. Peregrine Falcon: one each BkCC and SNCC. Pigeon Hawk. only report this winter—Jan 13 near Mill Neck (BC). Ruffed Grouse: six,

Dec 26 CSCC. Turkey: 41, Dec 30 Gardiner's Is. (mob). Common Gallinule: Dec 30, Cold Spring Harbor (J.Taylor).

Am. Oystercatcher: arr Mar 29 (pair), Oak Beach (WP); three, Mar 31, Moriches Inlet (GR)—John Bull's *Birds of the New York Area* records the extreme arrival date as May 9. Last year a pair was seen at Jones on Mar 26; there are also several April records in recent years. In light of these records, it would be proper to revise this species' normal arrival period to late March. Piping Plover: two very late records—Dec 20, Shinnecock (GR); Dec 30, Acabonack Harbor (PB,B.Scully). Ruddy Turnstone: a flock of 25 birds wintered at Great Kills Pk, Staten Is. (E.Daly *et al*)—the highest winter count that we know of locally. Common Snipe: nine, Feb 28, Mecox (BC,AD). Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Mar 25 (seven), Oak Beach (WP). Purple Sandpiper: max 120, Feb 24 Jones Inlet (GR). Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Mar 25 (six), Oak Beach (WP)—early. Least Sandpiper: Dec 26, CSCC.

Black-headed Gull: Dec 23, Gravesend Bay (E.Swayer,M.Noyes); Dec 30, SNCC. Razorbill: Dec 30, SNCC—only report. Dovekie: Dec 4, Seaford (R.Wolk); four, Dec 21, CaCC—only reports. Mourning Dove: max 822, Dec 26 SNCC—highest Regional count. Great Horned Owl: Dec 17, Cedar Beach (A.Wollin)—very rare on the coastal strip, only recorded about once every five years. Long-eared Owl: max 36, Jan 18, Pelham Bay Pk (J.Doran,L.Shore)—an amazing number—nine were seen there three weeks later on Feb 7 (BC,AD). Saw-whet Owl: "a wintering bird was last seen on Mar 30" Glen Head (A.Bell).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: max 19, Dec 30 NNCC; 18, Dec 26 CSCC. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Dec 30, NNCC; Feb 7, Pelham Bay Pk (BC,AD)—this individual apparently present through the winter. Red-headed Woodpecker: imm Dec 21 Oak Beach (J.Stoneck,TD,WP). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 11, Dec 30 NNCC—an amazing number; Dec 30 MkCC; Dec 23 Queens CC. Eastern Phoebe: two, Dec 23 Queens CC; Dec 24 Northport (S.Ince); Dec 30 MkCC. Tree Swallow: none reported all winter. Blue Jay: max 801, Dec 30 NNCC. Black-billed Magpie: Dec 23, Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn (*vide* F.Schaeffer)—this bird has been present here since 1961. Common Crow: max 1678, Dec 30 NNCC. Fish Crow: max 35, Dec 30 NNCC. House Wren: Dec 30, Gardiner's Is. (BT,M.Cashman)—seen at close range; these observers also saw Winter and Carolina Wrens the same day. Winter Wren: max four, Dec 30 Gardiner's Is. (MkCC). Carolina Wren: max 15, Dec 30 Gardiner's Is. (MkCC); six Dec 30 NNCC. Long-billed Marsh Wren: six wintered in the *Phragmites* at Oak Beach marsh (WP,FE). Mockingbird: max 63, Dec 30 NNCC—the highest number yet recorded on a local CC; 33, Dec 21 Fire Is. (PB,J.Horowitz)—from the lighthouse to Sunken Forest, a distance of about seven miles. Catbird: max 25, Dec 30 NNCC—a high number. Hermit Thrush: max 37, Dec 30 NNCC—by far the highest Regional winter count; Feb 9 Setauket (M.Hemmerick). Starling: max 230,000, Dec 23, three upper Manhattan roosts (FE).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: Dec 10, Islip State Hospital (BT)—"with a flock of chickadees;" there are only three other Dec—Mar records in our Region, Orange-crowned Warbler: Dec 21 Oak Beach (TD,J.Stoneck); Dec 30 Montauk (DP); Jan 1 Center Moriches (GR)—"at Noe feeder, present several days then and stayed a week or two longer." Myrtle Warbler: max 1256, Dec 30 SNCC. Pine Warbler: arr Mar 27 Upton (GR). Prairie Warbler: male, Dec 2 Montauk (R.Paxton, T. Chase)—well-described, chestnut back markings seen clearly; Dec 26 E. Moriches (P.Stoutenburgh *et al*)—the latest Regional records. Ovenbird: Jan 26—Feb 19 Lloyd Harbor (Mrs.C.Cooke,BC,TD)—first midwinter occurrence in Region. Yellowthroat: Dec 23 BxCC; Dec 26 CSCC; two, Dec 30 Montauk (GR). Yellow-breasted Chat: five reports—Dec 2 Montauk (R.Paxton,T.Chase); Dec 7—30 Glen Cove (Mrs.A.White,Mrs.E.Banach); Dec 23 BxCC; Dec 26 CSCC; Dec 30 Syosset (B.Goleeke).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Baltimore Oriole: 14 individuals were reported, mostly during Dec—early Jan; unusual were two, Dec 17, at Noe feeder, Center Moriches, “to four by Jan 1 and to five later” (GR); a female, thought to be a Bullock’s, visited a Setauket feeder, Jan 2–8 (M.Hemmerick). *BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE*: last year a male remained at a Far Rockaway feeder from early April to Nov 3 (Mrs.R.Berman,Mrs.J.Sorman *et al*); this same individual reappeared on Mar 10, apparently having just arrived back with a wave of redwings and Common Grackles (*vide* J.Bull). Cardinal: max 289, Dec 30 NNCC. Dickcissel: feeder reports—Dec 28—Jan 8 Deer Pk (Mrs.E.File); Dec 30 Montauk (TD,G.Tudor). Evening Grosbeak: only report—two, Dec 30 MkCC. Rufous-sided Towhee: max 69, Dec 30 NNCC—a very high total.

Sparrows: Grasshopper: Dec 21 Oak Beach (TD,WP,J.Stoneck)—at feeder; two, Dec 30 Mitchell field (*vide* R.Sloss); Dec 25—Jan 7 Quogue Wildlife Refuge (C.Helms,GR *et al*)—at feeder. This species has been recorded at this season more regularly in recent years, but three reports are quite unusual. Sharp-tailed: eight wintered in 45 acres of marsh at Oak Beach. This density was determined by mist-netting, marking, and recapture. Seaside: 44 wintered in the 45-acre study area at Oak Beach (WP,FE). Slate-colored Junco: max: 1424, Dec 30 NNCC—an amazing total; 564, Dec 26 CSCC. Tree: max 502, Dec 30 NNCC. Chipping: seven, Dec 20 Shinnecock (GR)—“in one flock;” six plus four more probables, Dec 21 CaCC—at three localities; Dec 23 BxCC; Dec 30 NNCC; two, Jan 14 Oyster Bay Cove (B. Peck)—the total of about 21 individuals far exceeds any recent winter maximum; none were reported during the previous two winters. Field: max 106, Dec 30 MkCC. White-crowned: Dec 26 CSCC; five, Dec 30 Montauk (GR)—“in one flock;” two, through winter, Jones fishing station (A.Wollin); one wintered at the Bennett feeder, East Marion, to Mar 2 (GR). White-throated: max 956, Dec 30 NNCC.

Note: I would like to thank Fred Heath for his aid in preparing the last ten Regional reports. Fred has recently departed for California, and Will Post has taken his place.—T.D.

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REVIEW BOOKS RECEIVED

A Field Guide to the Birds: Eastern Land and Water Birds. Roger Tory Peterson. Houghton Mifflin Company. xxlv + 290 pp., illus. Paper-bound Edition. \$2.95.

The Peterson eastern field guide is now available in a softcover edition. Contents seem to be identical with the recent hardcover printings; for example, the Cattle Egret is still not included. Non-shiny surface paper is used throughout. DM

Bird Attracting through the Year. Thelma McNett. 64 pp. \$1.25 from the author, 423 Lake Road, Webster, N.Y. 14580.

This is a small booklet of short essays incorporating bits of information Mrs. McNett, a member of the Genesee Ornithological Society of Rochester, has gathered during her years of birdwatching and feeding in her yard. Comments on behavior, interspersed with hints on types of feeders, ground feeding, summer feeding, plantings and nest boxes, are arranged chronologically from fall, when one should start putting out food, through summer. There are very brief descriptions of the birds one might expect to see at feeders in one’s garden, supplemented by a few sketches of these birds and of several types of feeder. For someone with little birdwatching experience who is putting out his first feeding station, it might stimulate interest in careful observation. For a shut-in, a gift of a simple feeder, some seed and this booklet might give hours of pleasure. It is unfortunate that the mis-spelling of *Vireo* slipped by the proofreader. DM

OVERSEAS ORNITHOLOGICAL FIELD TRIPS

For 8 years we've been putting together bird observation trips in all 6 continents. They are slanted toward serious amateurs, and some tours have a side interest in botany and other forms of natural history. In fact, we try for an experience-in-depth of each country and its people. Tours are 3 weeks in length to utilize low-cost travel (2 weeks in North America), and are set up in pairs or chains of three or four.

We'd be grateful for assistance in developing meaningful itineraries, and in commending the trips to appropriate friends. And by all means, consider joining us yourself!

We use the title "CROWDER NATURE TOURS," but the operation is not profit-seeking, and is slated to become a world association in 1969. Do let us put you on our mailing list. Here is the program for 1968:

EUROPE

Eight European tours this year permit many fine combinations, including a thrilling North-with-the-Spring adventure:

SOUTH TOUR, from the Camargue to Austria, the Rhine & Holland; May.

NORTH TOUR: No. Germany, Denmark, & the length of Sweden; June.

NORWAY: Our most popular tour, and magnificent; late June.

BRITAIN: The bird highlights; June.

BALKANS: Seldom-visited Jugoslavia, Romania, Hungary areas; June.

U.S.S.R.: Fine coverage; late June.

ICELAND: Popular 2-wk. trip with Greenland extension; June or July.

JAPAN

Fine 3-week coverage of entire archipelago, Kyushu to Hokkaido, with expert local leadership. May. Optional continuation, under leadership, across Siberia to join the U.S.S.R. trip (see above).

AFRICA

We pioneered African bird trips and cover the continent in 6 fascinating regional tours, 3 of which go in 1968: South Africa in July, Central Africa-Madagascar in August, East Africa in September.

U.S.A.

We do a bit of species-chasing at home, too: Winter in Florida, spring in Arizona and on the Texas coast, and beginning in 1969, a north-with-series in the West.

CROWDER NATURE TOURS

ALASKA

The 1967 tours were a success beyond expectations. In 1968 we do 3 successive 2-week trips, from Ketchikan to the Aleutians, Pribilofs and Point Barrow. Start June 1, with a break at Fairbanks for the A.O.U. meeting.

LATIN AMERICA

We operate a regular program in Middle and South America: Seven routes in Mexico, several in Central America and the West Indies, and a fine South America program. Two especially fine routes — Yucatan (2 wks.) and Colombia (3 wks.) — are visited twice a year, in February and in August.

SOUTH PACIFIC

We pioneered this area, too. The 1968 program: **MELANESIA** from Fiji to New Guinea, Sept. **AUSTRALIA**, in two 3-wk. trips, Oct. **NEW ZEALAND**, 3 weeks for birds, followed by 2 wk. botany trip; Nov.-Dec.

OTHER PLACES

There is quite a program in India, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines; next departures in early 1969. And we haven't mentioned the Galapagos, *Tierra del Fuego*, or the proposed "re-enactment" of the Peterson-Fisher Wild American trip.

Unannounced tours and request tours that 'often materialize' are a feature, too: What interests you?

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