

The KINGBIRD



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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

17. Sandhill Crane



Photograph by Harold P. Burrell
Near Whitehall, N.Y., 2 April 1967

The Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) has apparently been an occasional visitant to New York State in the post-colonial period, but verifiable records are rare. Specimens obtained were probably more often masticated than mounted. Eaton (*Birds of New York*, vol. 1, 1914) gives evidence of two obtained around 1880 and 1885 respectively in western New York. Thereafter, the bird was unreported for over 50 years, until a single bird was noted July 30, 1948 on the Montezuma marshes by R. Fischer and E. Chalif. Since that observation, at least five other sightings, all of single birds, have occurred and one specimen has been obtained. These recent records are:

1. The above 1948 record [*Wilson Bulletin* 64(3):163, 1952].
2. An adult May 16, 1965 at a small marsh on the west side of Center Road, Town of Schroepfel, Oswego County, seen by C. G. Spies, J. R. Bart, F. G. Scheider [*Kingbird* 15(3):157, July 1965].
3. November 11, 1966 – one noted from that date to approximately two weeks later on the Leland Prescott farm on Dry Bridge Road, Town of Meredith, Delaware County; a report on file from Mrs. Lynn Clark

of Delhi who confirmed the identification, [*Kingbird* 17(1):36, Jan. 1967].

4. An adult mid-February through March 26, 1967, on the Mountain View Farm near Whitehall, N.Y. — first reported by Mrs. Dora Bullock and subsequently confirmed by W. B. Sabin, E. Hallenbeck, and Guy Bartlett [*Kingbird* 17(2):112, May 1967]; a detailed account by J. A. Munoff of this occurrence appears in *Kingbird* 17(3):147, July 1967; this is the only record in the series of a wintering individual.
5. November 12–19, 1967 — a young bird reported on a farm (Gibson's) five miles north of Kinderhook, Columbia County; initial identifier not given but seen by many members of Alan Devoe Bird Club and Schenectady Bird Club and confirmed by E. M. Reilly of the New York State Museum [*Kingbird* 18(1):53, Jan. 1968].
6. October 20, 1968 — an adult at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge near Rt 89, seen by R. B. Jacobs, Margaret Otis, Katharine Price, and



Photograph by Office of Public Information, Cornell University
Dr. George Ross and George Archibald with Sandhill Crane, Ithaca, November 1968

Sam Sweet; this bird was seen regularly by many observers to October 24, then again on November 9 by Clayton Hardy, the Refuge manager; on Nov. 13 the bird was found with a broken left wing (secondary to a shotgun wound) on a back road near MNWR by Richard Brand of Tyre, captured (no mean feat), taken to Cornell University where pinning of the broken wing and wound dressing ensued; it unfortunately died some five days later; this individual was determined by George Archibald, a graduate student working on cranes, to be *Grus canadensis tabida* [*Kingbird* 19(1):18, Jan. 1967].

The A.O.U. *Check-list* (1957) lists three subspecies of the Sandhill Crane — *Grus c. canadensis*, the essentially Arctic form with an enormous breeding range across the eastern Siberian, Alaskan, and Canadian Arctic as far east as Southampton Island and Baffin Island. This population apparently migrates exclusively west of Hudson Bay through the prairie provinces and states to wintering areas from south-central California to southern Texas. *Grus c. tabida*, the subspecies of the New York State specimen, occupies a large, essentially western, continental range with the easternmost component in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and in a few counties in the southeastern quarter of the Lower Peninsula of that state. The proximity of this Michigan population plus the occurrence of three of the six records in October and November suggests that the New York State individuals may well be derived from this small eastern remnant of *tabida*. The Arctic race *canadensis* reputedly has left the Arctic breeding grounds and foregathering places prior to early October. *Grus c. pratensis* occurs in Florida and Georgia and is apparently accidental north of South Carolina. Whatever the source, the presence of this spectacular bird in every year for the past four years (1965–68) could suggest some recent change in dispersal of the species, and it behooves every Regional editor to check out reports of the species' suspected or suggested occurrence by birder and non-birder alike. It is an unmistakable bird really, although an unknown indifferent or incredibly stupid hunter apparently could not tell the difference between it and a goose.

F. G. Scheider, 427 S. Main St., North Syracuse, N.Y. 13212

CUT-OFF DATE, STATE BIRD BOOK RECORDS

Cut-off date for records for the New York State bird book will be July 31, 1969.

John Bull

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As usual there are a number of points to be reported to the membership. First and foremost there is to be a change in the editorial staff of *The Kingbird*. Dorothy McIlroy is retiring after serving as editor for longer than any other person. Besides being a fine editor Dorothy did many other things including putting the finest state journal into envelopes for mailing. She is planning to travel to Australia and the best, if envious, wishes of the Federation go with her. The new editor of *The Kingbird* will be Joe Taylor of Rochester. Do not forget that Federation support in terms of articles and field-notes are essential for any editor to function satisfactorily. Also, Allen Kemnitzer is taking over the writing of "The Highlights" as of the October issue.

Conservation is the key issue facing us as bird-watchers. I think that it is a valid criticism that, in general, we have expected a free ride. It is going to be more and more necessary to spend money and energy in this regard. In the field of conservation – despite some fine achievements – I have felt that we were lacking a state-wide conservation network that would rapidly obtain, transmit, and respond to conservation needs. The basic structure that I have started to set up is shown diagrammatically below.

Conservation Committee. A small (to be effective) committee to decide Federation policy on various issues (within the frame-work of the conservation platform) and, more importantly, to decide which issues to make a major issue out of. Sub-committees are being set up to study specific issues.

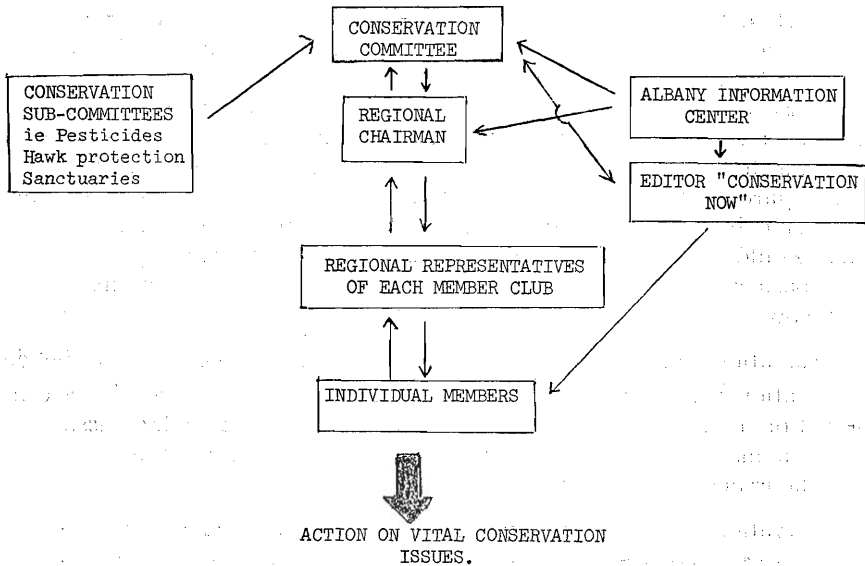
Conservation platform. The first version of this was passed at the Annual Council Meeting. Alterations and additions will be made at future council meetings. This platform is necessary since the council is the main decision making body of the Federation but most conservation needs cannot wait for the Annual Meeting.

Albany Information Center. With the assistance of the National Audubon Society we are planning to set up machinery whereby important conservation bills are obtained, examined, and information on them transmitted either via the regional chairman set-up or via "Conservation Now" to the membership. The NAS are vitally interested in a state-wide conservation network and are prepared to give us assistance in setting up and running it.

Conservation Now. We are already sending this newsletter to all our membership. It is proposed to send it out at irregular intervals so that it can be used when the need is greatest. Clubs can obtain extra copies for their membership at cost.

Regional Chairman – Club Representative Set-up. It is hoped that this will be a major two-way avenue of communication. In the case of an emergency situation regional chairmen would be contacted by phone. They in turn would contact the club representatives who would get busy alerting their membership. I hope that all clubs that do not have a club representative will speedily appoint one.

David B. Peakall



Address of the new editor is:

Mr. Joseph W. Taylor
1166 Clover Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14610

SHOREBIRDING AT ELDORADO SHORES — A GEOGRAPHY AND A CHRONOLOGY

F. G. SCHEIDER

Just south of the Lake Ontario estuary of Stony Creek in southwestern Jefferson County lies a rock-strewn area of shoreline, Eldorado Beach or Shores (henceforth EDB), now famous among northern New York birders as a prime shorebirding area. My initial introduction to the area occurred when John Belknap told me of an area north of Sandy Pond "better than the Sandy Pond inlet for shorebirds." As an ardent scolopacidophile, I had to see *that*. And I've returned regularly ever since.

As a shorebirding site, by appearance EDB is not a prepossessing section. A series of shelving, somewhat pitted rock sheets, a jumbled array of loose boulders, some shallow and weedy areas, a dry, grass-shy berm — and birds. An array of shorebirds, perhaps 24–28 species per year, are recorded from this "beach", and careful and regular scrutiny would, I'm sure, reveal traffic of all regular central New York species.

First — where is it? and what does it look like? By geography, southwest Jefferson County, just south of Stony Creek. It extends for approximately three-fourths of a mile around a low, rough, short-based peninsula in Ellisburg Township. There are two approaches to the area, one by a road leading west, then south from Alexanders Corners on Route 3, about three miles south of Henderson Harbor, and the second by an extremely poor road going west from Route 3 opposite a place called the Starlite Tavern. Frankly, don't try the second or southern road — it is extremely rough with a crown higher than a medicaid patient's tooth, very narrow, and almost entirely through private land. The northern route (Stony Point Road, then left on dirt road before crossing the creek) ends in weedy ruts by the last camp on Stony Creek and has the disadvantage of placing the birder at the north end of the beach, hence looking against the sun as he checks the various parties of collected shorebirds. My advice would be to use the northern entrance but walk through the cedar groves and thickets to the southern tip of the area, then work northward along the shore line.

The southern limit of EDB consists of an abrupt transition from shelving sheetrock to typical eastern Lake Ontario sand beach. At this point a large shallows or pan of algae collects, providing square yards of homesteading for invertebrates and a continuous source of food for transient shorebirds. Large collections of "peep" sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings, and Semipalmated Plovers can be observed feeding there on the fall migration. Going west from this green mat (Marge Rusk calls it "shorebird spinach"), the observer will see fissured shelving rocks studded with occasional glacial erratics and rich with small groups of shorebirds; both Yellowlegs are common in this stretch and many teal, both Blue-winged and Green-winged, feed in the shallow

areas here. The point, if such it can be called, separating this southern reach of rock flats from the north-south or main sector, is marked by a thicket of red cedar trees with a jumble of weeds and vines fringing it. The birder turning north around the thicket faces a series of shallow bays with many ridges of loose rock and windrows of algae, each windrow and each bay with groups of shorebirds — feeding, chasing, bathing, preening — esconced therein. At the northern end of this stretch of “beach”, several dozen boulders (most of them glacial erratics) serve as perching sites for numerous gulls and terns and even the ducks that frequent the area. An area of comparable size but with few boulders and more windrows of “spinach” extends from a tiny rock point at the north end of the main section back toward the end of the northern entrance road.

The amount of exposed beach, of course, depends on the level of Lake Ontario; the amount of algal windrows on the luxuriance of growth of the algae and the bottom disturbance, hence detachment, ensuing from the winds off the lake. The algae, several species of *Cladophora*, grow in hair-like abundance from the shelving rock surfaces, from the wet edges of the glacial erratics, and the fissures and rock rubble that mark the rock slabs of the beach. Dr. John Gustafson of Cortland points out that the *Cladophora* are indicative of phosphate pollution of Lake Ontario and if the luxuriance of growth is any indication, a sizeable amount of phosphate pollution must be occurring. Two other facts about this shorebird spinach: the upper crust of the windrows soon dries and looks deceptively safe to walk on; it is not — it is extremely slippery and attention to where one steps is suggested — and it has, upon standing in the sun, the capacity to create a notable stench.

The entire shoreline is backed by a thick hedgerow of annuals such as Smartweed, Blue Vervain, Joe-Pye-weed, Jewelweed, knotgrasses, and various goldenrods. This particular strip, rich with seeds in late September and October, abounds with sparrows and a walk through the thinner parts of this colorful display in August or September will often flush a Snipe or a rail. This hedgerow of annuals persists until the first frost and following that, the interested birder (or sub-rosa botanist) can delight in an array of seed heads and forms rivalling the intricacies of Indian art. Back of the hedgerow and paralleling the shore like a ribbon stands a four-foot high berm of loose rock and sand with sporadic xeric plants and grasses. The berm is widest (ten to thirty feet) at the southern end and becomes increasingly narrower and steeper as one walks northward toward Stony Creek. It drops off steeply inland, i.e. away from the actual shore, and low grassy swales, some several acres in size, extend eastward to the pigmy spires of the red cedars that first dot and then envelop the rest of the EDB tract, originally a dairy pasture.

Two features combine to make EDB a particularly favored lure for migrating shorebirds: an abundance of food and a most favorable geo-

graphical position. The position of EDB at the eastern end of Lake Ontario ensures its receiving at least samples of whatever species move from Arctic breeding areas, particularly low Arctic breeding sectors, via Hudson and James Bays to the Atlantic coast. There may also be a collecting effect on various species, and more particularly on immatures of various species, that drift into the Great Lakes from the Arctic and then work eastward and southeastward toward the Atlantic. The use of color-marked birds to designate previous site of capture as performed by the Long Point Bird Observatory Station on the north shore of Lake Erie in fall 1968 provides an exciting and relatively easy way to determine how much the eastward drift of immatures contributes to the passage population of shorebirds at EDB.

Second — when is the best time to observe the shorebirds? Fall shorebirds start to appear as early as the first week of July, joining the already increasing numbers of resident Killdeers and Spotted Sandpipers. By mid-July a reasonable “push” of shorebirds, mainly if not entirely adult birds, has arrived and it is at this time that one may see Short-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, migrating south, still in good spring (i.e. breeding) plumage. Species variety and flock numbers go up gradually through July. By early August a sharp influx of immature shorebirds has produced near maximal tallies for the fall migration. Through August more of the adult birds depart and more and more immature birds arrive. With the rising tide of immature birds, a greater variety of shorebirds comes and maximal number of species is usually achieved either in the last week of August or in the first ten to twelve days of September.

Cool weather, especially the passage of fronts with strong northwest winds, pushes the flocking September shorebirds southward. By early October both number and variety of shorebirds have dropped but the opportunity for certain rare species such as Red Phalarope and Purple Sandpiper goes up steadily through October and November until freeze-up in late November or early December. Once the muddy shallows and algal windrows have been frozen, all but a few hardy Dunlin and occasional Purple Sandpipers depart and shorebirding is over for another season there. Robert McKinney of Rochester, who has mist-netted and banded shorebirds at EDB, has noted that the best variety and numbers appear after a change of weather, usually from hot, still summer days to days with brisk northwest winds and rock-splashing waves. Undoubtedly on calm, hot, fair days many of the birds, if disturbed, fly to the undisturbed larger islands off Stony Point Peninsula and checks on early morning number and variety versus late afternoon counts regularly show marked decreases on such days. The decline in numbers and species of shorebirds with days of hot, dry, windless weather in July and August is matched by a similar decline in numbers and variety of waterfowl, of which there are many, and gulls and terns.

Third — what shorebirds can you expect to see there? An appendix listing approximate arrival times, peak numbers, and departure dates for each of the more common species is presented at the end of this article. A person versed in shorebirds should be able to pick up fifteen to twenty species of shorebirds per trip to Eldorado in the shorebird season provided there has been a recent passage of a cold front and no long sequence of summer doldrums. Pectoral, Least, and Semipalmated Sandpipers are the most common “peep” sandpipers, but White-rumped and Baird’s are common enough to require counting to see how many are present. Western Sandpipers are also reported but numbers of individuals vary from year to year. Sanderlings appear in late July, are quite common for a few weeks along with the handsome Ruddy Turnstones, then numbers drop and replacement with equal numbers of immatures of these species does not seem to occur. Both yellowlegs are regulars with the Lesser usually far more common than the Greater, except at the end of the season in October and November. Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper are ubiquitous, frequently flushing not only from the beach margin but also from the dry area of the berm and even from the long-grass areas of the swales. Interestingly enough, though Spotted Sandpipers are common there, Solitary Sandpipers are really quite rare, even in the grass swales. Short-billed Dowitcher and Stilt Sandpiper are usually noted clustered in feeding groups on the windrow edges, often with a few Lesser Yellowlegs to make comparisons easier. Hudsonian Curlew are most likely to be found feeding in the short grasses of the berm along with the occasional Upland Plover that passes through. One species that is most unusual there, undoubtedly because of the lack of deep enough mud to feed, is the Hudsonian Godwit which, of all regular Central New York shorebirds, is probably the rarest visitant there.

A CHRONOLOGY OF SPECIES

Semipalmated Plover: adults arrive between 10–15 Jul, sometimes later if no mid-Jul fronts develop; numbers may increase to 20–35 per day thru early Aug; about 15–20 Aug immatures appear, readily recognizable by their finely scalloped-edged back feathers, dull legs, and small dark beaks; both forms decrease sharply 15–25 Sep, and Oct birds are few, scarce, and almost invariably very tame immatures or ill birds.

Killdeer: present by late Mar; undoubtedly nest in suitable sectors of the berm although I’ve never found a nest there; young would be out and about by early Jun; flocking occurs as early as first week of Jul; such flocks are usually fairly tame and given to much preening; numbers increase to peak tallies in late Aug (60–100 per day) with fall-off in first 15 days of Sep, but dozens of birds will persist to early Nov and a few stragglers to late Nov or freezeup in Dec.

Amer. Golden Plover: adults normally appear by 15–20 Aug in areas south of EDB; however, adult birds are really quite rare there and most birds are the tamer, more

speckled, small headed, old-gold colored immatures in the period 1 Sep–25 Oct; occasional Nov birds, invariably immatures, are noted, but late (i.e. Nov) Golden Plovers should be flushed for diagnostic proof of identification as some young Black-bellied Plover may look very small and dark at that season.

Black-bellied Plover: adults, some with much residue of breeding plumage, appear 10–15 Aug and persist to freezeup in Nov; immatures arrive about the end of Aug and remain in small numbers (three–eight per day) through mid-Oct; after mid-Oct Black-bellied Plover are usually noted only as singles but occasional small groups do occur and both adult and immature birds may be detected – this is one of the few species of shorebirds separable by plumage in which both adults and immatures stay until freezeup in late Nov.

Ruddy Turnstone: like its plumage, a very variable migrant – some years numbers (20–30 per day) will appear in the last two weeks of Jul and first two weeks of Aug, but in other seasons only a handful will appear; immatures and winter-plumaged adults are regularly fewer than the first wave of nearly spring-plumaged adults; despite abundant food in rich windrows it is unusual to see numbers of this species in Sep, and Oct birds are really scarce items – almost always departed by mid-Oct and a bird later should be suspected of being ill or injured.

Common Snipe: numbers and frequency are contingent upon how early the shallow areas are exposed and whether sufficient protective grass clumps develop; by 15 Jul one can usually find several Snipe in the weedy margin areas but larger numbers (groups of six–eight) do not appear until 10–15 Sep; Oct birds are usually singles and the species is scarce in Nov.

Whimbrel: usually seen as single birds only, from 20 Jul–10 Sep – as often on the dry berm as on the beach.

Spotted Sandpiper: undoubtedly breeds – usually present by first week of May, next two weeks with abundant courtship display with wings thrown up, chases, aerial maneuvers; non-breeding or fall-flocking birds show up as early as the first week of Jul and dozens are present by mid-Jul; numbers build to a peak in first half of Aug, then sharply drop and singles only, rarely two or three, are in evidence until 20 Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: actually a rare bird at EDB – if seen, usually as singles 20 Jul–10 Sep, and invariably these are imm birds, readily recognized by the huge eye-ring, the solid-colored back and the “unbuttoned jacket” of olive gray down the front.

Greater Yellowlegs: regular fall migrant in small numbers; first appears around 20–25 Jul, regularly adults with remnants of breeding plumage; numbers are usually small – two–five per day; by 15–20 Aug immatures with yellow-spangled backs and gray-washed chests have appeared and a mixture of adult and imm are present to late Oct; this and Lesser Yellowlegs appear to be most sensitive to the wind effect at EDB – continuous observation thru a hot Sep day shows fewer and fewer yellowlegs there and by mid-afternoon the beach which had 30 yellowlegs in the morning will have none – presumably these birds move to the L Ontario islands but it would require color-marking or banding to prove this.

Lesser Yellowlegs: after Killdeer, the most common “large”, i.e. non-“peep”, shorebird at EDB; adults in small numbers, two–six per day, arrive in first week of Jul and build to peak numbers in last week of Jul and first week of Aug; just as adult numbers are beginning to wane the immatures appear and numbers (20–30 per day) are maintained until mid-Sep; unlike the Greater Yellowlegs, Oct numbers are low and Nov birds unusual.

Knot: never a common bird at EDB — usually singles or small groups (two–four per day) from early Aug to late Sep; frequently there will be a hiatus between Aug and Sep birds, yet at both times the birds appear to be immatures as no traces of adult plumage are evident; with large flocks of Dunlin in Oct an occasional imm Knot may also show up and such a late individual moves with and follows the Dunlins as if it were regularly part of the Dunlin flock.

Purple Sandpiper: a late migrant with numbers very variable — usually noted only in Nov and numbers may range from a single bird to groups up to 40 (exceptional) — see D. C. Gordon's note *Kingbird* 17(1):22, Jan 1967; birds present to freezeup in late Nov or early Dec; I consider this an extremely difficult bird to detect — its somber plumage matches the rock rubble well and it frequently sits as close as a Snipe before flushing; when found, it is so tame that one can usually see all plumage details well; all that I have aged in the field, using wing covert and scapular pattern, appear to be immatures.

Pectoral Sandpiper: a few adults in by 15–20 Jul; numbers normally build up to peak thru Aug if large expanses of *Cladophora* and grass clumps appear; though regularly present, numbers vary considerably from year to year; by mid-Sep numbers are decreasing but single birds or a small group may persist to late Oct; occasionally large groups (20–40 per day) appear in Oct but they rarely persist and early Nov birds are scarce.

White-rumped Sandpiper: winter plumaged adults, usually only one–two per day, may be found anytime from mid-Jul to late Sep; by mid-Sep a few of the distinctively marked immatures appear and this is uniformly the plumage present, usually with flocks of Dunlins, to freezeup.

Baird's Sandpiper: uncommon at EDB with usually one–three per day only, almost always immatures; first appear around 15 Aug and largest counts are in first ten–15 days of Sep; numbers very variable from year to year as is departure date; some years reported thru Oct and in areas more favored by it, such as Sandy Pond inlet, may be seen to Nov.

Least Sandpiper: first birds appear in first week of Jul; numbers increase quickly and 40–100/day can be seen thru Jul; by last week of Jul bright rust-colored immatures appear; in early Aug, adults move on and numbers fall progressively to stragglers by mid-Sep; surprisingly, a few individuals are present to mid-Oct and occasionally later.

Dunlin: single adults with vestiges of spring plumage are irregularly seen as early as Aug 15–20; however, most adults do not show up til Sep 5–10 and the large numbers (flocks of 50–200 per day) not until Oct; these Oct flocks have a scattering of birds with rust-barred rumps, clearly immatures, but since the majority of this species molts in the Arctic, prior to southward migration, a pattern or sequence of adult and immature flight could not be ascertained unless collection or netting were utilized. Nov tallies are usually of six–12 per day but singles may remain into early Dec.

Short-billed Dowitcher: like the Least Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs, one of the first fall shorebirds; adults are usually on the beach by Jul 7–10 and small flocks of three–12 per day, mostly in breeding plumage, are present thru Jul and early Aug; by 5–10 Aug they are joined by the rusty-backed, gray-blue wing-covered immatures; adults soon leave (rare to see one after 1 Sep) and most immatures are gone by late Sep; interestingly enough, Long-billed Dowitchers are virtually unknown from EDB and this species, like Hudsonian Godwit, may be absent there

because the rocky shelving shoreline precludes their deeply probing feeding technique.

Stilt Sandpiper: adults are regularly found with groups of Short-billed Dowitchers and Lesser Yellowlegs after 15 Jul; these are frequently in full breeding plumage; often a single bird will remain thru several weeks such that one can follow an individual thru the most obvious features of body plumage moult; immatures arrive by early Aug (they are best distinguished by a pale wash across the chest and the perfectly feather-shingled back) and persist to approximately mid-Sep; a Stilt Sandpiper after mid-Sep at EDB is most unusual, yet in the muddy areas at Fox Ridge near Port Byron and Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge it is not uncommon to find them up to 15 Oct.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: the Song Sparrow of shorebirds, usually first noted around 10-15 Jul; numbers quickly swell to the hundreds by late Jul; by 25-30 Jul immatures are already present and with their buffy feather margins and slim look are frequently called Baird's by those unfamiliar with this plumage; note that the Semipalmated's wing tips do *not* go beyond the tail as they do in the Baird's; also the young Semipalmated is washed with buff on the chest but the Baird's definitely has streaks in the buffy chest band.

Western Sandpiper: numbers vary widely from year to year - usually one or two individuals show up with the big flock of Semipalmated in the latter half of Aug; as the Semipalmated decrease in Sep, a few more Western seem to put in an appearance (or is it just easier sorting them out?); by late Sep and first week of Oct, all peep should be scrutinized as possible Western, particularly single peep feeding belly-deep with Dunlin; most Westerns depart by 10-15 Oct but occasional hardy birds persist to late Oct.

Sanderling: arr 15-25 Jul in numbers, but numbers vary widely; greatest numbers in late Aug with many immatures present; mid-Sep sees a sharp drop in numbers, but this species may be almost as hardy as Dunlin in persisting beyond initial freezeup.

Phalaropes: this group of avian desiderata are never present in large enough numbers to indicate a population pattern; however, if they are going to appear one can usually expect the following sequence: Wilson's appear as singles 15 Jul-30 Aug; Northern as singles to four-five per day, rarely higher, 15 Aug-early Oct; Red appear almost always as single birds rarely in Sep but regularly in Oct and Nov - these late Red Phalaropes like the Purple Sandpiper are singularly tame.

427 S. Main St., North Syracuse, N.Y. 13212

Ed. Note: About half of the purchase price for Eldorado Shores had been received or pledged as of June 1. Contributions may be sent to The Central New York Chapter, The Nature Conservancy, Box 175, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. Checks should be made out to "The Nature Conservancy."

SURVEY OF GREAT BLUE HERONRIES 1964-1968

WALTER E. BENNING

For five years the author has, with the help of the Bird Clubs of the State and many interested individuals, conducted a survey of the nesting colonies of the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) in Upstate New York to ascertain the breeding status of the bird in the State.

Since the survey is being terminated with this report, we have compiled the data gathered over the five year period in Table I. In all we received reports on 41 heronries which were active for at least one year during the survey period.

Table I

Location	Active nests					Number of young					Type of habitat
	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	
Region 1											
1. Farrington Hollow Road Town of Arkwright Chautauqua County	43	23	17	42	x	*	*	32	*	x	Deciduous forest Largely in beech trees
2. Coe Road, Stockton Twp Chautauqua County	25	25	17	18	17	*	*	32	32	39	Man made lake. Dead elms
3. Oak Orchard, Genesee Co.	x	10-12	x	x	x	x	*	x	x	x	
4. Hood Hill, Belmont Allegany County	x	5	15	x	x	x	9	25	x	x	Oak and maple woods
5. Vandalia, Cattaraugus Co.	19	x	x	x	16	*	x	x	x	*	Upland. Beech woods
6. Olean, Cattaraugus Co.	x	x	25	x	x	x	x	*	x	x	Upland woods
7. Kennedy, Chautauqua Co.	x	x	x	6	x	x	x	x	*	x	
8. Markham's Corners Cattaraugus County	x	x	x	19	x	x	x	x	*	x	Swamp
Region 2											
1. Marengo Swamp, Clyde Wayne County	40	50	100	175	140	100	125	250	440	350	Deep swamp. Red maple
2. Scottsville, Monroe Co.	x	x	x	34	16	x	x	x	*	32	Swamp. Water the year around
3. Groveland Flats Livingston County	x	x	x	5	10	x	x	x	7	12	Swamp
4. Macedon, Wayne Co.	x	x	x	x	1	x	x	x	x	*	
Region 3											
1. Corning, Steuben Co.	x	x	15	x	x	x	x	23	x	x	Oak and hemlock
2. Benton Twp. Yates Co.	x	x	x	5	3	x	x	x	5	4	Swamp. Red maple
3. Bennettsburg-Reynolds- ville Schuyler County	x	x	x	x	3	x	x	x	x	7	Swamp. Dead trees
4. East side Owasco Lake Swamp Rd. Cayuga Co.	x	x	x	x	*	x	x	x	x	*	Swamp

Table I (continued)

Location	Active nests					Number of young					Type of habitat
	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	
Region 4											
1. Candor, Tioga Co.	15	15	Less	3	x	*	*	*	*	x	Upland woods
2. Owego, Tioga Co.	*	*	x	x	x	*	*	x	x	x	Upland woods
3. Whitney Point, Broome Co.	65	15	x	x	x	*	*	x	x	x	Upland woods
4. German, Chenango Co.	*	x	x	x	x	*	x	x	x	x	
5. Cold Brook, Scott Cortland County	17	7	3	17	20	*	*	*	34	*	Upland woods. Beech trees
6. Charlottesville near Otsego-Schoharie Co. line	*	*	x	x	x	*	*	x	x	x	
7. Andes, Delaware Co.	x	x	*	6	1	x	x	*	*	*	
8. Cholchester Twsp Delaware County	x	x	*	x	x	x	x	*	x	x	
9. East Freetown, Cortland Co.	x	*	x	4	15	x	*	x	8	37	Upland woods. Beech
10. Virgil, Cortland Co.	x	x	x	11	x	x	x	x	*	x	Upland woods. Large oak and beech
11. Richford, Tioga Co.	x	x	x	20	26	x	x	x	*	*	Upland woods. Beech
12. Greene, Chenango Co.	x	x	x	7	x	x	x	x	*	x	Upland woods. Beech
13. Brisben	x	x	x	x	*	x	x	x	x	*	
Region 5											
1. Cross Lake, Onondaga Co.	70	35	35	22	18	*	*	*	33	25	Deciduous swamp
2. Scott Swamp, Phoenix Oswego County	15	20	8-10	17	20	*	*	*	31	40	Deciduous swamp
3. Bridgeport, Onondaga Co.	x	4	not active	2	1	x	x	*	*	*	Deciduous swamp
4. Skaneateles, Onondaga Co.	x	*	x	x	x	x	*	x	x	x	Deciduous swamp
5. Old Fly, Pompey Twsp Onondaga County	x	x	x	6	4	x	x	x	12	13	Deciduous swamp on edge of pond
6. Morrisville Swamp, Madison Co.	x	x	x	2	4	x	x	x	*	8	Swamp. Deciduous and conifers

Table I (continued)

Location	Active nests					Number of young					Type of habitat
	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	
Region 6											
1. Ironsides Island Alexandria Bay, Jefferson Co.	135	100	82	110	x	*	*	205	250	x	Wooded Island
2. Perch River Game Management Area	*	25	37	37	6	*	*	95	*	12	Dead elms in cattail marsh
Region 7											
1. Osecatah Lake, Franklin Co.	x	x	x	1	x	x	x	x	*	x	Hardwoods and hemlock
Region 8											
1. Providence Twsp., Saratoga Co.	x	x	x	x	15	x	x	x	x	*	Upland woods
2. Junction of Greene, Albany and Schoharie Counties	x	x	x	x	*	x	x	x	x	*	
Region 9											
1. Washington Twsp. Dutchess Co. Bontecue Farm	7	9	6	6	9	21	18	12	12	20	Swamp. Dead trees.

x indicates no report

* indicates report but no data given

Number of active nests

While the total number of active nests reported each season is shown, these figures are of little significance. First, because many reports did not contain the number of active nests and, secondly, because the same heronries were not reported on each year.

Perhaps of more value is the record of individual heronries over the period. Some have steadily declined and would appear to be dying. We know this has occurred in the past. Others are increasing and still others have fluctuated up and down.

There were only six heronries on which data was received for each of the five years. These are shown in Table II.

Table II
Number of active nests

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Region 1 — Coes Road	25	25	17	18	17
Region 2 — Marengo Swamp	40	50	100	175	140
Region 4 — Cold Brook	17	7	3	17	20
Region 5 — Cross Lake	70	35	35	22	18
Scott Swamp	15	20	9	17	20
Region 9 — Bontecue Farm	7	9	6	6	9
Totals	174	146	170	255	224

The totals for these six colonies seem to indicate some increase in active nests over the period but the number of heronries involved is too small to give a state-wide trend. Examination of the individual heronries reveals that the apparent increase was due almost entirely to the phenomenal growth of the Marengo Swamp colony which more than offset the sharp decline at Cross Lake. The other four showed much less fluctuation.

While the number of active nests in individual colonies varied greatly from the start of the survey period to the close, probably the overall number of nests in the State has not changed drastically.

Number of young

Many reports failed to give an indication of the number of young successfully raised. Part of this was due to the timing of the visits to the heronry. If the visit was made before early June, the young were not large enough to be easily visible to an observer looking at a nest in a treetop 40 to 75 feet above him. If the visit was delayed beyond late June, many of the young may have left the nest.

The number of young per nest varied from 1-5. Most reports showed 2-4. It would appear that the average would be 2-2½ per nest. From the limited statistics available it does not appear that the number of young raised per nest changed appreciably during the five year period.

Habitat

The reports indicating habitat were equally divided between swamps and upland woods, the latter usually on ridges. In the upland woods group one half showed nesting in beech trees. Several of the reports on heronries in swamps indicated nesting in dead elms. Only three reports mentioned conifers in the nesting area and none reported nesting in conifers.

Geographical distribution

In the first survey report for the year 1964 mention was made that two thirds of the heronries reported were located in a narrow belt 40–50 miles wide running north and south across the State from Binghamton north through Cortland, Syracuse and Watertown. The ensuing years have revealed more colonies in other parts of the State but this Binghamton to Watertown “heron belt” still contains forty percent of the heronries reported.

The counties of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany in southwestern New York account for about twenty percent of the colonies and the rest of western New York for an additional twenty percent. The remaining twenty percent are located in eastern New York. This area contains a vast amount of remote sections in the Adirondack and Catskill mountain regions. Lack of coverage by observers in these regions may account for at least a part of the seeming scarcity of Great Blue heronries in this part of the State.

Great Blue Herons tend to nest in inaccessible and inhospitable places. They often choose rough high terrain or deep forbidding swamps. They breed during the height of the mosquito season which adds to the rigors of a visit to a heronry. It takes a hardy individual to make an on the spot survey of many of our heronries. We are deeply grateful to the many persons and to the Bird Clubs of the State who co-operated and made this report possible. Thank you all. We hope observers will continue to check the heronries and send the reports to their Regional Editors for inclusion in the regional reports.

R.D. #1, Clyde, N.Y. 14433

FROM THE EDITOR

It is with regret and anticipation that I am resigning the *Kingbird* editorship. Regret because it has been a rewarding activity, feeling that I was helping with something important for New York State ornithology; regret that I did not implement more of the good ideas for improving the *Kingbird* that were suggested to me; regret that I will no longer have contact with the many birders throughout the state with whom I have had correspondence on *Kingbird* matters.

Anticipation because I am looking forward to seeing more New York State birds instead of just reading about other people's records; anticipation because I hope to see some of the birds of other parts of the world. Tied to a quarterly publication I found long trips impossible.

My sincere thanks go to the Regional editors and co-editors and also to those who have been regional editors during my tenure. This group does a fine job of gathering data from diverse observers and pulling it together into a coherent record of the seasonal picture. It is a time-consuming task and I appreciate their cooperation.

I wish also to thank the officers of the Federation who have given time to *Kingbird* problems. And most especially, my thanks to the two associate editors, Sally Spofford and David Peakall. They have answered innumerable questions, given much good advice. Without them there would have been no *Kingbird*.

My best wishes go to the incoming editor, Joseph Taylor. May he have as interesting and rewarding an experience as I have had.

Dorothy McIlroy

THE CARDINAL IN THE WATERTOWN AREA

ARTHUR W. ALLEN

The Cardinal is one of a number of species with southern affinities which has recently extended its range northward. It is now well established in many parts of New York State. The following summarizes the results of my observations in the Watertown area during the past fifteen years.

I first saw the Cardinal on May 23, 1954 at Huntingtonville Hill, a short distance east of Watertown. One was seen in the same area in April of the following year. It was missed in 1956, but on November 16, 1957 a male appeared at our feeders for the first time. From then on Cardinals came more regularly to the feeding station. Both sexes were represented but it was not until March 1964 that both were seen together. Now they were regular visitors, with as many as five appearing at one time. The maximum number was eight on February 5, 1966.

On July 25, 1965 a pair brought three young to the feeder. The young had just been fledged and it was evident that the nest was not too far distant. Again in 1966 young were brought in on two occasions, the second time being October 5, an unusually late date. In 1968 a female brought in three young on August 18.

During the past five years I have seen the Cardinal at the following places: Huntington Island, Huntingtonville, Thompson Park, Sandy Creek Valley, Eldorado, Stony Point, Pillar Point, Brownville, Anthony Farm and Great Bend. This forms almost a complete circle around Watertown, demonstrating that the Cardinal is now well established in the area.

(The above was written by Mr. Allen shortly before his death in January 1969. He had been an active field observer, mainly in the Watertown area. A past president of the North Country Bird Club, he took part in various cooperative enterprises including the Audubon Christmas Count, the Winter Waterfowl Count, and the Fish & Wildlife Service Roadside Survey. He contributed a number of "field notes" to earlier issues of *The Kingbird*. He was particularly interested in studying the nesting habits of birds and submitted many records in connection with the Nesting Record Census. Mr. Allen was a member of the American Ornithologists Union, the Wilson Ornithological Society and the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. — John B. Belknap.)

OBSERVATIONS NEEDED

In 1967 and 1968, 1839 adult Common and Roseate Terns were color banded on Great Gull Island, located 7 miles ENE of Orient Point at the mouth of Long Island Sound. The work was done by members of the Linnaean Society of New York and was sponsored in part by the Linnaean Society and in part by the American Museum of Natural History, which holds title to the island.

Each of the terns, in addition to receiving a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band, was given three colored plastic bands. The colors used were: red, yellow, blue, green, black, white, pink and orange. In 1968, 330 young Common and Roseate terns were color marked using the same colors but substituting a red and white striped band for the colors pink and orange.

From August through October of last year we spotted terns from Great Gull Island along the north and south shores of Long Island and along the mainland from New Haven, Connecticut to Point Judith, Rhode Island.

This summer we would like to get as many sightings as possible on these color banded birds. It would be interesting if any of the marked birds were sighted along the coast before they arrive on Great Gull Island in the spring. Last year the first terns reached the island May 4.

This summer, 1969, in addition to color banding we will mark the birds with dye to enable the observer to spot birds in flight marked on Great Gull Island. Red, yellow, blue and black dyes will probably be used and the color applied to the bird's back just above the tail, or on the breast or wings. Hopefully observations of the dyed birds will give us an idea of where birds from the island feed as well as more information about the extent of their post breeding dispersal from July to October.

We would appreciate any help you can give us with this. We read bands left leg first, then right leg, top to bottom. For example: left leg: red over yellow, right leg, black over aluminum. Date and locality of the sighting should be included with the record.

Please send records to:

Miss Catherine Pessino
Department of Education
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th St.
New York, N.Y. 10024

If you prefer to telephone the number is 212-Tr.-3-1300, Ext. 281.

A final word of caution, some of the bands are hard to read. Unless you have good light pink can look like any color it is next to, so double check. Even if you cannot read the bands please send us the records of the sightings because we are interested in the localities and dates when the birds are seen.

Thank you for any help you can give us with this and good birding!

FIELD NOTES

Black Vulture in Northern Franklin County: On November 10, 1968 a large black bird with an injured wing was found near North Burke, Franklin County, by Clarence Duheme of that hamlet. Mr. Duheme could not identify the bird but called in Dr. J. D. Sweet, a veterinarian of nearby Chateaugay.

Dr. Sweet measured wing spread (well under five feet) and tail length. He also noted the light patch near the tip of the under surface of the wings. He identified the bird as a Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*). This identification was later confirmed by Ed Gardephe, a biologist in the Game Management Department of the New York State Conservation Department.



Photograph by Dr. J. D. Sweet of Chateaugay, N.Y.
Franklin County, N.Y., 7 February 1969

There was ample time for Dr. Sweet and Mr. Duheme to study the bird at close range while the wing healed. They fed it on a still born calf and other carrion as well as water. The vulture has been housed through the winter in one of Mr. Duheme's barns at North Burke. He intends to release it when the ground is clear of snow. The first account of the bird appeared in print with picture in "The Chateaugay Record and Franklin County Democrat", February 13, 1969.

Eaton (1914) says of the Black Vulture: "Wanders rarely as far north as Maine, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ohio," but the spot furthest north in New York State is Buffalo. The A.O.U. *Check List* of 1957 places northern New York, as well as Quebec, among the areas to which the bird may occasionally wander; no specific spot is mentioned. Reilly and Parkes, after a vague reference to sight records and specimens from "central and southern counties," says "Status uncertain" (*Preliminary Annotated Checklist of New York State Birds*, 1959).

All research to date, then, points toward this as the first record for Region 7 for *Coragyps atratus*.

Harriet L. Delafield, Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

Second Nesting Record of the Louisiana Heron for New York State: Meyerriecks, A. J. (*Wilson Bull.* 69, 1957, pp. 184-185) reported the first breeding record for the Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*) for New York State. He found the nest in 1955 on Ruler's Bar Hassock in New York City. The nest contained three eggs by May 17 and was found destroyed on May 18. Meyerriecks suggested that Fish Crows (*Corvus ossifragus*) were responsible for the destruction.

On August 4, 1966 while censusing a heronry about five miles southwest of Kennedy International Airport and about two miles west of Ruler's Bar Hassock, I flushed a Louisiana Heron. Upon checking the spot where the bird had flown up I found a nest containing an egg and one young Louisiana Heron. The nest was about four feet above the ground in a small Poplar Birch (*Betula populifolia*).

The young heron appeared to be about two weeks old. Its legs and skin were greenish resembling that of young Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*) which also nests in the heronry. In contrast to the white down of the young Snowy Egrets, however, the down of this bird was pale buff in color. The eye was whitish yellow and the bill was all black. This description is included since it differs somewhat from that given by Palmer (*Handbook of North American Birds*, New Haven, Yale University Press, 1962, p. 465).

I checked the nest August 11 and found the young Louisiana Heron now completely feathered. The nest was again checked on August 19 when the young heron was found dead in the nest.

Interestingly the nest of the Louisiana Heron had not been fouled. This characteristic distinguished it from nests of the Snowy Egret which become white with droppings shortly after the young hatch.

Weekly checks had been made of this heronry beginning May 26. A Louisiana Heron was first noted on June 30. The area where the nest was found was checked carefully each week in June and I feel certain the birds which nested did not come to the heronry until the end of June.

Helen Hays, 14 East 95th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10028

Ed. Note: Nest was reported in *Kingbird* 16(4):243, October 1966, with no details.

Two Mockingbirds, Five Nests, 15+ Eggs — No Young Fledged: For three years a pair of Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) had frequented the Holden Road home of the Lewis Laufersweilers high on Mt. Zoar near Elmira. Never had the birds shown evidence of having raised young nearby.

On May 14, 1968 I learned that in late April the pair had constructed a nest about 6 feet from the ground in a white pine near the driveway. No observation was made of the nest contents, but the birds were observed carrying food.

In early May it was noted that all activity had shifted to a 3-foot Scotch pine on the other side of the house. Nest #2 was about 2 feet off the ground, not well concealed. On May 14 there was one egg, by the 18th, three. On June 4 one bird, on June 7 three. When I checked on June 10, I found one bird had died and the other two, although partially feathered, were rather inactive and very small, definitely unable to leave the nest. On June 14 the nest was empty and a few feathers lay on the ground.

By June 18 the Mockingbird pair had built again in another Scotch pine not 10 feet away. Nest #3 was also about 2 feet from the ground. It eventually contained three eggs, incubation began — and then activity ceased, the eggs had disappeared.

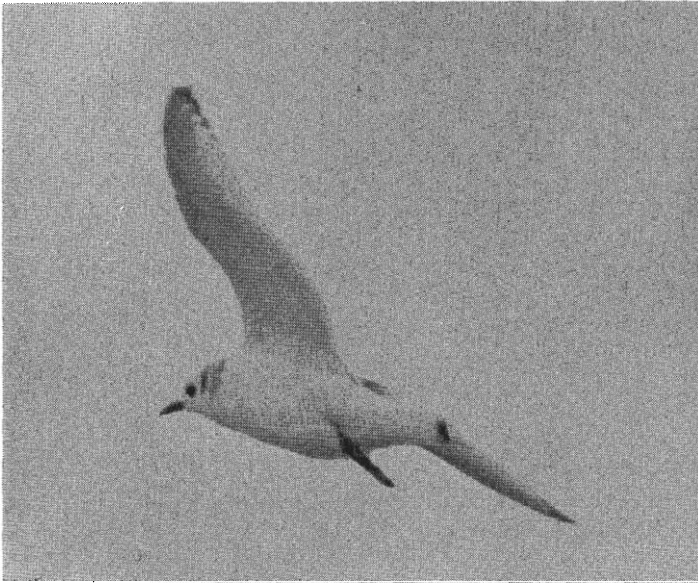
Once again a nest was built (#4), this time in a yew hedge, about 3 feet from the ground and better hidden. Again there were three eggs, but in a few days the eggs were gone.

Apparently weary of nest building, the birds now laid three eggs in nest #2, where three young had disappeared several weeks before. On July 23 I found that for the third successive time the eggs had disappeared.

The pair had already laid one egg in a new nest (nest #5, the 6th nesting attempt) about 2 feet from the ground in a Scotch pine about 150 feet away. Two more eggs were laid, and in August there were two young birds which soon vanished. The unfortunate Mockingbirds were seen in the same territory for the remainder of the summer, but apparently did not try again.

The Laufersweilers made many daily observations from their windows, seldom approaching the nests for fear of disturbing the birds. I checked about every two weeks. Weather in late May and early June was unusually rainy with several near-cloudbursts. Were these birds victims of the weather and/or predators such as snakes, jays or raccoons? None of the nests was damaged or destroyed.

Wilfred I. Howard, 610 Coburn Street, Elmira, N.Y. 14904



*Photographs by Paris and Pepper Trail
General Information Center, Seneca Lake, 31 December 1968*

Immature Black-legged Kittiwake on Seneca Lake at Geneva: At noon on December 31, 1968, while checking gulls and waterfowl on Seneca Lake at the "turn-out" on Routes 5 and 20 at Geneva, I noticed among a flock of Ring-billed Gulls one bird which was considerably smaller, resembling superficially and at first glance a Bonaparte's. As I watched with 7 x 35 binoculars, the bird banked and flew directly over me, and I saw his black legs. As I continued to watch, I further noted the all black wingtips, black neck-band, slightly forked tail with black terminal

band, and a zig-zag on the back and wings which was also black. My Field Guides confirmed my suspicions that this was a Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). Mr. Paris Trail and his son Pepper Trail arrived within half an hour, and succeeded in photographing the bird from all angles, both flying and sitting on the water. The photographs clearly show the black legs and the other identifying features.

A check of the literature shows (Eaton, 1909) a Seneca Lake record, with no date or verifying details given. A bird supposedly taken at Auburn in January, 1854 is mentioned by William Hopkins in the *Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History*, but the whereabouts of the specimen is unknown to this writer.

Mrs. George Walsh, 3 Garden Apts., Geneva, New York 14456

Evening Grosbeak in Unusual Plumage at Hornell: An "all yellow" Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) has been present in North Hornell and Hornell since late November 1968. All body plumage is a beautiful clear yellow, the wings are white and the tail is white with a few outer tail feathers black. The eyes are dark and the bill is a clear pale cream color. We have seen it at distances of four to ten feet and noted that there are a few blemishes caused by small indistinct areas of pale brown. At a distance, however, it suggests an overgrown canary with white wings.

It first appeared at a neighbor's feeder on November 20 and apparently never returned there. The bird came to our yard on November 24 and we fed it last on February 21. There have been eight different reports of its presence at various feeders in North Hornell and Hornell, covering a roughly elliptical area varying from one to three miles in radius from our house.

William M. Groesbeck, 376 Seneca Road, Hornell, N.Y. 14843

Gray Partridges in Jefferson County: During the past winter (1968-9) most of the snowfall in Jefferson County came before New Year's Day. The heaviest fall arrived on the last weekend of 1968 and left a deep blanket of snow. For about three weeks following this, many coveys of Gray Partridges (*Perdix perdix*) could be seen along the roadsides, particularly on secondary roads where grass was uncovered by plowing of the shoulders. An extensive thaw late in January reduced the snow cover considerably. Partridges were then much less in evidence and light snowfalls for the rest of the winter did not seriously interfere with securing food.

The factors relating to the success or failure of this species in New York State have been the subject of much study. The State Conservation Department has carried out a number of research projects. Studies have shown that portions of Jefferson County support the highest concentrations of Gray Partridges in the state, the northwestern part of the county providing excellent habitat.

Since 1952 there has been an open season on Huns, as they are popularly known, with hunting pressure generally light. Winter survival appears to be good, birds showing adaptability in finding food under adverse conditions. A major factor in the success of the species is early summer weather, during the period of nesting. Cold and wet weather in June and July has a serious effect on the hatching of eggs and the survival of chicks.

Agricultural practices are important. Extensively cultivated areas are needed, with such crops as small grains, corn, alfalfa and hay. The dairy farming areas in Jefferson County supply this need. However, more and more farm land is being abandoned or put to other uses, as it is in other parts of the state. With the current decline in farming, the future of the Gray Partridge seems in doubt.

John B. Belknap, 92 Clinton Street, Gouverneur, N.Y. 13642

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINTER SEASON

December 1–March 31

DAVID B. PEAKALL

There was a major invasion of Bohemian Waxwings this winter, a flight comparable with those of 1961/62 and 1958/59. It is not surprising that invasions of this species are infrequent since its breeding range in North America is almost entirely west of the 100° meridian. Bohemian Waxwings were reported in six regions, being absent only in the southern and southeastern portions of the state and the Adirondacks. The first record was on December 8th, at Sandy Pond along the shores of Lake Ontario, but maximum numbers did not occur until late winter. The high count, 500 near Watertown, was a record for the state. In contrast, the Cedar Waxwing was scarce over much of the state.

There was a heavy, early flight of Evening Grosbeaks. On Long Island it was described as “easily this area’s largest ever” but it “was all but over by late December.” This seemed to be the general pattern although the Syracuse feeder survey showed that the feeder population of that area was sustained all winter. There was a moderate-good flight of Pine Grosbeaks and, in general, the numbers of this species were better sustained than those of the Evening Grosbeak. The Redpoll was also recorded in good numbers in some areas and a few Hoary Redpolls were recorded.

Several regional reports mentioned the scarcity of Blue Jay. A check of the regular Christmas counts within the state shows that the last sharp decline was in the winter of 1961/62. In that winter the total reported was only 43% of the ten year average and was only 38% of the total of the previous year. In the following winter the numbers were back up to, or even a little above, normal. Limited information from further south suggests movement rather than heavy mortality. Bemont comments that “the very real scarcity of Blue Jay seems to be explained by the poor mast crop last fall.”

A sharp reduction in the number of Canvasbacks was noted in several upstate regions. The possibility of a closed season for this species should be seriously considered. The early spring flight of Canada Geese appeared to be larger than ever and the number of Blue Geese has also increased.

December 21 was a “red-letter day” on Long Island, both for late dates of shore-birds and for rarities off-shore. Observations off Captree suggest that either our knowledge of movements there is deficient or that Ryan was exceptionally fortunate.

Rarities included Gyrfalcon (Region 5), Lesser Black-backed Gull (3 & 10), Kittiwake (3), Sabine’s Gull (10), Hawk Owl (7), Varied Thrush (8 & 10), and Harris’s Sparrow (1).

Langmuir Laboratory, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

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 number of individuals unless otherwise stated.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT A. SUNDELL

The winter was a fairly mild one with none of the record-breaking cold spells that characterized the first half of January, 1968. During December the temperature was about one degree above the long-term average and precipitation was slightly less than one half inch above the average. Weather conditions during January and February were fairly typical for the area, although there was less snow than usual during February. The typical winter meteorologic pattern, however, persisted throughout the first half of March and as a result very little thawing took place prior to this time and also very little land bird migration. Most water remained frozen solid until well into the second half of March and this factor also affected negatively both land bird and water bird migration.

In a reversal of the general pattern of the last several years, water birds were below normal in terms of the number of species, individuals and rarities noted, while the land birds were definitely up in these categories. The following trends were determined: (1) small numbers of loons and grebes, (2) early Whistling Swans migrating on February 21 but a maximum of only 200 and no large concentrations in Southern Tier localities where over 1000 were counted last March, (3) a continuing increase in the number of Blue Geese in the Oak Orchard area late in March with a high count of 98, (4) modest counts of most species of waterfowl but exceptionally low numbers of Canvasback and Oldsquaw and an all-time high of 1100 Bufflehead, (5) a modest early spring hawk flight commencing during the third week of February and peaking about one month later, (6) fewer interesting gull records than in most recent years, (7) continuing dispersal of the Red-bellied Woodpecker, (8) more Tufted Titmice than usual including a significant increase in Allegany County, (9) the continuing trend toward successful wintering of the Mockingbird, (10) the spectacular number of Cardinals recorded on area Christmas Counts, (11) a superb flight of winter finches featuring the Evening and Pine Grosbeaks and the Common Redpoll but with only two Red Crossbills and no White-winged, (12) a fine showing of many sparrows, particularly the Slate-colored Junco and Tree Sparrow.

Rare species reported were Mute Swan, Harlequin Duck, Purple Sandpiper, Bohemian Waxwing, Dickcissel, Hoary Redpoll, Oregon Junco and Harris' Sparrow.

Abbreviations: ACCC — Allegany County Christmas Count; Alleg Rd — Allegany Road, Hanover Township, Chautauqua County; Bflo — Buffalo; BISP — Beaver Island State Park; BOSCC — Buffalo Ornithological Society Christmas Count; CC — Christmas Count; Chaut — Chautauqua; INWR — Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; Nia — Niagara; Ont — Ontario; OOCMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area; TGMA — Tonawanda Game Management Area.

Contributors: RFA — Robert F. Andrie; HHA — Harold H. Axtell; CB — Clarence Beal; PB — Paul Benham; TLB — Thomas L. Bourne; LDB — Lou and Doris Burton; AC — Arthur Clark; DD — Dorothy Danner; FE — Flora Elderkin; AF — Arthur Freitag; GI — Gregory Inskip; LFK — Lewis F. Kibler; JK — Joseph Kikta; WHK — Walter and Harriette Klabunde; CK — Clarence Klingensmith; VL — Virgil Lunardini; WAM — Willard and Alice McKale; HDM — Harold D. Mitchell; ECP — Elizabeth C.

Pillsbury; FMR — Frances M. Rew; RR — Robert Rybczynski; WGS — William and George Smith; RAS — Robert A. Sundell; OS — Ora Swanson; RW — Robert Wagner.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: very scarce during winter for past ten years — two Dec 7 Cuba L (LDB), two Dec 22 Nia R (BOSCC). Red-throated Loon: always rare during winter — two Dec 22 Nia R (BOSCC). Grebes: Red-necked — one Feb 6, 13 (RAS), Feb 7 (FMR *et al*) Dunkirk Harbor; Horned — 37 Dec 1 Chaut L (FMR, OS), max winter count 9 Jan 12 Dunkirk Harbor (FMR), 100 Mar 29 Celeron (FE); Pied-billed — three throughout winter Chaut L Outlet (mob). Great Blue Heron: max five Dec 28 (ACCC); rare during Feb — singles Feb 3 Almond (CK), Feb 6 South Dayton (Hinkley, Crowy); one Mar 17 at Arkwright heronry (ECP).

MUTE SWAN: imm Dec 29 Celeron (Jamestown CC), one Jan 21, 29 Ridge-way (WGS). Whistling Swan: 93 Dec 1 Chaut L (FMR, OS), singles Dec 7 Lancaster (JK), Dec 19, 22 BISP (BOSCC); early migrants — 11 Feb 21 Clarence (VL); max 200 Mar 30 OOGMA (DD). Canada Goose: small flocks later than usual — 38 Dec 14 over Springbrook (DD), 27 Dec 27 (INWRCC), 48 Dec 28 (ACCC), 10 Dec 28 (Olean CC), flocks of 7, 29 Jan 23 over Jamestown (Pollaro); returning migrants — 150 Mar 6 Belmont (LDB), 35 Mar 7 Lyndonville (WGS), max 40,000 TGMA, OOGMA, INWR (DD). Snow Goose: one Mar 20 INWR (AF), 8 Mar 30 OOGMA (HDM *et al*). Blue Goose: one Mar 19 OOGMA (PB), 98 Mar 30 OOGMA (HDM *et al*).

Mallard: 973 Dec 22 (BOSCC). Pintail: 1500 Mar 27 (AF), 1500 Mar 30 Oak Orchard area (HDM *et al*). Green-winged Teal: four Dec 22 (BOSCC); one Dec 27 (INWRCC). Wood Duck: two Dec 28 (ACCC); two Dec 30 Town of West Almond (LDB *et al*); first arr — two Mar 18 Caneadea (LDB), one Mar 18 Frewsburg (FE). Redhead: 202 Dec 22 (BOSCC). Canvasback: exceptionally low — 367 Dec 22 (BOSCC). Bufflehead: 1100 Dec 7 Upper Nia R (AF); 634 Dec 22 (BOSCC). Oldsquaw: exceptionally scarce — one Dec 22 (BOSCC). **HARLEQUIN DUCK:** three Feb 10 Lakeside (PB); one Feb 23 Fort Nia (RW). Scoters: Surf — 12 Dec 7 Upper Nia R (HDM *et al*); Common — one Dec 1 Barcelona (FMR, OS). Ruddy Duck: one Dec 29 BISP (RFA, AC). Mergansers: Hooded — 143 Dec 1 Chaut L (FMR, OS), 11 Dec 29 (Jamestown CC), 12 Jan 12 Chaut L Outlet (RAS, LFK); Common — 4158 Dec 22 (BOSCC), 5200 Feb 7 Dunkirk Harbor (FMR *et al*).

HAWKS—OWLS: light hawk flight Feb 22 and fair numbers Mar 18, 23. Turkey Vulture: one Mar 16 Steamburg (Jordan). Goshawk: one Dec 1 Amherst (GI). Hawks: Sharp-shinned and Cooper's — a few scattered individuals during winter (mostly around feeding stations) and during flights mentioned above; Red-tailed — 22 Feb 16 Lyndonville (WGS), 80 Mar 18 over Alleg Rd (VL *et al*), 77 Mar 23 over Ont Plain (RW); Red-shouldered — rare during winter, two Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), early migrants — singles Feb 17 over Hamburg (TLB) and Feb 19 Boston (TLB), 20 Mar 18 over Alleg Rd (VL *et al*), 34 Mar 23 over Ont Plain (RW); Rough-legged — 11 Mar 23 over Ont Plain (RW); Bald Eagle — single imms Mar 18 TGMA (PB) and Mar 22 over Eden (TLB); Marsh — five Feb 23 Porter (HDM *et al*), ten Mar 23 over Ont Plain (RW), 15 Mar 29 and 27 Mar 30 Lyndonville (WGS); Sparrow — population above last two years but not significant increase, 34 Dec 22 (BOSCC).

Turkey: one Feb 4 Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB). American Coot: max fall count — 328 Dec 1 Chaut L (FMR, OS); max winter count — 12 Feb 22 Dunkirk Harbor (VL). Killdeer: very scarce — three Dec 7 Cuba L (LDB), one Dec 29 (Jamestown CC); no significant flocks during spring migration — arr two Feb 24 Alfred (Brooks). Common Snipe: four Dec 29 (Jamestown CC), two Jan 2 Frewsburg (FE); arr one Mar 17 Jerusalem Corners (HHA). Greater Yellowlegs: one Mar 18 Evans (TLB). **PURPLE SANDPIPER:** five Dec 8 Nia Falls (PB). Gulls: Glaucous — ten Jan 16

Squaw Island (RFA, Byron), one Feb 7, 21 Dunkirk Harbor (FMR *et al*); Iceland—singles Mar 2 Robert Moses Power Plant (RFA) and Mar 30 Nia Falls (Hess); Herring—careful counts and estimates 31,000 Dec 17 Nia R above falls (HHA); Thayer's (or *L. a. thayeri*)—adult collected Dec 21 Robert Moses Power Plant (RFA); Bonaparte's—numbers well below average in late Dec; Little—one Dec 7, 8 Lewiston (WHK *et al*).

Mourning Dove: 53 Dec 12 Marilla (DD); highest count ever on BOSCC—140 Dec 22; 56 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC); max 53 at feeder Jan and Feb Springbrook (DD). Barn Owl: one Feb 24 Hamburg (TLB). Snowy Owl: singles Dec 14 Shadigee (WGS), Dec 26 Oakfield (Thill), Jan 16 Lakeview (TLB). Long-eared Owl: one Dec 7, 8 and two Feb 16, 23 Youngstown (mob); one Jan (Hamburg CC). Short-eared Owl: at Lyndonville, Dec through Feb max 11, Mar max 20, and 24 Mar 16 Cambria (WAM *et al*); at roost in Niagara County, 26 Dec 18 and 55 to 60 Jan 28 (Richard Clark). Saw-whet Owl: singles in Dec at Hamburg, Youngstown, Amherst, Grand Island and Alleg Co, in Jan at Belmont, in Feb at Hamburg and in Mar at Pendleton.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: large winter count (perhaps due to unpolluted water?)—17 Dec 28 (ACCC). Yellow-shafted Flicker: individuals widely scattered but max only five Jan 1 (Dunkirk CC). Red-bellied Woodpecker: imm male at feeder in Frewsburg Dec 1–16 (Gulvin *et al*); specimen found dead Dec 23 and donated to Bflo Museum of Science; singles at other unusual localities—Dec 29 (Jamestown CC), Jan 13, 16 Lewiston (WHK), Jan 26 Conewango (FMR *et al*). Red-headed Woodpecker: more than average winter—one Dec 22 (BOSCC), two Dec 28 (ACCC), one Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), two Feb 6 Lyndonville (WGS), one Feb 8 Hamburg (TLB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: singles Dec 4 Wellsville (LDB), Jan 4 Fluvanna (FE). Eastern Phoebe: arr one Mar 23 Lyndonville (WGS).

Horned Lark: *E. a. alpestris*, a few scattered individuals and small flocks after Jan 10 with max five Feb 16 Gerry (RAS). Tree Swallow: arr eight Mar 29 TGMA (HHA). Purple Martin: arr early singles Mar 25, 26 North Boston (Dodge). Common Crow: started returning to southwestern New York in late Jan (usually mid Feb) with small flocks noted (Ross Gardner). Black-capped Chickadee: unusually high counts probably aftermath of influx during fall; highest ever—554 Dec 22 (BOSCC), 606 Dec 28 (ACCC). Tufted Titmouse: more than usual at feeders, particularly in lower Genesee R valley—28 (ACCC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: mostly singles sparsely distributed; max eight Jan 1 (Hamburg CC). Wrens: Winter—four Dec 28 (ACCC), singles Feb 2 Springbrook (DD), Toad Hollow (Eden) (TLB), Mar 4 Derby (TLB); Carolina—one Dec 28 (ACCC). Mockingbird: at least seven birds at scattered localities. Catbird: one Dec 18 Lewiston (WHK). Brown Thrasher: singles, feeder of LFK mid Nov through Jan 3 including Jamestown CC; throughout Jan Lewiston (WHK); Feb 14, 18, Mar 13 South Pk, Bflo (JK). Robin: scattered reports of individuals or small flocks—max 12 Dec 22 (BOSCC), 10 Dec 28 (ACCC). Hermit Thrush: singles Dec 22 (BOSCC), Feb 3 Tonawanda (GI, Zehr). Eastern Bluebird: arr two Feb 20 Sturgeon Pt (TLB). Water Pipit: first winter record for Chaut Co—one Dec 29 (Jamestown CC); arr five Mar 18 Transit (LDB). BOHEMIAN WAXWING: one Dec 21, 22 Eden (TLB,RFA). Cedar Waxwing: usual scattering of small flocks—max 55 Dec 10 South Pk, Bflo (JK), 58 Dec 28 (ACCC), 64 Feb 20 Aurora (JK). Shrikes: Northern—a few individuals scattered throughout Region with concentration on L Ont plain, max five Feb 23 Ont Plain (HDM *et al*); Loggerhead—singles Mar 23 Yates Township (HDM *et al*), Mar 27 Riverside Marsh (FE).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: three Dec 1 Town of Portland (FMR, OS); two Dec 30 Cazenovia Pk, Bflo (RR). Eastern Meadowlark: a few individuals on lake plains and nine Dec 28 (ACCC); unusually small numbers of returning birds noted from mid Mar on. Red-winged Blackbird: a few individuals and

small flocks scattered throughout Region—max 15 Dec 22 (BOSCC); return flight started Mar 2 one Cazenovia Pk, Bflo (JK) but no large numbers until second half of month—1000 Mar 20 southern Chaut Co (ECP,FE), 3000 Mar 29 Falconer (CB). Rusty Blackbird: rare in winter—one Dec 28 (Scio CC), Dec 29 Belmont (LDB), two Feb 6 North Java (PB); 40 Mar 27 Riverside Marsh (FE), 50 Mar 29 Falconer (CB). Common Grackle: a few individuals and small flocks scattered throughout Region during Dec, max 9 Dec 22 (BOSCC); only other winter record—one Jan 3 Springbrook (DD); arr 16 Mar 3 Scio (LDB). Brown-headed Cowbird: a few small flocks and scattered individuals especially during Dec; two large flocks—95 Dec 28 (Scio CC), 53 Dec 28 (ACCC); flock of 20 wintered at a feeder in Jamestown (FE).

Cardinal: increase continues well-monitored at feeding stations—231 Dec 28 (ACCC), 217 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), 165 Dec 29 (Jamestown CC), 122 Dec 22 (BOSCC). *DICKCISSEL*: imm male to adult plumage at Sundell feeder in Fluvanna with flock of House Sparrows Dec 26 to Apr 14 (RAS *et al*). Evening Grosbeak: excellent flight with large numbers at feeding stations in Southern Tier counties—max 1126 Dec 28 (ACCC), 565 Dec 28 (Scio CC), 475 Dec 29 (Jamestown CC); numbers dropped off dramatically in Jan and then built up again in late Feb and Mar. Purple Finch: a few individuals throughout winter—max 9 Dec 28 (ACCC). Pine Grosbeak: excellent flight with small flocks scattered throughout Region—max counts 56 Dec 28 (ACCC), 32 Feb 23 Harris Hill Rd, Gerry Township, Chaut Co (RAS), 26 Feb 8 same location (CB). *HOARY REDPOLL*: one Jan 12 Porter Township (WHK). (Ed. Note: For a critical discussion of the complex inter-relationships of the Common and Hoary Redpolls and the identification problems involved, the reader is referred to Peter Post's article in *The Kingbird* 17(2):89, May 1967 and Robert Yunick's article in *The Kingbird* 16(4):204, Oct. 1966.) Common Redpoll: small flocks or individuals at well-scattered localities throughout Region but definitely concentrated on lake plains—max 100 Jan 16 Ridgeway (PB). Pine Siskin: a few individuals and very small flocks throughout Region during winter—max 9 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC); 9 Dec 25, Jan 12 Forest Lawn Cemetery, Bflo (AF). American Goldfinch: substantial numbers throughout Region, especially during Dec—max counts 196 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), 113 Dec 28 (ACCC), 104 Dec 29 (Jamestown CC). Red Crossbill: one Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), one male throughout Jan and Feb visiting feeder in Jamestown (Carlson). Refous-sided Towhee: scattering of singles or pairs at feeders throughout Region.

Sparrows: Vesper—arr one Mar 24 Eden (TLB); Slate-colored Junco—high counts during Dec, 569 Dec 28 (ACCC), 335 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), 265 Dec 29 (Jamestown CC), 194 Dec 22 (BOSCC); *OREGON JUNCO*—one Dec 9 through Jan 31 Lewiston (WHK); Tree—unusually high counts, 1812 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), 1494 Dec 28 (ACCC), 1074 Dec 22 (BOSCC); Field—surprisingly scarce, three Dec 29 (Jamestown CC), one Dec 28 (Scio CC); *HARRIS' SPARROW*: imm at feeder of Tom Welch, Blanding Rd, Silver Creek Dec 7 through Mar 31 (mob; photographed); White-crowned—a few individuals and small flocks at feeders throughout Region, max 18 Feb 1 Silver Creek (PB, RR, Salisbury, Dorst); White-throated—unusually high counts, 26 Dec 28 (ACCC), 20 Dec 22 (BOSCC), 16 Dec 28 (Scio CC) 13 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC); Fox—one Dec 28 (Scio CC), arr one Mar 27 Lyndonville (WGS); Swamp—singles Dec 1 Town of Poland (FMR,OS), Dec 23 Belmont (LDB), Dec 29 (Jamestown CC), four Dec 22 (BOSCC), arr one Mar 22 Fillmore (LDB); Song—high winter counts, 44 Dec 28 (ACCC), 42 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), 37 Dec 22 (BOSCC). Lapland Longspur: good numbers late Jan to mid Feb on L Ont plain—max 220 Jan 26 Yates (Brownstein); a few on L Erie plain—max 22 Feb 12 Marilla (DD). Snow Bunting: seven reports of flocks between 200 and 800, six of which were from L Erie plain; max 2000 Feb 12 Marilla (DD).

19 Chestnut Street, Jamestown, N.Y. 14701

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for December were about average. The first half of January was much below normal. A prolonged late January thaw brought the month's temperature up to about average. Temperatures for February and March were also about normal. February was dry with only a third of the average precipitation and March had less than half of average. Snowfall for December and January was heavy. It decreased to 15 inches in February and only 3 inches in March. Some parts of the Region had heavier snowfall.

The spring flight of Whistling Swans was down sharply from last year's heavy flight. Canada Geese seemed about average. Most ducks seemed somewhat down, exceptions being the Ring-necked Duck and Hooded Merganser which occurred in good numbers. A few Goshawks wintered, as did a small number of the two other accipiters. Red-tails were common, but Rough-legs were very scarce. Only one report of the Snowy Owl was received.

The various blackbirds wintered in average numbers. Evening and Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls were generally distributed. Pine Siskins were very scarce, both crossbills were unreported. Tree Sparrows were abundant.

Among the more outstanding birds were: Common Eider, Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Black-headed Gull, Carolina Wren and Bohemian Waxwing.

Observers cited in text: DC—Mr. & Mrs. Dort Cameron; JHC—Jerry Czeck; GD—Gertrude Davis; JJD—James J. Doherty; JWF—John W. Foster; WH—William Hartman; GWJ—George W. Jones; RHJ—Robert H. Jones; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitzer; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WLL—Warren L. Lloyd; TM—Theodore Mack; JHM—J. H. Madden; RGM—Robert G. McKinney; JM—Mr. & Mrs. Joseph McNett; AM—Alfred Maley; MM—Maryanne Menuhin; HSM—Howard S. Miller; NSM—Dr. & Mrs. Neil S. Moon; RTO—Robert T. O'Hara; WO—William Orwin; FHP—Frank H. Phelps; ES—Ester Stiles; MAS—Mary Ann Sunderlin; SFT—Sarah F. Talpey; ST—Stephen Taylor; FT—Frank Templeton; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow; WPW—W. Paul Weld; RJW—Robert J. White.

Locations: BB—Braddocks Bay; CL—Conesus Lake; DFP—Durand-Eastman Park; EL—East Lakeshore; GR—Genesee River; IB—Irondequoit Bay; HBSP—Hamlin Beach State Park; LLCC—Little Lakes Christmas Census; MP—Mendon Ponds; SB—Sodus Bay; WL—West Lakeshore; RCC—Rochester Christmas Census.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: two Dec 20 CL (FT), last fall record. Red-throated Loon: one Mar 23 WL (AEK,ST), very early spring date. Pied-billed Grebe: 13 Dec 22 CL (WCL,RJW); one Jan 19 GR (JWF,TM). Great Blue Heron: two Dec 29 GR (AM,TET); one Mar 22 Hamlin (NM). Whistling Swan: 48 Mar 22 BB (GOS hike), high count. Snow Goose: 14 Mar 18 Groveland (WO). Mallard: 123 Dec 29 RCC. Black Duck: 125 Dec 22 LLCC. Pintail: one Jan 12 & 19 SB (WLL,MAS). Wood Duck: one Dec 28 & Jan 12 GR (AM,TET). Redhead: 156 Dec 22 CL (WCL *et al*); 40 Mar 18 SB (GWJ); 50 Mar 23 SB (TET). Ring-necked Duck: max 114 Mar 30 WL (WLL,MAS). Canvasback: 150 Mar 18 SB (GWJ); 200 Mar 23 SB (TET). Greater Scaup: 2810 Jan 19 GR (several), our highest wintering count. Common Goldeneye: 1272 Jan 12 EL & WL (several). Probably an all-time low count for the duck census. Bufflehead: 198 Dec 29 EL & WL (several). Oldsquaw: 1363 Jan 19 EL & WL (several). **COMMON EIDER**: a female Jan 14 Irondequoit Bay Outlet (ST), seen under very favorable conditions. The observer is very familiar with the species in New England. White-winged Scoter: 40 Dec 29 EL & WL (several); 59 Jan 19 EL & WL (several); 90 Feb 18 HBSP (RTO *et al*). Surf Scoter: one Jan 4 GR (HSM,RTO); one Jan 5 WL (WLL, MAS). Common Scoter: two Feb 22 near SB (MM,ES). Hooded Merganser: one wintered in the Round Pond-Buck Pond area (several); two Feb 22 SB (MM,ES);

generally distributed in small numbers along the lakeside ponds by mid-March. Common Merganser: 121 Jan 19 EL & WL (several).

HAWKS-OWLS: GOSHAWK: one Dec 1 Webster, one Dec 14 Penfield, one Dec 22 Webster, all by JHC—these records involve at least two birds; an adult and immature Mar 8 near Marion (TET). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Dec 21 near Fairport (TET); one Dec 29 in Greece (JWF). Cooper's Hawk: one Dec 22 Hemlock L (WCL,RJW); one Jan 13 Newark (ES); one Jan 25 Retsof (WCL); one Jan 28 MP (SFT); a few singles along the lake during late March. Red-tailed Hawk: 40 Dec 22 LLCC; nine Jan 23 Newark (ES). Rough-legged Hawk: four Dec 22 LLCC; unreported thereafter until a few in late March along the lake, max seven Mar 30 WL (WLL,MAS). Golden Eagle: an adult Mar 30 MP (RTO), well seen. The observer has seen the bird three times previously. The bird remained at least until Apr 5. Bald Eagle: two adults Dec 22 near Hemlock L (several); one adult Feb 16 in the same place (RTO). Marsh Hawk: three Dec 22 LLCC; one Dec 29 RCC; up to five a day along the WL in late March, mostly around BB; most seemed to be birds that had paused in migration. Sparrow Hawk: 12 Dec 22 LLCC; seven Dec 29 RCC; nine Jan 23 Newark (ES). For the first time in years there was no substantial late March hawk flight along Lake Ontario, probably due to unfavorable winds.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT: max 178 Dec 29 RCC. Virginia Rail: an injured bird was found Dec 29 on a road between Round and Buck Ponds (John Mitchell). The bird later died and the specimen was preserved. Am. Coot: 39 Dec 22 LLCC; one Dec 29 & Jan 4 GR (RTO *et al.*).

Killdeer: eight Dec 7 BB (WCL); three Dec 20 CL (FT). **BAIRD'S SAND-PIPER:** one Dec 8, one of the most astonishing dates recorded for a long time. The bird was feeding on a windrow of marsh vegetation near the west spit of Bradocks Bay. The observer studied the bird from a distance of 75 feet, being unable to approach closer because of surrounding water and ice. Realizing the extreme lateness of the date, the observer studied the bird very carefully as to size, plumage and call notes. Mr. Listman feels confident of his identification.

Glaucous Gull: one Jan 18-19 IB (JM *et al.*). Iceland Gull: max four Jan 19 EL (AEK); one Mar 23 IB (RTO), last date although some years the species is recorded much later. Bonaparte's Gull: seven Mar 27 IB (MAS), first spring record. **BLACK-HEADED GULL:** an adult in winter plumage Jan 25 at IB Outlet (AEK, ST *et al.*). Found first by Kemnitz and Taylor, both of whom have had previous experience with the species. The bird was seen under very favorable conditions with a 30x scope and binoculars. The Bonaparte-like upper wings, black underside of primaries and dull red bill were clearly seen. A call was sent out on all "rare bird" exchange and at least ten other observers found the bird, which remained until mid-afternoon, frequently flying over to the lower part of Irondequoit Bay. It was not reported subsequently. This our fourth local record. The previous times the bird was associated with Bonaparte's Gulls; none were present on this occasion.

Screech Owl: 14 Dec 22 LLCC (WCL *et al.*). Great Horned Owl: 12 Dec 22 LLCC (WCL *et al.*). Snowy Owl: one Jan 12 SB (WLL *et al.*), only record. Short-eared Owl: five Dec 29 BB (several); three Jan 16 Avon (WO).

COATSUCKERS-STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: two Dec 22 LLCC; one Dec 29 RCC. Yellow-shafted Flicker: six Dec 22 LLCC; four Dec 29 RCC. Pileated Woodpecker: four Dec 22 LLCC; two regularly Irondequoit (NSM). Red-bellied Woodpecker: 14 Dec 22 LLCC; five Dec 29 RCC. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Dec 22 Honeoye L (DC,JJD,RHJ). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Dec 29 DEP (NSM *et al.*). Hairy Woodpecker: 15 Dec 22 LLCC; 28 Dec 29 RCC. Downy Woodpecker: 61 Dec 22 LLCC; 71 Dec 29 RCC. Eastern Phoebe: one Mar 20 CL (JHM), rather early.

Horned Lark: 45 Dec 22 LLCC; 150 Mar 15 Newark (MM,ES,TET). Blue Jay: 130 Dec 22 LLCC; 47 Dec 29 RCC. Common Crow: 734 LLCC; 782 Dec 29 RCC.

Black-capped Chickadee: 253 Dec 22 LLCC; 291 Dec 29 RCC. Tufted Titmouse: 26 Dec 29 RCC. White-breasted Nuthatch: 55 Dec 22 LLCC; 53 Dec 29 RCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: seven Dec 29 RCC (NSM *et al*). Brown Creeper: five Dec 29 RCC. Winter Wren: two Dec 29 RCC; two Feb 9 DEP (WPW). Carolina Wren: one Dec 9 Rochester (JWF); one Feb 18-Mar 31 DEP (Mr. & Mrs. Darrow Dutcher *et al*). Two more birds were reported from feeders in Rochester and Pittsford. While these two reports were not fully verified, they are probably correct. Mockingbird: one all of Dec, Livonia (JHM); 3 Dec 29 RCC. Catbird: one Dec 8 DEP (HSM,FHP), last date. Robin: seven Dec 22 LLCC; 29 Dec 29 RCC; scarce until Mar 20 when migrants appeared. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 25 Dec 22 LLCC; eight Feb 16 DEP (GOS hike). *BOHEMIAN WAXWING*: one Jan 11 DEP (HSM,RTO); one Jan 20 Irondequoit (ST); 11 Mar 23 Irondequoit (AEK, NSM,ST). While one or two birds are reported fairly regularly, 11 is a very high count locally. Cedar Waxwing: except for a flock of 30-35 birds in the DEP-Irondequoit area the only report was of two birds on the LLCC. Northern Shrike: three Dec 22 LLCC; three Dec 29 RCC; three Feb 18 HBSP (RTO *et al*).

VIREOS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: max 1226 LLCC. Eastern Meadowlark: four Dec 22 LLCC; six-13 all of Jan Honeoye Falls (SFT); five Feb 9 Kendall (WCL *et al*); seven Feb 15 Avon (WO). Red-winged Blackbird: 13 Dec 22 LLCC; 241 Dec 22 RCC; a moderate March flight. Rusty Blackbird: two Dec 28 Penfield (GD); seven Dec 29 Seneca Pk (AM). Common Grackle: two wintered at a feeder near Round Pond; a *too* good spring flight. Brown-headed Cowbird: 12 Dec 29 RCC; 50 Jan 20 BB (WCL); some at various feeders.

Cardinal: 124 Dec 22 LLCC; 214 Dec 29 RCC. Evening Grosbeak: 107 Dec 22 LLCC; 43 Dec 29 RCC; a flock of 30 wintered in the Webster-DEP area (JM *et al*). Purple Finch: scarce; one Dec 22 LLCC; two Dec 29 RCC; two Feb 16 DEP (GOS hike). Pine Grosbeak: 121 Dec 22 LLCC; 21 Dec 29 RCC; 50 Jan 6 Palmyra (WH); four Feb 16 DEP (GOS hike); eight Mar 16 Webster Pk (AEK). Common Redpoll: 65 Dec 22 LLCC; 45 Dec 29 RCC (AEK,RGM); 100 Jan 12 Kendall (WCL); 200 Feb 9 Kendall (WCL *et al*). Pine Siskin: very scarce; one Dec 29 Greece (HSM, Michael O'Hara, RTO); two Jan 20 Irondequoit (ST). American Goldfinch: 120 Dec 22 LLCC; 145 Dec 29 RCC. Savannah Sparrow: one Dec 22 Honeoye L (DC,JJD,RHJ), the area's second winter record. All three observers had close studies under favorable conditions. Slate-colored Junco: 47 Dec 22 LLCC; 231 Dec 29 RCC. Tree Sparrow: abundant; 1207 Dec 22 LLCC; 1265 Dec 29 RCC. White-crowned Sparrow: five Dec 29 RCC (NSM *et al*); two Jan 11 Irondequoit (WPW); three Mar 24 Avon (WO); three other records of single birds. White-throated Sparrow: one Dec 22 LLCC; two Jan 14 Powder Mill Pk (ST); one appeared regularly at a feeder in Irondequoit. Song Sparrow: 50 Dec 20 in Conesus L Swamp (FT); 36 Dec 29 RCC. Lapland Longspur: ten Dec 10 Perry (WCL); six Jan 9 Newark (ES); eight Jan 11 Avon (WO); 12 Mar 15 Newark (JWF,ES,TET). Snow Bunting: 765 Dec 22 LLCC; 209 Dec 29 RCC; 500 Jan 2 Livonia (JHM); 1000 Jan 26 West Walworth (RHJ *et al*), 1000 Jan 29 Kendall (WCL).

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

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

DOROTHY W. McILROY

The Region missed the heavy snows that fell farther north. There was frequent light snow, almost daily in January, but no big accumulation. Even in March snowfall was light. Temperatures in general were below normal, although no extreme lows were recorded. The usual January thaws, on 23-24 and 28-30, temporarily

took most of the ice out of the streams but did not melt the pools at Montezuma Refuge, which remained frozen solid until mid-March and were still mostly frozen March 31. February was generally cold. In March, below normal temperatures with cold north and northwest winds persisted until March 17-18, when the temperature rose into the 50's with the first south winds. Thousands of Canada Geese poured in, along with the first Whistling Swans, Blue and Snow Geese, and Woodcocks, and the first large flights of Killdeer, Robins, Meadowlarks, male redwings and grackles.

On the January 12 Waterfowl Count, the Region total was 15643, somewhat lower than the preceding two years. Horned Grebes, Coots and Mallards increased in numbers; Black Ducks, Redheads, Canvasbacks, Scaup, Goldeneyes and Buffleheads decreased.

A very conservative estimate of the Canada Geese in the Cayuga Basin March 28 by Clayton Hardy was 80,000. Flocks continued to arrive after that. Increased numbers of Blue Geese at Montezuma, first noted about six years ago, were present by late March.

Winter finch population seemed to peter out after January except in a few localities. Pine Grosbeaks and Snow Buntings were the prominent species. Snowy Owls were missing.

Of special interest were three repeat appearances—Eared Grebe, female Barrow's Goldeneye and Lesser Black-backed Gull; immature Black-legged Kittiwake, an extremely early Purple Martin record, Bohemian Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler at a feeder, and Oregon Junco.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; EBC—Eaton Bird Club, Geneva; JWC—January Waterfowl Census January 12; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen—Seneca; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; THS—Texas Hollow Sanctuary, Schuyler County.

Area compilers: Jack Brubaker, William Groesbeck, Frank Guthrie, Clayton Hardy, Jayson Walker, Catherine Walsh, Mary Welles.

Observers: WEB—Walter Benning; JB—Jack Brubaker; RC—Richard Clark; WMG—William Groesbeck; FG—Frank Guthrie; CH—Clayton Hardy; WH—Wilfred Howard; PK—Paul Kelsey; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; DBP—David Peakall; LP—Louise Proskine; MS—Mark Stephenson; SHS—Sally Hoyt Spofford; BS—Betty Strath; PT—Paris Trail; PePT—Pepper Trail; JW—Jayson Walker; CW—Catherine Walsh; MPW—Mary Welles.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: a few singles Sen L and Cay L. Horned Grebe: 180 on JWC (86 in 1968); very few Sen L (JB,CW); 89 Jan 4 Cay L (R. Giddings), unusually high count. *EARED GREBE*: one Sen L at Geneva Dec 7 (PT) and Mar 23 (EBC), same place as several previous years. Pied-billed Grebe: ten Dec 1 MNWR (WEB); one wintered Cay L, two or three wintered Watkins (JB). Great Blue Heron: last, six Dec 1 MNWR (WEB); arr Mar 23, one each MNWR (WEB) and Dryden (PK). Whistling Swan: arr Mar 17, seven MNWR (CH) and 30 Sen L near Watkins (JB); one Mar 23 Chemung R Elmira (WH); Mar 24 on, ten Branchport Keuka L (FG); 23 at Kanacadea Pk Recreation Area Hornell Mar 30 for three days (WMG). Canada Goose: over 300 wintered Cay L; migrants arr first week of Mar, with unusually heavy flights early Mar Keuka (FG) and heavy flights Watkins Mar 6 (JB); very heavy lights Mar 17 and especially 18 Watkins (JB); "thousands" arr Mar 17 Cay L, flight tapering off Mar 18; heavy flight Elmira area Mar 6, and especially Mar 17-20 (MPW); max MNWR 25,000 Mar 27 with 80,000+ Cay L basin as of Mar 28 (CH); a smaller flight Mar 28. Snow Goose: arr Mar 17, six Union Springs, Cay L (DM) and three MNWR (CH); max 150 Mar 27 MNWR (CH). Blue Goose: arr one Mar 17 and max 500 Mar 27, MNWR (CH).

Mallard: 3029 on JWC (2315 in 1968); reduced numbers Keuka L (FG). Black Duck: 1651 on JWC (2317 in 1968). Gadwall: three winter reports—one Dec 21

Sen L (WEB), two on JWC Hammondspport (FG), one male Feb 16 Cay L (DM); max 114 Mar 28 MNWR (CH). Pintail: ten wintered n. end Sen L (CW), one wintered Cay L; at MNWR—arr 200 Mar 7, max 827 Mar 28 (CH). Green-winged Teal: two winter reports—two Dec 1 MNWR (WEB), one on JWC Chemung R; arr Mar 18 SWS (L. Pearsall); Branchport Mar 28 (Dr. James White), fourth Mar record for Keuka L. Blue-winged Teal: arr one Mar 22 Farley's Pt, Cay L (MS). EUROPEAN WIDGEON: one Mar 20 Penn Yan marsh (Francis Orcutt), only recent Keuka L record. Am. Widgeon: 77 Dec 1 MNWR (WEB); three on JWC; max 232 Mar 28 MNWR (CH). Shoveler: last, 25 Dec 1 (WEB), arr two Mar 21 (CH), max 83 Mar 28 (CH), all MNWR. Wood Duck: two wintered SWS, up to 20 there Mar 31; only report Keuka L Mar 29, usually present in numbers late Mar (FG).

Few diving ducks during winter s. end Sen L (JB), numbers also low Cay L. Redhead: 6722 on JWC (7968 in 1968). Ring-necked Duck: four on JWC; good numbers late Mar Cay basin—on Mar 28, 312 MNWR (CH) and 200+ n. end Cay L (DM). Canvasback: 783 on JWC (1353 in 1968). Scaup: 1897 on JWC (2226 in 1968); 200 Lesser Mar 28 MNWR (CH). Common Goldeneye: 573 on JWC (1048 in 1968). BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: one female Jan 2 Sheldrake, Cay L (DM), seen a few other times Jan & Feb, 6th year. Bufflehead: 116 on JWC (190 in 1968); "plentiful" Keuka L (FG); 42 Mar 28 MNWR (CH). Oldsquaw: only reports—five Sen L Dec 3 (WEB), 14 Feb 24 Cay L (DM). White-winged Scoter: one report—two Mar 29 Watkins (JB). Ruddy Duck: two winter reports—five Dec 1 MNWR (WEB), one Jan 15 Myers Cay L (J. Patterson); arr one female Mar 24 Watkins (JB,BS). Hooded Merganser: 145 Dec 1 MNWR (WEB); 18 on JWC; 28 Mar 28 MNWR (CH). Common Merganser: 84 on JWC. Red-breasted Merganser: 12 on JWC; 20–40 n. end Sen L in Mar (CW).

HAWKS-OWLS: Turkey Vulture: arr Mar 28, one each MNWR (CH) and Etna (DBP). Goshawk: several reports Ithaca area; two (either female or imm) Dec 14 through Jan, Wheat Rd s. of Phelps (PT); one Jan 1 Erin (Leonard Andrus *vide* MPW); one Jan 15 near Waterloo (JW). "More reports of Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks than in a long time" Watkins area—six reports of Cooper's, four reports of Sharp-shinned (JB); Cooper's reports included one (two?) imm Odessa in Mar "making rounds of feeding stations" (BS). Other Cooper's—four reports Ithaca area Dec and Jan, one Feb 7 Geneva area (PepT), one Mar 15 MNWR (WEB). Other Sharp-shinned—singles Dec 15, Jan 11 and several times in Feb in Ithaca area; one Dec 22 (PepT) and one Dec 28 (EBC) in Geneva area. Red-tailed Hawk: good numbers everywhere; "more than usual" Geneva-Waterloo area (CW, JW), 12 Dec 28 EBC; "plentiful" Keuka area, max nine in one morning (FG). Red-shouldered Hawk: one report—one Mar 23 MNWR (WEB). Rough-legged Hawk: a few present throughout Region through Feb, mostly singles. BALD EAGLE: one Mar 28 MNWR (CH). Marsh Hawk: one Jan 15 near Waterloo (JW); at least six wintered Ovid area (RC); three Mar 2 Romulus (WEB); one Mar 21 and 23 MNWR; Mar 23 Almond (WVG); single males Mar 17 and 30, Dryden (DBP); two females, one male near Danby Mar 30 (DM); seen quite regularly both sides Sen L (JB). OSPREY: one Mar 26 Sen L Inlet, Watkins (Jamesine Bardeen), early. PEREGRINE FALCON: two (one in brown plumage) Dec 25 Elmira (Mrs. Lewis VanDuzer), stayed only a short time. Used to be seen regularly in winter at this location, but none seen for several years until winter of 1967–68. PIGEON HAWK: one Dec 15 near Clyde (WEB), description on file. Sparrow Hawk: good numbers everywhere, especially Geneva-Waterloo area—21 Dec 28 EBC.

Ruffed Grouse; scattered records of one or two, scarce. Bobwhite: a few scattered reports Ithaca area. Turkey: flocks present all across the hill country in s. Tompkins Co—19 Irish Settlement Rd Dryden (PK), about 75 Connecticut Hill, some Willseyville and Caroline areas; three Feb 23 THS (JB); five Jan 7 Canisteo-Greenwood Rd (WVG). Virginia Rail: one found dead last part of Jan MNWR (CH); one Dec 16

Elmira (*vide* MPW), picked up on downtown street. Am. Coot: 457 on JWC (339 in 1968); down in numbers Keuka L (FG).

Killdeer, Woodcock and Snipe missing from Elmira Christmas Count, usually one to three of each (MPW). Killdeer: first, two Feb 22 Elmira (W.Ostrander); general arr Mar 18. Am. Woodcock: arr Mar 18, Elmira (Emory Knapp) and two different places Ithaca area (P. Moravec, DBP); arr Watkins Mar 19 (JB). Common Snipe: arr Mar 23 Canal at Horseheads (MPW), Mar 24 MNWR (Farnhams) and Watkins (JB). Spotted Sandpiper: arr one Mar 22 Catherine Creek, Montour (BS). Greater Yellowlegs: arr one Mar 22 Farley's Pt Cay L (MS). Glaucous Gull: two reports—one Feb 19 Ithaca (R.J.Smith), one all white bird n. end Sen L Feb 23 (JW,WEB). Iceland Gull: one Ithaca Mar 6-10 (F.Scheider, DM), only report. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: one Dec 12-Mar 25 Ithaca (DM), 6th consecutive winter. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls: over 800 Feb 6 Watkins, unusually large number (JB); 150 Herring, 3000 Ring-billed Mar 28 MNWR (CH). **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: imm Dec 31 Sen L, photographed (CW)—see field note.

Mourning Dove: reports varied from "fairly abundant" Waterloo (JW) to none Hornell to end of period (WGM). All owls scarce Elmira (MPW). Screech Owl: total of about 13 reports of singles Geneva, Waterloo, Ithaca, Keuka and Auburn areas; 16 at ten locations during winter Watkins area (JB); three in Jan in Wood Duck box MNWR (CH); one-eyed bird brought to Lab. of Ornithology late Feb, kept a week, released when it appeared capable of surviving. Horned Owl: several reports—MNWR, Ithaca, Geneva; pair nesting Geneva area (PT). Barred Owl: one Dec 28 EBC; two THS all winter (JB). Long-eared Owl: one w. side Cay L Jan 7 (*vide* Eric Johnson); one Feb 3 Dodge Rd Ithaca; one record Keuka (FG). Short-eared Owl: good numbers wintered Sen L, Cay L area—seven "in usual place" s.w. of Waterloo (JW), last seen Mar 25; 11 e. side Sen L and five or six w. side near Geneva during Jan (CW); five Perry City, ten near Lodi, nine Reading Center, one Bronson Hill Rd, all Watkins area (JB); five Jan 12 Cay L e. of Romulus (DM) and five Mar 2 Romulus (WEB) may have been from Ovid group, max 13 (RC); two-eight King Ferry, four Ludlowville (RC); a few near Elmira (MPW). Saw-whet Owl: one found Jan 16 in cellar in Varna (Helen Francis), died of weakness; one found dead Mar 16 on Rtes. 5 & 20 near MNWR (CH).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: a few wintered on flowing streams. Yellow-shafted Flicker: total of five reports of singles Jan and Feb, Ithaca and Waterloo; one male Mar 27 N. Hornell (WGM). Pileated Woodpecker: "more reports from awed non-birders than usual" Watkins (JB); one each at three suet feeders Hornell (WGM). Red-bellied Woodpecker: singles Jan 1 Pine Tree Pt Sen L (Joe Koepfel), Jan 9 Waterloo (JW); male throughout winter Hornell (WGM); at least four pairs seen frequently Keuka (FG); resident several locations Geneva, three Dec 28 EBC. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Dec 28 Geneva (EBC); one Jan 5 Sheldrake Cay L (Ruth Williams). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Dec at least through Feb Penn Yan (Francis Orcutt *et al*); arr, one male Mar 27 N. Hornell (WGM). **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**: one Jan 1 near Yacht Club Ithaca (DBP). E. Phoebe: arr Mar 16 Trumansburg (V. Ray). Horned Lark: 155 Dec 28 EBC Geneva area; local residents back on territory by mid-Feb Ithaca (SHS); Northern ssp, 61 Dec 18 Waterloo (WEB). Tree Swallow: first, two Mar 22 Cay L (DM). **PURPLE MARTIN**: four males and three females Mar 24 MNWR in snowstorm, very early, not seen again (CH)—only report.

Blue Jay: many reports of decreased numbers at feeders, except Geneva area where normal. Common Crow: northern movement noted MNWR Feb 22 (WEB); very heavy migration through Mar Keuka (FG) and starting Mar 14 Geneva (CW). Black-capped Chickadee: more abundant than usual Waterloo (JW). Tufted Titmouse; two records Keuka Pk (FG); at least ten in Geneva area to end of Jan (CW); at three well-separated feeders Hornell (WGM); eight in six locations Watkins (JB). White-breasted Nuthatch: normal Hornell after low of last year (WGM). Red-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce. Carolina Wren: one near Ithaca (Hoffmans);

nine wintered at seven locations Watkins (JB); two Jan 4 Wellsburg (Mrs. Farr); still scarce Elmira. Mockingbird: several Ithaca area; one report Elmira; at five locations Watkins (JB); reported in Dec at Phelps (CW). Robin: singles reported on several Christmas counts, but few wintered; arr, one Mar 16 Waterloo (JW); many arr Mar 17-18. E. Bluebird: late, almost none back Mar 31; first, Mar 19 Big Flats Elmira (MPW). Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 15 Jan 5 Waterloo (JW). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two Dec 28 EBC; one Jan 1 Montour Falls (JB); one Jan to end of period Keuka College (FG). Water Pipit: arr, one Mar 7 Waterloo (JW). **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: one with 16 Cedar Waxwings Jan 1-10 Snyder Hill, Ithaca (R.Fischer, mob). Cedar Waxwing: numbers low; only *one* report for entire period Watkins area (JB); none after Dec Geneva (CW). Northern Shrike: six sightings Geneva area (CW, JW); five sightings near Ithaca; four records Keuka (FG); three sightings Feb MNWR, probably one bird (WEB); Mar 22 Cayuga (DM); Jan 1 Reading Center (Jamesine Bardeen); one sighting Elmira. Loggerhead Shrike: one Mar 25 Elmira (Norma Hood *vide* WH); one Mar 27 Ithaca (DBP).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**: one at suet feeder Penn Yan late Dec through Feb 28 (Francis Orcutt, M. Lerch), very unusual. Myrtle Warbler: only report—one in Dec, last seen Jan 1 at suet feeder Keuka (FG).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Few reports of wintering icterids, first big influx of male redwings and grackles, and meadowlarks Mar 16-18. E. Meadowlark: scattered Dec and Jan reports, max 12 Jan 1 census Ithaca; general arr Mar 17, but *none* Hornell to Mar 31 (WMC). Baltimore Oriole: one male at feeders, Jacksonville around Jan 23 (Graham, Seeley). Rusty Blackbird: a few on Christmas counts; one Jan 15 at feeder Trumansburg (LP); first, one male Mar 10 Hornell (WMC); about 300 Mar 22 Mills Rd Sen Co (CW); 200 Mar 30 Waterloo (JW). Brown-headed Cowbird: especially scarce Geneva and did not arr Mar 17 with the redwings and grackles (CW).

Cardinal: Geneva, Watkins and Keuka reported more than usual numbers; 16 at a feeder at one time Keuka (FG); fewer than usual at Ithaca feeders (SHS). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: two females Jan 25 at Trumansburg feeder (LP)—SHS commented "Apparently good report, but could they have been Black-headed?" Evening Grosbeak: population dwindled Ithaca after Dec, but a few stayed at feeders through Mar 31; small flocks Keuka all winter, max 11 (FG); 150+ at WMC feeder Hornell at end of period, and many others still in area, see field note about one in unusual plumage; good numbers Watkins and Elmira. Purple Finch: scarce everywhere. Pine Grosbeak: Ithaca—max 91 Jan 1 census, last three females Mar 30 s. of Danby (DM); four or five reports Keuka, max 75 (FG); seen regularly during winter Watkins area, max 23 Jan 1 Hector Falls, still at Montour Mar 31 (JB); max six Geneva area (PepT); max 31 Jan 1 MNWR area (WEB); max 20 Jan 1 census Elmira, but few seen there otherwise (MPW). Common Redpoll: small numbers reported Ithaca, Watkins, Waterloo, Geneva; none Hornell; only large flock 100 Jan and Feb 1 Keuka (FG); only Elmira report, three Jan 1 (MPW). Pine Siskin: scattered reports of a few everywhere except Keuka; only large flocks 85 Jan 1 and 50 Feb 23 Watkins (JB). Am. Goldfinch: at feeders everywhere in good numbers; max 200 Jan 7 Waterloo (JW). White-winged Crossbill: small flock Feb 28 Keuka (FG), only report. Rufous-sided Towhee: few wintered.

Sparrows: Savannah: one at feeder Jan 16 N. Hornell (WMC). Vesper: one Dec 28 EBC; one Jan 1 MNWR (WEB); arr Mar 20, Elmira (MPW). Slate-colored Junco: no large numbers during winter, many arr last few days of Mar. **OREGON JUNCO**: two reports—one Dec 18 Geneva (WEB), one male Mar 31 MNWR (CH) first Refuge record. Tree: abundant everywhere; max 300 Jan 1 MNWR area (WEB). Field: a few wintered Watkins, max four Jan 1 (JB). White-crowned: at feeder near Geneva to mid-Feb (PT); one Mar 1 Penn Yan (M. Lerch). White-throated: two or three wintered Ithaca (E. Little); at feeder Geneva area to Dec

15 (PT). Fox: arr, one Mar 18 Elmira (M. Smith); one Mar 23 and several reports the next week Ithaca. Swamp: one or two wintered Montour airport (JB). Song: a few wintered most areas; more than usual MNWR, max 11 Jan 12 (WEB). Lapland Longspur: scattered reports Elmira, Geneva, Waterloo, Watkins, Ithaca; max 12 Jan 1 Elmira (WH). Snow Bunting: reported everywhere; flocks of over 500 at several locations near Ithaca, many smaller flocks; several flocks estimated at close to 1000 Keuka (FG); about 600 Dec-Feb Geneva (CW); flocks of 30-300 over countryside in Jan Hornell (WMC); 2000 Feb 7 Waterloo (JW); max 55 Elmira Jan 1; numbers began to decrease in Feb.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

According to figures from the U.S. Weather Station at Broome County Airport temperatures averaged below normal in each month of the period but were seldom severe. Only four days saw the temperature drop below zero and -4 was the lowest officially recorded reading. Snowfall was also below average, about sixty percent of normal for the season. Only once, February 9, did as much as four inches fall in a 24 hour period. Snow cover was fairly persistent but seldom exceeded three inches and, except for Jan 8 to Jan 18, never for more than two or three days at a time.

Light snow cover and an abundant rodent population combined for seemingly ideal conditions for raptors and they responded. Almost all species of hawks and owls that could be reasonably expected were recorded at least once and the more common species were definitely more numerous than usual. Four Goshawks, a Peregrine Falcon and a Golden Eagle seemed particularly noteworthy. A possibly nesting Saw-whet Owl is also of particular interest.

Winter finches, on the other hand, were disappointing after a promising start. Evening Grosbeaks were really rather numerous but the overwhelming numbers of a few years back have no doubt spoiled our perspective. Goldfinches, too, were quite prominent. Pine Grosbeaks, because of their less conspicuous habits, can be assumed to have been a good deal more common than the records seem to indicate. Siskins, redpolls and crossbills were decidedly scarce although only the White-winged Crossbill went unreported. The very real scarcity of Blue Jays seems to be explained by the poor mast crop last fall.

Mockingbirds continue to increase and Tufted Titmice at least held their own. Killdeer, two Catbirds, Robins, a Baltimore Oriole and Rufous-sided Towhees make up a respectable "half hardy" list.

Although not intense, uniformly cold weather persisted to mid March when the first balmy weather seemed to bring the first significant movement of early migrants such as Robins and blackbirds, two to three weeks behind schedule.

Place name abbreviations: Bing-Binghamton; Chen-Chenango; CVSP-Chenango Valley State Park; CC-Choconut Center, a couple of miles north of Johnson City; Pep Res-Pepacton Reservoir; Skan L-Skaneateles Lake; WP-Whitney Point.

Observer abbreviations: DB-Donald Bemont; LB-Leslie Bemont; LC-Mrs. Lynn Clark; GC-Gail Corderman; WC-Warren Corderman; BCC-Binghamton Christmas Count; CCC-Cortland Christmas Count; TCC-Tioga Christmas Count; MC-Mitchell Cubberly; A,MD-Anna & Marilyn Davis; C,JD-Carleton & Jeanne Davis; RD-Robert Dirig; EF-Elizabeth Feldhusen; CG-Clinton Gerould; JAG-John A. Gustafson; EK-Eugene Kirch; AL-Arthur Levy; ML-Margaret Lynch; HM-Harriet Marsi; MM-Michael Moore; HR-Hetty Rinker; D,MR-Dorothy & Margery Rutbell; R,JS-Robert & Jean Saunders; DS-Dorothy Sawyer; MS-Mary

Sheffield; JS—James Shuler; HS—Harvey Spivak; AS—Anne Stratton; RS—Richard Sutliff; DW—Donald Weber; MW—Mildred White; RW—Ruth Williams.

LOONS-DUCKS: Horned Grebe: one Dec 21, CCC and one Dec 27, Endicott (LB,DB); no more. Pied-billed Grebe: two Dec 21, CCC and one Dec 29, BCC (RS,LB,DB). Great Blue Heron: Jan 1, Berkshire (ML), and Jan 12 (A,MD). Canada Goose: Mar 6, Owego (MW, CG); Mar 16 on, in large numbers. Pintail: four Mar 23, CVSP (A,MD) and four more at WP (MS). Green-winged Teal: Mar 28, Smithboro Flats in Tioga Co (RW). Blue-winged Teal: one with no apparent injury picked up but then released on Susquehanna River at Owego remained between there and Nichols for the rest of the period (MW,JS). American Widgeon: two Mar 28, CVSP (A,MD). Wood Duck: one Dec 21, CCC; two Mar 23, Cortland (HS). Redhead: 121 Dec 21, Skan L, CCC; one Mar 14, Apalachin (D,MR); no others. Ring-necked Duck: two Mar 20, CVSP (A,MD); over 50 at WP Mar 29. Canvasback: one female Jan 19 and Jan 27, Oneonta (EF). Scaup (*Sp?*): 25 Mar 20, Apalachin (D,MR). Common Goldeneye: 40 Dec 21, Skan L, CCC; small numbers present on rivers all winter. Bufflehead: one female Jan 19, Oneonta (EF); Feb 20, Owego (JS); migrants at WP Mar 29. Hooded Merganser: one Dec 21, Skan L, CCC; Feb 28, Chen Forks (A,MD); frequent reports all Mar. Common Merganser: small numbers all winter; over 55 at WP Mar 29 (MS). Red-breasted Merganser: eight Feb 22, Oneonta (EF); over 26 at WP Mar 29 (MS).

HAWKS-OWLS: Turkey Vulture: three Mar 21, Hancock (RD); also Mar 23, Owego (MW,CG). Goshawk: two, one in adult and one in imm plumage, seen irregularly, but fairly frequent most of the period at CC (MS), both present the same day on two occasions; also Jan 1, Berkshire (ML) and one Mar 10 and 15, in adult plumage, Andes (MC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: three Jan 1, TCC; one Jan 3, at feeder in Norwich (R,SW); no others. Cooper's Hawk: four Jan 1, TCC; one Feb and two Mar records. Red-tailed Hawk: three Dec 21, CCC; 15 Dec 29, BCC where three or four would be good; four other Dec reports, four Jan and three Feb reports including five individuals on Jan 20; 15 reports of one or two individuals in Mar plus "common along Pep Res" during late Feb and early Mar. Red-shouldered Hawk: Mar 11, Owego (MW); two later Mar reports. Rough-legged Hawk: one Dec 21, CCC; six Dec 29, BCC; one other Dec report, six Jan reports totalling 13 individuals, two Feb reports and seven Mar reports, the last one Mar 28 at Berkshire (ML). Golden Eagle: an immature flying "over house—white at base of tail and base of primaries" Feb 1, Andes (MC). Bald Eagle: six sightings from Jan 5 to Mar 15 along Pep Res including two adult birds Feb 22 and one adult and one imm Feb 28 (MC); one near Cannonsville Reservoir Feb 9 (LC). Marsh Hawk: one Dec 29, BCC; Mar 9 Berkshire (ML); four later Mar records. Peregrine Falcon: one Dec 17, an imm "sat here on branch 5 min. within 15 feet, near feeder—mask grayish, buffish cheek, white throat, brownish streaked breast", Oxford (AS). Sparrow Hawk: three Dec 21, CCC; twelve Dec 29, BCC.

Ruffed Grouse: four Dec 21, CCC; seven Dec 29, BCC. Ring-necked Pheasant: seven Dec 21, CCC; 51 Dec 29, BCC, well above normal. Turkey: reported at Nichols, Berkshire, Owego, Candor and Tioga Center during the winter. Killdeer: Dec 29 thru Jan 9, Greene (C,JD); one Jan 11, Homer (JAG); one all winter at Delhi in a swampy area (LC); migrants Mar 1, Unadilla (DS). Am. Woodcock: first report Mar 16, Hinman's Corners north of Bing (R,JS). Common Snipe: Mar 21, Berkshire (ML). Herring Gull: three Dec 21, CCC; 20 Dec 29, BCC. Ring-billed Gull: one Dec 29, BCC. Mourning Dove: 31 Dec 21, CCC; two Dec 29, BCC; over 50 Jan 12, Ouaquaga (R,JS); 30 Feb 14, Greene (C,JD); 30 or more still at Cortland Water Works to Mar 7 (HS). Screech Owl: two Jan 22, Endwell (MM); one Feb 15, Homer (JAG); also reported from Tioga Co. Horned Owl: one Dec 21, CCC; three Dec 29, BCC; fairly frequent reports. Snowy Owl: two Feb 16, Willet in Cortland Co (L. Barrows). Barred Owl: Dec 21 and Jan 25 in French Tract, south of Bing (GC,WC,EK); Jan 12, Nichols (HR). Short-eared Owl: flock at

E. Berkshire max 14 last seen Jan 19 (ML); one at Bing Jan 19 (MS, AL); Saw-whet Owl: an injured bird found Jan 28 and cared for at WP (Dr. C. Leahy, HM); first heard calling Feb 21 at Candor and two seen Mar 8—a box erected Mar 18, was being defended by owl against Starlings Mar 23—box occupied during daytime and one comes to opening “looking as fierce as possible” when approached (DW).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: two Dec 21, CCC; three Dec 29, BCC; regular reports all winter, even during Feb when seen daily at Greene (C,JD), heard once at Delhi (LC) and seen the 22nd at Unadilla (EF). Yellow-shafted Flicker: Mar 28, Berkshire (ML), the only report. Hairy Woodpecker: nine Dec 21, CCC; ten Dec 29, BCC. Downy Woodpecker: 19 Dec 21, CCC; 45 Dec 29, BCC. Eastern Phoebe: Mar 29, CVSP (A,MD); Mar 31, Berkshire (ML); the only ones. Horned Lark: 114 Dec 21, CCC; 5 Dec 29, BCC. Tree Swallow: Mar 26, Owego (MW,CG); two Mar 29, WP (MS). Blue Jay: 23 Dec 21, CCC; 48 Dec 29, BCC, a tenth to a fifth the number recorded the last couple of years; most areas mention reduced numbers. Common Crow: 981 Dec 21, CCC, a large roost at Homer (JAG); 266 Dec 29, BCC. Black-capped Chickadee: 61 Dec 21, CCC; 235 Dec 29, BCC. Tufted Titmouse: four Dec 21, CCC; 13 Dec 29, BCC; two or three daily until at least Jan 21, Hancock (RD); at Delhi during Jan and Feb (LC): at CVSP in Mar (A,MD). White-breasted Nuthatch: 17 Dec 21, CCC; 60 Dec 29, BCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: seven Dec 29, BCC; at feeders in Vestal until Feb 1 (GC, WC) and in Cortland until at least Jan 10 (Robert Slauch); one or two at Cortland Water Works most of Mar (HS); one at Gilbert State Pk near Oneonta Jan 25 (EF). Brown Creeper: two Dec 21, CCC; three Dec 29, BCC.

Carolina Wren: “all winter”, Owego (MW); one Jan 22, Bing (Lois Minehan). Mockingbird: four Dec 29, BCC; at CC all winter as last year (MS); one Dec thru Feb at Delhi (LC); at Cortland, three Jan sightings, feeding on apples and bittersweet (A. Christopher *et al*) and one at a feeder in late Mar (Rev. and Mrs. Russell); at Endwell from summer at least thru Jan 21 (Mrs. Paul Saddlemire); Mar 13, Newark Valley (ML, Louise Dean). Catbird: one “spent the largest part of winter at the yard of Dewey Bendle in—Owego” (RW); one Feb 11, Candor (DW). Robin: one Dec 21, CCC; one Dec 29, BCC; up to four Jan 20 to Feb 21, Endwell (DB); migrants Mar 15, Endwell (D,MR). Eastern Bluebird: Mar 11, South Owego (Evelyn Williams); five more reports, the next Mar 22. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 17 Dec 29, BCC. Cedar Waxwing: fewer reported than usual; 30 at Cortland in Dec and Jan (JAG) and five other reports all after Jan 25. Northern Shrike: one Dec 21, CCC; one Dec 29, BCC; nine other scattered reports. Starling: 245 Dec 21, CCC; 3922 Dec 29 BCC.

VIREOS-SPARROW: House Sparrow: 197 Dec 21, CCC, lowest number in years; 900 Dec 29, BCC. Eastern Meadowlark: Dec 19, Greene (C,JD); one Dec 28, Vestal (GC, WC, EK); Jan 12 at Friendsville in nearby Pennsylvania (Claire Gottschall). Redwinged Blackbird: six Dec 21, CCC five Dec 29, BCC; “a greater number staying for winter” (JAG); migrants Mar 5, common after Mar 16. Baltimore Oriole: Feb 11, Endwell (C. Page) and Feb 15 less than a mile away by another observer. Rusty Blackbird: one in Jan at Delhi (LC); Feb 15, west of Endicott (MM); 30 or so migrants Mar 23 and 28, Cortland (HS). Common Grackle: two Dec 21, CCC; six Dec 29, BCC; one at Candor for five days in late Jan (Robert Pantle); migrants Mar 15, Unadilla (DS). Brown-headed Cowbird: 16 Dec 21, CCC; 22 Dec 29, MCC; migrants from Mar 14.

Cardinal: 24 Dec 21, CCC; 85 Dec 29, BCC; although “usually only seen in village of Delhi are (now) being seen in surrounding rural areas” (LC). Dickcissel: one Feb 11, Bing (Mr. & Mrs. William Knight), had been regular before. Evening Grosbeak: 101 Dec 21, CCC; 189 Dec 29, BCC; “a large flock present in Oneonta the entire period” (EF); also present in the Triple Cities area, Norwich and Delhi all period in lesser numbers while at Andes they “came early then disappeared” (MC). Purple Finch: three or four at Hinman’s Corners Feb 6 to Mar

21 (R,JS) and four other scattered reports and that is all. Pine Grosbeak: 12 Dec 21, CCC; seven Dec 29, BCC; twenty other reports during the period, rarely more than six birds at a time. Common Redpoll: two Jan 1, TCC; 35 Jan 19, Norwich (R,SW) and a like number at Oxford Dec 25 (AS) and at Chen Forks Feb 9 (A, MD); reported more regularly after Mar 15 but only in small numbers. Pine Siskin: Jan 1, TCC; the only report. American Goldfinch: seven Dec 21, CCC; 110 Dec 29, BCC; at Andes none since mid Dec—"most unusual" (MC); numerous at many feeders in Cortland and Triple Cities area all season and regular at Delhi. Red Crossbill: two Dec 25 at Union Center north of Endicott (D,MR); Jan 1, TCC. Rufous-sided Towhee: three Dec 29, BCC one of which was seen frequently all winter at a feeder at CC (MS).

Savannah Sparrow: Mar 30, Delhi (LC); Mar 31, Milford, in the Oneonta area (Cora Wellman). Slate-colored Junco: four Dec 21, CCC; 112 Dec 29, BCC; small numbers present at many feeders all winter; noticeable increase Mar 19. Tree Sparrow: 129 Dec 21, CCC; 357 Dec 29, BCC. Chipping Sparrow: Mar 18, west of Endicott (MM), very early if not a wintering bird, "saw the black eye-line clearly". Field Sparrow: one Jan 19, Bing (Mark Harris); Mar 19, Endicott (MM) and two Mar 28, Hancock (RD), the only migrants reported. White-throated Sparrow: four Dec 29, BCC, one of them at a feeder in Endwell all of Dec and to Jan 3 (D,MR). Fox Sparrow: one Dec 21, CCC; one Dec 6 and 7, Endwell (LB, DB); first migrant Mar 17, Nichols (Virginia Hudson). Song Sparrow: four Dec 21, CCC; 13 Dec 29, BCC; the usual few all winter; first report of singing Feb 17; migrants obvious by Mar 14. Lapland Longspur: three Dec 21, CCC. Snow Bunting: 340 Dec 21, CCC; 200 Dec 29, BCC; 13 other reports, the last Mar 17, Oneonta (John New).

710 University Ave., Endwell, N.R. 13760

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

Another Central New York winter! Mild early December, the annual Syracuse Christmas count snowstorm, below-zero temperatures for the Oswego Christmas Count, a sleet storm for the Oneida one, and severe freezing with howling NW winds for the Howland Island count. Early January had a less than horrendous temperature pattern, but by Waterfowl Census period severe bone-chilling cold had set in and more water areas were frozen over (including the majority of Oswego Harbor) than were open. By mid-January Lake Ontario ice formation looked like late February. Heavy snows and continued cold in late January decimated what few half-hardies were about, and the small local berry, seed, and cone crops were virtually exhausted by early February. The woodlots, fields, and hedgerows of February had that blank, birdless look, and a hardy observer afield all day would be lucky to come up with 20 species of landbirds. Such ordinarily common species as Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Purple Finch, and Goldfinch were singularly scarce and Cedar Waxwings were very nearly uniformly absent.

March showed no improvement. March 1-17 had steady below-freezing weather. The open lead at Brewerton on Oneida L had not expanded to one-fourth mile in length by March 20 (it is normally three-fourths to a mile by then). Spring arrivals were correspondingly very late (v.i. Robin, Red-winged Blackbird) and March hawk tallies at Derby Hill were low in numbers and variety. A push of waterfowl, primarily Canada Geese, Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, and Common Goldeneye, occurred on March 18-19 and the next week saw an influx of many early landbird migrants. However, severe freezing cold returned March 29-31 and the recently thawed marshes sealed over again, forcing hundreds of birds, notably Rusty Blackbirds and Common Snipe, to *snow-rimmed pasture creeks and sewage plant outlets*.

Positives for the period were few: 1) a light flight of Goshawks; 2) a minor incursion of Short-eared Owls and Northern Shrikes; 3) a heavy but late flight of Glaucous and, to lesser extent, Iceland Gulls; 4) an irruption of Red-bellied Woodpeckers; 5) an excellent flight of Evening Grosbeaks, largely feeder-sustained; 6) a moderate flight of Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls; 7) a fair March Snow Bunting flight. Negatives were much easier to come by: 1) the sharp reduction in wintering Black Ducks, Redheads, Canvasbacks, and Common Mergansers (q.v.); 2) the paucity of wintering Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks; 3) a scarcity of all owl species except Short-eared; 4) very low counts on many normally common winter species—Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Goldfinch, Slate-colored Junco; 5) a scant sprinkling of half-hardy sparrows with even White-throated and Song Sparrows reduced in numbers.

Rarities for the period include: Eared Grebe, Barrow's Goldeneye, Harlequin Duck, Bald Eagle, Gyrfalcon, Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, and Red Crossbill.

Abbreviations: Places—DH—Derby Hill near Texas; FR—sugar beet waste impoundments at Fox Ridge near Port Byron; HIGMA—Howland Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; Onon—Onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond; Skan—Skaneateles; Syr—Syracuse. Others—BBFS—Dr. B. P. Burt's feeder survey, conducted the first week of each winter month, with all numbers given per 100 surveys; CC—Christmas count—Syr Dec 21, Oswego Dec 26, Oneida Dec 28, Old Forge Dec 31, HIGMA (NE quadrant of the CC circle) Jan 1; WFC—Waterfowl Census Jan 11–19.

Observers: VB—V. Billings; BPB—B. P. Burt; DC—D. Crumb; FLF—F. LaFrance; JWP—J. W. Propst; TMR—T. M. Riley; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; GS—G. Smith; RJS—R. J. Suttiff.

LOONS-DUCKS: No wintering loons. First Common Loon Mar 29 L Ontario (GS) Red-necked Grebe: three Dec records but only one later, Feb 9 one Onon L (FLF,RJS). Horned Grebe: very low—max three WFC. Pied-billed Grebe: winter max four WFC; arr Mar 20 Brewerton. *EARED GREBE*: one Dec 21–22 Onon L (FGS, mob)—second Regional record. Whistling Swan: arr Mar 18 Brewerton (DC); max eight Skan L (TMR). Canada Goose: winter max 17 at HIGMA; arr Mar 16, two, Brewerton; heavy flight Mar 18–19 with 100–1000 per observer and many nocturnal records; a second heavy migration Mar 29 with counts of 1200–1800 per day. Blue Goose: an adult Mar 31 Brewerton (FLF, RJS), only report. No Snow Goose noted.

Mallard and Black Duck: winter max 999 and 276 respectively on WFC; Mallard numbers now heavily in excess of wintering Black Ducks; Black Duck counts at Oswego and Onon L were particularly poor this year. Gadwall: an adult male Syr Jan 12, the only winter record (RJS). Pintail: spring flight poor, max only 200 Mar 27 HIGMA—FR (FGS). Green-winged Teal: max 200 Mar 30 HIGMA—FR (MSR). Amer. Widgeon: first Mar 1, one Brewerton; max 200 Mar 30 FR (MSR). Wood Duck: very scarce as winterers—total of three thru season and none on WFC.

Redhead: winter max 44 WFC; extremely scarce away from Skan L. Ring-necked Duck: two Syr CC; none wintered; arr Mar 18, one Bridgeport (FGS); max 150 (low) Mar 31 Brewerton and Onon L (FGS). Canvasback: Dec max 1000 Dec 9 Oneida L; extremely scarce in Jan and Feb with max two Oswego (mob); none on Skan L. Greater Scaup: WFC max 4369 with major flocks at Oswego and Minetto; Skan L count below 500 (MSR). Common Goldeneye: winter max 1211 on WFC; Oswego R counts 200–300 per day, max there 650 Jan 5 (TMR); spring tallies 300–400 per day Brewerton-Bridgeport (down from last year). *BARROW'S GOLDENEYE*: a female Jan 16 Oswego R falls (FGS), only report. Bufflehead: WFC max 141 (fair); usual tally 50–88 per day, primarily from Oswego R at Oswego (mob). Oldsquaw: very scarce thru winter—max 200 Jan 5 Oswego (TMR)

but numbers down sharply thereafter as WFC max was only 141 for entire L Ontario shoreline. *HARLEQUIN DUCK*: imm male Feb 15–Mar 16 Oswego (RJS, M. Hughes). No eiders. White-winged Scoter: WFC max five (low); scattered birds at Oneida L and Onon L prior to Jan freeze-up. Two female Surf Scoters wintered at Oswego. A single female Common Scoter Jan 11 Skan L (MSR)—rare in winter. Hooded Merganser: scarce—only two wintering individuals—as usual, female. Common Merganser: extremely scarce—WFC max 269 (less than 10% of counts five years ago). Red-breasted Merganser: winter numbers very low—WFC 31; migrant tally 282 Mar 29 Oswego and Fair Haven (FLF, RJS).

HAWKS—OWLS: Hawk migration tallies to appear in spring report. Goshawk: scattered individuals throughout Region thru winter, with single birds noted at Fabius, Pompey, Pratt Falls in Pompey Twp, Oswego, Fulton, Brewerton, Vernon, Verona, and Wampsville—better than average. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks: four (low) and three (very scarce) respectively from 23 observers—thus both smaller accipiters scarcer than Goshawk. Red-tailed Hawk: excellent wintering population with 66 on Syr and 18 on HIGMA CC; many at rat-infested dumps at Syr and Oswego and in abandoned farmlands S of HIGMA. Red-shouldered Hawk: singles, both adults, wintered at Cicero Swamp and Clay (FGS, FLF, RJS); one at Cedarville Mar 3 (K.G. Hanson) may be a wintering bird or an early migrant. Rough-legged Hawk: winter numbers only fair, with most daily tallies one-four and max ten on Syr CC; only concentrations at Syr Airport and Scott Swamp near Phoenix. *BALD EAGLE*: an adult Jan 4 Clay Twp (MSR, G, S. Morgan), only winter report. Marsh Hawk: winter max five Syr CC; none noted in Jan; first noted Feb 21 Pompey (FLF), probably a migrant. *GYRFALCON*: dark gray phase imm Feb 17–23 Oswego Harbor (JWP, mob), first Regional record in six years. Sparrow Hawk: fair numbers thru winter—one-seven per day, max 18 on Syr CC; somewhat scarce in early Feb but numbers up again in latter half of that month.

Virginia Rail: single birds picked up and reported to BPB in Syr and Baldwinsville Dec 11 and 13 respectively. Late shorebirds: last date for Piping Plover SP inlet Dec 8 (FLF, RJS)—extraordinarily late; also at SP inlet Dunlin Dec 8 and Western Sandpiper Dec 5 (FGS)—very late. Killdeer: despite the sudden and protracted Dec cold, at least six birds attempted to winter near Syr and three are known to have survived. Hungarian Partridge: persisting in Pompey Ctr area with at least two coveys located (FLF, mob).

Glaucous and Iceland Gulls: scarce thru Dec and early Jan at both Oswego and Syr; with severe weather in late Jan and Feb numbers rose sharply, max 20 Glaucous (a record high) and nine Iceland Feb 22, Oswego R and Harbor. Great Black-backed Gull: max 100 Feb 2 Oswego Harbor; most tallies far lower (30–50 per day); very few at Syr dumps and none at Brewerton. Herring and Ring-billed Gull: huge concentration Jan 26 at Oswego with 8000 Herring and 2000 Ring-billed Gulls forced into the harbor by a fierce NW gale (P. Paquette, FGS). Mourning Dove: wintering numbers much reduced from last year—largest flocks 35 at Wampsville (B.&S. Peebles), 41 at Utica (VB), and 52 at Shackleton Point on Oneida L in Dec (P. Laible), but in other areas where formerly numerous, e.g. HIGMA, reduced to four–six per day.

Screech Owl: 29 individuals noted thru period from 24 observers—about the same as last winter. Snowy Owl: none from L Ontario areas; one at Ilion Gorge area Feb (K.G. Hanson) and max two Syr Airport in Feb—definitely not a flight year. Barred Owl: was there a slight irruption this winter?—singles at Bridgeport Jan 4 (MSR) and Highland Forest Feb 9 (DC) are definitely in areas where resident birds are unknown. Long-eared Owl: very scarce, one report only, a single Sherrill Jan 12 (D. W. Ackley). Short-eared Owl: a moderate incursion, max ten Dec 14 Bridgeport (Mrs. Ellis *vide* BPB); single birds reported from Tully, Pompey, Hamilton, and Phoenix (mob). Saw-whet Owl: singles noted Labrador Pond (*vide* FLF), Liverpool (*vide* FLF), Skan (H. L. Hiscock); none, however, noted in Cicero Swamp.

CAPRIMULGIDS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: 15 wintering individuals with three each at Fayetteville (Limestone Creek) and DeWitt (Butternut Creek); most seemed to survive the Feb cold. Yellow-shafted Flicker: very scarce this winter—none on Syr nor HIGMA CC; never more than one per day. Pileated Woodpecker: new station at Middleville (VB). Red-bellied Woodpecker: seemed somewhat scarce around HIGMA, but a large-scale irruption extending far to the N and E of their usual Seneca R focal area, documented by the following places from which birds were reported to BPB (only one per locality if number not given): Sterling, Hannibal two, Martville four, Victory, Cato eight, Conquest three, Mexico eight, Oswego five, Fulton, Lysander, Baldwinsville four, Memphis, Jordan, Elbridge, Camillus, Skan Falls two, Skan two, Marietta five, Navarino three, Cedarvale two, Marcellus two, Onon Hill, Syr, Brewerton, Bridgeport, Minoa, Kirkville, Jamesville, Tully, Chittenango, Cazenovia three, and Munnsville. Red-headed Woodpecker: three winter records—imm near Sherrill thru winter (*vide* D. W. Ackley); adult Otisco L Mar 18 (GS); imm Baldwinsville (R. Fargo). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one winter record, Sherrill (Mrs. W. Lewis), some winters none recorded. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: BBFS reveals following Hairy:Downy ratios—Dec 108:165, Jan 115:188, Feb 102:205, Mar 116:190; no appreciable fall-off at feeders thru Feb and Mar but scarce in the field then.

Horned Lark: first migrants Jan 28 Pompey (FLF); 100–200 per day in Feb but Mar tallies showed no further increase. Tree Swallow: first one Mar 20 DH (FGS); no influx thereafter probably because of cold weather in late Mar. Blue Jay: Dec tallies low, and the species was frankly scarce from Jan thru Mar—approximately one–nine per day and many full birding days netted none; one observer (JWP) noted none in the entire month of Feb; on BBFS, each month's count lower than the one before, this didn't occur other years. Common Crow: DH flight only fair—max 3500 Mar 20; no 5000 days noted and Mar total around 15,000 (low, especially when compared to 1967—less than $\frac{1}{2}$). Black-capped Chickadee: Dec numbers low and a steady fall in numbers thru Jan to Mar; there was a bout of increased feeder patronage in Feb (BBFS). *BOREAL CHICKADEE*: three Feb 17 Ohio Twp, Herkimer Co. (VB), the only report away from the regular Old Forge locations. Tufted Titmouse: Nov and Dec incursion impressive with persistence into Jan; however, Feb and Mar numbers down—BBFS Dec 23, Jan 26, Feb nine, Mar eight. Red-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce thru winter—usually singles, confined to spruce plantations or at feeders; only five on Old Forge CC.

Winter Wren: scattered individuals thru Dec, five on Syr CC; only one noted in Jan (DeWitt Jan 23); none thereafter—probably succumbed to late Jan and Feb cold and snow. Carolina Wren: singles at Syr (S side—RJS and Oakwood Cemetery—MSR) and Oneida (J. Hodges). Mockingbird: two regularly at DeWitt and singles at Manlius (two), Syr (four), Oswego (Mrs. Kirby) and Borodino (GS), the last two stations both new. Brown Thrasher: one Syr CC and two Oneida CC; like Winter Wren, attrition with cold and snow in Jan and Feb—only two in Jan and none in Feb; impressive is one lasting from Dec 14 to Jan 4 Holland Patent (J.&E. VanDresar) as this area is in the snowbelt.

Robin: small flocks of two–18 thru winter; largest flock 50 Feb 20 Otisco L; appeared to survive better than other half-hardies; arr Mar 17 (very late) one DH; no heavy L Ontario flights, and Mar max there was only 140 Mar 24. Eastern Bluebird: last noted first week of Dec, three Cazenovia (C. Cook)—rare in Dec; arr Mar 23, one DH (DC). Golden-crowned Kinglet: very scarce thru winter—max six Oswego CC and later winter max only five at Highland Forest (RJS); none reported on any BBFS. *BOHEMIAN WAXWING*: an influx, with 11 Dec 8 SP (FLF, RJS), one Jan 5 Jamesville (DC), and seven Feb 1–2 Utica (J.&B. Barker). Cedar Waxwing: scattered small flocks thru Dec and early Jan—two–30 per day; scarce from Jan on, and most observers had *none* Jan thru Mar—poor showing correlates with very poor local berry crop. Northern Shrike: incursion, with most observers regularly reporting one–two per day; tallies by month are Dec 19, Jan 23, Feb 17, Mar 15,

from 24 observers; definitely more than last year. Loggerhead Shrike: arr Mar 2, one near Port Ontario (JWP, M. L. Estoff)—a record arr date; light flight in last two weeks of Mar.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark: 19 on Syr CC and 20 on Oneida CC; virtual decimation with deep snow of late Dec and early Jan, as only one Jan bird reported, Jan 21 Jamesville (DC). Red-winged Blackbird: BBFS Dec 45, Jan seven, Feb seven, Mar seven; arr Mar 15 (very late) 35 HIGMA. Rusty Blackbird: arr Mar 3 (early) one singing Dutcherville in Constantia Twp (JWP); large numbers in late Mar concentrated by cold weather and snow forcing them to stream-sides and flooded marshy pastures—max 250 Clay Swamp Mar 31.

Cardinal: many more located in the heretofore thinly populated Oneida L S shore sector; single also noted at Big Moose thru winter (B. Barnum) and Boonville (E. D. Lake, in BBFS); on BBFS, higher each month than in any corresponding month in past years. Evening Grosbeak: heavy incursion thru the winter with flocks of 30–90 per day and impressive feeder use—BBFS Dec 903 (second highest Dec ever), Jan 1101, Feb 1016, Mar 908; rather scarce in N Herkimer Co and what birds were present were largely at feeders. Purple Finch: very scarce—usually one–two per day; max five on Oswego CC and Oneida CC. Pine Grosbeak: excellent flight in Dec and Jan, max 279 Oswego CC; rather steady fall thru late Jan and Feb and scarce in Mar; last noted Mar 30 HIGMA (JWP). Common Redpoll: irruption with flocks of eight–100 per day primarily in late Dec–early Feb; scarce in late Feb and early Mar with return flight Mar 2–30 at DH (mob). Pine Siskin: very scarce with highest counts 14 Dec 19 Pratt Falls (DC), 20 Syr CC, and 40 Mar 18 Syr (MSR); occasional single birds at feeders thru winter. Eastern Goldfinch: like Siskin, some few flocks in Dec, Dec max 112 Syr CC; very scarce Jan thru Mar with flock max in Feb and Mar 30–35 per day, but most observers had none in that period. RED CROSSBILL: only report, 13 Dec 14 Jamesville (DC). No White-winged Crossbill reported. Rufous-sided Towhee: one wintered Jamesville (Mrs. T. Harmon), two at feeder near Rome (Wollaber *vide* J.&E. VanDresar). Slate-colored Junco: numbers poor thru winter—max 53 Syr CC but individual tallies usually much lower—max ten per day. Tree Sparrow: good numbers thru early winter with counts of 600 Dec 19 Tully L and 428 Syr CC, 474 Oswego CC, and 584 Oneida CC; like many fringillids, a steady fall in numbers thru late Jan and Feb and a sharp increase in mid-Mar with Mar max 700+ Mar 31. White-crowned Sparrow: only one known to have wintered thru, Dec 9–Mar 27 Wampsville (B.&S. Peebles). White-throated Sparrow: five Syr CC; BBFS Dec 23, Jan seven, Feb six, Mar seven. Fox Sparrow: single wintering birds N Syr (E. Smith) and E Syr; arr first week of Mar but not widely noted before Mar 26–27. Song Sparrow: only 16 on Syr CC and only one on HIGMA CC; very scarce thru remainder of winter; heavy flight with 150–190 per day Mar 27–29. Snow Bunting: winter flocks 20–300 per day with Jan max 400 Jan 8 Pompey Ctr; Feb numbers lower but many 500–700 flocks in early Mar; max 2175 Mar 18 Pompey Ctr (FLF).

427 South Main St, North Syracuse, N.Y. 13212

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The weather was mild especially the latter half. Snow was below normal except for the southern part which received snow storms that missed most of the area. March was mild with little snow. Early migrating birds began arriving Mar 18–19.

There were unprecedented numbers of Bohemian Waxwings—500 Feb 12, many Pine Grosbeaks in all of the Region, and a Boreal Owl found dead in Philadelphia Feb 2.

Observers: JB—John Belknap, RB—Richard Brouse, LC—Lee Chamberlain, FC—Frank A. Clinch, DG—David Gordon, RW—Robert and June Walker. Dec 21 reports are from the Christmas census in the Watertown area. PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area; M.A.C. Nature Center—Minna Anthony Common Nature Center, Wellesley Island.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Dec 22. Horned Grebe: last Dec 14, Henderson Harbor (DG). Pied-billed Grebe: Horse Is. Dec 14 (DG), Mar 23. Canada Goose: two Dec 21, first at PRGMA Mar 18, 500 there Mar 29 (LC). Mallard and Black Duck: all winter. Pintail: Mar 22. Green-winged Teal: Mar 29, four PRGMA Mar 30. American Widgeon: Mar 29. Redhead: Dec 22 and Dec 27. Ring-necked Duck: one Dec 22 Horse Is., 15 Mar 22 Pt Peninsula (RW). Greater Scaup, Common Golden-eye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw: all winter. White-winged Scoter: Dec 21 (Hughes). Hooded Merganser: Dexter Jan 12, Mar 29. Common Merganser: 3,000 Massena Power Dam Jan 19 (RW).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: near Watertown Feb 8–9, M.A.C. Nature Center Jan 4. Sharp-shinned Hawk: Dec 14, Mar 1. Red-tailed Hawk: all winter. Rough-legged Hawk: fairly plentiful, max 13 Dec 19 (JB). Bald Eagle: Jan 9 M.A.C. Nature Center, Feb 20 Blind Bay, St. Lawrence Co. Marsh Hawk: Dec 25, Jan 1, Mar 1, Mar 22. Sparrow Hawk: all winter. Gray Partridge: max 188 Dec 23 (DG), 139 on Pt Peninsula Jan 11, best seen at bare spots along roads when most of ground is covered with deep snow. Turkey: M.A.C. Nature Center. Killdeer: Mar 19. Common Snipe: one Natural Bridge Mar 26. Glaucous Gull: seven Massena Power Dam Jan 19 (RW), three Ogdensburg same day. Great Black-backed Gull: 450 Ogdensburg Jan 19. Herring Gull: seen Dec, Jan and Mar. Ring-billed Gull: one Dec 21, Mar 29. Mourning Dove: Jan 11 (RB) Mar 20 (FC). Snowy Owl: scarce; one each month, max three Jan 11 (RB). Barred Owl: one found dead by road Feb 22 near Fargo (DG). Long-eared Owl: one found dead Watertown Jan 4. Short-eared Owl: three Pt Peninsula Dec 31, one Jan 11, Mar 1 (DG). Boreal Owl: found dead Feb 2, Philadelphia (JB) specimen preserved. One other recent record for Region Mar 8, 1958 St. Lawrence Co.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: E. Phoebe: Watertown Mar 27 (FC). Horned Lark: Feb 8, common after the middle of Feb. Tree Swallow: Mar 30 PRGMA (RW). Tufted Titmouse: at feeder Sackets Harbor Dec 17 (Thomas). Red-breasted Nuthatch: at various feeders in Watertown most of winter, probably only one bird. White-breasted Nuthatch: all winter. Brown Creeper: Dec 24, Feb 21. Brown Thrasher: Dec 21. Am. Robin: 61 Dec 21, a very large number for the Christmas census. Bluebird: none. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Dec 21. Bohemian Waxwing: 30 Stony Pt Dec 14 with Cedar Waxwings (DG), flocks in Thompson Park, Watertown, seen by many observers in Jan; two were killed in Watertown in Feb when they flew against a window; 50–60 at Dry Hill near Watertown with Cedar Waxwings Dec 19–22; 400 Dry Hill Feb 9 and max 500 Feb 12 (RW); last three Mar 16. Cedar Waxwing: 120 Dec 21, also seen in Jan and Feb with Bohemian Waxwings. Northern Shrike: about normal numbers all winter. Loggerhead Shrike: Mar 30 Snowshoe Pt (RW).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark: three Pt Peninsula Dec 31 (DG); Mar 19 Henderson (LC). Red-winged Blackbird: Mar 1, early. Grackle: Mar 18. Cardinal: continues to increase in numbers at least around Watertown where as many as ten have been seen at a time at feeders. Evening Grosbeak: good numbers all winter, but less than peak years. Purple Finch: very few until Mar when several were seen. Pine Grosbeak: numerous in many places in Dec and Jan with max of 200 or more, less common in Feb, none in Mar. Common Redpoll: Dec 21 to Mar 22, less numerous than some years. Slate-colored Junco: Dec 27, Jan 3, Mar 29. Tree Sparrow: all winter. White-throated Sparrow: Dec 21, Jan 1. Fox Sparrow: Mar

28-29 near Black R (Benedykt, RW), early. Song Sparrow: Dec 19, Mar 19. Snow Bunting: until Mar 22, most flocks small, max over 100.

173 Haley St., Watertown, New York 13601

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

The fierce weather which started in November continued through the winter and on into spring. December averaged 16.3 degrees in temperature but ranged all the way from minus 30 degrees on the 26th to plus 52 degrees on the 13th. These changes in temperature, combined with a fall of over five feet of snow, laid down layers of ice and crust, sometimes covered with slush, which made all forms of transportation hazardous. There were only five days without precipitation! January brought much the same pattern; also February and March.

Our area entered April with 17 and one-half inches of snow on the ground—we had not seen the ground since November 8. Wind velocities for the winter were not very high nor temperatures much below zero but even people who have lived in the Northern Adirondacks all their lives do not remember such continuous snow cover with such long periods of dangerous travel.

Ice-coated ground, snow-covered trees, lack of fruit crop and immobility of observers except for emergencies, have undoubtedly contributed to the short report which follows. What the few birds in the area would have done without feeders we could not begin to guess.

As can be seen by the Christmas Count records included, birds were almost non-existent in the woods. W. D. Merritt, who spent some days in the High Peak region, says: "The lack of birds this winter was startling."

Our rarities were the Black Vulture which, though found in November, was not reported to me until December; a Hawk Owl; and the Common Ravens seen in December. My reporters were most concerned about the lack of Slate-colored Juncos and Purple Finches even at feeders.

We are happy to welcome Howard and Margaret Read of Morrisonville as new reporters for Region 7. Clinton County, and particularly water-front observers, have been sadly lacking so we look forward to the Reads' seasonal records.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; GTC—Greenleaf T Chase; ED—Ethel Dyer; HD—Harriet Delafield; RH—Robert Hagar; JK—Joseph Keji; RM—Ruth Meier; HMR—Howard and Margaret Read; CDT—Count Day Team; IW—Isabel Williams.

Abbreviations: B—Brook; B'dale—Bloomingdale; M'ville—Morrisonville; P—Pond; RB—Ray Brook; SL—Saranac Lake; TL—Tupper Lake.

Please have reports for spring season in by June 9.

LOONS—DUCKS: Mallard: pair Saranac R near M'ville Mar 30 (HMR). Wood Duck: seven Saranac R M'ville Mar 31 (HMR). Common Goldeneye: nine wintering Saranac R M'ville (HMR). Common Merganser: one Dec 28 Saranac R SL (RH).

HAWKS—OWLS: *BLACK VULTURE*: see field note. Goshawk: one Dec 20 SL (HD). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one flew into window of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sturgis RB early Dec (identified by Cornell Lab of Ornithology); one Ampersand Bay SL Mar 7 (GTC). Sparrow Hawk: one M'ville, four Peru Mar 30 (HMR). Ruffed Grouse: one Jan 3, one Feb 2 RB (JK); four M'ville Feb 4 (HMR); few off and on TL (RM). Killdeer: one Saranac, Clinton Co Mar 29 (EA,HD). Mourning Dove: one TL Mar 30 and 31 (RM). Great Horned Owl: one eating prey M'ville Mar 22 (HMR). *HAWK OWL*: Feb 1, first noted flying across the road

near Elizabethtown exit from Northway. The size was considered to be smaller than a Barred Owl, tail was long. This, plus the configuration when perched, led the observers to the conclusion the bird was a Hawk Owl. Facial pattern not noted (HMR). Barred Owl: one Dec 25 near feeder M'ville, one catching Flying Squirrel also near feeder near Saranac R M'ville Mar 5 (HMR); one SL Jan 26 (GTC).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: one Saranac R SL Dec 24 (Schramm *vide* HD). Pileated Woodpecker: two Kiwassa Dec 22 (Alliason); one Jan 27 and Feb 1 M'ville (HMR); two SL Mar 12 (HD); one Heart L, one Seward Range Mar 16 (W. D. Merritt). Hairy Woodpecker: two to four at feeders M'ville, TL, RB, and SL; five Dec 29 SL (CDT). Downy Woodpecker: four to six at feeders same areas as Hairy; 13 SL (CDT). Horned Lark; one Feb 28, one Mar 28 SL (HD); 30 Mar 1 Peaseleeville, three flocks P'ville to Black Brook Mar 15 (HMR). Blue Jay: six to "many" at all feeders; 25 Dec 29 (CDT). Common Raven: one early Dec Saranac Inn (W Petty), three Bay P Town of Santa Clara (W Rockefeller); one Dec 28 and 29 Route 3 between SL and Halfway B (GTC). Common Crow: one Dec 29 SL (ED); one Feb 6 SL (EA); 10 Mar 15 TL (RM); 13 Mar 22 M'ville (HMR); eight Mar 28 RB (JK). Black-capped Chickadee: presumably because of lack of food in woods these were a great feeder bird this winter; 112 Dec 29 SL (CDT). Boreal Chickadee: one SL Dec 7 (HD); three Dec 29 TL edge of count circle (GTC). White-breasted Nuthatch: one to four at feeders; nine Dec 29 (CDT). Red-breasted Nuthatch: one to three RB and B'dale; 12 Dec 15 SL (CDT). Brown Creeper: one intermittently thru winter M'ville (HMR); same, singing Mar 23 and 25 RB (JK); two Dec 29 SL (CDT). Robin: one Mar 23 SL (EA); one Mar 26 RB (JK). Golden-crowned Kinglet: two off and on RB (JK). Northern Shrike: one Dec 28 SL (RH); one Feb 26 TL (RM). Loggerhead Shrike: one Mar 24 SL (EA,HD). Starling: two Feb 28, 30 Mar 18 SL (EA,HD); few Mar 21 TL (RM); four Mar 25 RB (JK).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: very few reports; 32 Dec 29 SL (CDT). Eastern Meadowlark: one Mar 24 RB (GTC); one SL Mar 26 (HD). Red-winged Blackbird: female thru winter at feeder SL, five Mar 18, 23, some singing Mar 19 SL (EA,HD); 200 Mar 19 TL (RM); 104 Mar 29 B'dale (IW). flocks Mar 25 RB (JK); first male Mar 30 M'ville (HMR). Common Grackle: two Mar 19 SL (HD); four Mar 21, 12 Mar 30 B'dale (IW); one Mar 30 RB (JK). Brown-headed Cowbird: two Dec 29 SL (CDT); few Jan and end Mar RB (JK); seven Mar 18 SL (HD); 20 Mar 27 B'dale (IW). Cardinal: two females Dec 29 B'dale (IW); seen other places around B'dale thru Feb (Cimbric, etc.); one male Dec 13-18, one female Dec 19 and 20 M'ville (HMR). Evening Grosbeak: almost none at SL and Gabriels; 20 to 40 at feeder M'ville (HMR); 40 thru 70 RB (JK); 30 to 40 TL (RM); 100 Mar 24, 50 Mar 31 B'dale (IW). Pine Grosbeak: few early in period; one to three RB Dec 4 to Feb 11 (JK); three Dec 6 TL (RM); seven Dec 29 SL (CDT); six Dec 29 Peaseleeville, two M'ville Jan 15 (HMR); 20 Lake Clear Jan 14 (HD). Common Redpoll: small flocks from Dec 28 thru period; 100 SL dump Feb 1, 60 Ticonderoga Feb 12, 30 SL Feb 13 (GTC); still around SL in Apr. American Goldfinch: 10 to 12 daily Feb 11 thru period M'ville (HMR). Red Crossbill: one SL Dec 1 (RM); one Mar 8 RB (JK). Rufous-sided Towhee: one Dec 1-10 RB (JK). Savannah Sparrow: one Mar 22-27 RB (JK). Slate-colored Junco: three Mar 25 RB (JK); one Mar 24 TL (RM); two Mar 24 SL (EA,HD); two Mar 27 B'dale (IW). Tree Sparrow: two to eight all period all areas; 29 SL Dec 29 (CDT). White-throated Sparrow: one Dec 1 and 2 RB (JK). Fox Sparrow: one "this snowy day" Dec 14 Keene (Plum *vide* HD); one Mar 26 SL (GTC). Song Sparrow: one Mar 24, two singing Mar 25 SL (HD); one Mar 25 RB (JK); one Mar 28 TL (RM); one M'ville Mar 29 (HMR). Snow Bunting: 30 Salmon R Peaseleeville Dec 29 (HMR); one Dec 29 SL (GTC); 25 RB Feb 27 (JK); 11 Feb 28 SL (HD).

CORRIGENDUM: The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker reported in the October 1968 issue was seen by Geoffrey Carleton at Aiden Lair June 19 and may be the southernmost summer record for this species in Essex County.

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — HUDSON — MOHAWK

HAZEL F. BUNDY

Altogether a rather "average winter," although it seemed harsh, perhaps due to the almost continuous ground cover after the mid-point of December. On Dec 15 there was an eight-inch snow, and about nine additional inches during the remainder of the month. December was colder than usual, with the result that much snow remained, and the minimum ground cover was four inches Dec 15-30. Temperatures for January were slightly below normal, those for February and March about normal. Jan, Feb, and Mar were drier than usual, with precipitation in March only about $\frac{2}{3}$ the average amount. Ponds and lakes were still largely ice-bound at the end of March.

In general, the past winter was a very poor one for birding. However, there were several bright spots in the over-all picture. Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Rough-legged Hawks were much more numerous, with an unusually high percentage of dark phase Rough-legs (bsh). There was a notable increase in the number of Barred Owl reports. Northern Shrikes were noted three times as frequently as usual. The Starling population declined markedly.

Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks furnished the greatest excitement, with several observers having the opportunity to view the former, and many the latter species. Other unusual species included Glossy Ibis, Peregrine Falcon, Glaucous Gull, Varied Thrush, Hoary Redpoll, and Oregon Junco.

The following observations reflect the negative factors. The number of Blue Jays decreased considerably. The Cedar Waxwings population was extremely low. Evening Grosbeaks, in good supply early, apparently exhausted local food supplies, and moved south. Purple Finches were scarce. Very few half-hardies, such as the Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and White-throated Sparrow, remained through the winter.

Observers cited more than once: GA—Gustave Angst; GB—Guy Bartlett; HFB—Hazel Bundy; L&VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; J&BB—James and Barbara Bush; JC—Juanita Cook; P&GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; MLG—Murray L. Gardler; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; BH—Barrington Havens; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; SM—Samuel Madison; WDM—Will Merritt, Jr.; PM,MM—Philip and Mary Mickle; ER—Edgar M. Reilly, Jr.; WBS—Walton Sabin; HHS—Harvey Spivak; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin, and Barrington Havens.

Area compilers: Rena Dodd, Betty Laros, and Clarissa Ketcham.

Abbreviations: CM—Castleton Marshes; Emb—Embought; Gr—Greenville; M'dale—Meadowdale; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; Nisk—Niskayuna; SL—Saratoga Lake; SS—Stockport Station; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; WR—Watervliet Reservoir; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; Christmas Counts: ADCC—Alan Devoe (Chatham), Dec 28; GCC—Greene Co, Dec 29; SCC—Schenectady, Dec 21; SRCC—Southern Rensselaer, Dec 22; TCC—Troy, Dec 29.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: three SL Dec 1 (bsh); two Mar 26 Hudson R (ER). Red-throated Loon; one picked up in field in Rotterdam Dec 29, and later released at Delmar Game Farm (Chet Griffith). Horned Grebe: ten Dec 1

SL (bsh); first spring Mar 26 Hudson R (ER). Pied-billed Grebe: arr spring Mar 19 (P&GE). Great Blue Heron: one injured observed Dec 1 Galway L (Mildred Crary); one wintered Medusa Swamp, first reported Jan 27 (CK), seen occasionally thereafter by several observers; Mar 29 in two areas—WR (bsh) and NWW (HHS). Green Heron: one very early report—one Mar 24 Malden Bridge (ER). GLOSSY IBIS: one adult seen in flight near Amsterdam Mar 26, "characteristic flight and bill well observed" through 10x50 binoculars and telescope (MLG). Canada Goose: no Dec reports; earliest spring—20 Mar 18 Emb (JB); max 500 Mar 27 (ER), and 475 NWW Mar 29 (bsh).

Last fall reports of migrant ducks: one Green-winged Teal, three Ring-necked Duck, 75 Common Goldeneye, 35 Bufflehead, three Oldsquaw, and 30 Common Merganser Dec 1 (bsh). Christmas Counts indicated Mallards and Black Ducks present in slightly higher numbers than in the previous year. The Annual Duck Count Jan 12 recorded 143 Mallard, 417 Black Duck, one Pintail, four Common Goldeneye, one Hooded Merganser, and one Common Merganser (SBC).

Spring duck reports: most species arr five or six days later than in previous year. Mallards and Black Ducks appeared Mar 16 lower Hudson R (PPW); an estimated 100 Mallards and 2000 Black Ducks lower Hudson R Mar 22 (SBC). Pintail: arr CM Mar 15 (JC), max 50 Mar 22 lower Hudson R (SBC). Green-winged Teal: first reports—one Feb 22 Mohawk R (bsh); 11 Mar 19 SS (PPW). Blue-winged Teal: first spring—ten Mar 15 CM (JC). Am. Widgeon: a few Mar 19 SS (MM,PPW); max 25 Mar 30 NWW (MLG). Shoveler: one Mar 22 SS (SBC); one Mar 29 Emb (JB); three Mar 30 NWW (MLG). Wood Duck: arr Mar 15 CM (JC). Ring-necked Duck: earliest—CM Mar 15 (JC); other reports from Mar 20, with max 60 Mar 30 NWW (MLG). Canvasback: arr Mar 22, 20 SS (SBC). Scaup: arr CM Mar 15 (JC); other reports Mar 23 on, with max 100 Mar 29 Emb (JB). Common Goldeneye: two Feb 8 upper Hudson (bsh); max 20 Mar 31 SS (MM). Bufflehead: arr Mar 28 NWW (EH, Marie Bedford). Hooded Merganser: first Mar 15 CM (JC); max 15 Mar 30 VFG (SBC). Common Merganser: earliest—two Mar 16 SS (PPW); max 70 Mohawk R Mar 30 (GB,BH). Red-breasted Merganser: first reported Mar 22, from three areas.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first spring Feb 21 Catskill (J&BB). Goshawk: one Dec 21 (SCC); one Jan 23 M'dale (HHS); five from Mar 14 to Mar 30 (MLG, bsh). Sharp-shinned Hawk: four scattered reports from Dec 2 to Mar 17 (JB, MLG, SM). Cooper's Hawk: four singles—Jan 30, Mar 16, 17, 22 (CK, JB, MLG, SBC). Red-tailed Hawk: throughout period; many reports of six per day by single observers; total of Christmas Counts in five areas was 65, as compared to 53 in previous year; a definite invasion during Feb, as evidenced by the following—14 Feb 2, 17 Feb 8, 20 Feb 16, 17 Feb 21, 16 Feb 22 (bsh). Red-shouldered Hawk: six winter reports, and six singles Mar 19–30, twice as many as two previous years. Rough-legged Hawk: many reports from many observers; max, 12 Jan 25 Schodack (L&VB) and 15 Feb 22 (bsh). Bald Eagle: one Dec 23 near Surprise (Joseph Kruppenbacher). Marsh Hawk: reported Dec 21 (SCC), Dec 22 (SRCC), Jan 5 Chatham (MM), and Mar 28 Old Chatham (ER). Osprey: two Mar 30 Gr (Marianne Werner). PEREGRINE FALCON: one Dec 22, for the second consecutive year on the SRCC.

Bobwhite: one Dec 22 (SRCC); eight Dec 20–31 Greene Co (*vide* JB), and Jan 1–16 at feeder in Catskill (CK). Am. Coot: 50 Dec 1 SL, and one Dec 14 SL (bsh). Ring-necked Pheasant: considerable increase—several reports, max 18 Feb 6 Nisk (GA); 172 on a total of five Christmas counts (27 in 1968). Killdeer: arr Mar 9 Catskill (JB); many from Mar 18. Am. Woodcock: arr Mar 18 near Rexford (WDM). Common Snipe: first spring Mar 22 near Rexford (WDM).

GLAUCOUS GULL: one Mar 19 SS (PPW). Great Black-backed Gull: arr Feb 23 lower Hudson R (WBS,SM); common early Mar SS (PPW). Herring Gull: few in Dec; early migrants—six Feb 23 (WBS,SM); common early Mar. Ring-billed Gull:

eight Dec 22 (SRCC), and four Dec 29 (TCC); many Mar reports.

Owls: Screech: two Dec 22 (SRCC); seven singles Jan 5 to Mar 5. Great Horned: reported from six or seven localities; Jan 30 nesting New Concord (J&M Gunn). Snowy: only two—one (GCC), and one Feb 11 Ghent (M. Kern). Barded: six areas during period—an appreciable increase over one report for each of the two previous years. Short-eared: only two—one Feb 1 near Catskill (J&BB); one Mar 30 near NWW (HHS). Saw-whet: a total of four—one late Dec near Troy (Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy); one Jan 24 Schenectady area (Mr. and Mrs. Albert Getz); two found dead in Town of Durham Mar 14 and 17 (Vernon Haskins).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: a few wintered; spring arr mid-Mar. Yellow-shafted Flicker; several winter records; small influx noted from Mar 29 on. Pileated Woodpecker: reported consistently through period from several areas; max three Dec 2 Gr (CK). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one on SCC; one male appeared at Nisk feeder for fifth or sixth consecutive year—Dec 15, 25, into early Jan, and one female late Jan (RPY); spring arr—two Mar 29 Old Chatham (ER). Hairy Woodpecker: numbers appearing about the same. Downy Woodpecker: also, approximately constant.

E. Phoebe: arr Mar 17 Ghent (P&GE). Horned Lark: common, especially in early winter; max 200 Jan 11 Castleton (JC). Tree Swallow: first Mar 27—five SCR (HFB), and Gr (CK). Blue Jay: appear to have decreased—several observers commented on the scarcity; total of five Christmas Counts was 713, as contrasted to 1403 for previous year. Common Crow: migrants from Feb 21 (PPW). Boreal Chickadee: one at feeder near W. Sand Lake Dec 22 (SRCC). Tufted Titmouse: appeared to be just about constant in numbers. Brown Creeper: reported occasionally. Winter Wren: one Dec 21 (SCC); one Mar 29 Old Chatham (ER). Carolina Wren: one Dec 7, Feb 8, 9, and Mar 12 Chatham (MM,PM). Mockingbird: population holding about the same. Catbird: one winter report—Dec 1-5 at feeder near Gr (CK). Brown Thrasher: one at feeder in E. Greenbush Feb and Mar (*fide* PPW); one Ghent Mar 19 (P&GE). Robin: a few wintered, no large flocks reported; migrants began to appear about Mar 19; common by Mar 27. *VARIED THRUSH*: a male appeared Jan 21 at the feeding station of Mr. and Mrs. John McCreight, Hudson Falls, and was a daily visitor thereafter, until at least Feb 17 (*fide* Harold Burrell). E. Bluebird: again a few wintered in Greene Co and Columbia Co; probably spring migrants—Mar 20 Gr (CK), Mar 23 Catskill (JB), and two Mar 23 Old Chatham (ER), and Mar 23 Catskill (JB).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: sparse reports, from four areas. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Dec 21 (SCC). Water Pipit: 12 Mar 26, eight Mar 27 Gr (CK); four Mar 30 SCR (SM). *BOHEMIAN WAXWING*: an unprecedented number of reports, five in all—six Dec 21 (SCC); 20-30 Jan 28 Nisk (RPY); eight Feb 1 E. Greenbush (PPW *et al*); 15 Feb 8 few miles north of North Troy (bsh); and six Feb 19 Medway (CK, Irene Irwin). Cedar Waxwing: *very* scarce; eight Dec 21 (SCC); 15 Dec 22 (SRCC); five scattered reports of 4-6; 27 Jan 15 Berne (Marcia Kent). Northern Shrike: a total of four on Christmas Counts; additional reports many more than usual, with two Dec, four Jan, seven Feb, and seven Mar. Starling: totals on each of the five Christmas Counts diminished markedly, the population appearing to have decreased by more than 50%.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark: Christmas Count total was high, 86; first spring Mar 16 Catskill (JB). Mar 17 and 18 marked the widespread arrival of Red-winged Blackbirds, and Common Grackles, somewhat later than usual. Baltimore Oriole: one very early—Mar 30 Old Chatham (ER). Rusty Blackbird: earliest Mar 20 Gr (CK); max 40 Mar 24 Old Chatham (ER). Brown-headed Cowbird: an Albany roost built up steadily through the winter to a max of 2500 late Feb and early Mar (PPW).

Cardinal: Christmas Count total almost double that of previous year. *DICKCISEL*: one Feb 20 Gr (Harry Ketcham). Evening Grosbeak: present in fairly large

numbers through Dec; disappeared gradually, with only occasional reports thereafter. Purple Finch: *very* scarce; small Christmas Count total of 14; scattered reports of only 1-3 thereafter. House Finch: dwindled in Dec at Nisk feeder, with the last observed Dec 23 (RPY). *PINE GROSBEAK*: widely reported throughout period, by many observers and in many areas; Christmas Count total 326 including flock of 60 WR (SCC); flocks of 10-15 often seen; max 35 Dec 11 Gr (CK), and 35-40 Jan 5 (L&VB). *HOARY REDPOLL*: one Mar 7 Poestenkill (Robert and Nancy Brown); two Feb 23 Schenectady (Robert and Shirley Phillips)—all individuals described as being very white, and appearing strikingly different from Common Redpolls. (See Ed. Note under Hoary Redpoll record in Region 1 Report, this issue.) Common Redpoll: abundant, with large flocks of more than 100 reported at several feeders, as well as other reports. Pine Siskin: present throughout period—several feeder reports, max 20 Alplaus (*vide* HFB). Am. Goldfinch: common. Red Crossbill: two near Chatham Jan 15 (Murray Giddings). White-winged Crossbill: one at feeder several days in Jan Old Chatham (John and Mary Hillen). Rufous-sided Towhee: two Dec 29 (GCC); two feeder reports—pair Dec to Jan 6 Earlton (Lillian Halloran), and one throughout Feb and Mar Nisk (GA). Sparrows: Savannah: one Dec 22 (SRCC); one Dec 29 (TCC); one Mar 2 upper Hudson (bsh); two Mar 29 Old Chatham (ER); one Mar 30 (BH,GB). Vesper: one Dec 29 (TCC); one Jan 5 Schodack (L&VB). Slate-colored Junco: frequent feeder reports, scarce elsewhere, migration weakly evident last week of Mar. *OREGON JUNCO*: one "pink-sided", described as follows: "gray hood, especially gray underneath, but with brownish feathers in the gray on the back of neck and head, back quite brown, underparts clear white, sides with a very noticeable rusty or pale orange wash, at least ½ inch in width, contrasting with hood and wing color," at feeder E. Greenbush (PPW). Chipping: one Dec 29 (TCC); first spring Mar 22 E. Greenbush (Monte Gruett). Field: several winter feeder reports. White-crowned: four Dec reports; two Mar 2, in song, WR (bsh). White-throated: wintered in low numbers. Fox: 14 Christmas Count total (none in 1968); migrants from Mar 20; max 60 near SCR Mar 30 (SBC, mob). Swamp: first spring Mar 19 Ghent (P&GE). Lapland Longspur; four reports Dec 22, max five Sugar Hill Rd (near Rexford) (EH, R. McCullough); one Jan 12 (SBC). Snow Bunting: throughout period, usually in small flocks up to 25; two large flocks—180 Dec 25 M'dale (bsh), and 150 Feb 26 Gr (CK).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The weather this winter season was cold, and remained cold without any marked fluctuations. No sub-zero temperatures were reported, but then the thermometer rarely recorded an above freezing temperature either. Proof of this was in the ice accumulation on the lakes and rivers. March saw a layer approaching 20 inches on most bodies of water at higher elevations. Snows which came in December remained through most of the season sending many ground feeders to feeding stations. Heavy snow storms in early February and March gave the impression of a severe season, but this was not substantiated by the bird records reported.

Belying the severity of the season were the unusual numbers of species that should have moved farther south but which stayed the season: Catbirds, thrashers, towhees, thrushes, kinglets and orioles to name a few. The survival of the Carolina Wren probably indicates the general absence of ice storms to which it usually succumbs. Most Christmas counts were well below average expectations, but this was due more to the poor weather and visibility of the late December weekends

than to the birds. Some species were unusually low, however, as exemplified by the Blue Jay and Ruddy Duck. By the time the annual Waterfowl Count came around in mid-January, most of the rivers and lakes were ice-bound giving the lowest numbers of species ever reported in the Region. Owls, both resident and migrant, were much higher than usual. In general, it was a much more interesting season than we've had for several years.

Observers cited: MBC—Mearns Bird Club; WBC—Waterman Bird Club; MB—Martin Borko; EB—Eugene Brown; RD—Robert F. Deed; ME—Martha Earl; SOG—Stanley O. Grierson; AJ—Alice Jones; JK—John Kenney; J,MK—Jim & Mary Key; HM—Helen Manson; HME—Heinz Meng; A,BM—Al & Barbara Merritt; JO—John C. Orth; EP—Eleanor Pink; RP—Robert Pyle; W,TS—William & Trixie Strauss; ET—Edward D. Treacy; SU—Sarah Uyhelyi; RV—Ruth VanEtten; MV—Marion VanWagner; OW—Otis Waterman.

Area Compilers: Robert F. Deed, Martin Borko, Mrs. William Grierson, Fred Hough, Al Merritt, Eleanor Pink, Otis Waterman.

Localities: Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange Co; Putn—Putnam Co; Rock—Rockland Co; Sull—Sullivan Co; West—Westchester Co.

LOONS—DUCKS: No loons. Horned Grebe: none until last week of season. Only a few Pied-billed Grebes reported. Great Blue Heron: two Jan records in Dutch; four Mar 29 at Barrytown probably indicate northward movement. *COMMON EGRET*: one, Mar 30 at Fisherman's Flat, Rhinecliff (Joyce, Don & Scott Davis)—verification forms filed. American Bittern: one, Bear Mt. Christmas Count Dec 22, at Iona Is. (JO,ET,JK). Mute Swan: two, Mar 18—20 at Cornwall; about 60 Rockland L Mar 9. *WHISTLING SWAN*: one Mar 7 Hyde Pk (Don Davis). Canada Goose: good size flocks returning by second week of Mar; several pairs on the Hudson R at end of season apparently waiting for ice to leave inland lakes; max 212 at Rockland L Mar 1 (EB).

Pintail: Good numbers of last few years not realized this season, only a few Dutch records in Mar. Green-winged Teal: late arr; first Mar 22, very few thereafter till end of season. Blue-winged Teal: only report, one Mar 22 Vanderberg Cove, Dutch. Am. Widgeon: late return to north parts; numbers good at Rockland L as early as Mar 9. Shoveler: always rare—one Dec 2 Amenia (W,TS); one Mar 9 Rockland L (EB). Wood Duck: on time; two Dec records for Dutch. Red-head: always rare; one Mar 19 New Hamburg. Ring-necked Duck: arr on time in good numbers; max 113 Mar 29 from Hyde Pk to Barrytown along Hudson R. Canvasback: wintering numbers very low on lower Hudson; marked increase Mar 15—22, as many as 250 in Beacon area these dates. Greater Scaup: five Mar 15—22 New Hamburg. Common Goldeneye: numbers lower than usual but constant thru season. Bufflehead: more numerous than usual on lower Hudson, out-numbered Goldeneye at Piermont Pier thru most of season. Ruddy Duck: absent from lower Hudson where they usually winter; *none* reported on federation waterfowl count Jan 12. Hooded Merganser: arr mid-Mar on Hudson R, max 10 Mar 29 Vanderberg Cove, Dutch. (HM). Common Merganser: recovering from lows of past several years; constant along the Hudson thru season; max 60 Jan 12 near Haverstraw. Red-breasted Merganser: only two reports—singles Mar 22 and 24 on the Hudson near New Hamburg, Dutch.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: one at Chester Feb 18 (RV); residents arr mid-Mar as usual, first Mar 6 East Fishkill (J,MK). Goshawk: observed for some time at residence of Fred Hough in Accord, Mar 9; one pursuing a red squirrel in Chapaqua Feb 22 (Mrs. John Lentz). Cooper's Hawk: more records than usual, all Dutch—one in Dec, three in Jan, two in Feb, and one in Mar. Sharp-shinned Hawk: only three reports—singles Dec 13 and Jan 6 Dutch; one Jan 26 at Ward's Pound Ridge Reservation, West. Red-tailed Hawk: good winter population thru region; two or three active nests in Dutch by end of season, and several mated

pairs reported in E. Oran. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Dec 29 at High Falls (Bob & Ev Rifenburg); one at Wappingers Falls Mar 15. [Broad-winged Hawk: It is hoped to present full details of two extraordinarily early reports of this species in a future issue.] Rough-legged Hawk: more reports than ever before—max 14 at one time in vicinity of Galeville Airport near Wallkill, Ulst (HMe,RP). One hit a window in West on Nov 7. The stunned bird recovered in about 15 minutes and flew off. Bald Eagle: fewer numbers than usual, but more widely scattered; max seven Jan 11 at Mongaup Res. Sull (MB). Marsh Hawk: two north of New Paltz Dec 29 (RP); one Mar 23 near Bullville (Margaret Moon). Sparrow Hawk: normal to slightly better.

Ruffed Grouse: numbers low, but continues to hold. Bobwhite: unusually high numbers thru Jan and Feb in Dutch—40 in Jan and 47 in Feb; only report elsewhere, four on Rock Christmas Count Dec 28; usually reported on Mearns Count in Oran, but missed this year. *VIRGINIA RAIL*: one Jan 12 Highland Falls (MBC). Am. Coot: only reports from Rock where 35 were reported Mar 9 (EB). Killdeer: usual scattered winter reports; first numbers, 15, Mar 23 at Wawarsing, Ulst (JO). Woodcock: normal and on time. Common Snipe: more wintering birds than usual; max 8 Hamptonburgh Mar 30 (A,BM). Iceland Gull: only white-winged gull reported; one Mar 15 New Hamburg (mob). Great Black-backed Gull: good winter numbers along Hudson R. Ring-billed Gull: winter numbers lower than usual—max 100 Mar 12–22 on Hudson R in Dutch. Laughing Gull: five, Piermont Pier Mar 29; rather early (RD). Mourning Dove: numbers better than usual all season. Screech Owl: more reports than usual especially in Westchester; several birds reported killed by cars. Great Horned Owl: WBC reports 8 in January with three on Christmas Count in Dec. Barred Owl: more than usual. Long-eared Owl: better than usual; Martha Earl reports a roost of more than 20 in Blooming Grove most of winter. Ruth VanEtten was startled to see two standing in her back yard in Chester on Mar 8. They returned on the 9th and 13th. Short-eared Owl: an unusual winter concentration near the Galeville Airport, Ulst. Heinz Meng found 16 there Jan 12. The number increased to 40 by Feb. Your reporter saw 14 there on Mar 9. Saw-whet Owl: more reports than usual, several of killed birds, but three live ones reported from Dutch thru Jan and one in Oran.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Yellow-shafted Flicker: fewer winter records than usual; migrants in good numbers by Mar 23. Pileated Woodpecker: normal few reports; one unusual record at suet feeder in Warwick, Dec 30 (SU); two excavating nest site at Cornwall on Mar 30. Red-bellied Woodpecker: regularly thru season at suet feeder at Ridgebury, Oran; one in South Nyack Feb 28 (RD). Red-headed Woodpecker: wintering numbers lower than usual; three birds reported Dutch, one first reported Nov remained thru period and went from imm to adult plumage. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Dec 28–30 at Vassar College (MK)—only report. E. Phoebe: one Dec 27 Millbrook, Dutch; one West Nyack, Feb 6 (B. Gravenstein); one Feb 3–28 and again Mar 4 at Vassar College probably wintered (OW) Horned Lark: good numbers all winter. Tree Swallow: first, Wurtsboro Mar 23. (MB); in good numbers thru region by end of Mar. *GRAY JAY*: one arr at feeder of Robert Craighead in Cross River, West Nov 27 remained thru Jan into Feb. Blue Jay: unusually scarce all winter, most Christmas counts down to about one quarter their usual number; numbers recovering by mid-Mar. Common Crow: about 4,500 at Poughkeepsie roost, down to about 3,800 by end of Feb. Fish Crow: three or four all winter at Poughkeepsie; five more reported elsewhere in Dutch in late Mar. Red-breasted Nuthatch: more wintering than usual; at least three or four regular visitors to different suet feeders thru season. Brown Creeper: usual winter reports, perhaps better than average.

Winter Wren: usual winter numbers. *CAROLINA WREN*: more reports than usual, often unreported; one Rock Mar 1; one Dec at Millbrook; one Jan 2 Vassar College; one Mar 30 near Newburgh. Mockingbird: good numbers throughout area.

Catbird: less wintering reports than usual—one Dec 31 Pleasantville and one thru Feb Cornwall. Brown Thrasher: more winter records than usual—one Jan 6 Poughquag, one South Salem Jan 16, and one at Monsey Feb 11–15. Robin: usual winter numbers, but migrants generally late; numbers good by end of season. Hermit Thrush: more winter records than usual—one Dec 18 Red Oaks Mill, one Blauvelt Jan 6, one Jan 15–31 Poughkeepsie, one Cornwall Mar 7, one thru entire month of Mar at Red Oaks Mill. Eastern Bluebird: numbers less than usual, but still good for winter. Golden-crowned Kinglet: reported in poor numbers except in Rock where numbers were good. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: wintered at Kripplebush, frequently ate suet (FH); one on Waterman Christmas Count Dec 29; and one singing at Rhinecliff Mar 29 (WBC). Cedar Waxwing: less than usual, unreported most areas. Northern Shrike: seven reported in Dutch; one West record in Chappaqua Feb 26–28.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: two on Rockland Christmas Count Dec 28—first since 1964. House Sparrow: three Dutch people reported numbers down about 75% at their feeders thru season. Eastern Meadowlark: usual winter reports, max 14 at Katonah, (SOG). Red-winged Blackbird: usual winter birds esp in southern part; marked influx Mar 15–20. BALTIMORE ORIOLE: two Dec records in Dutch—singles Dec 15–26, and Dec 1–29; other birds coming to feeders were one in Mt. Kisco thru Dec, and another in Central Valley for most of season. Rusty Blackbird: one Dec 14, and seven Dec 1–Jan 12, Dutch; migrants appeared Mar 23 and 29, also Dutch. Common Grackle: usually arrives late Feb—Very late this year, first mid-Mar and not common until late Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: numbers generally low except in Rock where 431 were found on Christmas Count. DICKCISSEL: one at Dr. Marjorie Hopper's feeder Upper Nyack Jan 7, two the following day. Evening Grosbeak: numbers down after highs of last Nov and Dec; shows no sign of usual spring increase at end of season as southern birds come north on migration. Purple Finch: numbers low but constant thru season. House Finch: Dutch population holding, expect good increases this year. A pair spent the winter at a feeder in Washingtonville, and another pair at New Paltz. Bob Deed reports this species a dominant village bird over most of Rock. At the close of the season at least three males could be heard singing daily near his residence in South Nyack. Pine Grosbeak: came in last fall in excellent numbers, and unlike the Evening Grosbeak, maintained good numbers thru the entire season; 328 on Bear Mt. Christmas Count was the most numerous species on the list; reported from all areas throughout the entire season. HOARY REDPOLL: one female at Coleman's Station, Amenia, Dutch. First discovered by Dr. Haydock of Sharon, Conn. Jan 19, remained thru Mar 15. Observed by most of the competent birders in Dutch. First county record since Mar 8, 1912. (See Ed. Note under Hoary Redpoll record in Region 1 report, this issue.) Common Redpoll: in good numbers in all areas thru entire season, some flocks over 100. Pine Siskin: numbers unusually low considering the numbers of other finches; only a few scattered reports, American Goldfinch: numbers unusually high thru season; at least 600 reported in Dutch for season. White-winged Crossbill: six Dec 29 Vassar College (J,MK); Mabel Little reports two in the Carmel area (no date). Rufous-sided Towhee: three or four winter reports with one all season at Red Oaks Mill (J,MK). Savannah Sparrow: reported on the New Paltz flats thru early Jan (RP); migrants arr in Dutch and Oran the last week of Mar. Vesper Sparrow: one Dec 21 Pleasant Valley—only winter report; first migrant Mar 29 at Chester (SU). OREGON JUNCO: one Mar 7 West—only report. Chipping Sparrow: one wintered at feeder in Chester (SU)—Dec 23 to end of period (mob). Field Sparrow: several wintered in Dutch, singing noted Mar 19 and 29. White-crowned Sparrow: one, Dec 20—Jan at Pleasant Valley (MV); one Dec 1—Jan 26 Salt Pt; two during Jan at Poughkeepsie (AJ). White-throated Sparrow: average to better numbers thru winter at feeders. Fox Sparrow: usual good numbers of migrants; arr mid-Mar; several winter records. Swamp Sparrow: several scattered winter reports. Song Sparrow: good migratory movement near Greenville, Oran Mar 19 (Iris Dean). Lapland Longspur: several reports; one Ar-

monk Feb 21 (David Scribner); one to three in the Pleasant Valley area of Dutch from Dec 24–Feb 1 (EP); one at Red Hook Jan 5 (AJ). Snow Bunting: more reports than usual thru entire winter; last report Mar 18 at Blooming Grove (ME) and at Bashakill (MB); max 500 Feb 12 at Millerton, Dutch (Thelma Haight).

Spring reports due no later than June 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

Last fall's Evening Grosbeak invasion, easily this area's largest ever, was all but over by late December. By the Christmas Count season only a few scattered flocks remained. During mid-winter only the Montauk area offered numbers of "winter finches"—siskins were common there along with smaller flocks of Red Crossbills, and a flock of Pine Grosbeaks wintered at the Manor. The large numbers of red-polls reported from eastern Massachusetts failed to reach Long Island, and widely scattered flocks of only up to forty were seen during January and February.

Data from only five Christmas Counts is available this year: Captree (abbreviated CaCC)—Dec 21, 131 species; Central Suffolk (CSCC)—Dec 26, 110 species; Montauk (Mk)—Dec 28, 102 species; Northern Nassau County (NNCC)—Dec 29, 100 species; and Queens (QCC)—Dec 21, 82 species. Last year it was mentioned in this column that the Captree 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." (Central Suffolk and Southern Nassau). This year they put it all together. Their total of 131 set a state record. Numbers of Cardinals and House Finches on the Montauk count indicate a continuing increase on eastern Long Island—Cardinal, 51 (previous high 20) and House Finch, 66 (previous high 25).

A massive warm front on March 19 sent temperatures into the low 70's. A number of unusually early migrants were noted following its passage, and after several less pronounced warm fronts during the next two weeks. A Least Bittern and a Blue Grosbeak were recorded on March 25, a White-eyed Vireo on the 29th, and another White-eyed Vireo plus a Cattle Egret on the 31st. A rumored Brown Pelican at Oak Beach on the 20th caused great speculation and a diligent search by several competent birders, but alas, no valid confirmation.

Birders who read the U.S. Daily Weather Maps closely can often spot the conditions which produced the above records. In general, it requires a strong warm front advancing north over the Caribbean to move across the southeastern states and out over the Atlantic, forced seaward by colder air covering the eastern states. Usually, this warm air will extend northward *over water* and recurve towards the New England states. Trans-Caribbean migrants will remain airborne across the Florida peninsula and the southeastern states under such conditions. Unable to land, unable to turn back into the wind, and unwilling to fly toward colder air, they must remain aloft until the warm air mass finally strikes land. The arrival of this warm air is usually associated with rain as the air masses collide, but birders willing to suffer the weather might find their spirits anything but dampened by such often exciting early migration. For a fuller explanation of this phenomenon see Aaron Bagg and James Baird's excellent analysis (illustrated with weather maps) of an early April migration in Massachusetts, published in *Audubon Field Notes* (15: 381–383, 1961).

Rarities reported this season included Tufted Duck, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Common Murre, Black Guillemot, Black-billed Magpie, Varied Thrush, and Boat-tailed Grackle. Unusually late or wintering birds were Cattle Egret, Turkey Vulture, Red Phalarope, Willet, and Northern Waterthrush. Un-

usually early migrants were Glossy Ibis, Least Bittern, 2 White-eyed Vireos, and Blue Grosbeak. An increasing number of reports of Double-crested Cormorants lingering into January, all by experienced observers, indicates that this species ought to be upgraded to the list of regular winterers. The same holds true for the Pigeon Hawk. Seven birds were reported this season, with up to three wintering in the Jones Beach area.

Contributors frequently cited: BC—Barbara Conolly; AD—Aline Dove; GR—Gilbert Raynor; RR—Richard Ryan; RP—Richard Plunkett; CW—Cornelius Ward; LW—Leroy Wilcox; TD—Thomas Davis.

Abbreviations used: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

LOONS—DUCKS: Great Cormorant: max 352, Dec 29, Gardiner's Island (mob). Double-crested Cormorant: Dec 21—Jan 12, Shinnecock Inlet (GR); Dec 21, off Fire Island (RR); Jan 18, Moriches Inlet (GR). Cattle Egret: Dec 31, Brookhaven (P. Puleston)—latest Regional record; arr Mar 31, Cutchogue (P. Stoutenburgh, AD)—early. Common Egret: Dec 25, Westhampton (LW); arr Mar 16, JBWR (H. Johnson)—early. Black-crowned Night Heron: "14 plus, feeding at thawed edge of lake", Feb 3, Cold Spring Harbor (J. Taylor). Least Bittern: male, Mar 25, Long Beach (R. Johnson)—earliest Regional record, captured in residential area, verified and later released at Jones. Glossy Ibis: arr Mar 23, JBWR (H. Johnson)—earliest Regional record.

Mute Swan: "Dec 12, pair and three young left lake at Cold Spring Harbor due to freeze-up; Feb 5, all returned; Mar 6, only adult pair present; Mar 17, first sign of nest-building; Mar 27, one egg in nest." (J. Taylor)—earliest egg date for Region. Blue Goose: Jan 16, Setauket (M. Hemmerick). European Widgeon: Dec 22, Southaven (GR). Wood Duck: three, Dec 26, (CSCC). TUFTED DUCK: the drake present on the Hudson R near the George Washington bridge for the past three winters reappeared sometime in Dec and remained at least to Feb (dates not available—it was recorded on the Manhattan CC on Dec 22). Harlequin Duck: only up to six reported during winter at Jones Inlet; two, Dec 21, Fire Island (CaCC); Feb 21, Shinnecock Inlet (GR).

Migrant waterfowl maxima at Cold Spring Harbor (J. Taylor)—Black Duck 784, Mar 9; Canvasback 179, Mar 9; Greater Scaup 1500, Mar 11.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: adult, Dec 29—Feb 19, Montauk (H. Kemp, GR, *et al*)—extremely rare winterer. Goshawk: a wintering individual at the Southside Sportsman's Club, Oakdale was last seen Mar 24 (R. Budliger). Red-tailed Hawk: max 17, Dec 29, (NNCC). [Broad-winged Hawk: "a small, short-tailed immature buteo" was seen at Montauk on Jan 18 (M. Hemmerick, B. Frech)—a well-written description sent to the editors tends to eliminate the possibility of it having been an imm Red-shouldered. It is hoped that a full description of this and other records will be published in a future issue.] Bald Eagle: five reports—imm, Dec 21—Mar, Heckscher State Pk (mob); imm, Dec 21, flying over ocean off Fire Island Inlet (RR); imm, Dec 21, JBWR (*vide* H. Johnson); Dec 26, (CSCC); imm, Dec 28, Gardiner's Island (mob). Pigeon Hawk: two, possibly three wintered in the Jones—Oak Beach area (CW, R. Cohen, *et al*); Dec 21, Bayard Cutting Arboretum (T. Lauro)—netted and banded; Dec 22, Breezy Pt. (J. Yrizarry); two, Dec 26, (CSCC). Common Gallinule: an individual wintered at Sage Pond, Lawrence (TD, *et al*)—color-photographed.

Semipalmated Plover: Dec 21, Shinnecock Inlet (GR)—rarely to late Dec. Common Snipe: max 38, Dec 26, (CSCC)—easily this Region's highest winter count; 13, Dec 29, (NNCC). Willet: Dec 5, JBWR (BC, S. Melum); Dec 21, Shinnecock Inlet (GR)—latest Regional records. Knot: two, Dec 21, Shinnecock Inlet (GR); flock of up to eight wintered at Jones Inlet at least to Mar 10 (W. Friton, *et al*)—excellent color slides submitted to the editors leave no doubt as to identification. Red Phalarope: flock of six swimming birds, Dec 21, 2–3 miles off Captree (RR)—("full winter plumage, two-tone bills", second winter record for Region.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: adult, Feb 16, Fire Island Inlet (K. Malone). Black-legged Kittiwake: max 46, Dec 21, off Fire Island (RR). **SABINE'S GULL:** adult in winter plumage, Dec 21, several miles off Captree (RR)—“. . . flew past at a moderate distance while boat was anchored . . . trace of hood, bill dark, tip not seen. Tail distinctively forked, noticeably more so than notch in kittiwake tail . . . distinct wing pattern carefully observed.” An amazing record from an experienced birder; a recent study indicated this species' normal winter range as off southwest Africa (see *Bird-Banding*, 39 (4): 322, 1968).

Razorbill: three, Jan 11, Montauk (RP). **COMMON MURRE:** a lightly oiled bird was found sitting on the beach at Fire Island on Jan 24 (J. Aho R. Budliger). Thick-billed Murre: three, Dec 21, off Fire Island (RR). **BLACK GUILLEMOT:** Jan 11, Montauk (RP)—“winter-plumaged, just beyond surf near point.” Saw-whet Owl: 16 were found dead during Oct-Mar at Jones Beach (CW)—“all but four car kills.”

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-bellied Woodpecker: Dec 21, Cunningham Pk (P. Baruch); three, Dec 29, (NNCC); Jan 1-19, Sea Cliff (D. Quortop). Eastern Phoebe: three winter reports—Dec 21, Alley Pond Pk (A. Bell, R. Cioffi, J. Doran); Jan 19, Mill Neck (A. Bell); Feb 15, Amityville (T. Lauro). **BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE:** Feb 2, Manursing Pt, Westchester Co (J. S. Moyle, R. Engler, *et al*)—not known if an escape, said to have been present at local feeder for over two months. **VARIED THRUSH:** male, Jan 5-Mar 2, Southaven (D. Puleston, GRLW, *et al*)—banded and photographed by LW on Jan 10. Hermit Thrush: very rare this winter—one visiting a Roslyn Estates feeder from Feb 9 to period's end was heard singing in late Mar (A. Baker). Cedar Waxwing: 44, Dec 21, flying over ocean off Fire Island (RR).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: Mar 29, High Rock Pk, Staten Island (N. Wagerick); Mar 31, Mill Neck (L. Shore, W. Baumann, J. Doran)—both over two weeks earlier than previous early date; well reported, yellow “spectacles”, white iris noted for both sightings. Northern Waterthrush: Dec 26, Mastic (W. Nichols, D. Weld, M. and J. Osmund, *vide* GR)—second winter occurrence for the Region, seen at close range as it worked along the edge of a frozen pond.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbirds: arr Mar 4, Hartsdale, Westchester Co (R. Engler). Baltimore Oriole: five reports—female, Dec 18 through period, Deer Pk (Mrs. E. File *et al*)—color-photographed, “began eating sunflower seeds on Feb 11”! male, Dec 26-31, Deer Pk (Mrs. E. File)—color-photographed; Jan 20-31, Glen Cove (F. McDonough, C. White); female, Feb 10, Great Neck (K. Steir); female, Feb 2, Deer Pk (Mrs. E. File)—color-photographed. **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE:** the male present at several Far Rockaway feeders the past two years departed at the “end of Oct” and arrived back this year Mar 15 (Mrs. R. Berman, Mrs. J. Sorman, *et al*).

Blue Grosbeak: 2nd year male, Mar 25-Apr 11, Westhampton Beach (B. Federico, C. Coll, L. Warfield, *vide* LW)—earliest Regional record by nearly a month. Dickcissel: two, Dec 21, Fire Island (CaCC). Evening Grosbeak: 85, Dec 26, (CSCC); 70, Dec 29, (NNCC); 51, Dec 21, (CaCC); 35, Dec 28, (MkCC). Pine Grosbeak: flock of up to 24, Dec 28-Mar 17, Montauk (mob); two, Dec 22, Greenwood Cemetery (M. Cashman); Dec 29, (NNCC); Jan 18, Irvington Reservoir, Westchester Co (R. Engler). Common Redpoll: max counts—30, Jan 8, Port Washington (B. Forguer); 30-40, Feb 8, Orient Pt. (mob); 30, Feb 19, Montauk (BC, AD). Pine Siskin: max 146, Dec 29, (MkCC). Red Crossbill: 23, Dec 13, Mill Neck (J. Doran); four, Dec 21, (CaCC); max 41, Dec 29, (MkCC). White-winged Crossbill: only report Mar 3-29, Sea Cliff (B. Spencer, E. Bartlett, A. Bell, R. Cioffi)—at feeder. Ipswich Sparrow: an individual frequented a backyard feeder in Freeport during Feb and Mar (CW)—far from its normal habitat, “it was more successful at fighting off the House Sparrows than either Savannah or Song Sparrows.” Vesper Sparrow: max 26, Jan 15, Filasky's Farm, Old Brookville (BC). Tree Sparrow: max

775, Dec 26, (CSCC). Chipping Sparrow: Jan 13, Mattituck (AD); Feb 22–Mar 30, Bayard Cutting Arboretum (T. Lauro, D. Ford)—banded and retrapped at feeder. White-crowned Sparrow: imm, Mar 30–Apr 7, Speonk (LW)—an early migrant or an overlooked winterer.

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BOOK REVIEW

RURAL HOURS. Susan Fennimore Cooper, with introduction by David Jones. 1968. Syracuse University Press. xxxvii + 337 pp. \$6.95.

The first edition of this collection of day-to-day notes on nature in the Cooperstown area of New York State, presented in journal form, was published in 1850. In 1887 Houghton, Mifflin published a "new and revised edition" of which this is a reprint.

Susan Cooper was apparently a keen observer interested in all aspects of nature. Most of the entries are concerned with weather, birds, trees, flowers and general landscape. However, she also included enough comment on the people to give a good picture of life in the Cooperstown area at that time, and of the effect of human activities on the landscape.

The many entries about birds seem to present a fairly complete picture of the bird life of Cooperstown, with notes on time of arrival, abundance and habits. One entry especially interested me (March 27, page 25):

"A flock of rusty blackbird about the village. . . . All kinds of blackbirds are rare here; they are said to have been very numerous indeed at the settlement of the country, but have very much diminished in numbers of late years. And yet, they are still very common in some of the older parts of the country. . . . The red-wing black-bird we have never seen in this county; it may possibly be found here, but certainly is not as common as elsewhere. Nor is the cow-bunting often seen with us."

She was a conservationist long before that word was in use. On pages 141–155 there is a long discussion of the forest around Cooperstown. Present-day bulldozer operators seem to be direct heirs to the habits she decried:

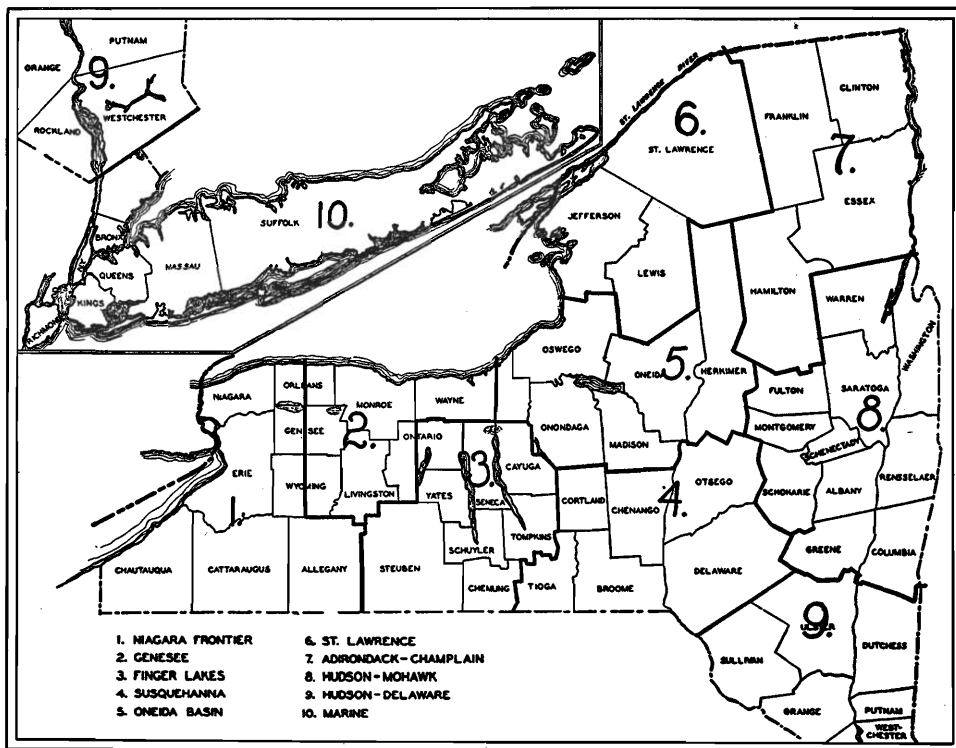
"The first colonists looked upon a tree as an enemy, and to judge by the appearances . . . something of the same spirit prevails among their descendents at the present hour. . . . Mature trees, young saplings, and last year's seedlings, are all destroyed at one blow by the axe or by fire. . . . One would think that by this time, when the forest has fallen in all the valleys—with the hills becoming more bare every day . . . some forethought and care in this respect would be natural in people laying claim to common sense. . . . *Thinning woods and not blasting them . . . preserving the wood on the hill-tops and rough hill-sides; encouraging a coppice on this or that knoll; permitting bushes and young trees to grow at will along the brooks and watercourses . . . how desirable would be the result.*"

References to information from other sources I found much less interesting than her own observations. Occasionally she lapses into long-winded digressions on her "pet peeves"—such as the use of scientific names for common names of some flowers and choice of place names in the United States. Once in a while the 1850 viewpoint is over-sentimental for these days.

The book afforded me pleasant browsing, picturing the small town of the mid-1850's as I read, and comparing her comments on the landscape with what might be written today. Capriciousness of upstate New York weather seems not to have changed a bit.

DWM

REPORTING REGIONS



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

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