

REGION I -- Western New York

This report covers the period from mid-October 1950 to late February 1951. Notable weather factors have been first, the even average weather which lasted until Thanksgiving; second, the hurricane in late November; third, the snowy weather which dominated December; fourth, the general mildness of early January, followed by two rather severe cold snaps; fifth, the distinct mildness of most of February.

The first period of normal uniform weather brought normal uniform migration. Geese and Ducks, however, came through in better numbers than in recent years, while Horned Grebes were extremely numerous. Bonaparte's Gulls were late and few, but were accompanied by at least three European Little Gulls. These seem to show up every year at this time. One European Widgeon was found on Grand Island on November 7 by the writer. It was seen until November 11 by several observers. Otherwise birds of this period were "normal".

The big winds brought fewer rarities to Western New York than were recorded elsewhere. Eleven Brunnich's Murres were picked up dead below Niagara Falls, but all were on the Canadian side. One, however, must have reached Grand Island about this time, since its decimated carcass was fished from Beaver Creek there on December 24 by Dr. Axtell.

December with its deep snows and plunging temperatures was a paradox. Birds of many species persisted in remaining throughout the month. Winter Wrens, Goldfinches, Flickers, Myrtle Warblers, Towhees, Robins, Rusty and Redwing Blackbirds, Grackles, Mourning Doves, Meadowlarks, Cowbirds, White-throated, Swamp, and Song Sparrows, Ring-

-necked Ducks, Gadwalls, -- all species which are quite unusual here even in the mildest winters were reported during the month, generally in record numbers. Most of these remained throughout January and February as well. Since about January 20, a most amazing winter influx of Robins has occurred. These have turned up by the hundreds in a wide variety of localities.

Certain northern birds also came in. Pine Siskins have become common. Snow Buntings in small groups became well spread, with an occasional Lapland Longspur among them. One flock of thirty Longspurs was seen on January 22 by Van Arsdale. Several Glaucous, a few Iceland, and one Kumlien's Gulls have been seen frequently in the area. Snowy Owls have also been observed in many localities, as have Rough-legged Hawks. Crossbills did not start appearing until February, but are now invading the area in some numbers. As seems to have been the case in most "Crossbill years", both Reds and White-wings are showing up with Reds apparently more numerous and widespread. Redpolls, absent before, were found in two places on February 25. Only one Northern Shrike has been spotted; that by the Klabundes, January 14.

Of three Christmas census, two recorded an all-time record number of species. Jamestown reports an amazing total of 47 species. The Buffalo Ornithological Society recorded 71 species from the Grand Island area, surpassing last year's record by 1. Both lists were swelled by "half-hardys". The Buffalo Audubon Society, which centers its census in the hills south of Buffalo, recorded 38 species, again picking up many "half-hardys" but losing other types due to deep snows and frozen waters.

Rarities include Virginia Rails in December in two localities, Wilson's Snipe on January 17 at Frewsburg by R. H. Sundell, an Oregon Junco, first seen by Lenna on

November 24 in the Jamestown region; a Greater Yellow-legs seen at Tifft Street, Buffalo, by Brockner's party on February 25; and a most unusual record of an adult male Baltimore Oriole which visited a Jamestown feeder from December 20 to 24.

This has certainly been one season which presents to the student of bird distribution more problems than it answers.

- - Edward L. Seeber, 186 Wabash Avenue, Kenmore 17, New York.

REGION 2 - - SOUTHERN TIER (Part 1)

In marked contrast to the severity of the past winter has been the presence, in unusual numbers of some of our common migratory birds, viz., Robins, Bluebirds, Mourning Doves and others. My own explanation lies in the abnormal fruitage of many trees and vines, which has supplied abundant winter bird feed. While no great amount of snow was on the ground at any one time, there have been several six to eight-inch falls. The ground was white from the latter part of November till after the middle of February. Several sub-zero mornings were recorded, 8 below being the coldest around Keuka Lake. The lake froze solidly to within three miles of its head at Hammondsport.

The bird group of the Keuka Park Conservation Club took its mid-winter census on New Year's Day, coming in with a count of 54 species.

Loons - Scoters:

Common Loon was unusually scarce this winter. My own lists record them on eleven days during December, with no more than 2 individuals in one day; and on but one day each in January and February.

One Pied billed Grebe appeared on Keuka Lake between