

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

Branchport and Hammondsport on February 2, and I saw it three more times during the month.

Members of the Keuka Park club observed a Great Blue Heron several times during February at Dresden, at the outlet of Keuka Lake as it empties into Seneca Lake.

Canada Geese were present on Keuka Lake till December 15, and first northward moving flocks were observed about the 20th of February.

A White-winged Scoter observed on Seneca Lake at Dresden about the middle of February by Malcolm Lerch and others.

Hawks - Owls:

Goshawk: The writer saw one at Hammondsport on February 10.

Coot: A flock of 20 spent the winter at the head of Keuka Lake at Hammondsport till the 16th of February, when they disappeared.

Killdeer: A pair spent the winter at the Keuka Outlet at Dresden.

Woodcock: Paul Wood, of Hammondsport, flushed five from an alder thicket along the inlet to Keuka Lake on December 3.

Pectoral Sandpiper: A single individual was observed at Keuka outlet at Dresden by Malcolm Lerch on New Year's Day census.

Purple Sandpiper: The writer found one at Dresden on December 31, and it has been subsequently seen by others. It was there yet on February 25. On February 12, 1949, two of these birds appeared at Dresden, the first recorded occurrence of the species for this area in 45 years, so far as we are able to discover; and at least one has been seen there each winter since.

Mourning Dove: Small flocks, ranging from three or four to fifteen have wintered here and there throughout the region.

Saw-whet Owl: Early in November a small group of

observers were investigating a beaver pond a few miles north of Prattsburg, when they came upon a Saw-whet Owl. The bird was easily caught and Malcolm Lerch banded it before releasing it.

Land Birds:

Winter Wren: The writer found these in four different spots within the environs of Keuka Lake throughout the winter.

Robin: Flocks ranging from 20 to 100 have wintered in a number of places. On Sunday morning, February 25, several persons reported Robins in full song, as the temperature had been in the fifties for several days.

Bluebird: Groups of from 2 to 8 have wintered in the Keuka Lake region.

Cedar Waxwing: An unusual number of waxwings have wintered here. A flock of about 150 spent the winter near Grove Springs, on the east side of Keuka Lake.

Myrtle Warbler; Late fall record November 19, none since.

Pine Warbler: During much of the winter a pair of these daily visited the feeding station of Mrs. George Taylor, just south of Penn Yan.

Red-winged Blackbird: The writer observed two at Hammondsport on January 25, and saw his first migrating flock, about 30 individuals, on February 28. Prof. Frank Guthrie observed several in Penn Yan marsh on February 18.

Baltimore Oriole: A male Oriole came to the feeding shelf of Mrs. Burton Cooper of Penn Yan for two days just before Christmas.

Cowbird: Prof. Guthrie observed one with the Red-wings in Penn Yan marsh on February 18.

Redpoll: Records for the winter are few, but there have been small groups observed from time to time throughout the winter.

Pine Siskin: Stray individuals have been observed about

Hammondsport during January and February.

Red Crossbill: The writer observed a flock of about 20, two miles north of Branchport on December 10, his first record here in nine years.

White-throated Sparrow: A half dozen or so were observed in a cedar grove two miles south of Keuka College on New Year's Day census.

Your editor for the Southern Tier would very much like to have notes contributed from other bird clubs of the region. He has had to depend thus far on the activities from his own club members, and on his own observations.

- - Charles J. Spiker, Branchport, New York.

REGION 2 - SOUTHERN TIER (Part 2)

This has been a highly irregular winter as far as weather is concerned. There have been several heavy snowfalls, followed by alternate freezing and thawing, so that the ground and plants were sometimes covered by glaze for two or three successive days. Temperatures have been averaging about normal, with the usual bitter, windy cold and mild extremes we have come to expect in this area.

The most notable single weather phenomenon was the great storm of November 25, which carried maritime birds all over the state. Those carried to our region are included in the list below.

Loons - Owls:

A report of the first annual waterfowl census taken February 11, 1951 in the Finger Lakes area showed a continuing decrease in wintering species. Space does not permit publication of all species reported but highlights were: Common Loon (1), Coot (500), Redhead (3483). Canvas-

back (2147), White-winged Scoter (6). This census was conducted on all the Finger Lakes by the Cornell University Undergraduate Conservation Club.

One Glaucous Gull seen January 6 and 19 at Ithaca. This species is now seen in small numbers almost every winter on Cayuga Lake.

One Iceland Gull seen January 19 at Myers Point, on the east shore of Cayuga Lake, and one at Ithaca on March 5. This species is much rarer here than is the Glaucous Gull. Four Laughing Gulls seen on November 26-27 at Ithaca, victims of the great storm of November 25. There are only two previous records from the Cayuga Lake Basin, one in 1916 and one in 1939.

Brunnich's Murres were blown into the area by the storm of November 25. Two were picked up at Endicott by State Conservation Department authorities, and one was collected at Myers Point, Cayuga Lake, as late as December 12. Possibly others of this species as yet unrecorded. The first Dovekie record from the Cayuga Lake Basin was taken alive in the cellar of a house in Ithaca, into which it had wandered after the storm of November 25. It was kept in captivity at the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology from November 26 until its death on December 23. Another Dovekie was seen at the south end of Cayuga Lake on November 29. The only record this winter of a Snowy Owl is of a single bird at Trumansburg on January 12.

Land Birds:

Horned Larks were unusually scarce this winter. All definite records have been for Prairie Horned Larks. A single Carolina Wren has resided at Dr. A. A. Allen's home in Ithaca since August 5, 1950. It is still there at this writing. This species is highly irregular in this region, and this is the first report since the spring of 1947. Robins wintered here in numbers unprecedented in the memory of local bird students. Although there were few reports in December, this may have been partly due to a lack of

observers in the field. All through January and February reports came in of flocks of up to 100 individuals, as well as single birds. Only an occasional winter resident in this area, the Bluebird has been seen throughout the winter this year, including groups of four or five individuals. Ruby-crowned Kinglet is very rare here in midwinter. There are two reliable observations this year: January 18, at the Ithaca city dump, and January 28, at Crowbar Point on the west shore of Cayuga Lake.

Cedar Waxwing is irregular here in winter, but a number of flocks, some numbering into the hundreds of individuals have been reported all winter this year. One Northern Shrike collected at Danby on January 1 represents our only record this winter. This is in marked contrast to last winter, when there was a notable invasion of this species. Although it is so common in the southernmost part of the state, the Myrtle Warbler is exceedingly rare in the Cayuga Lake Basin in midwinter. There have been several seen in December and January this year. The Cowbird is an occasional winter resident here. One female was seen feeding with a flock of Tree Sparrows at Ellis Hollow on February 3.

Pine Siskins were more abundant this winter than usual apparently a major flight year. This is the predominant "winter finch" this year. The Goldfinch ordinarily far outnumbers the Siskin in winter, but this is not true this winter. Not only is the Siskin population high, but Goldfinch numbers seem rather low. A total of approximately 60 to 70 Crossbills were seen on February 15-18 in the area bounded by Pharsalia, East Pharsalia and McDonough, in western Chenango Co. The majority were Red Crossbills. A smaller flock (10 or more) of Red Crossbills was seen 4-1/2 miles south of Slaterville on February 25. This may have represented part of the Pharsalia flock, as the birds were not to be found in the latter region after February 18. A small percentage of the large Crossbill flock seen near Pharsalia on February 16 proved to be White-winged

Crossbills. On February 18 a smaller flock was seen which was composed entirely of this species.

One individual Swamp Sparrow seen at Ithaca on January 1. This species is an occasional winter resident in this area. Several Lapland Longspurs have been seen this winter, mostly accompanying flocks of Snow Buntings or Horned Larks. It has been a good winter for Snow Buntings. Several reports of flocks numbering into the hundreds.

No reports this winter of Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Grosbeaks or Redpolls. - - Kenneth C. Parkes, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

REGION 3 - Lake Ontario

Land bird migration southward reached a peak about October 13 when temperatures dropped quickly. Early water-fowl were also passing south in good numbers in mid-October with numbers tapering off by early November. The more hardy species appear to have reached a peak rather late with good numbers present well into December.

There was some movement of Northern Finches, notably the Red Crossbill, into this area by mid-November and a few Snowy Owls appeared beginning in late November.

Thus far an unusual number of species, particularly small species, which do not normally winter here, has been present. At this writing (February 28) the early signs of migration have already appeared. Flocks of Horned Larks have been noted since early February. The gathering of Scaup and Old Squaw Ducks in the mouth of the Genesee River is growing each week and increasing numbers of certain birds of prey have been reported.