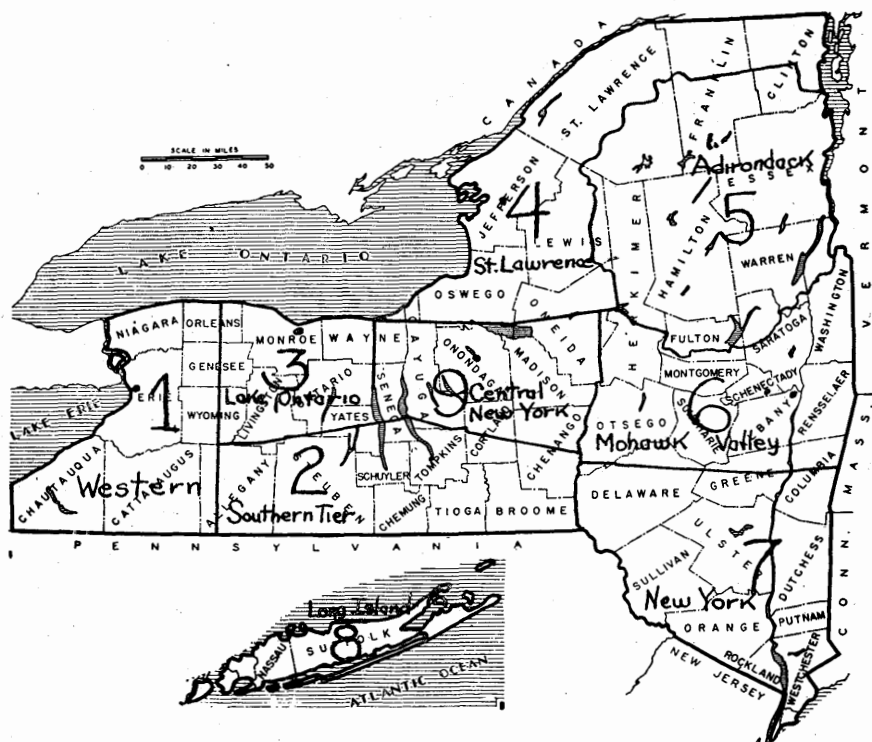




REGIONAL REPORTS FOR WINTER AND EARLY SPRING MIGRATION IN NEW YORK STATE

REGION 1 — WESTERN NEW YORK

The winter of 1952-1953 was extremely mild — so mild indeed that it will take its place with the winters of 1889-90, 1912-13, 1918-19, 1931-32, and 1948-49. The effect of such warm winters upon bird life is clearly visible.

Loons — Ducks:

A single Eared Grebe was found December 19 off Squaw Island, Buffalo (Mitchell) and seen by several observers. In the same spot a Red-throated Loon was observed on January 1 (Nathan). Five Whistling Swan spent the entire winter off the south end of Grand Island. Gadwall, American Scoter (very rare in winter), White-winged Scoter, and Hooded Merganser were occasionally seen on the boundary waters, and two Harlequins were present all winter at the Falls. A maximum of 14,000 Canvasback was reported off Grand Island in January, and 10,000 in the South Harbor in February; and 6000 Greater Scaup were counted on the river on January 17. Noticeably absent were Ring-necked Ducks, which were reported many times during the winters of 1931-32 and 1948-49.

Hawks — Owls:

Rough-legs were almost completely absent from all their usual haunts except the plain south of Lake Ontario, where as many as eight were seen (January 25, B. O. S. trip). A Red-shouldered Hawk, very rare here in winter, was reported from Cheektowaga January 6 by Knox.

Turkeys were reported four times during the winter from Allegany State Park. A Virginia Rail from Burnt Ship Creek on January 3 (Nathan et al), five Coot records, and a February 24 Killdeer record from Jamestown (Parker) were outstanding.

The Kingbird