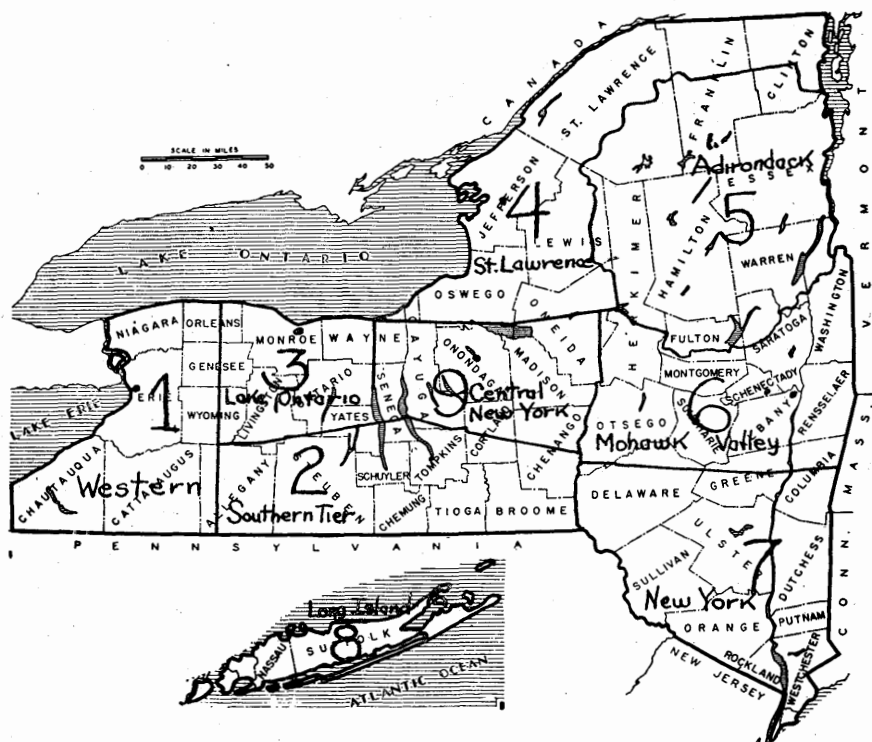




REGIONAL REPORTS FOR WINTER AND EARLY SPRING MIGRATION IN NEW YORK STATE

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 Canvas-back 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

The northern gulls were well represented throughout the winter. Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were reported frequently, and as many as four Kumlien's were seen on a single day. Bonaparte's Gulls remained on the river all winter, as many as 3,000 being observed at Lewiston on February 22. Save for the winters of 1931-32 and 1948-49, this is without known precedent. Ring-bills also were present in greater than usual numbers. A single Little Gull was noted in the flock of Bonaparte's at Lewiston on February 22, and the last Common Tern was noted at Beaver Island December 7 (Hall).

Our only Snowy Owl record was of a bird which was seen February 14 and 15 at South Harbor.

Swifts — Shrikes:

Feeding station operators reported it a poor winter for Chickadees. It was, however, rather better than average for Red-breasted Nuthatches, and a wintering Brown Thrasher in Buffalo and Carolina Wren in Woodlawn were noteworthy. There were many records of wintering Robins, but only one of the Gray Shrike.

Vireos — Warblers:

Again Wolfing supplied our only record of wintering warblers — two Myrtles at Alden on January 24.

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

Wintering icterids were reported rather regularly. Of extreme interest was the record of a Baltimore Oriole at Niagara Falls from December 31 to January 4 (Mallam, *vide* Heilborn). One of the outstanding features of the winter was the great number of Redpoll records; the largest number reported on a single day was the 760 noted at Chestnut Ridge on December 28 (**Buffalo Audubon Society** census). Both Crossbills were reported, but sparingly.

Clark S. Beardslee
132 McKinley Ave.
Kenmore 17, New York

REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER — PART 1

In all respects this was a mild winter in the Southern Tier. Snows were infrequent, light, and didn't stay on the ground. Temperatures went down to zero only two or three times, and most of the time the ground was not frozen, at least not to any depth. Natural food was plentiful. However, spring migrants were about on schedule, although a few individuals put in an early appearance.

Loons — Ducks:

On February 15, the Third Annual Finger Lakes Waterfowl Census was taken and showed an increase in numbers on Cayuga (as on all other lakes) over the preceding two years. Although Montezuma was frozen over, ice extended out only 300 feet at the south end of Cayuga, and it was felt that the mild winter was responsible for the increase in ducks, especially Blacks, of which species 6389 were counted on Cayuga alone. Other significant counts were 181 Horned Grebes, 3209 Canvasbacks, 115 Old-squaws, and 59 Buffleheads, on Cayuga. Only 3 Loons, 3 Ring-necked Ducks, 11 Pintails, and no Baldpates, were located. The total of 2 Canada Geese reported is not indicative of the actual number wintering in the area this year, as flocks were frequently reported. Cayuga boasted the highest number of Coot — 800 being counted, a good increase over last year.

In the Binghamton area, Black Ducks and American Mergansers were present in normal numbers (Bemont), but no Mallards. Dates other waterfowl were noted in that area are: 2 Pintails, Whitney Pt. Dam, March 7 (Rising, Harris); Baldpate, March 8; Canvasback, March 1. In the Ithaca area, a Wood Duck was seen at Danby Beaver Pond Mar. 15 (Spiegel); the first one at Binghamton was 3/22. A Gadwall at Montezuma 3/14; Pied-billed Grebe 3/15; Holboell's Grebe 3/29, 3 miles north of King Ferry (Seeber).