

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.

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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).

Hawks — Owls:

There was nothing unusual reported among the Hawks this winter. One or more Marsh Hawks were seen each week, an occasional Red-tail, several Rough-legs. A Goshawk was seen over the Rifle Range near Ithaca 3/12 (J. Layne). The first Red-shouldered Hawk was reported over the Cornell campus 3/14 (W. J. Hamilton III).

The Woodcock arrived 3/18, Swanson farm (Spiegel). In the Elmira area, a Wilson's Snipe was seen 3/15 (Welles). The first Killdeer around Binghamton was reported 3/21 (Bemont).

The Gull population was lower this winter, and it is interesting that in the Ithaca area, Ring-bills outnumbered Herring Gulls, the reverse being true around Binghamton. Great Black-backed Gulls were reported regularly on Cayuga. A Glaucous Gull was reported on Cayuga on Mar. 10 (Murray), and an Iceland Gull was seen at Myers Pt. 2/18 by a group.

Few Owls were reported. One Horned Owl nest contained young 3/21 near Binghamton (Loomis).

Swifts — Shrikes:

A Belted Kingfisher spent the winter on Fall Creek near Etna as it has for several years (Hoyt). Binghamton reported one 1/17, the next 2/20. That area reports Flickers for 12/30 and again 2/13. The Pilzeated Woodpeck continued to visit the residential areas of East Ithaca. Two Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen near Binghamton Dec: 21 (Moore).

Some arrival dates: Phoebe, Binghamton, 3/14 (Loomis); King Ferry, 3/22 (WJH III) Tree Swallows, Elmira, 3/25, Wells, Ithaca — Summit Marsh, 4/3 (K. Thorp). Early individual Robins in late Feb. and early March, but main wave 3/12-13 in Ithaca, 3/15 Binghamton. 2 Bluebirds near Danby 2/19 (Mrs. Glen Smith), Binghamton, 3/15 (White), main wave of Bluebirds, in good numbers, 3/21 (Bemont).

A Red-breasted Nuthatch spent winter at feeder of Mrs. C. L. Clark in Ithaca. Brown Thrasher reported at Cornell Orchard 2/6 (T. Savage). Waxwings were common all winter in Ithaca area, became common middle of March in Binghamton. Carolina Wren reported by Prof. O. Hewitt in Ithaca 2/8. One and possibly two Mockingbirds wintered in Ithaca again.

Vireos — Warblers:

Wintering Warblers near Ithaca included the Northern Yellow-throat on Jan 1 reported in last issue, by Barbehenn, and the Jan. 12 report of a Myrtle in Stewart Park on Jan. 12 (Boch et al). Mrs. Russell Easton of Binghamton had a Myrtle at her feeder for a while in early January, and the L. A. Davises of the same city reported a flock of Myrtles in late February. Mr. Davis reported 4 Cape Mays with the Myrtles on Feb. 23. His careful description seems to leave little doubt, yet since this would be a first winter record for the state, it probably should not stand without a specimen or photograph.

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

5 Meadowlarks were seen 1/9 at Slaterville (Spiegel). Reported 3/15 at Binghamton (C. and R. Harris). A female Redwing spent month of February at Bemont's feeder in Binghamton, and 5 Redwings and 2 Cowbirds were seen in Watkins Glen 2/12 by Mrs. Champion. Migrating Redwings appeared at Binghamton 2/28, 39 of them along Fall Creek 3/3 (Hoyt), and banded resident Redwings at feeder in Etna 3/20 (Hóyt). 69 Cowbirds at Myers Point on 2/8 (Rosche).

A Baltimore Oriole was reported at Montour Falls by Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Kivela 1/25. Rusty Blackbird at Cincinnatus 3/13 (Mrs. E. Burlingame).

No Evening Grosbeaks around Binghamton all winter. Scattered reports of individuals near Ithaca, one flock of 30 at Slaterville 3/3 (Terpenning), 20 at a feeder in Groton (Metzgar) in March. The Grosbeaks do not seem to have come in numbers west of the Utica-Rome area.

Goldfinches and Pine Siskins have been common all winter throughout the area. This has definitely been a Redpoll year with several flocks of 500 reported, and one flock of 2,000 or more 2/21 near Ouquaga (H. and G. Marsi, Sheffield).

Crossbill reports include: 5 Red Crossbills at IBM Country Club 3/22 (Harris), 5 at Beebe Lake, Ithaca on 3/5 (Bock), 2 at Westernville 3/14 (May). White-winged Crossbills 3/21 at Westernville (May) and a flock of White-wings at Freeville Bog 2/5 (Long et al).

Among the Sparrows, Whitethroats, Songs and Swamps wintered locally in small numbers. Vesper Sparrow, north of King Ferry 3/29 (Seeber); Field Sparrow, Binghamton 3/22 and Etna 3/23; Savannah Sparrow 3/22 Binghamton (White); Fox Sparrow, 3/15 Ithaca (A. Lane), 3/17 Binghamton (Bemont), 3/17 West Berne (McAlpin).

Resident banded Song Sparrows back the third week in March (Hoyt). Few Snow Buntings reported all winter.

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REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER — PART 2

The winter just past has been the mildest this writer has experienced in the twenty years he has lived here. The home thermometer registered zero but once, and there was a minimum of snow — an occasional fall of one to three inches, which in each case remained but few days. Such weather conditions, I think, kept many of our waterfowl, especially, wintering farther north, as there was a positive dearth on Keuka Lake here, although there was a more normal complement on Seneca, the upper end of which lies in our reporting area. There were more unusual records of wintering land birds: Towhee, Baltimore Oriole, Swamp and Fox Sparrows.

Loons — Ducks:

For the past two winters Loons have been scarce on the lakes here, only an occasional individual being seen. On the weekend of April 12, however, Miss Ellis and a group from the Keuka Park club met upon a migration wave on Waneta and Lamoka lakes, small bodies lying east of Keuka Lake, which included over 100 Loons, and several dozen each of Horned and Pied-billed Grebes. About 100 Black Ducks with a few Mallards were on the basin at Branchport till the middle of March, when they moved out. Seneca Lake had quite a concentration of Redheads throughout the winter, with a few Scaups, Golden-eyes, Canvasbacks and Oldsquaws. Hooded Mergansers were present all winter here and there, but American Mergansers were scarce; Mrs. Carter at Avoca saw 7 on the Cochocton river, January 20. Red-breasted Mergansers appeared the last of March.

Hawks — Owls:

Cooper's and Sharp-skinned Hawks were observed frequently throughout the winter in the Elmira area, with an occasional Red-tail and Red-shouldered Hawk. The writer saw one Rough-legged Hawk, February 23. Sparrow Hawks were well distributed over the entire region. Mrs. McMurty saw a Wild Turkey fly across the road about 6 miles south of Wellsville on November 28, flushed by a deer hunter. She writes that they have been seen occasionally for the past two years, sometimes as many as five in a group, and appear to be on the increase.

A few Coot wintered at Dresden, Branchport and Hammondsport. A pair of Killdeer wintered at the outlet of Keuka Lake where it empties into Seneca Lake. The outlet has built up a small delta of sandbars, which forms one of the most interesting spots for winter bird observations, and it is there that we have picked up Purple Sandpipers for three winters, although absent this winter. A few Great Black-backed Gulls were found regularly at this point. Mourning Doves wintered in scattered flocks over the entire southern tier area, numbering from single individuals to flocks of two dozen. A small flock of Short-eared Owls spent several weeks after the first of the year, a half mile east of Benton Centre in Yates County.

Swifts — Shrikes:

The writer saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on March 13, an early date here. A Phoebe was reported by the Elmira group on March 18, and Tree Swallow on March 25. They have also found the Tufted Titmouse in several new areas near Elmira. Robins have been observed here and there throughout the winter, although not in the numbers of a year ago. The writer found a Hermit Thrush on March 13. There have been several winter reports of Ruby-crowned Kinglets: Elmira on January 30, Avoca on January 20, and a late fall record, November 30 in Wellsville. Waxwings were practically absent during the winter, but flocks of Cedars began to appear in the Keuka area late in March. The Elmira club reports a Shrike on February 10 at Horseheads, and another on March 6. The former probably was a Northern Shrike at that date, while Mrs. Welles writes that the latter was

smaller, and was probably a Migrant. My own first record for Migrant Shrike is March 24th.

Vireos — Warblers:

An immature Cape May Warbler spent a week early in December at Wellsburg.

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

Meadowlarks appeared near Branchport on March 13, and in the Elmira area on March 18. A Baltimore Oriole (sex not stated) fed in a yard in Montour Falls where some unharvested grapes provided food till they were gone, when it visited the rest of the winter at various feeding stations in the neighborhood. First date for Bronzed Grackle was March 6, at Elmira.

Evening Grosbeaks were far less common than a year ago, but a few were observed at various dates through the winter at Watkins Glen, Elmira and Wellsville. A female Dickcissel wintered just over the state line at Athens, Pa., where the

Susquehanna Audubon Society maintains feeders.

There has been a scattering of Pine Siskins over the area, and this has been very definitely a Redpoll winter. Large flocks have been observed generally over the region. A Towhee spent the winter on the premises of Mrs. F. A. Cole in Penn Yan, another at Pine Valley, and a third for about a week in January south of Elmira. Mrs. Welles at Big Flats saw two Savannah Sparrows on March 24, one of which was in song. The writer banded a Fox Sparrow on January 8, which remained for another month, and another spent the winter at Mrs. Cole's in Penn Yan. I also banded a Swamp Sparrow on February 1, and it was retrapped several times in the next few weeks. Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings have been present* over the region in mixed as well as flocks of the two species.

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REGION 3 — LAKE ONTARIO

The mild winter continued with little snowfall and temperatures as high as 50°F. in January and February. With little melting snow, the fields and woods were unusually dry for March.

Loons — Ducks:

Several Holboell's Grebes remained at Sodus Bay and the lake shore from January till the present writing. Pied-billed Grebe and a Great Blue Heron were reported as early as January.

A flock of 125 Canada Geese and several Pintail wintered at Shore Acres, the corn fields furnishing food and the nearby lake providing shelter from their enemies. By the first of March the flock had grown to 1000 and a Blue Goose had joined them (Neil Moon). Baldpate and one European Widgeon were also reported from Shore Acres on the same day.

Two hundred Canvas-back were reported at Sodus Bay from the 31st of January through February. Two Whistling Swan were seen at the lakeshore as early as March 24.

Hawks — Owls:

Migrating hawks drifted by on the lake shore through all of March but no large flights were seen until Barry, Listman, and VanBeurden reported 105 Red-tailed Hawks on the 19th of March. They recorded a total of nine species of hawks on that one day.

On the 15th of March **The Genesee Ornithological Society** was rewarded with a view of a Golden Eagle at Hamlin Beach Park, and on the 22nd of March, Bieber and Listman observed another migrating Golden at Manitou Beach.

An early report for the Bald-Eagle was 7 Feb. on the west lake shore.

A Glaucous and an Iceland Gull remained at the lake shore through January and February.

The first Woodcock of the year was observed at the Burroughs-Audubon Nature Station on March 22 (McKinney); the first Short-eared Owl on March 12; and the first Saw-whet Owl on March 21.

The Kingbird