

REGIONAL REPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS DEC. 1 to MAR. 31

Many water and land birds were seen later in the fall, earlier in the spring and through the winter. An unusually good reproductive season in June and July 1953 and the lack of prolonged snow cover during the winter may partially explain the situation.

Northern species found an hospitable wintering area in New York this season. A few Goshawks and Rough-legged Hawks were seen. Both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were seen frequently near Buffalo, Cayuga Lake, near Oswego and Albany. Snowy Owls were reported from all areas except regions seven and eight. They seemed most common in region five where forty birds were seen. Saw-whet Owls were seen in small numbers in regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10. Gray Shrikes were seen in all regions except six. Most reporters called it a good flight year and Buffalo reported the best flight in many years. Arctic Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen again near Rochester and Buffalo. Purple Finches and Goldfinches seemed to be the predominant finches of the Southern Tier and the Adirondacks where they feasted on the abundant birch and hemlock seed crops. Siskins, Evening Grosbeaks, and the two crossbills were present but not in great numbers. Snow Buntings were reported in large flocks in the more open agricultural areas south of Lake Ontario but in small flocks elsewhere. The only regions not reporting them were regions six and seven.

Mourning Doves and Meadowlarks wintered successfully in above average numbers. Baltimore Orioles (normally wintering in Central America) were reported at three feeders in central and eastern New York. Seven species of warblers were seen during the winter from various areas.

The carolinian invasion continued and held ground already gained. Tufted Titmice were reported regularly south of Lake Ontario and the Mohawk River. A Bewick's Wren was seen in Auburn, N. Y., and Mockingbirds were reported from near Rochester, Geneva and Ithaca. Carolina Wrens seemed to winter well and Dickcissels were seen in regions three and nine during the winter.

Three rare western species were reported. Bohemian Waxwings were seen at Rochester and in Sullivan Co. A Black-headed Grosbeak was seen at Katonah and another probable wintered at Idlewild. An immature Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen at Jones Beach.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

The lowest point in Region One is the Lake Ontario shore line, 246 ft. above sea level. From a rather high embankment here, the land slopes very gently upward toward the south. This is the Ontario Plain, approximately ten miles wide. It ends at the Niagara Escarpment, which parallels the Lake Ontario shore. Southward from the Niagara Escarpment is the Huron Plain, about 600 ft. above sea level. The Huron Plain is narrow, being in turn terminated to the south by the Onondaga Escarpment, which stretches from North Buffalo to a point just north of Batavia, and beyond. The Erie Plain, the southernmost of the three narrow steps up to the Allegheny Plateau, averages some 750 ft. in altitude. It is irregularly shaped; on it are located Buffalo, Batavia, Alden, East Aurora, Orchard Park, and Hamburg,