

SWIFTS - SHRIKES: Unaccountably, Kingfishers did not winter. Mrs. McMurtry reported them throughout March, but elsewhere they did not arrive until the last third of the month. Many Flickers wintered, probable migrants appearing in mid-March. One more Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker was reported, this one at Youngstown from February 7 (Mitchell *et al.*) to 14 (Vaughan, Klabundes). Phoebe, Prairie Horned Larks, and Tree Swallows arrived on the dot. A nice incursion of Titmice was notable in January and February. Many Robins wintered, but we suspect the three reported from Olean on February 27 (Eaton), the six at Scio (McMurtry) and the 30 at Batavia (Mahaney) on the 28th, were our first migrants. Bluebirds wintered at Lewiston (very rare), the first migrants arriving March 4 (Castile, Thompson) and 6 (East Elma, Simmons). It was a remarkable winter for Gray Shrikes, — more records by far than any recent year.

VIREOS - WARBLERS: A Myrtle Warbler was seen from January 6 to February 2 at Lewiston (Klabundes). Migrants arrived first at Batavia (March 19, Annabal).

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS: More Meadowlarks than usual wintered, but apparently migrants did not arrive until well into March. Red-wings swarmed the area in February, being reported from no less than eleven places, beginning with two individuals at Dayton on the 16th (Beardslee). Grackles were also reported early, the first record being of two birds near Allegany February 15 (Eaton), 48 Cowbirds being counted in the same flock. Mrs. McMurtry considers Cardinals more numerous in Alleghany County. Redpolls were not reported, but Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were seen in average numbers. Both crossbills were seen, but the only large group reported was one of fifty Red Crossbills near Olean all winter (Eaton). Goldfinches were numerous in the southern counties, seldom reported elsewhere. A Singing Field Sparrow was reported from Grand Island March 27 (Rice). A February 28 Fox Sparrow at Alden (Wolfling) was probably an extremely early migrant. Song Sparrows arrived the first week in March. Longspurs were reported only twice, but Snow Buntings were present in all areas, and most records were of very large flocks.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

December was 5.8 degrees warmer than average and bays and ponds remained open late into the month. Very little snow fell during the month and an influx of rarities was noted. Rochester reported 76 species on their Christmas Census — an all time high. Weather in January was about normal but February was quite mild, probably accounting for the early waterfowl records. March was quite wintry but nevertheless migrants showed up on time towards the end of the month.

LOONS - DUCKS: Two reports of Holboell's Grebe, one on Dec. 6 and ten migrants on Mar 20 (Paine Beach); six White Pelicans were observed off Shore Acres in Lake Ontario on Mar. 28 (Taylor, Conway) and two Western Grebes were seen on Irondequoit Bay Jan. 3 (Tanghe, Dobson). The last Black-crowned Night Heron and Bitterns were seen on Dec. 12. An immature Gannet was seen at Ling Road Outlet on two week-ends in Dec. Many Canada Geese were seen on Mar. 28 flying west over the Rochester area. It was estimated that 20,000 geese had crossed a north-south line which extended out into the lake and ten miles inland. On the same day Barry saw 13 Blue Geese also flying west. One Snow Goose was seen in Dec. at Hamlin Park. An adult male Harlequin Duck remained from Dec. 20 to Jan. 1 at Ling Road Outlet. Later in January the same or another bird was reported at Webster Beach Park. A female or immature Common Eider was seen on Jan. 24 at Hamlin Park (Barry, Van Beurder). First arrival dates on dabbling ducks included Pintail Mar. 15, American Baldpate Mar. 18, Shoveller Mar. 22, Green-winged Teal Mar. 28, and Gadwall Mar. 28. Two Surf Scoters were reported in 1954 and White-winged Scoters were seen in small numbers.

HAWKS - OWLS: Single Goshawks were seen in Dec. and Feb., possibly the same bird (Listman). A Golden Eagle was seen at Hamlin Park on Mar. 14 (Schaffner, Nathan). The first Turkey Vulture was seen on Mar. 19. A Florida Gallinule was seen at Ling Road in Jan. Last shorebirds of 1953 seen were Killdeer Dec. 5, Greater Yellow-legs Dec. 12, Red-backed Sandpiper Dec. 12 and Wilson's Snipe Dec. 26. No Purple Sandpipers were seen in 1953. The first recorded shorebirds in 1954 were Killdeer Mar. 20, Lesser Yellow-legs Mar. 27, Woodcock Mar. 11, Wilson's Snipe Mar. 20, and Pectoral Sandpiper Mar. 24. Four Saw-whet Owls were reported in 1954 and one Barn Owl Jan. 31 - Mar. 31. There were a few Snowy Owls in the Rochester area.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: An arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, first seen on our Christmas Census, stayed until Jan. 16 at Genesee Valley Park (Muchmore). The first Phoebe was seen on Mar. 27 and the first Tree Swallow on Mar. 20. Fifty Horned Larks were seen in a field near Mendon on Jan. 2 (Listman); and two more on March 31. A Mockingbird has been coming regularly to a feeder on Hampton Blvd. in Greece (Monroe Co.) Dec. - Jan. In Pittsford (Monroe Co.) a Tufted Titmouse visited a feeder from Dec. - Mar. A Catbird was seen at Durand Park (McKinney, Van Beurden). The first Bluebird was seen Feb. 28 and the first Pipit Mar. 28. A few Carolina and Long-billed Marsh Wrens again wintered in small numbers near Rochester. The first Hermit Thrush was seen on Mar. 31. Shrikes were more common than usual this winter.

WARBLERS - SPARROWS: A few Myrtle Warblers wintered in widely scattered areas. Migrant blackbirds came early this year with Red-wings seen on Mar. 20. There were a few reports of White-winged Crossbills with a high number of 15 on Feb. 13. An Oregon Junco was reported in Durand Park on Dec. 6 (McKinney, Van Beurden). A Towhee was seen in early Dec. On Mar. 28 approx. eight hundred and eighty Lapland Longspurs were seen flying east accompanied by 10 Snow Buntings. The first Sparrows reported were Fox Mar. 20, Field Mar. 31, and Savannah Mar. 28.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

The month of December was relatively warm and windy with several thunderstorms and one cold snap in the middle of the month. The last of January and early February brought some unusually cold weather, but the Finger Lakes section, for the most part, escaped the heavy snows of other sections of the state. Because of the light snow cover, birds found natural food easy to find, although ice at times drove them in greater numbers to feeding stations. Winter finches were low in numbers, with the exception of Purple Finches, which were conspicuous everywhere. Many Robins, Mourning Doves, Flickers and Killdeer wintered with us, and hawks seemed more abundant than usual.

LOONS — DUCKS: Loons were rare on Keuka Lake this year, in less than usual numbers elsewhere. Great Blue Herons wintered over near Geneva (Gambrell) and Elmira (C. V. A. S.) 2 adult and 1 imm. Whistling Swans were spotted at Myers Point on Cayuga in early January, then moved to the south end of the lake and were seen daily. On 3/21, Swans were seen on Keuka Lake. An American Brant was reported from 1/19 to 3/19 on Keuka (Spiker et al) and Brant and Blue Geese were seen by the Munfords at Montezuma.

The large rafts of Redheads and Greater Scaups at the north end of Seneca Lake had mostly left by the middle of March (Ward). The Guthries reported Green-winged Teal and Wood Ducks at Branchport on 1/2 and Gadwalls and Shovellers were seen at Montezuma 3/17 (Walker). Two Wood Ducks were also seen on Canandaigua on 2/14 by the Field Ornithology Club of Cornell. Fudge reported 6 Pintails at Elmira 2/20.

Hooded Mergansers were reported in small numbers on all the lakes.

The Waterfowl Census taken by the F. O. C. on Feb. 14 resulted in a count of 23,590. Mallards and Blacks and Old-Squaws were down, Redheads, Golden-eyes and Buffle-heads about the same, Coot, Mergansers, and Canvasbacks were up over counts in 1953.

HAWKS — OWLS: Turkey Vultures at Lamoka Lake 3/19 (Mrs. Whittaker) and at Montezuma 3/28. A Goshawk was seen at Elmira 3/7 (Andrus). The Bald Eagles were seen at the nest in Montezuma on 2/21 by Walker, and were observed changing places on 2/27. A Bald Eagle was also reported over Elmira on 1/12 and again on 3/12.

Red-tailed Hawks were seen throughout the Region in usual numbers. Red-shouldered Hawks were recorded in Jan. Feb. and March around Keuka. Marsh Hawks wintered in the Ithaca area, but were absent from the usual wintering places near Elmira.

An increase in Sparrow Hawks was noted both near Elmira, and along the valley from Avoca to Corning.

An injured Virginia Rail was found in the snow on a street in Freeville on 2/11 (Dickinson) and died two days later. A Florida Gallinule was reported at Montezuma on 3/27 (Hewitt, et al). Killdeer were reported from several points in early January. A Wilson's Snipe was seen at Dresden 1/2 (Lerch).