

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).

Ring-billed Gulls are still increasing in numbers on Cayuga Lake. An Iceland Gull was reported at the southern end on 3/4 (H. Howard) and a Glaucous Gull on 3/2 (K. Thorp).

Long-eared Owls were reported at two places near Elmira, and one at Branchport 3/14 (Mrs. Lerch). A Short-eared Owl at Waterloo on 1/11 (Walker) and from 1/10 through February at Branchport (Guthrie), but there seemed to be no invasion of this species. Reports of Saw-whet Owls were more common than usual in the Region; Branchport 3/11 (R. Guthrie), Geneva in January (Wellington) and Elmira 1/27 (Fudge). Actually there may be no increase in the number of these small owls, but instead an increase in observer-hours.

While one or two Snowy Owls were reported from all sections and one was seen daily on the Cornell campus from the first week of December, the invasion this year was not equal to some of the past ones.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported near Waterloo 2/7 (Walker) and at Union Springs 2/11 (Hazard).

A Kingbird reported on 3/17 at Wellsburg (Smith) would certainly have to be considered an 'accidental'.

Tree Swallows appeared at Ithaca 3/27 (Thorp) and Elmira 3/28 (York).

A Tufted Titmouse was seen daily at Clifton Springs (Munford). Fewer Red-breasted Nuthatches reported this winter, but one was at a feeder regularly on River Road, Elmira.

The first report of a Bewick's Wren in upstate New York came from Auburn, where one appeared at feeder at Coalson home in November, came regularly there and to Daboll's until late February. It was photographed in color by Mr. Daboll.

Dr. Guthrie reports that the Carolina Wren seems to be establishing itself as a resident in Keuka Park area. One also visited feeder daily in Etna from November until middle of February (Hoyt).

A Mockingbird wintered near Geneva (Gambrell), two near Ithaca, and there was one report of an injured Brown Thrasher in Ithaca in January. An injured Catbird wintered in the Keuka area.

Robins were reported migrating a week earlier than usual near Avoca (Carter) and in Ithaca these were noted still in large flocks into April.

A Ruby-crowned Kinglet spent three weeks at my Etna feeder in December, and fought its reflection in the window furiously (Hoyt). One was seen at Penn Yan 12/14 (Orcutt) and at Elmira 12/20 (Andrus).

10 American Pipits were reported 12/21 at Ithaca (K. Thorp). Gray Shrikes were fairly common in all areas this winter.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Not as many reports were received of wintering Myrtle Warblers as last year, but 6 were seen on the Jan. 2 census of the Chemung Valley Aud. Soc., and they occurred in two sections of Ithaca throughout the winter.

A female Orange-crowned Warbler was at the Smith's feeder in Wellsburg from Dec. 4 to Jan. 9, seen by many observers. Pine Warbler at Dresden 12/15 (Lerch), Palm Warbler at Keuka Park 1/31 (Mrs. Loomis), Northern Yellowthroat at Branchport 1/31 (F. Guthrie).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Baltimore Oriole Dec. and Jan. at Caywood (Mrs. W. M. Wagner). A Rusty Blackbird was seen at Dresden 1/2 (Lerch), Redwings 12/27 at Waterloo (Walker) and a Bronzed Grackle 1/31 at Geneva (Ward). Cardinals seemed on the increase in the Geneva area, were down in numbers around Elmira. A female Dickcissel was reported at Jacksonville 2/17 (Graham).

The Finger Lakes saw only a few Evening Grosbeaks this winter, at scattered points. Purple Finches were the common winter finch. Goldfinches were reported as rare at Keuka, with none seen in March. 14 at Avoca on 2/27 fed on seeds of arbor vitae. The writer had Goldfinches with Purple Finches through Jan. and Feb. and the former were seen feeding on arbor vitae several times.

2 Pine Grosbeaks at Ithaca 2/1 (Short). Also reported by Munfords at Clifton Springs. Pine Siskins 3/28 (Munfords).

2 Red-eyed Towhees at Penn Yan Dec. through Feb; 1 in Elmira and 1 in Breesport at feeding stations.

Slate-colored Juncos somewhat more abundant than usual. Field Sparrows at Branchport 1/2 (Mrs. Guthrie) and on same date at Elmira.

Fox Sparrow 3/15 near Ithaca (A. C. Lane). A Lincoln's Sparrow was observed closely near Elmira on 2/20 (Fudge). A Swamp Sparrow at Elmira 1/2 (C. V. A. S.) 3 Lapland Longspurs at the Elmira airport on 1/17 (Orbison & Rowley).