

LOONS — DUCKS: A Green-winged Teal was noted at Charlotte on the late date of Dec. 23. A Harlequin Duck was noted at Webster Beach State Park on Jan. 23 by a party of 10 observers. The usual wintering waterfowl were observed. Our Winter Waterfowl Census of Jan. 15-23 netted 17 species and 4009 individual Grebes, Ducks and Coot. Whistling Swan — more than usual on migration in March. Snow Goose — 2 birds in Monroe County in March. European Teal — 1 on March 20 at Hamlin State Park, seen by 5 observers. American Bittern — 1 on Dec. 26 at Braddock's Bay.

HAWKS — OWLS: Goshawk — 6 birds in March; 5 on March 20 on migration at Braddock's Bay. Duck Hawk and Pigeon Hawk were reported in March. Golden Eagle — 1 on March 19, 1 on March 24; migrating at Braddock's Bay. Virginia Rail — reported in Dec., Feb., and March from Ling Road; also once in Dec. from Braddock's Bay. At least 2 individuals wintered at Ling Road. Several late shorebirds were noted: Sanderling, 1 Dec. 18, Manitou; White-rumped Sandpiper, 1 Dec. 4, Manitou; Red-backed Sandpiper, 1 Dec. 23, Ling Road. A very unusual record of 1 Red Phalarope at Oklahoma Beach on Jan. 16 was observed by Listman, Bieber, and VanBeurden.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: The Tufted Titmouse has definitely increased in our area, as evidenced by the number of feeding station reports. Regular reports of Red-bellied Woodpecker were received during the winter from the Genesee River valley, where they are resident. Long-billed Marsh Wren was noted in Dec. and March at Braddock's Bay. Our Christmas Census netted 77 species on Dec. 26. Among these were 1 Bluebird and 1 Hermit Thrush. Cedar Waxwing — an unusual flight of these birds was noted on the weekend of Feb. 26 when 600 were observed at Rose's Marsh. Northern Horned Lark — only 1 bird reported. Pipit — an early migrant seen on March 6th.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Myrtle Warblers wintered in small numbers at Durand-Eastman Park as usual. Yellow-throat — 1 in Dec. at the Flynn Road dump and 1 in Feb. at Ling Road marsh.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Pine Grosbeaks, Redpolls, and Snow Buntings were present in good numbers. A flock of 4000 Snow Buntings in Mendon was reported during Jan. Evening Grosbeak reappeared for the first time Since Dec. on March 28. A Hoary Redpoll was seen on Dec. 23 near Pultneyville by the Kemnitzers. Oregon Junco — 2 reports of this type: 1 on Dec. 29 at Sodus Bay and 1 on Jan. 15 on the East Lakeshore. A Fox Sparrow was observed in Durand Park in late Dec. and early Jan.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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The weather for Dec., Jan., Feb. and March was generally cold, especially in late January and early February. While there were no heavy snows in the Finger Lakes, snow remained on the ground almost constantly except along the Penna. line, and light snows were frequent. For example, at Ithaca, it snowed or rained 16 of the 28th days in February, and precipitation was an inch above normal. All small lakes and ponds were frozen over, as was Montezuma. The larger lakes had open areas, where waterfowl concentrated. All observers, however, reported that natural food seemed plentiful and except following heavy snow, feeding stations were not patronized as much as expected.

LOONS — DUCKS: Reports of Common Loons were infrequent. A Red-throated Loon was seen on Seneca Lake near Sampson 2/6 (Munford). A few Pied-billed Grebes were seen on the larger lakes and one on the Chemung River 1/22 (K. Fudge). A Great Blue Heron at Wellsburg 1/8 (A. Fudge et al) and another was found dead south of Newfield, the talons of an equally dead Screech Owl locked in its neck, on Jan. 31, the two specimens being brought to Cornell.

4 Whistling Swans spent the week of 3/20 at Montezuma (Smith), while the

population of Canada Geese at the Refuge build up from 3000 on March 19 to approximately 9000 the last week in March. At least this many were on Cayuga near King Ferry in early April.

A small flock of dabbling ducks (mostly Blacks) wintered along the Chemung at Elmira, until freezing conditions forced them to move farther south to open water. One male Baldpate appeared on Brick Pond, Elmira on 3/14 (K. Fudge) and also reported from Waterloo (Walker). 370 Pintails were seen in flooded land north of Montezuma on 3/12 by W. Thurber. 4 Green-winged Teal at Montezuma on 3/19 (Thurber) were rather early. Redheads were in good numbers all winter on Seneca and Keuka, fewer on Cayuga, and the other common diving ducks were in sizeable rafts on Seneca and Cayuga, although Golden-eyes seemed somewhat down in numbers. Buffle-heads were reported as more common on Keuka than usual (Guthrie), and 20 were seen at Montezuma on 1/22 (Ward). There were fewer reports of Scoters this winter, although 6 American Scoters were seen on Seneca 2/6 by the Munfords.

Mergansers seemed scarce in entire Ithaca area, and also on Keuka (Guthrie).

HAWKS — OWLS: A Goshawk was again reported near Elmira (Catlin and Andrus) on 12/4, and another in January near Waterloo (Munford, Walker). Reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks were fairly common. A Red-tailed wintered near Avoca (Atwood, Carter), and they were common all winter at Waterloo (Walker). One light phase Red-tail at the Refuge. 2 Bald Eagles were seen 2/17 at the Refuge (Ward) and one on edge of nest on 3/19 (Thurber, Walker). A Marsh Hawk came down to a banding trap at Etna 1/26 (Hoyt). Sparrow Hawks were observed in "mating flight" near nesting site at Waterloo on 3/7 (Walker). A Pigeon Hawk near Avoca on 1/17 is of interest (Atwood).

Ruffed Grouse seem to be making a comeback in the area west of Waterloo.

Coots were numerous on Seneca and Cayuga, and had increased in numbers this year on Keuka.

Woodcocks arrived on schedule throughout the area, except in Waterloo area, where Walker reports them scarce. Wilson's Snipe reported at Horseheads Marsh on 3/29 (Andrus).

One Glaucous Gull wintered on Cayuga and was reported from 1/1 until 3/10. The less common Iceland Gull was also reported several times during the period. Great Black-backed Gulls were down in numbers on Keuka (Guthrie) but up to 25 were counted on Cayuga at one time by Walker. Ring-bills were more common than Herrings on Seneca in late February (Kellogg). Bonaparte's Gull on Cayuga 1/4 (Dunham).

Mourning Doves were common winter residents. 40 fed regularly at Sapsucker Woods sanctuary (Lane), 20 were reported near Keuka Park in January by Guthrie, on 1/9 they fed in numbers in the Welles Cornfield near Elmira, and smaller numbers were reported west of Geneva (Dryer) and in Watkins Glen area (Brubaker).

No real Snowy Owl invasion, but reported 12/8 and 2/26 near Geneva (Dryer), 1/22 at Aurora (Logan), 1/30 south of Geneva (Lerch) and 1/14 near Dresden (Shattuck). 3 Long-eared Owls on 1/1 north of Horseheads (Samson) and one at Geneva 3/30 (McCarthy and Wheeler). The week of March 30, 4 Short-eared Owls were seen hunting at the Refuge (Smith). An injured Saw-whet Owl was picked up on Cornell Campus 3/2, and has recovered.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Wintering Flickers were reported from all parts of the Region. In the Ithaca area two different pairs of Pileated Woodpeckers were coming to feeders for suet. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen on the January 1 census at Elmira (Rowley). A Phoebe was also reported at Elmira on 1/1 at mouth of Sing Sing Creek (Al Fudge). Mrs. Welles reports from Elmira that flocks of Horned Larks this year contained mostly Northern whereas in other years Prairies have been more common.

Several areas reported that Tree Swallows were slow in returning, with very few seen by 4/1. Blue Jays are increasing in northern Seneca Co., with a first report for one at a Clifton Springs feeder (Ontario Co.) on 2/4 (Munford). Around Ithaca they remain common at winter feeders.

Black-capped Chickadees were very abundant, and reports of Brown-caps came in from a half-dozen areas in the region, including Big Flats, Bath, Auburn and Ithaca. None, however, around Geneva. Tufted Titmice are increasing along southern part of the Region, and from Wellesburg to west of Elmira, along Chemung

River, every feeder has its pair (Welles). At Montour Falls a pair remained at Mrs. LaTourette's station. Red-breasted Nuthatches were more common than usual, as were Brown Creepers in some sections, although not around Ithaca. Winter Wrens seemed scarce (Guthrie, Hoyt). Two different observers, neither knowing of the other, reported to me a Bewick's Wren near the covered bridge in Newfield, in Feb. and in March. Mrs. Betzer said that it came to her feeder there, along with 2 Carolinas. A Carolina also was reported at Auburn (DaBoll) and at Geneva (Mali).

A Mockingbird spent the winter at Branchport, and one was reported in Ithaca on 1/4 (Bartlett). In early February a Catbird occurred on University Ave. in Ithaca (Wheeler). There were scattered reports of wintering Robins, especially around Elmira, but none at Avoca this year. Golden-crowned Kinglet reports were scarce. Cedar Waxwings were abundant, in large flocks, often appearing mixed with Pine Grosbeaks or Evening Grosbeaks. Northern Shrikes were reported from all sections (I had 4 individuals at my feeding station). One was reported as singing at Keuka Park on 3/20 (Guthrie). A Migrant Shrike was reported on 3/20 to Thurber by another observer, at Montezuma.

WARBLERS — VIREOS: A Pine Warbler was seen first at Stanley Woods near Elmira 2/23 by Harvey and Fudge. Other observers saw it at same place, on later dates, to 3/13. In December and January, a Myrtle Warbler visited the Charles Sibley's feeder near Ithaca.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Meadowlarks wintered in Elmira area. Enormous flocks of Blackbirds covered the sky near Millport at 1730 on 3/5 (Mrs. Marsh) and large flocks flew off Montezuma Refuge at daybreak 3/26 (Walker). 1000 Rusties were soon on Powderly Road, Waterloo 3/10 (Walker) and individual Rusties visited feeders in Etna in December (Hoyt), in Avoca in January (Atwood). A Grackle wintered at Elmira (Jayne), and Cowbird flocks found food for winter existence by a pigpen near Elmira, and at the banding station in Etna (Hoyt), where 30 were banded.

Cardinals seem established at Avoca and are increasing around Elmira.

Just south of my region, 2 Baltimore Orioles occurred through December at the feeder of Frances Biles, in Athens, Pa., eating suet, cookies and Tokay grapes.

Evening Grosbeaks occurred spottily throughout the region, concentrating in rather small flocks at certain feeding stations, not at all in the numbers of three years ago. Males considerably outnumbered females. 120 banded at Etna.

Purple Finches were very scarce, as were Pine Siskins. A flock of 40 on Golf Course near Ithaca on 3/24 probably represented migrants (Dilger). Goldfinches, however, were plentiful everywhere. Pine Grosbeaks made the news everywhere, occurring in much larger flocks than they usually do, and coming right into cities and villages to feed on lawns and hedges. They seemed to like maple buds. A flock of 60 was seen at Dryden on 2/19 (Dunham). Crossbills, reported in the early fall, must have moved on out of the region, as only scattered reports came in during the winter.

There were at least two sight reports of Pink-sided Juncos, but with the difficulty of identification of these and hybrids with Slate-colored and western forms, probably specimens should be taken for positive identification. Tree Sparrows were reported as scarce and spotty in most areas, but I banded 170 at Etna. A Field Sparrow was seen on 1/2 at Branchport (R. Guthrie). A White-crowned wintered at Geneva 2/17 (Dryer and Ward) and White-throats at Branchport 1/2 (R. Guthrie) and at Avoca 1/30 (Carter). All observers reported Lapland Longspurs as scarce, although they were seen commonly near Ithaca in early fall. Snow Buntings were present in fairly large flocks at various locations.

Redpolls were late in putting in an appearance, but small flocks were reported from Avoca, Keuka Park, Aurora and near Ithaca in February.

Avianna, Etna, N. Y.

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

December was a relatively mild month in the Susquehanna Region. There was little snow and few really cold days. The Christmas Census was run with no snow on the ground for the first time in four years. January