

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

and February were quite different. There were several heavy snowfalls and bitter cold weather came by the week. The first week or so of March brought several pleasant warm days and promise of an early spring, but the latter part of the month changed all that, bringing more snow and weather cold enough to almost completely freeze over many of the ponds and marshes which had been completely thawed earlier.

LOONS — DUCKS: The only Horned Grebes reported during the winter months were one at Deposit 12/5 (Wilson), 2 at the south end of Skaneateles Lake 1/1 (Axtell) and 6 on Otsego Lake 12/29 (Will) any or all of which could have been late migrants rather than wintering birds. Wintering Pied-billed Grebes were reported from Unadilla (Wisner), Binghamton (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club) and one at the south end of Skaneateles Lake 1/1 (Axtell). The first migrant was noted at Boland's Marsh near Binghamton 3/17 (Bemont).

A Great Blue Heron was seen at Cortland 1/1 (Axtell) and another 1/24 at Unadilla (Wisner). The next ones were 3 at Deposit 3/24 (Wilson), clearly migrants.

The last Canada Geese reported last fall were 4 at Norwich 12/1 (R. White) and the first spring migrants, 3 at Afton 3/6 (Hannans).

A Baldpate was found at Chenango Valley State Park 1/1 on our Christmas Census (Sheffields). Four were seen in the same area 1/15 and single birds 1/16 and 1/23 but no more until 3/6 (TCNC). The last Ring-necked Ducks were 6 on 12/5 at Deposit (Wilson) and the first this spring were 2 at Boland's Marsh 3/5 (Saunders). Several large flocks were noted in Binghamton and at Whitney Point Dam up to 3/20 (TCNC). Norwich was the only other area to produce any and there not until 3/26 (R. White). 2 Redheads and four Hooded Mergansers 12/5 at Deposit (Wilson) and 2 Old Squaws 12/29 on Otsego Lake (Will) were last records for their species. Other first records were Pintail 3/12 and Green-winged Teal and Wood Duck 3/20 at Whitney Point (TCNC), Canvasback 2/13 at Chenango Forks (Doren, Fessenden), Greater Scaup 3/22 at Boland's Marsh (Bemont), Am. Goldeneye 2/26 at Deposit (Wilson) and Binghamton (Sheffields), Lesser Scaup 3/26, and Bufflehead 3/27 and Redhead 3/30 at Norwich (R. & S. White).

Black Ducks, Mallards and Am. Mergansers were present all winter in their normal small numbers.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Turkey Vulture was seen at Deposit on 3/31 (Wilson). A few reports were received of wintering Cooper's, Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks. Sparrowhawks were noted quite frequently, as usual. The first Sharp-shinned Hawk was at Gracie in Cortland Co. 3/2 (Thurber) and the first Red-shouldered Hawk was at Boland's Marsh 3/22 (Sheffields). A Bald Eagle was at Deposit 2/21 (Wilson).

Two Coot were seen 12/5 at Deposit and no more until 3/20 when one was at Whitney Point Dam (TCNC). The earliest Killdeer reported was at Oxford 2/22 (A. J. Stratton). The only report of wintering Mourning Doves was one at Binghamton 1/1 (TCNC). The first migrants noted were two at Preble 3/12 (Thurber).

A Snowy Owl was seen sitting on a phone pole east of South New Berlin 1/26 (R. White) and another was seen west of Cortland 3/11 (Thurber). A Barred Owl was heard at Chenango Valley State Park the morning of 1/1 (Bemont, Layman).

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES: Phoebe's have been especially late this spring. The only one reported up to the end of March was at Bainbridge 3/19 (E. J. Smith). A flock of Horned Larks numbering in the thousands was at Cortland 3/31 (Thurber). Tree Swallows were more than a week early at Binghamton. Two were at Boland's Marsh 3/20 (Sheffields) and they have been seen several times since, but they have been absent from all other areas so far.

One of the more interesting events of the winter was the appearance of a few Brown-capped Chickadees. The two already reported at a feeder in Hillcrest have been daily customers ever since (Easton). It has been impossible to check on the 6 previously reported at Norwich but 2 were found at Sherbourne early in December and they have been present all winter (R. White). In addition a single individual was seen 12/1 at South New Berlin (S. White), another 1/1 and 1/2 at Cortland (R. & H. Axtell) and another 12/10 thru 12/13 at Unadilla (Wisner, Atkinson). The first Tufted Titmouse in Unadilla since 1952 was seen 12/1 (Wisner).

There were several reports of wintering Robins. They started to be seen regularly 3/4 all over the region and that day 2 flocks of about a dozen each were seen at Oxford (Stratton). They were not really common until 3/20 in Binghamton and

Deposit and at the end of March were still being seen primarily in large migrating flocks. The first Bluebird reported was at Deposit 3/2 (Wilson).

Golden-crowned Kinglets were present in normal numbers until the end of January in Binghamton and a little later in Deposit, but since then there have been none reported from the whole region. One Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen at Endicott 3/30 (Carter) — early, but not a record.

Gray Shrikes have been reported almost as frequently this year as last, but were more scattered. A Migrant Shrike was seen east of Cincinnatus in Cortland Co. 3/18 (Thurber).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: 2 Myrtle Warblers were seen at Chenango Valley State Park 1/23 (Bemond, M. Sheffield). One was seen at the same place 2/13 (Hannans). A Yellowthroat was seen 12/1 in Binghamton (Yereckey).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Wintering Meadowlarks were seen at Norwich 1/10 (R. White) and a flock of 9 was seen at Chenango Valley State Park 2/13 (Hannans). The first migrants were at Binghamton, Bainbridge and Deposit 3/12. There were no reports of wintering Redwings. The first reported were 9 at Whitney Point 2/27 (TCNC). They were common in most places after 3/4 but no females were seen until 3/17.

A Rusty Blackbird was seen at Unadilla 1/6 (Wisner) and has been seen regularly since. Another was seen 1/1 at Cortland (Axtell). 8 Cowbirds, 6 males and 2 females, were seen at Cortland 1/1 (Axtell) and another was a regular customer at a feeder in Binghamton most of the winter (Shanley). The first migrant was noted at Binghamton 3/17 (Bemont).

Evening and Pine Grosbeaks have both been as common as at any time in the last four years, everywhere except Deposit where a single flock of each was recorded once all winter. Purple Finches, on the other hand, were completely absent from all reports all winter. Siskins have also been absent and Redpolls and Goldfinches have been uncommon.

A late Red-eyed Towhee was seen 12/16 at Deposit (Wilson). A White-crowned Sparrow was seen at a feeder in Binghamton regularly thru December and January (Davis) and a White-throated Sparrow was seen in Binghamton 1/1 (TCNC). The first recorded Fox Sparrow was at Deposit 3/11 (Wilson). The first of the migrant Song Sparrows was at Unadilla 2/28 (Wisner). One was heard singing 3/8 when the temperature was 10 degrees F (Bemont). Snow Buntings have been seen fairly frequently. The largest single flock was made up of over 300 birds and seen near Norwich 3/4 (R. White).

R. D. #3, Binghamton, N. Y.

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

The first two weeks of Dec. were relatively mild with no sharp cold snaps but progressive freezing over of local marshes. The week prior to Christmas brought severe cold weather, freezing over Lake Oneida in 3 days. A mild spell (12/27-1/8) followed, but from 1/9-2/8 the weather was consistently cold, most of the time far below freezing and only occasionally rising as high as 32 degrees. 2/8-2/9 had a brief thaw, but this terminated on the 10th with a severe cold spell lasting until the 17th. A pronounced thaw then developed and extended from 2/18-3/2. On 3/4-3/5 a sleet storm crystallized the landscape. However, the week of 3/8-3/14 more than compensated for the previous cold; continuous warm weather brought hordes of migrants into the area. The next 2 weeks were primarily intermittent warm weather alternating with longer snow flurries and freeze-ups. On 3/26-3/28, a 22" snow, which rapidly melted starting 3/29, covered the area. However, enough snow remained into April as a mute and chilly remembrance of a cold and tempestuous winter.

The winter was noteworthy primarily for the following increases or decreases: 1.) the marked increase in wintering accipiters, 2.) the sharp reduction in "mouse" hawks (Red-tail, Rough-leg, Harrier, Kestrel) and the low owl counts, 3.) the flight of white-winged gulls along the Oswego River