

et al.). Grackles were first reported by Wolfling from Alden (6 on 3/3), and Cowbirds by Mitchell from Oak Orchard (10 on 3/12). Evening Grosbeaks were present in many localities and in large numbers (100 Frewsburg, 80 Hamburg, 100 East Aurora, 150 Wellsville). Mrs. McMurtry had Purple Finches at Wellsville all winter; few were reported elsewhere. Siskins were much more numerous than usual; most of the flocks were rather small, but many observers reported finding them, and Eaton writes of "large flocks" wintering. Common Redpolls were well represented, most being recorded in February. Both species of crossbills were reported rather frequently, they being most numerous in, but by no means confined to, Cattaraugus County. A Towhee may have wintered at Chestnut Ridge Park; it was seen there 3/5 (Creighton et al.). From 1/7 to 3/31 a female Oregon Junco was seen daily at the Klabunde feeding station at Lewiston, where scores of birders were privileged to study it. A White-throated Sparrow spent the entire winter at the Avery feeder at Hamburg. I thought Tree Sparrows were especially common this winter. A single Fox Sparrow visited the Avery feeder in Hamburg from 3/11 to 3/15. Our first Swamp Sparrow record is supplied by Mrs. McMurtry, who observed one at Wellsville 3/5. Longspur records were few, but many Snow Buntings were seen, some in tremendous flocks, the largest being one of 3000 (2/28 and 2/29, Armor, by Bason et al.).

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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The winter of 1955-56 was marked by a total snowfall of 119.6 inches up to April 10, the largest amount in recent years. Continued cold from November to the very end of March kept the bird population at a comparatively low level and held back early migrants. The Christmas Census gave only 64 species compared to high counts of 77 in 1953 and 1954.

LOONS — DUCKS: The Red-throated Loon was last seen on Dec. 4 and did not appear again until March 11; the Common Loon showed up on March 25 after an absence of 5 months.

A Great Blue Heron survived until mid-January at the Clover St. Locks of the Barge Canal (Dakins), and a Bittern was seen near open water in the Braddocks Bay marsh by Listman on Feb. 14.

Four Whistling Swans appeared at Braddocks Bay on Mar. 24. Among the Geese, only the Canada had been seen by the end of March. These first appeared at Durand Eastman on Mar. 4 (N. Moon) and built up to a flock of about 1000 at bays westward along the lake, principally at Shore Acres.

Normal duck population was maintained through the winter months, but the migrants normally appearing in March were retarded. Pintail was reported once in January and once in February, but definite migration did not start until about March 11. Unusual duck records for the winter were 1 Wood Duck by Klonick at the southern Tip of Irondequoit Bay on Dec. 26, and 3 American Scoters by Taylor, Conway and Mahoney in Lake Ontario at Rigney's Bluff on Jan. 2.

HAWKS — OWLS: Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks, our most abundant hawks during winter, were reported regularly. The Cooper's and Sharp-shinned were present in much smaller numbers. The Rough-legged was unusually scarce. After May 1955, this bird was not seen until Jan. 15, 1956 (McKinney), and then not until March 25 (Corcoran). The Marsh Hawk was seen sparingly, but in every month throughout the winter (Dec. 26, by Corcoran; Jan. 29, by Dobson; Feb. 14, by Listman and March 24, by O'Hara).

First Coot on Lake Ontario near Rochester were seen by L. Moon on Feb. 13. Possibly these birds had migrated from Canandaigua Lake where a flock of about 100 were reported in Jan. (Whites and Dakins).

Black-backed Gulls were down somewhat from the numbers of recent winters. Many check lists reported 3 to 5 birds. Iceland and Glaucous gulls were well distributed along the lakeshore throughout the winter, but usually only single birds were reported. A Kumlein's Gull was seen on the Christmas Census (Dec. 26) at the mouth of the Genesee River. It was first spotted by A. Kemnitz, but was

seen later by several others. The Bonaparte's Gull was seen on the Christmas census, and it reappeared on Feb. 26 (A. Kemnitzer). Of the four owls reported on the Christmas census, the most noteworthy was the Barred seen by Listman at Salmon Creek, one of the streams flowing into Braddock's Bay.

Mourning Doves were reported regularly throughout the winter. The largest flock was 60 birds at Ballantyne Rd. on Feb. 5 (Listman).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: A few Kingfishers and Flickers stayed through the winter. Pileated and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, both uncommon in this area, were up slightly from counts of recent winters. A single Red-headed Woodpecker was seen at Payne Beach by Listman on Feb. 14.

Cold weather late in March held the Tree Swallow back until the 30th. A Tufted Titmouse was seen on the Christmas Census at the Atlantic Ave. Dugway by H. and O. Schaefer.

An exception to the overall scarcity of birds during the winter was the abundance of Robins. Flocks of 50-100 were seen at Durand Eastman, Ling Rd., Powder Mill Park, and in the back yards of various "non-birders". The whereabouts of these birds during the late fall and winter leaves much to be explained. The highest count of these birds during Nov. and Dec. was 6, except on Dec. 26, when 34 Robins, mostly in Durand Eastman, were counted. The high counts mentioned above were mostly during late Jan. and early Feb. The flock at Ling Rd. built up to a peak on Jan. 28, with counts as follows: 1 on Jan. 14; 4 on Jan. 21; 67 on Jan. 28; 50 on Feb. 5; 2 on Feb. 12; none on Feb. 26 (Tanghe). By early March migrant Robins were present in small numbers throughout the area.

Hermit Thrushes were reported in January at Durand Eastman by McNetts, Davis and Miller, and in February at Highland Park by Holland.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: A Northern Yellowthroat was seen at Ling Rd. on Dec. 4 by McKinney, and again on March 4 on a combined hike of the Buffalo and Genesee Ornithological Societies. In the latter case the bird, a male, was discovered by Miller and Rising and seen under excellent light conditions by about 20 observers.

The Myrtle Warbler, which sometimes winters here, has not been seen after Oct. 23.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Several Red-wings and Cowbirds wintered at the Flynn Rd. Dump, near Braddock's Bay, and 8 Rusty Blackbirds at Ling Rd. (Tanghe, Listman).

Meadowlarks were absent during December, but were reported several times during January and February. Migrants arrived during the first week of March.

Evening Grosbeaks were present throughout the winter, but in smaller numbers than in Buffalo and Syracuse. Highest count was 17 birds at a private feeder in Durand Eastman. Redpolls were present in moderate numbers for this species; high count, 400 at Mendon Ponds by G. Jones on Feb. 18. Pine Siskins, Goldfinches and White-winged Crossbills were normal. Single Red Crossbills were re-corded by Mrs. G. Davis at Burness Rd. in Webster, and by McKinney at Frisbee Hill Rd. in Greece, both on March 18.

First Fox sparrows were early: on March 11 by G. Jones and one day later by Mrs. H. Patterson and C. F. H. Allen. Lapland Longspurs were absent during December and January, but were seen regularly during February and March. Snow Buntings were abundant, with several reports of 500-1500 birds.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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This has been generally described as a 'rough winter' in the Finger Lakes Region. Snow cover was continuous and there was no January thaw. Temperatures were consistently low, although not to the extremes of February '48, but lakes and streams were ice-bound. Middle and late March brought floods, when thawing weather was succeeded by several heavy snows, the one of March 16 reaching a depth of 18 inches at Ithaca. Birds were driven to feeders in unusual numbers when natural food was covered or exhausted.