

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

SALLY F. HOYT

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.

The large flocks of wintering Robins and Waxwings stripped trees and shrubs of fruits. Multiflora rose hips were gone two months earlier than usual.

Evening Grosbeaks and Goldfinches were the commonest winter finches. February and March saw an increase in flocks of Redpolls and Snow Buntings.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loons were scarce on Cayuga and Seneca Lakes with almost no reports for the winter. Not as many Horned Grebes reported as usual, and on Seneca, on 12/31 more Pied-billed (13) than Horned (4) were seen (Bardeen). Great Blue Herons wintered again at the Montezuma Refuge (Dewey) and one was also seen late in December at the Montour Falls airport (Waterhouse). The first Whistling Swan report of the spring was at Branchport basin, 3/31 (R. Jamieson). Canada Geese began going north through the Finger Lakes in large numbers the first week in March and as usual rested near King Ferry. 3000 were at Montezuma the week of 3/11 (Dewey). 111 Black Ducks were on the river at Elmira on 12/31 (Census group), 5 on river at Avoca 1/15 (Carter). 1000 Pintails at the Refuge 3/11. 2 Wood Ducks spent Dec. and Jan. at Hollister's Swamp south of Branchport (Guthrie et al).

Redheads were lower in numbers on the Christmas Count at Geneva than in past years (Ward) and were scarcer on Cayuga all winter. One small flock of Canvasbacks could be seen daily at the south end of Cayuga, but this species and Scaups did not appear in the rafts of other years. At Rock Stream, on Seneca, 200 Canvasbacks were reported the middle of January (Mrs. F. Brown), 7 Goldeneyes remained on the river at Avoca from 1/15 on, but few were seen on Cayuga Lake. However, an unusually high count for Montezuma Refuge was that of 200 Goldeneyes on 3/18 (Dewey).

There were no reports of Oldsquaws on Keuka, or by Eaton Bird Club for their area this winter, but 21 were seen on the waterfowl census (1/15) on the west side of Cayuga (Hewitt, Swanson). There were no Scoters nor Ruddies reported on the census but on 1/2 two Ruddies were seen on Seneca by Eaton Bird Club. Buffleheads were seen south of Aurora in mid-December (EGA). American Mergansers were reported in larger numbers than usual this winter, and 4 Red-breasted Mergansers were seen on 1/2 by Eaton Bird Club on Seneca. At Hornell, the Reservoir Basin was still ice-covered by the end of March, so no waterfowl reported. The east arm of Keuka was frozen over. Cayuga Lake in general had fewer waterfowl all winter and the largest concentrations in the Finger Lakes again were found at north end of Seneca.

HAWKS — OWLS: The first Turkey Vulture report was on 3/11, 10 miles north of Geneva (Phillip Allen). Most areas reported a scarcity of Hawks during the winter, especially Accipiters. No Goshawks reported at Elmira, one seen at Guyanoga Valley 12/11 (Spiker) one near Sumner Hill 2/26 (Gustafson). A Sharp-shinned Hawk visited the Munford feeding station often at Clifton Springs, and a Cooper's spent the winter near feeders on Triphammer Road in Ithaca (McIlroy) taking Starlings and an occasional Evening Grosbeak. Walker reported Red-tailed Hawks fairly common near Geneva. Fewer reports of Rough-legged Hawks than usual: one dark phase at King Ferry 12/22 (AAA), two light phase at Avoca 3/31 (Carter) and several during winter by Walker and Ward are the only reports I have. The pair of Eagles was seen on the nest at Montezuma on 3/3 (Walker) and reported as brooding on 3/25 (Trail). A few reports of Marsh Hawks, and Sparrow Hawks reported as fairly common throughout the Region except at Avoca.

Ruffed Grouse were scarcer around Elmira. Two came to the feeder at Sapsucker Woods. Pheasants were scarcer around Geneva, probably in usual numbers elsewhere. Coots continue to increase as wintering birds. More than in past years at south end of Cayuga where they joined the Mallards in the duck pond at Stewart Park. Present in good numbers on Seneca, and 100 at Branchport Basin and Brandy Bay on Keuka. 200 on Canandaigua (census group). A Woodcock was heard on 3/12 near Ithaca (Swanson) and a Wilson's Snipe killed by a cat in Ithaca 3/22. As usual in recent years, a Glaucous Gull stayed with the Herring and Ring-bills at the south end of Cayuga. An Iceland Gull was seen with the Glaucous in mid-January (McIlroy). One Great Black-backed wintered at south end of Seneca again and several on Cayuga. In most areas, Mourning Doves wintered in unusual num-

bers, being so reported from Keuka Park, Watkins Glen and Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca. Screech Owls seemed down in numbers. There were just three reports of Snowy Owls: one on 1/15 at Penn Yan (Whitaker), one on 2/23 three miles south of Waterloo (Mrs. E. P. Walker) and one on 3/25 at Burdett (M. and B. Bardeen). Six Long-eared Owls were spotted on census in Elmira area 12/31. No Short-ears reported. A Saw-whet Owl at Ithaca 3/15 (Jehl).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: 4 Kingfishers were seen by the census group at Elmira (12/31) but otherwise there were no winter reports, and for the first year in ten, 'my' Kingfisher was missing from Fall Creek in Etna. One Flicker wintered near Ithaca (Cole) and 2 near Elmira (Welles). Pileated reports more frequent near Elmira and for the second winter, the pair came to the feeder at Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca. A Red-bellied Woodpecker came to a Montour Falls feeder in late December and remained (Bardeen). A Sapsucker wintered on the Keuka College campus (Guthrie) and one near Kellogg's feeder in Ithaca. Hairies were scarce at Elmira, Hairies and Downies scarce at Avoca, both common at Geneva. Apparently because of the late snows, Phoebees were not reported before the end of March. Horned Larks, both Prairie and Northern, were abundant at Keuka (Guthrie), scarce around Watkins Glen. Prairie Horned Larks were abundant near Ithaca in late March (Hoyt) but few Northern seen. Almost no March reports of Tree Swallows except 3/15 at Ithaca (Jehl). Blue Jays seemed scarcer at Avoca, where Crows were more abundant (Atwood, Carter). Crows also abundant at Hornell (Groesbeck). No report of Brown-headed Chickadees this winter. A pair of Tufted Titmice wintered at the feeder of the E. P. Walkers in Romulus and were enjoyed by many observers. 9 of this species counted at Elmira on 12/31, definitely increasing there. Few reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches except one south of Geneva 1/22 (Murden). Carolina Wrens on increase at Elmira, but fewer reports of them this winter at Ithaca and elsewhere.

Robins were abundant throughout the Finger Lakes. Only one winter Bluebird report, by Kopp near Reading Center. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet appeared on the Keuka campus 12/15 (Guthrie). Golden-crowned Kinglets were scarce everywhere. Walker reported a flock of 25 Pipits flying N. W. over Waterloo 2/22, an early report. Cedar Waxwings in good flocks were reported throughout the Region. At Avoca they are usually not present in winter, but this year stayed and found the fruits of multiflora rose (Carter) and at Hornell fed on flowering crab (Groesbeck). Northern Shrikes were noted frequently and lingered rather late, one being trapped and banded 3/27 at Etna (Hoyt). A Loggerhead Shrike appeared at Avoca on 3/26 (Atwood). Mrs. Carter reported Starlings frantic for food in late March at Avoca, and flocks made nuisances of themselves at feeders everywhere.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: One or two reports of Myrtle Warblers at feeders in Ithaca during December, none elsewhere.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: The Elmira census group (12/31) found fewer House Sparrows than in other years, but no other area had this experience. There were scattered reports of wintering Meadowlarks. Beginning the third week in March, observers said they had never seen so many as this year. However, the lingering heavy snows drove them, and other species, to the few bare patches where they were easily observed and this may account for the seeming abundance. One female Cowbird wintered in Watkins Glen at Ruth Champion's feeder. Cardinals are holding their own around Avoca, where 2 males and 1 female were present this winter (Carter), and 4-6 pairs occur now in the vicinity of Hornell (Groesbeck). Evening Grosbeaks were about as numerous as last year, reported as abundant everywhere except at Keuka, but in their erratic way shunned some feeders, turning up at other new ones. An idea of abundance may be gained from my banding score at Etna of over 700 by the end of March. Purple Finches were scarce, none being reported at Watkins or Hornell, very few elsewhere. Almost no Pine Grosbeaks although a small flock was seen near Varna on 2/12 (McIlroy). The first Redpoll report was 1/15, a flock of 12 in Ithaca (Wheeler). In February reports began to come in regularly from all areas except Hornell (and only one was reported at Geneva). Flocks of up to 100 at Keuka (Guthrie). Until March the only report of Pine Siskins came from the Munfords at Clifton Springs who had them feeding on sumac and trumpet vine all winter. They were seen at Elmira for the first time in two years in January (Ryan, K. Fudge). The last of March a flock was reported at Ithaca (Sibley). It was a good winter for Goldfinches. 7 Red Crossbills seen on edge of Cornell campus 2/24 (Fisher) and 5 at Elmira on 3/31 (Coleman). A flock of 30 White-winged Crossbills near Caroline 12/15 (R. Smith).

One wintering Red-eyed Towhee 2/15 at Ludlowville (Sharkey). Slate-colored Juncos were locally abundant. Again a Pink-sided Junco was reported, this time from Avoca where it spent Jan. and Feb. (Carter). All observers found Tree Sparrows unusually abundant, and over 300 were banded at Etna by the end of March, a hundred more than during any of the previous nine years. Deep snow covering natural food may have driven them to feeders in greater numbers. One White-crowned Sparrow wintered at the Murden home, south of Geneva. 2 White-throats at Watkins Glen, and 5 south of Keuka, appearing at feeders at the Ness home. No White-throats reported around Ithaca after January 1. Fox Sparrows were unusually common in migration the end of March. Heavy Song Sparrow migration in the week beginning 3/17 (Hoyt). Lapland Longspurs were noted at Keuka (Lerch), but few other reports except from Elmira where more were seen in March than ever before. Snow Buntings were reported plentiful around Burdett, Hornell and Elmira, but the big flocks usually found north of Ithaca were missing.

"Avianna", Etna, N. Y.

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BELMONT

December was extremely cold, as cold as any month for several years. While there were no especially heavy snowfalls the constantly cold weather insured a constant, if not thick, cover of snow. This cold weather continued until the middle of January. The rest of January and all of February the weather was milder, but not really warm, and the ground was at least partially bare most of the time. Early March produced some warm bright weather that turned out to be a false Spring. Our heaviest snowfall of the year came March 16. Eleven inches fell and stayed on the ground until about the 25th of the month. A flock of Meadowlarks found in a weakened condition was the only record of early migrants being adversely affected although several species were quite late.

LOONS — DUCKS: The only grebe reported all winter was a Pied-billed near Chenango Valley State Park 1/15 (Sheffields) seen during the duck census. Two Great Blue Herons were reported from along the Susquehanna River just west of Endicott 1/30 (Mallory). The only other one reported was near Deposit 3/25 (Wilson). The January Waterfowl Count produced a total almost exactly twice that of last year in spite of the relatively severe weather. It is interesting to note that Mallards, Black Ducks and Am. Mergansers, the only important wintering ducks in the region, each totaled about twice the number found last year, so that no one species is responsible for the increase. Three Wood Ducks at C. V. State Park 3/18 were our first (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club). The only Redheads reported were 4 at Unadilla 3/24 (Wisner). The 5 Am. Golden-eyes found at Centre Village, Broome Co. on the Waterfowl Census Jan. 15 (Saunders, et. al.) were revisited Jan. 22 and found to have increased to 13. Golden-eyes are not usually seen in this area until the middle of February or early March. Two male Red-breasted Mergansers, an unusual bird in the region, were seen at North Norwich 2/5 (Whites).

HAWKS — OWLS: A Turkey Vulture was seen 3/25 and two 3/29 near Deposit (Wilson). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was at Deposit 3/18 (Wilson). Wintering Red-tailed Hawks seemed more common than usual in the region as a whole. A Rough-legged Hawk was seen near Deposit 2/26 (Wilson) and another 3/4 at Sherburne (Stratton). An immature Bald Eagle was seen feeding in the road just north of Owego 1/8 (Rosevear). Mr. Rose of South Kortright reports that Bald Eagles have been seen there and at Gilboa and Oneonta, too. No wintering Marsh Hawks were reported. The first one was seen 3/11 near Binghamton (Marsi).

A Killdeer was near Deposit 1/22 (Wilson). The next report was from the Messengerville area, in Cortland Co. 3/3 (Washburns et. al.). Not seen at all frequently until 3/9. A Mourning Dove was seen in the Binghamton area Jan. 1