

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

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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

(Jennings) and two more were at Homer 2/26 (Gustafson). No more until 3/17 and still not common by the end of March. Two Horned Owls were heard 1/2, at 10:00 A. M. of a bright sunny day, apparently calling back and forth to each other near Norwich (Whites). Horned Owl reports have been more frequent than usual. A Snowy Owl was seen near the Greene Golf Course 2/18 (McLean).

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES: Kingfishers seem to have been present all winter in one part of the region or another. No wintering Flickers were reported but Pileated Woodpeckers have been seen more frequently than usual. No Phoebees were reported before the end of March. Horned Larks seemed to be present in about normal numbers in the Binghamton area until 3/17 when they suddenly became very common. They were seen in small and medium sized flocks along roadsides everywhere. Mr. Wilson states that he had seen none in the Deposit area since 1947 but he saw 4 on 3/17, 45 on 3/18 and 40 on 3/24. At Oxford (Stratton) and Norwich (Whites) they were seen in medium sized flocks at about this time, too. This period of abnormal numbers lasted until about 3/25 around Binghamton. The timing corresponds with the falling and melting of our heaviest snow rather closely. No Tree Swallows had been seen in the whole region by the end of March.

Blue Jays were reported to be unusually abundant at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith) and at Deposit (Wilson) and seemed more numerous at Cortland, too (Thurber). Crows were also more numerous at Cortland (Thurber) and at Deposit, Mr. Wilson reports, they were present all winter for the first time in his memory. Tufted Titmice continue to increase in the Binghamton area. In at least one place where two were coming to a feeder last winter there are 6 or 7 this year, giving us strong evidence that they bred here during the past summer, although a definite breeding record is still lacking. One seen at Deposit was the first there since 1952. Red-breasted Nuthatches were more common than usual at Deposit (Wilson) but there were only very occasional reports from other areas. A Winter Wren was seen at Cortland 1/6 and again 1/15 (Thurber). There were several records of Carolina Wrens in the Binghamton area during January showing that at least some survived the severe December weather, but the effects of the late March snowstorms are still unknown.

There was a spectacular increase in the wintering Robin population in the Binghamton area. They were reported almost daily from Christmas time until the middle of February, sometimes in flocks numbering as many as 55 birds, but flocks usually numbered from 6 to 15 (TCNC). None were reported from 2/15 to 3/10 in Binghamton. Three records of single birds from Cortland (Thurber) are the only other winter records. The first spring migrant was at Deposit 3/6 (Wilson) and by 3/11 had been seen throughout the region, but even by the end of March were not really common. The first Bluebirds were four at Corbett 3/4 (Wilson). One at Oxford 3/11 (Whites) and one at Maine in Broome Co. 3/15 (Early) were the only other pre-snowstorm reports turned in. Only two more reports were received from the whole region before the end of the month. The Triple Cities Naturalists' Club has completed a project whereby 150 Bluebird houses were built and put out. The publicity the project received has apparently stimulated various 4-H clubs and Scout organizations to do likewise on a smaller scale.

Golden-crowned Kinglets have been reported only from Binghamton, Cortland and Deposit and they were quite scarce in those areas. Cedar Waxwings appear to have been somewhat more common than usual in the Binghamton area (TCNC), but in other areas they seemed normal or even low in numbers. For the third year in a row Gray Shrikes have been present in good numbers. Reports came from all parts of the region starting 12/26 near Binghamton and South New Berlin.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: A Yellow Warbler at Cortland 12/18, a cold snowy day, was one of the biggest surprises of the season (Thurber).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: The first Meadowlarks were at Deposit 3/4 (Wilson) at Binghamton 3/11 (TCNC) at Oxford 3/14 (Stratton) and at Norwich 3/24 (Whites). On 3/25 a flock of about 15 was found near Maine in such poor condition that a person could walk up to them and pick them up (Early). The snow which fell 3/16 still completely covered the ground. Redwings were first reported at Binghamton 2/28 (Easton & Shanley). Although several large flocks were reported they did not become very common in the marshes during March and no females had appeared by the end of the month. One Rusty Blackbird was found in a flock of Redwings 3/11 near Binghamton (TCNC) and there have been a few reported since. A Cowbird, a female, was at Hancock 1/1 (Standfests) and 3 were

at Unadilla 2/21, one male remaining until 2/23 (Wisner). The next report is of a female at Deposit 3/10 (Wilson).

Cardinals have been well established in the Binghamton area for a number of years, but at Cortland, Deposit, Oxford and Unadilla, while present this year they are still not firmly established. Dr. Thurber writes that this is the second year in a row that Cardinals have been present in the Cortland area during the winter after an absence of 10 years. This has been a great year for Evening Grosbeaks. Mr. Wilson reports a peak of 160 birds at his feeder in Deposit early in February. Mr. Smith at Bainbridge had a flock of 25 most of the winter and Mr. Wisner at Unadilla reports a peak flock of 35 or 40 birds. In the Binghamton area there were many flocks numbering 30 to 50 birds. They started coming to feeders in the latter part of December and early January. Their numbers had tapered off somewhat by the end of March but they were still very much in evidence. Purple Finches have been quite scarce all winter. Pine Grosbeaks were noted in several areas during January and early February but then disappeared. Redpolls were quite common during March in Binghamton (TCNC) and Oxford (Stratton) especially during the latter half and right up to the end of the month. In Deposit the peak was earlier and they were practically absent during March (Wilson). In Norwich they were first seen 2/10 and have been seen as late as 3/25 with numerous observations between (Whites). They seem to have been completely absent from other areas. 147 Pine Siskins were at Deposit 1/1 (Wilson). A total of 72 in two flocks were found in the Binghamton area 1/15 (TCNC). Only a few other reports of single birds were turned in. A few Red Crossbills were seen in the Deposit area (Wilson) and one small flock of White-winged Crossbills was at Willow Point near Binghamton 3/25 (Marsis).

Slate-colored Juncos have been more common than usual in Binghamton (TCNC) and Deposit (Wilson). Rather large numbers of Tree Sparrows were reported from the Binghamton area, Oxford (Stratton) and from Bainbridge (Smith). Dr. Thurber writes that they were present around Cortland all winter where they are usually absent during the mid-winter months. Two wintering White-throated Sparrows were reported. The one at Oxford, a first winter bird and partially crippled, was taken by a Sparrow Hawk 12/27 (Stratton) but the one at Deposit has been singing since 3/7 (Wilson). Fox Sparrows have been around Binghamton since 3/5 (Carpenter). There have been quite a few reports from various areas since but of only one or two birds at a time, whereas in other years flocks of 6 to 12 seem more usual. The only wintering Song Sparrow reported was at Oxford. It had been hurt but healed and later escaped the attack of a Sparrow Hawk at the expense of a few tail feathers (Stratton). One seen 2/27 in Endicott (N. Washburn) was apparently the first migrant. A flock of 30 or more Lapland Longspurs was near Maine 3/15 and 3/16 (Early). One or two stayed for a few more days but no more were reported all winter. Small flocks of Snow Buntings were observed around Cortland, Deposit, Norwich and Binghamton all winter. In the Binghamton area a definite peak in numbers was reached between 3/15 and 3/21 as though a migration wave were passing through (TCNC). This could not be detected in the reports from other areas.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

December continued the harsh, cold weather of November and by 12/9 Oneida Lake had frozen over. By the end of Dec., Onondaga Lake, most of the Oswego River and much of Oswego Harbor were sealed with ice. By 1/8 the Oswego Harbor was more than $\frac{3}{4}$ frozen, the severest ice conditions observed in recent years. The persistent (12/15 to 2/4) and heavy (5 to 25 inches, depending on the sector of the region) ground snow severely hindered winter birding in general and local Christmas Counts in particular and was a potent factor in the distribution of certain wintering species, notably the Kestrel, Song Sparrow, and Snow Bunting. From 2/5 to 2/14, a prolonged thaw erased much of the ground snow and initiated an influx of Crows, Ring-