

Hawks — Owls: Only one Goshawk record during the period (Jan 20, Jamestown, Mealy et al.) Both McMurtry and Eaton report successful wintering by Turkeys at Wellsville and Olean; Eaton saw no less than 26 on Feb. 21. He writes that grouse started serious drumming Mar 27 (on their drumming log 75 ft. from his bedroom window). A Florida Gallinule stayed at Grand Island until Dec 22 (Schaffner), and a Coot in the gorge as late as Jan 12. Killdeer were back by Mar 9; Woodcock by Mar 22 (Gainesville, Smith); and Snipe by Mar 16 (Wellsville, McMurtry). Only one Greater Yellowlegs was reported (Mar 31, Cuba, Eaton). Pectoral Sandpipers returned very early (Mar. 24, Wolcottsville, Brockners). Glaucous, Iceland, and Kumlien's Gulls were present on the river throughout the period. Snowy Owls were reported four times, Long and Short-eared many times, Barn and Saw-whet less often than usual.

Swifts — Shrikes: Our Arctic Woodpecker invasion faded after an exciting December which gave us many records, all from Buffalo. Phoebees were surprisingly late, only one being reported in March (24th), and considering the favorable weather, the absence of Tree Swallows was puzzling. Eaton reports Tufted Titmice present all around the Olean area. Robins returned very early indeed, migrants appearing in late February and being common after Mar 5. Pipits were represented by a single flock of 70 near Lawtons Mar 31 (Andries). All four months brought many Gray Shrike records, and Loggerhead records began to come in after mid-March (early).

Vireos — Sparrows: Three flocks of wintering Meadowlarks were reported from the Lake Ontario plains in January; migrants appeared Mar 10. Red-wings were first seen in numbers Feb 25, 26, 27. A single Rusty was seen at Wellsville Mar 10 (McMurtry); numbers were seen in three locations on the 17th. Cowbirds showed up first on the latter date. This was a winter characterized by the complete absence of Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Grosbeaks, crossbills, and redpolls; a very thin scattering of Pine Siskins, Goldfinches, and Purple Finches was the best we can report. An excellent description was received from Rosche of an Oregon Junco seen by him Jan 5 at East Aurora. Snow Bunting flocks were scarce, and only one Lapland Longspur was reported.

132 McKinley Ave., Kenmore

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

December temperatures were well above average and snowfall below average until the last week when much colder and snowier weather made itself felt. This prevailed during most of January, reaching a climax on January 15 when a low of -16°F was recorded in Rochester. Even lower temperatures were reached in the surrounding country, apparently doing much damage to the fruit trees of this area. February was almost the opposite of January, averaging well above normal in temperature and below normal in snowfall. A warm spell from February 25-28 produced the first migration movement of the season, bringing in Canada Geese, Red-wings and Robins. March was above normal in temperature, reaching a high of 71°F on the 13th, but it did not produce the hoped for waves of migrants. The ground was bare for most of the month and the water level of lakes, bays and ponds is low for this time of year.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: nine at Conesus Dec 9, one at Sodus Dec 22 (Jones), one at Manitou Jan 19 (Listman). A Red-necked Grebe was seen from Rigney's Bluff Mar 16 (O'Hara, Miller). Horned Grebe: present in small numbers

on Lake Ontario during entire period. One Pied-billed Grebe was at Sodus Bay Dec 16 (Jones); two wintered at the warm water outlet to the Russell Pumping Station west of the Genesee River. Great Blue Heron: Feb 25, two SE of Rochester (Whites); one at Oak Orchard, Mar 23. Maximum count of Whistling Swans was 18 at Oak Orchard Mar 23. First flocks of Canada Geese reported Feb 27; a 1000 estimate along the west lakeshore Mar 15 (Listman) and a 15,000 estimate at Oak Orchard Mar 23 (Brown, et al.) Snow Goose: three at Oak Orchard Mar 23 (Brown et. al.).

Pintail: one at Conesus Jan 13 (Whites and Dakins). First migrants appeared near Rochester Feb 27 (Listman). 500 were at Oak Orchard Mar 23; 50 at Braddock Bay and Shore Acres Mar 30 (O'Hara, Miller). Green-winged Teal: one Jan 13 at Conesus (Whites, Dakins), 10 at Braddock Mar 16, six at Braddock Mar 30 (O'Hara, Miller). Blue-winged Teal: three on Ontario west of Rochester Mar 16; three at Oak Orchard Mar 23; and ten at Braddock Mar 30 (O'Hara, Miller). Baldpate: one, Round Pond Dec 29; six, Sodus, Jan 1; ten Manitou, Feb 27 (all by Listman); 50 Shore Acres, Mar 30 (O'Hara, Miller). Shoveler: two at Oak Orchard Mar 23. Numbers of this species so far this spring seem low. Ring-necked Duck: five on Canandaigua Jan 13 (Whites, Dakins); one on Round Pond Mar 2 (O'Hara, Miller); nine along west lakeshore Mar 16; and 20 at Oak Orchard Mar 23. Canvasback and Redhead wintered in fair numbers on Sodus Bay, the Genesee River and Lake Ontario, increasing along Lake Ontario as inland lakes and ponds froze. Two female Harlequin Ducks were at Manitou Feb 2-3 (Listman et. al.). Present during most of the period along Ontario were King Eiders: a maximum of five birds at Manitou Jan 13 (Listman). One or two of these birds were apparently immature males and the rest females. White-winged Scoters were on Ontario in fair numbers. Two Surf Scoters were west of Rochester on Ontario Dec 1, 2 (Listman); and American Scoters appeared in the same area: two Dec 7 (Listman) and one Jan 13 (Klonick). Two Ruddy Ducks were at Point Pleasant Jan 2 (Listman) and one on Cranberry Pond Mar 16 (O'Hara, Miller). 80 Hooded Mergansers were on Sodus Bay Dec 9 (Jones) and a few were present all winter.

Hawks — Owls: Two Turkey Vultures were at Oak Orchard Mar 23. There were a few winter records of Sharp-skinned and Cooper's Hawks, with the latter evidently more generally distributed. One Cooper's Hawk was seen on the Mar 16 hawk flight. Red-tailed Hawks wintered in fair numbers, well represented during the early flights. An early pair of Red-shouldered Hawks were found by Nelson evidently near their nesting site in South Park (Feb 16). One Bald Eagle Dec 24 at Braddock (Listman); one Jan 13 at Conesus (Whites, Dakins); an adult and an immature at Braddock Mar 16 (O'Hara, Miller). Apparently no Marsh Hawks wintered as none were reported after the one at Braddock Dec 29 (Listman) until late Feb. They were present in normal numbers on their nesting sites by the end of the period. One Ruffed Grouse north of Naples Feb 18 (Listman). Virginia Rails were calling at Ling Road marsh Mar 30 (O'Hara, Miller). One Florida Gallinule was at Round Pond Dec 28, 29 (Listman), one at Ling Road Feb 25 (GOS hike). 50 Coot were at Sodus Bay Dec 16 (Jones), four at Round Pond Dec 29 (Listman), and five at Conesus Jan 13 (Whites, Dakins). These were present in small numbers by Mar 31.

Killdeer first appeared Feb 27, common by the end of the period. Greater Yellowlegs: one at Braddock Mar 30 (Miller). One Purple Sandpiper was at Manitou Dec 29 (Listman). Three very late shorebird records: Pectoral and Semipalmated Sandpipers, one each at Manitou Dec 7, and one Baird's Sandpiper at the same place Dec 21 (Listman). Four Pectoral Sandpipers made an appearance at Oak Orchard Mar 23 (Brown, et. al). Small numbers of white-wings: Glaucous and Iceland never reported except as individuals. Bonaparte's Gull was present until Dec 30, not recorded again until Mar 22 when one was seen at Summerville (Listman). One Little Gull was observed on Ontario off Durand Dec 14 by Listman. Mourning Doves were reported in small numbers through the winter, first migrants appearing Mar 12, 14. One Barn Owl was at Burroughs-Audubon Nature Center near Victor Dec 24 (McKinney). Only two Snowy Owl reports: Braddock Dec 7, 21 (Listman); Sodus Bay Dec 20 (Jones). Up to five Long-eared Owls were recorded during Feb and Mar from the evergreen plantings near the east shore of Braddock.

Short-eared Owl: several records, maximum six birds at Braddock Jan 13 (Listman). One Saw-whet Owl at Salmon Creek Woods Dec 30 (Listman), a good Christmas Census record.

Swifts — Shrikes: A Kingfisher wintered at the Russell Station outlet. A probable migrant was over Irondequoit Creek on Mar 24 (Miller). There were several records of single wintering Flickers. Pileated Woodpecker: one at Mendon Jan 3 (V. White, H. Dakin); one at BANC Jan 26 (McKinney); two at Conesus Feb 16 (O'Hara, Miller). The incursion of Arctic Three-toed Woodpeckers which started in November became even more pronounced in December and January. At least four and possibly more birds were present in one recently killed elm on Monroe Avenue. Others were present in the immediate vicinity and there were scattered reports from other localities. It would seem that there were at least twelve and possibly quite a few more here, and some were present almost to the end of the period. The birds appeared to feed entirely in recently killed elms. It will be interesting to note if this incursion is in any way connected with the ravages of the Dutch elm disease and will be repeated in subsequent seasons. A single American Three-toed Woodpecker was reported from South Park (Nelson, Muchmore) and remained in a limited area well into March.

The spring *Prairie Horned Lark* flight seemed light, but normal numbers are on nesting grounds. Three Tufted Titmice were with a flock of Chickadees at Nine Mile Point Jan 12 (O'Hara, Miller). The only records of Red-breasted Nuthatch were two or three birds wintering in Durand. Brown Creepers, on the other hand, were more common this winter. Two birds were singing at Oak Orchard Mar 23. Only one or two Winter Wrens were reported this winter. One Carolina Wren was in Tryon Park Jan 27 (Miller). A Long-billed Marsh Wren was seen at Buck Pond Dec 30 by Tom Barry. A Brown Thrasher was seen near Clover Street during January (Whites) and a single appeared Mar 22, 23 at a banding station (Leubner). The latter may also be a wintering bird. Numbers of wintering Robins were reduced, the largest flock by far one of about 50 birds in Durand on Jan 12 (O'Hara, Miller). Reports of "first of the year" Robins began coming in Feb 26-28 and they were common by mid-March. Two Bluebirds were south of Scottsville Feb 16 (O'Hara, Miller), ten migrating at Braddock Mar 15 (Listman). They were well distributed in their main nesting areas S and SW of Rochester by the end of the period. A few Golden-crowned Kinglets wintered at Durand and two were observed at Webster Park on Jan 20 (Rising, Rose, Miller). A small flock of Cedar Waxwings wintered at Durand. Most winter trips into open country resulted in Northern Shrike records, one to three birds.

Warblers — Sparrows: Four Myrtle Warblers were in Durand Jan 1 (Tanghe, Miller) and a single remained Jan 12 (Miller). No reports after the severe weather of Jan 13-18. Meadowlarks wintered in fair numbers: 15 on Dec 2 at Ling Road (Listman) and 14 at Cedar Springs Jan 20 (Kirvins). Many were in evidence by Mar. 16. A small flock of Red-wings wintered at Braddock Bay (Listman). The first migrants appeared Feb. 26, 27 and the species was well distributed by Mar 1. A few Rusty Blackbirds wintered at Ling Road. Small numbers of Bronzed Grackles and Cowbirds wintered around Braddock; both common by mid-March. 1000 Cowbirds were migrating at Braddock Mar 16 (Listman). The very severe weather of mid-January seems to have had no effect on the Cardinal population. The northern finches have been entirely absent during all the fall and winter months, not one record having come to our attention since last spring. The Purple Finch, absent all winter, was finally recorded Mar 3 at Mendon (V White, H. Dakin), a single bird. The only member of this group which appeared all winter was the Goldfinch. Small bands were generally distributed, the largest flock, 50 birds at Tryon Park Feb. 18. A very late Chipping Sparrow was caught Nov 30 and Dec 1 in a banding trap and positively identified by Leubner at his home just north of Rochester. Two White-throated Sparrows were at Durand until Jan 1 (Tanghe, Miller), and one was at Tryon Park Feb 18 and Mar 24 (Miller). Two Fox Sparrows at Manitou Mar 15 (Listman) were the first reported this season. Swamp Sparrow: eight at Ling Road Feb 25 was a rather large number at this season. Two or three good sized flocks of Lapland Longspurs were reported during the winter, the largest flock, 88 in Webster (Kemnitzer). There were fewer reports than usual of Snow Buntings this winter

and the spring flight has been extremely light. On Mar 15 only two individuals were recorded in a sustained flight of land birds at Manitou (Listman).

61 *Richland Street, Rochester 9*

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

December weather conditions were fairly normal, though it was perhaps somewhat warmer and more open than usual. The middle of January brought the worst cold snap in many, many years — my thermometer reached 31 below on January 15. February was relatively mild — ice went out on the creeks around Ithaca, and the thermometer reached 60 on February 25. Snow cover was light, natural food seemed abundant everywhere and feeders were not too well patronized. March continued rather mild, without too much snow, and the spring migration was certainly advanced over a year ago.

Most years bring an invasion of at least one species of winter finch. There were none this year. After the flocks of Evening Grosbeaks of a year ago, dealers got caught with enormous supplies of sunflower seeds on their hands this winter. Short-eared Owls in the western part of the Region and Rough-legged Hawks throughout the Finger Lakes were the only noteworthy visitors.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons again were scarce this winter. Horned Grebes were plentiful at south end of Cayuga, less so elsewhere. Pied-billed Grebes wintered in good numbers on Keuka, where several groups of seven or eight could be seen at different places. A Double-crested Cormorant was seen daily in the Branchport Basin from Dec 29 to Jan 13. Great Blue Herons were reported from Elmira and Geneva in late Dec and early Jan and the arrival date of Mar 27 in the Guyanoga Valley near Keuka was reported (M. Lerch) as being early for this species. An immature Black-crowned Night Heron was seen frequently at Elmira in early January.

There were more reports than usual of Whistling Swans. Two were seen Mar 12 and again Mar 16 along Watkins Road N of Elmira by K. Fudge, two occurred the middle of March on the river flats between Hornell and Canisteo (Groesbeck) and three near Atlanta on Mar 25 and 26 (Atwood). The warm snap the end of February brought flocks of Canada Geese overhead. At the end of March, L. Smith estimated 12,000 were spending the night at Montezuma Refuge. One Snow Goose appeared in the Branchport Basin the last of Feb (Guthrie) and an immature Blue Goose was there on Dec 20 (Spiker). One Blue Goose was with the Canadas at Montezuma Mar 17 and 31.

A few Black Ducks joined Mallards in coming to the small area kept open by an agitator at the Sapsucker Woods pond, every evening to feed on corn. It was interesting to observe these 'puddle' or 'dabbling' ducks diving. On Feb 23, Groesbeck observed a male Gadwall, in company with two Coots, trying to join a flock of Redheads at Hammondsport. A European Widgeon appeared at Montezuma Refuge on Mar 30 (L. Smith). On Mar 14, Allen reported that the waterfowl at Cayuga included Baldpates, Redheads and Canvasbacks by the thousands.

D G Allen saw a male Pintail on Cayuga on Jan 8, an unusual winter record. A Green-winged Teal, the second in seven years appeared on the Chemung River on Mar 31 (K. Fudge). A Wood Duck wintered on the Branchport Basin (Guthrie), three were seen on the canal at Elmira Jan 24 (M. Welles), and the species appeared at Sapsucker Woods when the brushy sections of the pond opened on Mar 23 (D G Allen). Redheads were more numerous on Keuka (Guthrie) but scarcer at the north end