

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

of Seneca than usual (L. Ward). There was a small concentration of these and Scaup a few miles south of Geneva. Canvasbacks were in good numbers at Geneva, however, and Canvasbacks and Ring-necks were to be seen at Fir Tree Point on Seneca also (Mrs. F. Brown). Ring-necks were less numerous than usual on Keuka. Golden-eyes seemed scarcer everywhere, and Walker reports no Old Squaws in their usual spots. Buffleheads were more common than usual on Keuka, 20 appearing at one time in the Branchport Basin (Guthrie). The Hornell Reservoir Basin remained ice-locked through March. The Elmira area had fewer American Mergansers than usual, but they were observed as usual along the Cohocton River at Avoca (Atwood). Fewer Red-Breasted Mergansers on Seneca Lake this winter (Ward).

Hawks — Owls: A Turkey Vulture was seen over Branchport Mar 23 (K. Burtch). A Goshawk was seen Jan 3 NW of Horseheads by M. Welles and K. Fudge. Accipiters were not abundant in the area this winter, but a Cooper's Hawk did hang around Sapsucker Woods much of the time. While Walker reported few hawks in the Geneva-Waterloo area, other parts of the area reported more Buteos than ever. The reports of Red-tailed Hawks were frequent, and the invasion of Rough-legs continued. They were 'common' at Keuka throughout the period, Elmira counting 14 on the Jan 1 census. The numbers thinned out in February and March in the Geneva and Ithaca areas, although some were to be seen with the Red-tails and Marsh Hawks at Montezuma right along (Smith). Red-shouldered Hawks arrived on schedule at Sapsucker Woods and were seen courting and carrying nesting material the end of March. A Bald Eagle was reported a number of times over and near Ithaca in January. Smith reports that the pair at Montezuma has constructed a new nest which is not so readily visible from the storage pond dike. More reports than usual of wintering Marsh Hawks and Sparrow Hawks.

Ruffed Grouse were plentiful around Elmira, and eight were counted in the Watkins Glen area on Jan 1. Three have fed nightly in Arthur Lane's yard at the edge of Sapsucker Woods. Ring-necked Pheasants were down in numbers at Geneva and Avoca, plentiful around Elmira and Ithaca. Coot were plentiful on Keuka and Cayuga. A Florida Gallinule was an unusual record for Jan 20 at Penn Yan (Lerch). The first Woodcock near Ithaca was heard on Mar 13 in Ellis Hollow (Cuyler Page).

As many as 15 Great Black-backed Gulls were seen at once at the S end of Cayuga, the highest counts ever. One Glaucous and one Iceland were seen from time to time with the Herrings and Ring-bills. Bonaparte's Gulls appeared slightly earlier than usual, arriving the end of March (McIlroy). Mourning Doves seem to be wintering in increasing numbers in the Finger Lakes. They were reported plentiful at Elmira (Welles), noted at Montour Falls and vicinity, and the flock feeding at A. C. Lane's daily reached a high count of 90 on Feb. 25.

Screech Owls seemed scarcer. Great Horned Owls could be heard every night at Montezuma (Smith), and they were heard in Sapsucker Woods after an absence of several years. A Snowy Owl was seen by Peck on Dec 24 and by Trail on Dec 28 at Geneva, and one west of Penn Yan on Mar 30 by Lerch: otherwise absent this winter. Two Long-eared Owls were reported on Jan 1 by the census group at Elmira. Short-eared Owls were reported as very common in the area covered by the Keuka Cons. Club, many reported at Elmira, but uncommon at Ithaca and Geneva.

Swifts — Warblers: Few wintering Kingfishers reported. Flickers were reported more commonly than in most years, eight being seen near Burdett on Jan 29 (Bardeen), three on Jan 1 at Elmira, many near Ithaca in January. While no Red-bellied Woodpeckers appeared in the Watkins-Montour area, or at Ithaca or Elmira, Mrs. Stanley Voek had one at her feeder starting Mar 22, at Penn Yan, one spent most of the winter at the James Smarts in Lyons, Ward saw one at Geneva Mar 25, and the H. Claytons had one daily at Interlaken. The Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker invasion did not extend into the Finger Lakes, although D. G. Allen saw one at Sapsucker Woods in late January.

Phoebes were slow in arriving. Walker reports both Prairie and Northern Horned Larks in good numbers around Geneva. A Horned Lark nested in March at the Big Flats School at Elmira, near the flagpole, but the newly-hatched young perished in

the snow of Apr 4. A very early date for Tree Swallows is Mar 14, when A. A. & E. G. Allen saw two at Montezuma. The Sapsucker Woods birds had not arrived at the end of March. Crows were abundant in the western area around Avoca and Hornell. No reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches all winter. A Brown Creeper visited the suet at the Laboratory Building at Sapsucker Woods daily. Very few Winter Wren reports. A Mockingbird appeared daily at the Shepherd feeder in Ludlowville in January and February, and one was seen Jan 8 at Geneva (Ward). Early migrant Robins turned up in the warm spell in February. Two Bluebirds were reported in January in 6-mile Gorge, Ithaca, by several observers, and seemed somewhat more common than usual in March, except around Avoca. Elmira had a good count of Golden-crowned Kinglets on Jan 1, 24 of them. One was heard daily in Etna (Hoyt). In January two Ruby-crowned Kinglets were at feeders in Montour Falls.

Few Pipits reported. Walker saw two on Mar 17 at Waterloo. Cedar Waxwings, scarce at Elmira, appeared frequently in Etna. The Northern Shrike invasion didn't materialize in the Region — hardly any reports after November. Starlings were extremely abundant everywhere except Avoca. Several Myrtle Warblers spent the winter at the Fuertes Sanctuary at the head of Cayuga Lake and visited various feeders in Cayuga Heights. One was seen on Feb 4 at Elmira (Welshans; another fed on poison ivy berries at Keuka on Jan 6 (Guthrie) and came to the Guthrie feeder for suet on Mar 1.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Small groups of Meadowlarks wintered in the Region. A Baltimore Oriole visited two different feeders in Dryden in Jan (Baker and Ferger) and one appeared also in Montour Falls. 25 Cowbirds were seen on Jan 1 at Elmira, and one Bronzed Grackle on Jan 5 at Elmira (York et al).

Probably the most unusual report was of a female Western Tanager which visited the feeder of the Richard Fischers twice in December, and was carefully observed and identified by Prof. Fischer. It appeared with English Sparrows.

Cardinals were reported in good numbers at Geneva, and survived the extreme cold successfully at Hornell and Avoca. In the Ithaca area, all observers complained of a decrease of Cardinals at feeders. Natural food may have been abundant, but I don't think it explains the decrease in numbers, which was very evident.

There were no Evening Grosbeaks at Hornell, Avoca, Keuka, Geneva or Elmira. One male flew into a window at Breeseport in late December (Mrs. Knowles) and there were two reports of one or two individuals at feeders in Ithaca and Dryden. Purple Finches were singing conspicuously, everywhere in the Region apparently, around March 18 to 28. No winter reports. Only one report of Redpolls: a flock of ten on Dec 24 to 26 at Horseheads (Samson). No Pine Siskins nor Pine Grosbeaks nor Crossbills reported. Goldfinches were common in Ithaca and in the Watkins-Montour area, scarce at Elmira. A Towhee wintered in cedars south of the Keuka College campus (Guthrie) and one was at a feeder in Waterburg (M. Bower).

A male Oregon Junco spent January and February at the Bower feeder in Waterburg, was checked by several observers. Tree Sparrows were scarce at Keuka, Montour Falls, Burdett, Etna and Geneva, but 960 were counted on Jan 1 at Elmira, and a large flock took over the feeder at the Laboratory Building at Sapsucker Woods. A Field Sparrow appeared at this feeder on Mar 24, as did a Fox Sparrow. Otherwise reports of Fox Sparrows have been very few.

A. A. Allen had 3 White-throats at his feeder all winter, and others reported them in Ithaca. They were also seen at Elmira. Song Sparrows were very abundant all winter around Ithaca, and 17 were seen at Elmira on Jan 1. But they did not appear at Montour-Watkins area until migration. Almost no reports of Snow Buntings all winter, and none of Lapland Longspurs.

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca