

9 to Mar 2, and from all parts of the region. One was seen catching a field mouse at Oxford in Jan (Stratton).

Vireos — Sparrows: Two Myrtle Warblers were found Jan 30, on the Christmas Census in Binghamton (Altman). A late Yellowthroat was found just west of Endicott Dec 9 (TCNC). On Mar 15, in Endwell, a fairly freshly dead female Wilson's Warbler was found by Mrs. Gendle and is now in the Cornell University collection. The feathers were in very good condition with no signs of having lain under the snow or even on wet ground for any length of time. The spot in which the bird was found was only protected by shrubbery so there can be little doubt that it arrived there only a short time before being found.

One Meadowlark was near the Broome County Airport Dec 31 (Sheffields) and four more were at Hawleyton, south of Binghamton, Jan 9 (N. Washburn). No more until Mar 13 at Summer Hill, near Cortland (Mulholland). Scattered Redwing reports from Feb 1 but not common until Mar 8 at Deposit and Mar 12 at Binghamton. The first Rusty Blackbirds were at Binghamton Mar 17 (TCNC). One Grackle Dec 29 in Binghamton (Billie Hannan). The first spring migrant record was Feb 22 at Vestal (Carmen). They were common throughout the region from Mar 14. The first Cowbird was at Deposit Mar 2 (Wilson), but they were still not common at the end of March.

One Evening Grosbeak was seen at Deposit Dec 9 (Wilson) but no more anywhere. Six Purple Finches were singing at South New Berlin Feb 11 and have been there since (S. White). One came to a feeder at Deposit Feb 12 (Wilson) but otherwise none until Mar 18 at Deposit, Mar 21 at Binghamton when they became more common. Only one flock of 20 plus Redpolls, at Norwich Dec 28 (Whites). No Siskins anywhere. Goldfinches were common around Binghamton in Jan and around Unadilla in Feb but they were scarce otherwise. Four Vesper Sparrows were north of Unadilla Jan 4 (Wisner). A White-crowned Sparrow has been coming to a feeder at Newark Valley since Jan 12 (Dean) and a White-throated Sparrow has been doing the same at Deposit since Jan 5 (Wilson). A White-throated Sparrow was at Buckhorn Lake near Unadilla Feb 22 and two were there Feb 23. There were several there Mar 31 (Wisner). Fox Sparrows arrived at Binghamton and Deposit Mar 18. Wintering Song Sparrows were fairly common. 16 Snow Buntings Dec 30 and 50 Jan 1 at Deposit (Wilson) were the only ones in the whole region.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

December was mild and wet: eg. Oneida and Onondaga lakes remained open until Dec. 30. This long period of mild weather plus the abundance of natural foods — berries, weed seeds, late insects — probably accounts for the number and variety of semi-hardies and the poor attendance at local feeding stations. These late lingerers were caught suddenly by a severe blizzard (Dec. 30) and a month (Dec. 30 — Jan. 31) of fierce, cold weather — low temperatures, down to -24°F and much ground snow, up to 18 inches. February brought considerably milder weather with the exception of Feb. 11-14 which was very cold and windy. February, despite its mildness, suffered from a month-long paucity of small land-birds, especially the field birds — Tree Sparrows, Snow Buntings, Horned Larks. The last week of February and the first week of March were particularly mild and a major movement of early migrants occurred. March 8 brought seven inches of wet, soggy snow, but weatherwise this was the only interruption in a dry, warm, uneventful month which strangely enough did not produce many early migrants.

Noteworthy for this winter were: (1) the increased number but the decreased variety of wintering ducks, (2) an almost total lack of winter finches, (3) the numerous semi-hardies, (4) the flight of "mouse" hawks and owls and the correlation of this population with the snow cover, and (5) the interesting woodpeckers.

Loons — Ducks: Horned and Pied-billed Grebe counts were almost equal this winter, a peculiar situation in view of the cold Jan; first migrant Horned Grebes on Mar 21; first migrant Pied-billed Grebes Mar 30. Great Blue Heron — one, Jan 28, Mycenae, is the only winter record; spring arrival date, Mar 10. American Bittern — an emaciated individual of this species was found at Mattydale, Onon. Co., Jan 22, (W. Raymo) and given to B. P. Burt who sent it on to the Ornith. Lab at Cornell U.

Whistling Swan — only report is five, late Mar, Sandy Pond (fide Belknap). Canada Goose — last seen Dec 1; first arrivals on Feb 25; spring numbers at Mud Lake and Oneida Lake have been poor but counts over 1000 at Otter Lake, Cayuga Co. (Whitman). Mallard & Black Duck — reduced Waterfowl Census counts probably due to severe weather of Jan; certain places (Manlius, Baldwinsville) had 1:1 Mallard: Black ratio this winter where usually it is 1:4 or 5. Gadwall — first spring report, two, Mar 10 near Otter Lake. Pintail — arrivals on Feb 10; numbers up considerably (4 to 5x usual spring counts) at Clay Swamp and Oneida Lake; however, the spring numbers of Baldpate were the lowest reported in five years. Green-winged Teal — last date is on Dec 3, Three Rivers GMA (Weeks); arrival date is Mar 15, N. Syracuse. Blue-winged Teal — first spring date is a male, Mar 16 (early); both teal have been scarce throughout Mar. Shoveller — a pair, Mar 24, Otter Lake are the first reported. Wood Duck — six wintering birds, four males at Baldwinsville, a pair at Manlius; first migrants, two, Mar 13, Selkirk Shores St. Pk.

Redhead & Canvasback — low wintering numbers at Oswego, Brewerton, and Baldwinsville; the last two weeks of Feb saw a notable rise in both at all those places; this winter influx is almost as sure a spring sign as arriving Pintail. Golden-eye, Buffle-head, Old Squaw — winter numbers very good at Oswego and along Lake Ontario; poor in other areas; most impressive is the spring flight of these ducks thru the area and all three have shown up at small ponds (Tully, Jamesville, Clay) which they usually skip entirely. Ruddy Duck — three at Oswego, Feb 10 to late Mar, is the first winter record for the region. Hooded Merganser — NO wintering records; first migrant was a male, Feb 27, Skaneateles Lake (Seaman); spring numbers are up considerably, a welcome change from the low fall '56 flight. American Merganser — 6000, Jan 19 Oswego Harbor was the high count for the winter.

Hawks — Owls: Goshawk — an adult seen at Green Lakes St. Pk., Feb 17, (Spofford). Few Sharp-skinned Hawks reported this winter but Cooper's Hawks were reported widely and often (Spofford, Scheider, Chamberlaine). Red-tailed & Rough-legged Hawks, Harrier — winter numbers up markedly (single day's highs of 12, 25 and 13, respectively) correlating well with the abundant mouse population and varying inversely with the depth of the ground snow; the dark to light phase ratio of the Rough-legged Hawk seemed to be 1:1; the wintering Harrier population was composed entirely of immature males and females and an adult male was not seen until early Mar. Kestrel — winter numbers down, especially thru the Jan cold spell; the usual mid-Feb influx occurred. The first migrant hawk flight noted along Lake Ontario was 121 birds on Mar 16.

Ruffed Grouse — wintering counts as of early Feb appeared high, probably from a combination of good breeding season, low hunting toll, and reduced winter kill. Pheasant — low winter flock counts in and around Syracuse and Bridgeport.

Killdeer — last noted on Dec 11; spring arrival date, Feb 26, Skaneateles. Woodcock & Wilson's Snipe — first reported on Mar 17 and 24, respectively; the Onondaga Audubon Society arranged special and rewarding evening trips to hear the courtship performances of the Woodcock (last two weeks of Mar) and Snipe (last week of Mar); a Woodcock nest with two eggs was found in the last week of

Mar, Three Rivers GMA. Lesser Yellow-legs — very early is one, studied well, Mar 18 near Cicero (Scheider).

Glaucous Gull — low winter counts and not seen on every trip to Oswego; not one adult reported. Iceland Gull — winter numbers were fair with a high of four, Feb 10; an adult Iceland of the Kumlien's subspecies stayed at a Bridgeport garbage dump from Dec 30 to Mar 10 (Miss Carter, Mrs. Evans). Herring Gull — the highest count reported was 12,000, Jan 19, Oswego; early Ring-billed Gulls were quite scarce but by Feb 10, the Herring: Ring-billed ratio had approached 3:2 along the Oswego River. Bonaparte's Gull — departure date is two, Dec 16, Oneida Lake (Nodecker).

Horned Owl — currently B. P. Burt has seven active nests in and about Syracuse under observation. Snowy Owl — three reports, one each from east of Rome (Jan), Bridgeport (Feb), and Baldwinsville (Mar). Barred Owl — reported from Otter Lake, Feb 22 (Whitman) and Constantia, Mar 13 (Spofford). Long-eared Owl — one to three regularly seen, Jan 27 to Feb 17, at an owl roost near E. Syracuse (Patterson). Short-eared Owl — certainly a flight year; up to ten reported from the E. Syracuse roost and smaller groups were seen at Cazenovia, Bridgeport, Shackleton Point on Oneida Lake, and Brewerton; last report is three, Mar 26, Bridgeport. Saw-whet Owl — single birds seen at Syracuse, Dec 30 to Jan 5, and at Cazenovia in early Jan (fide Mrs. Edwards).

Mourning Dove — many small flocks (3-25) wintering at South Onondaga, Nedrow, Skaneateles, Bridgeport, Oneida and Rome.

Swifts — Shrikes: Flicker — dozens of winter records with a high of eight in one woodlot, Dec 31, near Fayetteville. Red-bellied Woodpecker — seen at Jordan (two males - Whitman). Cross Lake (one female - Burt), Jack's Reef (one male - Seaman), and Nedrow (one male - Chamberlaine); this is a veritable burst of reports considering its former very rare status in this area. Red-headed Woodpecker — an adult seen Feb 13 at a feeder in Fayetteville (Mrs. Terhune) is an unusual winter record. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers — rather scarce thru Dec but Jan and Feb produced good numbers with highs of 15 and 25, respectively, Feb 17, Three Rivers GMA. Black-backed Woodpecker — reported from Ava, Oneida Co., and from Manlius, Tully, Fayetteville, and Baldwinsville, Onon. Co. from Dec 1 to Mar 10 (Jones, Mrs. Gould, Ashley, Wrangell); the best place to see them was the Three Rivers GMA near Baldwinsville which had a high of three on Feb 24 (the Fudges and Smiths); in all but one case the birds were found feeding on dead or dying elm trees.

Phoebe — first reported on Mar 22 near Skaneateles. Blue Jay — winter counts low; highest single report before me is 13! White-breasted Nuthatch — fairly common numerically this winter; strange, however, is the total absence of Red-breasted Nuthatch reports. Brown Creeper — winter counts somewhat higher than usual with a high of seven on Mar 10; first singing noted on Feb 17.

Carolina Wren — no records after Jan; perhaps the small but expanding population has been wiped out by the low Jan temperatures. Winter Wren — about six Dec reports and at least one bird survived until Jan 27, Fayetteville. Robin — small groups (2-6) wintered over, largely south of Syracuse; first unquestionable migrants on Feb 26. Hermit Thrush — a single on Mar 14 is an early spring date. Bluebird — arrived Mar 11; many comments on the greater numbers of these birds this spring with the exception of an almost complete lack of them around Skaneateles (Hiscock). Ruby-crowned Kinglet — three Dec records, the last on Dec 28, Syracuse. Pipit — NO Mar reports is very unusual!

Northern Shrike — another irruption year for this species; counts up to seven a day, especially numerous south of Oneida Lake and around Clay and Baldwinsville; singing first noted on Mar 14; interesting is a report of a live but weak immature shrike entangled in burdock burrs at South Onondaga (Hamer fide Burt).

Vireos — Sparrows: Myrtle Warbler — one, Dec 30, Syracuse is the only winter record and the first to appear on that Christmas Count. Reports of wintering Icterids are frankly profuse this year and the various species follow a similar pattern — singles or small groups at cornfields, marshes, and springholes all thru Dec, a rash

of records from feeders and garbage dumps with the cold spell of Jan — this was especially marked in grackles and cowbirds — and, with the exception of meadowlarks and a few cowbirds, no wintering records in Feb. Baltimore Oriole — an individual with partial adult male plumage seen Dec 16 to 29 at the E. Bush's feeder, Syracuse (fide Burtt). Arrival dates for the Icterids are: Meadowlark — Feb. 26; Red-wing — Feb 24; Rusty Blackbird — Mar 6; Grackle — Mar 3; Cowbird — Mar 3; most of the Icterids arrived a week later at Rome (Mrs. Aspinwall) and Westernville (Mrs. May).

Winter finches were practically non-existent — three reports of Evening Grosbeaks, the highest, a flock of 7, early Feb, Rome (Mrs. Aspinwall); a flock of 20 Pine Siskins, early Dec, Fayetteville, is the only record of this species; there are NO observations of the other winter finches. Purple Finch — a flight, mostly immature males, began about Mar 14 and has continued until the end of the period; only winter reports are Feb observations at Westernville (Mrs. May). Both Junco and Tree Sparrow were especially common thru Dec and Jan (up to 34 and 300/day, respectively) but frankly scarce throughout Feb. Oregon Junco — an adult male and an immature bird were seen Jan 2-24, at the Edward's feeder at Cazenovia.

Winter records of semi-hardy sparrows were frequent: Field Sparrow — five reports with the last, one, Jan 6, Westernville; White-throated Sparrow — three reported from feeders; White-crowned Sparrow — an adult, Dec 18, at a feeder near Manlius (Mrs. Maxwell); Fox Sparrow — one, Jan 2-15, north of Rome (Miss Smith); Song Sparrow — many reported, especially from the small gullies and swamps south of Syracuse and Baldwinsville. Snow Bunting — very scarce all winter; the sum of Jan and Feb reports consists of two small flocks (10, 25) and no large migrant flocks were reported in Mar; last noted is one, Mar 31, near Texas.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

In Watertown 77 inches of snow fell from November to the end of winter. This was about the same as a year ago, but 39 inches below the average. In January the snow amounted to 28 inches, and there was little snow the rest of the winter. The average temperature was about normal with much of the cold concentrated in January which was 8.9°F below average. It was zero or below on 15 days in January with the lowest -32°F on January 15.

One gets the general impression of a scarcity of winter birds. Few persons saw any Evening Grosbeaks, Redpolls or Snowy Owls. However, a few birds appeared at unexpected times and places. Both the Christmas Count and the Winter Waterfowl Count yielded numbers below normal. In both cases the weather was poor.

Mild weather starting about March 12 brought the usual early migrants, Killdeers, Robins, Meadowlarks, Grackles and Bluebirds. By March 15 and 16 these birds were seen in large numbers for the time of the year.

Loons — Ducks: Horned Grebes were first seen Mar 30. Rev. de Vries of Massena reported seeing Canada Geese on Feb 3, an early date. Canada Geese and Pintails were numerous on Perch River Flats after Mar. 15 (Belknap). A pair of Gadwalls was observed by J. Blake on Mar 24 and he saw Blacks, Mallards, Pintails and Green-winged Teal the same day. Both Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal were near Dexter Mar 30 (Gordon). Blue-winged Teal were first seen Mar 28 (Belknap). Baldpates were at Perch Lake Mar 16, and a pair of Hooded Mergansers were found that day (Gordon). Canvasbacks were seen on the St. Lawrence River from Jan 18 to Mar 1 with a peak of more than 1000 on Feb 8 (Nichols).

Hawks — Owls: A Glaucous Gull was reported by Nichols on Feb 15, the first