

ville (Wendlings). This species, though a common migrant, is very seldom seen here in winter. Phoebees were not reported in March, an unusual circumstance considering the fine weather in the latter part of the month. Tree Swallows were also unreported although ice covered inland water areas could possibly have a bearing on this. Some Horned Larks of both races appeared in January and the main migration through the area in February apparently was not affected by the adverse weather. Widespread observations of Red-breasted Nuthatches seemed to indicate that they were more numerous than in previous winters. A Long-billed Marsh Wren on Dec 22 on Grand Island (Axtell et al), is an outstanding observation. There was a Brown Thrasher wintering in Kenmore just north of Buffalo (Allen rep. Mitchell). Four Cedar Waxwings on Jan 22 at Niagara Falls (Rogerson) and two flocks of 15 and six on Feb 1, 24 (Wendlings) were of note. Northern Shrikes were regularly reported from many localities.

Vireos — Warblers: Individual Myrtle Warblers were seen on Grand Island Dec 22 (Axtell et al), and at Wilson on Jan 11 (Drobits, Webb) and also there on Feb 2 (Lehrer). A very unusual observation was a Yellowthroat on Grand Island Dec 22 (Andrle, Gampp).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Cardinals continued to be numerous in many localities and seemed to be unaffected by the severe weather. A striking report is that of an immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak which has been coming to a feeder in the vicinity of Dunkirk since early November (Feb 8, Stanley). Pine Grosbeaks have been noted only in small numbers and nowhere were concentrated as were the Evening Grosbeaks south of Buffalo. Very few crossbills have been observed since they first appeared in November. Of interest is a flock of 200 Goldfinches at Elma Jan 31 (rep. Mitchell). Although March temperatures were above normal in the latter half of the month and there were no storms and little precipitation it is interesting to observe that Rufous-sided Towhees, Savannah, Vesper, Field and Fox Sparrows went unreported. Factors which might be considered in speculation on this situation are the rather heavy snow cover which remained from earlier storms, the fact that the prevailing winds were northwesterly to east-north-easterly on 11 of the last 12 days of the month or perhaps the lack of thorough coverage in the region.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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December was an extremely mild month with little snow. At the end of the month there was absolutely no snow cover and all waters were entirely free from ice. This of course resulted in the presence of a good number of species which in an ordinary year would have migrated much earlier. With the advent of the New Year, however, the weather pattern suddenly changed and winter conditions prevailed during the whole month. The temperature hardly went above freezing at any time and snow cover appeared along the lake early in the month. Inland there was less snow until about the middle of January.

If winter weather prevailed in January, the weather during the first three weeks of February was nothing short of devilish. A snowfall of $3\frac{1}{2}$ times normal coupled with gale winds and very low temperatures much of the time, made the month as bad as possible for both man and bird. The few Mockingbirds which had worked their way into this area disappeared, Carolina Wrens dropped sharply in numbers and some other half-hardy species disappeared about this time. Cardinals on the other hand seem to have survived this winter without any apparent decrease in numbers. 75,000 pounds of bird seed donated by the R. T. French Co. of Rochester

was distributed during this time and must have done considerable good in relieving hunger among the birds during this very critical period.

The last week of February and all of March showed about normal temperatures with little precipitation which resulted in a gradual melting of the heavy accumulation of snow. This resulted in most of the water content being absorbed by the dry ground and produced nowhere near as heavy a runoff as would have been expected. There were no warm days in March. This and unfavorable winds resulted in a retarded, uninteresting migration up to the end of the period.

Loons — Ducks: Two Common Loons on Dec 22 and a Red-throated Loon on Dec 29 at Manitou (Listman) were the last records for these birds to the end of the period. A Red-necked Grebe was seen Dec 22 at Summerville (Haft et al) and another bird of this species was seen Mar 15 at Manitou (Listman). 15 Horned Grebes were seen Dec 31 along the east lakeshore (Kemnitzer). The species was not recorded in January but was seen during the next two months in very small numbers along the lake. An Eared Grebe was present near Sea Breeze from Dec 14-29 (Kemnitzer, Listman et al). Pied-billed Grebes were still not present at the end of the period. A very late Double-crested Cormorant was seen Dec 23 at Sodus (Jones). Three Great Blue Herons were seen on the Christmas census Dec 22, a single bird Dec 21-24 near Canandaigua (A Tanghe) and a very few were present at the end of the period.

No Whistling Swans were recorded up to the end of the period. Eight Canada Geese on Mar 8 were the first of the season. They occurred in normal numbers during the rest of the month. An estimated 8000 were in the Oak Orchard area Mar 30 (GOS). Three Snow Geese were in the same area on this date and two Blue Geese were there Mar 29 (Killip, Haller, Rising). Two Gadwall were seen near Summerville Jan 4 (McKinney). This species was not seen subsequently. A single Pintail was seen Dec 22, but not again until Mar 8 when a flock of about 30 was seen near Shore Acres. Present the rest of the month in slightly below normal numbers. Two Green-winged Teal were at Buck Pond Dec 22 (Holland). First spring migrant was Mar 24 at Braddock (Listman) and they were present the rest of the month in small numbers. Five Blue-winged Teal were seen Mar 29 near Braddock. A single American Widgeon was seen Dec 28 at Conesus (Listman et al). The first migrants were Mar 22 at Sodus, about 30 birds with other ducks. They were present the rest of the period in fair numbers. Only one report of Shovelers, a single bird Mar 29 at Durand (Dineen, Foley). Only one Wood Duck report, a single Mar 17 near Manitou (Listman). Flocks of 250 Redheads Mar 9 at Sodus (Jones) and 300 Canvasbacks there Mar 23 (Miller) constitute the largest numbers reported of these two species.

The spring flight of most diving ducks was rather poor. Five Ring-necked Ducks were reported at Round Pond Mar 29 (O'Hara). 3000 Greater Scaup were reported Dec 22 on the Christmas census. 1000 Common Goldeneyes were reported Feb 20 at Manitou (Listman). Buffleheads occurred in fair numbers during the whole period. 4850 Old Squaw were reported Dec 22 and 1000 were seen on Lake Ontario near Sea Breeze Feb 1 (Kemnitzer). A single immature male King Eider was present Dec 30 - Jan 2 at Manitou (Listman). White-winged Scoters have been present on Lake Ontario in flocks of hundreds. Five Surf Scoters were seen Dec 31 off Sea Breeze (Kemnitzer, Listman) and one bird was seen Feb 15 at Manitou by the latter observer. Three Common Scoters were recorded Dec 22. 19 Hooded Mergansers were at Honeoye and Conesus Dec 28 and four were at Oak Orchard Mar 30. 1000 Common Mergansers were present Feb 15 at the Russell pumping station when this area was almost the only place in the lake that was ice free.

Hawks — Owls: Four Turkey Vultures were at Oak Orchard Mar 30. No Goshawks were reported. A very few Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks wintered especially in the vicinity of feeders and very few went through during the latter half of March. Two Red-shouldered Hawks were present at 1000-acre swamp from Mar 22 on (Kemnitzer). Rough-legged Hawks, common in December, drifted out when the heavy snows arrived. Some reappeared early in March, following the

retreating snow line. An adult Golden Eagle was carefully observed at Webster Mar 30 (Kemnitzers). Two adult Bald Eagles were at Hemlock Lake Dec 28 and another bird of this species was seen at Braddock Dec 31 (Listman). Marsh Hawks, scarce during January and early February, had returned to their nesting grounds in normal numbers by the end of the period.

A Virginia Rail was seen Jan 11 near the Russell Pumping Station (Listman). 20 American Coot were reported Mar 23 at Canandaigua Lake (Zeitler) but were unreported at Sodus and elsewhere in the area. A single Killdeer was Dec 22 at the Irondequoit Bay Outlet (Kemnitzer). The species was not recorded again until Mar 7 when two birds were seen south of Rochester (V White). It was well along in the month before they became generally distributed. A few Woodcock were reported the last few days of the period but the Common Snipe was unreported. A very bedraggled Lesser Yellowlegs was reported Mar 20 at Braddock (Listman) and a much trimmer looking bird was reported Mar 29 a few miles east of the first location. The Purple Sandpiper was reported Dec 3, 9 and 31 at Braddock, a single bird in all three cases (Listman).

Both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were rather scarce, never being reported as more than a single individual at any one time. Bonaparte's Gulls remained in good numbers through December, but disappeared shortly after New Years. An adult Little Gull was seen near Sea Breeze Dec 26 (O'Hara). Mourning Doves wintered in fairly good numbers and seemed to survive the very severe weather without any great loss. A Snowy Owl Dec 22 was the last report of this bird for the period. A single Long-eared Owl was observed Dec 22. It was not again reported until a lone individual was seen Mar 29. A few Short-eared Owls wintered along the west lake shore and a considerable increase was noted in March, up to fifteen birds being seen in a single evening (Listman). A Saw-whet Owl was seen Dec 22 in the Island Cottage woods (Holland) and a single bird was seen Jan 19 and Feb 14 in the Frisbee Hill "owl" woods (Listman).

Swifts — Shrikes: Two Belted Kingfishers were recorded Dec 22. One was Jan 24 at the Irondequoit Bay outlet (Sunderlin). The first migrant was not seen until the very last of March. A woodpecker "census" in the Avon section during early January over a period of more than one day and in several different areas resulted in a composite count of six Pileated, 18 Red-bellied, eight Red-headed, 13 Hairy and 26 Downy Woodpeckers (Haller). The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen Dec 14 in Durand and Dec 15 on Dewey Avenue, about ten miles apart in Rochester. After this last date the echo part of this year's "echo flight" died out completely.

There was only one Phoebe reported during March, a bird seen in Durand Mar 28 (Dineen, Foley). 50 Horned Larks between Hamlin and Point Breeze Jan 12 (Listman) was a good count for so early in the season. No Tree Swallows were reported during March. Two Tufted Titmice were reported from near Durand (Carpenters), two east of Irondequoit Bay (McNetts), two near Avon (Haller) and one at Fairport (Jones). All these records were from feeders and in the first two cases at least the birds survived the severe weather. Four Red-breasted Nuthatches wintered in Highland Park (Starling) and a very few were present in Hamlin Beach Park and Durand Park. There were three reports of Carolina Wrens in March which of course represent birds which successfully wintered. Four Long-billed Marsh Wrens were reported Dec 22, none subsequently. A Mockingbird was seen Dec 23 at Sea Breeze (Miller), another Jan 12 at Hamlin (Listman) and at least one of the two wintering birds was present up to Feb 15 (Kemnitzer). Since then there have been no reports and it would seem that this species was unable to survive the rest of the winter. Extremely few Robins wintered this year and the spring migrants were very late in appearing, not being present in most parts of the area even in small numbers until after Mar 20. Only one Bluebird was reported on Mar 28 at Durand. A Bohemian Waxwing was reported Dec 8 in Genesee Valley Park (Mutchmore) and another bird was present in Durand Jan 1 - 4 (Miller et al). Cedar Waxwings were generally distributed in small to medium sized flocks, the largest 92 birds at Fairport Jan 25 (Jones).

Shrikes — Sparrows: Northern Shrikes were generally distributed, one or two birds being seen on almost every trip into open country. Some were reported in the

vicinity of feeders. Eight Myrtle Warblers were reported Dec 22 at Durand and single birds were seen at Conesus Dec 28, in Brighton Jan 16 (V White). There were no records after the last date anywhere in the area. Two Yellowthroats were seen Dec 22 at Tryon Park. Eastern Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Brown-headed Cowbirds wintered in small numbers but the first and last named species were late in their spring arrival. An immature male Baltimore Oriole was present from Dec 15-23 in a back yard on Stone Road in Greece (Tanghe). There were only two reports of wintering Rusty Blackbirds and they were little in evidence by the last of March. Common Grackles also were late.

A Dickcissel was present from Dec 31 - Jan 14 at John Brown's feeder in Scottsville. Evening Grosbeaks were mainly confined to the vicinity of feeders, 80 being present east of Irondequoit Bay (Sunderlin, McNetts). A single Purple Finch was near Cobbs Hill Feb 22 (Peters). Pine Grosbeaks, which had been very common in the late fall and early winter, decreased rapidly after New Years, only a few scattered birds being reported late in the period. A Hoary Redpoll was seen Jan 22 in company with Common Redpolls on Lighthouse Road (Listman). The latter has been our commonest and most generally distributed winter finch during this winter, one or two flocks being seen on almost every trip. On Mar 9 flocks totaling an estimated 1000 birds were seen along the Lakeshore Parkway (Dobson). A very few Pine Siskins were observed during December, none since. Some American Goldfinches were present during the whole period occurring in small flocks, the largest about 30 birds Feb 1 in Webster. A single Red Crossbill was seen Dec 22 in Highland Park (Starling) and a single White-winged Crossbill the same day at Manitou (Listman).

A Towhee was reported at a feeder in Charlotte Dec 15 and was seen occasionally until after the heavy snows (B. Dolan). Another was reported from near Genesee (Haller) and two attempted to winter at the BANC station near Victor. One bird was found dead Jan 18 and the fate of the other is unknown. Slate-colored Juncos were rather uncommon during the winter in most areas and were very slow in appearing during March. An Oregon Junco appeared at a feeder in Irondequoit Dec 30 (Leubner). It was soon joined by an obscurely marked bird which may have been a hybrid. Both birds were present until well into February. Two Oregon Juncos were at a feeder near Avon for about a month (Haller) and possible hybrids were reported at Pittsford (Cameron) and Fairport (Jones). Four Field Sparrows were reported from near Hemlock Lake Dec 28 (Kemnitzner) and two to three birds of the same species were present in the tamarack swamp at Durand until Jan 4. A White-throated Sparrow was near Hemlock Lake Dec 28 (Kemnitzner) and two wintered at a feeder near Irondequoit Bay (McNetts). No Fox Sparrows were reported. 28 Swamp Sparrows Dec 22, but numbers fall off. Lapland Longspurs were generally reported but in small flocks or as single birds. Snow Buntings, in contrast to a year ago, were reported in large flocks except in the early part of the period. The largest individual flock reported was an estimated 800 birds Jan 22 in Webster (Jones).

61 Richland Street, Rochester 9

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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In at least two counties of the Finger Lakes — Seneca and Tompkins — the winter was one of the worst on record. Three storms officially termed blizzards struck in two weeks in February, and with other lesser storms piled a total of four feet on the level with drifts up to 20 feet. Temperatures dropped below zero during the blizzard period, and stayed below freezing for so long that melting did not take place, and large drifts remained at the end of March. It will be some time before we know how much our bird population has suffered, but it was obvious that many starved to death, others were buried by snow when they took shelter in seemingly protected places. Pheasants collected along roads or on any bare spots, and sportsmen's groups helped feed them. In early March, strips bared along roads by snow-