

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).

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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-

plows were spotted with Horned Larks, Snow Buntings and Meadowlarks. Migration seemed about two weeks behind schedule as April approached and the heavy snow cover persisted and was supplemented.

As predicted, natural food was scarce, and even the abundant weed seeds were snow-buried, but the abundant field mice escaped the Hawks and Owls and remain numerous this spring. Feeders were well-patronized. The commonest winter finches were Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Grosbeaks and Redpolls.

Montezuma benefited in one indirect way — the heavy snow on top of the ice apparently was the chief factor in a heavy kill of fish, particularly carp and bullheads. Manager Smith reports that carp control will not be a problem this year at least. At Sapsucker Woods pond, hundreds of the gold fish and golden shiners, stocked two years ago as Heron and Kingfisher food, suffocated for want of oxygen.

Loons — Ducks: Loons were scarce on Keuka Lake, and there were few reports of them on Cayuga during the period. A Red-necked Grebe was seen off Levanna (Cayuga L.) on Mar. 23 (I. Nisbet). Horned Grebes were in good numbers — several came to grief landing in snow banks or on ice, at scattered locations. 27 were seen on Seneca Lake (south end) on the census on Dec. 31 (Bardeen, Smith). Pied-billed Grebes were commoner than usual on Keuka in Dec. and Jan. (F. Guthrie). 2 Great-Blue Herons were seen at Montezuma on Jan. 1 by the staff, and one at Elmira Jan. 12.

Waterfowl seemed down in numbers throughout the region during the reporting period. However two things contribute to the low count: some areas were ice-covered longer than most years, and the severe winter and impossible driving conditions made for fewer observer hours. The more protected spots on the lakes were inaccessible by car, and even by foot. Ducks were late in returning to the Montezuma Refuge, because of lingering ice cover. A Whistling Swan was seen at Brandy Bay (Keuka L.) on Jan. 5 (Holmes) and 12 landed at Branchport in mid-March. One Swan was seen at the Montezuma Refuge on Jan. 1 by several observers. An American Brant was spotted on the Chemung River on Dec. 11 by K. Fudge, a late date. Two Blue Geese were off Levanna, Mar. 23 (I. Nisbet), and two Snow and two Blues at Montezuma the last week in March. Heavy flights of Canada Geese over Keuka Lake the last of March, and the usual flocks of up to 29,000 (I. Nisbet) rested on Cayuga and fed in the fields near Kings Ferry.

There were a few Mallards and Blacks at the south end of Seneca in January (Bardeen), and up to 200 dropped into the pond at Sapsucker Woods daily, until the open water was gone. Two Black Ducks were the only waterfowl on the river at Avoca in January. At the end of March a European Widgeon appeared at Montezuma (L. Smith, I. Nisbet). There were more Baldpates on Keuka in March than usual (Guthrie), and they also appeared at the south end of Seneca, close to shore. There were 3300 at Montezuma the last of March. A Pintail was reported on Cayuga on January 1st. A few Redheads and Scaup were seen at the south end of Seneca on Feb 22 (Mrs. C. Robinson) and at the north end, Ward reported that Scaup were the only species in near normal numbers on the census Dec 29. On the other hand, they were rare on Keuka, and both Scaup and Redheads were scarce on Cayuga. Scattered flocks of Canvasbacks were seen on Cayuga, and about 200 of them at the south end of Seneca on Mar 20 (Bardeen). Mr. Dewey, of the staff at Montezuma, saw a Barrow's Golden-eye in the canal near Pt. Byron in early January. American Golden-eyes were scarce, as were Old-squaws on Keuka, Seneca and Cayuga. A Ruddy Duck was seen at Sheldrake on Jan 19 (Nisbet). All the Mergansers were scarce except that over 100 fed on one of the ponds at Howlands Island when the ice went out in late March. AAAllen reported that he'd never seen so few waterfowl on Cayuga as the last week in March.

Montezuma was late in freezing, and consequently there were more ducks on the Refuge on Jan 1 than in any previous year. Smith counted 1800 Mallards, 25 Redheads, 250 Blacks, 150 Ringnecks, 200 Canvasbacks, 25 Goldeneyes, and 1,100 American Mergansers on that date. But when the ice cover finally came, it

lingered much later than usual and it was not until the last week in March that ducks appeared again in numbers, when highlights of the count were: 2300 Blacks, 850 Pintails, 3300 Baldpates, 250 Ringnecks, 200 Goldeneyes, 20 Buffleheads and 50 Hooded Mergansers.

Hawks — Owls: A Cooper's Hawk hung around the Geneva City Dump (Ward) and one made periodic appearances over the aviary at Sapsucker Woods Research Center. Two Hawks identified from the description as either Cooper's or Sharp-shinned were reported to Mrs. Carter in Avoca as hanging around a feeding station, where they had taken a Snow Bunting, Redpoll, Song Sparrow and Tree Sparrows. I. Nisbet reported a Goshawk over Ithaca, Mar 27. At Keuka, Rough-legged Hawks were reported as fairly common, but not in last year's numbers (Guthrie). 8 Rough-legs were counted at Geneva on the Dec 29 census, and on the Cayuga Basin census Jan 1. It was expected that they would move out when the heavy snows came, but instead they were seen every week near Ithaca, and we wonder how they got their mouse supply! Two Bald Eagles were seen on the ice on Cayuga Lake on Jan 4 (J. Walker), and the pair has been on that nest which is visible by scope from the storage pool entrance at Montezuma, since mid-March. Few Sparrow Hawk reports this winter, but three were seen within the city of Corning on Jan 19 (Carter).

No reports of Ruffed Grouse at Watkins Glen. Arthur Lane fed 3 Grouse all winter on his porch at Sapsucker Woods. Pheasants had a very hard time of it, but were cared for by various Sportsmen's groups. They were watched roosting in spruce trees at Alpine (Mrs. Perry Bishop). Near Ithaca, they could be seen daily along the country roads after they were plowed. Coot were common again on Keuka, not quite as numerous as last winter on Cayuga. The first Killdeer report around Ithaca was on Mar 2 (N. Case). Two Woodcock were seen near Elmira on Dec 29 and one on Jan 5 (Welles). The first Ithaca report was by Harold Cox on the Coddington Road on Mar 25.

Lerch and Guthrie report a Black-backed Gull on Keuka on Jan 12, the second record there in over ten years. At Ithaca, over 20 of them were counted on Jan 1 on Cayuga. Two were seen on Seneca Lake near Watkins all winter. Groesbeck reports that whenever the Canisteo River was open at Hornell, 15 Herring Gulls hung around.

The flock of Mourning Doves again visited Arthur Lane's station at Sapsucker Woods daily, but were not quite as numerous as last year. There were other reports that they had wintered, including seven seen outside of Hornell on Jan 24 (M. Carter) and 30 at Geneva Jan 30 (Gambrell).

Snowy Owls were seen at half a dozen places in the Finger Lakes — including the Welles Farm at Elmira, a point south of Interlaken, Branchport, 8 miles from Avoca, and near Ithaca. Scattered reports of Short-eared Owls also, including Elmira (Welles) and Milo Station (Lerch) where six appeared in mid-December. Few reports of Screech Owls.

Swifts — Shrikes: The Sapsucker Woods Pileateds were seen at intervals from the windows of the Research Center, especially late in March. This species seems on the increase at Keuka (Guthrie). A Red-bellied Woodpecker fed at the Montour Airport feeder again (one was there in '55-'56, but not in '56-'57). One was reported from Auburn in February (Miss A. Linzy) and one from Aurora in early March (Mrs. F. Van Duyne). No reports of wintering Flickers. Horned Larks reported as scarce at Watkins Glen. In mid-March, migrating flocks of Larks found bare and manure-covered spots in fields on the Saroka Farm, west of Etna, and were there daily for about two weeks.

An immature Canada Jay was seen by a number of observers at Breeseport Jan 25 and Jan 27 (Brimmer). Blue Jays seemed fairly abundant everywhere. Crows seemed the most numerous in many years the end of March — or perhaps they were driven into the open for food.

Even Chickadees had a difficult time in the blizzards. Mrs. Carter reported that she lost four of her seven in the last big storm. A partial albino Chickadee was seen in Geneva. Tufted Titmice continue to increase and become established at new stations in the area. Most of the Region had Red-breasted Nuthatches all winter — several were at feeders in Ithaca — but Watkins Glen had none. Brown Creepers and Winter Wrens were scarce. The Mockingbird was seen regularly at Ludlowville (Shepherd). Only one report of a Robin around Ithaca in January and

February (O. Hewitt), and a flock of 25 at Elmira Jan 26. They were up to two weeks late in returning. Not many reports of Kinglets except at Watkins Glen where 16 Golden-crowns were counted on Dec 31.

Cedar Waxwing flocks were reported from Bath, Watkins Glen and Ithaca, seizing upon any fruit they could find. Northern Shrikes were seen quite regularly, but I would not call it a big Shrike year. Both Bardeen and Guthrie reported that Starlings were scarce in January and February, abundant in March.

Vireos — Sparrows: Only one or two reports of Myrtle Warblers this winter: One visited some Etna feeders in February. A Meadowlark was seen near Sapsucker Woods Jan 14 (Hoyt). Four Rusty Blackbirds settled down for the winter at the Research Laboratory at Sapsucker Woods and two were still there after the February storms. Cowbirds visited feeders in Moravia and Etna. A Grackle wintered at Branchport, and Redwings wintered at Penn Yan marsh. 100,000 Redwings, apparently all males, were at Montezuma on Mar 22 (Nisbet). A male Western Tanager appeared at a feeder in Watkins Glen on Jan 12, and was identified by the Champions and Louise Hope. Like Titmice, Cardinals are continuing their northward spread and establishment in areas. There were 6 at the Lyon feeder in Avoca (Carter); Groesbeck reports at least 15 in Hornell and 5 in N. Hornell, and others in Canisteo, Jasper, Woodhill, Almond, Alfred and Arkport. Along both sides of Cayuga Lake the numbers are increasing, and winter flocks at feeders were reported in some cases as numbering 15 to 20 birds.

The Evening Grosbeak invasion continues and reports pour in from everywhere. My flock in Etna apparently numbered only about 50, but the make-up changed constantly, and by the end of March I had banded almost 500, most of these on my windowsill as I couldn't even find my other traps under four feet of snow. Groesbeck fed 100 in Hornell, there were small flocks around Branchport in March, at least 100 in Bath, a few in Avoca, and in mid-February they turned up in Waterloo. It is strange that the northern part of the Region does not get these northern visitors until later in the season. Few Purple Finch reports. Pine Grosbeaks were found on the Bald Hill Road south of Ithaca in March, and probably had been at that inaccessible spot all winter, as they were there in December. Spiker saw them in Branchport in mid-February, and Lerch saw them in Penn Yan. Mrs. Bishop had them in Watkins Glen, and there were 15 in the Lyons yard in Avoca.

This was a big Redpoll year. They seemed to feed first on Birch catkins, then on whatever weed seeds they could find above the snow. Guthrie reported "thousands" near Keuka, and there were up to 300 on the Bardeen farm near Burdett. More than a thousand in a flock at Hornell (Groesbeck), a large flock near Lyons home at Avoca (Carter), a small flock at Waterloo on Mar 18, and scattered flocks around Ithaca from early March on. Almost no reports of Pine Siskins to date except three at Waterloo Mar 2 (Walker). Scattered flocks of Goldfinches appeared, and for the first time they came to feeding stations in this area. (It has always been puzzling that as a rule these birds shun feeders in central New York State).

There were 8 Red Crossbills around Beebe Lake on the Cornell campus Feb 10-13 (Nisbet). 27 White-winged Crossbills were seen near Danby on Feb 4 (Nisbet) and 8 there on Mar 13. Prof. Guthrie saw one White-winged south of the Keuka College campus on Jan 5 and for a week thereafter. A Towhee spent the winter at the Lyons feeder in Avoca. Tree Sparrows were apparently spottily abundant. At my own station in Etna and at the feeder in Sapsucker Woods, numbers were far below other years. But at Hornell they were in fairly good numbers (Groesbeck), scarce until the snows around Watkins Glen (Bardeen), and at Elmira, population built up until they were abundant in mid-January, where M. Welles had up to 400 on their farm. A Chipping Sparrow was seen at Geneva Jan 15 (DeMayo). There was an unverified report of a Harris' Sparrow in Trumansburg Jan 28 and 29 (Harrington) — the description seemed unmistakable. Two reports of wintering White-crowns. Through most of the Region, there were almost no reports of wintering Song Sparrows — I banded one in January but never saw it again. But in Avoca, five remained at the Lyons feeder.

There were large flocks of Snow Buntings everywhere, but I have only one report of a Longspur, on the Danby Road Mar 13 (Nisbet). However, with driving conditions so bad, others may have been present in inaccessible fields.

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