

three were even seen in the central Adirondacks in February. There were more Towhee reports than normal.

The Evening Grosbeak flight was in most areas only a moderate one, and the other winter finches, i. e. Pine Grosbeaks, Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and Crossbills, were reported in even lighter numbers. Late in the season, however, Purple Finches were very conspicuous in most areas. The flight of Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrikes, and Snow Buntings was generally poor, and there were relatively few Snowy Owl reports. There was the usual smattering of reports of the Oregon Junco. Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce in most areas, although Region 7 was an exception. One of the winter's rarities was a Hawk Owl seen in the Watertown area. The Barrow's Goldeneye was again observed in Region 8 and this season also brought a report from Region 1. White-winged gulls were scarce throughout the state, but of note among the gull group were a Little Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull on Long Island and a Franklin's Gull in Region 5. There were only three or four reports of the Three-toed Woodpecker.

Among the real strays into the area was a European Redwing seen in December on Long Island. And a Varied Thrush, a visitor from the west, was collected in the Watertown area (I would hope that Watertown would save a few of its ornithological highlights for the Federation meeting). A Bullock's Oriole, another westerner, put in an appearance at a feeder in Region 9.

Early Bluebird reports indicated more observations than last year, but they were not otherwise encouraging. It will probably take several years at least to make up last year's losses. Snow geese were seen late in the period along the central Hudson, and a few were also noted in Region 3.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The cold and snow of late November continued through December which proved to be the coldest since 1917. On twenty-six days in the month the average temperature was below normal (maximum -17° on Dec 21). Although precipitation was below normal near Buffalo, heavy snowfall was experienced in the plateau area with considerable drifting and poor visibility. Sunshine, however, was plentiful with twelve days of the month having over 75 per cent of the possible. The January average temperature was the same as that in December (22.3°F), but this was only 3.2° below normal compared to 6.7° in December. Total precipitation in January was 6.47 inches, a new all-time record for the month. It was a severe month weather-wise and a thaw during the 21st to the 23rd caused floods which resulted in heavy damage. Wintry conditions continued through February and March with the former averaging about normal in most respects and having no periods of unusual weather. Ice formed early on Lake Erie and accumulated steadily through most of the period. Lake Ontario had one of the widest sections of shore ice that has ever been observed by the writer. The ice bridge at Niagara Falls build up soon after mid-December and remained solid until it showed signs of breaking up in late March. The last month of the period was in marked contrast to the quiet weather of March 1957

and 1958. The total snowfall (29.2 inches) was the third greatest on record for the month. Several gales, notably on the 6th and 7th and the 15th and 16th, caused considerable damage. The temperature for the month averaged only 2° below normal but an indication of the harsh weather during the period was given by the fact that the first minimum temperature above 32° F since Dec 4, 1958 was not recorded until Mar 20. Bird activity during the period was interesting in that half-hardy species were at least as numerous, if not more so, than in other winters. The great numbers of gulls on the Niagara River decreased significantly during December with the continued cold weather and icing conditions. White-winged gulls were not so numerous as they have been in other winters and very few of the "puzzling" individuals were noted. No great influx of northern fringillids materialized but Evening Grosbeaks were numerous. Oregon Juncos turned up perhaps more frequently than at any time previously.

Loons — Ducks: Only a few Common Loons were reported on the Niagara River in December and one in January. The first migrants appeared in March as usual. A Red-throated Loon off Athol Springs on Lake Erie Dec 4 (Bourne), and another on the Niagara River Jan 3 (Coggeshall et al) were noteworthy. About Dec 12 several Horned Grebes were picked up on the ground in scattered inland localities, possibly the result of certain weather conditions which are not apparent from the data at hand. During March an unprecedented number of Red-necked Grebes occurred mostly on the Niagara River, the maximum number in one day being about 45 on Mar 22 (Axtells). Only one Great Blue Heron was reported before March; this was a single bird flying over Elma on Jan 18 (Gampp). Black-crowned Night Herons were noted as usual in Buffalo through the winter. The first American Bittern reported was at Frewsburg on Mar 30 (Knott, Anderson). Whistling Swans first appeared at Celeron Mar 9 (Beal) with a flock of 55 and thereafter occurred frequently all over the region including two flocks of 175 and 280 individuals. Canada Geese were first reported on Feb 16 when 75 were sighted at Jamestown (Brolin rep. Anderson). They had reached a maximum of about 7,800 in the Wolcottsville - Oak Orchard Swamp region by the end of March (Brockners). A male Green-winged Teal apparently remained in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo from late December to mid-February; an American Widgeon appeared there Jan 1 (Brockners). Surface feeding ducks arrived at normal times but their numbers were low, especially in the Oak Orchard Swamp and sink areas where ice remained until the end of the period. A very interesting observation on Mar 29 was a Green-winged Teal-Common Teal hybrid on a sink near Clarence (Nathan, Axtels). Diving ducks seemed to be in normal abundance on the Niagara River and Lake Ontario through the winter. An outstanding observation was a male Barrow's Goldeneye at Niagara Falls on Jan 3 (Andrle, Coggeshall, Axtell).

Hawks — Owls: A very early Turkey Vulture was reported over Olean Feb 28 (Meyer rep. Eaton). Red-tailed Hawks were noted in slightly more than average numbers through the period. However, Rough-legged Hawks were apparently very scarce, the only ones being reported were individuals at Lockport Dec 7 (Cornish rep. Broadbent), at Batavia Dec 19 (Buckland), and on Mar 15 at Newfane, (Lehrer). A Red-shouldered Hawk near Sturgeon Point on Jan 20 (Bourne) and another at Busti on Feb 28 (Anderson) were of interest, the latter possibly being an early migrant. Two reports of Bald Eagles were received, an adult at Greenhurst on Chautauqua Lake Dec 24 (Rhubottom) and an immature Mar 28 at Pinehurst on Lake Erie (Bourne). Marsh Hawks were not reported this winter except for two on Feb 12 at Williamsville (Rubach, Clark). Sparrow Hawks appeared to be more abundant than usual this winter in many locations. According to Eaton, Turkeys fed mainly on the good crop of beechnuts through the winter and were noted in small flocks throughout southern Cattaraugus County. Elderkin reported 20 at Allegheny State Park on Mar 1. The first Coot was observed at Celeron on Mar 14 (Elderkin). The only shorebirds in March other than Killdeer, American Woodcock, and Common Snipe, were two Pectoral Sandpipers reported from Frewsburg on Mar 29 (Anderson, Hiller). A Snowy Owl Feb 5 at Pinehurst on Lake Erie (Bourne) was the only individual of this species seen through the period.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Belted Kingfishers seemed to be mostly absent from the region this winter. The only reports before March were of one at Vandalia on Dec 24, two there on Jan 21, and two at Olean Dec 26 (Eaton). Several Yellow-shafted Flickers were observed in scattered localities. Of interest was the record of a Red-bellied Woodpecker Feb 1 and Mar 1 at Java Lake (Rosche, Blowers). Apparently this bird was present all winter. Two more of these woodpeckers were reported Mar 24 at Pavilion (Annabel rep. Rosche). Phoebe appeared from Mar 22 on. Four Horned Larks (alpestris) on Feb 11 at Bay View (Bourne) were unusual. No swallows were reported in March. Tufted Titmice continue to be observed regularly in widespread areas but the Carolina Wrens were little in evidence in the region. The only reports were on Jan 4 at Jamestown (Raistrick rep. Anderson) Mar 8 at Angola (Brockners) and Mar 19-31 at Chautauqua Lake (Knott, Mealy). A Mockingbird appeared Dec 31 at Snyder and was still there at the end of the period (Knox et al). Another was seen Dec 3 at Niagara Falls and on Mar 26 at the same place (Heilborn). On Dec 18 and 28 a Mockingbird was observed at Lakewood, Chautauqua County (Beal et al). Robins wintered in a number of localities in the region. On Jan 25 and Feb 22 individual Hermit Thrushes were noted (Rosche, Clark, et al) on Grand Island. In the same place a Brown Thrasher was found on Jan 25 by these observers. Another Thrasher which probably wintered was seen on Feb 12 and 28 at Williamsville (Clark, Rubach). Bluebirds continued rather scarce, the first not appearing until Mar 18 in Hamburg (Bourne).

Vireos — Warblers: At least 11 Myrtle Warblers were located in the vicinity of bayberry bushes and evergreens on Jan 4 near Alden (Wolfling). Ten were noted at the same place on Feb 14 (Andrle, Thill). One Myrtle Warbler was seen for three days in Dec in Wellsville (Davie rep. Maddren) and another was observed at Corwin Jan 12 (Lehrer).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Redwinged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds wintered in a number of widespread localities. One Rusty Blackbird remained near a feeding station from Dec 2-20 at Hamburg (Avery, Bourne). The first migrants of this species was a flock of 25 at Chautauqua Lake Mar 19 (Anderson). American Goldfinches seemed to be more numerous than usual while a few small flocks of Pine Siskins were reported through the period. The only White-winged Crossbills to appear were eight near Vandalia Dec 26 (Eaton), five at Youngstown Feb 1 (Wendlings), and one on Mar 22 at Allegheny State Park (Wheeler rep. Rosche). Rufous-sided Towhees were reported from four places in the region during December and January. Vesper, Savannah, Field, and Fox Sparrows appeared during the last week in March. A male Oregon Junco came to a feeder at Lewiston all through the period (Klabundes et al), while another appeared from Jan 22 to Feb 14 at a feeding station in Kenmore (Webster et al). Several others were reported from various places in the region. An unusual occurrence was that of a Chipping Sparrow at a feeder from Jan 1 to at least Mar 1 in East Aurora (Loersch rep. Rosche). Single White-crowned Sparrows appeared at three feeding stations in Hamburg and East Aurora through most of the period. In Dec and Jan from two to three White-throated Sparrows were observed at a feeder in Hamburg (Bacon, Bourne). On Jan 31 a Swamp Sparrow was seen at Wilson (Rosche et al). Also at Wilson a flock of 200 Lapland Longspurs on Jan 11 was most interesting and from 12 to 15 were also reported from the Youngstown area on Feb 15 (Vanderbles et al).

Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo

REGION 2 — GENESEE

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This area experienced a real old-fashioned winter. The snowfall was within one inch of the greatest total ever recorded in this region. While the lowest recorded temperature was -2°, temperatures averaged below normal most of the time. However, occasional brief thaws prevented as heavy an accumulation of snow on the ground as was present during the winter a year ago. Pheasants seemed to have come through the winter in good shape, and