

Vireos — Warblers: Myrtle Warbler — one wintered in Brighton (Landsman, Lank), one at Cedar Springs, and one in Reed Road Swamp (Starling); at least six wintered near Avon (Haller). In none of these areas is any bayberry known to exist. A bird that may possibly have been a very early migrant was seen in Durand-Eastman Park Mar 29 (Miller).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Eastern Meadowlark — wintered generally and in good numbers, with max. 15 in Greece Dec 30 (Closs) and 22 in Victor Feb 22 (Whites). Red-winged Blackbird — 20 at Dugway Jan 2 (Miller), and other small groups were seen frequently during the winter; migrating birds totalling 100 arrived in the marshes in Greece Mar 7 (Closs); an estimated 8000 migrated past Braddock's Bay Mar 29 (Listman). Grackle — two at the Dugway Jan 2 (Miller); an estimated 2000 at Braddock's Bay Mar 29 (Listman). Cowbird — wintered in good numbers, with a max. count of 100 at the Munson feeder in Penfield during Feb; an estimated 1500 at Braddock's Bay Mar 29 (Listman). Cardinal — present in good numbers everywhere, with a max. count of 17 at the Robinson feeder in Egypt. Dickcissel — one trapped and banded at the Munson feeder in Penfield Dec 11; it seems remarkable that this casual species should have occurred at this one feeder during the late fall for the last three years. Evening and Pine Grosbeak — generally distributed in good numbers, with a high count of 187 Evenings on the "Little Lakes" count Dec 23 and 113 Pines on the Christmas Count Dec 30; 25 Pines still present at the Sunderlin feeder in Webster Mar 29. Purple Finch — in contrast, almost completely absent; only report since Jan 1 a single bird at the Olin feeder in Fairport Mar 27. Common Redpoll — occurred in fair numbers, largest flock 120 in Greece Mar 10 (Carlson et al); a few other flocks of 6-12 were also reported. Pine Siskin — only report since Jan 1 was of a flock of four near Float Bridge Jan 7 (Miller). Red Crossbill — six Penfield Dec 23 (McKinney). White-winged Crossbill — 23 Canadice Lake Dec 23 (McKinney). No other crossbill reports.

Savannah Sparrow — two near Braddock's Bay Mar 31 (Listman). Vesper Sparrow — one carefully observed near Mendon Mar 4 (Foster, Maley, Miller); 12 near Braddock's Bay Mar 31 (Listman). Oregon Junco — a well-marked bird frequented a feeder in Greece from Feb 5 to at least Feb 23 (Izards et al); several other less definite reports of this species were received. Field Sparrow — three Conesus Lake Dec 23 (Listman); one near Glen Haven Jan 1 (Lloyd, Miller); first migrant reported Mar 29 near Braddock's Bay (Listman). White-crowned Sparrow — wintered in unprecedented numbers, with a high count of 20 birds at one feeder in Scottsville Mar 3 (Culver, Starling); until three years ago we had no winter records of this species (it would be interesting to know what has caused this change in the bird's wintering range). White-throated Sparrow — wintered in less spectacular, but still above-average numbers, with a high count of seven at the Dakin feeder in Bushnell's Basin Jan 31. Fox Sparrow — two near Braddock's Bay Mar 29 (Listman) and four at Webster Mar 31 (Sunderlin) represent the first arrivals. Song Sparrow — 150 Braddock's Bay area Mar 29 (Listman). Lapland Longspur — frequently reported, with a max. count of 100 near Scottsville Feb 11 (Foster, Tetlow).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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The Region experienced one of the mildest winters in many years. The total precipitation and the average temperature do not show the whole picture. There were many frequent light snowfalls, but accumulation was never more than eight inches and natural food was not buried. Temperatures averaged slightly above normal, but the noteworthy fact was that there were almost no periods of extreme cold, except on Feb 11 when it was lower than -20 in some spots. Except in Jan, prevailing winds were northwest, but not strong. Seeming scarcities of some species may not have been actualities. With natural food everywhere, birds did not have to patronize feeding stations or come close to civilization.

Highlights of the season include: the Goshawk at Sapsucker Woods in late Dec; the return of only one eagle to Montezuma; the large invasion of Short-eared Owls; the Boreal Chickadees; the number of Mockingbirds; the Baltimore Orioles and one female Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a feeder; the numbers of Pine Grosbeaks, and the increase in size of Cardinal flocks.

Icterids were a week or more late in arriving, and it seemed surprising in view of the mild weather here, but upon reflection it seems likely that unfavorable conditions to the south of us delayed the migration.

Montezuma Refuge impoundments were frozen this season by Dec 14. The first open water appeared on Mar 1, and it was entirely open by Mar 26.

Loons — Ducks: Loons seemed somewhat scarce on all lakes this winter, but three Commons were found on the waterfowl census at Seneca, and one Red-throated appeared briefly at Cayuga Inlet Dec 9 (Sandberg). Single Red-necked Grebes were on Seneca Lake Feb 25 and Mar 1 (Strath, Fudge). Horned Grebes occurred regularly on the lakes (205 on waterfowl census), but Pied-billed Grebes were hard to find.

Great Blue Heron: Jan 1 near Dryden (P. Kelsey) and Dec 30 at Elmira; migrants returned the last of Mar. Whistling Swan: 10 rested briefly on an open farm pond at Hornellsville on Mar 25 until frightened by a photographer; six on Cayuga Lake from Mar 22 to 31, near Canoga. Canada Goose: 202 found on the waterfowl census, 155 of them (including a few free-fliers from Montezuma) being at the north end of Cayuga, four on Seneca, 17 on Keuka, and nine on Owasco. The 17 seen at Elmira (on the Horseheads dump) may or may not have been the Keuka Lake 17. Migration of Canadas was underway in mid-Mar — the first 400 arrived at Montezuma on Mar 13, and 5000 were there Mar 25 (Peakall). Brant: seen on Seneca Lake Mar 23 (E. MacDougall). Snow Goose: several noted with Canadas on Cayuga. Blue Goose: two at Union Springs Mar 25 (R. Seaman).

The waterfowl census on Jan 13 and 14 showed counts on both Seneca and Cayuga Lakes somewhat higher than in 1960 and 1961, but still below 1959. Mallards and Blacks had doubled their numbers; Canvasbacks increased somewhat; Redheads, Goldeneyes, and Buffleheads held their own; and Scaup decreased slightly. However, it was evident as Jan wore on that the peak had not been reached on waterfowl census weekend, and good-sized flocks of divers were found at the north end of both large lakes by early Feb.

Some 500 or more Mallards and Blacks wintered on Sapsucker Woods pond this year, joined by an occasional Widgeon or Pintail. The Widgeon began to arrive on Cayuga in mid-Mar. While an occasional Green-winged Teal usually winters in the Region — at Howland's Island, for example —, it was most unusual to find Blue-wings at Elmira in Jan. The first migrant Blue-wings were reported Mar 22 on the Cemetery Pond in Waterloo (Jayson Walker), and 18 were seen the same day at Montezuma. This is somewhat early for teal. Except for one female Wood Duck on Cayuga Dec 24, there were no wintering reports. Ring-necked Ducks were very hard to find this winter, but on Mar 25 there were 800 at Montezuma and 300 at the north end of Cayuga (Peakall). Goldeneyes and Buffleheads were abundant on the larger lakes; two on the Chemung River at Elmira Dec 30; one on Fall Creek, Ithaca, Feb 18. However, on Keuka Lake, where all ducks were down in numbers this year for some reason, Buffleheads were reported as scarce. Oldsquaws were rare, and scoters were missed entirely. The first Ruddy Ducks returned to Montezuma on Mar 28. While I have no comparative figures, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers certainly seemed scarcer at the south end of Cayuga and not too abundant at the north end. Ten Hooded Mergansers were spotted on the Waterfowl census, and several arrived at Sapsucker Woods pond the end of Mar.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vultures returned to the Region early this year; there were reports Mar 24, 25, and 26 respectively from near Waterloo, over Italy Hills (Branchport), and near Wellsburg. A Goshawk was reported from the Elmira area (Hickory Grove Rd.) in Feb and Mar as it is almost every year, but its appearance around Ithaca is a rare event. One was photographed by Arthur A. Allen on Dec 29 at Sapsucker Woods as it attempted to take a Mallard, and it was seen several times thereafter.

An occasional Sharp-shinned Hawk or Cooper's Hawk appeared at Sapsucker Woods and also hung around feeding stations in Etna. The Etna Sharp-shin was caught by John Weske after it had been shot by someone; it died a few days later.

Red-tailed Hawks were frequently seen, especially in the northern third of the Region. The Red-tailed Hawk and cat duel over a mouse is described in the field notes section of this issue. Rough-legged Hawks were seen in small numbers, but rarely south of Aurora, and most had left by mid-Mar. A Red-shouldered Hawk, which only rarely winters here, was in Elmira Dec 30. A Bald Eagle was seen over Cayuga Inlet on Dec 10 by David Allen, and one, possibly the same bird, near North Lansing on Dec 12 by Art Lane. As for the Montezuma birds — only one returned this year; it was first seen on Mar 23 by Spofford, frequently thereafter, but always alone. To quote Manager John Morse: "Thus the last active eagle nest in central New York has been abandoned after five years of unsuccessful attempts to hatch young. The last young were raised on the Refuge in the summer of 1956." Marsh Hawks were seen regularly at Montezuma after Jan 25; they appeared elsewhere in mid-Mar. All areas reported more Sparrow Hawks than in most winters.

About a dozen Bobwhite visited the Sapsucker Woods feeder daily, and only two carried the bands of released birds, the others evidently representing young of last summer. Other small coveys were reported. There were scattered reports of Wild Turkeys — Connecticut Hill, Jasper, and South Canisteo (Groesbeck saw 9 at the latter location). One coot wintered at Montezuma. Two reports of wintering Killdeer: three on Dec 30 at Elmira and one at Glenora (Seneca Lake) on Jan 13 (Bardeen, Champion); migrants came in Mar 20-27. Two Woodcock were heard at Horseheads Mar 20 (H. Bates); the first Ithaca bird was heard Mar 18 by Cox. A Common Snipe was seen Dec 31 in Elmira, and an injured one was found in Freeville on Dec 16.

The gull count on Cayuga Lake on the Jan 1 Count was 42 Great Black-backs, 451 Herring, and 162 Rind-billed. Black-backs were missing from Keuka Lake this year but were present on Owasco (Allison). The first Bonaparte's Gulls were reported at Elmira on Mar 31. Wintering flocks of Mourning Doves seemed somewhat smaller this year — for instance, at Elmira no more than five seen at a time. However, the Quinn feeder west of Jacksonville had 22, and A. Lane fed 24 at Sapsucker Woods.

It was a good owl winter. A Barn Owl was found in a silo at Elmira on Dec 31 and another near Ithaca on Jan 1. The latter was probably a hand-reared bird released nearby last Aug. Two Horned Owl nests near Ithaca had both hatched young by Mar 10, but both were later broken up. It was not an invasion year for Snowy Owls; however one and at times two were seen near Montezuma on Rt. 31 in Dec and Jan; one (unverified) near Ithaca on Dec 12; one at Lake Como on Mar 16 (Kelsey); two near Keuka, and one at Elmira on Jan 1. One Long-eared was seen n.e. of Ithaca in Dec (Gebhart); these birds are probably more common but just not found. The Region had one of its best invasions of Short-eareds in many years, and the open winter provided ideal hunting conditions for them. A group of over 50 was discovered by MacDougall and Walker on the Watts Road SSW of Waterloo. There were 18 or more on the Dundee Road in Feb (Whitaker); ten or more near South Lansing, in a housing development; three near Port Byron on Mar 4 (Spofford), and others at Canoga and Elmira. The only report of a Saw-whet was of one at the Joe Smiths' at Wellsburg Mar 5-7.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: As usual, an occasional Kingfisher wintered where open water could be found. There were at least three wintering Flickers: one at Seneca Falls (Barden), one at Interlaken (Knight), and one at Sapsucker Woods. Pileateds moved into Watkins Glen to work on diseased elms on the main streets and were the objects of much attention. For the second consecutive winter there were a half-dozen reports of Red-bellied Woodpeckers at feeders: at the Metcalf feeder in Lyons, at Montour Falls, at Ludlowville (Britt) on the Trumansburg Rd. north of Ithaca, at Lower Enfield south of Ithaca, at Poplar Shore (Van Riper), and one at Seneca Falls (Bardeen). A Red-headed Woodpecker, showing a red head but still some barring on the wings and back, was spotted near Willets in mid-Jan by D. Allen. The only wintering Sapsucker appeared at the Drossos feeder on the east side of Owasco Lake in late Dec and early Jan, then disappeared; an early migrant arrived in Catlin on Mar 22 (Wood). No reports of Three-toed Woodpeckers all winter.

Phoebes began arriving about Mar 20. Horned Larks were hard to find until the second week of Feb, and by the end of Feb they had arrived in good numbers. Both Northern and Prairie were seen. Two Tree Swallows were noted

at Montezuma on Dec 3 by the Cornell Jordani Club, and 12 were on wires along nearby Bostwick Rd. on Dec 30 (MacDougall, Walker); this is the third out of four recent winters that Tree Swallows have been seen in this vicinity in Dec and Jan and certainly indicates the species is hardier than we think. It is not known what they fed on, and it is doubtful they remained (or survived) the entire winter. Migrants returned near the end of Mar. A question on the Ithaca radio as to comparative abundance of Blue Jays this winter brought an extremely varied response, which seemed to point to a slight increase in the northern part of the Region but a decrease in the southern. However, it seems likely that the open winter provided enough food in the woods to reduce feeding station patronage. Mrs. Margeson commented on the unusually large flocks of Crows near Jasper and Addison this winter.

Black-capped Chickadees must have been moving around more than usual, for Olan Dillon banded over 100 at his station near Slaterville Springs. Boreal Chickadees made the news. With not more than two or three previous records in the Region, they appeared at the following locations this year: two at Sheldrake on Dec 3 (Jordani Club); one at Horseheads from late Oct to mid-Mar (Crowley); one at Avoca, unverified; one at Watkins Glen on Dec 3 (R. Steber), one there on Dec 30 and two later reports; and two that visited half a dozen feeders in Cayuga Heights, Ithaca, were photographed.

Reports of Tufted Titmice at feeders were frequent in the southern half of the Region. There were at least four in Aurora, and they reached Auburn this winter. Elmira reported having a number of Red-breasted Nuthatches, but elsewhere they were scarce. Only two were seen in the Ithaca area. Brown Creepers were seen regularly. Winter Wrens were scarce, and Carolinas almost unreported. More Mockingbirds this winter than last: the one that wintered last year on Hampton Road, Ithaca, and which may have been the same bird seen on Cayuga Heights Rd. during the late summer, returned to Hampton Rd. in Oct. One was seen at Hedgesville in Nov, another around Horseheads, another at Willets on Cayuga Lake in mid-Jan, one at Aurora at the Shackleton feeder for the third winter, and still another was seen repeatedly in the Forest Home area and behind Fernow Hall on the Cornell campus. Two Catbirds which appeared at a Penn Yan feeder in mid-Mar must have wintered in some sheltered spot nearby (fide F. Guthrie). A Brown Thrasher was noted Jan 3 in Elmira (E. Ruggles). These latter two species rarely winter with us. It seemed strange, in view of the mild weather, that so few Robins remained. The first few Bluebirds were reported the last week in Mar. There were very few Northern Shrikes seen this year.

Vireos — Sparrows: A Myrtle Warbler was found in Elmira on the Dec 30 census, and one was spotted from time to time on the Cornell campus. None wintered in Stewart Park this year. There were fewer wintering Meadowlarks and fewer early arrivals this year than last, but fields may have been too open to spot them.

Only an occasional Redwing and Grackle wintered, but Cowbirds were numerous. For example, there were 75 at Waterloo, and they were common around Seneca Falls. A Baltimore Oriole was reported in Dec at a Big Flats feeder, and an immature male visited two feeders in Jacksonville for several weeks in Jan (Graham). Both fed on suet. Everyone remarked on the abundance of Cardinals at feeders; this certainly is a change from their behavior when they were first found in the Region. I had several reports of 12-15 Cardinals, and in my own yard 27 were banded from mid-Nov to the end of Mar; several "old" birds returned, and at least one unbanded bird was seen. A most unusual report is of a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the Vincent Davis home in Pine City in Feb, verified by others members of the CVAS. A second Dickcissel for the Ithaca area appeared: one at the Cotts, on Codington Rd., in late Dec and early Jan. Evening Grosbeaks were fairly abundant, although no one reported the enormous flocks seen in some recent years. There were very few Purple Finches. The Pine Grosbeak invasion shaped up into the heaviest in many years. In this Region there were no very large flocks (over 30); most sightings were of six-eight birds, and these were usually females or immature males. They ate a variety of food: frozen apples, larch and spruce buds, sumac, winterberry, multiflora, viburnum, but did not come to feeders, although they were in villages, along city streets, in parks, along roadsides, and were relatively unafraid. Almost no Redpolls this year, and very few Siskins. Goldfinches were abundant for the second straight year, and after bad

freezes in Mar they came to feeders. Small numbers of both crossbills were seen near Elmira, but nowhere else. A Towhee spent Dec at the Webster feeder in Ithaca.

Savannah and Vesper Sparrows arrived in good numbers on Mar 31. One Vesper had wintered near Ithaca. Tree Sparrows were in normal numbers, but not so common at feeders since food was plentiful in fields and hedgerows. Unusual numbers of Field Sparrows wintered around Ithaca and at Elmira, but this was not true further west in the Region. A late White-crowned Sparrow was at the Allison feeder in Auburn on Dec 22. Several Ithaca residents had three or four White-throats all winter, and there were other regional reports. The only Swamp Sparrow report was of two at the Brimmer feeder in Breesport in Feb. The Jan 1 Ithaca census showed 42 Song Sparrows, and there were 39 on the Chemung Valley Aud. Soc. Dec 30 count. While Longspurs were reported as scarce at Elmira, they were fairly easily found in flocks of larks and buntings around Ithaca in Feb. Snow Bunting flocks were unusually large, possibly reflecting more open country here than further north. Up to 3000 were found in one flock, and there were several others of 500 or more.

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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It was a very open winter with snow persisting on the ground for much more than a week at a time only in Feb. The weather stations reported no more than seven inches on the ground at one time. Only once, Feb 10, 11 did the temperature drop much below zero so that it did not seem to be a cold winter although averages indicate it to have been a little colder than normal.

Wild food supplies were not good, making multiflora hedges, apple orchards with frozen fruit on the trees and uncut cornfields particularly popular congregation points. Perhaps the unevenness of the food supply accounts for the "Where are all the birds?" queries on one hand and the references to "unbelievable numbers" on the other. There were really quite a few "seni-hardies" around but it was mostly a matter of the more ordinary species being well represented, a catbird and a Brown Thrasher coming the closest to being spectacular. The higher than normal population of Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks was apparently a response to the light snow cover, with the relative scarcity of Rough-legged Hawks explained by presumed similarly favorable conditions further north.

The winter finch story was almost entirely Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, and Snow Buntings with some Redpolls in Feb. A Dickcissel at Owego was of special interest. Weather conditions would lead us to expect an early return of the spring migrants, but it didn't work out that way. Some species were early and others were late.

The following abbreviations are used in this report: Skaneateles Lake — Skan L, Susquehanna River — Susq R, Binghamton Christmas Count — BCC, Triple Cities Owego — TC-O; Counties — Broome - Broo, Chenango - Chen, Cortland - Cort, Delaware - Dela, Tioga - Tiog. Observers names are used in full once, thereafter by initials.

Loons — Ducks; Common Loon: only report Mar 31 at Owego (M White - MW, C Gerould - CG). Horned Grebe: one wintering on Pepacton Reservoir Jan 13 on Waterfowl Count (S Wilson - SW); Migrants arrived Mar 31 in the TC area and at Owego. Great Blue Heron: Dec 2 at TC area (G Corderman - GC, H Marsi - HM); at Preble, Cort Dec 27 (W Newman - WN); at Candor (D Weber - DW) and at Owego (CG) on Feb 22; First migrants at Sidney, Chen Mar 30 (F Quick - FQ). Canada Goose: seven at Scott, on Skan L Feb 2 (J Osadchey - JO); from Owego Mar 16, 19; literally thousands Mar 28-30 in the western half of the region was the first large movement of the species for the year.

Pintail: two at Scott Dec 23 (Axtell). American Widgeon, Pintails, and Green-winged Teal were all at Whitney Point Mar 24 (M Sheffield - MS). Wood Duck: