

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:

two Mar 20, first at Deposit. Redhead: four live and one dead along the Susq R near Vestal Mar 11 (E Washburn - EW, MS); two at Candor Mar 17 (DW); one at Whitney Point Mar 31; first reports of the species in the region for almost two years. Ring-necked Duck: four females on the river at Homer Feb 14 (J Gustafson - JG); no further reports until Mar 31. Canvasback: two at Endicott Jan 28 (L Belmont - LB, R Pantle - RP); several Feb reports of 2-3 birds at Cortland and at Norwich; a flock of about ten most of Mar in Berkshire area, Tiog (L Dean - LD). Scaup (spr): one female at Norwich Dec 6 (R, S White - R, SVV); few along the Susq R at Endwell Feb 22-24 (V Misner - VM et al). The next reports came Mar 31 from several parts of the region and seemed to be "Greater". Bufflehead: quite a few reports — five (first) at Oxford Feb 11 (A. Stratton - AS), the total number of individuals was not great. Oldsquaw: at Lounsberry on Susq R in Tiog Mar 24 (M Stark - MS); fairly large numbers at Endwell and at Whitney Point Mar 31. Hooded Merganser: one male Skan L at Scott Dec 23 (Axtell); one at Sherburne Feb 17 (R, SW); Migrants arrived Mar 18 and at Oneonta at least, they "seemed to be increasing" (J New). Common Merganser: appeared to be back to normal after what must have been a very good year. Red-breasted Merganser: reported from several areas Mar 31.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: at Deposit Mar 29, an early date as compared to the last few years (SW). Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks were reported more frequently than usual. Rough-legged Hawks: several reports in Dec; only one report, Jan 13, at Norwich, after the beginning of the new year (R, SW). Bald Eagle: one at Corbett, Dela Jan 13; one at Deposit Feb 11 (SW); one at Lounsberry, Mar 18 (R Williams - RW, MS); one at Whitney Point Mar 25 (RW et al). Marsh Hawk: one most of Feb near Owego, the only report after Dec 23 (T Taylor - TT). Sparrow Hawk: seemed particularly numerous all winter. American Coot: one all winter at Lounsberry (MS). Killdeer: one at Lisle, Broo Jan 14 (V P Hannan - VPH); one at Courtlandville Jan 23 (Stupke); one at Sherburne Feb 25 (R, SW); migrants started arriving Mar 10. Woodcock: at Choconut Center Mar 23 (first) (M, RS). Ring-billed Gull: large flocks at Deposit and at Owego Mar 31. Bonaparte's Gull: eight at Endwell Mar 31 (HM, GC). Mourning Dove: flocks of 20-40 wintered at Newark Valley (LD) and at Homer (LD); similar sized flock a little north of Maine last half of Feb and early Mar (B Burgher - BB). Screech Owl: none too common but present at Newark Valley during the period (LD). Snowy Owl: one at Candor Dec 31 (A Evelin - AE); one at Cortland Feb 19 (Kullman); two unconfirmed in Cortland area. Short-eared Owl: two at the Norwich dump Dec 30, one still there Jan 13 (R, SW).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Belted Kingfisher: numerous reports in Dec and Jan; at least three reports of "wintering" birds; no reports in Feb; frequently reported after Mar 2 at Homer. Migrant Flickers first returned Mar 23 at Oxford (AS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Mar 29 (first) at Chenango Forks (A, MD), ten- 18 days earlier than any of the last three years. Phoebe: arrived at Candor and at Owego Mar 28. Horned Lark: few fairly large flocks, seemingly more than normal, came from most parts of the region in Feb and the first half of Mar. Tree Swallow: at Owego and at Greene Mar 29 (C, JD). Blue Jay: seen regularly all winter but reports from many areas indicate substantially reduced numbers compared to last year, the BCC figures bear this out with 238 in '60 - '61 and only 56 in '61 - '62. Crows: more common this winter than last with comparable census figures of 178 and 268; over 200/day in Cortland area on several days in Jan. Black-capped Chickadee: quite common over all; at Bainbridge "in unbelievable numbers — a constant stream" to the feeders; but distribution was not uniform and at some feeders they seemed scarce. Boreal Chickadee: best winter for the region; no reports from the T C - O areas; reports came from Cortland (Wilkins); at Sherburne (R, SW), Unidilla (H Wisner) and Walton (S Lincoln). Tufted Titmouse: best winter on record, particularly in the T C - O area; other reports were from Spencer (H Meyer), Newark Valley (LD), Cortland (Hall) and Deposit (SW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: were back to normal after a good year and a phenomenal year the year before; regularly at Spencer (HM) and Cortland (MacKecknie) but scattered reports elsewhere.

Winter Wren: Mar 30, only report, near Binghamton (HM). Carolina Wren: at Candor Feb 4 (DW); near Binghamton Mar 20 (R, J Saunders). Mockingbird: not reported. Catbird: at Homer Dec 15 (Albro). Brown Thrasher: at Unadilla Dec 30 (HW). There were the usual scattered reports of wintering robins:

obvious build up in numbers came about Mar 20. Bluebird: three Mar 18 (first near Oneonta (HB); Mar 24 at Maine (J, BB) and at Owego (RW); following reports were encouragingly frequent. Cedar Waxwing: during Feb and Mar in the T C - O area. Bohemian Waxwing: one in a flock of Cedar Waxwings Feb 3-7 at Choconut Center (R,MS); the bird was seen by several other observers during its short stay. Northern Shrike: except from Maine, where they occurred sporadically during the period, only scattered reports were received (B, JB).

Vireos — Warblers: Starling: reported less common than usual at Oneonta (RB) and at Newark Valley (LD). Myrtle Warbler: one on BCC Jan 31 (LB); one at a suet feeder in Spencer Mar 24-25 (HM). Yellowthroat: in a marsh near Cortland Dec 23 on the Chirstmas count (Axtell).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Redwinged Blackbird: wintered in larger numbers than usual; spring build up started in early Mar; first large flocks Mar 10, 12; Females arrived Mar 26. Rusty Blackbird: five spent most of winter at Newark Valley (LD). Common Grackle: 14 on BCC; next report Mar 15 (SL) when spring migrants suddenly appeared en masse. Cowbird: the usual wintering few; only at Unadilla were they "present in quantity during most of the period" (HW), even here and in the region as a whole, their numbers dwindled in Feb and early Mar; Migrants returned around Mar 15. Cardinal: one, a regular visitor at a feeder near Bainbridge (E, J Smith); substantial increases continue to be noted in other areas; at Owego they "seemed to be in flocks of ten or 12" (RW). Dickcissel: one appeared in a flock of House Sparrows at Owego Feb 26 to the end of the period (MW). Evening Grosbeak: present during the period in all areas; max numbers in last week of Dec and first two weeks of Jan; the flocks gradually diminished so that by the end of Mar a half dozen birds would be seen where 50-100 were present in early Jan. Purple Finch: few at end of Dec; except for one at a feeder in Cortland (Wilkins), no other reports until the last week of Mar. Pine Grosbeak: the best winter in ten years; reports tapered off rapidly after Mar 11. Redpoll: ten or so, first report at Vestal Jan 28 (V P Hannan); about 200 birds at Vestal Mar 3 (S Lincoln) was the largest of the flocks reported; there were few after Mar 15. Pine Siskin: six at Vestal Dec 3 (SL); at Owego Dec 31 (D Bendle). Goldfinch: reported regularly from many parts of the region, but never in large numbers. Rufous-sided Towhee: one injured stayed at a feeder in Owego (M Middaugh); one spent last few days of Dec across the river from Johnson City (C Landon).

Savannah Sparrow: one Mar 11 (early) at a feeder in Endwell (B Gendle). Vesper Sparrow: one on BCC; one at Candor Mar 29 (DW). Slate-colored Junco: small numbers of wintering birds were evenly distributed over the region until the last three days of Mar when migrants joined them. Oregon Junco: one, a regular visitor at Chenango Forks Dec 29 (A, MD); one at Choconut Center Mar 31 (R, MS). Field Sparrow: small flocks of wintering birds were along the Susq R at Johnson City Dec 31 (CL) and at Vestal Jan 28 (LB et al). White-throated Sparrow: small folcks wintered at Endwell Dec 31 and at Endicott Feb 12 (HM et al); the more usual ones and twos were noted in several other areas. Fox Sparrow: one at Binghamton Dec 25 - Jan 3 (H M); first spring record from Deposit Mar 21 (SW). Lapland Longspur: on BCC Dec 31 (VPH); Feb 27 just south of Binghamton (C Howard). Snow Bunting: many reports from Dec 31 to end of period; two large flocks numbering in the thousands, one Feb 1 near Whitney Point (J Doren) and one Mar 1 at Cortland (JG).

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