

Vireos — Warblers: Up to 20 Myrtle Warblers were at Rush during the winter and were still present Mar 15 (JH). This is rather surprising as no bayberry grows in this area. Red Cedar is found however.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Red-winged Blackbird: a flock of about 20 wintered in Penfield and other flocks of moderate size wintered along the lake; 5000 were in migration at Brad. B. Mar 17 (WCL et al). Rusty Blackbirds: about 20 wintered in Irondequoit and Penfield (HSM et al) and some were reported in the large mixed flocks of blackbirds along the lake. Common Grackle: two in Irondequoit and two in Greece on CC Dec 23; 10,000 in migration at Brad. B. Mar 17 (WCL et al). Brown-headed Cowbird: seem to be increasing as winter residents, especially around feeders; a flock of 50 was in DEP Dec 2 (MSA, PHZ); 40 in Greece Jan 20 (TET); 3000 were in migration at Brad. B. Mar 17 (WCL et al). Cardinals wintered successfully and seemed more common than ever in the area. Evening Grosbeaks, like all northern finches except Pin Siskins, were scarce, the max. count being eight in Webster Jan 18 (AEK). Purple Finches were common both around feeders and in fruit-bearing trees, with a high count of 25 in Rochester Feb 19 (LMZ). Pine Grosbeaks were unreported. Common Redpoll: 150, Hamlin State Park, Mar 2 (TET et al) was by far the highest count, although a few smaller flocks were reported. Pine Siskin: were generally reported with max. of 200 in DEP Mar 17 (HSM, AS). Red Crossbill: 10 in Rush Mar 5 (JH), only report. White-winged Crossbill: only one, in Highland P. Mar 10-21 (JF et al). Rufous-sided Towhee: one wintered at the Lookover Farm feeder s. of Avon, which showed high morale when seen Feb 24 (JF, HSM); another in Rochester for some time in Jan (AM); two were near Brad. B. Mar 30 (HSM et al); it is hard to determine if these were wintering birds or very early spring migrants as this species usually does not appear in our area until Apr 15-20.

A Savannah Sparrow was at the Rohner feeder in Greece from Dec 12-18 (RLR). Oregon Junco: one at Izzard feeder in Greece Dec 23-30; one at Iron. B. Dec 23 (CC); two spent the winter at the Kennedy feeder in Irondequoit; another plus a puzzling hybrid wintered at the McNett feeder in W. Webster. Field Sparrow: one in Greece Dec 23 (CC); one at feeder in Union Hill Jan 15 to at least Mar 21 (MS). White-crowned: two in Greece Dec 23 (CC); max. of 11 at the Culver feeder s. of Scottsville during the winter, why this feeder is so attractive to these birds is unknown to this writer, it will be remembered that a maximum of 20 wintered at this feeder last year. Fox Sparrow: two at a feeder in Union Hill Feb 9 (WL); one was present until at least Mar 21 (MS); they appeared early in spring migration, with 10 along the w.Ls. Mar 30 (RTO et al). Lapland Longspur: 41 in Greece Dec 1 (WCL); 50 in Hamlin Jan 13 (WCL et al); 50 s. of Avon Feb 24 (JF, HSM). Max. counts of Snow Buntings were 1,600 in Hamlin Jan 13 (GOS hike) and 1,500 near Lyons Mar 23 (DRC).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 9

REGION 3— FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

This was one of the coldest seasons on record, with temperatures averaging 10°-15° below normal — in complete contrast to last year. Snowfall was actually little above normal, but because of the extreme cold, the ground was white from mid-December to mid-March. Severe blizzard conditions Dec 30-Jan 1, with many feeding station operators reporting a drop in bird-life immediately thereafter, while others — perhaps having more cover — noted little change. During the last few days of February, Cayuga Lake froze completely for the first time in many years. (The time of the last complete freeze is a point of argument.) Starving and dead waterfowl were picked up everywhere, dabblers and divers suffering alike. When the first flocks of Geese arrived, Mar 10-12, they rested on the ice north of Aurora — an unusual sight. Since Montezuma was frozen from Dec 12 until Mar 24, the Geese were late in making use of the refuge but then came in, in larger numbers

than other years: the Mar 29 census showed 15,570 Canada Geese, 20 Blue Geese and 15 Snow Geese. Only 805 ducks were found on this census, as opposed to 1475 last year, but only 10% of the pools were ice-free this year. (J. Morse).

Highlights: unusual numbers of Whistling Swans, Snow and Blue Geese, in migration in March. Two records of Barrow's Goldeneye. Continuing drop in wintering waterfowl on Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. A possible, but unverified Hawk-Owl near Dryden in February. Absence, for the most part, of wintering Icterids. Dickcissel, second recent winter record, at Ithaca. Purple Finch invasion in Feb and Mar, heaviest since 1939, but tapering off west of Cayuga Lake.

First New York State record of the Green-tailed Towhee, present from mid-December through March, in Ithaca. Oregon Junco at Ithaca. With the Western Kingbird that was present in October, five western species were recorded from October to February in the Ithaca area: Barrow's Goldeneye, Western Kingbird, Dickcissel, Green-tailed Towhee and Oregon Junco.

Abbreviations used in this report: MFWR — Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge; SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; Cay. L. — Cayuga Lake; Sen. L. — Seneca Lake; Springs — Spgs.; Chem. R. — Chemung River; W. E. Benning — WEB; D. Mc Ilroy — DMcl; B. Strath — BS; J. Weske — JW.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: one, only, on waterfowl census; scattered reports in Mar from Cay. L.; no marked migration noted. Red-necked Grebe: one, Feb 25-Mar 31, Eldredge Park, Elmira (rare here); three, Feb and Mar, Volois on Sen. L., one Mar 25, Cay. L. (DMcl). Great Blue Heron: one, Dec 24, Sheldrake on Cay. L. (Ailene Black); one, Jan and Feb, Ithaca watershed, (V. Hannan), rarely winters. Common Egret: one, Dec 5 (late), Branchport (C. Spiker). Black-crowned Night Heron: one, Mar 23 (first), Elmira (W. Howard). Mute Swan; one, Feb 27-28, Sheldrake on Cay. L.; one (same bird?) Dresden on Sen. L., Mar 10; one, 1st of Mar, Horseheads dump. First feral Mute Swan in Region 3 in many years. Whistling Swan: one, imm., mid-Dec, Geneva (L. Ward); one, Mar 8, Elmira; 19, Keuka L. Mar 24; 52 Mar 24, Frontenac Pt., Cay. L. (DMcl); 20-30, Mar 24, flooded river meadows between Hornell and Canisteo (W. Groesbeck); unusual numbers for spring migration in the Region. Canada Goose: unusually heavy migration, beginning Mar 10. So little of Cay. L. open at that time that thousands rested on ice at north end. Est. 10,000 at Union Spgs., Mar 23, 20-25,000 by Mar 31. 125-150 wintered, partly on MFWR, partly on Cay. L.; 25 on Sen. L. Jan 25, may have been of this flock. Brant: 32 (last) Sheldrake (Coopers); one (first) Mar 13 Elmira (Van Duzer). See above for comments on geese at MFWR. Mallard: 400 wintered at Sapsucker Woods and consumed approx. five tons of corn. 842 on waterfowl census was less than one-third the count of a year ago. Black Ducks: 100 wintered SWS. Count of 2092 on waterfowl census was two-thirds that of a year ago. Down on Sen. L. up on Keuka L. Green-winged Teal: one (rare in winter) all winter, Waterloo (J. Walker). Shoveler: one (first) Mar 21 SWS. Wood Duck: three wintered SWS until Feb, two rest of winter. Redheads: continued decrease but less marked. Appearance on Chemung R. at Elmira, Mar 8-20, unusual in spring. Ring-necked Duck: 11 only, on waterfowl census mid-Jan, 44 in 1962; 300 (first peak) Mar 27, near Montezuma Village (W. Benning). Canvasback and Scaup were down 50% from last year, the first waterfowl census on which Scaup have shown such a drop, in recent years. Goldeneyes: fewer on all lakes. Barrow's Goldeneye: one female, Feb 23-Mar 1, Sheldrake (only the third recent record for Cay. L. Basin) (DMcl et al); one male Chemung R. Elmira, Mar 8, one male (probably same bird) Sen. L., Mar 10 (B. Strath). Bufflehead; 92 in mid-Jan, as opposed to 73 a year ago. Oldsquaw: fewer this year; four on Cay. L., mid-Jan; seven Sen. L., Feb 18 (B. Strath). White-winged Scoter: one, Feb 27 (first) Sheldrake (J. Propst); one Mar 25, Sen. L. (E. McDougall). Ruddy: three wintered Cay. L. (rare in winter).

Hawks — Owls: Goshawk: one (rare) Feb 14, SWS (A. A. Allen). Fewer reports than usual of Sharp-shins and Coopers. Fewer Red-tailed wintered. Red-shouldered Hawk: one (rare in winter) Feb 1, Odessa (BS). Rough-legged Hawk: far fewer than most winters, for example, no reports Dec and Feb at Keuka. Marsh Hawk: one Dec and one Jan report. Peregrine: (rare) one, Dec 13, Elmira (M. Welles). Golden Eagle: one, Dec 6, shot at Savannah, no further details known, but picture in local papers. Bald Eagle: one Dec 1, last at MFWR until Mar 19 when single adult returned; one immature seen Mar 31, MFWR (JM); one adult seen near Ithaca Jan 18 (Kortright).

Bobwhite: severe winter eliminated most of the remaining birds from the '60 release around Ithaca; the flock of 13 at SWS dwindled to two males. Ring-necked Pheasant: scarce at Watkins Glen. Wild Turkey: fed near highway, Pony Hollow, late Feb and Mar. Coot: numbers wintered, comparable to other years. Killdeer: (rare in winter) one near Dryden, Dec-Jan; one on shore of Cay. L.; migrants returned Mar 5 and 6. Woodcock: Mar 15 (first) (Cox). Common Snipe: one (rare in winter) Feb 9, near Clyde (WEB); one Feb 25, n. of Horseheads (K. Fudge). Glaucous Gull: one Mar 5, Cay. L. at Myers; one Mar 9-17, Sen. L. (M. Smith); one Mar 31 MFWR (WEB). No Iceland Gulls reported. Great Black-backed Gull: fewer on Cay. L. this year; one Dec 11, Owasco L. (W. H. Allison). On Seneca L., Ring-billed outnumbered Herring Gulls. Mourning Dove: numbers up over last winter; 10-30 reported at several feeding stations. Snowy Owl: up to six in Keuka-Branchport area; missing elsewhere. Short-eared Owl: no large concentrations, but up to four reported from five localities.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Belted Kingfisher: one, Jan 1, MFWR (W. Spofford); one, near Dryden; by Feb none, no open water. Flicker: two or three wintered near Ithaca. Red-bellied Woodpecker: at least nine individuals at different locations in Cay. L. basin, an increase over last year. Red-headed Woodpecker: one only, s. of Geneva, Feb 8 (J. Weske). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one, Dec 14 (last) Ithaca (H. O'Leary). Horned Lark: more reports of winter birds than usual; migrant flocks appeared late Feb — later than usual. Blue Jays: reported "extremely abundant" by all reporters; 20-25 at some feeders. Crow: 800-1000 in roost east of Ithaca, located Mar 9 (Dwight Chamberlain).

Tufted Titmouse: one, first record, at Dryden; Keuka pair gone; fewer feeding station reports throughout region than last year. Red-breasted Nuthatch: three, regular at Ithaca feeders; one, Alpine. Mockingbird: one, Jan, Aurora (Schackeltons) — as in three winters past; one, West Hill, Ithaca, Jan-Mar; one, Watkins Glen; one, Cayuga Heights, Ithaca, in Dec; two, Hickory Grove Rd., Elmira; pair that has been at Esperanza disappeared. Catbird: one (late) Dec 9, s. of Ithaca (G. Swanson). Brown Thrasher: one (late) Dec 29 Moss Hill, Horseheads. Robin: only one wintering bird reported at Ithaca. Hermit Thrush: one, entire winter (extremely rare wintering bird) Cayuga Heights, Ithaca (E. H. Smith). Bluebird: first, third week of Mar. Golden-crowned Kinglet: winter reports not as abundant as might have been expected after high fall counts. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one (very rare in winter) Dec and to mid-Jan, Freeville (L. Beck, S. Hoyt). Pipit: 200 (high) Dutch Hill, Elmira (O. York). Northern Shrike: only six reports. Loggerhead Shrike: one (first) Mar 31, n. of Dresden (WEB).

Warblers — Sparrows: Myrtle Warbler: only one known to winter, Ithaca. House Sparrow: flocks, in some areas, decimated by Jan 1 blizzard. Meadowlark: one, wintering bird, or early arrival, Feb 1, Irelandville (B. Bell). In general, few icterids attempted to winter and almost none survived of those which tried, with exception of Cowbirds in Watkins and in Geneva-Waterloo area; first migrating flocks, Mar 9-11. Cardinal: increasingly larger winter concentrations noted; for example, 31 at feeding station of the V. Burgesses, Slaterville Rd., Ithaca; survived severe winter well at Hornell. Dickcissel: one (rare) Dec and to early Jan, at Houghton feeder, four mi. n.w. Ithaca. Evening Grosbeak: first appeared at numerous feeders Jan 20-22; built up slowly in numbers to early Mar, but absent at many feeders that usually have them; thinning out some by late Mar; early flocks predominantly females. Purple Finch: first, mid-Feb; by end of Mar were everywhere in eastern half of region; THE winter finch. Common Redpoll: very few reports. Pine Siskins: a few with the Purple Finches. American Goldfinch: numerous, coming to feeders more than usual. Green-tailed Towhee: apparently first state record for this species; from early or mid-Dec, still present Apr 1; at John Anderson's feeder, West Hill, Ithaca, seen by scores and photographed. Vesper Sparrow: one (late) Dec 12, banded, remained several more days, Etna (J. Weske). Oregon Junco: several reported, one positively identified, Hakes' feeder, West Hill, Ithaca. Tree Sparrows: scarcer than usual at Hornell in usual numbers elsewhere. Field Sparrow: (unusual in winter) one, Jan-Feb, Beardsley feeder, Watkins Glen; one, Jan-Feb, Welles feeder, Elmira. White-throated Sparrow: fewer wintered than usual. Song Sparrow: fewer wintered than usual. Lapland Longspur: more reports than usual, but possibly this reflects closer inspection of flocks of buntings and larks. Snow Bunting: flocks of 1000 or more in area.

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca