

wintering population in the Triple Cities area and Deposit; migrants started appearing at Deposit Mar 16, but not in large flocks; at Cortland, where the winter population was almost nil, and Oneonta large flocks started appearing Mar 23. Oregon Junco: one, at Owego (Mrs. E. Williams); one, Mar 10, Castle Creek (BB). Field Sparrow: 2, Dec 18 and 5, Dec 19, Ingraham Hill (CH); one, Mar 1, Owego (M. White); migrants, Mar 26, Owego (CG). White-throated Sparrow: one, throughout the period, Tioga Center (P. Code); 2, Dec 17, Ingraham Hill (CH); one, Dec 25 to Dec 30, Choconut Center (RS, MS); 3 Chenango Bridge (LB). Fox Sparrow: Mar 19 (first) Owego (TT); 20 banded between Mar 25 and 30, Deposit (SW). Song Sparrow: 14, Jan 1, Binghamton Christmas Census (NC); several other Dec and Jan records; none in Feb until the 17th when migrants started arriving; numbers fairly small until Mar 16. Snow Bunting: small and medium sized flocks all during the period, particularly during Feb and Mar at Cortland; one "huge" flock at Newark Valley Jan 29 (LD).
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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The winter weather was characterized by temperatures below normal and snow-fall near to or somewhat below normal. A warming trend from the middle of March was unbroken to the end of the period.

Waterfowl census figures were low for most species, mainly due to ice conditions. However the increase of Redheads and Canvasbacks was encouraging. The almost continuous watching of hawk migration at Derby Hill on the shore of Lake Ontario by John Haugh has yielded interesting observations.

An outstanding feature of the winter was the fine late flight of Purple Finches. There were moderate numbers of Pine Siskins, especially in March; other winter finches were scarce. Rareities include Barrow's Goldeneye and a Magpie.

Abbreviations for places: HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area; Hghld For — Highland Forest; L — Lake; Oakwood — cemetery, Syracuse; Onon — Onondaga; R — river; SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park; Skan — Skaneateles; Syr — Syracuse; TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area; Arr — Arrived; nr — near.

Regular observers and censuses: DA — Dorothy Ackley; BB — Benjamin Burt; BBFS — B. Burt's feeder survey (taken the first week of each winter month; numbers cited are per 100 feeder reports); CC — Christmas Census; EE — Emma Evans; DP — David Peakall; JP — Jean Propst; PP — Paul Paquette; MR — Margaret Rusk; BS — Betty Starr; FS — Fritz Scheider; IS — Ina Stone; RS — Roberta Seaman; SCC — Syracuse Christmas Census; WFC — Waterfowl Census.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: one, Jan 1-16 Onon L; one rescued from ice Oneida L Jan 19; no migrants reported to end of period. Red-throated Loon: one, Dec 22 Oswego (MR, FS) is first winter record. Red-necked Grebe rescued from roadside, Sherrill, Feb 11, remained on local pond where released until Feb 20 (DA). Horned Grebe: two, Jan 13 Skan L (WFC), lowest on any WFC; recent counts have been 20-60. Pied-billed Grebe: recorded during the winter at Fulton, Oswego, and Sherrill; first migrant Mar 27 SSSP. Great Blue Heron: two, SCC; one, nr Tully Jan 15 (fide BB); one, Gully Rd nr Skan Jan 7 (RS); one, nr Limestone Creek Feb 11 (fide BB); first migrant Mar 21. American Bittern: one, Mar 31 Boliver (MR), very early.

Whistling Swan: one, Fulton first week of Dec (Mrs. C. Hall); one, Lakeview Dec 18 (JP, MR). Canada Goose: excellent spring flight, 11,000 in HIGMA — Seneca flats area Mar 29 (DP). Snow Goose: two, HIGMA last week of Mar (R. Nevinger). Blue Goose: one, Seneca R flats Mar 29 (DP).

Numbers of winter dabbling duck were low; the WFC of Black Duck (957) was the lowest of recent years. There was no large-scale return flight by the end of the period. Pintail: one-two, Oswego thru winter; first migrant Onon L Mar 9. Green-winged Teal: one wintered, Syr (JP, BS); arr Seneca flats Mar 29. Blue-winged Teal: arr Mar 30 Mexico. American Widgeon: arr Mar 28 Seneca flats. Shoveler: one, Oswego Dec 22; arr HIGMA Mar 24. Wood Duck: last, HIGMA Jan 1; arr Phoenix Mar 9.

Redhead: 400 Skan L (WFC); otherwise only small numbers although there was some increase over recent years. Ring-necked Duck: three, Oswego Dec 22; one, nr Marcellus Feb 17; first migrant Mar 9; present in fair numbers by end of period. Canvasback: 205, Oneida L Dec 8; 325, Skan L Jan 13; otherwise only small numbers. Scaup: WFC of 4500 was rather low; numbers remained approximately constant until mid-Mar. Goldeneye: WFC low due to ice conditions along L Ontario. Barrow's Goldeneye: a female, Oswego R Feb 3 (J. Foster, W. Listman, A. Maley, T. Tetlow), excellent description, essentially similar to **Kingbird** XII:44. Bufflehead: after low fall count, winter numbers were about normal with max 125 Feb 3. Oldsquaw: max 110, L Ontario Dec 18. King Eider: two, Oswego harbor Feb 1 (R. Sandberg, E. Smith). Common Scoter: one, L Ontario Dec 18 (JP, MR). White-winged Scoter: 165, Dec 8 Oneida L (JP, BS) is a high count away from L Ontario and a late date for so large a number; up to ten seen during the winter, L Ontario. Surf Scoter: two, Oswego Feb 3 (J. Foster et al). Common Merganser: 3000 WFC is low, probably due to most of Oswego harbor being frozen.

Hawks — Owls: John Haugh, a graduate student at Syracuse University, has started a day-by-day study of hawk migration from Derby Hill nr Mexico. His report for the period is — Goshawk: 51; max ten, Mar 17. Cooper's Hawk: 49; max 13, Mar 26. Sharp-shinned: 125; max 51, Mar 29. Red-tailed: 8 max 126, Mar 17. Red-shouldered: 809; max; 203, Mar 26. Rough-legged: 136; max 32, Mar 24. Broadwinged: a very early record, Mar 21. Bald Eagle: imm, Mar 17 and 21 were probably this species; adult Mar 26 and 27. Harrier: 127; max 26, Mar 26. Osprey: 5 Mar 29, record early date. Kestrel: 141; max 45, Mar 29.

Turkey Vulture: one, Mar 27 Phoenix (EE). Goshawk: one, present for most of period at Hghld For; one, nr Oswego Dec 22 (W. Spofford); one, Cicero Swamp Feb 17 (MR, BS); one, W. Canada Creek Jan 16 (E. Curtis). Red-tailed: 37 SCC, Dec 23 is a record census count; 29 Bridgeport-Baldwinsvl area, Jan 26. Rough-legged: fair to good wintering numbers, 11 SCC; at least 12, Oswego Co Mar 1 (J. Belknap).

Killdeer: last, Dec 1 Sylvan Beach, first, Mar 4 Kenwood (both PP). Woodcock: arr Ram's Gulch Mar 17, early. Snipe: arr HIGMA Mar 29. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Seneca flats Mar 2. Glaucous Gull: max 5, Oswego Mar 9. Iceland Gull: max 295, Oswego R Jan 20. Herring Gull: 7600, Oswego CC is a record high. Bonaparte's Gull: last, Dec 1 Sylvan Beach; first, Mar 17 Oneida L (both PP). Mourning Dove: 131 SCC, record high; largest individual flocks were 97, Tully Dec 16 (JP) and 60, Oneida Jan 18 (DA), both outside the Syr count area. Saw-whet Owl: one, Rome Mar 1-9 (F. Wyman).

Goatsuckers — Warblers: Kingfisher: after Dec, only four reported, in this winter of extensive freeze-up, until late-Mar arrivals. Flicker: after Christmas counts, only six wintering Jan and Feb; some increase Mar before end-of-month arrivals. Pileated: at 22 locations! — the bird is easier to spot in winter and BBFS brings in some additional reports, but even so the local status of this species is quite good. Red-bellied: more regular on the periphery of its Seneca R drainage-area range — one Fulton Dec 22, one Jordan Dec and Jan, two nr Baldwinsvl Feb, one Cato Feb, one Red Creek Feb and Mar, one Fair Haven Feb 3, one Oneida R. Feb 24. Red-headed: high number of wintering records of this uncommon woodpecker — one imm Eaton Dec (G. Church); one Syr Jan, and one each Baldwinsvl and Port Byron (fide BB). Horned Lark: scarce until mid-Feb, then widespread with largest flocks of 300-400 early Mar, Sherrill and Tully.

Blue Jay: mentioned as unusually abundant by observers in all parts of the Region; indices to its numbers are a record high of 180 SCC, 440 Jan BBFS (a next-to-record high), 530 Feb BBFS (highest Feb count in four years), and several field counts of over 20 in a few miles. A Black-billed Magpie found at Hghld For (altitude up to 2000 ft, in s.e. corner of Onon Co) Dec 12 (by JP) was still present at least to Mar 12; it was discovered at the park dump, a site surrounded by deciduous shrubs and conifer plantations, and the park staff has been supplementing its diet there with suet; there is no indication that it was an escape. Crow: absent from Rome area for about a month, until late Feb (H. Aspinwall); a winter roost of over 500 Onon Hill, daily commuting to a nearby dump; marked return flight Syr and L Ontario Mar 12-17 with 5000, Derby Hill Mar 16 and 17.

Tufted Titmouse: fewer than last winter and no new locations, but up to eight Baldwinsvl and two at nearby Jordan (BBFS), two each regularly Brewerton and North Bay, also one Fulton Dec 22 (FS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce — BBFS only four Dec, four Jan, three Feb, and two Mar; only field reports singles, Hghld For Jan and TRGMA Mar. No wrens on any of the four Regional Christmas counts — this before the onset of extremely cold weather and deep snow. Winter Wren: only one field report, Feb 17 Camillus Valley, between mid-Dec and late Mar. Carolina: two Oakwood on Dec 5 only; two reports s. Syr Jan and Feb (BBFS and fide RS).

Mockingbird: one Mexico (IS) and one Oswego (fide BB) Dec; pair wintered south of Mexico (IS), perhaps of the 1962 Palermo nesting. Half-hardy mimids and thrushes — Catbird: only one, Syr Dec BBFS. Brown Thrasher: one attempted to winter Syr, until Jan 20 (D. Dawley) later found dead. Robin: BBFS five Dec down to two the first week of Mar; field reports, of small groups of up to five Dec and Jan, show a parallel drop-off. Hermit Thrush: one Syr thru winter (BBFS). Bluebird: seven reports totaling 12 individuals from Mar 16 to end of period.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: very scarce after mid-Dec; after Jan 1 the max is six Jan 6 Sherrill; many observers saw none until Mar, but there was no marked Mar flight. Northern Shrike: a rather good flight, with five SCC and up to three/day Jan and Mar. Myrtle Warbler: only two reports, both E. Syr, one Dec BBFS and two SCC.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Meadowlark: scarce, with one SCC and none on other censuses; BBFS only three Jan and one Feb; only field report before Mar is one-two Jan Sherrill. Rusty Blackbird: none later than SCC, two. BBFS shows the other black icterids to have wintered in lower numbers than in recent years. This is especially marked with the Cowbird. The survey of the first week of Mar shows a buildup over Feb in the case of Redwing and Cowbird but not of Grackle. All three appeared in numbers Mar 9-16.

Cardinal: BBFS documents its continued spread north and east with the following maxima — 13 Fulton Feb, seven Pulaski Feb, three Richland Dec, eight Oswego Feb; also regular in the hill-and-valley area of the s.e. part of the Region; 126 SCC again broke the previous record. Evening Grosbeaks: didn't appear around Syr in any numbers until Jan 20; 700 is the lowest Mar BBFS in four years — i.e., only a moderate flight. Purple Finch in contrast irrupted in numbers in Feb and Mar with BBFS Feb 65, twice the previous max, and Mar **850** (100 times the average!) including 105 at one feeder Oneida (Felle); field counts gave no indication of the numbers actually in the area. Redpolls didn't appear until Feb, with max/day 130 Feb 22. Pine Siskin: good Feb-Mar flight with several Mar reports of 50/day and max about 100 Taberg Mar 23. Only three Red Crossbill reports, of pairs or singles. Of White-winged, six reports from various parts of the Region; highest flock count 25 Cicero Bog Dec 17, but more frequently reported in Mar. Junco: small groups never completely absent from the field, with max 12 on Jan 1, HIGMA.

Half-hardy sparrows — Towhee: one each Sherrill, Syr, and Pulaski to late Dec, and one male Fayettevl into Feb — all at feeders. Field Sparrow: four Chittenango Jan (Stickles-fide BB) is unusual. White-crowned: only report one, Feb Sherrill BBFS. White-throated: after Dec all at feeders — one-three, Syr (several locations) and one, Kenwood — through the winter. Fox: one wintered, Sherrill (Hartwig); three, Central Square first week of Mar, before field arrivals (Childs) — these both at feeders. Swamp: one, Jan Kenwood (fide DA); none in field after Dec (two SCC). Song. hardest of the half-hardies with BBFS Dec five, Jan 19, Feb 25, and Mar 20; also present through the winter in small groups in the field with max 20/day Jan 26 n. of Syr.

Lapland Longspur: one-three with Horned Larks or Snow Buntings, Sherrill Jan and Feb; Tully Feb and early Mar; last three Mar 17 L Ontario, in flock of 2000 Snow Buntings, by far the max flock count of the latter, though flocks of 50-500/Buntings were reported through the period, the larger flocks mostly from late Dec through early Mar.

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