

and on the L. Ontario Plain at Newfane, Wilson and Lewiston. White-throated Sparrows: many reports mostly at feeding stations. Fox Sparrow: one-two, Dec 14-Jan 1, Hamburg feeder (EC et al); one, Dec 15-18, Dunkirk (RM); one, Dec 28, Friendship, All. Co. (SCC); one, Dec 29, Jamestown (JAS); two, Jan 1, Hamburg-East Aurora area (BAS); no reports later than this until migrants appeared; 35, Mar 19, Riverside Sanctuary, Kiantone and 21, Mar 31, Jamestown (WM) — noteworthy counts. Snow Bunting: fewer reports than in recent winters.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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The first month of the period was the third coldest December in Rochester weather bureau records. However, January was comparatively mild with temperatures well above the average. The last two months of the period were nearly normal, with February being slightly below and March slightly above average. The first month of the period produced the second heaviest December snowfall of the present century. The formidable snow cover of late December had dwindled to almost nothing a month later. Snowfall for January and March was about normal, with light snowfall marking February. Snowfall for the winter was about ten inches above normal. However, precipitation for the period was about 2½ inches below normal due to the low water content of much of the snowfall. The level of Lake Ontario and all connecting bays and ponds was very low at the end of the period.

In spite of the rugged weather conditions of December, the number of wintering species seemed at least average. The Christmas census held on December 22 resulted in an all time high count since this census was first started locally. The spring migration started rather early with heavy flights of Canada Geese, Robins and the various blackbirds reported as early as the first weekend in March. By the middle of the month, Whistling Swans, and most of the "puddle" ducks were present. A good early hawk flight developed on March 24. Except for the early part of the month, the migration of land birds seemed to lag, and by the end of the period was definitely behind average.

The past winter produced more noteworthy records than usual. Among the outstanding birds reported were White-fronted Goose, European Widgeon, Common Eider, King Eider, Red Phalarope, Boreal Owl, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee and Hoary Redpoll.

Names of regularly reporting observers: WC — William Carlson; DC — Dwight Chamberlain; GD — (Mrs.) Gertrude Davis; RD — Robert Dobson; JD — James Doherty; MF — (Miss) Margaret Foley; JF — John Foster; RG — Richard Garnham; WH — William Hartranft; BK — (Mrs.) Beatrice Kemnitzer; AEK — Allen E. Kemnitzer; JK — Mr. and Mrs. John Kennedy; WCL — Walter C. Listman; WL — Warren Lloyd; AM — Alfred Maley; RM — Robert McKinney; JM — Joseph McNett; TM — (Mrs.) Thelma McNett; HSM — Howard S. Miller; DN — Donald Nelson; RTO — Richard T. O'Hara; NR — Nestor Ross; FS — Frank Schmanke; AAS — Alfred A. Starling; ES — (Mrs.) Ester Stiles; ST — Stephen Taylor; FT — Frank Templeton; RT — Richard Thompson; TET — Thomas E. Tetlow; RW — Robert White; CY — C. Young; PZ — Peter Zachmann.

Names of places used regularly in the text: CL — Conesus Lake; DEP — Durand-Eastman Park; ES — East Spit; GR — Genesee River; HSP — Hamlin State Park; IB — Irondequoit Bay; L — Lakeshore; M — Manitou;

OB — Oklahoma Beach; P — Parma; PB — Point Breeze; RS — Russell Station; SP — Sodus Point; W — Webster; WL — West Lakeshore; WS — West Spit; WW — West Webster.

Loons — Ducks: Two Red-throated Loons were along the WL Dec 2 (AEK). No other loons nor Red-necked Grebes were reported to the end of the period. A Double-crested Cormorant at SP Dec 8 (ES) was the only report. Five Great Blue Herons were along the GR gorge in Rochester Dec 22 (Christmas Census) and one in the same place until at least Jan 25 (WCL). The first Whistling Swan was at BB March 7 (JF et al), and the peak count was 140 at Groveland March 28 (AM). Two Canada Geese were at SP Jan. 19 (DS, ES). Heavy flights were reported as early as March 7 (several); the species appeared more common than usual. A White-fronted Goose was carefully observed at PB March 28 (RB, AEK & RM). All three are experienced observers and they observed the bird under very favorable conditions. This may be the first acceptable record for our area. There are two previous records but one may refer to an escaped bird and the writer has been unable to trace the other. A few Snow and Blue Geese were reported but in much smaller numbers than were known to be present at Montezuma and in the Oak Orchard area. Two Gadwall were near Seneca Park Dec 22 (TET) and the first two spring migrants were at BB March 7 (WCL et al); this species was more generally reported locally than usual. Twenty Pintail were at BB March 7 (AM et al). Four Green-winged Teal were at the same place March 8 (WCL). A very early Blue-winged Teal was at M the same day (WCL). An adult male European Widgeon was at Groveland from March 28-31 (JF et al). An American Widgeon was at DEP Jan 18 (JF) and three were at BB March 7 (JF et al). Shovelers, like Gadwalls, were generally distributed, but in larger numbers.

A male Wood Duck wintered with domestic ducks at the "duck pond" at the U. of R. (Louise Zeitler et al). An estimated 100 Ring-necked Ducks at L Mar 28 (WCL) was the peak count for this increasingly common duck. Sixty-two hundred Old-squaws along the L Jan 19 (Duck census) is a high count. A female Common Eider was carefully studied at M March 22 (GOS hike). A female King Eider was on the GR Dec 22 (HSM & RTO); Another the same day on IB (WL et al). An immature male was at M Jan 11-12 (WC et al). The same or another bird in the same plumage was at HSP Jan 19 (RT et al). A female was at Nine Mile Point March 1 (AEK) and one was reported from Sandy Creek March 8 by the same observer. Two Ruddy Ducks wintered on the GR (AAS et al). Six Hooded Mergansers were on IB Dec 22 (WL et al) and 38 were on Sodus Bay March 30 (AEK).

Hawks — Owls: An immature Goshawk was at Nine Mile Point March 14 (AEK & WL) and two were at BB March 24 (AM). A few Red-tailed Hawks were migrating at BB & DEP March 7 (WC et al). Hundreds of both this species and Red-shouldered Hawks were reported moving along the L March 24 RD & FS). An immature Broad-winged Hawk at Flynn Road Dec 22 (WCL) is the area's first winter record for this species. It was not observed subsequently. Nine Rough-legged Hawks were at Kent Jan. 19 (WCL). Few were reported elsewhere. An adult Band Eagle was at Canandaigua Lake Feb 14 (Mrs. Smith) and an adult was at Charlotte March 24 (FS).

Six Killdeer along the WL March 7 (JF et al) was the first spring report. A Common Snipe was at Fishers Feb 22 C. Young). The only record of the Purple Sandpiper for the year was a single bird on the WS Dec 3 (WCL), and the last Dunlin and Sanderling for the year were seen at the same place and time (WCL). Two Red Phalaropes were at the ES Dec 8 (WCL); one on IB Dec 15 (AEK, WL & Lance Sunderlain); one at the WS Dec 22 (WCL) was the last record.

A Glaucous Gull was at Summerville Dec 22 (JF et al), and another was at IB the same day (RG, WL & RW). Occasional single birds of both this species and the Iceland Gull were reported. Four hundred Bonaparte's Gulls were on IB Dec 15 (AEK & WL). This is late for such a large number.

Eight were still present in the same place Jan 26 (AM). Three adult Little Gulls were at Russell Station Jan. 5 (AEK) and an immature was at the same place two days later (DN).

Mourning Doves wintered generally in some numbers, with a high count of 65 at the McNett feeder in WW Feb 23. A Snowy Owl was at the ES Jan 18-19 (AAS et al), and the same or another bird was there March 28 (ST et al). One was seen between Newark and Phelps Jan 17-20 (Mr. & Mrs. Fairbanks). A Long-eared Owl was in DEP Feb 29 (AM, TET) and one was in the "owl woods" near BB March 7-14 (FS et al). A Boreal Owl was at HSP from Feb 22-29 (JF et al) See field note section. A Saw-whet Owl was in the "owl woods" March 7 (JF et al) and one was near Round Pond March 28 (BB et al).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was in DEP Dec 22 (MF & ES) and probably the same bird was seen nearby Feb 22 (JK et al). One was in Palmyra Jan. 1-Feb 29 (WH). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen in the village of Sodus Feb. 22 (AEK & WCL). A female Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was first seen near DEP Dec 22 (JF). The area was carefully watched, and the bird was seen on numerous occasions until at least March 14 (FS). A Tree Swallow was at M March 8 (WCL). This is the area's earliest record by three days of this species. Comparatively few were present by the end of the month. The winter Common Crow roost which moved to Genesee Valley Park from Mt. Hope Cemetery for a while during midwinter contained 17,481 birds Dec 22 (DC, FS). A Boreal Chickadee was in HSP Jan. 11 (AM). At least three and possibly as many as five birds were present during late Feb (ST et al), and the last bird reported was on March 8 (JD, FS).

A Tufted Titmouse spent most of the winter at Palmyra (WH), two were at Newark Dec 20 (David B. Peakall) and one was at HSP Feb 22 (RTO). These are new stations as far as we know. The Carolina Wren was unreported. A Mockingbird was in Gates Jan 20 (Mrs. Kimpton) and one was at Holland's Cove Feb 17 (AEK). A Catbird spent the early part of the winter around a feeder in Brighton (Mrs. King, ST) but disappeared during January. A flock of about 20 Robins wintered at DEP and another flock of about 15 wintered at HSP where they fed heavily on wild grapes. A Hermit Thrush was in DEP Dec 22 (JF) and another was in P the same day (WCL). Four Eastern Bluebirds were near Conesus Lake Dec 29 (WCL et al). One was at BB March 8 (WCL) and a few were reported along the L during the rest of the month. Three Bohemian Waxwings were in DEP Jan 11 (WC et al), these were probably the same three birds that have been in the area very irregularly since Nov 17. Northern Shrikes were generally scarce but an occasional single bird was reported. A Loggerhead Shrike was seen near Buck Pond Mar 28 (AAS et al).

Vireos — Sparrows: A small flock of Myrtle Warblers wintered at Rush (JH). These birds have wintered here before and, while they feed somewhat on seeds and feeder food, their principal feed appears to be house flies which appear in all but the coldest weather.

A fabulous count of 3,000 Eastern Meadowlarks was made at BB March 15 (RD). They were moving in a southeasterly direction, crossing the parkway between the two spits. A flock of about 40 Red-winged Blackbirds wintered in the Ellison Park-Dugway area (ST). Four hundred were migrating at BB March 7 (TET et al), and 6,000 were at the same place March 15 (RD). A flock of 14 Rusty Blackbirds wintered in the Penfield area (GD) and six Common Grackles wintered in the Dugway area (ST). Small numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds wintered and 2,000 were at BB March 15 (RD). All the northern finches were reported during the period but none were in overwhelming abundance. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in fair numbers with a high count of 50 at the McNett feeder in WW. Purple Finches were almost completely absent, only one bird being reported. Twenty-one Pine Grosbeaks at HSP Feb 22 (AM et al) was the only worthwhile number reported. A Hoary Redpoll was seen in direct comparison with Common

Redpolls in P March 14 (WCL). One hundred Common Redpolls in W March 14 (RD) was the peak count. Pine Siskins appeared generally in small to medium sized flocks. Strangely, the American Goldfinch was the commonest of this group; large flocks were generally reported with a maximum of 4,000 at Retsof Feb 9 (WCL). Peak counts of Red and White-winged Crossbills were eight of the the former at DEP Jan 19 (FT) and 25 of the latter in the same place the same day (NR).

A Rufous-sided Towhee spent most of the winter at the Golan feeder in Irondequoit, and another appeared irregularly at the Listman feeder in Manitou. A Savannah Sparrow was at Retsof Jan 12 (WCL). A Vesper Sparrow was near CL Dec 29 (WCL et al), and another bird was present at the Munson feeder in Penfield from Dec 29 to at least Mar 9. It was banded Jan 5. Another was near HSP Jan 11 (JF). An Oregon Junco was at Mendon Ponds Jan 1 (FS), one was at the McNett feeder in WW Jan 5, one was at the Kemnitzer feeder in W from Feb 18-24. The same or another bird appeared at the same feeder March 13 and was present to the end of the period. One spent most of the winter at the Kennedy feeder near DEP (JK, HSM & RTO). A Field Sparrow was at IB Dec 22 (FT). About 15 White-crowned Sparrows wintered at the Culver feeder near Scottsville, and a few other scattered birds were reported from other areas. Small numbers of scattered White-throated Sparrows were reported. The year's first Fox Sparrow was at a feeder in Penfield March 12 (GD) and some had appeared by the end of the month. The peak count of Lapland Longspurs was 30 along the WL Jan 19 (WCL), and the maximum count of Snow Buntings was an estimated 5,000 birds in the same general area the same day (WCL).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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Temperatures during the reporting period were fairly normal, with no extremes, decidedly in contrast with the winter of '62-'63. Cayuga Lake had more open water than for several years, and Montezuma opened early — partly on March 1, major break-up March 26. Snow covered the ground most of the period, but at no time was the snow cover more than a foot, and wild food was in fairly good abundance, contrary to fears after last year's drought. Many early migrants arrived on March 7, with south winds and high temperatures.

Rough-legged Hawks, Short-eared and Snowy Owls and Shrikes were almost missing, but it was a superb year for winter finches. Evening Grosbeaks were abundant, as were Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, and most particularly Goldfinches and Crossbills. Both species of crossbills were present, but White-wings were more abundant. One flock of over 200 was reported to me. They fed mostly on hemlock cones, but also on pine and spruce. By early March, natural food was exhausted, and they came to feeders for sunflower seeds and were extremely tame. Goldfinches are rarely a feeding-station bird around Ithaca, but this year they were abundant at feeders and the phone rang constantly with descriptions of these tiny birds.

Tree Sparrows were more abundant than in the last few years. There were few Redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks, or Snow Buntings and almost no Longspurs.

Four or five reports of Goshawks made it a record year for this species. One adult and one immature made repeated visits to the Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, and at one time two adults were seen.

The most unusual bird for the period was a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, discovered on March 2, by Mrs. Malcolm McIlroy at a dump a few miles northwest of Ithaca. It was seen repeatedly in the next two weeks by several other competent observers, but there was no success in collecting or photographing it.