

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.

A female Barrow's Goldeneye turned up for the second year in the Shel-drake area of Cayuga Lake. It was present from early January to mid-March.

A probable Gyrfalcon was seen by Jayson Walker on February 23 on Powderly Road near Waterloo. Unfortunately all attempts to locate it again, or to have it seen by a second observer were unsuccessful so it must remain a question in our records.

Places mentioned: SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; MFWR — Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge; Cay L — Cayuga Lake; Sen L — Seneca Lake; PCRD — Perry City Road Dump; Fish and Wildlife — F and W; n — north; s — south.

Observers: David G. Allen — DGA; Jack Brubaker — JB; Paul A. Buckley — PAB; Walter E. Benning — WEB; Harold Cox — HC; Lewis Cartee — LC; Lewis Cowardin — LCo; David Dunham — DD; Albert Fudge — AF; Benjamin Gebhart — BG; Frank Gutherie — FG; William Groesbeck — WG; Jack Holl — JH; Hope Johnson — HJ; Paul Kelsey — PK; Arthur Lane — AL; Carl Mrozek — CM; Dorothy McIlroy — DM; O. S. Pettingill, Jr. — OSP; Jean Propst — JP; Dan Rose — DR; Betty Strath — BS; Gustav A. Swanson — GAS; Julian Shepherd — JS; Mary Smith — MS; Walter R. Spofford — WRS; Jayson Walker — JW; John S. Weske — JSW; Ruth Williams — RW.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons: almost none. Red-necked Grebes: none. Horned Grebes: 26, Jan 18, Cay L; 57, Jan 18, Sen L; 13, Jan 18, Keuka L. Pied-billed Grebe (rare winterer): one, Jan 18, Sen L; one, Jan 18, Keuka L. Great Blue Heron: one wintered, south end Cay L; first spring arrivals, March 20, MFWR and April 4, SWS. Mute Swan: one, March 7, Cay L (WEB). Whistling Swan: this species has been increasing in numbers in migration each year recently. 32, MFWR and N end Cay L, March 15 (WEB and others in next week). Up to 58, March 8-25, Keuka L, (FG); five, March 21, Chemung River, (MS). Canada Goose: came early (200 over Ithaca Feb 25, (DR)) and reached peak numbers early. There were 10,000 at the Refuge and north end of Cayuga on March 7, and a census at MFWR on March 21 produced 46,000. One count taken as flocks flew over Cornell campus on March 17: 10,000 in a half-hour. Snow Goose: 450 (record high count), Mar 26 MFWR. Blue Goose: 150 (peak) March 26, MFWR. Mallards: 550-600, all winter, SWS. Blacks: 100-150, SWS. Gadwall: two, March 7, MFWR (WEB), first arrivals. Pintail: one wintered in Seneca River at Waterloo (JW); two pairs (with F. and W. and also Conserv. Dept. bands — probably Howlands Island releases) wintered at SWS. 1,200 at MFWR, March 27. In migration, this species, usually rare at Elmira, were sighted in numbers, up to 30 in flooded cornfields. Green-winged Teal: arrived last week of March. American Widgeon, rare winterer: one, January 3, Canoga, (LCo); two, January 22, near Canoga, (JP). Wood Ducks: four wintered at SWS; first spring migrants, last week March. Redheads: numbers on Jan 18 census, almost double those of last year; peak, 1,300, March 7 (WEB). Ring-necked Duck: more than usual on ponds near Elmira end of March, with preponderance of males. Canvasbacks: still decreasing as wintering bird. Peak, 1,000 on Cay L, March 22 (WEB). Scaup: numbers in general the same as last few years.

Common Goldeneyes: slight increase this year over recent years. Still abundant March 21 (JSW). **Barrow's Goldeneye:** again, as in 1963, a female was found with Common Goldeneyes in the Sheldrake (Cay L) area, and was present from January 4 to mid-March. Buffleheads and Oldsquaws: usual numbers wintered, increase last week March. White-winged Scoter: only one record, Jan 3, Canoga, (LCo). Surf Scoter: one, March 1, Sen L, north end, (CM). No Scoters on Keuka L. Red-breasted Mergansers: no marked migration noted.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: one (first) March 22, MFWR (JW); one, March 28, Keuka L, (FG). Goshawk: usually rare in Finger Lakes, three individual birds (2 ad, 1 imm) visited SWS regularly from late December

until end of March, though less frequently in March; two occasionally during same period, 15 miles nne of SWS (BG); one on Jan 12, near Sheldrake (PAB). No accipiters around Elmira. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Feb 15, Varna, (WRS), two reports at Keuka (fide FG). Cooper's Hawk: one seen occasionally, SWS. Red-tailed Hawk: all observers said fewer this winter than in past years. Rough-legged Hawk: scarcest in many years. ~~Almost none reported except three at MFWR.~~ Bald Eagle: one, ad, March 15, MFWR (RW); one imm., east shore Cay L, March 21 (JSW). Marsh Hawk: one winter report. Peregrine Falcon: one, Jan 1, Van Duzer home, Horseheads. Sparrow Hawks: wintered near Keuka L in good numbers; 7 or 8 in 3 hour trip (FG).

Ruffed Grouse: good numbers around Keuka. Normal numbers elsewhere. No wintering Rail reports. Killdeer: one wintered at south end of Cay L. Woodcock: first, March 13, Ithaca, (HC); others reported during the next week. Common Snipe: one wintering bird at Clyde, in December and January (WEB). Glaucous Gull: one, March 17, s end Cay L, (DM); later two birds. Iceland Gull: (rare in Region) one, March 2, PCRD (DM). Great Black-backed Gulls: 17 (peak) Dec 22, s end Cay L, (DD); good numbers, both Cay L and Sen L, (JW); 2 records Keuka L, where usually not present (FG). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one, PCRD & Cay L March 2 through March 20 (DM, and other observers). First record for Central New York State. Herring Gulls: 2,500 (peak) March 7, MFWR (WEB). Bonaparte's Gull: one Dec 1 (late) Sen L (JB).

Mourning Doves: wintered in scattered flocks; largest numbers reported 30-50 at feeders in Freeville and 25-30 n of Trumansburg. Barn Owl: one only, March 8, n of Ithaca, (JH). Great Horned Owl: nest on Route 13 near Etna, again occupied mid-February. Snowy Owl: only one, Feb 1, s of Ithaca, (GAS).

Swifts — Shrikes: Yellow-shafted Flicker: more than usual reports of wintering birds; three or four at Keuka; one or two near Reading; three or four at Ithaca, including one regularly at feeders at SWS. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 4-6 wintered in Ithaca area alone; this species is on increase. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: a pair wintered on Cornell campus, spending most time along Fall Creek in vicinity of Triphammer Bridge, first seen Jan 11 (JH). Phoebe: two wintered at Keuka (most unusual), one bird blind in one eye (FG); first spring arrivals: March 20, Odessa (BS); March 21, Ithaca (LC). Horned Larks: small numbers all winter, increase noted in mid-February. Most except residents left March 4, with melting of snow and temperature rise. Tree Swallows: 14 March 25, (first), East Varick, (WEB); after that, moved in slowly in small numbers. Blue Jays: maintaining fairly high numbers, but no marked increase this year.

Crows: While more were reported wintering at Hornell (WG) they were almost absent from Montezuma, where the big roost is no longer in existence; small numbers returning by mid-February. Red-breasted Nuthatch: wintered in unusual numbers — 8 or 9 at Keuka, for ex. At least a dozen at feeders in Ithaca area. Winter Wrens: practically absent. Mockingbird: two in Ithaca; one at Aurora (for fifth winter); one near Hector. Catbird: on Feb 1 at Bardeen farm, Burdett; one at several feeders on Slaterville Road, se of Ithaca in January and February (unusual). Robins: returned in early March; during snow of March 11, 30 were seen feeding on sumac on Snyder Hill, Ithaca. This is considered starvation food. Hermit Thrush: two wintered, one, SWS; one, Cayuga Heights, Ithaca. Bluebirds: Half a dozen reports the last week of March are encouraging, and two pairs were apparently beginning to nest (DGA, OSP). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: rare in winter, one, Jan 11-Feb 11 at Darling feeder, at Rock Stream, then found dead. Northern Shrike: one only, w side Cay L, mid-December and again in mid-January. Migrant Shrike (first): March 25, near Watkins Glen (BS).

Warblers — Sparrows: Myrtle Warblers: three or four wintered in Stewart Park, Ithaca, as has been the case in last few years. House Sparrow: some drop in numbers at feeders, widely noted. E. Meadowlark: small flocks

noted through December, then disappeared; one flock of 12, Big Flats, Jan 18 (AF); large numbers migrants, March 18, (BS). Grackles and Red-wings: arrived in numbers March 6-8. Brown-headed Cowbirds: after scarcity of fall, and almost no wintering birds, these returned in numbers March 11 and 12; in two weeks, almost 100 were trapped and banded in my yard as compared with 15-20 most years. Cardinals: as wide-spread as usual but in smaller numbers at feeders than last few years. Dickcissel: one, Dec 3, for three weeks, Dryden (PK). Evening Grosbeaks: Peaked in January and February (over 600 banded in Etna), declined in March; they were common at Keuka, where some invasions have not reached in the past. Purple Finches: a few all winter, numbers began arriving third week February, peaked first week March, but not in numbers of March '63. Pine Grosbeaks: Only three reports: three, Dec 13, w of Elmira (PAB); 20, Dec 27, Cornell campus, (DD); "few" Feb 5, near Caroline, (JS). Common Redpolls: almost none; small flock, Feb 27 Highland Road, Ithaca (HJ). Pine Siskins: small numbers in numerous locations, some coming to feeders. American Goldfinch: In numbers everywhere, at feeders, increased in early March. Crossbills: both species present, White-winged outnumbered Red 6:1 until March, when White-wings left, Reds remained, and began coming to feeders in small numbers; only part of region where uncommon was Geneva-Waterloo. Rufous-sided Towhee: one or two wintered. Tree Sparrows: flocks of up to 150 reported, and many more at Ithaca feeders than in some years. White-crowned Sparrow: (rare winterer): two individuals in December and early January. Fox Sparrow: one wintered, Elmira; five wintered at Hornell; one (first arrival) March 7, SWS (AL). Swamp Sparrow: two wintered, Ithaca area. Song Sparrow: usual numbers wintered; migrants in good numbers second week in March. Lapland Longspurs: very few records. Snow Buntings: very few and no large flocks, except at Geneva and Waterloo where reported "abundant" (JW).

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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December was generally cold, but seldom very cold, with zero or near zero temperatures only four mornings. It never snowed very hard, but it seemed to fall almost constantly so we entered January with 10-11 inches on the ground. Although the 15th was the coldest day of the winter at —10 degrees January was above normal in temperature and also in snowfall, the latter being more than twice normal with more than half of it falling the 13th. February was on the cold side with normal precipitation. The first nine days of March were very warm. The 5th was the first day when there was less than 1 inch of snow on the ground at Binghamton after 84 consecutive days with an inch or more. The rapid melting plus considerable rain, particularly on the 10th, caused extensive flooding from the rivers. Weather the rest of the month was near normal, although the lowest temperature of the month was reserved for its very last day.

Whether in spite of the weather or because of it the list of "semihardies" reported was long, and some like Robins, Cowbirds, White-throated Sparrows and Song Sparrows were reported frequently. Indeed, few of the land bird "possibles" were entirely missing. The "winter finch" situation was very similar, with just about everything reported although most of them in small numbers. Evening Grosbeaks were here in impressive numbers, although not quite up to the expectations of this writer, at least. White-winged Crossbills put on a real show in December, and suffered some rather heavy casualties from cars while after salt along the roads, but seemed to fade out of most areas after the first of the year. Goldfinch numbers were also high. Even with such a varied background a Bohemian Waxwing report and no less than three Dickcissels stand out.

The waterfowl migration got off to a good start and included our first record of a European Widgeon in the region. Possibly coincidentally, and