

noted through December, then disappeared; one flock of 12, Big Flats, Jan 18 (AF); large numbers migrants, March 18, (BS). Grackles and Redwings: 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

possibly not, this spring starts a new era in which the water behind the Whitney Point Flood Control Dam is being maintained at a higher level to provide a more desirable area for recreation and wildlife. It was already one of the very few good areas in the region for observing waterfowl, but it appears to have been improved.

Contributors: PB — Philip Beihl, LB — Leslie Bemont, BB — Bradford Burgher, RB — Robert Buriand, GC — Gail Corderman, WC — Warren Corderman, AC — Al Christopher, M, AD — Marilyn & Anna Davis, LD — Louise Dean, RD — Robert Dirig, AE — A. Evelein, CG — Clinton Gerould, SG — Silena Gorton, JG — John Gustafson, MH — Mrs. Myrtie Hills, CH — Claude Howard, EH — Mrs. Eleanor Howe, PK — Paul Kelsey, FL — Florence Linaberry, SL — Stanley Lincoln, HM — Harriet Marsi, MM — Mary Middaugh, LN — Les Newman, JO — Jack Osadchey, RP — Robert Pantle, FQ — Fern Quick, R, JS — Robert & Jean Saunders, MS — Mary Sheffield, AS — Anne Stratton, LS — Lois Stone, E, NW — Elizabeth & Newell Washburn, DW — Don Weber, MW — Mildred White, R, SW — Ruth & Sally White, CW — Connie Wilkins, EW — Mrs. Evelyn Williams, RW — Ruth Williams, SW — Stuart Wilson, HW — Herbert Wisner.

Abbreviations: BCC — Binghamton Christmas Count; OCC — Owego Christmas Count; Br — Bridge; Co — County; n — north; s — south; SGF — Sherburne Game Farm; Skan — Skaneateles.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: 2, Dec 21 (JO), the only report. Horned Grebe: 1, Jan 21, Owego (CG); 2, Jan 29, Skan Lake (JO); no others. Pied-billed Grebe: Dec 21, Skan Lake (JG), the only winter record; Mar 22, Chenango Br (HM, CG), the first spring report. Great Blue Heron: Dec 15, Oneonta (RB); Dec 21, Skan Lake (JG); 1, Dec 29 on the BCC; Jan 18, Owego (CG); spring records start Mar 7. Whistling Swan: 14, Nov 28, Chenango, Cortland Co (JO). Canada Goose: Dec 21, Homer (JG); 1, Dec 27, Binghamton (LB), probably a cripple; 340 in 5 flocks Mar 5, Ingraham Hill s of Binghamton (CH), the first migrants and the beginning of a rather heavy, regionwide, 4 day wave; next reported Mar 14 and then regularly to the end of the month with particularly large numbers Mar 17-18 and Mar 25-26. Mallard: 300 at SGF Jan 18 (R, SW) and 115 elsewhere in the region for the Census represents the winter population well; migrants starting Mar 7 with numbers increasing slowly from then on. Black Duck: 75, SGF, Jan 18 (R, SW) and 45 elsewhere for Waterfowl Census but 65 on BCC; migrants from Mar 7. Gadwall: Mar 17, Chenango Bridge (HM); Mar 26, Whitney Point (HM, CG, FL). Pintail: 3, Mar 8, Sherburne (R, SW); same date, Smithboro Flats (RW). Green-winged Teal: Mar 16, Chenango Br (HM, FL). Blue-winged Teal: Mar 22, Smithboro Flats (RW), abnormally early. European Widgeon: 1, Mar 28, Whitney Point (MS), red head, buff crown, pinkish front, white line on side and white in front of tail, blue bill, through 25X scope at 300 ft.; Mar 29, same place (MS, R, SW). American Widgeon: 2, Mar 13, Homer (JG). Wood Duck: Mar 7, Candor (DW), no more until Mar 27. Redhead: Dec 21, Skan Lake (JG), 60-75 there during Jan; migrants Mar 7, Candor (DW) and Mar 14, Chenango Br (GC, WC). Ring-necked Duck: Dec 21, Skan Lake (JG); 2, Mar 7, Norwich (R, SW). Canvasback: Dec 21, Skan Lake (JG), 28-90 there during Jan; migrants Mar 26 at Whitney Point (PK et al). Scaup sp : Jan 24, Skan Lake (JG). Greater Scaup: Mar 13, Whitney Point (RW) and Lesser Scaup: Mar 13, Whitney Point (HM) were most likely the same birds: many other Lesser reports. Common Goldeneye: 75 on Waterfowl Census close to total winter population; migrants Mar 19. Bufflehead: Mar 22, Whitney Point (RW), the only report. Old Squaw: Mar 26, Whitney Point (PK), the only report. Ruddy Duck: 3, Mar 29, Whitney Point (MS), the only report. Hooded Merganser: Mar 8, Smithboro Flats (RW), quite a few reports. Common Merganser: 66 on Waterfowl Census seems low for winter population as compared to previous years; numbers increasing from Mar 13. Red-breasted Merganser: Jan 18, Owego (MW, CG); 5, Mar 13, Skan Lake (JO).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: 1, Mar 14, Afton (R, SW); 1, Mar

15, Hancock (RD); also at Cortland and Deposit. Goshawk: Feb 22, Choconut Center n or Johnson City (MS), a good look at gray back, pearly breast and white eye line, through binoculars at about 120 foot distance. Sharp-shinned Hawk: Dec 1, Homer (JG); 1, Mar 21, Ingraham Hill (CH); the only reports during the period. Cooper's Hawk: reported more frequently. Red-tailed Hawk: fairly frequent reports in Dec and Mar; fewer in Jan and Feb. Red-shouldered Hawk: Dec 29, on both OCC and BCC; Jan 26, Cortland (AC); Mar 1, Endwell (HM). Broad-winged Hawk: Mar 30, South Owego (CG), abnormally early and no details. Rough-legged Hawk; more reports than usual from throughout region; 8, Mar 15, between Willet and Smithville Flats (R, SW), all visible at one time. Bald Eagle: 1, Mar 7, Whitney Point (MS), this one made the newspapers several times during the month; 2, Mar 20, Cortland (LN); also Mar 20, Owego (EH). Marsh Hawk: Dec 14, Owego (MH); Mar 15, Whitney Point (HM, GC), best numbers in several years. Osprey: 1, Dec 22, Oxford (AS), no additional information; Mar 23, Whitney Point (MW, CG), abnormally early and no additional information. Pigeon Hawk: Mar 17, Worcester, Otsego Co (RB), no additional information; 1, Mar 25, Ingraham Hill (CH), a small gray falcon without the facial marking or rusty tail and back of a Sparrow Hawk, and also a noticeably different flight pattern.

Bobwhite: reported at Candor throughout the period (AE). Turkey: Jan 8, Candor (DW); 1 male and 3 females, Jan 10 to 22, near Unadilla (HW). Am. Coot: 1 or 2 on Skan Lake in Jan (JG, JO). Killdeer: 1, Jan 23, Norwich (R, SW); spring migrants Mar 5, Owego (EW) and Endwell (LB). Am. Woodcock: Mar 14, Castle Creek (BB); fairly generally distributed after Mar 20. Common Snipe: 1, Mar 14, Hancock (RD); at Cortland and Chenango Br soon after. Herring Gull: all winter along rivers as usual. Ring-billed Gull: "many" wintered at Cortland (JG); migrants Mar 4, Endwell (HM); 120, Mar 17, Owego (SL), largest concentration so far. Mourning Dove: 40 or more, all winter, E. Homer (Mrs. Whatley); numerous other Dec reports, few in Jan or Feb; migrants from Mar 9. Barn Owl: Dec 21, Homer (JG). Screech Owl: not many. Horned Owl: frequent reports. Snowy Owl: Jan 3, Cortland (LS). Saw-whet Owl: Feb 28, Hinmans Corners (R, JS), heard by several other observers thereafter, last time Mar 23; 1, Mar 24, Homer (JG).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Belted Kingfisher: the usual few wintered, scarce in Feb. Yellow-shafted Flicker: Dec 24, Choconut Center (MS), eating suet; several other Dec reports including both OCC and BCC; Jan. 28, Owego (AE) then no more until Mar 20, Cortland (CW). Pileated Woodpecker: reported fairly frequently from various parts of the region: 1 was shot near Freetown in Cortland Co when it was caught tearing into a barn; in Endwell one kept returning to a suburban back yard in a well populated area to work over a large pine. Red-headed Woodpecker: Dec 29, 1 on OCC (AE) and also 1 on Binghamton Count, but no other reports during period. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Mar 27, Owego (AE). Phoebe: 1, Mar 22, Oneonta (RB); almost everywhere by Mar 25. Horned Lark: a few all winter, as usual, at Owego and Binghamton; moderate sized flocks appeared around Cortland and Norwich in early Feb. Tree Swallow: Mar 25, Owego (MW). Purple Martin: 2, Mar 25 and 6, Mar 27, Owego (MH), some cold weather casualties followed, no details of identification supplied.

Blue Jay: not as abundant as last year, but still plentiful; at Deposit 30 banded and 115 returns to Mar 1 (SW). Boreal Chickadee: 2, Feb 25, Owego (Mrs. H. Colby), still coming to feeder at end of Mar. Black-capped Chickadee: "uncommonly common" at Deposit where 115 were banded (SW); 29 more banded at Unadilla (HW). Tufted Titmouse: reported at several feeders in the Deposit, Hancock and Triple Cities areas. Red-breasted Nuthatch: more than usual this winter at Cortland, Deposit and in the Triple Cities area and also reported from Owego and Norwich; at Freetown about a half dozen were trained to feed from the hand (AC). Brown Creeper: reported in usual small numbers all winter; Mar 1, singing at Hinman's Corners (MS). Mockingbird: 1 at Unadilla, seen off and on from Jan 1 to about Jan 18 and again Mar 9 to Mar 16 (HW); 1, Johnson City, until

Jan 31 (Barrett). Brown Thrasher: 3, Dec 29, BCC; also reported on OCC the same day. Robin: numerous winter reports, but not large numbers; migrants appeared around Mar 4 to 7. Hermit Thrush: Dec 13, Owego (MW); 1, Dec 29, BCC. Bluebird: 1, Dec 2, flying due north, calling (SW); Feb 28, Owego (MW); Mar 2, Owego (AE); Mar 7, Candor (RP); generally distributed after Mar 15. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1, Feb 15, Vestal (SL). Bohemian Waxwing: 6, Mar 8, Chenango Forks (M, AD); two white wing patches, larger, darker and grayer than Cedar Waxwing. Cedar Waxwing: medium sized flocks throughout the period at Owego, Cortland and in the Triple Cities area; largest flock, 200 at Scott, Cortland Co, Feb 14 (JO). Northern Shrike: 2 Dec reports and 7 Mar reports from Hancock, Triple Cities and Whitney Point. Loggerhead Shrike: 1, Mar 27, South Owego (MW, CG) black over bill, clear or grayish underparts, slightly drooping wings and flicking tail, from 15 feet with binoculars for about 5 minutes; 1, Mar 28, Chenango Br (SG), watched for 20 minutes, no "streaks" on breast, bill solid black and black marking over top of bill.

Warblers — Vireos: Myrtle Warbler: 1, Dec 9, Deposit (SW); 1, Jan 1, Newark Valley (PB); Mar 9, Sidney (FQ); Mar 22, Candor (DW). Bay-breasted Warbler: 1, Dec 1 and again Dec 5, Oxford (AS) apparently looking for food around feeder; extremely late, no further details so far.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Meadowlark: Dec 21, Cortland (Mrs. Lester Barber); Dec 22, Deposit (SL); 1, Dec 26, Unadilla (HW); Jan 17, Endwell (HM, FL); also at Owego during winter months; migrants from Mar 6. Red-winged Blackbird: quite a few winter records; numerous migrants from Mar 6; first females Mar 18. Baltimore Oriole: 1, coming to feeder with Evening Grosbeaks all winter at Nichols (AE). Rusty Blackbird: 1, 2 and 1, Dec 14, 15 and 16 respectively, Endwell (E, NW); 1, at feeder all winter, Owego (MW); 1, on and off during winter at Newark Valley (LD); migrants Mar 14, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Common Grackle: quite a few feeders in the Triple Cities and Owego areas had occasional visits from singles during the winter; also one Dec 29 report from Cortland; migrants Mar 8. Brown-headed Cowbird: 50 or more, Dec 1 and daily in erratically varying numbers from 1 to 30 until Jan 12, Unadilla (HW); 50 or more, Dec 29, Cortland (Mrs. Lester Barber); small numbers at many feeders scattered throughout the region all winter; migrants from Mar 8 on.

Cardinal: reported regularly almost everywhere in the region now; 14 at one time, Feb 9, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Dickcissel: 1, Dec 4 to 22 several times, and again Mar 13 to 31, Chenango Br (SG); 1, Dec 29, Cortland (CW); 1, Mar 10, Binghamton (H. Perry, W. Bartle). Evening Grosbeak: present everywhere in large numbers but not quite up to the numbers of some past peak years. Purple Finch: present everywhere, but in small numbers — a few more between Feb 9 and Mar 19 but then numbers dropped again. Pine Grosbeak: scattered reports all period, generally of from 1 to 10 birds; 20 or so, Jan 28 and 30, Hancock (RD); 35, Jan 31, Norwich (R, SW). Redpoll: scattered reports of very small numbers all period; a little more frequent from Mar 11 to 19 at Binghamton; 30, Jan 19, Norwich (R, SW), the only flock of any size reported all winter. Pine Siskin: scattered reports of small to moderate flocks during Dec; none from Dec 29 to Jan 28; then regular to the end of the period but never in very large numbers. Goldfinch: regular in some numbers all winter. Red Crossbill: quite a few reports in Dec in moderate numbers; last reported Jan 17, South Owego (EW). White-winged Crossbill: large numbers in much of the region during Dec; 100 or more, Dec 8, Sherburne (R, SW) and 89 on the BCC, Dec 29; present at Unadilla (Carpenter) and Cortland (JG) through Feb; 1, Mar 1 to 6, Deposit (SW), banded. Rufous-sided Towhee: Dec 29 and Jan 8, Owego (DW, CG); Mar 30, Cortland (CW); 1, a regular visitor at a feeder in E. Worcester (RB). Vesper Sparrow: 1, Dec 29, Chenango Br (LB); Feb 5, S. Owego (CG); 1, early Feb, at a feeder in Homer (M. Steinbeck). Slate-colored Junco: the usual small numbers wintering throughout the region, including some in the hills around Norwich where they are not so usual in the winter (R, SW); migrants swelled numbers starting about Mar 1.

Oregon Junco: Dec 7 and Jan 3, Oneonta (RB); 1, Dec 10 and 11, Afton (Mrs. C. Kessler), brown back, darker head and pink sides from about seven feet through a window in good light. Field Sparrow: 2, Dec 21, Cortland (CW); 1, Dec 22 and 29 and Jan 23, Glenwood Cemetery in Binghamton (MS, et al); 1, Feb 22, Vestal (SL); Mar 23 and 24, Castle Creek (BB); also 1, on and off during winter, Newark Valley (LD). White-crowned Sparrow: 1, Dec 21 and Jan 4, Hancock (RD); 1, Jan 13, Binghamton (Mrs. Warren Jennings). White-throated Sparrow: many feeders in region had 1 or 2 all winter. Fox Sparrow: 1, Dec 4, Cortland (CW); 2, Dec 21, Sidney (HW); 1, Dec 29, BCC; Jan 28 at feeder in Owego and remained for rest of the period; migrants from Mar 7 and quite numerous. Swamp Sparrow: Dec 21, Homer (JG); 1, Dec 29, Chenango Br (LB); Mar 28, Hancock (RD). Song Sparrow: a few everywhere all winter and must have added up to a quite considerable number; Feb 25, Homer (JG), singing: migrants really noticeable from about Mar 15. Lapland Longspur: Mar 7, Oneonta (RB). Snow Bunting: a few small flocks after Dec 29; 100, Feb 9, Sanitaria Springs (E, NW) and 100, Feb 14, Freetown (AC), the largest: 75, Mar 8, Ingraham Hill (CH), the last.
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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DAVID B. PEAKALL AND MARGARET S. RUSK

December was extremely cold; otherwise temperatures were around normal except for a short warm spell in early March, which brought the first landbird influx. Snowfall was low, except in December, and total precipitation was 30% below normal. Most of the winter was considerably more sunny than usual.

The outstanding feature of the season was the fine varied winter finch flights. The invasion of White-winged Crossbill was especially noteworthy. Waterfowl census figures were slightly higher than last year but still lower than average. Numbers of wintering hawks were low.

Abbreviations: BBFS — Dr. Ben Burtt's feeder survey, held the first week of each month; figures cited are per 100 reports; CC — Christmas Count, Syracuse's on Dec 22, Oswego Dec 29, and Oneida Jan 1; HIGMA — Howlands Island Game Management Area; Onon — Onondaga; RSP — Rome Sand Plains; Skan — Skaneateles; Syr — Syracuse; WFC — Waterfowl Count, held Jan 18-26; L — Lake; R — River; arr — arrived; max — maximum.

Regular observers: DA — Dorothy Ackley; JB — Jon Bart; GMC — Gerald and Marge Church; DD — Dorothy Dawley; C, EF — Charles and Esther Farham; GG — George Gage; JH — John Haugh; JP — Jean Propst; CS — Christian Spies; BS — Betty Starr; IS — Ina Stone.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: singles at Baldwinsville and Oswego on WFC, neither wintered. Horned Grebe: 22 on WFC, back into the normal range after last year's low count. Pied-billed Grebe: singles wintered at Baldwinsville, Pheonix, and Oswego. Great Blue Heron: no wintering records; (first) Fulton, Feb 29.

Whistling Swan: four Onon L Mar 7 (JP), five Otisco Mar 24 (JP), two HIGMA Mar 26 (GG), and two over Syracuse Mar 27 (R. Seaman). Canada Goose: first main flight noted in several parts of the Region Mar 6-7; about 9000 in evening flight, Seneca R flats Mar 30. Snow Goose: one, Seneca R near Baldwinsville Mar 8 (JP). Mallard and Black: total numbers wintering were low due to less artificial feeding. Counts of Mallard (194)