

reports are from feeders. All Mar migrant icterids were delayed and it wasn't until Mar 26-28 that numbers more suggestive of the average Mar appeared, about two weeks late. Estimates Mar 30 at the Jamestown Roost are as follows: Redwinged Blackbird-500, Rusty Blackbird-500 (equals previous max spring count), Common Grackle-200, Brown-headed Cowbird-1000 (CMB).

Evening Grosbeak: six, Jan 2 (SCC); one, Jan 24, Hamburg (TLB); five, Feb 9 and one, Feb 13-14, Friendship (RLN); 12, Feb 26, Richburg, Alleg Co (LJ)—only definite reports all winter; other reports coming to our attention indicate a very limited early Feb movement. Purple Finch: scarce with a "brief and light, but definite movement about the second week of Feb" (HHA); max 16, Mar 20-21, Jamestown area (GGW et al). Common Redpoll: two, Mar 25, Chestnut Ridge Park (TLB)—only report. Pine Siskin: two, Jan 2 (SCC) and six, Mar 11, Wellsville (LDB)—only reports. Rufous-sided Towhee: one male, Dec 14-Mar 31, Rensch Rd, Amherst (RCR et al); 9 other reports of single birds from 8 locations—far more winter reports than usual. Field Sparrow: one, Dec 4, Hamburg (TLB); one, Jan 1-23 (EO) and Jan 4 (LDB), Belmont; one, Jan 23, Pt. Stockholm (KOS); one, Feb 28, Chaut Lk Outlet (AC et al)—more winter reports than usual. **Harris's Sparrow**: one imm male at feeder of Mr. and Mrs. William Kranz, Pleasant Ave, Lake View, Erie Co; first identified Jan 16 (RFA) but reported to have arrived in mid Dec; observed and photographed by many observers throughout period; this bird often sang. **White-crowned Sparrow**: unprecedented number of about 75-100 wintered at an abandoned nursery at Newfane, Nia Co (HHA, WHK et al); other winter reports—10 other reports of one to five birds from 4 locations—this bird becomes more common and widespread each winter. **White-throated Sparrow**: less common than last year. **Fox Sparrow**: one, Dec 5-15, Rensch Rd, Amherst (RCR et al); two, Dec 27, Jamestown area (JCC); one, Jan 15, Fluvanna (CMB). **Swamp Sparrow**: three, Jan 28, Chaut Lk Outlet (AC et al)—few recent winter records for southern tier. **Lapland Longspur**: apparently a fair late Feb-mid Mar flight; max 26, Feb 27, Somerset (RB et al) and 25, Mar 14, Shadigee (RCR et al). **Snow Bunting**: scarce all winter; most reports for Jan and Feb with max of 175, Jan 7 and 100, Feb 1, Wellsville (LDB) and 500, Feb 20, near Stockton, Chaut Co (EMP et al); definite movement occurred last week of Feb but almost no early Mar reports when they quite often are the most abundant.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

ALLEN E. KEMNITZER

The first month of the period started out like the beginning of a long, hard winter. However, a moderating trend developed and December actually averaged 0.9 degrees above normal temperature for the month and 3.4 inches below normal precipitation. January provided a generous amount of wintry weather with temperatures averaging below normal and precipitation above normal. While snow covered the ground during most of January and February, heavy accumulations did not occur. The last two months of the period recorded below average precipitation. An early spring seemed indicated during the first two weeks of March, but this brief spell of mildness did not last and most ponds and bays remained frozen to the last days of the period with March temperatures averaging 2.8 degrees below normal.

The severe winter weather of early December pushed out, or otherwise eliminated, many of the late migrating or lingering species. Flights of northern finches never developed. The Christmas Census, held on Dec 27, resulted in a species count considerably lower than last year's. It was a "Snowy Owl year" locally, with a number of individuals remaining in the area for the entire period. Along the west lakeshore, Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings were observed in increasing numbers during the last week of January. Larger numbers than usual of Cedar Waxwings appeared quite widespread throughout the area during the latter part of February and early March. Small scattered flights of Canada Geese, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, Mourning Doves, and Robins took place during the first week of March announcing the beginning of spring migration. This was interrupted by colder than average weather for the remainder of the month and the period ended with the migration of many species far behind schedule.

Among the outstanding birds reported during the winter season were: Eared Grebe, Surf Scoter, Common Scoter, Gyrfalcon, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Little Gull, Boreal Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Nashville Warbler, and Oregon Junco.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: BB—Braddock's Bay; CL—Conesus Lake; DEP—Durand-Eastman Park; GR—Genesee River; HSP—Hamlin State Park; IB—Irondequoit Bay; L—Lakeshore; OB—Oklahoma Beach; PB—Point Breeze; RS—Russell Station; SB—Sodus Bay; WL—West Lakeshore; WP—Webster Park.

Names of observers used in the text: SB—Stephen Barnes; WEB—Walter E. Benning; GD—(Mrs.) Gertrude Davis; JF—John Foster; WH—William Hartranft; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitzer; BK—(Mrs.) Beatrice Kemnitzer; JWK—(Mrs.) J. W. Kennedy; GL—(Dr.) Gerhard Leubner; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WL—Warren Lloyd; RM—Ruth MacRae; AM—Alfred Maley; RGM—Robert G. McKinney; JM—Joseph McNett; TM—Thelma McNett; MM—Marianne Menuhin; HSM—Howard S. Miller; LM—(Mrs.) Laura Moon; NM—(Dr.) Neil Moon; WM—(Dr.) William Muchmore; FM—(Mrs.) Frances Munson; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; HRS—(Mrs.) H. R. Smith; AS—Alfred Starling; ES—(Mrs.) Esther Stiles; MS—Maryanne Sunderlin; ST—Stephen Taylor; FT—Frank Templeton; TT—Thomas Tetlow.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: one, CL on Jan 2 (WCL et al). Red-throated Loon: one at IB, Dec 19 (AEK), remained in the area about three weeks, observed for the last time, Jan 9 (AEK, RGM). Red-necked Grebe: singles reported from several locations, after having been unusually scarce during the fall season; one at Kendall, Dec 12 (AEK); one at WP, Dec 13 (AEK, HSM, et al); one at OB, Dec 19 (AEK, ST, et al); one at SB, Dec 20 (MM, ES). Horned Grebe: relatively scarce. **Eared Grebe:** one at CL on Jan 1 (WCL) was observed under favorable conditions; on the following day, the Christmas Census, the Eared Grebe could not be found. Pied-billed Grebe: one, Dec 19-Jan 1, at IB (AEK); one, Jan 9, at SB (AEK, RGM); one, Jan 24, on GR (JD, HSM).

Three Mute Swans were reported from PB, Jan 30 (AEK). They were observed in the outlet channel of Oak Orchard Creek for two months and were noted with a fourth Mute Swan on March 28 (BK, AEK). The origin or status of these swans as feral birds was not known at this writing. Canada Goose: migrating flocks appeared along the west lakeshore the first week in March, although most ponds and bays remained frozen throughout March. Gadwall: two, Jan 2, CL (WCL et al). American Widgeon: four, Jan 2, CL (WCL et al). Ring-necked Duck: one, Jan 24, GR (JD, HSM). Canvasback: eighty-two, SB, on Mar 14 (WL, MS). Numbers of Canvas-

backs and Redheads began to build up at SB near the end of the period. The numbers of White-winged Scoters wintering on L Ontario seemed about average. One Surf Scoter was reported from Nine Mile Point, Feb 14 (JF, AM), and one Common Scoter was reported from SB, Jan 20 (MM, ES). Hooded Merganser: sixteen at IB, Dec 27 (WL, RM).

Hawks — Owls: Accipiters scarce. No Goshawks reported. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was at OB, Dec 19 (HSM, AS, ST) and another was reported from Penfield, Jan 30 (GD). A Cooper's Hawk was observed at DEP, Jan 30 (SB, AS). Although some hawks were reported moving along the lakeshore in March, good flights of early accipiters and buteos did not materialize during the month of March. Bald Eagle: two, mature, Jan 2, Little Lakes Christmas Census (JF, WL); one, mature, Feb 17, reported from Canandaigua Lake (HRS); one, mature, found dead, Mar 7, at Scottsville. The most outstanding record for the period was the observation of a white-phase **Gyr Falcon** at Clyde on Mar 7 (WEB), about ten days after the sighting of a white-phase Gyr Falcon at Ithaca. An excellent verification report of the Clyde record was received. Sparrow Hawk: scarce during most of the period; more numerous in March.

Killdeer: four at IB, Dec 13 (AEK); two at CL, Jan 2 (WCL); one at RS, Jan 10 (WL). One **Red Phalarope** was at IB Outlet, Dec 13, 19, 20 (AEK, MS, et al). A most unusual December record was the observation of an immature **Pomarine Jaeger**, Dec 24, on IB (JF, AM, TM). Identification was based on direct size comparison with Ring-billed Gull and on the strong, direct flight. Observers are familiar with Parasitic Jaeger. A few white-winged gulls were present throughout the period, maximum numbers occurring during the second half of February. Glaucous Gull: four at IB, Feb 17 (WL, MS). Iceland Gull: three at IB, Feb 17 (WL, MS); four, L, Feb 29 (JD, ST). A mature Little Gull was at the IB Outlet among a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls, on the Christmas census Dec 27 (AEK, FT). Snowy Owl: noted in several locations during most of the winter; highest count for any one location was five at BB, Dec 12 (WCL). At HSP, a Long-eared Owl was reported Jan 24 (JF). There were very few reports of Short-eared Owls. A rare **Boreal Owl** was observed near the Lakeshore Golf Club, Feb 24-26 (AEK, RTO, et al)—see page 75. Saw-whet Owl: unreported.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Two Red-headed Woodpeckers were at Mt. Hope Cemetery during Dec and Jan (AM). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one, all winter, Palmyra (WH); one, Dec 7-31, Irondequoit (LM, NM); one, Jan 16-31, Irondequoit (JWK). Horned Larks greatly increased in numbers along the lakeshore after the middle of January. Mockingbird: one, Feb 6, at Nine Mile Point (MM, ES). A Catbird was observed at Powder Mill Park, Dec 5 (GOS Hike). Brown Thrasher: one at Penfield, Jan 5 (HSM); another at Greece, Jan 5-26 (several observers). Hermit Thrush: one, Dec 27, Seneca Park (AM, TT); one, Jan 30, HSP (SB, WCL, AS). The Ruby-crowned Kinglet showed up on both local area Christmas Censuses: one at IB, Dec 27 (WL, RW) and one at Honeoye lake, Jan 2 (AS). Bohemian Waxwings: unreported. Cedar Waxwings: many flocks, ranging in size from just a few waxwings to large groups of two hundred to two hundred fifty, appeared throughout most of the area during late February; many were observed to be feeding on the remains of last year's bumper crop of Mountain Ash berries. The numbers of Northern Shrike present all winter seemed somewhat above normal. Some were still being reported as the period ended. Loggerhead Shrike: an early migrant, unreported at the end of March.

Vireos — Sparrows: A very late Nashville Warbler was carefully studied at Newark and was present from Dec 13-23 (ES). Fewer Rusty Blackbirds than usual wintered over; three were reported at Penfield, Jan 30 (GD). A

Common Grackle was at Penfield, Dec 27 (RGM) and an unusually large flock of one hundred Brown-headed Cowbirds was reported from Rochester, Feb 15 (WM). Evening Grosbeaks: scarce; two, DEP, Dec 27 (GL, LM, NM) and three at the same location, Jan 30 (SB, AS). Purple Finch: few reports for the period; nine at HSP, Feb 28 (WL, RM). A Rufous-sided Towhee spent most of the winter at a Webster feeder area (JM, TM). An Oregon Junco was at West Webster from the first day to the last day of the period (AEK, BK) and was joined by a second of its species during January and February. An Oregon Junco was at Pultneyville, Feb 6 (MM, ES) and another was reported from Webster on Feb 28 (WL). A Field Sparrow was observed at a Penfield feeder, Jan 3 (FM, et al). Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting numbers were down all period. A pronounced, but brief, flight took place near the end of January. Sixty-four Lapland Longspurs and one hundred ten Snow Bunting were reported along WL, Jan 30 (AEK).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

This was one of the most open winters we have had in some time. Snow accumulation was small, and at no time did more than six or eight inches cover the ground. Combined with the drought of the summer and fall, this resulted in such low water levels in ponds and streams that most small bodies of water froze early, although low temperatures were not extreme. The large lakes had less ice than usual. Montezuma began opening in early March, refroze briefly the third week, was fully open on April 2.

The Snowy Owl and Rough-legged Hawk invasion reached only the northern part of this Region, and there were almost no reports of these in the southern section. It was as poor a year for winter finches as last year was rich. We had to be satisfied with scattered individuals of most, except for a handful of Goldfinches at some feeders. No Crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks, or Lapland Longspurs reported.

A female Barrow's Goldeneye appearing for the third winter and a Lesser Black-backed Gull for the second in the Cayuga Basin, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Elmira for the first time, were noteworthy. Outstanding bird of the year, however, was the immature white-phase Gyrfalcon at Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary on Feb. 24. (See body of report, field note to appear in July issue.)

Killdeer, Song Sparrows, blackbirds, geese, ducks and Horned Larks were conspicuous in migration on and around March 6.

Again at least one partial albino Canada Goose was noted at MNWR, as well as another bird which appeared to be a hybrid Canada-Snow. This bird, carefully observed by Walter Benning and John Morse, had a head and neck quite similar to a Blue Goose, while the body was that of a Canada. It was the size of the largest of the Canadas. A complete description is on file.

Places mentioned: Cay L—Cayuga Lake; Sen L—Seneca Lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

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The Kingbird