

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

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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

DM—Dorothy McIlroy; EM—Eugene Morton; DP—David Peakall; ER—Esther Ruggles; BS—Betty Strath; BST—Betty Starr; GAS—Gustav Swanson; MS—Mary Smith; WS—William Swallow; WRS—Walter R. Spofford; JW—Jayson Walker.

Loons — Ducks: Red-necked Grebe: three sightings of this rarer Grebe: one, Jan 10, Sen L (BS et al); one, Mar 14, Sen L (FG and ML); one Chemung River, Mar 28 (WH). Horned Grebes: 216 were found on waterfowl census weekend, of which 129 were on Sen L; this compares with census total of 122 in '64. Pied-billed Grebe: 8 on waterfowl census compared with 2 in '64. Great Blue Heron: several wintered; one, south end Cay L, until early Jan; one over Elmira airport at end of Dec; one, MNWR until it froze in Jan; one returned to Refuge Mar 28. Whistling Swan: continued recent increase during migration, turning up in more localities; most records last week in March: 6, Sen L; 25 Cay L; 70, Keuka L near Branchport; one, Canisteo River at Corning; one, Horseheads dump. Canada Goose: 106 at Stewart Park, Ithaca on Dec 15—high count for the last date. A few remained in Jan and Feb. On Mar 4, 185 at MNWR, as water began opening. These may have been mostly ones that winter in Finger Lakes. John Morse gives these figures for rest of month: 2000, Mar 11; 9000, Mar 18; 4000 Mar 25 (Refuge partly frozen again); 28,000, Mar 28. There were estimates of another 20,000-30,000 on Cay L at same time. Snow Geese: 150 and Blue Geese: 400, were high counts at end of March. Only one Brant reported, Sen L, last week of March.

First returning waterfowl (Widgeon) on Cay L last week February. Ducks first appeared at MNWR on Mar 18, as water opened. Mallard: the 2500 on waterfowl count was almost double last year's count; over 500 at SWS all winter. Black Ducks: increase noted on waterfowl census; 200 wintered at SWS, compared with 150 in '64. No Gadwalls or American Widgeon and only one Pintail (SWS) on waterfowl count, and Widgeon were scarce in migration on Keuka (FG). Pintail: three, Mar 27 MNWR (DP) compares with 1200 on same date a year ago. Green-winged Teal: Jan 15 and thereafter, Chemung River, Elmira; rare winterer. Wood Duck: three wintered at SWS; first spring arrivals, last week March. Redheads: although over-all count of Redheads for Finger Lakes was down this year, larger numbers appeared earlier on Cay L than usual; for ex., a large raft was seen at Farley's Point Dec 19 (DM); maximum on Cay L: 3300 on Mar 7 (WEB)—only 100 more than census count in early January. Ring-necked Duck: one (rare winterer) Cay L, Jan 16 (JK); 20 in Jan, Keuka L (FG); maximum, 100, MNWR, Mar 21; observers commented that more were seen in March this year than usual—single birds on small ponds everywhere. Canvasback: numbers were low on Cayuga and Seneca, on Jan census, above normal (300) on Keuka; however, 1200 were noted at north end of Cay L on Mar 27 (DP). Scaup: 50% decrease from '64 to '65 noted on Jan waterfowl census, and species remained relatively uncommon all winter. Common Goldeneye: approximately 1000 on waterfowl census was an increase this year. Barrow's Goldeneye: for the third year, a female was to be found with Common Goldeneyes near Sheldrake; first noted Jan 16 (JK). Bufflehead: count of 354 on January census (294 on Seneca) almost quadrupled the '64 count. White-winged Scoter: uncommon on Cay L; one noted in Jan and Feb near East Varick. The count of all three Mergansers was higher this year than in '64. Hooded Mergansers were reported in good numbers everywhere the last week of March.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture; first arrivals, last week in March. Goshawk: two or three sightings, Ithaca area, fewer than last year. Sharp-shinned Hawk: at least five individuals in Ithaca area, one of which died after being caught and held. Cooper's Hawk: two only; one, Jan 1, Ithaca, (Census); one, Jan 25, Elmira (MS). Red-tailed Hawk: one species that seems to be holding its own; more abundant, however, north of line midway across Finger Lakes than south of line. Rough-legged Hawk: half a

dozen sighted in southern half of region, slightly more common in northern half. **Golden Eagle**: one, flying high over Etna, Mar 27 (WRS); Spofford's attention was called to it by evident excitement of his captive Eagle. **Bald Eagle**: no reports during period. **Marsh Hawk**: two, Jan, Elmira area; two, Geneva area, Feb and Mar; one Ithaca area, Feb. No Peregrine reports. **Pigeon Hawk**: two reports, very unusual in area in winter; one, Dec 7, near SWS (HF); one, Feb 5, Forest Home, Ithaca (DM). **Sparrow Hawk**: scattered reports during period throughout area; Groesbeck noted increase in numbers last week March in Hornell area. **Gyr Falcon**: an immature white-phase individual spent 1½ hours at Sapsucker Woods on Feb 24, and was seen by numerous observers and photographed. On Mar 7, just north of Clyde, Benning saw what was probably the same bird (see Region 2 report). The next issue of the KINGBIRD will carry a complete account.

Bobwhite: very few reports, in view of the numbers released in area in last few years. **Turkey**: scattered reports in scattered areas indicated some spreading of this species. **Killdeer**: at least one wintered on Cay L. **American Woodcock**: arrived between Mar 25 and 28, ten days later than usual. **Common Snipe**: one wintered again at Clyde for 3rd year (WEB); no reports of others before Mar 31. **Glaucous Gull**: one, (a creamy bird) Dec 18, Stewart Park, Ithaca (DM); one (white), Feb 11, Stewart Park (DM); one, late March, very white bird, (probably 2nd year), Sen L, several observers. **Iceland Gull**: one, Mar 8, Stewart Park, Ithaca (DM). **Great Black-backed Gull**: max 26, Stewart Pk, Ithaca. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: for second successive winter at south end Cay L. First seen Dec 7 (DM). Regularly observed, through Mar 21. A different, and darker-backed individual of the species was seen at Elmira Jan 16 and Feb 17 (AF et al). Opportunities for close observation of leg color and size comparisons with Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls. **Franklin's Gull**: an adult in winter plumage, first seen Dec 8, Stewart Park, Ithaca (DM). Present for two weeks. Second record for Cay Basin.

Barn Owl: no reports. **Great Horned Owl**: several nests in Cay L Basin showed incubation in progress in late Feb. **Snowy Owl**: less than a dozen reports, all but one in northern half of region. **Short-eared Owl**: several, Jan. and Feb, Mud Lake road west of Sen L (JB); only one or two other reports. **Barred Owl**: the resident bird heard occasionally in SWS.

Swifts — Shrikes: **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: at least six at south end of Cay L. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: an imm. bird wintered at the Morey Nichols feeder, Interlaken, Rte. 89. Another (age?) was seen in Feb, Italy Hill (near Keuka) (fide FG). **Horned Larks**: wintered in numbers in Geneva area (JW); residents and migrants returning by third week Feb. **Blue Jay**: fewer complaints about large numbers at feeders, so perhaps a slight decline. **Raven**: (rare) one, Jan 28 Trumansburg, (WS). **Black-billed Magpie**: at feeders in Horseheads, Mar 25 and 26, photographed; no indication of recent captivity (Gleason and Hartman). **Boreal Chickadee**: one, Jan 2, Montour Falls (BS). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: single report all winter, in contrast with last few years. **Winter Wren**: only one, Jan 11, west side Skaneateles, (BST.). **Carolina Wren**: one only, all winter, Forest Home (EL). **Mockingbird**: four reports of wintering birds in Region. **Catbird**: one wintered, South Hill, Ithaca, Brosseau feeder. **Brown Thrasher**: one wintered, Freeville, Beck feeder. **Robins**: arrived in numbers in Ithaca area on Mar 28; very few wintered in spite of food and open weather. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: almost completely missing. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: one at Etna feeders, January. **Cedar Waxwing**: numerous reports of flocks. **Northern Shrike**: one, banded Jan 27, Etna (EM).

Warblers — Sparrows: **Myrtle Warbler**: only two reports of wintering Myrtles; usually a few in each part of Region. **Wintering Icterids** this

year included Meadowlarks in all areas, a few Redwinged Blackbirds, two Baltimore Orioles (one in Watkins Glen, and one in Dec in Ithaca) and many Cowbirds.

Rarely has there been a winter with no winter finches. Evening Grosbeaks were almost completely absent, as was last the case in '56-'57. Perhaps a dozen reports came in of one to 10 birds, in March—no more. There were almost no Purple Finches, no Redpolls, no Siskins, Crossbills, or Pine Grosbeaks. A few small Goldfinch flocks remained, and came to feeders. Tree Sparrows were more in evidence after Mar 15 than before—whether a reflection of a decrease of food in the fields, or simply of the beginning of northward migrations of those that had been farther south. Fewer White-throats wintered. Oregon Junco: one, Jan, Elmira (ER), one Montour Falls (BS). Snow Buntings: several hundred, Jan 24, south of Ithaca (GAS); one flock of 200, Feb 4, near Hornell (WMG).

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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It was a relatively warm and open winter, with all the sub-zero temperatures and persistent snow cover coming in January and the first week of February. In mid March, after the arrival of some early migrants there was a short period of below normal temperatures accompanied by snow that slowed the migration. No casualties were reported, but bluebirds, after being reported for 4 days, disappeared for about 10 days. The last 3 days of March were well below normal in temperature and migrants of a number of species such as Cowbirds, Grackles, Robins, Juncos and Fox Sparrows were present in large numbers, possibly the result of a "damming" effect of the cold weather.

The relative warmth prevented Skaneateles Lake from freezing over as it usually does, making it possible for several species of diving ducks to winter there for a change. Among raptors the winter belonged to the Rough-legged Hawks, although Red-tailed Hawks remained in some numbers and a Goshawk and two Pigeon Hawks seem noteworthy.

Among the "irregular" passerines only Cowbirds, Goldfinches and Cedar Waxwings were present in any real numbers during the heart of the winter. There were no reports of crossbills, but most other winter finches were reported at least once, although in drastically reduced numbers. Even Tree Sparrow numbers were well below normal. Hopefully this was due to bountiful supplies of natural foods in other areas. A side effect of such a dull winter is that it causes observers to stay home more willingly, making the reports even duller than the winter.

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Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: 3, Jan 10, on Delaware River at Shin-hopple for the Waterfowl Census (RD) and 4, Mar 14, flying over Skyline in Tioga Co. (CG, MW, RW)—only reports. Red-throated Loon: 1, Dec 27, Chenango Valley State Park (P. Kalka, Jr., P. Kalka, Sr., R&MS) for the Christmas Census; still in the same area the next day (R&SW); only the second reported in the Region in about 12 years. Horned Grebe: 1, caught