

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

December was warm and wet, with the ground bare much of the time. Because of these conditions, more than the usual number of half-hardy species lingered late. January was cold and set an alltime record for snow. A storm on January 23 brought 20 inches and a severe blizzard on January 30–February 2 buried the area under another 28 inches with severe drifting. The total fall for the month was over 60 inches. The rest of February and March produced below normal precipitation and the heavy snow cover disappeared without much flooding. Birds rushed to the feeders and except for the lingering half-hardy species did not seem to suffer unduly. Early March was mild and waterfowl appeared rather early with a good flight of both Whistling Swans and Canada Geese. There was a good early hawk flight March 18–19 although the Goshawk was not reported. Accompanying this was an early influx of the usual land birds. After this the weather turned colder with a temperature as low as 4° F on March 27. Very little migration took place from March 20 to the end of the period among the landbirds. Fair numbers of the wintering northern finches occurred, especially Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins. Outstanding birds reported included Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, King Eider, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Hoary Redpoll and Oregon Junco.

Observers listed in text: JWB—John W. Brown; WC—William Carlson; AC—Arlene Cornell; GD—Gertrude Davis; WD—William Dobson; JJD—James J. Doherty; MD—Michael Doherty; LD—Louella Drivness; JF—John Foster; RG—Richard Garnham; JH—Jeanne Haller; WH—William Hartranft; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitzer; EL—Edith Lank; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WL—Warren Lloyd; RM—Ruth MacRae; RGM—Robert G. McKinney; JM—Joseph McNett; TM—Thelma McNett; MM—Maryanne Menuhin; HSM—Howard S. Miller; JM—Jack Mitchell; LM—Laura Moon; NM—(Dr) Neil Moon; WM—(Dr) William Muchmore; DN—Donald Nelson; FP—Frank Phelps; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; NR—Nestor Ross; HS—Hugh Schaefer; OS—Oscar Schaefer; AS—Arthur Schaffner; ES—Esther Stiles; MS—Maryanne Sunderlin; ST—Stephen Taylor; FT—Frank Templeton; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow; PW—(Dr) Paul Weld; RW—Robert White.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock's Bay; CL—Conesus Lake; DEP—Durand-Eastman Park; ELS—East Lake Shore; GR—Genesee River; HSP—Hamlin State Park; HL—Hawk Lookout; IB—Irondequoit Bay; LL—Little Lakes; SP—Seneca Park; SB—Sodus Bay; WSP—Webster State Park; WLS—West Lake Shore.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe Chimney Bluffs Dec 4 (AEK), two SB Dec 15 (JF). Eared Grebe on CL Jan 2 (JWB, WCL). The latter observer has had previous records of this species locally. A Western Grebe Oklahoma Dec 5 (AEK, WL et al) studied very carefully under favorable conditions. Kemnitzer has observed the species in the west. The bird was looked for subsequently but not seen again. Single Pied-billed Grebes on CL Jan 2 (JWB, WCL, JN and FT), at Newark Jan 27 (MM, ES), on GR Feb 19 (HSM, RTO). A very late Great Blue Heron was at Honeoye Lake Jan 2 (Dort Cameron, RGM, et al). 43 Whistling Swans were on BB Mar 13 (JF, WCL), 28 at Manitou Beach the same day (LD), 61 on BB Mar 19 (GOS Hike), and 200 on the Groveland Flats Mar 24–27 (AC, JF, WCL, FT, and TET). An early flock of 25 Canada Geese over Rochester Mar 1 (HSM) and 10,000 on WLS Mar 19 (GOS Hike).

800 Mallards and 600 Black Ducks still on CL Jan 2 due to the late freezing of these small lakes (JWB, WCL, JM & FT). Single Gadwalls were on IB Dec 26 (JM, TM et al), and east of SB Dec 29 (WCL). Seven Green-winged Teal appeared on Groveland Flats Mar 13 (WC, TET). A lone Shoveler lingered on IB until Dec 29 (AEK), and two Wood Ducks were still at Newark Jan 14 (MM, ES). 40 Redheads SB Mar 13 (Lance Sunderlin, MS), and 75 were there Mar 26 (AEK, RGM). Ring-necked Duck max 185 on the ELS March 26 (AEK, RGM). 455 Canvasback were seen on the LL Jan 2 LL Census), and 350 were on SB March 26 (AEK, RGM). An estimated 1,000 Greater Scaup on the GR Feb 18 (AS) max for this wintering species. 800 Common Goldeneyes were moving west off Manitou Feb 2 (WCL), just after the blizzard. A sub-adult male King Eider was seen at Oklahoma Dec 4 (WCL, RW), and possibly the same bird was seen at Manitou Feb 2 (WCL). A flight of 267 White-winged Scoters was observed at Manitou Feb 1 and 500 Feb 2 (after blizzard) (WCL). 200 along the WLS March 6 (RD). Two Surf Scoters, an uncommon species here except in the fall, at HSP March 6 (RD). 12 Common Scoters were at Oklahoma Dec 5, and two Jan 1 (JM, TM); four were noted at HSP March 26 (RTO). This bird also is uncommon locally except during the fall flight. 12 Hooded Mergansers were seen along the ELS Dec 29 (AEK).

HAWKS—OWLS: Two Turkey Vultures seen at the HL Mar 19 (GOS Hike) were the first of the year. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Webster Feb 2 (JM, TM) and seven were noted during a hawk flight at the HL Mar 18 (mob). Single Cooper's Hawks at Conesus Dec 18 (WCL), at South Park Dec 26 (WN, DN), and at SP Jan 16 (JJD, FP). Six at the HL Mar 19 (GOS Hike). 60 Red-tailed Hawks at the HL Mar 19 (GOS Hike) was the early spring peak count. Red-shouldered Hawk max 186 HL March 18 (mob) and 100 there Mar 19 (GOS Hike). Five Rough-legged Hawks were seen along the WLS March 5 (RD), seven at the HL March 18 (several). Two adult Bald Eagles were seen at Hemlock Lake Jan 2 (WL, MS) and possibly the same birds were seen at Springwater March 23 (WCL).

Eight Ruffed Grouse were seen in the LL area Jan 2 (LL Census). A Killdeer was still at Hemlock Lake Jan 2 (WL, MS). The first spring migrant was observed at BB Mar 5 (JJD, HSM). White-winged gulls were scarce, one Glaucous Gull CL Jan 2 (JWB, WCL). The latter observer saw an Iceland Gull of the subspecies "kumlienii" at Point Breeze Jan 16. An immense concentration of Herring (est 21,000) and Ring-billed (est 4000) Gulls occurred along the WLS Dec 11 (WCL). Three hundred Bonaparte's Gulls were on IB Dec 19 (JJD). High counts of wintering Mourning Doves: 100 along Lake Shore Jan 16 (RTO), 32 in Penfield Feb 1 (GD), 85 in Webster Feb 2 (JM, TM).

11 Great Horned Owls were recorded in the LL area Jan 2 (LL Census) and a pair at their nest were noted in Webster Feb 5-24 (AEK). The Snowy Owl was unrecorded. A Barred Owl was heard near Sodus Mar 30 (JF, TET). The only Long-eared Owl reported was seen in HSP Mar 5 (RD). The Short-eared Owl continued scarce with only one report, a bird in Webster Jan 20 (WL). Saw-whet Owl: one, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rochester Mar 30 (NM).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING. Four Yellow-shafted Flickers were seen at Mt. Morris Feb 26 (FT) and eight on the WLS March 19, (GOS Hike). Five Pileated and ten Red-bellied Woodpeckers were at Mt. Morris Feb 26 (FT). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was in SP Dec 5 (NR), two in Penfield Dec 26 (HS, OS), one at Canadice Lake Jan 2 (JJD, MD). One to three Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers (possibly four) frequented an area consisting predominantly of dead elms in the Camp Cutler Woods of WSP until at least Mar 13 (JF, WCL). They were tame and gave ample opportunity for observing their habits. Several local observers added a "lifer" to their lists with little effort. One of this species was seen

at Hemlock Lake Jan 2 (WL, MS). A good count of 100 Horned Larks was made along the WLS Mar 6 (RD). Long-billed Marsh Wren Cranberry Pond Dec 24 (WCL). Four Mockingbirds were in Webster Dec 26 (B. Kemnitzer, JM, TM), one at CL Jan 2 (WCL et al), one wintered in Penfield (JJD et al). About 20 Robins wintered in DEP (several) and 400 were migrating along the WLS Mar 26 (GOS Hike). A Hermit Thrush was in SP Dec 26 (JM). Eight Eastern Bluebirds were at Manitou Mar 14 (LM). A large, early flock of 80 Water Pipits was reported from Fowlersville Mar 25 (FT). Northern Shrikes were uncommon but an occasional bird was reported.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: An E. Meadowlark was seen at Mt. Morris Feb 26 (RT) and an estimated 300 birds passed Manitou Mar 19 (GOS Hike). Two Rusty Blackbirds were at a feeder in Penfield Dec 19 (GD). On Feb 1 (after the blizzard), there were five there. Most of the blackbirds appeared rather early. High counts of Evening Grosbeaks were 29 at Honeoye Lake Jan 2, 30 on WSP Feb 18 (AS) and 25 in Webster Feb 19 (JM, TM). The Purple Finch was unreported. A flock of about 25 Pine Grosbeaks wintered in DEP. Six stayed until Mar 6 (GD). A Hoary Redpoll was carefully studied and compared with the commoner species in Parma Dec 26 (WCL). Common Red-polls: max 200 Irondequoit Mar 13 (LM, NM). Pine Siskins: max 200 Irondequoit Mar 5 (JJD, HSM). 60 Amer. Goldfinches were seen near Egypt Jan 20. Two Red Crossbills seen Feb 23 (RTO) was the only report. White-winged Crossbills were reported from Rochester, Canadice Lake, Webster and Irondequoit with max 6 in DEP Dec 26 (PW). An Oregon Junco was seen at a feeder in Egypt Feb 24 (AEK). Less well marked juncos were seen in Greece and Irondequoit. Whether these were obscure "oregonus," hybrids, or the subspecies "cismontanus" is unknown.

A Field Sparrow was in HSP Dec 20 (WCL), four at CL Jan 2 (WCL et al), one in Newark Feb 23 (MM, ES), one at Mt. Morris Feb 26 (FT). White-crowned Sparrow one, Avon from Jan 15-31 (JH), one Palmyra Jan 29 (WH). White-throated Sparrows were scarce but an occasional bird was reported. Lapland Longspurs: max 42 Jan 16 (WCL) and 110 Jan 25 along WLS (ST). Peak counts on Snow Buntings were 500 near Point Breeze March 20 (JJD, HSM) and 200 at Manitou Feb 18 (NR).

2080 E. Main Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

DOROTHY W. McILROY

Sally Spofford and I temporarily changed places. While she was in the Southwest, I compiled the Regional Report, then she took over printing and mailing of this issue while I was in England.

Until mid-January the weather was warmer than usual with no snow cover. Montezuma Refuge did not freeze over until Jan 9. Waterfowl Census day, Jan 16, was very cold and windy with poor visibility thru a mist layer swirling over the surface of all open water. The Jan 30-31 blizzard dropped about 17 inches of snow that was piled into drifts by winds up to 60 miles an hour, but by mid-February much of the snow had disappeared. A mid-March warm spell which brought in Robins, Song Sparrows and Woodcock was followed by cold and snow. John Morse reported that at Montezuma Refuge "all pools were free of ice March 19, the earliest date, by a full week, for the past nine years."

Due to the open pools, waterfowl stayed at Montezuma into January in larger numbers than usual. From Sally Spofford's report, Waterfowl Census "species count