

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

was 19, the same as '62 and '63 but below '64 and '65. . . . Every body of water (Note: Canandaigua Lake was not covered in '66) showed a decrease in numbers. . . . Redheads had really crashed. Poor visibility might account for such misses as Common Loon, but no additional large rafts were reported after the census, the general feeling being that the ducks were really scarce."

Most of the winter finches were reported throughout the period, but only in small numbers, except Evening Grosbeaks. Slate-colored Juncos and Tree Sparrows were scarce, Snow Bunting flocks were mostly small. Late March migration seemed delayed—for example, Savannah Sparrow was still unreported on Mar 31.

Rarities included Bohemian Waxwing, Boreal Chickadee, Hoary Redpoll, Barrow's Goldeneye for fourth consecutive winter and Lesser Black-backed Gull for third consecutive winter.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; Sen—Seneca; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; WFC—Federation Waterfowl Census Jan 16.

Contributors frequently cited: JBar—Jamesine Bardeen; WEB—Walter E. Benning; JB—Jack Brubaker; HF—Helen Fessenden; FG—Frank Guthrie; WG—William Groesbeck; WH—Wilfred Howard; JM—John Morse; BS—Betty Strath; JW—Jayson Walker; MW—Mary Welles.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: very few. Red-throated Loon: not often reported—one Mar 12 s. end Cay L (Grzybowski et al). Red-necked Grebe: more than usual—one Mar 20 MNWR (WEB); three near Sheldrake, Cay L Mar 22 (BS) when large numbers of Horned Grebes were also seen; two Mar 22 Sen L at Lodi (BS). Horned Grebe: 39 on WFC compared with 198 in '65; increase evident Mar 9 Cay L; 200 Cay L, Sheldrake to Cay State Pk Mar 22 (BS). Pied-billed Grebe: three on WFC; one wintered s. end Cay L. Great Blue Heron: still present Jan 1; first spring Mar 24 Chemung R (WH). Mute Swan: Cay L Feb 26 (D. Lancaster); four Cay L Mar 20 (WEB). Whistling Swan: one stayed at MNWR to Jan 5; first spring, two Mar 19 MNWR (WEB); near and on Sen L Mar 22 (JBar); only large flock, 60 Keuka L near Penn Yan last week of Mar (FG).

Canada Goose: usual large numbers Cay L in Mar; at MNWR (JM)—200 until pools froze Jan 9, first flocks returned Mar 11, 26,000 Mar 24, only 10,000 Mar 31 (pools partly frozen again); more than usual Sen L both wintering ('90) and migrating (FG); heavy influx Mar 11, 12 and 16, 17 Elmira (MW). Snow Goose: at MNWR—last, three Dec 5 (WEB), first 60 Mar 19 (WEB); flock of about 200 Hector Falls, Sen L Mar 23 (fide BS). Blue Goose: at MNWR—last, nine Dec 5 (WEB), first spring 180 Mar 19 (WEB), 280 Mar 24 (JM).

Mallard: 1450 still at MNWR first week of Jan (JM). Gadwall: 11 WFC compared with none in '65, eight at Hammondsport being first winter record for Keuka L (FG). Pintail: Jan 7 SWS (A. Lane); first spring, one Mar 4 MNWR (WEB). Blue-winged Teal: one Mar 24 MNWR (JM), early. Am. Widgeon: 15 still at MNWR mid-Jan (JM); two wintered s. end Cay L; migrants in Mar except at Elmira where there were none by end of Mar although usually common after mid-Mar (MW). Shoveler: two Mar 5, very early, MNWR (JM). Wood Duck: two wintered SWS, one female wintered s. end Cay L. Redhead: 3350 still at MNWR first week Jan (JM); 2165 on WFC compared with 6981 in '65. Canvasback: seemed scarce. Scaup: 1520 on WFC compared with 1705 in '65; very scarce Sen L, no more than four or five seen together (FG). Common Goldeneye: numbers seemed low. BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: female with Common Goldeneyes Cay L at Sheldrake Feb 8 (E. Johnson) to mid-Mar (mob)—fourth consecutive winter at same place. Oldsquaw: a few Cay L, first Mar 9 (S. Spofford); two reports Mar 30 Hornell area (FG). Ruddy Duck: 15 at Perry's Pt, Mar 16 Keuka L (M. Lerch) "unusually large number for this date". Hooded Merganser: female s. end Cay L.

HAWKS—OWLS: At MNWR JM reported that "during the first three weeks of Jan we had a relatively large number of hawks using the area"—max, Red-tailed 11, Rough-legged 4, Marsh 2, Sparrow 1-3; a drop in numbers after Jan 23 snowstorm. Goshawk: seen frequently just n. of Ithaca, three different imm (B. Gebhart); one adult Jan 1 Ithaca (W. Spofford); one found shot Six Mile Creek, Ithaca Jan 14; one s. of MNWR in Feb and one MNWR Mar 18 (Refuge personnel). Sharp-shinned Hawk: very scarce; one Elmira Jan 11 (MW), one Union Springs Mar 5 (WEB). Cooper's Hawk: also scarce; pair seen Nov or Dec, West Hill, Ithaca, and male seen six dates Jan 11-Feb 8 in same area (Hannan); one Montour Falls Feb 2 and 5 (BS); one near Trumansburg Feb 6 (E. Hemphill); imm found dead, May's Pt Fishing Area, near MNWR Apr 5, had been dead at least a week (JM). Red-tailed Hawk: a few wintered in Region. Red-shouldered Hawk: only one Jan 9 Ithaca (HF). Rough-legged Hawk: only concentration was at MNWR, other scattered reports. Marsh Hawk: several reports up to Jan 23, few after; female with several primaries missing and body plumage disheveled Jan 18 Jasper (WG). No eagles. No Peregrines. Sparrow Hawk: a few present most areas all winter.

Bobwhite: scattered reports; largest flock 11, Feb 4 Jacksonville (Mrs. J. Knight). Turkey: larger number of sightings and reports of fresh tracks indicate spreading in hills s. of Dryden and Ithaca; 50 seen Conn. Hill mid-Mar (Mrs. J. Barton). Virginia Rail: one Jan 21, very late, MNWR (JM). Killdeer: for first time none wintered Elmira area, first Mar 3 (MW); appeared generally by mid-Mar but none in Hornell area to Mar 31 (WG). Am. Woodcock: a late one during Christmas Census period near Burdett (M. Bardeen); first spring Mar 5 Ithaca (C. Page) about a week early; 18 calling in four miles near Ithaca late Mar (HF). Common Snipe: first Mar 19 Montour Airport (JB). Glaucous Gull: three reports Cay L Dec 12-Feb 10. Iceland Gull: three reports (two imm, one adult) s. end Cay L. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: slaty-backed adult seen irregularly Stewart Pk, Ithaca Jan 1 to Feb 14, third successive winter there. Ring-billed Gull: seemed increasing at Keuka Pk (FG).

All owls were scarce at Elmira, no Barn, Barred, Long-eared or Short-eared (MW). Great Horned Owl: at least two pairs wintered at MNWR, one nesting w. of Route 89 (JM); pair nesting SWS. Snowy Owl: only reports—one Dec 3-5, Jan 26, Mar 5 at or near MNWR (WEB) possibly all same bird; one Mar 26 MNWR (R. Walker). Short-eared Owl: two reports—one Jan 15 and one Feb 16 Clyde R (WEB). Saw-whet Owl: one Eaton Bird Club Christmas Count; one Mar 19-23 in a hole where a Pileated nested last summer in a tree standing in water in a beaver pond at Staches, Town of Caton, Elmira area (fide MW).

GOATSUCKERS—SPARROWS: Yellow-shafted Flicker: very few wintered, none in Hornell to end of period (WG). Red-bellied Woodpecker: increasing Keuka Pk, at least six (FG); one at feeder Reading Center late Nov to first week Jan; two Eaton Club Christmas Count; at least two Ithaca area. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one still at Penn Yan Feb 5 (F. Orcutt). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: the male at Beebe L, Ithaca seen occasionally until just after Christmas. E. Phoebe: one first week Mar Alpine (E. Bishop); elsewhere late—next report Ithaca area Mar 23 (in three locations). Tree Swallow: late dates—two Jan 2 MNWR (WEB), also MNWR Jan 21; first spring, three Mar 23 MNWR (Menuhin, Stiles). Common Crow: on increase once more Geneva (JW); heavier than usual migration Keuka Pk (FG); "contrary to years past, very few wintered" MNWR, one seen Jan 21, two Feb 25, by Mar small numbers present (JM). COMMON RAVEN: very rare—one Feb 9 Ithaca (C. Kepler). BOREAL CHICKADEE: one at feeder in Montour Falls after the Jan snowstorm (J. Barton). Red-breasted Nuthatch: fairly numerous. Winter Wren: only two, one each Schuyler Co and Ithaca Christmas Counts. Carolina Wren: wintered at two feeders Ithaca; pair all winter Watkins Glen (L. Banners); scarce Elmira for second winter (MW).

Mockingbird: two Chemung Valley and three Ithaca Christmas Counts; five records Keuka area. Brown Thrasher: one Jan 1 Ithaca. Hermit Thrush: one at feeder Feb 9 thru Mar, Ithaca (W. Brosseau). Bluebird: still scarce; back at four nest box projects near Watkins Glen (JBar). Water Pipit: small flocks reported Montour Airport Mar 27 (JB) and Mar 28 at Odessa (BS) and King Ferry (D. McIlroy). Golden-crowned Kinglet: scarce everywhere. BOHEMIAN WAXWING: one Jan 1 Ithaca (R. Fischer)—very rare. Northern Shrike: five reports Dec 12–Feb 28. Myrtle Warbler: none. Baltimore Oriole: one wintered Indian Pines, Keuka L (FG). E. Meadowlark: almost none wintered. Few Red-winged Blackbirds, Grackles and Cowbirds wintered, large flocks began arriving Mar 3 and 4. Rusty Blackbird: two wintered Penn Yan (F. Orcutt).

Cardinal: fewer on Chemung Valley Christmas Count. Evening Grosbeak: the most common winter finch. Purple Finch: very scarce Watkins area (JBar), a few in Ithaca, common in some Elmira areas. Pine Grosbeak: small flocks most areas to late Mar. Common Redpoll: common in Geneva area, regular Watkins and Ithaca in small numbers, only three reports Elmira and one Hornell. HOARY REDPOLL: S. Wheelock and W. Getty reported two in a flock of Common Redpolls Mar 30 on Reed Rd, between Geneva and Gorham (fide JW). Red Crossbill: small numbers Watkins and Ithaca areas throughout period; only two reports near Elmira. White-winged Crossbill: a few small flocks into Feb most areas, scarcer thereafter. Rufous-sided Towhee: one Jan 1 Ithaca (C. Treman), one Jan 29 Elmira; Mar 31 Geneva (JW). Few sparrows wintered and some spring arrivals were late: Savannah—none; Vesper—only report Mar 27 Watkins Glen (R. Champion); Field—still present Jan 1, no spring reports; Swamp—one report Mar 23 Montour Airport (BS). Slate-colored Juncos and Tree Sparrows scarce except in Geneva area. Oregon Junco: one Mar 28 Elmira (E. Ruggles). White-crowned Sparrow: a late one Jan 2 Watkins Glen (JB). Fox Sparrow: a few reports, first Mar 1 Ithaca (W. Brosseau). Song Sparrow: in good numbers in late Mar. Lapland Longspur: several reports of one to three Elmira and Ithaca area. Snow Bunting: scattered reports of small flocks to late Mar, almost no large flocks.

419 Triphammer Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

It was a generally mild winter, the severe blizzard of Jan 30 through Feb 3 notwithstanding. The only other major snowfalls came Jan 23–24, Feb 24–25 and Mar 24–25 but there were several other dates when more than one inch fell. Temperatures averaged below normal only in Jan and went below zero only seven days, all between Jan 16 and Feb 20. The below average precipitation of 1965 continued through Dec but totals for Jan and Feb were appreciably higher than normal and for Mar only a little below. Temperatures were well above normal Mar 1–5 and Mar 18–23 but well below normal Mar 7–9 and Mar 25–29.

The variety of "winter finches" was the outstanding feature of the winter. All the reasonably to be expected species were reported and all but Red Crossbills and Purple Finches in fairly large numbers. Boreal Chickadees were also present in some places and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Robins and Song Sparrows wintered in larger than normal numbers. Mockingbird reports continue to increase but cowbirds were absent and Tree Sparrows were substantially reduced in numbers.

Winter raptors were disappointing although Bald Eagles around the Pepacton