

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.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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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

Reservoir provided some interest. Northern Shrikes were generally, if not thickly, distributed.

The only observed cold weather casualties were three Blue Jays and a misguided Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The warm spells in Mar produced some early migrants, most notably a Mar 24 Purple Martin.

Observers: LA—Mrs. L. Atkinson; LB—L. Bemont; DB—D. Bendle; WB—W. Breidinger; HC—H. Colby; MC—M. Cubberly; C, JD—C. & J. Davis; M, AD—M. & A. Davis; RD—R. Dirig; AE—A. Evelien; CG—C. Gerould; SG—S. Gorton; JGt—J. Grant; JGr—Mrs. J. Gray; JG—J. Gustafson; CH—C. Howard; FL—F. Linaberry; HM—H. Marsi; AM—A. Morey; RO'N—R. O'Neil; JO—J. Osadchey; RP—R. Pantle; RS—R. Saunders; MS—M. Sheffield; RPS—R. P. Sheffield; DW—D. Weber; MW—M. White; R, SW—R. & S. White; EW—E. Williams; RW—R. Williams; SW—S. Wilson, Jr.; HW—H. Wisner.

Abbreviations used: Bing—Binghamton; CC—Choconut Center; CVSP—Chenango Valley State Park; Chen—Chenango; IH—Ingraham Hill; Pep Res—Pepacton Reservoir; Skan L—Skaneateles Lake; Sky—Skyline, Tioga Co., WP—Whitney Point.

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: singles on Skan L Jan 1 and 16 (JO); migrants Mar 13, WP (MS, RPS). Pied-billed Grebe: one Jan 2 Endicott (LB); migrants Mar 27 Norwich (R, SW). Great Blue Heron: one Feb 4 Cortland (JGr); one Feb 15 Homer (JG). Mute Swan: one Feb 1 (RO'N, mob), spent all of Feb and Mar on Chen R in Bing. Whistling Swan: four Mar 19 (MW, CG, RW). Canada Goose: ten Jan 16 Owego (RW, et al), same day 33 Skan L (JO, JGt); 30 plus Feb 1 Chen Bridge (SG); one all winter at Candor (DW), an unusual number of winter reports; migrants Mar 5, heavy flights Mar 11 to 20. Snow Goose: one Jan 16 Skan L (JO, JGt). Gadwall: one Jan 2 Endicott (HM), injured. Pintail: five Mar 13 WP (MS, RPS). Green-winged Teal: one Mar 13 WP (MS, RPS), one same day Little York (WB). Blue-winged Teal: Mar 16 Campville (FL), early. American Widgeon: five Dec 31 Skan L (JG); Mar 5 Lounsberry (CG). Wood Duck: one male all winter at Scott (Tinker); one female Bing with Mute Swan from Feb 25 (RO'N); Mar 5 Lounsberry (CG). Redhead: 130 Jan 16 Skan L (JO, JGt). Ring-necked Duck: Mar 20 WP (MS). Canvasback: 75 Jan 16 Skan L (JO, JGt); one Mar 21 Pep Res (MC). Scaup: ten Greater Jan 16 Skan L (JO, JGt); 25 (sp?) Mar 20 WP (LB). Common Goldeneye: a few all winter. Hooded Merganser: Mar 19 WP (MW, CG, RW). Red-breasted Merganser: Feb 10 Owego (CG, MW).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: one Mar 20 Hancock (RD); Mar 23 Chen Bridge (SG); 50 Mar 31 counted between Deposit and Long Eddy (RW). Goshawk: one Jan 27 and 31 CC (MS, RPS). Red-tailed Hawk: eight Dec 31 Cortland Christmas Count; migrants Mar 5, max 10 Mar 14 Skyline (RW). Red-shouldered Hawk: one Mar 6 Owego (RW); no others. Rough-legged Hawk: one Mar 10 Owego (RW), the only report. Bald Eagle: at least three, one adult and two imm wintered around Pep Res frequently feeding on dog-killed deer (MC); two Mar 2 Hancock (RD); two Mar 15 Owego (RW, MW, CG). Marsh Hawk: Mar 28 South Apalachin (CG). Osprey: one Mar 31 South Apalachin (CG), early. Sparrow Hawk: migrants about Mar 18. Turkey: reported at Newark Valley State Lands (MW, CG), Candor (DW) and South Owego (AE). American Coot: one during Jan Skan L (JO, JGt). Virginia Rail: one killed in muskrat trap Dec 17 Unadilla (HW). Killdeer: one Jan 14 Owego (EW); migrants Mar 4. Woodcock: Mar 10 Owego (RW). Great Black-backed Gull: one in Feb Skan L (JO). Ring-billed Gull: 125 Dec 5 and six Dec 31 Cortland (JG); one Jan 2 Bing (HM); no more until Mar 19. Mourning Dove: max wintering 30 E. Homer (LA); migrants Mar 17. Screech Owl: 6 reports all period. Horned Owl: eight Jan 2 Bing Christmas Count. Barred Owl: one Mar 23 Hancock (RD).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: five Jan 2 Bing Christmas Count; a few other winter reports. Yellow-shafted Flicker: two Mar 7 McGraw (JG); three later Mar records. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Dec 31 Cortlandville (J. Siedenbergh), seen again in Jan. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Mar 27 Cortland (AM). Phoebe: Mar 12 Owego (AE). Horned Lark: reports since Jan 2, max 200 Feb 23 IH (CH). Tree Swallow: Mar 22 Greene (C, JD) and Chen Forks (M, AD). Purple Martin: one very early female Mar 24 Homer (JG). Blue Jay: very numerous all winter; 77 returns and 194 new bandings at Deposit (SW); three found frozen in bad weather Hancock (RD). Crow: 157 Dec 31 Cortland Census and 96 Jan 2 Bing Census; numbers increasing from mid Feb. Black-capped Chickadee: 84 returns and 190 new bandings Deposit (SW). Boreal Chickadee: Jan 1 and 16 CVSP (R, SW, MS); Jan 2 Chen Bridge (SG, RS); also at Owego during period (HC). Tufted Titmouse: reported only at Bing and Hancock. Red-breasted Nuthatch: eight Dec 31 Cortland Census; 69 Jan 2 Bing Census; quite common in most of Region all period. Winter Wren: one Jan 2 Endwell (LB); the only report. Mockingbird: four Jan 2 Bing Census; one at Nichols (Mrs. C. Stauff); one at Owego (EW, DB); one at Unadilla in Mar (HW). Brown Thrasher: Mar 31 South Apalachin (CG). Robin: larger numbers wintering than usual; max in winter ten plus Jan 23 CC (MS, RPS) feeding on multiflora; migrants from about Mar 8, large numbers from Mar 17. Eastern Bluebird: Mar 9 Candor; promising numbers. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 11 Jan 2 Bing Census; very few others. Water Pipit: 12 Mar 28 and 29 Homer (JG), "eating small insects caught in thin ice on flooded pasture." Cedar Waxwing: not very numerous during winter. Northern Shrike: only seven specific reports during period. Loggerhead Shrike: one banded Mar 25 Deposit (SW); Mar 26 South Apalachin (CG, MW).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Myrtle Warbler: one Jan 2 Bing Census (RP); no more.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: one Jan 27 (Mrs. C. Hills); two Feb records: migrants Mar 18. Redwinged Blackbird: the usual small number wintering; migrants regular after Mar 3. Rusty Blackbird: Mar 7 Chen Bridge (SG) and Deposit (SW). Common Grackle: seven Dec 31 Cortland Census and 11 Jan 2 Bing Census then none until Mar 3. Brown-headed Cowbird: no winter reports; migrants Mar 2. Cardinal: 77 Bing Census. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: imm banded Dec 19 Deposit, around until found dead Jan 8 (SW). Evening Grosbeak: common all winter, more at feeders after Jan 10. Purple Finch: scarce, but not completely absent. Pine Grosbeak: one of the best years on record; common to the end of Feb and still at Greene Mar 26 (M, AD). Redpoll: became common in Dec; several flocks numbering in the hundreds during the winter; still at Sidney Mar 30 (F. Quick). Pine Siskin: common all winter. Goldfinch: common all winter, but became more so, at least at feeders, after Jan 29. Red Crossbill: 50 Jan 2 CVSP (MS, RPS); no others. White-winged Crossbill: reported frequently in Dec and Jan but noticeably less numerous thereafter; seven Mar 13 E. Homer (F. Newman). Rufous-sided Towhee: one Jan 21 and 26 E. Homer (LA); Mar 1 Cortland (JG); Mar 24 Hinman's Corners (RS, J. Saunders). Slate-colored Junco: the usual small unevenly distributed numbers wintering; heavy migratory flight evident about Mar 25. Tree Sparrow: much reduced numbers all winter swelled somewhat by migrants in mid Mar. Field Sparrow: Mar 24 Chen Forks (M, AD). White-crowned Sparrow: three Dec 31 Cortland Census. White-throated Sparrow: one all winter at Andes (MC) and Cortland (AM); three other reports during period. Fox Sparrow: one Feb 17 on Chen Forks (M, AD); no others until Mar 20. Swamp Sparrow: Mar 31 Owego (S. Turner). Song Sparrow: more than usual wintering; migrants about Mar 10. Lapland Longspur: three Feb 23 IH (CH), no others. Snow Bunting: only five reports; max 600 Feb 23 IH (CH).

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