

mid-Feb causing their usual confusion in winter plumage. A flock of 75, Feb 19 just n. of Taughannock is noteworthy (GM). Savannah Sparrow: first, one Mar 6 Jacksonville (AG); one Mar 19 in mixed flock of larks and buntings at 0° F, MNWR (WEB). Vesper Sparrow: one Dec 31 Geneva, EBC census. No migrants until Apr 1. Oregon Junco: two Dec 31 Elmira (Esther Ruggles). Tree Sparrow: very scarce in early winter, large flocks after mid-Feb. Field Sparrow: one Dec 31 Geneva, EBC census. Fox Sparrow: one Mar 16 SWS (ACL) is rather early, followed by three other sightings the same week, then no more reports during period. White-throated Sparrow: few wintered. One very unusual report of a flock of 50-60, Feb 14 Elmira airport (W. K. Nowill). Lapland longspur: scattered sightings, max six Feb 11 Waterwagon Rd, Ithaca (DM); last, one Mar 19, MNWR (WEB). Snow Buntings: arrived in flocks last weekend Jan, abundant at Keuka, the higher hills at Hornell; last date Mar 19, MNWR (WEB).

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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December temperatures ranged from near zero on the fourth to 66 degrees on the tenth but averaged close to normal for the month. Precipitation also averaged close to normal but two thirds of the December snow fell in the last third of the month. January and February precipitation was 50 to 70 per cent of normal. January temperatures averaged four to five degrees above normal and February temperatures five to six degrees below normal. March temperatures also averaged below normal but precipitation was 100 to 130 per cent of normal. A warm spell March 10 and 11 seemed to produce quite large numbers of migrants, but was followed by one of the coldest days of the season when the official temperature dropped to minus 10 on March 19.

Birdwise it was a rather dull winter with Goldfinches and Snow Buntings the only winter finches here in appreciable numbers, and even they were not present in really large numbers. Northern raptors were also scarce as a group, although nearly all of the most likely species were reported at least once. Two Brown Thrashers and a Catbird head the "half-hardy" list but there were also two Baltimore Orioles, a White-crowned and several White-throated Sparrows reported and rather more than the usual number of Robins and Song Sparrows wintered. On the plus side, too, was a very appreciable increase in the number of Tufted Titmice. A winter record of a Red-bellied Woodpecker is noteworthy.

Abbreviations used: Bing—Binghamton; Chen—Chenango; Cort—Cortland; Pep Res—Pepacton Reservoir; Skan L—Skaneateles Lake.

Observers: GC—G. Corderman; MC—M. Cubberly; C, JD—C. & J. Davis; M, AD—M. & A. Davis; RD—R. Dirig; CG—C. Gerould; CGo—C. Gottschal; JAG—J. A. Gustafson; FL—F. Linaberry; MM—M. Mallinson; HM—H. Marsi; AM—A. Morey; JN—J. New; JO—J. Osadchey; RP—R. Pantle; FQ—F. Quick; RS—R. Saunders; R, MS—R. & M. Sheffield; AS—A. Stratton; WS—W. Stupke; MW—M. White; R, SW—R. & S. White; RW—R. Williams; SW—S. Wilson.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one Dec 10 Pep Res (MC); one Jan 1 Skan L (JAG). Great Blue Heron: one Dec 1 Owego (CG); one Dec 9 Candor (RP); one flying over Margaretville Jan 1 (MC); first spring migrants Mar 22 Chen Forks (M, AD). Whistling Swan: an injured bird, unable to fly, remained at Oneonta

until Dec 24 when it was collected for the State University College collection there (JN). Canada Goose: first report, Mar 4 Owego (CG); eight reports Mar 9 thru 11 then no more until Mar 22; several more flocks reported in the last two or three days of Mar including 713 individuals in seven flocks Mar 31 at Bing (CGo). Snow Goose; one at Scott during Mar with Canadas (JO). Gadwall: one Feb 17 Skan L (JO). Pintail: Mar 24 Owego (CG). American Widgeon: Mar 24 Owego (CG). Wood Duck: Dec 7 Owego (CG); three Jan 1 and four Jan 21, Homer (JAG); one Feb 4 Sherburne (R, SW); one Feb 17 Skan L (JO). Redhead: 68, Jan 16 Skan L (JO); Mar 25 Oneonta (JN). Ring-necked Duck: three Mar 11 Cort (WS). Canvasback: 162, Jan 16 Skan L (JO); two Mar 21 Cort (WS). Greater Scaup: one Dec 1 Owego (RW); one Jan 16 Skan L (JO); Mar 31 Owego (RW). Lesser Scaup: one male Feb 6 Deposit (SW); late Feb, Cort (WS). Common Goldeneye; small numbers (17 on waterfowl census) scattered throughout the Region in Jan; migrants about Mar 11. Bufflehead: Mar 31 Owego (RW). Oldsquaw: Feb 14 Owego (D. Bendle); Mar 31 Lounsberry (RW). White-winged Scoter: one Jan 15 Skan L (J. Grant, fide JAG). Ruddy Duck: Dec 1 and 2, Greene (C, JD). Hooded Merganser: two Jan 1 Bing (HM); three Feb 17 Skan L (JO); six Mar 11 to 13, Cort (WS); up to 25 Mar 12 to 26, Owego (CG). Common Merganser: only 13 scattered throughout the Region on Waterfowl Census; 100 Mar 19 Owego (CG.) Red-breasted Merganser: one Mar 15 Cort (WS).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Mar 13 Deposit (SW); Mar 26 Hancock (RD). Goshawk: one Jan 1 South Owego (CG); one Feb 4, Triangle in N. Broome County (D. Sterling). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Feb 4 Choconut Center (R, MS), perched on feeder at close range; four others, Dec 25, Jan 1 and 15 and Mar 31. Cooper's Hawk: one Feb 22, flying near Pep Res (MC), the only report. Red-tailed Hawk: in small numbers all winter; obviously more numerous after Mar 1. Rough-legged Hawk: Dec 2 to Jan 1, Owego (MW, CG); Mar 19 Owego (CG); the only reports. Bald Eagle: several reports indicate at least one mature bird wintered at Pep Res (MC); Feb 4 an immature at Cannonsville (Mrs. F. Walpole). Osprey: Mar 20 Oxford (AS). Peregrine Falcon: Mar 29 Owego (CG).

Bobwhite: five Jan 1, Bing Christmas Count. Turkey: three Feb 10 Hancock (RD), and almost daily since; also at four locations around Owego since Jan 1. Coot: one Jan 1 Skan L (JO). Killdeer: one Jan 28 Homer (JAG); apparent migrants Feb 24 Greene (C, JD); other areas Mar 10 or 11. Woodcock: Mar 12 Bing (CGo). Great Black-backed Gull: five Jan 16 Skan L (JO). Mourning Dove: winter records from Bing, Cort and Owego; migrants Mar 27, Sidney (FQ) and Vestal (GC). Screech Owl: only at Bing and Owego, several each. Horned Owl: fairly frequent reports. Snowy Owl: one Dec 23 Homer (M. Spencer); three reports from Berkshire Jan 4 (Mrs. Jewett), Jan 12 and 15 (Mr. Leonard) quite likely all the same bird. Short-eared Owl: three Jan 13 to Feb 15 (JAG, J. Siedenberg,) roosting in vacant house atop windy hill.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Yellow-shafted Flicker: three Jan reports from Cort and one from Owego; migrants Mar 31, Candor (RP). Red-bellied Woodpecker: an adult male Jan 3 to 7, Deposit (SW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Jan 31, Owego (CG), for only a few days. Eastern Phoebe: Mar 27 at Owego (L. Cole) and Bing (CGo). Horned Lark: reported all winter but a definite increase in numbers about Feb 11. Tree Swallow: Mar 29 at Candor, Endwell and Owego. Tufted Titmouse: two Dec 4 Cort (MM); one Dec 12 Hancock (RD); one Jan 12 Cort (AM); twenty on Bing Christmas Count, the highest number ever and reports throughout the period confirm a substantial increase in numbers compared to previous years; also an increase at Oneonta (JN). Red-breasted Nuthatch: at feeder all winter, Endwell (FL); Jan 1 Berkshire (Mr. & Mrs. D. Lynch); one Jan 14 Cort (AM). Winter Wren: one in late Dec, Cort (JO); four and one on

Bing and Owego Christmas Counts, respectively. Mockingbird: one Feb 20, west of Owego (M. Middaugh); one Mar 29 Endwell (FL, HM). Catbird: one Jan 5 Sidney (FQ), no tail feathers "and a few wing feathers drooped" — otherwise appeared healthy but not seen again. Brown Thrasher: one Jan 1, on Bing Christmas Count in Chen Bridge area (S. Gorton, D. Sterling); another Jan 13, Endwell (FL), and seen occasionally the rest of the period. Robin: fairly frequent reports all winter; apparent migrants from Mar 5 and obviously increased numbers from Mar 11. Northern Shrike: Dec 22 and 23, Deposit (SW), caught and banded.

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: *eight!* Mar 25, South Owego (CG). Eastern Meadowlark: Jan 1, Marathon (L. Holmes), Berkshire (Mr. & Mrs. D. Lynch) and Owego (RW, MW), migrants Mar 10, Bing (CGo). Redwinged Blackbird: Dec 1 Owego (MW); also on Bing, Cort and Owego Christmas Counts; first migrants, Feb 21 Deposit (SW); regular reports from Mar 7. Baltimore Oriole: one Jan 1, Bing Christmas Count: one wintered at a feeder in Oneonta (via JN). Rusty Blackbird: Jan 1, Candor (D. Weber) and Nichols (via MW); one Feb 12 and Mar 4, Cort (MM); 30, Mar 15 Endicott (G. Bikos). Common Grackle: a few thru Jan 7 at Sidney (FQ); Jan 1 Owego; five Jan 1 Bing Christmas Count; no more until first migrants Mar 9 Owego (RW). Brown-headed Cowbird: Jan 11 Sidney (FQ); also at Owego and Deposit in early Jan; migrants Mar 11 Bing CGo).

Evening Grosbeak: a few reported from Cort and Oneonta, "very scarce" at Andes (MC), a single report of ten from Tioga Center (M. Middleton) and none at Bing. Purple Finch: two Jan 1, Bing Christmas Count; no more until late Mar at Cort (MM), Deposit (SW) and Tioga Center (RW). Pine Grosbeak: three Dec 22 Berkshire (Mrs. D. Lynch), the only report. Common Redpoll: "a few" at Oneonta (JN), but none anywhere else in the Region. Pine Siskin: two Jan 1 Cort (JAG), the only report. American Goldfinch: in appreciable numbers all winter in Triple Cities area, Greene, Sidney and Candor, but not mentioned in other reports. Rufous-sided Towhee: one male Mar 23 Owego (CG), no others. Vesper Sparrow: Mar 25 South Owego (E. Williams); Mar 29 Oxford (AS). Slate-colored Junco: the usual scattered small numbers all winter with migrants starting to swell the totals about Mar 11. Oregon Junco: one from Jan 1 thru Feb, Castle Creek (B. & J. Burgher). Tree Sparrow: generally distributed but at Andes and Endwell seemed below normal numbers. White-crowned Sparrow: Dec 21 to Jan 2, Sidney (FQ). White-throated Sparrow: Jan 1, three on Bing Christmas Count and one at Tioga Center (J. Barnes); also Dec 10 Candor (RP); two Jan 9 Homer (C. Davis); two, Jan 12 Cort (JAG) and Mar 31 Sidney (FQ). Fox Sparrow: first ones Mar 10 at Deposit (SW) and Bing (CGo); in fairly good numbers to at least Mar 29. Song Sparrow: regular reports all winter at Candor (RP) and Castle Creek (Burghers); 31 on Bing Christmas Count; sharp increase in numbers Mar 11. Snow Bunting: quite numerous reports from Jan 1 to Mar 23; 400 Feb 22 Vestal (HM, et. al.), the largest flock reported.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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"It was a long, cold, dull winter"—Birds, especially the normal permanent resident species, seemed hard to come by, and days afield would net only a handful of such usually common species as Black-capped Chickadee and Tree Sparrow.

Dec was mild, aside from the usual execrable Syracuse Christmas count weather