

March 25. Both of these counts were regional records. Two reports from Dutchess County were the first for a quarter of a century. No Whistling Swans were reported on Long Island. It is regretted that the Region 4 report was not available for the compilation of this summary.

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Abbreviations used in regional reports: arr—arrival, arrived; Co—County; imm—immature; L—Lake; max—maximum one-day count; mob—many observers; Pk—Park; Pt—Point; R—River; Rd—Road.

All numbers given are the numbers of individuals unless otherwise stated.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT A. SUNDELL

December brought severe winter weather during the first few days tapering off rapidly to mild conditions with temperatures considerably above normal until Christmas. At this time cold temperatures and snow brought a quick return to seasonal conditions and inland waters froze up rapidly. The first half of January and especially the second week were characterized by some of the coldest temperatures ever recorded. On January 12 at least six communities in Chautauqua County reported unofficial readings of -30°F or lower including -40° at Clarks Corners. Temperatures during the second half of the month, particularly after the twentieth, were above average with a typical January thaw. Both months had average temperatures several degrees above normal. February was several degrees colder than average while the second week in March finally brought some relief from the firmly entrenched frigid arctic air and at the beginning of the third week temperatures rose into the fifties. Precipitation was generally below average throughout the Region but a notable exception was Little Valley in Cattaraugus County where 200 inches of snowfall accumulated compared with the winter norm of about 160 inches.

As is often true for this Region, interest centered around the gulls. On December 11 and 17 single adult specimens of *Larus argentatus thayeri* or *Larus thayeri* (depending upon the authorities followed) were collected at Lewiston on the Niagara River. This represents the first occurrence of this form in New York State. Of additional interest is the fact that there may have been as many as six individuals present during mid-December and furthermore that birds probably representing *thayeri* have been observed during the winter of several years dating back at least to 1954. It is possible that this form may be an occasional (or perhaps regular) winter visitor on the Niagara River. Other gulls of interest were Black-headed in December and March, a Franklin's lingering until the unusually late date of December 23, an estimated 15,000 Bonaparte's (well below the November peak) just above Niagara Falls on December 16, five Little on the Buffalo Ornithological Society Christmas Count December 23 and at least three immature Black-legged Kittiwakes.

Typical winter species such as the Rough-legged Hawk, Short-eared Owl and Northern Shrike were present in very modest numbers. About 12 Snowy Owls gave rise to approximately 20 reports. Except for the Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak (in Allegany County) the winter finches were poorly represented again this year. Interesting reports of unseasonal occurrences were those of Snow Goose, King and Virginia Rails, Phoebe, Yellowthroat, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Dickcissel (the last three at feeders).

March brought the usual surge of waterfowl, hawks and blackbirds plus numerous other less conspicuous types. There was a count of over 1000 whistling Swans north-

west of Randolph and an unofficial estimate of 60,000 Canada Geese in the Oak Orchard area. Unusually early Golden Plover occurred late in March in at least four separate localities.

Rarities, in addition to the gulls already mentioned, were Eared Grebe, Mute Swan, Barnacle and White-fronted Geese, Harlequin Duck, King Eider and Western Meadowlark.

Abbreviations: BISPk—Beaver Island State Park; Bflo—Buffalo; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; CC—Christmas Count; FWC—Federation Waterfowl Count; Han—Hanover Township, Chautauqua County; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; Nia—Niagara; Ont—Ontario; OOGMA—Oak Orchard Game Management Area; TGMA—Tonawanda Game Management Area.

Contributors: RFA—Robert F. Andrie; HHA—Harold H. Axtell; PB—Paul Benham; TLB—Thomas L. Bourne; RB—Richard Brownstein; LB—Lois Buck; JB—Joanna Burger; LDB—Lou and Doris Burton; AC—Arthur Clark; WC—Wilma Csonk; DD—Dorothy Danner; FE—Flora Elderkin; AF—Arthur Freitag; RJ—Ramon Jordan; JK—Joseph Kikta; WHK—Walter and Harriet Klabunde; CK—Clarence Klingensmith; VL—Virgil Lunardini; WAM—Willard and Alice McKale; HDM—Harold D. Mitchell; ECP—Elizabeth C. Pillsbury; FMR—Frances M. Rew; AGR—Archie G. Richardson; RR—Robert Ryczynski; HS—Mrs. Harry Schafer; WGS—William and George Smith; RAS—Robert A. Sundell; EAU—Ed and Alice Ulrich; GW—Gertrude Webster; MMW—Marie and Margaret Wendling.

LOONS—DUCKS: Loons scarcer than ever during this season, one Common Dec 16 Nia Falls, Ont (RB). Red-necked Grebe: good flight starting with one Feb 24 Cuba (LDB,EO) and one Feb 25 Dunkirk Harbor (FE), max five Mar 3 Dunkirk Harbor (FMR *et al*) and four Mar 31 Lyndonville (WGS); Horned Grebe: modest flight Mar 24–110 Dunkirk Harbor, 60 Celoron (RAS *et al*); EARED GREBE: one Mar 24 Dunkirk Harbor (FMR *et al*). Double-crested Cormorant: one imm mid Oct to mid Mar Dunkirk Harbor (mob). Great Blue Heron: eight birds on four of five area CCs; no Feb reports; four Mar 17 at Arkwright heronry (FMR, Rathbun) Black-crowned Night Heron: one Jan 6 BISPk (EAU,WAM). MUTE SWAN: one Dec 11 BISPk (PB); Whistling Swan: last—46 Dec 24, 25 Stow (Don Powers); first—30 Mar 15 over Han (RJ); max 1007 Mar 26 Conewango Valley northwest of Randolph (ECP *et al*). Canada Goose: late starting—30 Mar 15 and 1400 Mar 16 Lyndonville (WGS), unofficial estimate 60,000 Mar 28 Oak Orchard area (AF). BARNACLE GOOSE: one Mar 30, OOGMA (PB,RB, PR *et al*). WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: one Mar 24 INWR (MMW); one Mar 30, OOGMA (RB,RR *et al*); Snow Goose: unusually late—five Dec 20 (Scio CC); arr two Mar 26 Oak Orchard area (GW, Karlak), max 17 Mar 28 OOGMA (PB). Blue Goose: one Mar 17 TGMA (PB), max 76 Mar 28 OOGMA (PB).

Mallard: 1930 (FWC). Black Duck: 2197 (FWC). Gadwall: high winter counts—54 Dec 20 Nia R (HHA), 55 Nia R (BOSCC). Green-winged Teal: two Dec 23 BISPk (BOSCC). Blue-winged Teal: unusually early—five Mar 11 Houghton (Burton, Wilson). American Widgeon: high winter counts—290 Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC), 143 Jan 13–21 (FWC). Shoveler: late—two Dec 11 BISPk (PB). Wood Duck: one Dec 6, 10, 23, Jan 1, Feb 27 Forest Lawn Cemetery, Bflo (mob); one Feb 4, 24 Dunkirk Harbor (RAS,AGR). Redhead: max 214 Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC); 60 Mar 23 Celoron (FE). Ring-necked Duck: one or two on Nia R most of period; arr—one Mar 7 Celoron (RAS). Canvasback: max 2727 Jan 13–21 (FWC); 60 Mar 22 Alfred (Brooks), 60 Mar 23 Celoron (FE), 75 Mar 23 Cuba L (LDB). Common Golden-eye: 5640 Jan 13–21 (FWC). Bufflehead: 390 Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC); 1111 Jan 13–21 (FWC). HARLEQUIN DUCK: imm male Feb 27, Mar 2, 3, 9 Queenston, Ont (JT,RB,RR *et al*). KING EIDER: five Jan 13–21 (FWC); two Jan 27 mouth of Nia R on L Ont (Hess,Wilcoves). White-winged Scoter: 77 Jan 13–21 (FWC). Surf Scoter: highest ever on BOSCC 14 Dec 23 Nia R. Common Scoter: five Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC). Ruddy Duck: three Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC); one Dec 1 to Jan 1

Nia R (mob); first—one Mar 24 Wellsville (LDB). Hooded Merganser: first—two Mar 14 Belmont (LDB), 15 Mar 23 Frewsburg (FE). Common Merganser: 5800 Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC), 10766 Jan 13–21 (FWC).

HAWKS—OWLS: Hawk flight of modest numbers on lake plains last five days of Mar and very small numbers earlier. Turkey Vulture: arr—one Mar 23 Town of Newstead (HDM, Hammond); 11 Mar 25 OOGMA (RB *et al*); 11 Mar 28 Han (VL). Goshawk: one Mar 3 Town of Newstead (WAM). Hawks: Sharp-shinned, six on three of five area CCs, few during Mar hawk flights; Cooper's, seven on three of five area CCs including four Dec 30 Hamburg, four Mar 26 Lyndonville (WGS); Red-tailed, population well below last winter—22 Dec 23 (BOSCC), three Dec 30 (Hamburg CC) compared with 38 and 16 last year, 29 Mar 28 Han (VL); Red-shouldered, early—one Feb 18 Youngstown (PB), 15 Mar 26 Lyndonville (WGS), 16 Mar 26 Han (VL); Rough-legged, population well below most winters but scattered individuals present, missed on BOSCC for second time since 1929. Bald Eagle: single imms Jan 17 Navy Island, Nia R (EAU,AM), Mar 19 Lakeview (TLB), Mar 30, 31 OOGMA (PB,WHK,WAM), Mar 31 INWR (GW *et al*); Marsh Hawk: a few birds mainly on lake plains during Dec- four Mar 19 and 27, two Mar 24 and 29 Lyndonville (WGS). Osprey: early—one Mar 28 Han (RJ). Sparrow Hawk: population above last winter—28 Dec 23 (BOSCC), 16 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC) compared with 14 and 13 last year.

Rails: King, one captured Dec 31 Elma (HS); Virginia, one Dec 31 (Jamestown CC). Am. Coot: numbers well below last winter—15 Jan 13–21 (FWC), 16 Jan 25 Dunkirk Harbor (RAS, Allen H. Benton). Killdeer: a few scattered individuals including two throughout winter at Riverside (RAS,AGR); six Dec 31 (Jamestown CC); arr—two Mar 4 Jamestown (RAS); max 55 Mar 16 Han (VL). Am. Golden Plover: earliest arr ever—one Mar 24, 25 South Pk, Bflo (JK); one Mar 25 Eden (TLB); three Mar 27 Han (RB, HHA *et al*); six Mar 31 Conewango Valley (FE). Am. Woodcock: arr—two Mar 17 Lyndonville (WGS). Common Snipe: four throughout period at Frewsburg (mob) and two at Riverside (RAS,AGR); four Jan 21 Jamestown (Lewis F. Kibler); three Jan 30 (Ed Olmstead, LDB *et al*); a few migrants last seven days of Mar. Greater Yellowlegs: one Mar 29 Conewango Valley (ECP *et al*); 15 Mar 31 INWR (GW *et al*). Lesser Yellowlegs: two Mar 31 INWR (WAM). Pectoral Sandpiper: four Mar 26 Conewango Valley (FE,ECP). Gulls: see introductory comments—usual small numbers of Glaucous, max 5 Jan 1–20, Fort Erie to Queenston, Ont (mob) and Iceland, max five Dec early Jan Queenston, Ont (mob); Great Black-backed, max 214 Mar 3 Dunkirk Harbor (FMR,LB); Herring, 24000 Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC); Thayer's or L.A. *thayeri*, adults collected Dec 11 and 17 Lewiston (RFA,AC); **BLACK-HEADED**, single adults Dec 16 Nia Falls (RB *et al*), Mar 2, 3 Queenston, Ont (PB,RB *et al*); Franklin's, very late—one through Dec 23 (BOSCC) Fort Erie, Ont across from Bflo (mob); Bonaparte's, 12000 Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC), arr—two Mar 23 Celoron (RAS), 75 Mar 24 Dunkirk Harbor (RAS,AGR), 2848 Mar 28 Queenston, Ont (JB,RB); **LITTLE**, max five Dec 23 Nia R (BOSCC), early—one Mar 31 Queenston, Ont (RB). **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one found dead Dec 5 Bflo Harbor (AC); one Dec 16–30 Nia Falls (mob); one Jan 28 mouth of Nia R on L Ont (Black); one Feb 3–Mar 7 Dunkirk Harbor (mob).

Mourning Dove: max counts 91 Dec 23 (BOSCC), 74 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC). **Owls:** Barn, one Jan 5 Hamburg (TLB); Snowy, see introductory comments—as last year most along lake plains but two penetrated hills—female Feb 18–Mar 17 Bemus Pt (mob), male Mar 29–31 Jamestown airport (RAS,AGR); Long-eared, now scarce at any season—one or two Jan through Mar Youngstown (mob), two Mar 23 Somerset (RR,PR), one Mar 31 Lyndonville (WGS); Short-eared, most reports from Lyndonville max 10 Mar 1–30 (WGS) and Grand Island max 8 Dec 23 (BOSCC); Saw-whet, one or two Jan 22–Mar 23 Youngstown (RR,PB *et al*), one Mar 23 Yates (RR,PB), one Mar 27 Jamestown (Castol).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: as last year large winter count—10 Dec 30 (Scio CC); might this be due to more unpolluted water here than in other areas sampled? Yellow-shafted Flicker: unusually large numbers in Dec—12 Dec 23 (BOSCC), eight Dec 30 (Hamburg CC), six Dec 30 (Scio CC). Red-bellied Woodpecker: male at feeder Feb 23, 29 Bemus Pt (Otto and Gretchen Carlson). Red-headed Woodpecker: one Mar 12 Tonawanda Indian Reservation (MMW,GW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: rare in winter—singles Dec 23 Grand Island (BOSCC), Jan 3 Lyndonville (WGS), Jan 31 Shongo (LDB); arr—one Mar 31 South Pk, Bflo (JK), two Mar 31 Sheridan (RB). Eastern Phoebe: arr—one Mar 21 Spring Brook (HS).

Horned Lark: *E. a. alpestris*, a few scattered reports of up to six except at Elma where six Jan 21 increased to peak of 35 Mar 28 (DD,HS). Tree Swallow: arr—one Mar 23 Riverside Marsh (FE); eight Mar 31 Oak Orchard area (MMW, Schwenger). Blue Jay: unusually high winter counts—393 Dec 30 (Scio CC), 330 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC). Tufted Titmouse: decidedly lower than last winter—max 4 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: mostly singles sparsely distributed—unusual concentration ten Mar 10 Town of Birdsall (LDB). Brown Creeper: max 21 Dec 23 (BOSCC). Winter Wren: one Feb 8 Athol Springs (TLB). Mockingbird: at least eight birds at scattered localities. Brown Thrasher: singles Dec 29 Town of Tonawanda (Zehr, Cooper), Jan 1 Town of Ward (LDB). Robin: scattered reports of individuals or small flocks—max 13 Jan 3–22 Lewiston (WHK). Hermit Thrush: one Dec 23 (BOSCC); arr—one Mar 21 Eden (TLB). Eastern Bluebird: arr—one Feb 29 Orchard Pk (TLB); six Mar 26 Lyndonville (WGS). Golden-crowned Kinglet: large winter count—45 Dec 23 (BOSCC). Water Pipit: arr—two Mar 24 Frewsburg (FMR,LB). Cedar Waxwing: a few small to medium sized flocks scattered throughout Region—high counts 158 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC), 115 Mar 16 Lakeview (TLB), 100 Mar 17 Alfred (CK). Northern Shrike: small numbers with max of two individuals well scattered throughout Region ;last—one Mar 18 Boston (TLB). Starling: 85000 Dec 23 (BOSCC).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: four Dec 30 (Hamburg CC); arr—one Mar 31 Sheridan (JB,RB). Yellowthroat: one Dec 23 BISPk (BOSCC); one Dec 30 Belmont (Scio CC). Eastern Meadowlark: again this winter fewer than usual on lake plains with none on BOSCC and an extraordinary total of 94 Dec 31 (Jamestown CC); arr—one Mar 16 Han (VL). WESTERN MEADOWLARK: early—one Mar 31 Lancaster (RR,JK). Red-winged Blackbird: small numbers widely scattered in six localities; winter max ten Dec 23 (BOSCC); arr—three Mar 5 Lakeview (TLB); 15800 Mar 16 Han (VL). Baltimore Oriole: one Dec 22 to Feb 12 when recovered dead at feeder Lakeview (WC, Rose). Rusty Blackbird: one Dec 4 Belmont (LDB); two Dec 31 Amherst (Zehr, Inskip); one Jan 28 Spring Brook (HS); arr—one Mar 20 Eden (TLB), 30 Mar 24 Frewsburg (FMR,LB). Common Grackle: a few birds at scattered locations during winter; max 12 Dec 30 (Scio CC), 12 Jan 11 Wellsville (LDB). Brown-headed Cowbird: individuals and small flocks scattered throughout Region during winter; high counts 136 Dec 30 (Scio CC), 60 Dec 23 (BOSCC); 100 Mar 21 Elma (HS).

Cardinal: CC totals considerably below those of last year—126 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC), 69 Dec 30 (Scio CC), 68 Dec 23 (BOSCC), 57 Dec 31 (Jamestown CC). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: female carefully observed at feeder Dec 24 to Jan 4 Cassadaga (Ora Swanson, Joan Boyd). Dickcissel: a regular fall migrant in very small numbers joining flocks of House Sparrows and therefore most often detected at feeders—two Dec 30 (Hamburg CC); one Jan 2 Hamburg (TLB). Evening Grosbeak: well represented in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties Jan through Mar including max 250 Jan 4 Wellsville (LDB) but only a single record elsewhere—one Feb 25 Youngstown (WHK). Purple Finch: individuals or small flocks at feeders mostly in Alleghany Co with max 40 Feb 26 Alfred (Brooks). Common Redpoll: three Jan 31 Orchard Pk (TLB); nine Feb 24 Lakeview (TLB); two Mar 19 Bel-

mont (LDB); 12 Mar 20 Alma (LDB). Pine Siskin: mostly small flocks and individuals scattered throughout Region during winter—high counts 152 Dec 31 (Jamestown CC), 70 Feb 11 Villanova (HDM *et al.*). Am. Goldfinch: small flocks scattered throughout Region during winter—high counts 207 Dec 30 (Scio CC), 111 Dec 31 (Jamestown CC). Red Crossbill: five, one Dec 23, Jan 20 Gerry (AGR); 16 Feb 23, eight Mar 3 and 4, Belmont (LDB); White-winged Crossbill: one Dec 25 Emery Pk (JK), 12 Dec 30 (Scio CC).

Sparrows-Savannah: arr—two Mar 23 Cuba (LDB). Vesper: arr—one Mar 23 Cuba Marsh (LDB). Slate-colored Junco: 175 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC); 172 Dec 30 (Scio CC) Tree; 659 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC); 522 Dec 30 (Scio CC); 500 Feb 11 Wilson (WHK). Field: a few singles or small groups during winter including five on two of five area CCs; arr—one Mar 21 TGMA (AF). White-crowned: a few singles or pairs during winter and a flock of eight Dec 30 (Scio CC). White-throated: more than ever on CCs—19 Dec 23 (BOS), 11 Dec 30 (Scio), eight Dec 31 (Jamestown), six Dec 30 (Olean), four Dec 30 (Hamburg); a few during rest of winter. Fox: one Dec 30 (Scio CC); arr—one Mar 14 Spring Brook (HS). Swamp: nine Dec 31 (Jamestown CC), a few other singles or small groups during winter; arr—one Mar 23 Cuba Marsh (LDB). Song: high winter counts 34 Mar 31 (Jamestown CC), 26 Dec 30 (Hamburg CC), 26 Dec 30 (Scio CC). Lapland Longspur: small numbers on lake plains Jan and Feb. Snow Bunting: at least five reports of flocks numbering between 200 and 600 scattered throughout Region; max 2500 Mar 3 Dunkirk (RAS,AGR).

ADDENDUM AND CORRIGENDUM. Vol XVIII, No. 1, January 1968, Region 1 report: add *COMMON RAVEN* one Oct 11 Langford (Bournes). Additional records of *YELLOW RAIL*: singles (one of which was collected) Sep 23, 24, Oct 1 Tonawanda Game Management Area (Gavutis). *WHEATEAR* (p. 31) should read two Sep 27 Hamburg (Bourne).

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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Temperatures for December were about average with the smaller Finger Lakes (Conesus, etc.) open until after Christmas. The first half of January brought the coldest temperatures experienced in many years, with extensive ice formations on Lake Ontario and the complete freezing of all smaller bodies of water. Most of the half-hardy wintering species present in December disappeared at this time. Mid-January to mid-March were about average and above normal temperatures prevailed during the latter part of March, producing an early start of the spring migration. Snowfall was somewhat below average, and total precipitation was well below normal.

There was a very heavy spring flight of Whistling Swans. Geese and ducks were about average. Good early hawk flights occurred March 23, 26, and 28. Except for some Evening Grosbeaks and a very few Pine Siskins, northern finches were unrecorded.

Noteworthy birds reported include Snow and Blue Geese, Common and King Eiders, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Carolina Wren, Western Meadowlark, and Oregon Junco.

Observers cited: AC—Arlieen Cornell; RD—Robert Dobsin; KD—Kay Doris; JJD—James J. Doherty; RE—Robert Erwin; JF—John Foster; WH—William Hartranft;