

mid-Feb when flocks of 25-30 were at a number of feeders. Purple Finch: became fairly abundant in late Feb and through Mar. No Pine Grosbeaks. Common Redpoll: only one report, three Jan 1 on Federal Rd Elmira (TB). No Pine Siskins. American Goldfinch: fairly abundant. White-winged Crossbill: only report, Dec 28 Cornell campus (F. Marcham). No Red Crossbills. Oregon Junco: one Jan 13 at least to March 18 at McIlroy feeder (several obs.), pink-sided form; one Dec 21 through Jan Elmira (ER *et al*); Tree Sparrow: better numbers than last few years—flocks of 25-30 at feeders, in bad weather. An imm Chipping Sparrow and an imm Swamp Sparrow spent part of winter at Elmira feeders; this is uncommon. Fox Sparrow: Keuka noted good early migration, end of March; none noted in other areas. Lapland Longspur: very few reports this year, the species had to be really hunted. Snow Bunting: locally abundant in flocks of several hundred, but this was not a "big year" for them.

Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

No report received. See field note in this issue for record of *VARIED THRUSH* at Candor.

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

December proved persistently warm, wet, and windless with only moderate and transient snowfalls until the annual Syracuse Christmas Count blizzard December 23rd. The warm weather, open water, and abundant berry crop undoubtedly contributed to the lingering of many half-hardies, especially mimids, warblers, and sparrows (q.v.). January promptly demonstrated the folly of trusting a central New York winter. A protracted freeze with unremitting sub-zero cold and snow cover in the first half of January sealed most water areas and virtually eliminated most half-hardies. Snowfall through the rest of January proved moderate, and great accumulations did not occur in February (total for season less than 80 inches). However, a second severe sub-zero session in February further reduced the few surviving half-hardies; even certain locally common wintering species (Sparrow Hawk, Flicker) seemed scarce after the February cold snap. Ice conditions along the Seneca and Oswego Rivers and on Lake Ontario were as severe as ever recorded in 25 years (see Oldsquaw). In contrast to the severity of January and February, March had day after day of warm, mild weather, with one enormous exception—a rainstorm March 21-22nd followed by a snowstorm the 23-24th which grounded thousands of geese, ducks, and other early migrants across the Region and precipitated the greatest influx of Whistling Swans in the 25 years of the editor's experience. Late March was so warm that the ice was out of Oneida Lake by the 31st (a record early breakup!).

Positives for the winter include: 1) a heavy spring flight of Whistling Swan, Canada, Blue, and Snow Geese, and Pintail; 2) a slight increase in Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks and Screech Owl; 3) increased numbers of white-winged gulls; 4) high numbers of wintering Mourning Dove; 5) a light flight of Snowy Owls; 6) greater numbers of wintering woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Brown Creeper; 7) greater-than-normal number and variety of half-hardies, but only in the first half of winter; 8) an extremely heavy flight of winter finches in the Adirondacks, with lesser numbers in non-montane sectors; 9) increased tallies of wintering towhees and Field, White-throated, and Song Sparrows.