

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 number of individuals unless otherwise stated.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT A. SUNDELL

The winter was a fairly mild one with none of the record-breaking cold spells that characterized the first half of January, 1968. During December the temperature was about one degree above the long-term average and precipitation was slightly less than one half inch above the average. Weather conditions during January and February were fairly typical for the area, although there was less snow than usual during February. The typical winter meteorologic pattern, however, persisted throughout the first half of March and as a result very little thawing took place prior to this time and also very little land bird migration. Most water remained frozen solid until well into the second half of March and this factor also affected negatively both land bird and water bird migration.

In a reversal of the general pattern of the last several years, water birds were below normal in terms of the number of species, individuals and rarities noted, while the land birds were definitely up in these categories. The following trends were determined: (1) small numbers of loons and grebes, (2) early Whistling Swans migrating on February 21 but a maximum of only 200 and no large concentrations in Southern Tier localities where over 1000 were counted last March, (3) a continuing increase in the number of Blue Geese in the Oak Orchard area late in March with a high count of 98, (4) modest counts of most species of waterfowl but exceptionally low numbers of Canvasback and Oldsquaw and an all-time high of 1100 Bufflehead, (5) a modest early spring hawk flight commencing during the third week of February and peaking about one month later, (6) fewer interesting gull records than in most recent years, (7) continuing dispersal of the Red-bellied Woodpecker, (8) more Tufted Titmice than usual including a significant increase in Allegany County, (9) the continuing trend toward successful wintering of the Mockingbird, (10) the spectacular number of Cardinals recorded on area Christmas Counts, (11) a superb flight of winter finches featuring the Evening and Pine Grosbeaks and the Common Redpoll but with only two Red Crossbills and no White-winged, (12) a fine showing of many sparrows, particularly the Slate-colored Junco and Tree Sparrow.

Rare species reported were Mute Swan, Harlequin Duck, Purple Sandpiper, Bohemian Waxwing, Dickcissel, Hoary Redpoll, Oregon Junco and Harris' Sparrow.

Abbreviations: ACCC — Allegany County Christmas Count; Alleg Rd — Allegany Road, Hanover Township, Chautauqua County; Bflo — Buffalo; BISP — Beaver Island State Park; BOSCC — Buffalo Ornithological Society Christmas Count; CC — Christmas Count; Chaut — Chautauqua; INWR — Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; Nia — Niagara; Ont — Ontario; OOCMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area; TGMA — Tonawanda Game Management Area.

Contributors: RFA — Robert F. Andrie; HHA — Harold H. Axtell; CB — Clarence Beal; PB — Paul Benham; TLB — Thomas L. Bourne; LDB — Lou and Doris Burton; AC — Arthur Clark; DD — Dorothy Danner; FE — Flora Elderkin; AF — Arthur Freitag; GI — Gregory Inskip; LFK — Lewis F. Kibler; JK — Joseph Kikta; WHK — Walter and Harriette Klabunde; CK — Clarence Klingensmith; VL — Virgil Lunardini; WAM — Willard and Alice McKale; HDM — Harold D. Mitchell; ECP — Elizabeth C.

Pillsbury; FMR — Frances M. Rew; RR — Robert Rybczynski; WGS — William and George Smith; RAS — Robert A. Sundell; OS — Ora Swanson; RW — Robert Wagner.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: very scarce during winter for past ten years — two Dec 7 Cuba L (LDB), two Dec 22 Nia R (BOSCC). Red-throated Loon: always rare during winter — two Dec 22 Nia R (BOSCC). Grebes: Red-necked — one Feb 6, 13 (RAS), Feb 7 (FMR *et al*) Dunkirk Harbor; Horned — 37 Dec 1 Chaut L (FMR, OS), max winter count 9 Jan 12 Dunkirk Harbor (FMR), 100 Mar 29 Celeron (FE); Pied-billed — three throughout winter Chaut L Outlet (mob). Great Blue Heron: max five Dec 28 (ACCC); rare during Feb — singles Feb 3 Almond (CK), Feb 6 South Dayton (Hinkley, Crowy); one Mar 17 at Arkwright heronry (ECP).

MUTE SWAN: imm Dec 29 Celeron (Jamestown CC), one Jan 21, 29 Ridge-way (WGS). Whistling Swan: 93 Dec 1 Chaut L (FMR, OS), singles Dec 7 Lancaster (JK), Dec 19, 22 BISP (BOSCC); early migrants — 11 Feb 21 Clarence (VL); max 200 Mar 30 OOGMA (DD). Canada Goose: small flocks later than usual — 38 Dec 14 over Springbrook (DD), 27 Dec 27 (INWRCC), 48 Dec 28 (ACCC), 10 Dec 28 (Olean CC), flocks of 7, 29 Jan 23 over Jamestown (Pollaro); returning migrants — 150 Mar 6 Belmont (LDB), 35 Mar 7 Lyndonville (WGS), max 40,000 TGMA, OOGMA, INWR (DD). Snow Goose: one Mar 20 INWR (AF), 8 Mar 30 OOGMA (HDM *et al*). Blue Goose: one Mar 19 OOGMA (PB), 98 Mar 30 OOGMA (HDM *et al*).

Mallard: 973 Dec 22 (BOSCC). Pintail: 1500 Mar 27 (AF), 1500 Mar 30 Oak Orchard area (HDM *et al*). Green-winged Teal: four Dec 22 (BOSCC); one Dec 27 (INWRCC). Wood Duck: two Dec 28 (ACCC); two Dec 30 Town of West Almond (LDB *et al*); first arr — two Mar 18 Caneadea (LDB), one Mar 18 Frewsburg (FE). Redhead: 202 Dec 22 (BOSCC). Canvasback: exceptionally low — 367 Dec 22 (BOSCC). Bufflehead: 1100 Dec 7 Upper Nia R (AF); 634 Dec 22 (BOSCC). Oldsquaw: exceptionally scarce — one Dec 22 (BOSCC). **HARLEQUIN DUCK:** three Feb 10 Lakeside (PB); one Feb 23 Fort Nia (RW). Scoters: Surf — 12 Dec 7 Upper Nia R (HDM *et al*); Common — one Dec 1 Barcelona (FMR, OS). Ruddy Duck: one Dec 29 BISP (RFA, AC). Mergansers: Hooded — 143 Dec 1 Chaut L (FMR, OS), 11 Dec 29 (Jamestown CC), 12 Jan 12 Chaut L Outlet (RAS, LFK); Common — 4158 Dec 22 (BOSCC), 5200 Feb 7 Dunkirk Harbor (FMR *et al*).

HAWKS-OWLS: light hawk flight Feb 22 and fair numbers Mar 18, 23. Turkey Vulture: one Mar 16 Steamburg (Jordan). Goshawk: one Dec 1 Amherst (GI). Hawks: Sharp-shinned and Cooper's — a few scattered individuals during winter (mostly around feeding stations) and during flights mentioned above; Red-tailed — 22 Feb 16 Lyndonville (WGS), 80 Mar 18 over Alleg Rd (VL *et al*), 77 Mar 23 over Ont Plain (RW); Red-shouldered — rare during winter, two Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), early migrants — singles Feb 17 over Hamburg (TLB) and Feb 19 Boston (TLB), 20 Mar 18 over Alleg Rd (VL *et al*), 34 Mar 23 over Ont Plain (RW); Rough-legged — 11 Mar 23 over Ont Plain (RW); Bald Eagle — single imms Mar 18 TGMA (PB) and Mar 22 over Eden (TLB); Marsh — five Feb 23 Porter (HDM *et al*), ten Mar 23 over Ont Plain (RW), 15 Mar 29 and 27 Mar 30 Lyndonville (WGS); Sparrow — population above last two years but not significant increase, 34 Dec 22 (BOSCC).

Turkey: one Feb 4 Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB). American Coot: max fall count — 328 Dec 1 Chaut L (FMR, OS); max winter count — 12 Feb 22 Dunkirk Harbor (VL). Killdeer: very scarce — three Dec 7 Cuba L (LDB), one Dec 29 (Jamestown CC); no significant flocks during spring migration — arr two Feb 24 Alfred (Brooks). Common Snipe: four Dec 29 (Jamestown CC), two Jan 2 Frewsburg (FE); arr one Mar 17 Jerusalem Corners (HHA). Greater Yellowlegs: one Mar 18 Evans (TLB). **PURPLE SANDPIPER:** five Dec 8 Nia Falls (PB). Gulls: Glaucous — ten Jan 16

Squaw Island (RFA, Byron), one Feb 7, 21 Dunkirk Harbor (FMR *et al*); Iceland—singles Mar 2 Robert Moses Power Plant (RFA) and Mar 30 Nia Falls (Hess); Herring—careful counts and estimates 31,000 Dec 17 Nia R above falls (HHA); Thayer's (or *L. a. thayeri*)—adult collected Dec 21 Robert Moses Power Plant (RFA); Bonaparte's—numbers well below average in late Dec; Little—one Dec 7, 8 Lewiston (WHK *et al*).

Mourning Dove: 53 Dec 12 Marilla (DD); highest count ever on BOSCC—140 Dec 22; 56 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC); max 53 at feeder Jan and Feb Springbrook (DD). Barn Owl: one Feb 24 Hamburg (TLB). Snowy Owl: singles Dec 14 Shadigee (WGS), Dec 26 Oakfield (Thill), Jan 16 Lakeview (TLB). Long-eared Owl: one Dec 7, 8 and two Feb 16, 23 Youngstown (mob); one Jan (Hamburg CC). Short-eared Owl: at Lyndonville, Dec through Feb max 11, Mar max 20, and 24 Mar 16 Cambria (WAM *et al*); at roost in Niagara County, 26 Dec 18 and 55 to 60 Jan 28 (Richard Clark). Saw-whet Owl: singles in Dec at Hamburg, Youngstown, Amherst, Grand Island and Alleg Co, in Jan at Belmont, in Feb at Hamburg and in Mar at Pendleton.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: large winter count (perhaps due to unpolluted water?)—17 Dec 28 (ACCC). Yellow-shafted Flicker: individuals widely scattered but max only five Jan 1 (Dunkirk CC). Red-bellied Woodpecker: imm male at feeder in Frewsburg Dec 1–16 (Gulvin *et al*); specimen found dead Dec 23 and donated to Bflo Museum of Science; singles at other unusual localities—Dec 29 (Jamestown CC), Jan 13, 16 Lewiston (WHK), Jan 26 Conewango (FMR *et al*). Red-headed Woodpecker: more than average winter—one Dec 22 (BOSCC), two Dec 28 (ACCC), one Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), two Feb 6 Lyndonville (WGS), one Feb 8 Hamburg (TLB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: singles Dec 4 Wellsville (LDB), Jan 4 Fluvanna (FE). Eastern Phoebe: arr one Mar 23 Lyndonville (WGS).

Horned Lark: *E. a. alpestris*, a few scattered individuals and small flocks after Jan 10 with max five Feb 16 Gerry (RAS). Tree Swallow: arr eight Mar 29 TGMA (HHA). Purple Martin: arr early singles Mar 25, 26 North Boston (Dodge). Common Crow: started returning to southwestern New York in late Jan (usually mid Feb) with small flocks noted (Ross Gardner). Black-capped Chickadee: unusually high counts probably aftermath of influx during fall; highest ever—554 Dec 22 (BOSCC), 606 Dec 28 (ACCC). Tufted Titmouse: more than usual at feeders, particularly in lower Genesee R valley—28 (ACCC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: mostly singles sparsely distributed; max eight Jan 1 (Hamburg CC). Wrens: Winter—four Dec 28 (ACCC), singles Feb 2 Springbrook (DD), Toad Hollow (Eden) (TLB), Mar 4 Derby (TLB); Carolina—one Dec 28 (ACCC). Mockingbird: at least seven birds at scattered localities. Catbird: one Dec 18 Lewiston (WHK). Brown Thrasher: singles, feeder of LFK mid Nov through Jan 3 including Jamestown CC; throughout Jan Lewiston (WHK); Feb 14, 18, Mar 13 South Pk, Bflo (JK). Robin: scattered reports of individuals or small flocks—max 12 Dec 22 (BOSCC), 10 Dec 28 (ACCC). Hermit Thrush: singles Dec 22 (BOSCC), Feb 3 Tonawanda (GI, Zehr). Eastern Bluebird: arr two Feb 20 Sturgeon Pt (TLB). Water Pipit: first winter record for Chaut Co—one Dec 29 (Jamestown CC); arr five Mar 18 Transit (LDB). BOHEMIAN WAXWING: one Dec 21, 22 Eden (TLB, RFA). Cedar Waxwing: usual scattering of small flocks—max 55 Dec 10 South Pk, Bflo (JK), 58 Dec 28 (ACCC), 64 Feb 20 Aurora (JK). Shrikes: Northern—a few individuals scattered throughout Region with concentration on L Ont plain, max five Feb 23 Ont Plain (HDM *et al*); Loggerhead—singles Mar 23 Yates Township (HDM *et al*), Mar 27 Riverside Marsh (FE).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: three Dec 1 Town of Portland (FMR, OS); two Dec 30 Cazenovia Pk, Bflo (RR). Eastern Meadowlark: a few individuals on lake plains and nine Dec 28 (ACCC); unusually small numbers of returning birds noted from mid Mar on. Red-winged Blackbird: a few individuals and

small flocks scattered throughout Region—max 15 Dec 22 (BOSCC); return flight started Mar 2 one Cazenovia Pk, Bflo (JK) but no large numbers until second half of month—1000 Mar 20 southern Chaut Co (ECP,FE), 3000 Mar 29 Falconer (CB). Rusty Blackbird: rare in winter—one Dec 28 (Scio CC), Dec 29 Belmont (LDB), two Feb 6 North Java (PB); 40 Mar 27 Riverside Marsh (FE), 50 Mar 29 Falconer (CB). Common Grackle: a few individuals and small flocks scattered throughout Region during Dec, max 9 Dec 22 (BOSCC); only other winter record—one Jan 3 Springbrook (DD); arr 16 Mar 3 Scio (LDB). Brown-headed Cowbird: a few small flocks and scattered individuals especially during Dec; two large flocks—95 Dec 28 (Scio CC), 53 Dec 28 (ACCC); flock of 20 wintered at a feeder in Jamestown (FE).

Cardinal: increase continues well-monitored at feeding stations—231 Dec 28 (ACCC), 217 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), 165 Dec 29 (Jamestown CC), 122 Dec 22 (BOSCC). *DICKCISSEL*: imm male to adult plumage at Sundell feeder in Fluvanna with flock of House Sparrows Dec 26 to Apr 14 (RAS *et al*). Evening Grosbeak: excellent flight with large numbers at feeding stations in Southern Tier counties—max 1126 Dec 28 (ACCC), 565 Dec 28 (Scio CC), 475 Dec 29 (Jamestown CC); numbers dropped off dramatically in Jan and then built up again in late Feb and Mar. Purple Finch: a few individuals throughout winter—max 9 Dec 28 (ACCC). Pine Grosbeak: excellent flight with small flocks scattered throughout Region—max counts 56 Dec 28 (ACCC), 32 Feb 23 Harris Hill Rd, Gerry Township, Chaut Co (RAS), 26 Feb 8 same location (CB). *HOARY REDPOLL*: one Jan 12 Porter Township (WHK). (Ed. Note: For a critical discussion of the complex inter-relationships of the Common and Hoary Redpolls and the identification problems involved, the reader is referred to Peter Post's article in *The Kingbird* 17(2):89, May 1967 and Robert Yunick's article in *The Kingbird* 16(4):204, Oct. 1966.) Common Redpoll: small flocks or individuals at well-scattered localities throughout Region but definitely concentrated on lake plains—max 100 Jan 16 Ridgeway (PB). Pine Siskin: a few individuals and very small flocks throughout Region during winter—max 9 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC); 9 Dec 25, Jan 12 Forest Lawn Cemetery, Bflo (AF). American Goldfinch: substantial numbers throughout Region, especially during Dec—max counts 196 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), 113 Dec 28 (ACCC), 104 Dec 29 (Jamestown CC). Red Crossbill: one Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), one male throughout Jan and Feb visiting feeder in Jamestown (Carlson). Refous-sided Towhee: scattering of singles or pairs at feeders throughout Region.

Sparrows: Vesper—arr one Mar 24 Eden (TLB); Slate-colored Junco—high counts during Dec, 569 Dec 28 (ACCC), 335 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), 265 Dec 29 (Jamestown CC), 194 Dec 22 (BOSCC); *OREGON JUNCO*—one Dec 9 through Jan 31 Lewiston (WHK); Tree—unusually high counts, 1812 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), 1494 Dec 28 (ACCC), 1074 Dec 22 (BOSCC); Field—surprisingly scarce, three Dec 29 (Jamestown CC), one Dec 28 (Scio CC); *HARRIS' SPARROW*: imm at feeder of Tom Welch, Blanding Rd, Silver Creek Dec 7 through Mar 31 (mob; photographed); White-crowned—a few individuals and small flocks at feeders throughout Region, max 18 Feb 1 Silver Creek (PB, RR, Salisbury, Dorst); White-throated—unusually high counts, 26 Dec 28 (ACCC), 20 Dec 22 (BOSCC), 16 Dec 28 (Scio CC) 13 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC); Fox—one Dec 28 (Scio CC), arr one Mar 27 Lyndonville (WGS); Swamp—singles Dec 1 Town of Poland (FMR,OS), Dec 23 Belmont (LDB), Dec 29 (Jamestown CC), four Dec 22 (BOSCC), arr one Mar 22 Fillmore (LDB); Song—high winter counts, 44 Dec 28 (ACCC), 42 Jan 1 (Hamburg CC), 37 Dec 22 (BOSCC). Lapland Longspur: good numbers late Jan to mid Feb on L Ont plain—max 220 Jan 26 Yates (Brownstein); a few on L Erie plain—max 22 Feb 12 Marilla (DD). Snow Bunting: seven reports of flocks between 200 and 800, six of which were from L Erie plain; max 2000 Feb 12 Marilla (DD).

19 Chestnut Street, Jamestown, N.Y. 14701