

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for December were about average. The first half of January was much below normal. A prolonged late January thaw brought the month's temperature up to about average. Temperatures for February and March were also about normal. February was dry with only a third of the average precipitation and March had less than half of average. Snowfall for December and January was heavy. It decreased to 15 inches in February and only 3 inches in March. Some parts of the Region had heavier snowfall.

The spring flight of Whistling Swans was down sharply from last year's heavy flight. Canada Geese seemed about average. Most ducks seemed somewhat down, exceptions being the Ring-necked Duck and Hooded Merganser which occurred in good numbers. A few Goshawks wintered, as did a small number of the two other accipiters. Red-tails were common, but Rough-legs were very scarce. Only one report of the Snowy Owl was received.

The various blackbirds wintered in average numbers. Evening and Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls were generally distributed. Pine Siskins were very scarce, both crossbills were unreported. Tree Sparrows were abundant.

Among the more outstanding birds were: Common Eider, Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Black-headed Gull, Carolina Wren and Bohemian Waxwing.

Observers cited in text: DC—Mr. & Mrs. Dort Cameron; JHC—Jerry Czeck; GD—Gertrude Davis; JJD—James J. Doherty; JWF—John W. Foster; WH—William Hartmanft; GWJ—George W. Jones; RHJ—Robert H. Jones; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitzer; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WLL—Warren L. Lloyd; TM—Theodore Mack; JHM—J. H. Madden; RGM—Robert G. McKinney; JM—Mr. & Mrs. Joseph McNett; AM—Alfred Maley; MM—Maryanne Menuhin; HSM—Howard S. Miller; NSM—Dr. & Mrs. Neil S. Moon; RTO—Robert T. O'Hara; WO—William Orwin; FHP—Frank H. Phelps; ES—Ester Stiles; MAS—Mary Ann Sunderlin; SFT—Sarah F. Talpey; ST—Stephen Taylor; FT—Frank Templeton; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow; WPW—W. Paul Weld; RJW—Robert J. White.

Locations: BB—Braddocks Bay; CL—Conesus Lake; DFP—Durand-Eastman Park; EL—East Lakeshore; GR—Genesee River; IB—Irondequoit Bay; HBSP—Hamlin Beach State Park; LLCC—Little Lakes Christmas Census; MP—Mendon Ponds; SB—Sodus Bay; WL—West Lakeshore; RCC—Rochester Christmas Census.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: two Dec 20 CL (FT), last fall record. Red-throated Loon: one Mar 23 WL (AEK,ST), very early spring date. Pied-billed Grebe: 13 Dec 22 CL (WCL,RJW); one Jan 19 GR (JWF,TM). Great Blue Heron: two Dec 29 GR (AM,TET); one Mar 22 Hamlin (NM). Whistling Swan: 48 Mar 22 BB (GOS hike), high count. Snow Goose: 14 Mar 18 Groveland (WO). Mallard: 123 Dec 29 RCC. Black Duck: 125 Dec 22 LLCC. Pintail: one Jan 12 & 19 SB (WLL,MAS). Wood Duck: one Dec 28 & Jan 12 GR (AM,TET). Redhead: 156 Dec 22 CL (WCL *et al*); 40 Mar 18 SB (GWJ); 50 Mar 23 SB (TET). Ring-necked Duck: max 114 Mar 30 WL (WLL,MAS). Canvasback: 150 Mar 18 SB (GWJ); 200 Mar 23 SB (TET). Greater Scaup: 2810 Jan 19 GR (several), our highest wintering count. Common Goldeneye: 1272 Jan 12 EL & WL (several). Probably an all-time low count for the duck census. Bufflehead: 198 Dec 29 EL & WL (several). Oldsquaw: 1363 Jan 19 EL & WL (several). **COMMON EIDER**: a female Jan 14 Irondequoit Bay Outlet (ST), seen under very favorable conditions. The observer is very familiar with the species in New England. White-winged Scoter: 40 Dec 29 EL & WL (several); 59 Jan 19 EL & WL (several); 90 Feb 18 HBSP (RTO *et al*). Surf Scoter: one Jan 4 GR (HSM,RTO); one Jan 5 WL (WLL, MAS). Common Scoter: two Feb 22 near SB (MM,ES). Hooded Merganser: one wintered in the Round Pond-Buck Pond area (several); two Feb 22 SB (MM,ES);

generally distributed in small numbers along the lakeside ponds by mid-March. Common Merganser: 121 Jan 19 EL & WL (several).

HAWKS-OWLS: **GOSHAWK:** one Dec 1 Webster, one Dec 14 Penfield, one Dec 22 Webster, all by JHC—these records involve at least two birds; an adult and immature Mar 8 near Marion (TET). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Dec 21 near Fairport (TET); one Dec 29 in Greece (JWF). Cooper's Hawk: one Dec 22 Hemlock L (WCL,RJW); one Jan 13 Newark (ES); one Jan 25 Retsof (WCL); one Jan 28 MP (SFT); a few singles along the lake during late March. Red-tailed Hawk: 40 Dec 22 LLCC; nine Jan 23 Newark (ES). Rough-legged Hawk: four Dec 22 LLCC; unreported thereafter until a few in late March along the lake, max seven Mar 30 WL (WLL,MAS). Golden Eagle: an adult Mar 30 MP (RTO), well seen. The observer has seen the bird three times previously. The bird remained at least until Apr 5. Bald Eagle: two adults Dec 22 near Hemlock L (several); one adult Feb 16 in the same place (RTO). Marsh Hawk: three Dec 22 LLCC; one Dec 29 RCC; up to five a day along the WL in late March, mostly around BB; most seemed to be birds that had paused in migration. Sparrow Hawk: 12 Dec 22 LLCC; seven Dec 29 RCC; nine Jan 23 Newark (ES). For the first time in years there was no substantial late March hawk flight along Lake Ontario, probably due to unfavorable winds.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT: max 178 Dec 29 RCC. Virginia Rail: an injured bird was found Dec 29 on a road between Round and Buck Ponds (John Mitchell). The bird later died and the specimen was preserved. Am. Coot: 39 Dec 22 LLCC; one Dec 29 & Jan 4 GR (RTO *et al.*).

Killdeer: eight Dec 7 BB (WCL); three Dec 20 CL (FT). **BAIRD'S SAND-PIPER:** one Dec 8, one of the most astonishing dates recorded for a long time. The bird was feeding on a windrow of marsh vegetation near the west spit of Brad-docks Bay. The observer studied the bird from a distance of 75 feet, being unable to approach closer because of surrounding water and ice. Realizing the extreme lateness of the date, the observer studied the bird very carefully as to size, plumage and call notes. Mr. Listman feels confident of his identification.

Glaucous Gull: one Jan 18-19 IB (JM *et al.*). Iceland Gull: max four Jan 19 EL (AEK); one Mar 23 IB (RTO), last date although some years the species is recorded much later. Bonaparte's Gull: seven Mar 27 IB (MAS), first spring record. **BLACK-HEADED GULL:** an adult in winter plumage Jan 25 at IB Outlet (AEK, ST *et al.*). Found first by Kemnitzer and Taylor, both of whom have had previous experience with the species. The bird was seen under very favorable conditions with a 30x scope and binoculars. The Bonaparte-like upper wings, black underside of primaries and dull red bill were clearly seen. A call was sent out on all "rare bird" exchange and at least ten other observers found the bird, which remained until mid-afternoon, frequently flying over to the lower part of Irondequoit Bay. It was not reported subsequently. This our fourth local record. The previous times the bird was associated with Bonaparte's Gulls; none were present on this occasion.

Screech Owl: 14 Dec 22 LLCC (WCL *et al.*). Great Horned Owl: 12 Dec 22 LLCC (WCL *et al.*). Snowy Owl: one Jan 12 SB (WLL *et al.*), only record. Short-eared Owl: five Dec 29 BB (several); three Jan 16 Avon (WO).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: two Dec 22 LLCC; one Dec 29 RCC. Yellow-shafted Flicker: six Dec 22 LLCC; four Dec 29 RCC. Pileated Woodpecker: four Dec 22 LLCC; two regularly Irondequoit (NSM). Red-bellied Woodpecker: 14 Dec 22 LLCC; five Dec 29 RCC. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Dec 22 Honeoye L (DC,JJD,RHJ). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Dec 29 DEP (NSM *et al.*). Hairy Woodpecker: 15 Dec 22 LLCC; 28 Dec 29 RCC. Downy Woodpecker: 61 Dec 22 LLCC; 71 Dec 29 RCC. Eastern Phoebe: one Mar 20 CL (JHM), rather early.

Horned Lark: 45 Dec 22 LLCC; 150 Mar 15 Newark (MM,ES,TET). Blue Jay: 130 Dec 22 LLCC; 47 Dec 29 RCC. Common Crow: 734 LLCC; 782 Dec 29 RCC.

Black-capped Chickadee: 253 Dec 22 LLCC; 291 Dec 29 RCC. Tufted Titmouse: 26 Dec 29 RCC. White-breasted Nuthatch: 55 Dec 22 LLCC; 53 Dec 29 RCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: seven Dec 29 RCC (NSM *et al*). Brown Creeper: five Dec 29 RCC. Winter Wren: two Dec 29 RCC; two Feb 9 DEP (WPW). Carolina Wren: one Dec 9 Rochester (JWF); one Feb 18-Mar 31 DEP (Mr. & Mrs. Darrow Dutcher *et al*). Two more birds were reported from feeders in Rochester and Pittsford. While these two reports were not fully verified, they are probably correct. Mockingbird: one all of Dec, Livonia (JHM); 3 Dec 29 RCC. Catbird: one Dec 8 DEP (HSM,FHP), last date. Robin: seven Dec 22 LLCC; 29 Dec 29 RCC; scarce until Mar 20 when migrants appeared. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 25 Dec 22 LLCC; eight Feb 16 DEP (GOS hike). *BOHEMIAN WAXWING*: one Jan 11 DEP (HSM,RTO); one Jan 20 Irondequoit (ST); 11 Mar 23 Irondequoit (AEK, NSM,ST). While one or two birds are reported fairly regularly, 11 is a very high count locally. Cedar Waxwing: except for a flock of 30-35 birds in the DEP-Irondequoit area the only report was of two birds on the LLCC. Northern Shrike: three Dec 22 LLCC; three Dec 29 RCC; three Feb 18 HBSP (RTO *et al*).

VIREOS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: max 1226 LLCC. Eastern Meadowlark: four Dec 22 LLCC; six-13 all of Jan Honeoye Falls (SFT); five Feb 9 Kendall (WCL *et al*); seven Feb 15 Avon (WO). Red-winged Blackbird: 13 Dec 22 LLCC; 241 Dec 22 RCC; a moderate March flight. Rusty Blackbird: two Dec 28 Penfield (GD); seven Dec 29 Seneca Pk (AM). Common Grackle: two wintered at a feeder near Round Pond; a *too* good spring flight. Brown-headed Cowbird: 12 Dec 29 RCC; 50 Jan 20 BB (WCL); some at various feeders.

Cardinal: 124 Dec 22 LLCC; 214 Dec 29 RCC. Evening Grosbeak: 107 Dec 22 LLCC; 43 Dec 29 RCC; a flock of 30 wintered in the Webster-DEP area (JM *et al*). Purple Finch: scarce; one Dec 22 LLCC; two Dec 29 RCC; two Feb 16 DEP (GOS hike). Pine Grosbeak: 121 Dec 22 LLCC; 21 Dec 29 RCC; 50 Jan 6 Palmyra (WH); four Feb 16 DEP (GOS hike); eight Mar 16 Webster Pk (AEK). Common Redpoll: 65 Dec 22 LLCC; 45 Dec 29 RCC (AEK,RGM); 100 Jan 12 Kendall (WCL); 200 Feb 9 Kendall (WCL *et al*). Pine Siskin: very scarce; one Dec 29 Greece (HSM, Michael O'Hara, RTO); two Jan 20 Irondequoit (ST). American Goldfinch: 120 Dec 22 LLCC; 145 Dec 29 RCC. Savannah Sparrow: one Dec 22 Honeoye L (DC,JJD,RHJ), the area's second winter record. All three observers had close studies under favorable conditions. Slate-colored Junco: 47 Dec 22 LLCC; 231 Dec 29 RCC. Tree Sparrow: abundant; 1207 Dec 22 LLCC; 1265 Dec 29 RCC. White-crowned Sparrow: five Dec 29 RCC (NSM *et al*); two Jan 11 Irondequoit (WPW); three Mar 24 Avon (WO); three other records of single birds. White-throated Sparrow: one Dec 22 LLCC; two Jan 14 Powder Mill Pk (ST); one appeared regularly at a feeder in Irondequoit. Song Sparrow: 50 Dec 20 in Conesus L Swamp (FT); 36 Dec 29 RCC. Lapland Longspur: ten Dec 10 Perry (WCL); six Jan 9 Newark (ES); eight Jan 11 Avon (WO); 12 Mar 15 Newark (JWF,ES,TET). Snow Bunting: 765 Dec 22 LLCC; 209 Dec 29 RCC; 500 Jan 2 Livonia (JHM); 1000 Jan 26 West Walworth (RHJ *et al*), 1000 Jan 29 Kendall (WCL).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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The Region missed the heavy snows that fell farther north. There was frequent light snow, almost daily in January, but no big accumulation. Even in March snowfall was light. Temperatures in general were below normal, although no extreme lows were recorded. The usual January thaws, on 23-24 and 28-30, temporarily