

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).

2080 East Main Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

DOROTHY W. McILROY

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

took most of the ice out of the streams but did not melt the pools at Montezuma Refuge, which remained frozen solid until mid-March and were still mostly frozen March 31. February was generally cold. In March, below normal temperatures with cold north and northwest winds persisted until March 17-18, when the temperature rose into the 50's with the first south winds. Thousands of Canada Geese poured in, along with the first Whistling Swans, Blue and Snow Geese, and Woodcocks, and the first large flights of Killdeer, Robins, Meadowlarks, male redwings and grackles.

On the January 12 Waterfowl Count, the Region total was 15643, somewhat lower than the preceding two years. Horned Grebes, Coots and Mallards increased in numbers; Black Ducks, Redheads, Canvasbacks, Scaup, Goldeneyes and Buffleheads decreased.

A very conservative estimate of the Canada Geese in the Cayuga Basin March 28 by Clayton Hardy was 80,000. Flocks continued to arrive after that. Increased numbers of Blue Geese at Montezuma, first noted about six years ago, were present by late March.

Winter finch population seemed to peter out after January except in a few localities. Pine Grosbeaks and Snow Buntings were the prominent species. Snowy Owls were missing.

Of special interest were three repeat appearances—Eared Grebe, female Barrow's Goldeneye and Lesser Black-backed Gull; immature Black-legged Kittiwake, an extremely early Purple Martin record, Bohemian Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler at a feeder, and Oregon Junco.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; EBC—Eaton Bird Club, Geneva; JWC—January Waterfowl Census January 12; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen—Seneca; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; THS—Texas Hollow Sanctuary, Schuyler County.

Area compilers: Jack Brubaker, William Groesbeck, Frank Guthrie, Clayton Hardy, Jayson Walker, Catherine Walsh, Mary Welles.

Observers: WEB—Walter Benning; JB—Jack Brubaker; RC—Richard Clark; WMC—William Groesbeck; FG—Frank Guthrie; CH—Clayton Hardy; WH—Wilfred Howard; PK—Paul Kelsey; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; DBP—David Peakall; LP—Louise Proskine; MS—Mark Stephenson; SHS—Sally Hoyt Spofford; BS—Betty Strath; PT—Paris Trail; PePT—Pepper Trail; JW—Jayson Walker; CW—Catherine Walsh; MPW—Mary Welles.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: a few singles Sen L and Cay L. Horned Grebe: 180 on JWC (86 in 1968); very few Sen L (JB,CW); 89 Jan 4 Cay L (R. Giddings), unusually high count. *EARED GREBE*: one Sen L at Geneva Dec 7 (PT) and Mar 23 (EBC), same place as several previous years. Pied-billed Grebe: ten Dec 1 MNWR (WEB); one wintered Cay L, two or three wintered Watkins (JB). Great Blue Heron: last, six Dec 1 MNWR (WEB); arr Mar 23, one each MNWR (WEB) and Dryden (PK). Whistling Swan: arr Mar 17, seven MNWR (CH) and 30 Sen L near Watkins (JB); one Mar 23 Chemung R Elmira (WH); Mar 24 on, ten Branchport Keuka L (FG); 23 at Kanacadea Pk Recreation Area Hornell Mar 30 for three days (WMC). Canada Goose: over 300 wintered Cay L; migrants arr first week of Mar, with unusually heavy flights early Mar Keuka (FG) and heavy flights Watkins Mar 6 (JB); very heavy flights Mar 17 and especially 18 Watkins (JB); "thousands" arr Mar 17 Cay L, flight tapering off Mar 18; heavy flight Elmira area Mar 6, and especially Mar 17-20 (MPW); max MNWR 25,000 Mar 27 with 80,000+ Cay L basin as of Mar 28 (CH); a smaller flight Mar 28. Snow Goose: arr Mar 17, six Union Springs, Cay L (DM) and three MNWR (CH); max 150 Mar 27 MNWR (CH). Blue Goose: arr one Mar 17 and max 500 Mar 27, MNWR (CH).

Mallard: 3029 on JWC (2315 in 1968); reduced numbers Keuka L (FG). Black Duck: 1651 on JWC (2317 in 1968). Gadwall: three winter reports—one Dec 21

Sen L (WEB), two on JWC Hammondsport (FG), one male Feb 16 Cay L (DM); max 114 Mar 28 MNWR (CH). Pintail: ten wintered n. end Sen L (CW), one wintered Cay L; at MNWR—arr 200 Mar 7, max 827 Mar 28 (CH). Green-winged Teal: two winter reports—two Dec 1 MNWR (WEB), one on JWC Chemung R; arr Mar 18 SWS (L. Pearsall); Branchport Mar 28 (Dr. James White), fourth Mar record for Keuka L. Blue-winged Teal: arr one Mar 22 Farley's Pt, Cay L (MS). *EUROPEAN WIDGEON*: one Mar 20 Penn Yan marsh (Francis Orcutt), only recent Keuka L record. Am. Widgeon: 77 Dec 1 MNWR (WEB); three on JWC; max 232 Mar 28 MNWR (CH). Shoveler: last, 25 Dec 1 (WEB), arr two Mar 21 (CH), max 83 Mar 28 (CH), all MNWR. Wood Duck: two wintered SWS, up to 20 there Mar 31; only report Keuka L Mar 29, usually present in numbers late Mar (FG).

Few diving ducks during winter s. end Sen L (JB), numbers also low Cay L. Redhead: 6722 on JWC (7968 in 1968). Ring-necked Duck: four on JWC; good numbers late Mar Cay basin—on Mar 28, 312 MNWR (CH) and 200+ n. end Cay L (DM). Canvasback: 783 on JWC (1353 in 1968). Scaup: 1897 on JWC (2226 in 1968); 200 Lesser Mar 28 MNWR (CH). Common Goldeneye: 573 on JWC (1048 in 1968). *BARROW'S GOLDENEYE*: one female Jan 2 Sheldrake, Cay L (DM), seen a few other times Jan & Feb, 6th year. Bufflehead: 116 on JWC (190 in 1968); "plentiful" Keuka L (FG); 42 Mar 28 MNWR (CH). Oldsquaw: only reports—five Sen L Dec 3 (WEB), 14 Feb 24 Cay L (DM). White-winged Scoter: one report—two Mar 29 Watkins (JB). Ruddy Duck: two winter reports—five Dec 1 MNWR (WEB), one Jan 15 Myers Cay L (J. Patterson); arr one female Mar 24 Watkins (JB,BS). Hooded Merganser: 145 Dec 1 MNWR (WEB); 18 on JWC; 28 Mar 28 MNWR (CH). Common Merganser: 84 on JWC. Red-breasted Merganser: 12 on JWC; 20–40 n. end Sen L in Mar (CW).

HAWKS-OWLS: Turkey Vulture: arr Mar 28, one each MNWR (CH) and Etna (DBP). Goshawk: several reports Ithaca area; two (either female or imm) Dec 14 through Jan, Wheat Rd s. of Phelps (PT); one Jan 1 Erin (Leonard Andrus *vide* MPW); one Jan 15 near Waterloo (JW). "More reports of Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks than in a long time" Watkins area—six reports of Cooper's, four reports of Sharp-shinned (JB); Cooper's reports included one (two?) imm Odessa in Mar "making rounds of feeding stations" (BS). Other Cooper's—four reports Ithaca area Dec and Jan, one Feb 7 Geneva area (PepT), one Mar 15 MNWR (WEB). Other Sharp-shinned—singles Dec 15, Jan 11 and several times in Feb in Ithaca area; one Dec 22 (PepT) and one Dec 28 (EBC) in Geneva area. Red-tailed Hawk: good numbers everywhere; "more than usual" Geneva-Waterloo area (CW, JW), 12 Dec 28 EBC; "plentiful" Keuka area, max nine in one morning (FG). Red-shouldered Hawk: one report—one Mar 23 MNWR (WEB). Rough-legged Hawk: a few present throughout Region through Feb, mostly singles. *BALD EAGLE*: one Mar 28 MNWR (CH). Marsh Hawk: one Jan 15 near Waterloo (JW); at least six wintered Ovid area (RC); three Mar 2 Romulus (WEB); one Mar 21 and 23 MNWR; Mar 23 Almond (WMG); single males Mar 17 and 30, Dryden (DBP); two females, one male near Danby Mar 30 (DM); seen quite regularly both sides Sen L (JB). *OSPREY*: one Mar 26 Sen L Inlet, Watkins (Jamesine Bardeen), early. *PEREGRINE FALCON*: two (one in brown plumage) Dec 25 Elmira (Mrs. Lewis VanDuzer), stayed only a short time. Used to be seen regularly in winter at this location, but none seen for several years until winter of 1967–68. *PIGEON HAWK*: one Dec 15 near Clyde (WEB), description on file. Sparrow Hawk: good numbers everywhere, especially Geneva-Waterloo area—21 Dec 28 EBC.

Ruffed Grouse; scattered records of one or two, scarce. Bobwhite: a few scattered reports Ithaca area. Turkey: flocks present all across the hill country in s. Tompkins Co—19 Irish Settlement Rd Dryden (PK), about 75 Connecticut Hill, some Willseyville and Caroline areas; three Feb 23 THS (JB); five Jan 7 Canisteo-Greenwood Rd (WMG). Virginia Rail: one found dead last part of Jan MNWR (CH); one Dec 16

Elmira (*vide* MPW), picked up on downtown street. Am. Coot: 457 on JWC (339 in 1968); down in numbers Keuka L (FG).

Killdeer, Woodcock and Snipe missing from Elmira Christmas Count, usually one to three of each (MPW). Killdeer: first, two Feb 22 Elmira (W.Ostrander); general arr Mar 18. Am. Woodcock: arr Mar 18, Elmira (Emory Knapp) and two different places Ithaca area (P. Moravec, DBP); arr Watkins Mar 19 (JB). Common Snipe: arr Mar 23 Canal at Horseheads (MPW), Mar 24 MNWR (Farnhams) and Watkins (JB). Spotted Sandpiper: arr one Mar 22 Catherine Creek, Montour (BS). Greater Yellowlegs: arr one Mar 22 Farley's Pt Cay L (MS). Glaucous Gull: two reports—one Feb 19 Ithaca (R.J.Smith), one all white bird n. end Sen L Feb 23 (JW,WEB). Iceland Gull: one Ithaca Mar 6-10 (F.Scheider, DM), only report. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: one Dec 12-Mar 25 Ithaca (DM), 6th consecutive winter. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls: over 800 Feb 6 Watkins, unusually large number (JB); 150 Herring, 3000 Ring-billed Mar 28 MNWR (CH). **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: imm Dec 31 Sen L, photographed (CW)—see field note.

Mourning Dove: reports varied from "fairly abundant" Waterloo (JW) to none Hornell to end of period (WMG). All owls scarce Elmira (MPW). Screech Owl: total of about 13 reports of singles Geneva, Waterloo, Ithaca, Keuka and Auburn areas; 16 at ten locations during winter Watkins area (JB); three in Jan in Wood Duck box MNWR (CH); one-eyed bird brought to Lab. of Ornithology late Feb, kept a week, released when it appeared capable of surviving. Horned Owl: several reports—MNWR, Ithaca, Geneva; pair nesting Geneva area (PT). Barred Owl: one Dec 28 EBC; two THS all winter (JB). Long-eared Owl: one w. side Cay L Jan 7 (*vide* Eric Johnson); one Feb 3 Dodge Rd Ithaca; one record Keuka (FG). Short-eared Owl: good numbers wintered Sen L, Cay L area—seven "in usual place" s.w. of Waterloo (JW), last seen Mar 25; 11 e. side Sen L and five or six w. side near Geneva during Jan (CW); five Perry City, ten near Lodi, nine Reading Center, one Bronson Hill Rd, all Watkins area (JB); five Jan 12 Cay L e. of Romulus (DM) and five Mar 2 Romulus (WEB) may have been from Ovid group, max 13 (RC); two-eight King Ferry, four Ludlowville (RC); a few near Elmira (MPW). Saw-whet Owl: one found Jan 16 in cellar in Varna (Helen Francis), died of weakness; one found dead Mar 16 on Rtes. 5 & 20 near MNWR (CH).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: a few wintered on flowing streams. Yellow-shafted Flicker: total of five reports of singles Jan and Feb, Ithaca and Waterloo; one male Mar 27 N. Hornell (WMG). Pileated Woodpecker: "more reports from awed non-birders than usual" Watkins (JB); one each at three suet feeders Hornell (WMG). Red-bellied Woodpecker: singles Jan 1 Pine Tree Pt Sen L (Joe Koepfel), Jan 9 Waterloo (JW); male throughout winter Hornell (WMG); at least four pairs seen frequently Keuka (FG); resident several locations Geneva, three Dec 28 EBC. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Dec 28 Geneva (EBC); one Jan 5 Sheldrake Cay L (Ruth Williams). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Dec at least through Feb Penn Yan (Francis Orcutt *et al*); arr, one male Mar 27 N. Hornell (WMG). **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**: one Jan 1 near Yacht Club Ithaca (DBP). E. Phoebe: arr Mar 16 Trumansburg (V. Ray). Horned Lark: 155 Dec 28 EBC Geneva area; local residents back on territory by mid-Feb Ithaca (SHS); Northern ssp, 61 Dec 18 Waterloo (WEB). Tree Swallow: first, two Mar 22 Cay L (DM). **PURPLE MARTIN**: four males and three females Mar 24 MNWR in snowstorm, very early, not seen again (CH)—only report.

Blue Jay: many reports of decreased numbers at feeders, except Geneva area where normal. Common Crow: northern movement noted MNWR Feb 22 (WEB); very heavy migration through Mar Keuka (FG) and starting Mar 14 Geneva (CW). Black-capped Chickadee: more abundant than usual Waterloo (JW). Tufted Titmouse; two records Keuka Pk (FG); at least ten in Geneva area to end of Jan (CW); at three well-separated feeders Hornell (WMG); eight in six locations Watkins (JB). White-breasted Nuthatch: normal Hornell after low of last year (WMG). Red-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce. Carolina Wren: one near Ithaca (Hoffmans);

nine wintered at seven locations Watkins (JB); two Jan 4 Wellsburg (Mrs. Farr); still scarce Elmira. Mockingbird: several Ithaca area; one report Elmira; at five locations Watkins (JB); reported in Dec at Phelps (CW). Robin: singles reported on several Christmas counts, but few wintered; arr, one Mar 16 Waterloo (JW); many arr Mar 17-18. E. Bluebird: late, almost none back Mar 31; first, Mar 19 Big Flats Elmira (MPW). Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 15 Jan 5 Waterloo (JW). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two Dec 28 EBC; one Jan 1 Montour Falls (JB); one Jan to end of period Keuka College (FG). Water Pipit: arr, one Mar 7 Waterloo (JW). **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: one with 16 Cedar Waxwings Jan 1-10 Snyder Hill, Ithaca (R.Fischer, mob). Cedar Waxwing: numbers low; only one report for entire period Watkins area (JB); none after Dec Geneva (CW). Northern Shrike: six sightings Geneva area (CW, JW); five sightings near Ithaca; four records Keuka (FG); three sightings Feb MNWR, probably one bird (WEB); Mar 22 Cayuga (DM); Jan 1 Reading Center (Jamesine Bardeen); one sighting Elmira. Loggerhead Shrike: one Mar 25 Elmira (Norma Hood *vide* WH); one Mar 27 Ithaca (DBP).

VIREOS-WARBLES: **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**: one at suet feeder Penn Yan late Dec through Feb 28 (Francis Orcutt, M. Lerch), very unusual. Myrtle Warbler: only report—one in Dec, last seen Jan 1 at suet feeder Keuka (FG).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Few reports of wintering icterids, first big influx of male redwings and grackles, and meadowlarks Mar 16-18. E. Meadowlark: scattered Dec and Jan reports, max 12 Jan 1 census Ithaca; general arr Mar 17, but none Hornell to Mar 31 (WMC). Baltimore Oriole: one male at feeders, Jacksonville around Jan 23 (Graham, Seeley). Rusty Blackbird: a few on Christmas counts; one Jan 15 at feeder Trumansburg (LP); first, one male Mar 10 Hornell (WMC); about 300 Mar 22 Mills Rd Sen Co (CW); 200 Mar 30 Waterloo (JW). Brown-headed Cowbird: especially scarce Geneva and did not arr Mar 17 with the redwings and grackles (CW).

Cardinal: Geneva, Watkins and Keuka reported more than usual numbers; 16 at a feeder at one time Keuka (FG); fewer than usual at Ithaca feeders (SHS). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: two females Jan 25 at Trumansburg feeder (LP)—SHS commented "Apparently good report, but could they have been Black-headed?" Evening Grosbeak: population dwindled Ithaca after Dec, but a few stayed at feeders through Mar 31; small flocks Keuka all winter, max 11 (FG); 150+ at WMC feeder Hornell at end of period, and many others still in area, see field note about one in unusual plumage; good numbers Watkins and Elmira. Purple Finch: scarce everywhere. Pine Grosbeak: Ithaca—max 91 Jan 1 census, last three females Mar 30 s. of Danby (DM); four or five reports Keuka, max 75 (FG); seen regularly during winter Watkins area, max 23 Jan 1 Hector Falls, still at Montour Mar 31 (JB); max six Geneva area (PepT); max 31 Jan 1 MNWR area (WEB); max 20 Jan 1 census Elmira, but few seen there otherwise (MPW). Common Redpoll: small numbers reported Ithaca, Watkins, Waterloo, Geneva; none Hornell; only large flock 100 Jan and Feb 1 Keuka (FG); only Elmira report, three Jan 1 (MPW). Pine Siskin: scattered reports of a few everywhere except Keuka; only large flocks 85 Jan 1 and 50 Feb 23 Watkins (JB). Am. Goldfinch: at feeders everywhere in good numbers; max 200 Jan 7 Waterloo (JW). White-winged Crossbill: small flock Feb 28 Keuka (FG), only report. Rufous-sided Towhee: few wintered.

Sparrows: Savannah: one at feeder Jan 16 N. Hornell (WMC). Vesper: one Dec 28 EBC; one Jan 1 MNWR (WEB); arr Mar 20, Elmira (MPW). Slate-colored Junco: no large numbers during winter, many arr last few days of Mar. **OREGON JUNCO**: two reports—one Dec 18 Geneva (WEB), one male Mar 31 MNWR (CH) First Refuge record. Tree: abundant everywhere; max 300 Jan 1 MNWR area (WEB). Field: a few wintered Watkins, max four Jan 1 (JB). White-crowned: at feeder near Geneva to mid-Feb (PT); one Mar 1 Penn Yan (M. Lerch). White-throated: two or three wintered Ithaca (E. Little); at feeder Geneva area to Dec

15 (PT). Fox: arr, one Mar 18 Elmira (M. Smith); one Mar 23 and several reports the next week Ithaca. Swamp: one or two wintered Montour airport (JB). Song: a few wintered most areas; more than usual MNWR, max 11 Jan 12 (WEB). Lapland Longspur: scattered reports Elmira, Geneva, Waterloo, Watkins, Ithaca; max 12 Jan 1 Elmira (WH). Snow Bunting: reported everywhere; flocks of over 500 at several locations near Ithaca, many smaller flocks; several flocks estimated at close to 1000 Keuka (FG); about 600 Dec-Feb Geneva (CW); flocks of 30-300 over countryside in Jan Hornell (WMC); 2000 Feb 7 Waterloo (JW); max 55 Elmira Jan 1; numbers began to decrease in Feb.

419 Triphammer Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

According to figures from the U.S. Weather Station at Broome County Airport temperatures averaged below normal in each month of the period but were seldom severe. Only four days saw the temperature drop below zero and -4 was the lowest officially recorded reading. Snowfall was also below average, about sixty percent of normal for the season. Only once, February 9, did as much as four inches fall in a 24 hour period. Snow cover was fairly persistent but seldom exceeded three inches and, except for Jan 8 to Jan 18, never for more than two or three days at a time.

Light snow cover and an abundant rodent population combined for seemingly ideal conditions for raptors and they responded. Almost all species of hawks and owls that could be reasonably expected were recorded at least once and the more common species were definitely more numerous than usual. Four Goshawks, a Peregrine Falcon and a Golden Eagle seemed particularly noteworthy. A possibly nesting Saw-whet Owl is also of particular interest.

Winter finches, on the other hand, were disappointing after a promising start. Evening Grosbeaks were really rather numerous but the overwhelming numbers of a few years back have no doubt spoiled our perspective. Goldfinches, too, were quite prominent. Pine Grosbeaks, because of their less conspicuous habits, can be assumed to have been a good deal more common than the records seem to indicate. Siskins, redpolls and crossbills were decidedly scarce although only the White-winged Crossbill went unreported. The very real scarcity of Blue Jays seems to be explained by the poor mast crop last fall.

Mockingbirds continue to increase and Tufted Titmice at least held their own. Killdeer, two Catbirds, Robins, a Baltimore Oriole and Rufous-sided Towhees make up a respectable "half hardy" list.

Although not intense, uniformly cold weather persisted to mid March when the first balmy weather seemed to bring the first significant movement of early migrants such as Robins and blackbirds, two to three weeks behind schedule.

Place name abbreviations: Bing-Binghamton; Chen-Chenango; CVSP-Chenango Valley State Park; CC-Choconut Center, a couple of miles north of Johnson City; Pep Res-Pepacton Reservoir; Skan L-Skaneateles Lake; WP-Whitney Point.

Observer abbreviations: DB-Donald Bemont; LB-Leslie Bemont; LC-Mrs. Lynn Clark; GC-Gail Corderman; WC-Warren Corderman; BCC-Binghamton Christmas Count; CCC-Cortland Christmas Count; TCC-Tioga Christmas Count; MC-Mitchell Cubberly; A,MD-Anna & Marilyn Davis; C,JD-Carleton & Jeanne Davis; RD-Robert Dirig; EF-Elizabeth Feldhusen; CG-Clinton Gerould; JAG-John A. Gustafson; EK-Eugene Kirch; AL-Arthur Levy; ML-Margaret Lynch; HM-Harriet Marsi; MM-Michael Moore; HR-Hetty Rinker; D,MR-Dorothy & Margery Rutbell; R,JS-Robert & Jean Saunders; DS-Dorothy Sawyer; MS-Mary