

21 (R,JS) and four other scattered reports and that is all. Pine Grosbeak: 12 Dec 21, CCC; seven Dec 29, BCC; twenty other reports during the period, rarely more than six birds at a time. Common Redpoll: two Jan 1, TCC; 35 Jan 19, Norwich (R,SW) and a like number at Oxford Dec 25 (AS) and at Chen Forks Feb 9 (A, MD); reported more regularly after Mar 15 but only in small numbers. Pine Siskin: Jan 1, TCC; the only report. American Goldfinch: seven Dec 21, CCC; 110 Dec 29, BCC; at Andes none since mid Dec—"most unusual" (MC); numerous at many feeders in Cortland and Triple Cities area all season and regular at Delhi. Red Crossbill: two Dec 25 at Union Center north of Endicott (D,MR); Jan 1, TCC. Rufous-sided Towhee: three Dec 29, BCC one of which was seen frequently all winter at a feeder at CC (MS).

Savannah Sparrow: Mar 30, Delhi (LC); Mar 31, Milford, in the Oneonta area (Cora Wellman). Slate-colored Junco: four Dec 21, CCC; 112 Dec 29, BCC; small numbers present at many feeders all winter; noticeable increase Mar 19. Tree Sparrow: 129 Dec 21, CCC; 357 Dec 29, BCC. Chipping Sparrow: Mar 18, west of Endicott (MM), very early if not a wintering bird, "saw the black eye-line clearly". Field Sparrow: one Jan 19, Bing (Mark Harris); Mar 19, Endicott (MM) and two Mar 28, Hancock (RD), the only migrants reported. White-throated Sparrow: four Dec 29, BCC, one of them at a feeder in Endwell all of Dec and to Jan 3 (D,MR). Fox Sparrow: one Dec 21, CCC; one Dec 6 and 7, Endwell (LB, DB); first migrant Mar 17, Nichols (Virginia Hudson). Song Sparrow: four Dec 21, CCC; 13 Dec 29, BCC; the usual few all winter; first report of singing Feb 17; migrants obvious by Mar 14. Lapland Longspur: three Dec 21, CCC. Snow Bunting: 340 Dec 21, CCC; 200 Dec 29, BCC; 13 other reports, the last Mar 17, Oneonta (John New).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

Another Central New York winter! Mild early December, the annual Syracuse Christmas count snowstorm, below-zero temperatures for the Oswego Christmas Count, a sleet storm for the Oneida one, and severe freezing with howling NW winds for the Howland Island count. Early January had a less than horrendous temperature pattern, but by Waterfowl Census period severe bone-chilling cold had set in and more water areas were frozen over (including the majority of Oswego Harbor) than were open. By mid-January Lake Ontario ice formation looked like late February. Heavy snows and continued cold in late January decimated what few half-hardies were about, and the small local berry, seed, and cone crops were virtually exhausted by early February. The woodlots, fields, and hedgerows of February had that blank, birdless look, and a hardy observer afield all day would be lucky to come up with 20 species of landbirds. Such ordinarily common species as Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Purple Finch, and Goldfinch were singularly scarce and Cedar Waxwings were very nearly uniformly absent.

March showed no improvement. March 1-17 had steady below-freezing weather. The open lead at Brewerton on Oneida L had not expanded to one-fourth mile in length by March 20 (it is normally three-fourths to a mile by then). Spring arrivals were correspondingly very late (v.i. Robin, Red-winged Blackbird) and March hawk tallies at Derby Hill were low in numbers and variety. A push of waterfowl, primarily Canada Geese, Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, and Common Goldeneye, occurred on March 18-19 and the next week saw an influx of many early landbird migrants. However, severe freezing cold returned March 29-31 and the recently thawed marshes sealed over again, forcing hundreds of birds, notably Rusty Blackbirds and Common Snipe, to snow-rimmed pasture creeks and sewage plant outlets.

Positives for the period were few: 1) a light flight of Goshawks; 2) a minor incursion of Short-eared Owls and Northern Shrikes; 3) a heavy but late flight of Glaucous and, to lesser extent, Iceland Gulls; 4) an irruption of Red-bellied Woodpeckers; 5) an excellent flight of Evening Grosbeaks, largely feeder-sustained; 6) a moderate flight of Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls; 7) a fair March Snow Bunting flight. Negatives were much easier to come by: 1) the sharp reduction in wintering Black Ducks, Redheads, Canvasbacks, and Common Mergansers (q.v.); 2) the paucity of wintering Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks; 3) a scarcity of all owl species except Short-eared; 4) very low counts on many normally common winter species—Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Goldfinch, Slate-colored Junco; 5) a scant sprinkling of half-hardy sparrows with even White-throated and Song Sparrows reduced in numbers.

Rarities for the period include: Eared Grebe, Barrow's Goldeneye, Harlequin Duck, Bald Eagle, Gyrfalcon, Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, and Red Cross-bill.

Abbreviations: Places—DH—Derby Hill near Texas; FR—sugar beet waste impoundments at Fox Ridge near Port Byron; HIGMA—Howland Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; Onon—Onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond; Skan—Skaneateles; Syr—Syracuse. Others—BBFS—Dr. B. P. Burt's feeder survey, conducted the first week of each winter month, with all numbers given per 100 surveys; CC—Christmas count—Syr Dec 21, Oswego Dec 26, Oneida Dec 28, Old Forge Dec 31, HIGMA (NE quadrant of the CC circle) Jan 1; WFC—Waterfowl Census Jan 11–19.

Observers: VB—V. Billings; BPB—B. P. Burt; DC—D. Crumb; FLF—F. LaFrance; JWP—J. W. Propst; TMR—T. M. Riley; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; GS—G. Smith; RJS—R. J. Sutliff.

LOONS-DUCKS: No wintering loons. First Common Loon Mar 29 L Ontario (GS) Red-necked Grebe: three Dec records but only one later, Feb 9 one Onon L (FLF,RJS). Horned Grebe: very low—max three WFC. Pied-billed Grebe: winter max four WFC; arr Mar 20 Brewerton. *EARED GREBE*: one Dec 21–22 Onon L (FGS, mob)—second Regional record. Whistling Swan: arr Mar 18 Brewerton (DC); max eight Skan L (TMR). Canada Goose: winter max 17 at HIGMA; arr Mar 16, two, Brewerton; heavy flight Mar 18–19 with 100–1000 per observer and many nocturnal records; a second heavy migration Mar 29 with counts of 1200–1800 per day. Blue Goose: an adult Mar 31 Brewerton (FLF, RJS), only report. No Snow Goose noted.

Mallard and Black Duck: winter max 999 and 276 respectively on WFC; Mallard numbers now heavily in excess of wintering Black Ducks; Black Duck counts at Oswego and Onon L were particularly poor this year. Cadwall: an adult male Syr Jan 12, the only winter record (RJS). Pintail: spring flight poor, max only 200 Mar 27 HIGMA—FR (FGS). Green-winged Teal: max 200 Mar 30 HIGMA—FR (MSR). Amer. Widgeon: first Mar 1, one Brewerton; max 200 Mar 30 FR (MSR). Wood Duck: very scarce as winterers—total of three thru season and none on WFC.

Redhead: winter max 44 WFC; extremely scarce away from Skan L. Ring-necked Duck: two Syr CC; none wintered; arr Mar 18, one Bridgeport (FGS); max 150 (low) Mar 31 Brewerton and Onon L (FGS). Canvasback: Dec max 1000 Dec 9 Oneida L; extremely scarce in Jan and Feb with max two Oswego (mob); none on Skan L. Greater Scaup: WFC max 4369 with major flocks at Oswego and Minetto; Skan L count below 500 (MSR). Common Goldeneye: winter max 1211 on WFC; Oswego R counts 200–300 per day, max there 650 Jan 5 (TMR); spring tallies 300–400 per day Brewerton-Bridgeport (down from last year). *BARROW'S GOLDENEYE*: a female Jan 16 Oswego R falls (FGS), only report. Bufflehead: WFC max 141 (fair); usual tally 50–88 per day, primarily from Oswego R at Oswego (mob). Oldsquaw: very scarce thru winter—max 200 Jan 5 Oswego (TMR)

but numbers down sharply thereafter as WFC max was only 141 for entire L Ontario shoreline. *HARLEQUIN DUCK*: imm male Feb 15–Mar 16 Oswego (RJS, M. Hughes). No eiders. White-winged Scoter: WFC max five (low); scattered birds at Oneida L and Onon L prior to Jan freeze-up. Two female Surf Scoters wintered at Oswego. A single female Common Scoter Jan 11 Skan L (MSR)—rare in winter. Hooded Merganser: scarce—only two wintering individuals—as usual, female. Common Merganser: extremely scarce—WFC max 269 (less than 10% of counts five years ago). Red-breasted Merganser: winter numbers very low—WFC 31; migrant tally 282 Mar 29 Oswego and Fair Haven (FLF, RJS).

HAWKS—OWLS: Hawk migration tallies to appear in spring report. Goshawk: scattered individuals throughout Region thru winter, with single birds noted at Fabius, Pompey, Pratt Falls in Pompey Twp, Oswego, Fulton, Brewerton, Vernon, Verona, and Wampsville—better than average. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks: four (low) and three (very scarce) respectively from 23 observers—thus both smaller accipiters scarcer than Goshawk. Red-tailed Hawk: excellent wintering population with 66 on Syr and 18 on HIGMA CC; many at rat-infested dumps at Syr and Oswego and in abandoned farmlands S of HIGMA. Red-shouldered Hawk: singles, both adults, wintered at Cicero Swamp and Clay (FGS, FLF, RJS); one at Cedarville Mar 3 (K.G. Hanson) may be a wintering bird or an early migrant. Rough-legged Hawk: winter numbers only fair, with most daily tallies one-four and max ten on Syr CC; only concentrations at Syr Airport and Scott Swamp near Phoenix. *BALD EAGLE*: an adult Jan 4 Clay Twp (MSR, G, S. Morgan), only winter report. Marsh Hawk: winter max five Syr CC; none noted in Jan; first noted Feb 21 Pompey (FLF), probably a migrant. *GYRFALCON*: dark gray phase imm Feb 17–23 Oswego Harbor (JWP, mob), first Regional record in six years. Sparrow Hawk: fair numbers thru winter—one-seven per day, max 18 on Syr CC; somewhat scarce in early Feb but numbers up again in latter half of that month.

Virginia Rail: single birds picked up and reported to BPB in Syr and Baldwinsville Dec 11 and 13 respectively. Late shorebirds: last date for Piping Plover SP inlet Dec 8 (FLF, RJS)—extraordinarily late; also at SP inlet Dunlin Dec 8 and Western Sandpiper Dec 5 (FGS)—very late. Killdeer: despite the sudden and protracted Dec cold, at least six birds attempted to winter near Syr and three are known to have survived. Hungarian Partridge: persisting in Pompey Ctr area with at least two coveys located (FLF, mob).

Glaucous and Iceland Gulls: scarce thru Dec and early Jan at both Oswego and Syr; with severe weather in late Jan and Feb numbers rose sharply, max 20 Glaucous (a record high) and nine Iceland Feb 22, Oswego R and Harbor. Great Black-backed Gull: max 100 Feb 2 Oswego Harbor; most tallies far lower (30–50 per day); very few at Syr dumps and none at Brewerton. Herring and Ring-billed Gull: huge concentration Jan 26 at Oswego with 8000 Herring and 2000 Ring-billed Gulls forced into the harbor by a fierce NW gale (P. Paquette, FGS). Mourning Dove: wintering numbers much reduced from last year—largest flocks 35 at Wampsville (B.&S. Peebles), 41 at Utica (VB), and 52 at Shackleton Point on Oneida L in Dec (P. Laible), but in other areas where formerly numerous, e.g. HIGMA, reduced to four–six per day.

Screech Owl: 29 individuals noted thru period from 24 observers—about the same as last winter. Snowy Owl: none from L Ontario areas; one at Ilion Gorge area Feb (K.G. Hanson) and max two Syr Airport in Feb—definitely not a flight year. Barred Owl: was there a slight irruption this winter?—singles at Bridgeport Jan 4 (MSR) and Highland Forest Feb 9 (DC) are definitely in areas where resident birds are unknown. Long-eared Owl: very scarce, one report only, a single Sherrill Jan 12 (D. W. Ackley). Short-eared Owl: a moderate incursion, max ten Dec 14 Bridgeport (Mrs. Ellis *fide* BPB); single birds reported from Tully, Pompey, Hamilton, and Phoenix (mob). Saw-whet Owl: singles noted Labrador Pond (*fide* FLF), Liverpool (*fide* FLF), Skan (H. L. Hiscock); none, however, noted in Cicero Swamp.

CAPRIMULGIDS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: 15 wintering individuals with three each at Fayetteville (Limestone Creek) and DeWitt (Butternut Creek); most seemed to survive the Feb cold. Yellow-shafted Flicker: very scarce this winter—none on Syr nor HIGMA CC; never more than one per day. Pileated Woodpecker: new station at Middleville (VB). Red-bellied Woodpecker: seemed somewhat scarce around HIGMA, but a large-scale irruption extending far to the N and E of their usual Seneca R focal area, documented by the following places from which birds were reported to BPB (only one per locality if number not given): Sterling, Hannibal two, Martville four, Victory, Cato eight, Conquest three, Mexico eight, Oswego five, Fulton, Lysander, Baldwinsville four, Memphis, Jordan, Elbridge, Camillus, Skan Falls two, Skan two, Marietta five, Navarino three, Cedarvale two, Marcellus two, Onon Hill, Syr, Brewerton, Bridgeport, Minoa, Kirkville, Jamesville, Tully, Chittenango, Cazenovia three, and Munnsville. Red-headed Woodpecker: three winter records—imm near Sherrill thru winter (*vide* D. W. Ackley); adult Otisco L Mar 18 (GS); imm Baldwinsville (R. Fargo). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one winter record, Sherrill (Mrs. W. Lewis), some winters none recorded. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: BBFS reveals following Hairy:Downy ratios—Dec 108:165, Jan 115:188, Feb 102:205, Mar 116:190; no appreciable fall-off at feeders thru Feb and Mar but scarce in the field then.

Horned Lark: first migrants Jan 28 Pompey (FLF); 100–200 per day in Feb but Mar tallies showed no further increase. Tree Swallow: first one Mar 20 DH (FGS); no influx thereafter probably because of cold weather in late Mar. Blue Jay: Dec tallies low, and the species was frankly scarce from Jan thru Mar—approximately one–nine per day and many full birding days netted none; one observer (JWP) noted none in the entire month of Feb; on BBFS, each month's count lower than the one before, this didn't occur other years. Common Crow: DH flight only fair—max 3500 Mar 20; no 5000 days noted and Mar total around 15,000 (low, especially when compared to 1967—less than $\frac{1}{2}$). Black-capped Chickadee: Dec numbers low and a steady fall in numbers thru Jan to Mar; there was a bout of increased feeder patronage in Feb (BBFS). **BOREAL CHICKADEE**: three Feb 17 Ohio Twp, Herkimer Co. (VB), the only report away from the regular Old Forge locations. Tufted Titmouse: Nov and Dec incursion impressive with persistence into Jan; however, Feb and Mar numbers down—BBFS Dec 23, Jan 26, Feb nine, Mar eight. Red-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce thru winter—usually singles, confined to spruce plantations or at feeders; only five on Old Forge CC.

Winter Wren: scattered individuals thru Dec, five on Syr CC; only one noted in Jan (DeWitt Jan 23); none thereafter—probably succumbed to late Jan and Feb cold and snow. Carolina Wren: singles at Syr (S side—RJS and Oakwood Cemetery—MSR) and Oneida (J. Hodges). Mockingbird: two regularly at DeWitt and singles at Manlius (two), Syr (four), Oswego (Mrs. Kirby) and Borodino (GS), the last two stations both new. Brown Thrasher: one Syr CC and two Oneida CC; like Winter Wren, attrition with cold and snow in Jan and Feb—only two in Jan and none in Feb; impressive is one lasting from Dec 14 to Jan 4 Holland Patent (J.&E. VanDresar) as this area is in the snowbelt.

Robin: small flocks of two–18 thru winter; largest flock 50 Feb 20 Otisco L; appeared to survive better than other half-hardies; arr Mar 17 (very late) one DH; no heavy L Ontario flights, and Mar max there was only 140 Mar 24. Eastern Bluebird: last noted first week of Dec, three Cazenovia (C. Cook)—rare in Dec; arr Mar 23, one DH (DC). Golden-crowned Kinglet: very scarce thru winter—max six Oswego CC and later winter max only five at Highland Forest (RJS); none reported on any BBFS. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: an influx, with 11 Dec 8 SP (FLF, RJS), one Jan 5 Jamesville (DC), and seven Feb 1–2 Utica (J.&B. Barker). Cedar Waxwing: scattered small flocks thru Dec and early Jan—two–30 per day; scarce from Jan on, and most observers had none Jan thru Mar—poor showing correlates with very poor local berry crop. Northern Shrike: incursion, with most observers regularly reporting one–two per day; tallies by month are Dec 19, Jan 23, Feb 17, Mar 15,

from 24 observers; definitely more than last year. Loggerhead Shrike: arr Mar 2, one near Port Ontario (JWP, M. L. Estoff)—a record arr date; light flight in last two weeks of Mar.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark: 19 on Syr CC and 20 on Oneida CC; virtual decimation with deep snow of late Dec and early Jan, as only one Jan bird reported, Jan 21 Jamesville (DC). Red-winged Blackbird: BBFS Dec 45, Jan seven, Feb seven, Mar seven; arr Mar 15 (very late) 35 HIGMA. Rusty Blackbird: arr Mar 3 (early) one singing Dutcherville in Constantia Twp (JWP); large numbers in late Mar concentrated by cold weather and snow forcing them to stream-sides and flooded marshy pastures—max 250 Clay Swamp Mar 31.

Cardinal: many more located in the heretofore thinly populated Oneida L S shore sector; single also noted at Big Moose thru winter (B. Barnum) and Boonville (E. D. Lake, in BBFS); on BBFS, higher each month than in any corresponding month in past years. Evening Grosbeak: heavy incursion thru the winter with flocks of 30–90 per day and impressive feeder use—BBFS Dec 903 (second highest Dec ever), Jan 1101, Feb 1016, Mar 908; rather scarce in N Herkimer Co and what birds were present were largely at feeders. Purple Finch: very scarce—usually one–two per day; max five on Oswego CC and Oneida CC. Pine Grosbeak: excellent flight in Dec and Jan, max 279 Oswego CC; rather steady fall thru late Jan and Feb and scarce in Mar; last noted Mar 30 HIGMA (JWP). Common Redpoll: irruption with flocks of eight–100 per day primarily in late Dec–early Feb; scarce in late Feb and early Mar with return flight Mar 2–30 at DH (mob). Pine Siskin: very scarce with highest counts 14 Dec 19 Pratt Falls (DC), 20 Syr CC, and 40 Mar 18 Syr (MSR); occasional single birds at feeders thru winter. Eastern Goldfinch: like Siskin, some few flocks in Dec, Dec max 112 Syr CC; very scarce Jan thru Mar with flock max in Feb and Mar 30–35 per day, but most observers had none in that period. RED CROSSBILL: only report, 13 Dec 14 Jamesville (DC). No White-winged Crossbill reported. Rufous-sided Towhee: one wintered Jamesville (Mrs. T. Harmon), two at feeder near Rome (Wollaber *vide* J.&E. VanDresar). Slate-colored Junco: numbers poor thru winter—max 53 Syr CC but individual tallies usually much lower—max ten per day. Tree Sparrow: good numbers thru early winter with counts of 600 Dec 19 Tully L and 428 Syr CC, 474 Oswego CC, and 584 Oneida CC; like many fringillids, a steady fall in numbers thru late Jan and Feb and a sharp increase in mid-Mar with Mar max 700+ Mar 31. White-crowned Sparrow: only one known to have wintered thru, Dec 9–Mar 27 Wampsville (B.&S. Peebles). White-throated Sparrow: five Syr CC; BBFS Dec 23, Jan seven, Feb six, Mar seven. Fox Sparrow: single wintering birds N Syr (E. Smith) and E Syr; arr first week of Mar but not widely noted before Mar 26–27. Song Sparrow: only 16 on Syr CC and only one on HIGMA CC; very scarce thru remainder of winter; heavy flight with 150–190 per day Mar 27–29. Snow Bunting: winter flocks 20–300 per day with Jan max 400 Jan 8 Pompey Ctr; Feb numbers lower but many 500–700 flocks in early Mar; max 2175 Mar 18 Pompey Ctr (FLF).

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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The weather was mild especially the latter half. Snow was below normal except for the southern part which received snow storms that missed most of the area. March was mild with little snow. Early migrating birds began arriving Mar 18–19.

There were unprecedented numbers of Bohemian Waxwings—500 Feb 12, many Pine Grosbeaks in all of the Region, and a Boreal Owl found dead in Philadelphia Feb 2.