

VIREOS—WARBLERS: The only bird of this group reported was Myrtle Warbler. One of these was at West Rush on Dec 28 (JH). A group of up to 12 was in Mendon Ponds Park all winter (Perrigos) and at least 11 were still there at the end of March.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: 25 Meadowlarks recorded on the Little Lakes Census was unusually high, especially since none were noted on the Rochester count a few days later. All the blackbirds, e.i., Red-wing, Grackle, Rusty and Cowbird were present all winter in one or more places. Cowbirds, however, were less common than usual and only one or two Grackles wintered (GD). A Baltimore Oriole was present in Penfield on Dec 4 (BK).

Cardinals reached another new high (311) on the Christmas count, up almost 50 per cent. Even in the hill country south of Rochester 85 were listed, making it one of the dozen most common passerine species. It was a good finch year except for Pine Grosbeak and White-winged Crossbill, both of which were reported only once officially, although others were mentioned informally. Dakin's had the Pine Grosbeaks (8) on Dec 17 in Bushnell's Basin. Moon's had both Cross-bills at their home near Durand Park, and they were still present late in March.

Red Crossbills were widespread and stayed more consistently than they often do. The largest flock was 30 in Webster Park on March 14 (TT). Redpolls were abundant and flocks ranged into the hundreds. Some came to feeders regularly. The 635 on the Christmas count proved to be another record high. No Hoary Redpoll was surely identified, although a possible single was with about 200 Common Redpolls in Feb (AK) (RO). Siskins were scarce after early Jan.

4 Towhees were recorded on the Little Lakes Census and 2 more on the Rochester count. At least 2 stayed through the winter, one at Sunderlin's feeder in Webster and another in Mendon (Perrigos). It was a good Tree Sparrow winter especially compared to last year. One or more Field Sparrows visited a feeder in Fairport (BO) after 4 were noted on one Christmas Census. A few White-crowned Sparrows were reported including 2 at Lima (Foster's). White-throated Sparrows were wintering at Mendon Ponds (Perrigos) and Hemlock (Koons) among other places. Swamp Sparrows were again scarce, perhaps due to heavy snow cover, and Song Sparrows, while not rare, were also much less common than in some years, away from feeders.

Snow Buntings did not seem especially widespread, but there were some large concentrations including 800 on the east Lakeshore on Jan 18 (WL). Another flock of 200 accompanied about 50 Lapland Longspurs and another 50 Horned Larks, with both Prairie and Northern sub-species represented Feb 17 Hamlin (AK) (RO). By the end of March, these flocks seem to have left the area, although Kemnitzer noted singing Longspurs in changing plumage late in the month.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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The outstanding weather features of the winter were the record December snow fall and the prolonged cold spell from mid-December to late January when the temperature did not rise above freezing. Snow cover started on 1st December, the 23-inch snow fall on December 26-27 was a near record for a 24 hour period. The total December snowfall was a record for the month and snow cover remained despite a February thaw. Total snow fall in Ithaca was 96 inches, some 30 inches above normal. Also it was the coldest winter (average 6 degrees below normal) for over fifty years.

Despite lack of coverage of part of Seneca Lake due to snow drifts the waterfowl count on January 11 (16,199) was slightly above last year's total. Twenty-two species were recorded including two European Widgeon. No major fluctuations of numbers were noted.

Rough-legged Hawks and Snowy Owls were scarce. However it was a good winter for accipiters; the last two winters suggest a slight increase from the low of previous years.

The invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Boreal Chickadees, Redpolls and Red Crossbills was a feature of the winter.

Two species considered rare in eastern North American, the Barrow's Goldeneye and Lesser Black-backed Gull made their now expected appearance in Ithaca for the seventh and sixth year respectively.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; ECC—Elmira Christmas Count; ICC—Ithaca Christmas Count; JWC—January waterfowl census, January 11; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SCC—Schuyler County Christmas Count; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

Area Compilers: Jack Brubaker (JB), William Groesbeck (WMG), Frank Guthrie (FKG), Clayton Hardy (CH), Jayson Walker (JAW), Catherine Walsh (CW), Mary Welles (MW).

Other observers: WEB—Walter Benning; CCBSC (Campus Club Bird Study Group, fide M.Comar), WH—Wilfred Howard, DM—Dorothy McIlroy, DBP—David B. Peakall, SHS—Sally Hoyt Spofford, JT—Jim Tate.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: immature found Jan 6 in Munnsville, released on Cay L Jan 23, is the only record. Red-necked Grebe: 1 Mar 22 near Watkins Glen (JB); 1 Mar 26 Aurora (SB); and 1 Mar 29 Sheldrake (Ruth Williams). Horned Grebe: 104 JWC, mainly Cay L, is a low count. Pied-billed Grebe: recorded on Cay L, Sen L, Keuka L and Canandaigua L total 14 JWC; up to 17 nr Watkins Glen during winter (JB) is high count. Double-crested Cormorant: the individual present at Watkins Glen at the end of Nov stayed until Dec 13 (JB). Great Blue Heron: arr Mar 23 SWS (M.L.Peakall). Whistling Swan: 1 Jan 24 Canoga (CH); 1 Feb 1 Cay L (WEB); 2 Feb 26 (DM,SHS); 35 MNWF Mar 28 (WEB); singles late March Branchport and Penn Yan (FKG). Mute Swan: 1 Feb 22 Cay L (WEB), Feb 26 (DM,SHS). Canada Goose: main flight somewhat later and less clearly defined than usual; 20,000 MNWR by the end of the period. Blue Goose: arr MNWR Mar 18 (CH), 220 present Mar 31 (CH). Snow Goose: arr MNWR Mar 18 (CH), 76 present Mar 28 (WEB).

Mallard: 2640 on JWC, about normal. This species has increased considerably compared to a decade ago while numbers of Black Duck have remained more constant. Black Duck: 1166 on JWC (1651 in 1969). Pintail: 1 JWC, 3 Cay L Feb 8 (WEB); spring arr Mar 18; 2,000 Mar 29 mucklands nr MNWR (DBP). Gadwall: 9 JWC is high; spring arrival Mar 25 MNWR, max 75 there by end of period. Green-winged Teal: no winter records; last Dec 5 Sen L; arr Mar 25. EUROPEAN WIDGEON: 2 Sen L WFC; this European vagrant is regular in spring at MNWR but otherwise very scarce. American Widgeon: 26 Cay L WFC is exceptional; spring arr Mar 22 Sen L (JAW). Shoveler: first Mar 6 Cay L (CCBSG). Wood Duck: 4 SWS, JWC. Redhead: 8504 JWC (6722 in 1969) is a good count. Ring-necked Duck: 3 JWC; spring arr Mar 25 MNWR; 300 nr MNWR Mar 29 (DBP). Canvasback: 1271 JWC (783 in 1969) Scaup: 1065 JWC (1897 in 1969), low compared to a decade ago. Common Goldeneye: 489 JWC (573 in 1969). BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: female at Sheldrake as previous years; first seen Jan 22 (Stephen Taylor), present thru Feb. Bufflehead: 131 WFC (116 in 1969). Oldsquaw: 1 Dec 31 Elmira; 2 WFC on Keuka L; 1 Jan 7 Sen L; 14 Mar 29 Elmira. White-winged Scoter: 1 Cay L WFC; and 1 Jan 28 (CCBSG) are only records. Ruddy Duck: no reports. Hooded Merganser: 7 WFC; 30 Mar 31 MNWR (CH).

Common Merganser: 47 WFC (84 in 1969). Red-breasted Merganser: 1 Cay L WFC; 2 Feb 22 Cay L (WEB); 2 Mar 26 Cay L. (CCBSG).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: arr Mar 26 SWS (Stan Temple), an unusual place for this species. Goshawk: several reports; wintered at Lansing, Mount Pleasant area, Geneva, Horseheads; also reported near SWS (mid Jan) and Etna (late March). Sharp-shinned Hawk: appeared to be the scarcest of the accipiters this winter; reported from Horseheads, Ithaca and McLean. Cooper's Hawk: 5 ICC is record high; also, 2 SCC, 1 Jan 2 Elmira suggest normal to good wintering numbers. Red-tailed Hawk several observers consider that numbers were low due to heavy snow but 25 ICC was a record high. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Mar 23-27 nr Ithaca Airport (DBP). Broad-winged Hawk: 1 Mar 26 SWS (John Haugh) is extremely early; this observer has spent the last five years studying hawk migration. Rough-legged Hawk: scarce; missed for second time in seven years in ICC; 1 Jan 19 Ithaca (CCBSG), 1 Feb 22 MNWR (Charles Leck). Bald Eagle: adult Mar 26 Branchport (Mable Thompson); adult Mar 30 Six Mile Creek (Norman Patterson). *PEREGRINE FALCON*: 1 for several days in early February Elmira (Mrs. Lewis Vanduzer), an area where there have been many winter sightings. Sparrow Hawk: 17 ICC is all time high, perhaps helped by local nest box project. Turkey: 33 Sprague Hill Rd; also reported from Mt. Pleasant, Irish Settlement Rd and Pine City. Virginia Rail: 1 Dec 3 dead on Cornell Campus (Prof. Asdell). Coot: 557 on JWC (457 in 1969). Killdeer: 7 ECC; arr Mar 1 Ithaca (Noel Cutright). Common Snipe: arr Mar 27 Ithaca (Stephen Taylor). Woodcock: arr Mar 21 Keuka (FKG); Mar 21 Ithaca (J. Patterson). Greater Yellowlegs: 1 Mar 26 Ithaca Airport (DBP).

Glaucous Gull: 1 Jan 1 Ithaca (DBP) is only record. Lesser Black-backed Gull: present for 7th winter from late Dec to early Feb (mob). Great Black-backed Gull: 1 Jan 1 Big Flats, Elmira; despite recent expansion of range of this species it is still scarce away from the Finger Lakes. Herring Gull: 421 ICC, about normal. Ring-billed Gull: 44 ICC, low. Mourning Dove: 96 ECC; 63 ICC few reports Watkins Glen (JB). Screech Owl: 1 regularly Etna (SHS); 1 dead, Feb 2 Richford (Mrs. R. Latta); 1 in Jan at feeder in Dryden (Paul Kelsey); 1 Jan 1 Watkins Glen (JB). Great Horned Owl: on nest Feb 7 Ithaca (P. Allan). Snowy Owl: 2 reports from Keuka are only records. Short-eared Owl: 1 Jan 7 northern Seneca Co (WEB) is only report.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: a few wintered. Yellow-shafted Flicker: 3 ECC; 2 ICC; and numerous other winter records. Pileated Woodpecker: 4 ICC, and scattered other reports. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1 Elmira to Jan 1; then only on Jan 28 (Walter Wood); 2 regularly at feeder in Clyde (WEB); also wintered at SWS, Romulus, East Lansing, Enfield and Ithaca. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 in Feb Perry City Rd. (Mrs. Swenson). Phoebe: arr Mar 30 SWS (Robert Parsonson); Dryden (DBP). Horned Lark: general comments were that numbers were low "seemed fewer" (Elmira); down in numbers, only sizable flock was one of 125 Feb 21 nr Waterloo (WEB); only occasional reports (Hornell, EMG); although good flocks nr Ithaca in Feb (SHS); and "many" Geneva (Catherine Walsh). Tree Swallow: arr Mar 23 Ithaca (CCBSG). Blue Jay: numbers back to normal or above after last year's low: 375 ICC (61 in 1969), 327 ECC (21 in 1969), 41 GCC (25 in 1969). Crow: also seemed commoner than usual; record high count of 1051 ICC was, however, partially due to observations on a roost. *BOREAL CHICKADEE*: Elmira bird (Klimko feeder) seen occasional through winter, 1 last week in Dec Geneva (CMW); 1 Feb 2 Etna to end of period (mob), photographed by SHS; 1 Feb 8 Trumansburg (WEB). Red-breasted Nuthatch: "more numerous than ever before" with 15 on CC in Elmira; "more plentiful than usual" (Keuka); "many scattered reports" Watkins Glen; many reports from Ithaca area, 4-5 at one feeder in Etna (SHS). Carolina Wren: 7 in several localities Watkins Glen (JB); 2 ECC; 1 Jan 1 onwards Hewitt feeder, Ithaca; 1 Stewart Park all winter; 2 wintered at feeder at

Romulus (Mrs. Van Ripper). Mockingbird: few scattered reports. Brown Thrasher: 2 feeder reports from Elmira (WH); 1 Mt. Zoar mid Dec to early Jan, other 24-26 Dec. Robin: 10 Jan 5 Taughannock Blvd (Mrs. Malkowsky) was largest winter concentration; main arrival Mar 24 Ithaca. Bluebird: 3 Turkey Hill-Ellis Hollow area; Varna mid-Jan to early Feb; 1 Mar 9 Elmira (WH); 1 Mar 24 Geneva (JAW). **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: 1 Jan 3 Snyder Hill Rd (Dick Fischer). Northern Shrike: 1 in Dec west of Watkins Glen (JB); 2 records from Keuka, Dec 8 and Feb (FKG); 1 Dec 12 Clyde; 1 Mar 7 MNWR (WEB); 1 Feb 1 Ithaca airport (SHS); 2 Feb 8 Etna (IT); 1 Feb 24 Interlaken (Mrs. Donald Bell); 1 Mar 7 Ithaca airport (Charles Leck). Migrant Shrike: 1 Mar 30 n. of Ithaca (Noel Cutright).

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Few reports of wintering icterids; first big influx of male Redwings, Grackles, and Meadowlarks Mar 20-22, rather late; female Redwings not numerous by end of period. Baltimore Oriole: 1, possibly 2, imm Dec and Jan at feeder in Ithaca. Rusty Blackbird: 1 first week Dec Etna (SHS); 1 Jan 28 Enfield, Davis feeder; 1 Feb at feeder Keuka area (Francis Orcutt). Brown-headed Cowbird: 15-20 at feeders Hornell (WMG); 8 on ICC is record low. Cardinal: 119 ECC; 90 Jan 1 Schuyler CC. **DICKCISSEL**: 1 Jan 26, 28 & 29 SWS (JT). Evening Grosbeak: fairly common Elmira with 39 on CC; 290 ICC is highest since 1963. 114 SCC. Purple Finch: "very few" Hornell (WMG). Pine Grosbeak: 3 Feb 14 Horseheads (WH) is only report. Redpoll: A major flight; "Biggest year for a long time" with 348 on SCC (JB); "Very common" Geneva (JMW); best flight in years, flocks up to 100 Clyde; 200 MNWR Jan 1 (WEB); numerous, Elmira, Ithaca, Keuka; largest single flocks, 850 Mar 15 n of Watkins Glen (Stephen Taylor) and 350 Feb 26 Interlaken (DBP). Goldfinch: 60 ICC is record low; "Good numbers" Watkins Glen (JB); 5 GCC (11 in 1968). Red Crossbill: "Many reports" Watkins Glen, max 30 Mar 27 (JB); small groups at feeders Elmira, Geneva, Horseheads, Hornell and Ithaca. White-winged Crossbill: less numerous than Red; 2 reported several times from W. Elmira; 1 March report Watkins Glen; few feeder reports Ithaca, max 15 Mar 16 (Mrs. Herber Gips). Towhee: 4 ECC; 3 wintering at feeders Watkins Glen. Savannah Sparrow: arr Mar 30 Game Farm (Doug Auer, Pete Brown). Field Sparrow: 4 Dec 6 & 7 Clyde (WEB). White-throated Sparrow: 17 ICC is record high; 76 SCC is five times previous high count, mainly at feeders; more than usual wintered Elmira with 16 on ECC (2 in 1969). Fox Sparrow: arr Mar 29 Jacksonville (Mrs. A. T. Graham). Swamp Sparrow: few wintered Watkins-Montour marsh (JB). Song Sparrow: wintered in normal numbers or above; 40 ECC is three times normal. Lapland Longspur: scattered individuals with Horned Larks. Snow Bunting: 200 ICC is normal, but only 1/8 of last year's record high; largest flock 400 nr Ithaca (JT).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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December remained deceptively mild, snow cover prior to the Syracuse Christmas Count December 20 being light and unsustainable. Numerous half hardies were tabulated on that count, but the remainder of December was a steady meteorologic disaster with heavy persistent snow and severe sustained cold.

January maintained the persistent cold and deep snow (36 days with no reading above freezing), half hardies were literally wiped out and most of such species that survived did so only at generous feeders. Deep snow (28+ inches of ground snow) completely covered weed seeds, such that open-country sparrows, Snow Bunting, Horned Lark, and finches except for the very adaptable Common Redpoll, evacuated the area.