

Barrow's Goldeneye (3,5), Harlequin Duck (5), Common Eider (1,2), Turkey Vulture (7), Black-headed Gull (1), Great Gray Owl (8), Black-backed Woodpecker (6), Common Raven (7), Boreal Chickadee (1,3, — perhaps a shadow flight of the '69-'70 incursion), Varied Thrush (9), Wood Thrush (3), Western Meadowlark (3), Yellow-headed Blackbird (2), and Bullock's Oriole (4,9).

A perfect score for regional summaries was marred by the absence of one from Region 10 — c'est dommage!

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(Editor's Note: The Region 10 report was excusably slightly late, but apparently no copy was sent to Dr. Scheider. The report, however, speaks for itself. J.W.T.)

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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Except for December (nearly normal temperature and precipitation), this winter was one of the coldest in recent years. The first three months of the year were several degrees below normal resulting in the accumulation of an unusually thick ice cover over most water. Snowfall was close to normal for the period. Brief thaws in late February and mid-March brought a few migrants but winter-like conditions quickly returned. Waterfowl appeared to be the only category of birds migrating in widespread and substantial numbers during their usual time schedules. The wintry weather and unfavorable winds severely retarded most of the other regular or occasional March migrants.

Significant points or trends to note from the report are (1) a fine variety but small numbers of the larger fish eating species such as loons, grebes, cormorants and herons, (2) an insignificant maximum count of Canada Geese compared with the past several years, (3) average numbers of many species of ducks, (4) exceptional count of Rough-legged Hawks in an area where they are usually rare, (5) small numbers of many species of gulls but a good variety nevertheless, (6) small numbers of owls, (7) high Christmas Count numbers of Mourning Doves and Blue Jays, (8) a superb flight of Northern Shrikes which could not be documented due to lack of time, (9) a very poor flight of winter finches except for the Evening Grosbeak, (10) high Christmas Count totals of the Cardinal, Slate-colored Junco and Tree, White-throated and Song Sparrows plus the Snow Bunting.

Rare species reported were Eared Grebe, Barrow's Goldeneye, Black-headed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Boreal Chickadee and House Finch.

Abbreviations: Bflo—Buffalo; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; CC—Christmas Count; Chaut—Chautauqua; imm—immature; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; Nia—Niagara; NYSFBC—New York State Federation of Bird Clubs; Ont—Ontario.

Contributors: TLB—Thomas L. Bourne; RB—Richard Brownstein; DOC—Douglas O. Carlson; LMC—Lincoln and Marian Crone; FE—Flora Elderkin WHK—Walter and Harriette Klabunde; WAM—Willard and Alice McKale; JSM—John S. Morse; CMN—Charles and Martha Neel; EP—Emily Potter; A(D)R—Archie (and Doris) Richardson; WGS—William and George Smith; RAS—Robert A. Sundell.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loons are virtually unknown after Dec in recent years so individuals Jan 8 INWR (JSM et al) and Jan 14 Hamburg Town Park (TLB) and

2 on the Nia R off Grand Island Jan 10 (Vaughan) are noteworthy, as is a Red-throated Loon Dec 3 on Cassadaga L (DOC). 2 Red-necked Grebes were seen between Feb 4 and Mar 15 in Dunkirk Harbor by several different parties. An *EARED GREBE* was compared with Horned Grebes on L Erie near Dunkirk Dec 1 (DOC). A Double-crested Cormorant was also seen there Dec 2 (FE) and Dec 5, 6 (DOC). The Great Blue Heron is scarcest during Feb with individuals this year on Feb 2 INWR (JSM) and Feb 6 Silver Creek (Mangano) and a light return flight throughout the region during mid and late Mar. The only Black-crowned Night Heron reported was a returning migrant Mar 30 East Eden Pond (TLB).

Whistling Swans were seen on Chaut L with 77 Dec 1 Stow, 60 Dec 2 Mayville and 120 Dec 2 Prendergast Point, 9 Dec 10 Mayville (FE) and 1 walking on the ice Jan 1 Mayville (EP); early returning migrants were 7 Feb 27 Buckhorn Island State Park on the Nia R (Reckhow); the Mar flight was very poor with a maximum count of 114 on the Allegheny Reservoir at Onoville on Mar 28 (Gulvin). Canada Geese remained at INWR through mid Jan with 1200 Jan 1, 360 Jan 9 and 35 Jan 16 (JSM, Olsen); 3500 had returned there by Feb 27 (JSM et al) and the maximum count was 18,000 Mar 6 (WAM, LMC). 6 Snow Geese Mar 18 and 2 Blue Geese Mar 18, 28 were maximum numbers at INWR; 8 Snows and 7 Blues Mar 28 over Fredonia (RAS, Maggio) were observed at an unusual location; an imm Blue Goose in Dunkirk Harbor from an 24 through the end of the period seen by numerous observers represents the first wintering bird for western New York.

Most species of ducks were present in average numbers for recent years. 39 Gadwall were recorded on the NYSFBC annual waterfowl count, the second highest total; this included at least 2 which wintered at Dunkirk Harbor, the only regular winter location beside the Nia R. American Widgeon were again present in large numbers during early winter - 300 Dec 3 above Nia Falls (Freitag), 167 Dec 26 BOSCC, 150 Jan 10 NYSFBC waterfowl count. Late Shovelers were reported Dec 1, 2 Dunkirk (DOC) and Dec 2 INWR (JSM). Wood Ducks were well represented with 4 Dec 27 on the Jamestown CC where an adult male wintered with a flock of Mallards and single reports from Dunkirk Harbor, INWR and Bflo. Exceptionally high counts of Common Goldeneye 2759 Dec 26 MOSCC and Bufflehead 2220 Dec 26 BOSCC were obtained. A female *BARROW'S GOLDENEYE* was present from Nov 21 until at least Feb 20 just above Nia Falls and was seen by many birders. The flightless male *COMMON EIDER* present at Chippawa, Ont from Dec 1969 was last seen Jan 10; it had been closely observed and photographed by many observers but was never known to have crossed into New York State waters. King Eiders were present in small numbers on the Nia R from Dec 6 through the end of the period with a female in Dunkirk Harbor from Feb 6-27.

HAWKS-OWLS: Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were scattered throughout the region in numbers slightly above those of the past several winters. Also as in recent years there were excellent numbers of Red-tailed Hawks wintering. The Red-shouldered Hawk is always rare during the winter months; an individual appeared at the INWR Dec 30 CC and Jan 1 (JSM, Howes); the first returning migrants were seen there Feb 26, 27 (JSM et al). Rough-legged Hawks were well represented in the usual wintering area on the L Ont plain; they were unaccountably common south of Stockton in Chaut Co where usually rare with peak counts of 84 Feb 27 and 71 Feb 28 (DOC; Buck, Rew; CMN, ADR). The slowly vanishing Bald Eagle was reported from three locations - imm Dec 15 and Jan 17 INWR (JSM; Waldstein), adult on the ice of Chaut L at Mayville Jan 1 (EP), imm Mar 13 Lakeview (TLB).

American Coot: 300 Dec 10 Chaut L (FE), maximum winter count 35 Feb 20, 26 Dunkirk Harbor (FE). Midwinter Killdeer are always rare; 1 was seen at Bemus Point Feb 1-12 (Reiber) while the first migrants were 4 Feb 23 at Dunkirk (DOC) with a peak noted Mar 14 where 56 were seen flying over Point Gratiot

(Hess) and Mar 15 with 59 over Hamburg Township (RB et al). American Woodcock were first observed with 2 Mar 15 Alfred area (Klingensmith). The usual mid-winter records of Common Snipe were 2 Dec 27 Jamestown CC, 5 Jan 22 (DOC) and 5 Jan 24 (RAS, AR) Towerville.

Gulls were impressive as usual, although most species were present in smaller numbers than in most recent years. The maximum count of Glaucous Gulls was 4 Dec 30 at Squaw Island, Bflo (RFA, Byron). A *BLACK-HEADED GULL* was reported on 6 days in Dec (19-31) on the Nia R opposite Bflo (many observers) and up to 2 were present in Dunkirk Harbor from Jan 17-24 (many observers). At least 2 Little Gulls were seen along the Nia R through Jan 10. An imm *BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE* was observed in Dunkirk Harbor on Jan 8 (William and Mary Kraetz), Jan 15 (CMN), Feb 2 (DOC) and Feb 15 (Moes, Campbell).

Mourning Doves were present in extraordinary numbers on area CCs continuing a trend of recent years: 255 Dec 27 Hamburg - East Aurora, 179 Dec 26 Scio, 119 Dec 26 Grand Island (BOS), 118 Dec 30 INWR, 109 Dec 26 Jamestown.

There were the usual small numbers of owl reports other than the Screech, Great Horned and Barred. 3 Barn Owls were recorded - Dec 26 Grand Island (BOS) CC, Feb 14 Hamburg (TLB), Feb 21 Wilson (WAM et al). The first Snowy Owl was observed perched on a fencepost along the Thruway just west of Batavia Nov 10 (Riley); 1 frequented the Lyndonville area Jan 1-24 (WGS); at least 3 were recognized in the Oak Orchard - Shadigee area Feb 6-25 (WGS). The only Long-eared Owls reported were Dec 6 Youngstown (WHK et al), Dec 29 Hamburg (TLB), Mar 14 Youngstown (Wendlings et al). The maximum count of Short-eared Owls was 22 at Lyndonville between Mar 16 and 29 (WGS).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: An exceptionally large winter concentration of the Yellow-shafted Flicker was 23 Dec 30 INWR CC. The influence of the weather on CCs was again dramatized by the absence of the Pileated Woodpecker from the Fredonia and Jamestown lists although known to be present in both circles. Both the Red-headed Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker are rare during the winter months; the former was represented by 2 Dec 30 INWR CC, 1 Jan 1 Fredonia CC and 2 Jan 3 and Mar 14 Fort Nia State Park with a possible winter holdover Mar 26 Derby; the sapsucker was reported Dec 26 Allegany County CC, Dec 5-Jan 30 Lewiston (WHK) and Jan 15-22 Stafford Township (Masons).

An exceptionally large winter count of Horned Larks for the Southern Tier hill country was 146 Dec 26 Jamestown CC.

A Tree Swallow Mar 18 Frewsburg (FE) was four days earlier than usual. Unusually large numbers of Blue Jays were again recorded on area CCs: 684 Dec 26 Allegany County, 442 Dec 26 Jamestown, 297 Dec 26 Grand Island (BOS), 246 Dec 27 Hamburg - East Aurora. A roost of the Common Crow at West Seneca was estimated at 7000 birds Mar 27 (LMC).

A *BOREAL CHICKADEE* wintered in a cemetery in Pendleton Township, Nia Co with verification reports for Nov 29, Jan 3 and Feb 7 (WAM). Tufted Titmice were reported in very large numbers on two CCs 67 Dec 27 Hamburg-East Aurora, 37 Dec 27 Jamestown. As this was a particularly poor winter for the Red-breasted Nuthatch which was widely and sparsely distributed, the concentration of 27 Dec 27 on the Hamburg-East Aurora CC was particularly noteworthy. 4 Winter Wrens is about twice the total often reported during the winter months; the first spring migrant was noted Mar 31 at Toad Hollow (TLB). Single Carolina Wrens were noted on Dec 26 on the Allegany Co and Jamestown CCs with 3 Dec 27 on the Hamburg-East Aurora CC; 1 survived through Feb at a feeder at Spring Brook (Danner). At least 12 Mockingbirds were reported from 9 scattered localities mostly in the greater Bflo area. The only Catbird was seen Dec 27 on the Hamburg-East Aurora CC. 3 Brown Thrashers were reported from widely scattered locations including two CC records.

The maximum midwinter report of Robins was a flock of 20 Jan 10 at Somerset

(WAM); starting in mid-Mar substantial numbers were recorded in Chaut Co. A Hermit Thrush on Mar 7 at Hamburg (TLB) could represent an unusually early spring migrant or a wintering survivor. The usual late Feb arrival dates for the Eastern Bluebird were Feb 25 Hamburg (TLB) and Feb 27 Clymer (FE). The only Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen on the Allegany Co CC Dec 26. The Water Pipit arrived on Mar 21 with 17 at Fredonia (DOC) and a second flock of 19 Mar 30 in the Conewango area (Swanson, Bates). An excellent flight of Northern Shrikes developed in Nov and was sustained throughout the winter. The Loggerhead Shrike arrived at the Oak Orchard Game Management Area on Mar 21 (RB et al).

VIREOS-SPARROWS: An unseasonably large flock of up to 25 Redwinged Blackbirds frequented a feeder in Belmont during Dec and Jan (LDB); starting on Feb 26 flocks of 100 or more began to penetrate the Southern Tier. The latest Rusty Blackbirds were 1 Dec 20-24 at Kenmore (Benham), 6 Dec 26 Allegany Co CC and 1 Dec 27 Jamestown CC. A few Common Grackles were observed on most of the area CCs and 4 were still at feeders in Jan; in late Feb the first migrants returned including 200 Feb 27 at the West Seneca roost (LMC). Good sized flocks of Brown-headed Cowbirds were found on several CCs: 142 Dec 26 Allegany Co, 56 Dec 27 Jamestown, 21 Dec 27 Olean; up to 30 came to a feeder in Jamestown Feb 10-20 (RAS); small numbers of migrants were noted during Mar returning with other blackbirds.

The Cardinal continues its fantastic population explosion which is well documented by CC figures; totals: 310 Dec 27 Jamestown, 302 Dec 27 Hamburg-East Aurora, 162 Dec 26 Grand Island (BOS), 129 Dec 26 Scio. Evening Grosbeak: a scattering in the Bflo suburbs and on the L Ont plain and a few in Chaut and Cattaraugus Cos with a heavy concentration in Allegany Co; 147 Dec 26 Scio CC, 131 Dec 26 Allegany Co CC. **HOUSE FINCH:** imm male or female at feeder Dec 4, 6 and Mar 7 in Amherst (RB). Common Redpoll: 4 reports including 50 Dec 26 Allegany Co CC and 15 Jan 22 Batavia (Seamans). Pine Siskin: only 2 reports - 25 Dec 26 Scio CC, 1 Dec 27 Hamburg-East Aurora CC. American Goldfinch: 3 fair CC totals - 171 Dec 26 Allegany Co, 150 Dec 27 Hamburg-East Aurora, 95 Dec 27 Jamestown. Red Crossbill: only report 2 Dec 16 North Boston (TLB). White-winged Crossbill: only report 7 Mar 12 Boston (TLB).

4 Savannah Sparrows observed Mar 21 at Clarence (WAM) were 5 days earlier than average. Late Vesper Sparrows were recorded on the Jamestown CC Dec 27 and the same bird Dec 28 near Frewsburg (RAS, Kibler), on the Fredonia CC Jan 1 and on Jan 10 a Eden (TLB). There were several very high CC totals of the Slate-colored Junco: 485 Dec 27 Hamburg-East Aurora, 442 Dec 26 Allegany Co, 258 Dec 27 Jamestown. Tree Sparrows were also recorded on area CCs in high numbers: 1083 Dec 26 Allegany Co, 1005 Dec 26 Grand Island (BOS), 902 Dec 27 INWR, 482 Dec 27 Hamburg-East Aurora, 457 Dec 26 Jamestown. A Chipping Sparrow, always rare in the winter, was reported Dec 27 on the Hamburg-East Aurora CC. There were more Dec and Jan reports of the White-crowned Sparrow than usual with individuals and small flocks scattered throughout the region with a maximum of 20 Dec 26 on the Allegany Co CC. The CC numbers of White-throated Sparrows were truly amazing: 96 Dec 27 Hamburg-East Aurora, 46 Dec 26 Allegany Co, 35 Dec 27 Jamestown, 26 Dec 26 Grand Island (BOS). Song Sparrow totals on CCs were likewise exceptionally high: 78 Dec 26 Grand Island (BOS), 47 Dec 27 Jamestown. Lapland Longspurs showed up in an unexpected locality when 3 were observed Dec 27 on the Jamestown CC; maximum count of 13 Feb 2 at Fredonia (DOC) is very low. Several excellent CC totals of the Snow Bunting were recorded: 1454 Dec 26 Allegany Co, 1100 Dec 27 Jamestown, 968 Dec 26 Scio.

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