

The first Water Pipits this spring were noted on March 21, a flock of 80 birds on Nations Road (JF, TT); a late fall report of 1 bird December 6 at BB (WCL). Cedar Waxwings were not noted as frequently as most years but a count of 300 on February 21 in Webster was unusually large (WL). Northern Shrikes was more common than usual early in the winter — a new high of 11 being noted on the Rochester Christmas Count, December 27; later when the snow deepened, they were less common but still regular.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: No reports, even on the Christmas Counts other than Myrtle Warblers which again wintered at MP; the high count was 7 (CP).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Meadowlark was one of the laggards noted above this spring; after a count of 9 on the LLCC and a single on the Rochester Christmas Count, few were seen before the last week in March. One of the highlights of the winter was the appearance of one adult and one immature Yellow-headed Blackbird in a large flock of wintering redwings, grackles, and cowbirds in Pittsford; the adult bird was seen at least twice, January 19 and 31 (Newman) and the immature bird once (CP); there are only one or two other records for this species locally, although we have been expecting to see it appear more often as it has apparently done in other areas of the northeast recently; this wintering blackbird flock contained at least 250 redwings, 150 grackles, and 300 cowbirds.

Spring flights of blackbirds, especially Redwings, did begin in late February but were then abruptly halted until almost mid-March by the return of severe weather; by the end of March, however, they were becoming as evident as ever!

A Dickcissel came regularly to a feeder in Webster from early December to January 16 (Donaldsons).

All of the northern finches were scarce or entirely absent this year. One observer noted a few Purple Finches in DEP on December 7 (PW); and a few others appeared at a feeder in Penfield during most of March (GD). Evening Grosbeaks were noted on both Christmas Counts, and occasionally thereafter, but many observers saw none at all. Goldfinches were well distributed with one exceptional flock of 500 seen on Nations Road, March 28 (CP). 2 Redpolls and 2 Pine Siskins on the RCC were about the only records of either species. No Pine Grosbeak nor either crossbill were reported this season.

A single Rufous-sided Towhee was noted on each Christmas Count — none thereafter. One of our very few winter Savannah Sparrows was reported on the LLCC on January 3. A record high count of 8 Field Sparrows was made on the Rochester Christmas Count while 4 others appeared on the LLCC. Both White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows also appeared on both Counts, the latter in record numbers on RCC.

The Oregon Junco reported in October and November was still appearing irregularly at the end of winter (MS). Swamp and Song Sparrows seemed scarcer than usual, no doubt due to the heavy snow cover.

Several good flocks of Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were reported; about 30 of the former on January 16 at Shore Acres (RO'H), and 1,250 of the latter March 21 in Lima (Fosters) being the largest numbers.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

DOROTHY McILROY AND SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

The warm weather of November lasted into early December. Complete freeze-up of Montezuma Refuge occurred on Dec. 7, causing an exodus of the waterfowl. After mid-December it was a hard winter with above normal snowfall, 90 inches in Ithaca compared with the usual 75 inches, with heavy snowfalls occurring in early

February and early March. Although temperatures did not drop to extreme lows, minimum in Ithaca only about -10 degrees, there was steady unrelenting cold with no January thaw. In spite of the warmest February since 1960 and a big thaw in the latter half of the month, snow remained on the ground and ice stayed on the ponds. March was the coldest and snowiest in about 15 years, resulting in unusually deep snow cover in late March. MNWR was still 80% frozen on April 5. In late March the mucklands along Route 31 north of MNWR, flooded by heavy run-off from the deep snow cover, provided resting and feeding places for large numbers of waterfowl.

Warm south winds in late Feb. brought large flocks of Canada Geese pouring in, especially on Feb. 26, a week to ten days early. There was an estimated 100,000 geese on Cayuga Lake, MNWR and the flooded mucklands in late March.

Winter finches never did appear: no Pine Grosbeaks, crossbills or siskins, very few redpoll reports. A few flocks of Evening Grosbeaks and small flocks of Snow Buntings were scattered thru the Region; a few Lapland Longspurs were reported. Rough-legged Hawks were present in fair numbers, but it was definitely not an invasion year. There were a few Snowy and Short-eared Owls. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets were scarce, as were wintering icterids. But unusually large numbers of White-throated and Song Sparrows wintered, there were more flickers than usual; several Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers wintered, and there were more reports of small flocks of bluebirds than in recent years, good news indeed.

Rarities included Eared Grebe, Barrow's Goldeneye, King Eider, Boreal Chickadee, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrush, Western Meadowlark, Oregon Junco and Chipping Sparrow.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; CC—Christmas Count; JWC—Waterfowl Census Jan. 16 and 17; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen—Seneca; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; WatG—Watkins Glen.

Area compilers: Walter Benning, Jack Brubaker, William Groesbeck, Frank Guthrie, Martin Phillips, James Tate, Mary Welles.

Observers. BA—Betty Ammerman; WEB—Walter Benning; JB—Jack Brubaker; WMG—William Groesbeck; FG—Frank Guthrie; WH—Wilfred Howard; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; DBP—David Peakall, MSP—Martin Phillips; MS—Mary Smith; SHS, WRS—Sally and Walter Spofford; BS—Betty Strath; JT—James Tate; MW—Mary Welles; mob—many observers. We welcome new coverage in Bath area by Betty Ammerman and Jean Doren Rezelman.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 5 Dec 8 flying south over Etna (SHS); 2 Jan 8 Cay L (DM); 2 JWC Canandaigua L; 2 sightings Sen L (JB). Red-necked Grebe: 1 Feb 15-22 WatG (JB); 1 Mar 29 Cay Inlet (DM, mob) stayed several days, 2 seen one day (D. Auer). *EARED GREBE*: 1 Jan 1 MNWR CC (Dittrick, Mullen, Waldstein), report filed. Horned Grebe: 167 JWC, high. Pied-billed Grebe: 39 JWC, high; several wintered Cay L. Great Blue Heron: 5 wintered on Clyde R n. of MNWR (MSP); 1 imm Dec 26 CC, Montour airport; 1 Jan 1 Elmira CC. Whistling Swan: 18 at MNWR Dec 5, late (WEB) left soon after; 1 Feb 7 Cay L at Aurora (G. Archibald); spring max MNWR, 16 Mar 27 (WEB); 6 Mar 20 and 1 Mar 30 Chemung R at Elmira (WH).

Canada Goose: most of the 2,000 Jan 10 Cay L aerial survey (B. Griffin, JT) apparently left before JWC when only 183 were counted in the whole Region; numbers began to build up in mid-Feb with an enormous influx Feb 26. Brant: 2 reported Nov 30 Stewart Pk, Ithaca (DBP) stayed thru first few days of Dec. Snow Goose: 1 Dec 5 MNWR (WEB); an imm apparently wintered with Canada Geese on Cay L, reported Jan 10 (R. Williams), Feb 12 (DM), unusual. Blue Goose: 1 Jan 15 Cay L (JT) also unusual; numbers of Snows and Blues began building up in late Mar on the mucklands along Rte. 31; 2 Snows and 3 Blues Mar 22, 23 Chemung

R at Elmira (MS, mob) were a first record for Blues and only the second time Snows have landed there.

Waterfowl Census: was taken Jan 16 and 17, very cold and windy. It showed decreases for Black Ducks (1070), Redheads (6417) and Scaup (only 712); increases in Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, Gadwall (30), Ring-necked Duck (7), Canvasback (1819), Common Goldeneye (549), Bufflehead (257), Hooded Merganser (18), Common Merganser (57), Red-breasted Merganser (6) and Coot. Pintail: first Mar 14 SWS (B. Temple). Green-winged Teal: 1 JWC Sen L (BS); next report, 4 Mar 17 Cass Pk, Ithaca (DM, M. Briant). Blue-winged Teal: first, 3 Mar 16 WatG (JB). American Widgeon: up to 66 most of winter on Cay L (WEB), more than usual. Shoveler: first, 1 Mar 31 MNWR (WEB). Wood Duck: 5 JWC, SWS. Ring-necked Duck: many more than usual Mar 15 thru period Elmira (MW). **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**: 1 male JWC Canandaigua L. Oldsquaw: few reports; singles Dec 26 WatG CC (JB); Jan 11 Sen L n end (WEB); Mar 29 Elmira (MW); 14 Jan 8 Cay L (DM). **KING EIDER**: juvenal male killed by hunter at Myers, Cay L, in Dec, carcass brought to Cornell, specimen in Cornell collection (fide JT). Ruddy Duck: first, 1 female Mar 29 Cay Inlet (DM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first Mar 29 SWS (W. Dilger). Goshawk: several winter records Ithaca area, several sightings in Dec near Elmira (E. Knapp). Cooper's Hawk: reported regularly Ithaca area; Odessa in Jan (BS); 1 Elmira in Feb (WH); 2 regular at WatG feeders (JB). Sharp-shinned Hawk: Jan 16 Hector (BS); 1 Dec 30 and Feb 19 Etna (SHS); 1 in Feb Cayuga Hts, Ithaca (F. Marcham). Red-tailed Hawk: astonishing 105 Jan 1 MNWR CC; good numbers everywhere except Elmira. Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Feb 19 Ithaca about a mile apart (WRS, S. Temple) early. Broad-winged Hawk: first Mar 23 Ithaca (Temples). Rough-legged Hawk: up to 4 n Sen Co. (WEB); 7 Jan 1 MNWR CC; only 2 reports each WatG and Keuka; a few reports Ithaca. Bald Eagle: 1 Dec 5 MNWR (WEB); imm Jan 10 near Canoga (R. Williams); adult Jan 31 Varna e of Ithaca (B. Clark). Marsh Hawk: 1 Dec 8 and Mar 13 Elmira (WH); 1 most of winter Watkins Marsh (JB); max 12 females and 3 males Mar 23 MNWR (MSP). Pigeon Hawk: 1 Mar 31 MNWR (MSP), only report. Sparrow Hawk: 28 Jan 1 MNWR CC, high; 17 Jan 1 Elmira CC, also high; 10 Jan 1 Ithaca CC.

Ring-necked Pheasant: reports of sizable numbers at feeders, maybe because of deep snow; after the winter, numbers appeared down somewhat (P. Kelsey). Turkey: numbers probably the same, but dispersed and more wary, perhaps because of a hunting season and snowmobile pressure (P. Kelsey). American Coot: 1167 JWC, double 1970 count. Killdeer: Jan 1 CC's — 2 Elmira, 1 Ithaca; first spring record Mar 16 WatG (JB). American Woodcock: first Mar 10 Ithaca (M. Marion), several more reports during next few days. Common Snipe: first Mar 10 Etna (JT). Greater Yellowlegs: first Mar 18 Sen R flats (F. Scheider).

Gull population at s end of Cay L definitely down this winter, probably due to dump closing; no certain sighting of Lesser Black-backed Gull. Glaucous Gull: 1 first year bird Dec 14 Ithaca (DM.) Iceland Gull 1 Jan 1 Elmira CC; 1 Mar 1 Ithaca (DM). Mourning Dove: good numbers on CC's — 266 Jan 1 Elmira, 109 Jan 1 MNWR, 154 Jan 1 Ithaca; WEB reported numbers went way down at Clyde after heavy Jan snow. Snowy Owl: scarce: 1 Jan 1, 2, 6 and 1 Mar 31 MNWR (WEB); 1 Keuka in Feb (FG). Long-eared Owl: 1 Jan 1-6 Newman Golf Course, Ithaca; 1 trapped in Feb Ithaca Game Farm, died; 1 in Feb Keuka (FG). Short-eared Owl: 3 Jan 3 Waterloo (J. Walker); up to 6 Jan 6 on, Watts Rd, Sen Co. (WEB); 1 Jan 1 Elmira CC; 1 in Jan Penn Yan (M. Lerch); 10 Mar 22 to Apr 1 MNWR (MSP). Saw-whet Owl: 1 found dead Mar 10 near MNWR entrance (MSP).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Yellow-shafted Flicker: 11 Dec 26 WatG CC; 2 or 3 Ithaca area; 1 report Elmira. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2 Odessa (BS); 1 to 3 Clyde (WEB); several Keuka thru Feb (FG); 1 Dec 26 Waterloo (J. Walker); 2

Dec 26 WatG CC. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 5 winter reports — 1 Jan 8 Elmira (MS); 3 at feeders in Ithaca; injured 1, *nuchalis* race, Jan 19 Ithaca, brought to Ornithology Lab. died a week and a half later as a result of a ruptured brain artery.

Eastern Phoebe: first, 1 Mar 17 Elmira (Stasche). Horned Lark: seemed scarce Jan and Feb, numbers increased late Feb; flock of 500 plus Dec 29 Hornell (FG). Tree Swallow: first, Mar 16 n of MNWR (D. Crumb et al). Common Crow: first migrants noted Feb 21 MNWR (WEB). Black-capped Chickadee: partial albino in Jan at R. Grow feeder near Clyde, checked by WEB, had "snow white head with random flecking of black in cap and bib areas which are normally solid black." **BOREAL CHICKADEES** 2 Dec 25 Elmira (Andrus). Tufted Titmouse: increased numbers on CC's — 35 Jan 1 Elmira, 19 Jan 1 Ithaca, 7 Dec 26 WatG. Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce; 1 Jan 1 Elmira CC compared with 15 last year; only 2 or 3 reported Ithaca feeders; only 1 record Keuka (FG). Winter Wren: only reports, 4 singles in Ithaca area — Dec 16 (Simmers), Jan 5 Peruville (J. Patterson), Feb 26 (DM), 1 in Mar. Carolina Wren: numbers seemed slightly up except WatG where there were only 2 on Dec 26 CC compared with 7 last year; 4 in Ithaca, more than for several years; 4 Jan 1 Elmira CC; pair Keuka (FG). Long-billed Marsh Wren: 2 Dec 26 CC Watkins Marsh (JB).

Mockingbird: sighted at two new locations Ithaca area; 5 Dec 26 WatG CC compared with 2 last year. **CATBIRD**: 2 reports Ithaca, 1 Dec 8 (Shepherd) and 1 Jan 13 (Mrs. Gartlein). **BROWN THRASHER**: 1 most of winter Pine City near Elmira (MacWhorter, fide MW); 2 Jan 1 Ithaca CC; 1 Feb 6 Ithaca (Mrs. Little). Robin: first sizable flock, 50 Feb 7 Ithaca (F. Marcham). **WOOD THRUSH**: 1 Dec 5 Elmira (MS), very late. Hermit Thrush: two winter records, 1 mid-Jan Odessa (BS), 1 Jan 26 Ithaca (C. White). Eastern Bluebird: more reports then for several years; a pair Dec 26 WatG CC; flock of 20 Jan 10 n of Branchport (fide M. Lerch) and groups of 4 to 10 seen there other dates; flock of 25 in Dec Keuka and several groups of 6 to 9 thereafter (FG); 2 Jan 18 on, Glenwood School, Ithaca (Mrs. Dengler); flock of 8 to 10 males Mar 22 Elmira (Stasche). Golden-crowned Kinglet: scarce; 3 Dec 26 WatG CC (12 last year); 5 Jan 1 Elmira CC (14 last year). Northern Shrike: fair numbers; 4 reports of singles Waterloo-Clyde area (WEB); 1 record each Elmira, Keuka, WatG, several reports Ithaca. Starling: 4722 at roost on Cornell Campus Jan 1 Ithaca CC; albino Mar 25 Lansing n of Ithaca (Mrs. Drake).

VIREOS-SPARROWS: No Myrtle Warbler reports. Few redwings, grackles or cowbirds wintered; these began returning Feb 26 except Hornell where no Red-winged Blackbirds had arrived by Mar 31. Eastern Meadowlark: high count of 35 Jan 1 Elmira CC. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: 1 Mar 16 on, Brooktondale (Temples), song and call heard. Baltimore Oriole: 1 Dec 15 Elmira (Stasche). Rusty Blackbird: 2 Jan 1 Elmira CC; 1 Jan 6 MNWR (WEB).

Cardinal: numbers apparently up; 171 Dec 26 WatG CC, more than ever before; 166 Jan 1 Elmira CC; 198 Jan 1 Ithaca CC. **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK**: present at feeder, not seen after Dec 16, Hornell (WMG) — no details, could it have been a Black-headed? Evening Grosbeak: scarce everywhere, although a few flocks reported throughout Region. Purple Finch: very few reports during winter; max 10 Jan 2 Montour Falls (JB); only exception a report of "larger numbers than in four preceding winters" Feb 22 on, at a feeder in Bath (BA). House Finch: 5 Jan 1 Elmira CC, probably a few more than this in area (MW); 2 males Feb 22 on, Ithaca (Mrs. Cryslar, DM). Common Redpoll: only reports, a few at MNWR in early Dec; 1 Dec 26 WatG CC; Feb 18 Ithaca (N. States). American Goldfinch: many reports from entire Region. Rufous-sided Towhee: singles all winter at two feeders two miles apart Hornell (FG); 2 wintered at WatG (JB); 1 Jan 1 Elmira CC; 1 in Jan Ithaca.

Savannah Sparrow: 1 Dec 14 Ithaca, late (DM). Vesper Sparrow: 1 Dec 30 near Elmira (WH); 1 Jan 10 w of Sheldrake (WEB). **OREGON JUNCO**: 1 late Dec

thru early Jan Elmira (WH). Tree Sparrow: large flocks into Jan, numbers decreased as snow became deeper. **CHIPPING SPARROW**: 1 Jan 1 Ithaca CC. Field Sparrow: at least one sighting each month of period Keuka (FG), unusual; 1 Jan 3 on, Aurora (Ann Burch); 2 Dec 26 WatG CC; 6 Jan 1 Elmira CC, more than usual. White-crowned Sparrow: 3 Dec reports of single imm birds and 1 Jan 1 CC at Elmira; 1 Jan 29 s of Ithaca. White-throated Sparrow: more than usual wintered at feeders throughout area; CC numbers—67 Dec 26 WatG, 43 Jan 1 Ithaca, 33 Jan 1 Elmira. Fox Sparrow: 1 each Dec 26 WatG CC, Jan 1 Elmira CC; first spring report, Mar 11 Elmira (MS). Swamp Sparrow: 10 Dec 26 WatG CC, all-time high. Song Sparrow: more than usual wintered as indicated by CC numbers—88 MNWR, 44 Elmira, 35 WatG, 34 Ithaca. Lapland Longspur: first, 2 Jan 16 King Ferry (WRS); several other reports Ithaca, 1 report each Elmira, Waterloo, Clyde. Snow Bunting: only small flocks noted in most of Region; largest flock 1,000 Elmira.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

Snowcover was constant from December 13 through February, officially never less than 6 inches from December 14 on. Then in March it really snowed, establishing a new record for total snowfall in that month, and including one storm that brought 22 inches. Temperatures averaged below normal all season but particularly so during January and the first few days of February. A promising warming trend was developing in late February, only to be wiped out by March.

Weatherwise severe and birdwise dull! It was one of the poorest winter finch years in the last twenty, and no single species of that group made even a normal showing. Mockingbirds apparently held their own but made no obvious gain in numbers. Tufted Titmice evidently did increase.

Of the northern raptors only the Rough-legged Hawk was present in numbers, apparently in spite of the snowcover. Goshawk reports continue to be encouraging. One Snowy Owl and 5 Northern Shrikes, if the latter can be allowed in the group for discussion purposes, complete the picture.

A Bullock's Oriole, the first for the region, was the real rarity of the season, with only a Red-throated Loon and a Baltimore Oriole as runners-up.

Abbreviations; Bing—Binghamton; BCC—Binghamton Christmas Count, December 27; DOAS—Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society; OCC—Oneonta Christmas Count, January 2; WFC—Waterfowl Census.

Observers: WA—William Altman; DB—Don Bemont; LB—Les Bemont; LC—Mrs. Lynn Clarke; GC—Gail Corderman; A,MD—Anna and Marilyn Davis; EF—Elizabeth Feldhusen; RK—Roger Karns; HM—Harriet Marsi; JM—John Merriam; MS—Mary Sheffield; R,SW—Ruth and Sally White; KW—Kathryn Wilson.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: 1 Feb 19 Bing (LB, HM, GC), lit in parking lot of large industrial plant during noon hour—banded and released on river. Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Jan 17 Sidney (Robert & Jeanne Saunders); 1 Jan 17 Oneonta (KW, EF), both on WFC. Great Blue Heron: 1 BCC; 1 Jan 7 Hamden, on Delaware River (Kay Sanford); first migrant Mar 21 Vestal (RK, L. Majka). Canada Goose: 1 Jan 9 Schenectady (D. Huntington), and daily thereafter; migrants Feb 26 Vestal (R. Fuller). Mallard: 6 BCC; 63 WFC. Black Duck: 56 BCC; 4 OCC; 55 WFC. Pintail: Feb 21 Sherburne (JM). Green-winged Teal: Mar 20 Greene (A, MD). Blue-winged Teal: Mar 20 Greene (A, MD). American Widgeon: 20 Mar 14 Endwell (LB, DB). Wood Duck: Feb 21 Sherburne (JM). Redhead: 1 Feb 21 Sherburne (JM), the only report. Ring-necked Duck: Mar 28 Chenango Forks (MS,