

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

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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,

A, MD). Canvasback: 1 Mar 14 Endwell (LB, DB), the only positive report. Common Goldeneye: 31 WFC. White-winged Scoter: 1 female Jan 17 Oneonta area (KW, EF). Hooded Merganser: Mar 28 Chenango Forks (MS, A, MD) and Vestal (RK). Common Merganser: 77 WFC. Red-breasted Merganser: Mar 20 Upper Lisle (A, MD).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 1 Mar 28 Pepacton Dam (EF). Goshawk: 1 Dec 12 Choconut Center, north of Johnson City, (MS), 2 on Jan 17 — one brown and one gray and 6 other sightings of one or the other of the two through Mar; 1 Feb 12 Norwich (R, SW); 1 Feb 27 just south of Bing (Claire Gottschall). Sharp-shinned Hawk: Dec 22 Delhi (LC), the only report. Red-tailed Hawk: 5 BCC; 20 CC; apparent migrants after Feb 24. Rough-legged Hawk: 3 BCC; 1 OCC; 2 Dec 19 Norwich (R, SW), "singles seen all winter;" 5 or more Jan 15 Killawog (Claude Howard). Bald Eagle: Mar 14 and again Mar 26 Cannonsville Reservoir (LC). Marsh Hawk: 1 BCC; 1 Mar 5 Oxford (Anne Stratton); Mar 21 and 28 Oneonta area (Louella Gridley, KW, Wright); no others. Sparrow Hawk: 22 BCC; 3 OCC. Ruffed Grouse: 6 BCC; 3 OCC. Bobwhite: 1 Dec 24 Oneonta (WA), a covey released in the area last fall. Ring-necked Pheasant: 81 BCC; 1 OCC. Turkey: Feb 18 near Broome County Airport (B. Larkin). Killdeer: Feb 22 Delhi (LC). American Woodcock: Mar 7 Bing (HM). Herring Gull: 33 BCC. Mourning Dove: 46 BCC; 15 OCC; fairly numerous reports of wintering birds. Screech Owl: 2 BCC; 3 others reported, 1 heard frequently at Vestal during winter (GC) and once only at Choconut Center (MS) and at Oneonta (Mrs. C. Jacobi). Great Horned Owl: 20 BCC; 1 OCC. Snowy Owl: 1 Jan 15 Killawog (Claude Howard). Barred Owl: 1 BCC; Feb 20 south of Bing (GC).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: 4 BCC; 4 OCC. Yellow-shafted Flicker: Dec 19 Choconut Center (MS) and again Jan 31; Feb 26 Vestal (Elva Hawkins). Pileated Woodpecker: 2 BCC; 3 OCC; 1 Feb and 1 Mar report. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 OCC, the only winter record. Hairy Woodpecker: 30 BCC; 37 OCC. Downy Woodpecker: 94 BCC; 76 OCC. Horned Lark: Dec 14 Delhi (LC); 66 Mar 10 Sherburne (DOAS); no other reports. Blue Jay: 357 BCC; 311 OCC. Common Crow: 302 BCC; 473 OCC. Black-capped Chickadee: 550 BCC; 492 OCC. Tufted Titmouse: 29 BCC; 2 OCC; almost all feeders reporting from the Triple Cities area had one present at least part of the winter. White-breasted Nuthatch: 97 BCC; 85 OCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 6 BCC; 4 OCC. Brown Creeper: 29 BCC; 7 OCC. Carolina Wren: 1 BCC. Mockingbird: 8 BCC; 1 OCC; also "a few during winter" at Delhi (LC). Robin: 4 BCC; 1 OCC; Feb 14 Bing (JM); regular in some areas after Feb 20. Eastern Bluebird: Mar 3 Friendsville in nearby Pennsylvania (Claire Gottschall); next report Mar 25 Delhi (LC). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 27 BCC; 2 OCC. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 Jan 17 Emmons, near Oneonta (KW, EF). Cedar Waxwing: 77 BCC; 1 OCC. Northern Shrike: Dec 12 Vestal (GC); 1 Feb 21 Oxford (R, SW) and only 3 intervening reports. Starling: 2452 BCC; 1142 OCC.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: 702 BCC; 828 OCC. Eastern Meadowlark: 1 Dec 18 Vestal Center (Elizabeth Washburn); 21 Dec 19 Sherburne (R, SW); 5 or more Dec 19 near Brisben (MS); no more until Mar 6 Choconut Center (MS). Redwinged Blackbird: 1 BCC; 9 OCC; common from Feb 27. **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE:** 1 OCC, first seen at Thanksgiving and last seen Jan 24, many observers. Baltimore Oriole: 1 BCC. Common Grackle: 8 OCC; 1 Dec 24 Oneonta (WA); next report Feb 16 Oneonta (WA); common after Mar 10; Mar 29 "hundreds" between 5:45 and 6:15 p.m. Oneonta (Mrs. Richard Bookout). Brown-headed Cowbird: 48 OCC; several earlier reports, but no more until Mar 2. Cardinal: 229 BCC; 55 OCC; several reports of large wintering flocks, the largest 33 on BCC (DB, B. Krmeneć). Evening Grosbeak: 7 BCC; 98 OCC; small flocks present at Oneonta, Norwich and Delhi all winter but almost none in the Triple Cities area. Purple Finch: 1 OCC;

3 other reports, 2 from Oneonta and 1 from Delhi. House Finch: 2 BCC at the locality where they bred last summer. Common Redpoll: 2 BCC; 2 Jan 1 Oneonta (WA); 12 Feb 16 Bing (JM); the only reports. American Goldfinch: 39 BCC; 22 OCC; present all winter but numbers much reduced from previous years. Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 BCC; 1 OCC; Mar 10 Sherburne (DOAS). Slate-colored Junco: 150 BCC; 46 OCC; present in reasonably good numbers all winter. Tree Sparrow: 459 BCC; 161 OCC; at least 2 observers noted a marked decrease from last year. Field Sparrow: 1 Mar 15 Oneonta (WA); 2 Mar 21 Vestal (RK, L. Majka); no others. White-throated Sparrow: 4 BCC; 22 OCC, a surprisingly high count; present all winter at least 2 feeders in the Triple Cities area. Fox Sparrow: Mar 8 Vestal (GC), Oneonta (Mrs. Charles Hamwey) and West Davenport, near Oneonta (Mrs. Dorothy House); common from then until the end of the period. Swamp Sparrow: 3 BCC (Paul Kalka). Song Sparrow: 40 BCC; 5 OCC; migrants readily noticeable about Mar 10. Lapland Longspur: "a flock — was seen between Christmas and New Year," Delhi (LC). Snow Bunting: 33 BCC; 128 OCC; 3 other Dec-Jan reports, then none until 2 small flocks at New Berlin Mar 8 (Anne Stratton) and 6 on DOAS field trip to Sherburne.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Although, as usual, the first heavy snows fell during Christmas Count period (causing one count postponement) and snow cover in the Adirondacks was over 2 feet by year's end, in the central and southern parts of the Region it was a relatively open winter until the Mar 4-5 blizzard. The total snowfall for the winter was an all-time record, but in Jan and Feb there were melting and rainy (including Jan thunderstorms) periods, causing flooding of rivers and swamps and apparently enabling such half-hardies as Killdeer, Common Snipe, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, and several emberizines to persist, though most of these species showed some drop-off in numbers through the winter. The Feb 14-15 sleet storm (with ice still sheathing branches and twigs for a half week thereafter) was probably the cut-off point for some half-hardies. The effect on half-hardies of the Mar blizzard is hard to assess, as some early migrants (Robin, icterids) had already returned during the S wind push Feb 27-28.

It was difficult to obtain high counts on the white-winged gulls in the Oswego R system (perhaps many more were present than were seen) since they tended not to be in the flooded, ice-free, river, and were often out of scope range on the ice pack in the farther harbor instead of on the nearer breakwalls or at the dump.

An indication of the great amount of snow which fell is that, despite the earlier flooding during warm periods in Jan and Feb, when the Mar blizzard snow began to melt in the second half of Mar, the Seneca R and other floodlands were again brimming.

No large roost of black icterids was detected this winter.

Besides the above-mentioned species and groups, others in good numbers include: Pied-billed Grebe; Canada Goose (Mar migrants, *not* wintering numbers); Blue and Snow Goose (a Mar hint of a fine spring flight); Mallard and Gadwall among the dabblers; the sea ducks King Eider and White-winged Scoter (for the second successive year, and higher this year than last); Cooper's and Marsh Hawk (both up slightly, probably for different reasons); Snowy Owl (a noticeable incursion for the first time since 1966-67); Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, and Cardinal (increased reports of these southern species).