

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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It was an open and relatively mild winter until February 19 when a 24 inch snowfall arrived. More than half the snow was gone 10 days later but spring progressed rather slowly after that.

In spite of the thin snow cover, winter raptors were not particularly plentiful and northern winter raptors were almost absent. Instead it was a winter finch year. All species of winter finches were represented but it was primarily Evening Grosbeaks, redpolls, Pine Siskins and goldfinches that put on the real show. Except for goldfinches even these species were scarce before New Year's Day.

Rarities included a wintering Baltimore Oriole, a wintering Hermit Thrush, a Brewer's Blackbird and a Varied Thrush. The appearance of Monk Parakeet in the Region was cause for mixed feelings.

Abbreviations: BCC—Jan 1 Binghamton Christmas Count; Bing—Binghamton; OCC—Dec 26 Owego Christmas Count.

Observers: LC—Mrs. Lynn Clark; GC—Gail Corderman; AMD—Anna and Marilyn Davis; MD—Mary Dobinsky; WH—Mrs. Wayne Hartman; LH—Louise Hover; DML—Dwight and Margaret Lynch; HM—Harriet Marsi; BRP—Bob and Rita Pantle; MS—Mary Sheffield; EW—Elizabeth Washburn; DW—Don Weber; RSW—Ruth and Sally White; KW—Kathryn Wilson; IW—Irene Wright.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 2 Mar 26 Cannonsville Reservoir (WH). Pied-billed Grebe: Jan 15 East Delhi (LC); 1 Jan 28 Oneonta (Donald Huntington). Great Blue Heron: 1 OCC; 1 BCC; 1 Jan 9 and Feb 25 Newark Valley (LH, DML); 1 Feb 9 Sherburne (RSW). Whistling Swan: Mar 26 Lounsberry (GC). Canada Goose: 6 wintered along Susquehanna River at Lounsberry; 1 BCC; 100 Jan 5 over Vestal Center (EW); migrants Mar 1. Pintail: Mar 31 Chenango Bridge (AMD). Green-winged Teal: Mar 31 Chenango Bridge (AMD). Blue-winged Teal: Mar 31 Chenango Bridge (AMD). American Widgeon: 2 or 3 Mar 19 Nichols (MS, EW); several areas Mar 26 and 31. Wood Duck: 2 Mar 25 Port Crane (AMD); 2 Mar 25 Oneonta (MD, IW, KW). Redhead: 2 Mar 19 Nichols (MS, EW). Ring-necked Duck: Mar 26 Lounsberry (GC). Canvasback; Feb 27 Lounsberry (DML, et. al.); 5 later reports, more than in recent years. Scaup (Sp?): 1 Mar 18 Walton (WH), the first of 4 Mar reports. Bufflehead: 1 Mar 21 Chenango Bridge (AMD), the only report. Hooded Merganser: 2 Jan 15 Bing (HM, EW); migrants Mar 22. Red-breasted Merganser: Jan 8 Owego (DML); migrants Mar 19 Lounsberry (MS, EW); 3 later reports.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: 1 OCC: 1 Dec 19 Choconut Center (MS); 1 Chenango Forks Jan 1 (Paul Kalka); 1 at Candor Dec 19 and regularly thru Feb (DW). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 4 Dec, 1 Feb and 1 Mar reports. Cooper's Hawk: 2 OCC; reported from Newark Valley (LH, DML), Candor (BRP) and Choconut Center (Robert Sheffield). Red-tailed Hawk: 3 OCC; 4 BCC. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Mar 10 Oxford (Anne Stratton), hanging around feeder; 2 Mar 19 Oneonta (MD, KW). Rough-legged Hawk: 1 OCC; 1 Mar 6 Cannonsville (WH); the only reports. Bald Eagle: 1 Feb 6 and for about 6 weeks Oneonta area MD, KW, et al.); 1 Feb 27 Walton and 1 Mar 19 Cannonsville (WH); an immature Feb 27 Lounsberry (DML) and again Feb 28 (LH, Evelyn Williams). Marsh Hawk: Feb 5 Vestal (Elva Hawken); Mar 26 at Apalachin (GC) and Choconut Center (MS). Sparrow Hawk: 6 OCC; 12 BCC. Bob-white: 2 OCC at Candor where seen regularly during Dec (DW). Turkey: Dec 1 Delhi area (LC); 5 Dec 5 Bear Spring Park (WH); Jan 17 thru 21 "tracks every day," 1 bird seen Dec 18 (DML); in Feb 2 flocks in Candor area (DW). Killdeer: 1 BCC; Jan 9 Flemingsville in Tioga County (LH);

migrants Feb 25. American Woodcock: Mar 21 Choconut Center (MS). Mourning Dove: 2 OCC; 54 BCC; 36 Jan 3 Sherburne (RSW); 50 Jan 29 Owego (DML); numerous other reports. Monk Parakeet: 2 Feb 11 Conklin, near Bing (EW, HM), had already been present a couple of weeks, field note submitted. Screech Owl: 7 individual reports and regularly heard at Owego during Feb. Great Horned Owl: 3 OCC; 11 BCC; numerous other reports. Barred Owl: Dec 11 Vestal (John and Ruth Fuller); 2 BCC.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: 1 OCC; 8 BCC; reported all winter. Yellow-shafted Flicker: Feb 27 Lounsbury (DML); 3 Mar records from other areas. Pileated Woodpecker: 1 BCC. Red-headed Woodpecker: Jan 23 and 30, Feb 27 in same area of Owego (DML, LH). Eastern Phoebe: Mar 21 Chenango Forks (AMD). Horned Lark: none before Jan 23 Owego (DML, LH), numerous thereafter; visiting feeders Feb 20 and 22, after the big snow, Candor (BRP). Tufted Titmouse: 3 OCC; 21 BCC; regular at quite a few feeders in Bing area all winter. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 OCC; 28 BCC; numerous other reports. Caroline Wren: recorded at Owego (Mildred White) and two places in Oneonta (IW, E. Manning). Mockingbird: 1 OCC; 5 BCC; also reported from Delhi (Mrs. Fred Rose, LC), Walton (WH) and Norwich (RSW). Brown Thrasher: 1 Jan 27 south of Tully (Beverley Schneider). Robin: 1 BCC; migrants Feb 26 Candor (BRP). Varied Thrush: 1 in Oneonta area Dec 18 (Mrs. Clifford Harrer, IW, KW, et. al.), and still there Mar 31 — on a regular 3 meal a day schedule at a ground feeder, roosting in a tall spruce tree at night. Hermit Thrush: 1 Dec 3, Feb 6 and intermittently to Mar 16 Oneonta (E. and A. Vermilya), feeds on ground and always returns to 5 foot yew tree. Eastern Bluebird: Mar 1 Walton (WH); regular at Candor after Mar 21 (BRP). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 BCC. Cedar Waxwing: 49 OCC; 20 BCC; numerous reports of quite large flocks. Northern Shrike: 1 Dec 8 Norwich (RSW); 5 other reports. Starling: 1204 OCC; 2867 BCC.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Meadowlark: 27 Jan 3 and 12 Feb 9 Sherburne (RSW); several other smaller wintering flocks reported; migrants Mar 1. Redwinged Blackbird: few wintering birds; migrants Mar 1. Baltimore Oriole: 1 Dec 7 and thru Jan Oneonta (Applebaugh, Martin, Putnam, Decker, et. al.). Brewer's Blackbird: 1 Mar 4, 6 and 7 Vestal (Marian Vanderlip), good description. Common Grackle: 1 BCC; a few others wintering at Cannonsville (WH), Delhi (LC) and Owego; migrants Mar 1. Brown-headed Cowbird: OCC 3; BCC 3; almost no other winter records; migrants Feb 26, in numbers Mar 1. Cardinal: 53 OCC; 125 BCC. Evening Grosbeak: 149 OCC; 580 BCC; increasing during Dec and in great numbers the rest of the period. Purple Finch: 14 OCC; 6 BCC; regular reports but numbers stayed small. House Finch: 4 BCC; left for winter, but 2 Mar 27 and 7 Mar 31 at Endwell (Florence Linaberry); 1 Mar 29 and 30 Oneonta (MD). Pine Grosbeak: 1 BCC; quite numerous reports but almost all the sizeable flocks were seen in Delaware or Otsego Counties, 1 to 6 at a time being the rule in the western part of the Region. Common Redpoll: 229 BCC; first reported Dec 26 Delhi (LC), large flocks from about Jan 15 and very common thru Feb and Mar. Pine Siskin: 17 OCC; 77 BCC; numbers never as large, but never-the-less substantial, and their increase paralleled those of the redpolls. American Goldfinch: 82 OCC; 466 BCC; common all winter, although numbers varied drastically from feeder to feeder. Red Crossbill: 5 or more Feb 23 Oneonta (P. McCoy); 1 seen Mar 16 and banded Mar 23 (GC); the only reports. White-winged Crossbill: Jan 15 Delhi (LC), the first of the period; reported fairly often but never more than 6 at a time — several reports at feeders and at Vestal 3 were lured into banding traps with pine cones (GC). Rufous-sided Towhee: wintering birds at Delhi (LC), Walton (WH) and Bing (Lloyd Chilson); Mar 8 Apalachin (HM, et. al.). Slate-colored Junco: 77 OCC; 206 BCC. Tree Sparrow: 180 OCC; 418 BCC. Chipping Sparrow: 1 Mar 25 Candor (BRP). Field Sparrow: 2

OCC; 1 Jan 8 Oneonta (IW); 3 Chenango Forks Feb 12 thru Mar 23 (AMD). White-crowned Sparrow: 1 OCC. White-throated Sparrow: 3 OCC; 3 BCC; single birds at several feeders all winter. Fox Sparrow: 1 OCC; 1 Jan 1 Newark Valley (Warren and Louise Dean); migrants Mar 3. Song Sparrow: 8 OCC; 29 BCC. Snow Bunting: 180 BCC; fairly frequent reports, the last Mar 15 Walton (WH).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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There were few cold snaps during the warm open December, January, and early February, and 1972's moderate blizzard didn't fall until February 19-20, so there was little snow accumulation before late February. Because the early weeks of 1972 were so unwintry, the bird-listers for the first time saw the regional year list reach 100 before the end of January, — by January 15. The half-hardies which helped to produce this list can be divided into three groups: great rarities — Phoebe and especially Bobolink; the more normal half-hardies like White-crowned and White-throated Sparrow that occurred in higher numbers than usual; and some half-hardies that occurred in relatively low numbers, perhaps because they were widely dispersed in the great amount of available habitat — e.g. Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Rusty Blackbird, Field Sparrow. (Is dispersal the reason why the sometime Onondaga Lake icterid roost held a grand total of 1 Redwinged Blackbird and 8 Brown-headed Cowbirds this winter?) The usual February attrition of half-hardies occurred later and to a lesser degree than most years; Winter Wren and Myrtle Warbler demonstrate this neatly.

In contrast with the abundance of half-hardy passerines, there were no wintering Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, nor Shoveler, and low numbers of Pintail and (1) Green-winged Teal (though Hooded Merganser and American Coot were high). One former source of wintering dabblers is no more — the factory is no longer discharging hot water into the pond at Sherrill. Thus, only 22 species were noted on the Waterfowl Census. More important, the total number of individuals on the census, which has been dropping steadily since the 1961 high, was 5035, the lowest ever. This is accounted for in part by the decline of Black Duck (Mallard: Black ratio now 11:1) and partly by still-low Aythya numbers.

Another general negative is the raptor situation. 75-mile hawk surveys turned up high numbers of Red-tailed Hawk, and there were more reports than usual of the "half-hardy" Marsh Hawk; nevertheless, Rough-legged Hawk numbers were unaccountably low and there was no Accipiter incursion. Except for Snowy Owl, there was no detectable owl immigration, and Northern Shrike numbers were only mediocre.

The year list was also augmented by 6 western rarities: an exciting first regional Varied Thrush, the first two Black-headed Grosbeaks, the second-ever Harris' Sparrow, and semper desiderate Bohemian Waxwing, Dickcissel, and Oregon Junco. Besides the above-mentioned rarities (not forgetting Bobolink), Barrow's Goldeneye, Harlequin Duck, and Hoary Redpoll were recorded in the period.

Abbreviations: Adir—Adirondack; CC—National Audubon Society Christmas Count (HIGMA figures are for $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Montezuma count circle); FH—Fair Haven Beach State Park, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; HIGMA—Howland Island State Game Management Area near Port Byron; HS—hawk survey, made over a pre-planned route of approximately 75 miles through primarily open country off major highways; NPT—northwest quarter of Pompey Twp; Ont—Ontario; PSS—Peter