

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

Scott Swamp, Sixmile Creek, and vicinity near Phoenix; SOO—Seneca R, Oneida R, Oswego R, Oswego harbor areas; SP—North Pond, South Pond, and the sand dunes on L Ont near Sandy Pond; Syr—Syracuse; WFC—Waterfowl Census Jan 15–23.

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Corrigenda: *Kingbird* XXII: 1, January 1972, Region 5 report — p. 41, Black-bellied Plover: arr Aug 3, 1 Oneida L; ... dep Nov 14, 1 Oneida L; p. 42, Stilt Sandpiper: ... and no Oct imm; Great Black-backed Gull: arr Sep 18, 1 Oneida L; Belted Kingfisher: max 11 Sep 5 along 8 mi of L Ont shore — good; p. 44, Bay-breasted Warbler: ... dep Oct 5, 1 SSSP.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: dep Jan 1, 2 Oswego. Red-necked Grebe: dep Dec 2, 2 L Ont — early and only report. Horned Grebe: max 3 WFC — again very low. Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 WFC. Great Blue Heron: dep Dec 4, 1 SP; 6–10 wintering birds with at least 2 persisting into Mar. Canada Goose: max 1005 Jan 1 HIGMA CC — late for so many; at Dart L near Big Moose dep was around Dec 21, but 3 wintered there; 6 through winter in Syr and 1 Feb 1–27 SOO.

Mallard: max 1520 WFC and 50 Dart L; record high numbers concentrated almost entirely at just 3 sites — Rand Tract pond in Syr (500), Seneca R at Baldwinsville (575), and Oneida R at Brewerton (430) — all supported by artificial food sources. Black Duck: max 113 WFC — record low. Gadwall: dep Dec 16, 2 Syr area; max 31 WFC — record high. Pintail: dep Dec 31, 1 Dart L; max 5 WFC with none SOO because of unusually high water. Green-winged Teal: dep Dec 9, 2 Oswego; 1 male Jan 31–Mar 20 on a small pond adjacent to a high school in Syr was always with a Mallard pair. Blue-winged Teal: dep Dec 29, 1 near Rome (VanDresar) very late. American Widgeon: dep Dec 21, 4 Oneida L. Wood Duck: dep Dec 23, 1 L Ont; 3 on WFC.

Redhead: dep Dec 21, 2 Oneida L; max 83 WFC — best count since 1966 but by no means really good. Ring-necked Duck: dep Dec 11, 3 FH; 2 on WFC. Canvasback: dep and fall max Dec 21, 400 Oneida L — low; max 31 WFC — low. Greater Scaup: max 1586 WFC — lowest ever noted, and 2625 Jan 30, SOO, FH — still poor. Lesser Scaup: 60 Dec 1 Eaton area is particularly noteworthy since winter max in SOO was only 6. Common Goldeneye: fall max 460 Dec 2 L Ont; winter max 1033 WFC is comparable with past 4 years, which have been somewhat low. *BARROW'S GOLDENEYE*: 1 male Jan 22–23 L Ont at Oswego and 1 male Mar 30 L Ont at DH (both Schneider et al). Buffhead: max 106 WFC. Oldsquaw: max 253 WFC. *HARLEQUIN DUCK*: 1 female Mar 5 FH (Ditttrich), 9th regional record. White-winged Scoter: max 42 WFC and 73 Feb 12 L Ont are very good. Surf Scoter: 1 Dec 18 Syr CC — only report. Common Scoter: 1–6 through Feb 17 L Ont areas — better than average. Ruddy Duck: dep Dec 11, 1 FH; max 2 WFC. Hooded Merganser: max 22 Dec 21 Oneida L and 11 WFC with some persisting through winter. Common Merganser: winter max 86 WFC — very low; 200 Feb 17 L Ont and 1090 Mar 5 Oswego were probably migrants. Red-breasted Merganser: max 60 WFC is low but better than average of past 11 years.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: 7 sites in Adir and low-country areas — low. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 11 sites, 1 in Eaton area and the rest low-country including 6 sites in S Syr. Cooper's Hawk: 8 sites, 1 in Eaton area and the rest low-country — poor. Red-tailed Hawk: max 34 Oneida CC — good, and 32 Syr CC — average; 19 Feb 8 Oneida L HS, 9 Feb 6 and 8 Feb 12 SE Onon HS, and 12 Jan 15 between Oswego

and FH are good counts. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 ad Jan 31 near Pompey Center (LaFrance) only report. Rough-legged Hawk: max 8 Jan 29 near Bridgeport (Farnham) is the only decent count; 3 Feb 8 Oneida L HS, and 3 Feb 8 and 4 Feb 12 SE Onon HS are poor by comparison, especially in view of Red-tailed Hawk numbers. Bald Eagle: 1 Jan 3-17 Dart L and 1 imm Feb 17 L Ont — only winter reports. Marsh Hawk: 4 in Dec and 4 in Jan from low-country and S highlands locations — more than in recent winters. Sparrow Hawk: one Feb 8 Oneida L HS and only 4 Feb 6 and 3 Feb 12 SE Onon HS — very low; but 17 Oneida CC.

Ruffed Grouse: widely reported with 1-6 per day; most common in Holland Patent and Eaton areas. Ring-necked Pheasant: scarce — max 31 Syr CC and other max 10s in Syr and Eaton areas. Virginia Rail: 1st noted Jan 1 PSS with 1 still alive and 5 found huddled together deal Jan 8. Sora: 1 alive and 1 dead Jan 8 PSS (W. Merritt) 1st winter record. American Coot: still 200 Dec 11 FH; winter max 24 WFC — highest ever — with half of these at areas with artificial food sources, especially Brewerton where they walked in the street eating bread with Mallard.

Killdeer: max 4 Jan 8 through winter DeWitt area — about average in comparison with recent years, but low considering the amount of available habitat. Common Snipe: 1-3 Jan 26-Feb 12 DeWitt area — very good. Dunlin: dep Dec 23, 1 FH (Spies) record late, previous record Dec 8, 1968. Red Phalarope: 1 Dec 9-12 Oswego, 1 Dec 19 Niagara Mohawk Visitors' Center on L Ont, 1 Dec 23 Ninemile Point E of Oswego — reflection of the excellent fall flight, since Dec reports are unusual.

Glaucous Gull: mostly reported from SOO with max 13 Feb 17 — good, and 1 was on the small Rand Tract pond in Syr Jan 19. Iceland Gull: mostly reported from SOO with max 10 Jan 30; also reported Jan 11, 1 Rand Tract. Great Black-backed Gull: max 334 Jan 16 SOO — more than last year but still not up to some counts from the early sixties. Herring Gull: max 3500 Jan 30 SOO — poor, only about $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ what it should be. Ring billed Gull: from about 5430 Dec 5 there was a steady and almost total emigration at Oswego with only 1 noted Feb 13, but with returning migrants up to 3000 there Mar 4. Bonaparte's Gull: dep Dec 16, 30 Oneida L — late for so many; 1 ad Jan 16 in the harbor at Oswego (Spies) is the 1st report later than Dec 21 (1969) or earlier than Mar 17. Rock Dove: max 244 Jan 29 Oriskany to Syr; some mortality due to severe cold noted among birds roosting in exposed buildings in Oswego, including on Mar 5 nestlings less than a week old. Mourning Dove: max 269 Oneida CC, with single party counts up to 75 per day in the same general area — good but not as large as some years.

Screech Owl: reported at 6 sites; — only half as many as last year. Great Horned Owl: reported at 22 sites — about as many as last year. Snowy Owl: at least 26 different birds reported, indicative of a large immigration, but there were very few Mar reports. Barred Owl: reported at only 3 sites — far fewer than last year. Long-eared Owl: 1 Feb 7 Ilion area and 1 Feb 28 NPT were only reports of this species, which has been very scarce for the past 6 years. Short-eared Owl: 1 Dec 31 Cottons near Clockville and 1 Jan 2 Cicero Swamp — only reports. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Mar 27 Kenwood near Sherrill is only report.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: max 10 Syr CC — highest ever; widespread but not numerous. Yellow-shafted Flicker: max 44 Syr CC — highest ever. Pileated Woodpecker: 1-4 per day with singles only in E areas except 5 Oneida CC. Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 13 HIGMA CC; reported at 9 other sites, all western except 1 Oneida CC. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 imm Dec 5 FH may have been a very late migrant; 1 ad Dec 5-Mar 16 Nedrow area was the only wintering bird. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: as last year there were more than the usual with 1 Syr CC, 1 Oneida CC, 1 Jan 30 Pratts Falls near Pompey Center, 1 imm mid-late Feb Manlius (fide FGS), and 1 Mar 10-15 Syr, the last possibly a

very early migrant. Hairy Woodpecker: max 56 Oneida CC; field counts up to 8 per day. Downy Woodpecker: max 131 Oneida CC; field counts up to 15 per day.

Easter Phoebe: 1 Jan 26 DeWitt (Spies, Rusk) and 1 Feb 21 Ilion (Hanson) are the 1st winter records. Horned Lark: max 11 Jan 21 New Hartford area. Blue Jay: max 210 Old Forge CC. Common Crow: a count of the Onon Hill roost found 1720 there Feb 23 (Smith); 8 on Old Forge CC and 4 Dec 21 through winter at Dart L were good, "... the first time anyone, in this vicinity, remembers crows staying all winter..." (Barnum). Black-capped Chickadee: max 649 Old Forge CC—very good; an average of 5.8 per feeder during the 1st week in Dec throughout the central New York area, "... the highest count in 11 years..." (B. P. Burt). Boreal Chickadee: 2 Dec 16-Jan 29, and possibly 1 of these Feb 6-26, at 2 sites near Bridgeport; only other report 2 Old Forge CC. Tufted Titmouse: 2 Oneida CC, 1 around Jan 6-Mar 16 Brewerton area, and 1 Feb 23 Camillus area—only reports.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 134 Old Forge CC and field counts up to 15 per day—very good. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 66 Old Forge CC and field counts up to 6 per day in some, but not all, favored non-Adir areas—very good. Brown Creeper: max 17 HIGMA CC—very low compared with past 5 years. Winter Wren: max 6 Syr CC; only 5 post-CC reports in 5 low-country sites Jan 22-Feb 7. Carolina Wren: 1 Sep 6-Jan 31 Kenwood; 1 Dec 24-Jan 21 Taunton area near Westvale; 2 1st week of Jan-Jan 25, and possibly 1 of the same birds Feb 12, at 2 sites in the DeWitt area—still more reports than usual. Mockingbird: 3 reported in DeWitt area; singles in Vernon, Oswego, Fulton, Fayetteville, Syr, and 2 sites near Jamesville. Catbird: 1 Jan 7-8 NPT—1st winter report since Dec 20, 1969. Brown Thrasher: 1 Jan 7 NPT and 1 up to last week of Jan Oneida (fide Scheider).

Robin: max 85 Jan 30 Smoky Hollow near Jamesville and 65 Jan 18 Makyres Rd in Onon Twp—record winter numbers; 38 Syr CC was highest ever for that CC. *VARIED THRUSH*: 1 male Feb 1 through period near Bridgeport (R. Hinkson) is the 1st regional record. Hermit Thrush: 12 individuals at 9 sites—never more than 3 per winter previously; last report was 1 Feb 27 near New Hartford. Eastern Bluebird: dep Dec 21, 3 males near S Onon (Smith) record late. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2-4 on all CCs; max 8 Dec 13 NPT were probably late migrants since counts in Jan and Feb were only 1-3 per day. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 Nov 26-Dec 5 Eaton, 1 Dec 12 Syr and possibly the same bird Jan 23 Nedrow, and 2 Feb 10 Oneida L vicinity—record number of reports. *BOHEMIAN WAXWING*: 1 Jan 7 NPT (Crumb) and 1 Feb 2 near Nedrow (Farnham)—better than average but not what might have been expected considering the records this past fall. Cedar Waxwing: max 352 Syr CC—highest ever; up to 150 per day in various places through Jan. Northern Shrike: 1-3 on all but Old Forge CC; max 3s through period with at least 9 different birds in Dec, 11 in Jan, 16 in Feb, and 7 in Mar—low. Starling: max 17,200 Syr CC, including 15,533 roosting on buildings downtown.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: 3 Jan 29 Nedrow area, down to 2 Feb 5-10, 1 Feb 21, and 0 Mar 25. House Sparrow: max 1685 Oneida CC. *BOBOLINK*: 1 early Dec-late Feb at feeder Galeville N of Syr, found dead Mar 23 or 24, said to have been a daily visitor and always with House Sparrow. Eastern Meadowlark: max 59 Oneida CC—high; some birds still persisted through Feb. Redwinged Blackbird: max 40 Syr CC—highest ever; single party counts of 1-12 per day through winter. Baltimore Oriole: 1 female Jan 9-14 NPT (A. Decker) is only confirmed report. Rusty Blackbird: wintering birds reported at 2 sites in DeWitt area with 5 Dec 16 falling to 2 Feb 12. Common Grackle: only CC reports were 4 Syr and 4 Oneida; 5 through winter at feeder in Morrisville; 8 Feb 1 Ionia near Memphis. Brown-headed Cowbird: on all CCs with max 14 Oneida; a wintering group in NPT went from 350 Dec 16 to 25 by Jan 13, this attrition hard to account for since birds had access to several feeders.

Cardinal: on all CCs with max 130 max 130 Syr — highest ever; a single party count of 42 Jan 23 from 5 places in Syr area shows how common this species has become. *BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK*: 1 mid-Oct through winter period near Camillus (R. Largent) and 1 Dec 31 through period Oriskany (M. Stooks) are the 1st regional records; photos have been taken of both, but their age and sex are uncertain. *DICKCISSEL*: 1–2 Dec 29-Apr 1 at various feeders on SW side of Syr (Farnham et al). Evening Grosbeak: max 392 Old Forge CC; counts of 100 per day through winter in all areas except Adir and L Ont shore which had fewer; feeders in central New York area averaged 20 or more per feeder in the 1st weeks of Jan and Feb (B. Burtt) a record for the 13 years of the feeder survey. Purple Finch: only CC reports were 2 Oswego and 1 HIGMA; max 25 Mar 4 Eaton; much scarcer elsewhere, though widespread. House Finch: 8 Jan 12 at feeder in Syr (D. Samson) and reported at 2 other nearby sites, but no evidence of expansion. Pine Grosbeak: only CC reports were 26 Old Forge and 5 HIGMA; max 60 Jan 18 Holland Patent, 50 Dec 7-Jan 24 Dart L; widespread except along L Ont shore. Common Redpoll: max 397 Oneida CC; max single-party count 300 Jan 3 NPT; best tally in the 13 years of feeder surveys was an average of more than 13 per feeder the 1st week of Mar (B. Burtt). *HOARY REDPOLL*: 2 Jan 14 NPT (Crumb), 1 Feb 6 Nedrow (Scheider) only reports and 1st since Mar 1966. Pine Siskin: max 110 Dec 1–7 Dart L, 95 Jan 28 DeWitt area, 50 Jan 10–Mar 31 Ilion, not at all record-breaking though widespread; feeders however averaged over 3 birds each the 1st week in Feb (B. Burtt) the best ever. American Goldfinch: max 133 Oneida CC; feeders went from average of more than 6 in Jan to more than 10 in Feb (B. Burtt). Red Crossbill: only CC report and season max 65 Old Forge; otherwise max 2s all winter, and not widespread. White-winged Crossbill: CC reports were 18 Old Forge, 12 Oneida, 5 Oswego; max 36 Jan 11 NPT and 12 Jan 1 Eaton area; more widespread than Red Crossbill.

Rufous-sided Towhee: at least 7 reports, in all months. Slate-colored Junco: CCs were 68 Oneida, 58 Syr, 47 Oswego, 8 HIGMA, 4 Old Forge — 1st ever on Old Forge; single-party counts up to 19 in Dec and 17 in Jan, greater numbers than usual, indicate mild weather, but counts of 11–13 in Feb in Syr indicate some hardiness. *OREGON JUNCO*: reported at 4 sites — Franklin Park near E Syr, Minetto, Highland Park near Fabius, and Syr — more than usual. Tree Sparrow: CCs were 700 Syr — highest ever, 519 Oneida, 328 Oswego, 117 HIGMA, 10 Old Forge; single-party counts of 130 in Jan and Feb from N Onon Co areas. Field Sparrow: dep Dec 8, 2 Holland Patent; CCs were 11 Syr, 2 HIGMA, 1 Oneida; also 2 Dec 15 through Jan New Hartford and 1 Jan 8 DeWitt — average number of reports. *HARRIS' SPARROW*: 1 male 1st week of Dec through period at feeder in Syr (Mrs. C. Fox) is the 2nd regional record. White-crowned Sparrow: 1 ad Warners, 2 imm Skaneateles, and single imms Fayetteville area, Pompey Center area, and Baldwinsville. White-throated Sparrow: max 79 Syr CC and 26 HIGMA CC; a single-party count of 38 Jan 23 Syr area is very good. Swamp Sparrow: only CCs were 10 Syr and 4 HIGMA; only others were 4 Dec 19 Eaton area; 2 from DeWitt area on Syr CC lasted at least until Jan 23, — unlike some other half-hardies, this species didn't persist very long at all. Song Sparrow: max 118 Syr CC — highest ever; best single-party count was 24 Jan 23 DeWitt area; became scarce in Feb. Lapland Longspur: 1 Dec 27 NPT and 4 singles from L Ont areas Dec 12-Feb 17 — more than usual. Snow Bunting: CC max 174 Oneida; low through winter but returning migrant counts of 100 Feb 6 Cedarville, 400 Feb 5 near Marcellus, 1500 Feb 2 Watervale area near Oran are good.

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