

other report, 1 Feb 26 Ithaca (M. Comar). Pine Grosbeak: small flocks reported through Region; unusual numbers Keuka until Feb, one flock of about 50; "one of best years" Watkins (JB); 100 ICC, 89 ECC; small flocks Bath. Common Redpoll: very few; 40 ICC, 5 EC; none Bath, Keuka, Watkins. Pine Siskin: 174 ICC, very high; 25 ECC; none Bath; common Watkins but avoiding feeders; flock of about 100 mixed siskins and goldfinches Feb 6 Newfield (DK). American Goldfinch: 402 ICC, high; 72 CCC; 168 ECC; fewer winter reports than usual Watkins. Red Crossbill: flocks not large but seen regularly Ithaca, some present to end of period; 7 ICC; 29 ECC; only 2 Bath reports; small numbers last week Mar Keuka (FG); several reports Watkins, max 6 Feb 6 and Mar 13. White-winged Crossbill: 5 ICC and one report early Mar, only Ithaca records; 4 Feb 2 Watkins (JB), only other report. Rufous-sided Towhee: until early Feb Ithaca, not reported again until late Mar.

Vesper Sparrow: 1 Dec 17 Montour Falls; first, Mar 23 Ithaca (DP). Slate-colored Junco: good numbers. Tree Sparrow: about average. Chipping Sparrow: 1 ICC; first, Mar 3 Ithaca. Field: 8 ECC, usually 4 to 6; first, Mar 25 Ithaca. *HARRIS' SPARROW*: adult male Dec 12 through period at Phipps feeder Ithaca, photographed; sub-adult male last week Dec Midline Rd. Ithaca (L. Miller, verified by JT), last seen Dec 31; sub-adult male Jan at least through Feb Waterloo (JW, WEB), same plumage as Midline Rd bird. White-crowned Sparrow: 4 CCC, only report. White-throated Sparrow: usual small number wintering; 21 ICC, 10 CCC, 5 ECC. Fox: 1 ICC for first time; first, 1 Mar 12 Elmira Swamp Sparrow: 1 ICC, unusual; 2 CCC; 1 ECC, fewer than usual. Song Sparrow: 25 ICC; 6 CCC; ECC, fewer than usual, much of their stream bank habitat was destroyed by the June flood (MW). Lapland Longspur: up to 3 in Feb Lake Ridge Rd n of Ithaca and Watts Rd of Waterloo, with flocks of Horned Larks and Snow Buntings; not seen elsewhere. Snow Bunting: scarce Elmira; a few flocks Watkins; several flocks Keuka, largest 100; flock of at least 500 Yake Ridge Rd n of Ithaca after Feb snows.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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It was a truly soggy winter, at least from New Year's Eve on. December started out with 10 inches of snow on the ground but within 4 or 5 days it was practically gone. Again from December 16 to 20 there was more than a couple of inches on the ground, but that was it until January 29. December 31, the day both Christmas Counts available for this write-up were taken, brought more than half an inch of rain and set the tone for almost all of January. One more significant snowfall towards the end of February and winter was over. The first few days of March were unbelievably warm and pleasant and the rest of the month remained mild, even forgetting to go out like a lion.

There was no special winter population of raptors, in spite of the lack of snow cover, and the winter finch invasion, although reasonably good, was essentially a cut

down version of last year's. Perhaps the only significant species that was much more common this winter than last was White-throated Sparrows. A few Rufous-sided Towhees and a Catbird were the only "half hardies" noted and the biggest rarity, a Black-billed Magpie, could easily have been an escaped cage bird. Also noteworthy was a Black-crowned Night Heron on one of the Christmas Counts.

Abbreviations: Bing-Binghamton; NV-Newark Valley; BCC-Bing Christmas Count, Dec 31; OCC-Owego Christmas Count, Dec 31.

Observers initials: J,CB-Jeanette & Cutler Baldwin; MC-Mildred Clark; GC-Gail Corderman; A,MD-Anna & Marilyn Davis; SH-Shirley Hartman; EH-Elva Hawken; LH-Louise Hover; D,ML-Dwight & Margaret Lynch; RP-Robert Pantle; MS-Mary Sheffield; E,FV-Ed & Frances Vermilya; EW-Elizabeth Washburn; R,SW-Ruth & Sally White; IW-Irene Wright.

LOONS-DUCK: Common Loon: 8 Mar 25 Cannonsville Reservoir (SH). Red-necked Grebe: 1 landed in a field near Castle Creek, n of Bing, Jan 7-held in bath tub overnight, then banded and released next day at Bing by GC. Pied-billed Grebe: 1 BCC; Mar 12 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Great Blue Heron: Dec 15 NV (LH); Feb 27 NV (D,ML). Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 BCC, detailed description (Paul Kalka). Whistling Swan: 9 Mar 15 Endwell (Harriet Thompson) and remained several days; 2 Mar 28 Unadilla (Mr. Dibble). Canada Goose: 1 BCC; Dec 3 Oneonta (IW); migrants Mar 3. Mallard: 5 BCC. Black Duck: 45 BCC. Pintail: 4 Mar 17 Whitney Point (MS). Blue-winged Teal: 1 25 Apalachin (MS, EW). American Widgeon: 12 Mar 17 Whitney Point (MS); 2 Mar 31 Norwich (R,SW). Shoveler: 1 male Mar 25 Apalachin (MS, EW). Wood Duck: Mar 20 NV (D,ML). Ring-necked Duck: 3 Mar 14 Chenango Forks (A,MD); not many others. Canvasback: Mar 24 Owego (J,CB). Lesser Scaup: Mar 19 Owego (J,CB); two other reports Oldsquaw: 1 BCC. Hooded Merganser: 3 Mar 23 Sherburne (R,SW).

HAWKS-OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 4 Mar 25 Cannonsville Reservoir (SH). Goshawk: 1 BCC and seen several other times at Choconut Center from early Dec thru Feb (MS); 1 at Candor in early Dec (DW). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 BCC; 1 report in Jan and 1 in Mar. Cooper's Hawk: 1 BCC; Feb 28 NV (D,ML). Red-tailed Hawk: 1 BCC; 3 OCC; 15 reports from Mar 11 on. Red-shouldered Hawk: Dec 8 Owego (J,CB); Mar 17 Bing (EW); Mar 24 Bing (GC, Warren Corderman, Eugene Kirch). Rough-legged Hawk: "in 1's and 2's at Sherburne all winter" (R,SW). Marsh Hawk: 1 BCC, presumably the same bird seen 3 other times in Dec and Jan (EH); 1 Mar 8 Oneonta (IW). Osprey: 1 Mar 22 Walton (Sue Hartman), early. Pigeon Hawk: Feb 1 Vestal (EH), no details. Sparrow Hawk: 4 BCC; 4 OCC; numbers down from previous years. Ruffed Grouse: 4 BCC; 5 OCC. Bobwhite: 18 OCC; 7 Jan 10 Norwich (R,SW); 1 Jan 13 Vestal (EW, Harriet Marsi). Ring-necked Pheasant: 7 BCC; 5 OCC. Turkey: 8 Feb 28 Owego (Jean Barnes); 1 Mar 31 Candor (RP). American Coot: Mar 25 Apalachin (MS, EW), Mar 28 NV (LH). Killdeer: Dec 3 West Oneonta (E,FV); 2 Mar 9 Delhi (MC). first migrants. American Woodcock: Mar 5 Hinman's Corners, n. of Bing, (Robert and Jeanne Saunders). Upland Plover: 1 Mar 28 NV (LH), very early, but details submitted. Herring Gull 1 BCC; 1 OCC Ring-billed Gull: Dec 12 Owego (D,ML); Dec 30 NV (Louise Dean); Mar 24 Owego (D,ML). Mourning Dove: 12 BCC; 12 OCC; scattered reports all winter plus 40-60 in Owego area. Monk Parakeet: 1 BCC, since captured and placed in a zoo, 1 Mar 10 Delhi (Leslie Smith). Screech Owl: more frequent reports than in previous years, particularly around Owego and the Triple Cities. Great Horned Owl: 1 BCC. Snowy Owl: 2 Jan 6 Cannonsville Reservoir (SH).

GOATSUCKERS—WARBLERS: Belted Kingfisher: 5 BCC; 3 OCC; present all winter but scarce in Feb. Yellow-shafted Flicker: 1 Dec 14 NV (LH); Mar 29 Vestal (EH). Pileated Woodpecker: 1 OCC; 5 other reports all in Feb and Mar. Hairy Woodpecker: 15 BCC; 21 OCC. Downy Woodpecker: 63 BCC; 45 OCC. Eastern Phoebe: 1 Mar 24 Delhi (MC). Horned Lark: 5 BCC. Tree Swallow: Mar 29 NV. (LH). Blue Jay: 129 BCC; 67 OCC. Black-billed Magpie: 1 about Mar 18 Ninevah, east of Bing, seen for about 20 minutes at a feeder (Mrs. Helen Bennett), description supplied, emphasizing long greenish tail and white markings. Common Crow: 210 BCC; 386 OCC. Black-capped Chickadee: 264 BCC; 140 OCC. Tufted Titmouse: 13 BCC; 12 OCC; also reported from 3 feeders in Oneonta. White-breasted Nuthatch: 54 BCC; 49 OCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 34 BCC; 11 OCC; a few present almost everywhere in the Region all winter. Brown Creeper: 8 BCC; 5 OCC. Winter Wren: 1 BCC; Dec 3 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Mockingbird: 1 OCC; 1 Dec 26 Oneonta (G. Shannon); 1 Feb 21 Norwich (R,SW); 2 Mar 13 Owego (D,ML); several other Owego and Triple Cities reports, but there seemed to be fewer than in the last few years. Catbird: 1 Jan 21 Oneonta (E,FV) and daily thereafter, feeding on peanut butter, bacon fat and crumbs. Robin: 1 BCC; Dec 16 Cannonsville (SH); Feb 3 and 7 Candor (RP) and Feb 4 and 7 Oneonta (E,FV); migrants Mar 3. Eastern Bluebird: Mar 7 Owego (J,CB); regular after Mar 16. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 21 BCC; 15 OCC. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 BCC. Celar Waxwing: only a few scattered reports. Northern Shrike: 1 Dec 23 Berkshire (D,ML); 1 banded in early Feb Candor (RP); 1 Feb 18 Choconut Center (MS); 1 Mar 7 Norwich (R,SW). Starling: 4732 BCC; 473 OCC.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS House Sparrow: 382 BCC; 265 OCC. Eastern Meadowlark: 1 OCC; 1 Dec 16 Vestal (EH); Jan 13 and 14 at St. Joseph's, Penna., just s of the border (EW); Feb 17 Owego (Mildred White, Clinton Gerould), "large migration"; 2 Feb 18 Triple Cities area (MS); not regular until after Mar 9. Redwinged Blackbird: 2 OCC; a few earlier Dec reports but no more until Mar 1. Rusty Blackbird: Mar 19 Cannonsville Reservoir (SH); 8-10 Mar 25 Apalachin (MS, EW). Common Grackle: 1 OCC; regular from Mar 1. Brown-headed Cowbird: 1 BCC; 6 OCC; 30 Jan 5 Oneonta (Mary Dobinsky) and "many" Jan 20 Walton (SH) the highest numbers of fairly frequent winter records; regular after Mar 9. Cardinal: 79 BCC; 49 OCC. Evening Grosbeak: 232 BCC; 442 OCC; plenty everywhere, although there seemed to be fewer than last year. Purple Finch: 45 BCC; 19 OCC; regular reports all winter but apparently more common after Jan 29. House Finch: 3 BCC; 1 Mar 28 Vestal Center (EW). Pine Grosbeak: 99 BCC; 71 OCC; regular although scattered reports thru Feb 27; 4 Mar 11 Maryland, near Oneonta, (Mr. and Mrs. Clair Davis) the only later report. Common Redpoll: 35 BCC; 19 OCC; only 4 more reports before the end of the period. Pine Siskin: 21 BCC; 11 OCC; fairly plentiful all winter, but not as many as last year. American Goldfinch: 136 BCC; 117 OCC; common but not overwhelmingly so. Red Crossbill: 4 BCC; no more until 4 Feb 14 Norwich (R,SW), then 5 more reports of small flocks to the end of the period. White-winged Crossbill: Dec 30 Choconut Center (MS); 5 Jan and Feb reports of small flocks. Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 BCC, 2 OCC, all regular feeder patrons until then; Feb 28 Vestal (Marian Vanderlip); 1 Mar 14 Walton (SH). Slate-colored Junco: 116 BCC; 51 OCC. Tree Sparrow: 262 BCC; 112 OCC. Chipping Sparrow: Dec 11 Vestal (Dorothy Burns). Field Sparrow: 3 BCC; 2 Jan 13 and 1 Feb 18 Choconut Center (MS); Mar 28 Owego (J,CB); Mar 31 Candor (RP). White-crowned Sparrow: 2 BCC; Dec 10, 12 and 21 Oneonta (Lurilla Stevens); Dec 30 Owego (Reynolds Bennett). White-throated Sparrow: 26 BCC; 10 OCC; many more wintering than usual. Fox Sparrow: Dec 15 to 24 Chenango Forks (A,MD); Mar 12 Walton (SH); not very many. Song Sparrow: 32 BCC; 4 OCC; frequent reports

all winter although less often than last year; migrants about Mar 4. Snow Bunting: large flock Dec 17 Delhi (MC) and 150-200 Dec 29 Union Center (D,ML) the largest flocks; small flocks Feb 17 to 29 around Berkshire (D,ML, Jean Barnes).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

This winter that was half-a-winter ended, surprisingly, with spring arriving the first week of March, rather than with the chill wet weather that has followed other recent mild winters. The early spring made it difficult in some cases to distinguish wintering birds from migrant arrivals. Early December was cold, and a snowstorm on the 16th necessitated a day's postponement of Syracuse Christmas count. The Adirondacks looked wintry enough, with a foot or so of snow, for the Old Forge count on the 19th, but December there was actually milder than November. Winter continued unusually mild in the Adirondacks, and March had much open water and bare ground everywhere by the 10th, according to Betty Barnum. Downregion, the mild SE wind December 23 caused waterfowl numbers in Oswego harbor to be the poorest ever on Christmas count. January 1 was a fine springlike day for the Howland Island count's usual half-hardies. Half-hardy icterids and sparrows persisted in moderate numbers through the season, but a situation of passerine birdlessness occurred with a snowless cold snap in late January—small birds just disappeared rather than being driven by snow to concentrate at feeders. The Waterfowl Census total, 6666, was better than the past three years but still very low. Among the raptors it was good Goshawk season but poor in Rough-legged Hawk and Snowy Owl. Warblers replaced the western strays of last winter in providing excitement for feeder-watchers. Northern Shrike and most winter finches occurred in high numbers.

Corrigenda: *Kingbird* XXIII: 1, January 1973, Region 5 report, p.52, Black Duck: max 587; max E of L Ont basin only 63. Common Goldeneye: max 395 Nov 5 L Ont. p.56, Solitary Vireo: *delete* "max . . . high", *should be* max 5. p.57, Rose-breasted Grosbeak: dep Oct 1, 1 L Ont. *Kingbird* XII. 4, October 1872, Region 5 report, p.179, Red-shouldered Hawk: *delete* "2 Jan 14 . . . unusual."

Abbreviations: Adir—Adirondack; BBFS—B. Burt's feeder survey conducted the 1st week of each month with totals given per 100 feeders; Bvl—Baldwinsville; CC—Christmas count, Syracuse Dec 17, Old Forge Dec 19, Oswego Dec 23, Oneida Dec 30, Howland Island quarter of Montezuma circle Jan 1; DH—Derby hill on L Ont near Texas; FH—Fair Haven; HIGMA—Howland Island Game Management Area near Port Byron and vcy; HS—hawk survey, made over a pre-planned route of approximately 75 miles through primarily open country off major highways; hbr—harbor; NM—Niagara Mohawk Visitors' Center and vcy on I Ont near Lakeview; OF—Old Forge; Onon—Onondaga; Ont—Ontario; Skan—Skaneateles; sub-THP—area immediately S of the Tug Hill Plateau; Syr—Syracuse; WFC—Waterfowl Census Jan 13-21.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: last 2 Dec 7 L Ont, i.e. none wintering. Horned Grebe: 10 WFC is the best since 1967 but poor compared with earlier.