

20 Parma (NP); 150 Mar 25 (B Molyneaux, JS). Pine Siskin: reported throughout period in very low numbers. Red Crossbill: unreported. Whitt-winged Crossbill: reported Jan thru Mar, max number seen - 10 Jan 26 IROND (M Ehlers, DT). Rufous-sided Towhee: several reports of single birds throughout period. Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco; 1 Dec 21 Perinton (D Sherony); 1 Mar 18 - 24 Penfield (G Davis). Chipping Sparrow: 1 Feb 3 Roch (RO). White-crowned Sparrow: 2 birds throughout period in Clarkson (R Clark, W Symonds); 1 Dec 28 IROND (P Zachman); 2 Jan 1 - Feb 28 Lima (J&A Foster). White-throated Sparrow: numerous reports throughout period. Lapland Longspur: several reports of 1 - 4 birds, max 75 Jan 12 Ham (J Claffey); 8 Mar 28 Parma (E Vollmer). Snow Bunting: with only the noted exceptions, this bird was also reported in low numbers throughout the period, max numbers 200 Jan 20 Greece (JS); 2 groups of 500 Mar 30 Lima (J&A Foster).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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The period was generally mild with little snow. The coldest temperatures and heaviest snow were in mid-December. January was mild with a prolonged thaw the last 10 days of the month. With temperatures in the fifties, ducks and geese moved into MNWR from Cayuga Lake until colder weather in early February refroze the marshes. Late February and early March gave promise of an early spring. A 60 degree temperature with a strong southwest wind brought geese and ducks streaming into MNWR on February 22 with "blackbirds" following soon afterwards. But winter did not give up easily. From March 10 to the end of the period cold weather with some snow prevailed.

The gas shortage had its effect on birding. Observers made fewer trips to outlying areas and concentrated on home grounds. We regret that we did not receive the winter report from the Elmira area. Our two correspondents in the Bath area will be moving out of State. We need one or more observers to cover the Steuben County area.

Monk Parakeets appeared again in Schuyler County. Encouraging was the rise in numbers of Redhead and Canvasback ducks on the WFC. Raptors, while still low with the exception of Red-tails and Kestrels, at least show no further decline. There were numerous sightings of over-wintering Bluebirds perhaps due to the mildness of the winter.

Rarities include Eared Grebe and Merlin. Morgan Jones had an Eared Grebe, a Horned Grebe, and a Red-necked Grebe on Seneca Lake all in the field of his scope at one time. What an opportunity for close comparison!

Remarkable because of their out of season appearance were Turkey Vulture, Dunlin, Barn Swallow and Loggerhead Shrike. Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers occasionally over-winter but seldom in as large numbers as at Junius Ponds in Seneca County this winter.

Abbreviations. Cay—Cayuga; Co—County; COS—Cornell Ornithology Seminar; GCC—Geneva Christmas Count; ICC—Ithaca Christmas Count; L—Lake; MCC—Montezuma Christmas Count; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SAD—Seneca Army Depot; Schy—Schuyler; WFC—Waterfowl Count.

Contributors and area compilers; BA—Betty Ammerman; WB—Walter Benning; JB—Jack Brubaker (Watkins); RG—Robert Gustafson (MNWR); FC—Frank Guthrie (Kuka); MJ—Morgan Jones (SAD); DK—Doug Kibbe; DM—Dorothy McIlroy (Ithaca); JJS—James and Judy Stewart; JW—Jayson Walker (Waterloo).

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: 2-3 Dec 19-Dec 6 Sen L (JB); 1 Jan Keuka L (FG); ICC. Red-throated Loon: 1 Jan 12 Keuka L (FG) first there since Oct 1959. Red-necked Grebe: 1 Dec-Jan Keuka L (FG) first there since Dec 1956; 1 Mar 9 Sen L (MJ et al). *EARED GREBE*: 1 Mar 9 Sen L (MJ et al) verification report filed. Pied-billed Grebe: up to 9 over-wintered on Cay L; more than normal on Keuka L. Great Blue Heron: as usual a few over-wintered where open water was available; first spring migrant Mar 15. Whistling Swan: reported at CCS on Dec 4 and Jan 10; first spring report 7 Mar 5 Sen L; widely reported on lakes and ponds; max 49 Cayuta L and 36 Keuka L. Canada Goose: for the third straight year large numbers wintered in the Finger Lakes area; there were fewer than last year on Cay L but 3,000 wintered on Sen L; 1,800 came into MNWR Feb; max 50,000 MNWR, 60,000 Sen L with no count available for the thousands on Cay L. Snow Goose: 9 white morph and 20 blue morph Feb 22 MNWR; max there 215 white and 1200 blue; 13 white 1 blue Mar 20 Watkins Glen; 2 white 6 blue Mar 24 SAD.

Figures given below for MNWR are peak duck counts. Mallard: 691 ICC; 2,996 WFC down from last year; 6,000 MNWR. Black: 1,027 WFC is only 40% of 1973; 6,500 MNWR. Gadwall: 100 MNWR; reported over-wintering on Cay, Sen and Keuka L; 33 wintering near Geneva is more than usual. Pintal: 1-2 all winter at Ithaca arrived Mar 7 MNWR with max 7,000. Green-winged Teak arrived Mar 4 Ithaca; 800 MNWR. Blue-winged Teal: arrived Mar 23 Ithaca; 100 MNWR. American Wigeon: 16 Cay L WFC; 400 MNWR. Wood Duck 2 ICC; female Jan 31-Feb 13 Sen L (JB); 100 MNWR. Redhead: 7,724 WFC more than double last year's low figure; max at MNWR only 10. Ring-necked Duck: 8 WFC; arrived 125 Mar 9 MNWR; Canvasback: 1,459 WFC up from 910 last year. Scaup: 1,590 WFC down from last year. Common Goldeneye: 705 WFC less than half of last year's high figure but the mildness of the winter may have held this species farther north. Bufflehead: 316 WFC; 18 ICC. Oldsquaw: 22 WFC; 25 Mar 9 Sen L (JW). White-winged Scoter: female Jan 4-13 Sen L (JB). Ruddy Duck: 2 reported regularly at n end Sen L all winter increased to 7 by Mar 19 (JJS). Hooded Merganser: 22 WFC with 19 of them on Keuka L; 20 mid Mar Sen L; 25 Mar 30 Cayuta L (JB); 100 MNWR. Common Merganser: 219 WFC high mostly on Sen L; 100 MNWR. Red-breasted Merganser: 5 WFC; no other reports.

HAWKS-OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 1 GCC no verifying details; arrived Mar 23 SWS. Goshawk: 2 ICC; 1 GCC; 1 MNWR (RG); 1 Jan and 1 Mar Keuka (FG); reported regularly at COS; an adult and a juvenile at JP (JJS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 ICC; 1 Feb 12 Clyde (WB); 1 Jan 15-25 JP and 1 Jan 25 Phelps (JJS). Cooper's Hawk: 1 ICC; 2 GCC; "several" reports from Schy Co; "fairly common" at Ithaca (DK). Red-tailed Hawk: 69 ICC very high; 67 CCC; 25 MNWR (RG); good numbers everywhere. Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 MCC. Rough-legged Hawk: 5 ICC; reported at COS in late Feb and Mar; up to 5 around Hector Feb-Mar (JB); 2 MNWR (RG); "good year" at SAD (MJ); up to 3 dark phased birds seen Jan 12-20 from Seneca Falls to Clifton Springs (JJS); 2 in Waterloo area (JW). Marsh Hawk: 1 ICC; several reports from Schy Co; 2 MNWR (RG); 1 Dec 28 JP (JJS). *MERLIN*: 1 near Mecklenberg (Ron Howard fide JB) no details; 1 ICC specimen no details. American Kestrel: 20 ICC high; 61 GCC very high; 15 MNWR (RG); up 30% at SAD (MJ).

Ruffed Grouse: 6 ICC; 3 GCC, Ring-necked Pheasant: 77 ICC up from last year's low; reduced numbers in Keuka area; 22 GCC. *JAPANESE GREEN PHEASANT*: 3 ICC presumably from Conservation Dept releases. Turkey: 5 ICC; 23 at Texas Hollow, 12 at Oak Hill and 14 at Alpine in Feb (JB). American Coot: 772 WFC; 54 ICC; 20 MNWR; down at Keuka. Killdeer: 1 ICC; 3 Dec 13 Watkins Canal; 1 Feb 28 Watkins Glen (JB); 1 Feb 22 SAD (MJ, and JP (JJS); reported

regularly at COS from Feb 18 on; 3 over-wintered near Phelps (JJS); 6 MNWR. American Woodcock: 12 Mar 6 Conn Hill (JB); 1 Mar 4 Ithaca (DM). *DUNLIN*: 1 Jan 21 Meyers Pt Cay L (DK) and 1 Mar 9-10 Stewart Park Ithaca (Elaine Kibbe); no report filed on either sighting.

All gull counts were low at Ithaca. No white-winged gulls reported. Great Black-backed Gull: 10 ICC; 1 GCC. Herring Gull: 102 ICC; 41 GCC; 150 MNWR (RG). Ring-billed Gull: 88 ICC; 16 GCC; 100 MNWR (RG); 300 Mar 20 Sen L (JW). Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Mar 31 Cayuta L (JB); 1 Mar 27 Sen L (MJ); 1 Mar 24 Stewart Park, Ithaca. Mourning Dove: over-wintered in good numbers; 206 ICC; 126 GCC. *MONK PARAKEET*: 2 in late Feb near Tyrone, Schy Co; at least one was killed. *BARN OWL*; a sick bird found Jan 24 in barn near Waterloo was brought to JW; died later. Screech Owl; 8 ICC high; scattered reports thruout region. Great Horned Owl: 27 ICC against 11 last year; female seen on nest Feb 14 JP (JJS); 7 GCC; 8 very high numbers SAD (MJ). Snowy Owl; no reports. Barred Owl: 1 ICC. Long-eared Owl: 1 ICC; 3 in pines on Ritter Rd Sen Co (DK). Short-eared Owl: 2 ICC; up to 8 at Watts Rd quarry Sen Co; 8 MNWR; 23 mid-Jan s of Romulus (MJ). Saw-whet Owl: 1 Feb 27 thru Mar Art Knapp farm Schy Co (JB, 1 Feb 16 Turkey Hill (Elaine Kibbe); 1 Feb 17 Burns Rd Ithaca (P Koestner).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: 6 ICC; 4 GCC; usual few wintered. Common Flicker, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: normal or better numbers in all parts of the region. Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Dec Bath (BA); 1 GCC; 1 MCC; 1 Mar 19 (JJS). Red-bellied Woodpecker: 9 ICC very high; good numbers reported from Keuka, SAD, Waterloo and MNWR. Rtd-headed Woodpecker: 1 wintered in vineyard near Bath (BA); 1 Feb 2 Aurora (DK); 1 GCC. Horned Lark: 172 ICC; 4 GCC low; the northern subspecies unusually plentiful at Keuka (FG). *BARN SWALLOW*: 2 Jan 28 Stewart Park Ithaca; one bird lasted at least until Jan 29; field note to be submitted; no verifying details forwarded to Editor. Blue Jay: normal. Common Crow: 530 ICC back down from last year's abnormal high of 1173; roost near JP increased from 18 in late Feb to 397 Mar 5 and disbanded in late Mar; northern movement noted from Feb 22 on (WB). Boreal Chickadee: 1 late Dec Keuka (FG). Tufted Titmouse: 54 ICC; 6 GCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: Small numbers only; many observers reported none. Brown Creeper: 20 ICC about normal; 8 GCC. Winter Wren: reported Feb 17 and Mar 11 at COS. Carolina Wren: 1 ICC; 5 in Dec at 3 sites in Schy Co (JB); 4 sites in Ithaca area (DK). Mockingbird: 6 ICC; 5 locations in Schy Co; 1 at JP. Robin: usual wintering occurred in favored locations; 100 birds each at JP and Monterey Schy Co; 50 at Keuka. Bluebird: several Jan 6 along Rt 414 Schy Co; 2 Dec 11 Clyde (V. Kenreich); flock of 22 late Mar Keuka; 2 males Jan 31 SAD; 1 Feb 8 s of Geneva (MJ); 5 Dec 31 n of Geneva (JJS). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 38 ICC high; 7 GCC; present at JP all winter. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 ICC; 1 GCC; reported Mar 11 GOS. Water Pipit: 1 Mar 20 Ithaca (DK). Northern Shrike: 2 ICC; 2 GCC; reported from Ithaca, Keuka, Watkins and JP. *LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE*: 1 MCC verification report on file.

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: up to 19 over-wintered at JP (JJS). Eastern Meadowlark: Only a few over-wintering birds reported. Red-winged Blackbirds: 37 ICC high; males arrived Feb 25 and females Mar 16 MNWR. Rusty Blackbird: Mar 8 McLean; 1 Mar 12 Clyde (WB); 1 Mar 22 JP (JJS). Common Grackle: arrived Mar 3 MNWR. Brown-headed Cowbird: 48 ICC; usual over-wintering. Cardinal: 180 ICC; 72 GCC; flocks of several dozen SAD and MNWR (MJ). Evening Grosbeak: 556 ICC; only winter finch in good number. Purple Finch: scarce. House Finch; 1 Mar 20 at JB feeder; 20 over-wintered at Ithaca waterworks. Pine Grosbeak: no reports. Common Redpoll: 1 Mar 23

Waterloo (JW); late Jan Bath; reported at COL from Feb 11 on. Pine Siskin: scattered reports. American Goldfinch: good numbers; 303 ICC; 131 GCC. Red Crossbill: 5 Feb 2 Watts Rd Sen. Co (DK). White-winged Crossbill: reports from Bath, Schy Co, Keuka, MNWR, Ithaca and Phelps; singles or small groups only. Rufous-sided Towhee: 1-4 thruout period JP (JJS).

Savannah Sparrow: 1 MCC; 1 Mar 23 SAD at feeder (MJ). Vesper Sparrow: 1 Mar 21 Canoga. Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco; 119 ICC; 56 GCC. Tree Sparrow: good numbers; 530 ICC; 179 GCC. Chipping Sparrow; 1 Mar 7 no details Ithaca. Field Sparrow: 1-3 thruout period JP (JJS). White-crowned Sparrow: 1 ICC; 2 GCC. White-throated Sparrow: 52 ICC gool; 3 GCC. Fox Sparrow: 1 Mar 21 Schy Co; 1 Mar 19 Etna. Swamp Sparrow: 1 ICC. Song Sparrow: usual small number over-wintered; became abundant everywhere by mid-Mar. Lapland Longspur: 1 ICC; a few reported from Ithaca and Keuka. Snow Bunting: flocks up to 1,000 at Keuka; 593 ICC.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

It was another mild winter. The only recorded sub-zero temperature was -2 on Dec 19. Snowfall, over all, was above normal, but mote than half of it either fell before and was gone by Christmas or fell after mid-March. Jan and Feb, therefore, were less snowy than normal, although the ground was not completely bare very much of the time. The heavy late Mar snows were at least potentially dangerous for early migrants, but no tragedies were reported.

Neither northern raptors nor winter finches put on much of a show although there was a little bit of almost everything. And in spite of mild conditions most of the usual semi-hardy species were missing, too, leaving that field to relatively ordinary blackbirds and robins, a flicker, a few field sparrows, white-throated sparrows and a white-crowned sparrow. Perhaps the pre-Christmas snow storm finished any others off early. For rarities there were a possible Gray Jay, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, a freakish Feb 5 Barn Swallow and, the piece de resistance, a Townsend's Solitaire.

The new AUO Check List supplement had an effect on the winter reports. In addition to the old slate-colored and the new dark-eyed there were a few strange gray-eyed and black-eyed juncos reported. How are we ever going to untangle Traill's Flycatcher?

Abbreviations: Bing-Binghamton; BCC-Bing Christmas Count, Dec 30, 1973; TCC-Tioga Bird Club Christmas Bird Count, Dec 31, 1973; WFC-Waterfowl Count; WP-Whitney Point.

Observers' initials: J,CB-Jeannette and Cutler Baldwin; CB-Cheryl Boise; AC-Ann Casselberry; MC-Mildred Clark; A,MD-Anna and Marilyn Davis; MD-Mary Dobinsky; CG-Claire Gottschall; EH-Elva Hawken; CK-Cindy Kirch; EK-Engene Kirch; HM-Harriet Marsi; PM-Pete Martin; R,RP-Robert and Rita Pantle; R,JS-Robert and Jeanne Saunders; MS-Mary Sheffield; LS-Lurilla Stevens; E,FV-E. and F. Vermilya; EW-Elizabeth Washburn; R,SW-Ruth and Sally White; KW-Kathryn Wilson; IW-Irene Wright.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Jan 19 Bainbridge (R,JS), WFC; migrant Mar 13 Delhi (MC). Great Blue Heron: Mar 16 Colliersville (MD, KW). Whistling Swan: Feb 28 Vestal (EH), the only report. Canada Goose: 1 BCC; 35 Dec 1 Candor (R,RP); 2 Jan 16 Bing (HM), WFC; 1 Jan 20 Cortland (John Gustafson), WFC; 50 Feb 21 Owego (J,CB); migrants in earnest after Mar 3.