

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

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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.

Mallard: 11 BCC; 75 Jan 16 Bing WFC; 150 Jan 17 Sherburne (R,SW), WFC. Black Duck: 16 BCC; 121 WFC. Gadwall: 1 BCC. Pintail 24 WP and Chenango Bridge (A,MD). Green-winged Teal: Mar 16 WP (A,MD). Blue-winged Teal: Mar 24 Owego (J,CB). American Wigeon: Mar 28 Chenango Bridge (EW, CG). Wood Duck: 1 Jan 16 Bing (HM); Mar 23 WP (MS). Redhead: 1 Jan 16 Bing (CG, AC), WFC, the only report. Ring-necked Duck: Mar 6 Nichols (EH, et. al.). Canvasback: Mar 16 and 24 WP (A,MD), the only reports. Common Goldeneye: 14 Jan 20 Owego (L. Bemont), WFC; 13 Jan 20 Center Village to Bainbridge (R,JS), WFC; more frequent reports after Mar 16. Buffiehead: Mar 20 WP (EW, et. al.). Oldsquaw: Mar 28 Chenango Bridge (EW, CG). Hooded Merganser: Dec 5 Owego (J,CB); 1 Jan 16 Bing (CG, AC), WFC; 1 Jan 16 Bing (HM), WFC; migrants Mar 16. Common Merganser: 25 Jan 12 Wells Bridge to Colliersville (MD, KW); 10 Jan 20 Bainbridge (R,JS), WFC; more frequent reports after Mar 6. Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Mar 3 Owego (J,CB); several more reports after Mar 6.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: 1 Dec 24 Chenango Bridge (MS); 1 Jan 9 Vestal Center (EW); 1 Mar 21 Minman's Corners (R,JS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Dec 16 Choconut Center (MS); Mar 22 Candor (R,RP), regularly to the end of the period; Mar 30 Choconut Center (MS). Cooper's Hawk: the only report. Red-tailed Hawk: 8 BCC; 1 TCC; 9 Jan 12 Wells Bridge to Colliersville (MD, KW), the best count all winter, although reported frequently throughout the Region. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 TCC; 1 Mar 1 Owego (J,CB). Broad-winged Hawk: Mar 30 Choconut Center (MS). Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Jan 13 Laurens, near Oneonta, (MD, KW), dark phase; 3 Jan 24 Sherburne (CB), 1 light, 2 dark; 3 at Laurens Jan 26 and 2 at Gilbert Lake Feb 10 (MD, KM); 2 (dark) Feb 13 Sherburne (CB); 1 Feb 19 Owego (J,CB). Bald Eagle: 1 Jan 22 Margaretville (Mr. Dibble); 3 Mar 25 and 29 Pepacton Reservoir (MC), feeding on dead deer. Marsh Hawk: Feb 28 Owego (J,CB); 3 at Candor Mar 25 to 30 (R,RP). American Kestrel: 5 BCC; 3 TCC; numerous winter reports. Ruffed Grouse: 5 BCC; 1 TCC. Ring-necked Pheasant: 7 BCC; 7 TCC. Turkey: 10 TCC; 2 Jan 16 near Richardville (CG, AC); several other Tioga Co. records, the best count 20 Feb 28 (PM). American Coot: Jan 5 Goodyear Lake (MD, KW); Mar 30 WP (A,MD). Killdeer: Feb 24 Colliersville (MD, et al.); 1 other report before Mar 6. American Woodcock: Mar 3 Owego (PM); Mar 4 Minman's Corners (R,JS). Common Snipe: Mar 24 Apalachin (EW). Herring Gull: 20 BCC; 2 TCC. Ring-billed Gull: 1 TCC. Bonaparte's Gull: 12 Mar 30 WP (A,MD). Mourning Dove: 32 BCC; 52 TCC; frequent reports all winter. Screech Owl: fairly frequent reports from Bing and Owego areas. Great Horned Owl: 6 BCC. Snowy Owl: 1 Dec 6 WP (R,SW), the only report. Barred Owl: Feb 9 south of Bing (EK, Gail Corderman). Short-eared Owl: Jan 15 Bing (MS, Robert Sheffield).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: 5 BCC. Common Flicker: Jan 31 Owego (J,CB); 1 Mar 25 Goodyear Lake (LS). Red-bellied Woodpecker: mid Dec to Mar 4 Owego (Robert Weber), coming to feeder. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 BCC. Hairy Woodpecker: 8 BCC; 23 TCC. Downy Woodpecker: 34 BCC; 52 TCC. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: Dec 8 Milford (MD, KW), "observed for about half an hour". Eastern Phoebe: 2 Mar 24 West Oneonta (E,FV); same date Candor (R,RP). Tree Swallow: 1 Mar 31 Candor (R,RP). Barn Swallow: Feb 5 Kirkwood, near Bing, (Mrs. Raymond Keegan), very freakish but good description and fresh droppings under roost near last year's nest—no second observer in spite of several attempts, was seen for several days. Gray Jay: 1 Jan 23 Oneonta (Mrs. J. Koenig), reasonable description. Blue Jay: 203 BCC; 208 TCC. Common Crow: 345 BCC; 222 TCC. Black-capped Chickadee: 300 BCC; 162 TCC. Tufted Titmouse: 17 BCC; 31 TCC; regular at several feeders in Bing,

Endwell and Owego; Dec 7 Meredith (Mrs. Guntert); 5 Jan and Feb reports of 2 birds at 1 feeder in Oneonta (IW); Mar 3 Oneonta and Mar 4 Hartwick College (R. Rabeler). White-breasted Nuthatch: 49 BCC; 48 TCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 BCC; 1 TCC; Dec 3 and frequently until Feb 1 (LS); regular at several Bing area feeders. Brown Creeper: 14 BCC. Winter Wren: 1 Feb 6 Vestal EH, et al), the only report all winter. Carolina Wren: 1 Dec 2 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Mockingbird: 3 BCC; 1 TCC; 1 Dec 6 Oneonta (IW); 1 Jan 1 Norwich (R,SW); 1 Feb 6 Vestal (EH, et. al.); Mar 13 "returned" to Endwell (Florence Linaberry); 2 Mar 24 Owego (J,CB); "all winter" Delhi (Anne Gile); 1 "frequently during period" in 2 other Oneonta localities (E,FV, Irene Smith). Robin: 1 BCC; 4 Jan 26 and 5 Feb 2 Oneonta (E,FV), the best counts of fairly numerous winter reports. Eastern Bluebird: 1 male Feb 16 Berkshire (Margaret Layton); next report Mar 10 Delhi (MC); regular reports thereafter. Townsend's Solitaire: 1 Jan 12 (MD, KW), "prominent eye ring, all over light gray, larger than sparrow, small thin bill, white edges on tail feathers"—viewed with scope 20—30 minutes, full field note has been requested. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 40 BCC; more frequent reports than most winters. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Endicott (Faith McKrell). Water Pipit: Mar 24 Owego (J,CB). Cedar Waxwing: 1 BCC. Northern Shrike: Dec 24 Bing (MS); 6 Jan and Feb reports from Owego, Oneonta, Sherburne and WP. Starling: 4567 BCC; 701 TCC.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: 410 BCC; 341 TCC. Eastern Meadowlark: Dec 25 Vestal (Don Gottschall, CG); 1 Jan 1 Meredith (Pearl Johnson); 1 Jan 16 Milford (E,FV); 2 Jan 2 to 19 Candor (R,RP), coming to feed; migrants Mar 8. Red-winged Blackbird: 9 BCC; migrants Feb 23, large flocks Feb 25 and regular from Mar 3. Rusty Blackbird: 1 TCC; 2 Dec 11, 12 and 15 Oneonta (IW); migrants Mar 5 Owego (J,CB). Common Grackle: 8 TCC; 1 to 3 often throughout winter at West Davenport near Oneonta (Dorothy House); a few other scattered reports; migrants from Feb 28. Brown-headed Cowbird: 10 Jan 22 Owego (J,CB), the highest count of a small number of winter records; migrants Feb 25; regular after Mar 9. Cardinal: 98 BCC; 103 TCC. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 Dec 14 (Mrs. David Baldwin), "good description" to KM. Evening Grosbeak: 125 BCC; 223 TCC; after early promise numbers were considerably down from last year with only sporadic reports in some areas after Jan, but 50 or more at Candor (R,RP) were regular and the best numbers reported. Purple Finch: 3 BCC; 2 TCC; present all winter, but none too numerous. House Finch: 14 BCC, with 24 more seen the same day not included; at 1 Endwell feeder where they were constantly present and in good numbers last summer, they were absent most of the winter until Mar 8 when they were back and singing; 1 male Mar 17 and 1 female Mar 25 Oneonta (R. Rabeler). Common Redpoll: almost absent in Dec, scarce in Jan, becoming more common in Feb and everywhere in Mar; 200 Feb 13 Oneonta (C. Hamwey), the largest flock reported. Pine Siskin: 5 TCC; much less common than Redpolls but present all winter; 30 or more Mar 6 Norwich (R,SW), the best count and last report but 1 Mar 20. American Goldfinch: 53 BCC; 99 TCC; present all winter in steady and fairly substantial numbers but far from a peak year. Red Crossbill: 4 Dec 30 Johnson City (Bert Wilmuth); 5 Mar 15 Bing (EK, CK); Mar 20 Oneonta (E,FV). White-winged Crossbill: 1 Dec 12 Endicott (Faith McKrell); 1 Feb 4 Chenango Bridge (R. Branford); 12 or more Mar 29 Sherburne (R,SW), "have been at conservation center all winter"; 4 Mar 31 Bing (EK, CK). Dark-eyed Junco: 118 BCC; 132 TCC; common all winter. Tree Sparrow: 317 BCC; 185 TCC. Field Sparrow: 4 TCC; Feb 24 Colliersville (MD, et. al.); 1 Mar 10 Oneonta (E,FV). White-crowned Sparrow: 1 at Friendsville, in nearby Penna., all Jan and finally banded (CG). White-throated Sparrow: 5 BCC; 1 TCC; rather numerous winter reports. Fox Sparrow: Mar 8 Vestal (Bacheller, O'Keefe); regular after Mar 17. Swamp

Sparrow: 1 TCC. Song Sparrow: 12 BCC; 5 TCC; several Jan reports; migrants from Feb 24, regular from Mar 6 and abundant from Mar 16. Lapland Longspur: 2 Jan 22 near Montrose, in nearby Penna., (CG, AC). Snow Bunting: Dec 28 Union Center, near Endicott (CG, AC); a flock of 1000 or more Jan 24, Sherburne (CB) was much the best count of 6 Jan and Feb reports.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Winter weather (and months) seemed interminable, albeit mild with only moderate snowfall fortunately coupled with sufficient warm periods to prevent massive snow accumulations. By mid March the snowfall was twenty inches shy of normal; however, when spring should have come, winter returned and by the end of March, snowfall was fifteen inches in excess of the average 108 inches (Syracuse) and the migration, well advanced by March 15, had halted completely. March waterfowl numbers were uniformly low and the hawk migration at Derby Hill had less than 1200 birds for the season to date similar large Icterids tallies did not appear until after March 31.

Winter positives included 1) a few half-hardy species of waterfowl attempting to winter; 2) above average (for recent years) numbers of Accipiters; 3) excellent numbers of Red-tailed Hawks 4) large numbers of wintering Ring-billed Gulls; 5) a moderate flight of white-winged gulls; 6) increased numbers of wintering Mourning Doves; 7) increasing reports of Carolina Wren; 8) above average numbers of wintering American Robin and Golden-crowned Kinglet; 9) a very good Northern Shrike incursion; and 10) a few finches, more notable for variety than for numbers.

Negatives included 1) a paucity of virtually all wintering waterfowl with even a drop in the local welfare-state Mallards; 2) a very poor Rough-legged Hawk and Snowy Owl flight; 3) continued decline in Ring-necked Pheasant and, to a lesser extent, in Ruffed Grouse; 4) a frank scarcity of small landbirds, particularly Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Brown Creeper, in the local woodlands; 5) no wintering warblers despite the mild weather; 6) a winter-long absence of Purple Finch; 7) reduced numbers of wintering sparrows and Snow Buntings.

Rare birdst for the season were few but included Barrow's Golden-eye at Little Sodus, Harlequin Duck at Lakeview, and Hawk Owl at Vernon.

Abbreviations: FH—Fair Haven; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral; LSB—Little Sodus Bay; NPT—Northern Pompey Township; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park; Syr—Syracuse; Syr CBC—Syracuse Christmas Bird Count Dec 15; Skan CBC—Skaneateles Christmas Bird Count Dec 16; WFC—NYS Federation Waterfowl Census.

Observers: DWC—D.W. Crumb; PAD—P. A. DeBenedictis; GM—G. Maxwell; JWP—J. W. Propst; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; GAS—G. A. Smith; CGS—C. G. Spies; CW—C. Wernick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1-2 Dec 23 to Feb 6 Oswego only reports (GM, CW) Horned Grebe: Dec max 23 Dec 2 LOL with winter max 14 WFC Jan 19. Great Blue Heron: singles only in hill country creek valleys and sewage outflows thru winter; first migrant Mar 28 Wampsville B&S Peebles). American Bittern; emaciated bird found Jan. 1 near Westvale (Mrs. Herrold); treated at local zoo.

Whistling Swan: 1-4/day Mar 10-30 Oneida L and SSSP (PAD, GAS), only a few but better than nothing. Canada Goose: spring arr Feb 20, 14, E. Syracuse (A & B Brosseau); max 9000 SRF Mar 31, probably mainly Montezuma NWR spillover. Brant: 2 imm present to Dec 15 (very late) Onondaga L.

Mallard: WFC total 1666 (mainly from waterfowl feeding areas—Syr, Brewerton,