

Worth noting are the two Rufous-sided Towhees, uncommon in winter, on the Regional Christmas C. as well as a male seen far from feeders in the T's/Somerset and Yates area in Jan. (DK). Four early Savannah Sparrows were discovered Mar. 24 in Alfred (Klingensmith), while more than usual reports of Mar. Fox Sparrows promise a good spring migration. An extraordinary winter record was the Chipping Sparrow at a feeder in Hamburg, Jan. 15 and 25 (TB). A male Harris' Sparrow, unusually rare, came to H. Lancaster's feeder in Welland, Ont., on Jan. 1 (HA, JFT *et al*). Only a few White-crowned Sparrows were noted, but at least two White-throats spent the entire season at Spring Brook (Danner) as well as in Belmont (DB, LB). Very scarce in winter, a single Swamp Sparrow was reported Feb. 1 and 12 at Scio (VP). With exceptionally few elsewhere, large flocks of Lapland Longspurs appeared in Feb. on the L. Ontario plains with max. 400 on the 14th at Ransomville (HK, WK). In general, regional Snow Buntings were fewer this season except for unusually high counts in Allegany Co. with 863 on the Christmas C. and 500 in the Cuba area Feb. 6 (RK, RhK).

Thanks, once more, to Doris and Lou Burton, as consultants, and to all the other faithful observers who furnished background for this report.

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REGION 2 – GENESEE

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In some respects this winter was like the last. Up to March 31 snowfall and temperature were somewhat below normal. There was seldom much snow on the ground and never much ice on Lake Ontario. Major bays and ponds finally froze in mid-January but were open again in late February. There were no extended periods of severe cold. It was a rather light, open winter in the region; a good representation of bird populations was noted.

Our two Christmas Counts produced very high totals of species and individuals. Most of the diving ducks and northern finches were scarce, but many hardy migrants lingered into January or even later. Of the northern finches, only Evening Grosbeaks, goldfinches and small numbers of Purple Finches were present most of the season, but a few Pine Grosbeaks, siskins, redpolls and a single White-winged Crossbill appeared in late winter.

Spring migration began with a mild week in late February, when large flocks of Canada Geese moved in with smaller numbers of Whistling Swans, migrant ducks, blackbirds, Killdeer and other early migrants.

Positive Trends: (1) Strong flight of swans, geese and early migrant ducks. (2) good numbers of Canvasbacks and Redheads on Can L and SB. (3) concentrations of Red-tailed, Rough-legged Hawks and Short-eared Owls, especially on WL. (4) a second Gyrfalcon, this one white—unprecedented here. (5) apparent good survival of Carolina Wrens, bluebirds and Yellow-rumped Warblers. (6) good variety of sparrows and good numbers of Horned Larks, Snow Buntings and longspurs.

Negative Trends: (1) Low numbers of wintering Greater Scaup, Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers. (2) few accipiters except in Webster. (3) no strong March hawk movements; only small numbers of Red-tailed, Cooper's and especially Red-shouldered. (4) scarcity of migrants in late March; very few woodcock, phoebes, Tree Swallows and bluebirds. (5) no Long-eared Owls and only one Saw-whet Owl. (6) poor appearance by finches, especially Pine Grosbeaks, siskins, redpolls and crossbills.

Rarities: Harlequin Duck, King Eider, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Gyrfalcon, Black-headed Gull, Barred Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Chipping Sparrow.

Observers: K. Bomlander, Kay Brugler, Hugh Butler, Michael Carlson, Julie Claffey, Joyce and Jack Connor, Jerry Czech, Robert and Frank Dobson, Norm Henderson, Ian Johnson, Alan Kemnitz, Ray Ludwig, Gerhard Lenbuer, Warren Lloyd, John Madden, Joseph McNett, Richard T. O'Hara, Steve O'Hara, Neil Prosser, Jean Skelly, Robert Spahn, Ann Stear, Dan Tetlow, Michael Tetlow, Thomas Tetlow, Robert Thomas, Dave Tremmel, Paul Weld.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddocks Bay; Can L—Canandaigua Lake; CB—Charlotte Beach; CoL—Conesus Lake; DPK—Durand Park; HL—Hawk Lookout, Brad. Bay; IBO—Irondequoit Bay Outlet; LLCC—Little Lakes Christmas Count; mob—many observers; MP—Mendon Ponds; RCC—Rochester Christmas Count; RP—Round Pond; SB—Sodus Bay; WL—West Lakeshore.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon reported both CC; total of 8 but none since. Red-throated Loon, one Mar. 29 at WL. Red-necked Grebe twice, Dec. 15 (RCC) and Feb. 1 (CB) (RL & NH). Horned and Pied-billed Grebes in good numbers after mid-Mar.; a few of each wintered. At least one Great Blue Heron wintered at WL; 5 reported Dec. 15 (RCC).

Region's first wintering flock of Whistling Swans, 21 at SB in early Jan.; two flocks totalling 29 over Chili Feb. 28 (JS); species present in good numbers during Mar. Flight of 7800 Canada Geese (JS). A single Snow Goose (blue morph) at BB Jan. 12-24 (NP *et al.*). The following duck numbers attest to open winter: Mallard, 650 on Dec. 15 (RCC); Black Duck, 380 on Dec. 29 (LLCC); Gadwall, 17 migrants on Mar. 9 at BB; Pintail, 1 on Feb. 1 at BB; Green-w. Teal, 4 on Dec. 15 (RCC); Am. Wigeon, 1 on Jan. 12 at Brighton; No. Shoveler, 2 on Dec. 15 (RCC); Wood Duck, 1 on Jan. 15 at Brighton. By late Mar. good numbers of Mallards, Blacks, Pintails, and wigeons at BB and other areas. Diving ducks in below normal numbers all winter on Lake Ontario, this including our commonest species—Gr. Scaup, Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, Common and Red-br. Mergansers. RCC produced the last large counts of all these species until late February. Redheads and Canvasbacks common at Can L and SB. Most unusual were two Harlequin Ducks at IBO "early Feb." (Jos. Mc). A King Eider at BB Dec. 6-14 (NH *et al.*). Single Surf Scoters on three occasions. Two Ruddy Ducks Mar. 25 at BB were first of the year (NH). Twenty-three Hooded Mergansers on LLCC Dec. 29 is a high count.

HAWKS—OWLS: First Turkey Vulture noted Mar. 30 at HL. At least 7 Goshawks present all winter at Webster (JC), and others elsewhere; 7 migrants at BB on Mar. 18. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were in about the same number as last year, about a dozen of each. Hawk flights were light; weather conditions were never right for a large flight. Among the best records were: Red-tailed, 40 on Mar. 23 at WL; Red-shouldered, 3 (poor) on Mar. 18 at WL; Rough-legged, 32+ on Mar. 16 at WL; Bald Eagle, imm. on Mar. 23 at Chase Rd., ad. on Mar. 23 at HL; Peregrine Falcon, 1 on Mar. 2 at WL; Merlin, 1 on Mar. 29 at WL. A white Gyrfalcon, the second of the winter, was well-described and seen close up on Mar. 23 at Summerville, apparently following a flock of Canada Geese off the lake although making no effort to catch one (JS).

Thirty-five Killdeer on Feb. 22 were early compared to other years. First Woodcock reported Mar. 21, and first Common Snipe on Mar. 22. A single Greater Yellowlegs on Mar. 22 at RP. Latest reports last fall for shorebirds were: Purple Sandpiper, 1 on Dec. 4 at BB; Dunlin, 1 on Dec. 24 at BB; Sanderling, 1 on Dec. 1 at IBO.

White-winged gulls were again scattered and uncommon, esp. Iceland Gull. Latest Black-headed Gull on Dec. 6 at CB (AK). At IBO 500+ Bonaparte's Gulls still present Dec. 30; a few remained until at least Feb. 2. Latest Little Gull reported Dec. 29.

Mourning Doves again common all winter. Counts of Screech Owls on two CC's were 32 and 24, and of Great Horned Owl 25 and 9. A few Snowy Owls present all winter; latest on Mar. 16 at Chili. A Barred Owl noted on Mar. 16 at Oak Orchard, in Region 1 (RS), and one recorded Dec. 29 near Honeoye Lake (LLCC). No reports of Long-eared Owls. Short-eared Owls common at Point Breeze, up to 31 in a single flock; species also noted in Webster and Chili in late Feb. and early Mar. A single Saw-whet Owl at HL Mar. 30-31 (mob.)

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Plenty of open water produced high count of 13 Belted Kingfishers on Dec. 15 (RCC). Flickers were common. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued to increase; totals of 29 and 28 on CCs. At least two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers wintered. Eastern Phoebe were late, with 1st on Mar. 29; so far, very scarce.

Horned Larks present in good numbers all winter; many appeared to be northern race. First Tree Swallows at BB on Mar. 18 (TT). Red-breasted Nuthatches much more common than last winter. A Winter Wren in Penfield Feb. 4 and Feb. 11 (RT). Tufted Titmice and Carolina Wrens doing well. Mockingbirds have declined in Webster area. A Brown Thrasher on Dec. 15 (RCC). A Catbird recorded Jan. 1-11 in Brighton (JC). Hermit Thrush at Irondequoit on Dec. 20 (AS) and on LLCC on Dec. 29. A few E. Bluebirds apparently wintered successfully south of Rochester; 3 at Honeoye Lake Jan. 7-9 (JS) and two near Can L on Feb. 8 (RO). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet wintered in Pittsford (KB).

Cedar Waxwings peaked at 500+ in DPK on Jan. 5 (J&JC). CC totals of Northern Shrike were 6 and 12; also 5 on Dec. 27 (M&TT). Early Loggerhead Shrike at DPK on Feb. 28 (PW *et al.*). Careful estimate of Starling roost near Rochester 265,000, probably low and including a few cowbirds, red-wings and grackles (GL *et al.*).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-rumped Warblers wintered in record numbers at MP, with best count 30 on Jan. 25 (GOS); three also reported at Cedar Springs in Feb. (JS).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Meadowlarks very scarce this winter, after two noted on Dec. 29 (LLCC). Hundreds of migrant Red-winged Blackbirds in late Feb.; 90 at Lavonia on Feb. 23 (JM). First Rusty Blackbirds were three on Mar. 29 (KB & MC). RCC total of Cardinals 320, not a new high. Evening Grosbeaks common south of Rochester but scarce on lake plain. A few Purple Finches noted, mostly in or near DPK (NP & NM). Common Redpolls only two or three times in late Feb. and early Mar., one bird each time (PW & NM). No reports of Pine Siskins until 2 in DPK on Mar. 17 (PW); none since. Am. Goldfinches widespread in small numbers. Only crossbill was one White-winged near DPK on Mar. 22 (NM & DT). Only Rufous-sided Towhee was one on Dec. 29 (LLCC). On LLCC Tree Sparrows outnumbered Dark-eyed Juncos by 15 to 1 (934 to 69), but on RCC by only 2 to 1 (627 to 353); possibly the result of more feeders near city. Three Field Sparrows on Dec. 29 (LLCC). One or two White-crowned Sparrows at feeders with many White-throated Sparrows. Fox Sparrow at Brighton until at least Dec. 29 (HB). Chipping Sparrow at same feeder as last year; the bird with an unusual white wing marking, showed a central crown stripe and very little color on the crown; the rump was gray, but it was possibly a Chipping-Clay-colored hybrid; the bird was banded and was still present in early April (R & SO). Swamp Sparrows unreported after Dec.; an apparent decline in last decade. Song Sparrows also low, even in late Mar. Lapland Longspurs very common at WL, with 60 noted regularly (NH *et al.*); smaller numbers elsewhere. Snow Buntings well distributed; high count 1200 at Penfield on Dec. 27 (MD & TT).

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