

Cuba L Dec. 1-8, Jan. 21 (AnS). Only 449 Evening Grosbeaks were on the RCC (2158 in '75) while the season's banding totaled: 271 at Alfred (EB) and only 45 at Farmersville Sta. (DC). 63 HOUSE FINCHES were reported from 7 locations, including a new area: 2 at Alfred Feb. 27, 28 (LC). Noteworthy winter finches were: Com. Redpoll, at Williamsville 20 on Dec. 14 and one on Jan. 20 (DF), and at Cheektowaga 3 on Dec. 31 (DF); Pine Siskin, 2 at Youngstown Jan. 9 (FR,Buck), and 6 at Oakland Rural Cem. Feb. 26 (DF+); and White-winged Crossbill, 5 at Wilson Dec. 12 (DF).

Winter Rufous-sided Towhees were: 2 males near Vandalia all season (SE), and singles near Cuba Dec. 10, 25 (JF,MFr), in Canaseraga Jan. 1-31 (A. New) and near Cuba L Jan. 7-31 (Pettit *fide* AnS). Non-feeder-sustained sparrows virtually disappeared in Jan. However, 3 White-crowned were at a Belmont feeder all winter (DB,LB), while at least 43 White-throated were taking hand-outs in 17 areas. Notable from the RCC were: Field Sparrow, 24 (16 in '74); Swamp Sparrow, 15 (high); and Song Sparrow, 172 (high). A very early Chipping Sparrow arr at Orchard Park Feb. 19 (Zablotny). Lapland Longspurs were scarce: max 44 in Pomfret Dec. 28, Jan. 16 (RS+), 30 at Yates Jan. 23 (AM,WM), and 3 at Cambria Jan. 26 (HK,WK). On the RCC, Snow Buntings tallied 1760; max Southern Tier report was 400 along the Allegheny R Feb. 5 (RV,JV); max from the northern counties was 350 at Olcott Dec. 12 (DF).

ADDENDUM: From the Oct. 10, 1976 Regional Census, compiled by B. Lown, noteworthy nos. are compared with former Oct. counts as H+=highest ever, L=low, F=first ever, OD=occurrence outside usual dates. Total was 174 species with 106,233 individual birds. Significant are: Green Heron 3 (L), Great Egret 1 (H+), MUTE SWAN 1, Whistling Swan 1 (OD), Canada Goose 13,383 (H+), Brant 13 (OD), Gadwall 82 (H+), GOSHAWK 2 (H+), Rough-legged Hawk 1 (OD), Ruffed Grouse 26 (L), Ring-necked Pheasant 45 (L), Am. Woodcock 10 (L), Red Knot 3, HUDSONIAN GODWIT 1, PARASITIC JAEGER 3 (H+), Brown Creeper 33 (L), Carolina Wren 15 (H+), Gray Catbird 32 (L), Brown Thrasher 3 (L), Swainson's Thrush 6 (L), Loggerhead Shrike 3, Magnolia Warbler 9 (L), Pine Warbler 3, E. Meadowlark 262 (L), Evening Grosbeak 4, HOUSE FINCH 27, Rufous-sided Towhee 63 (L), Savannah Sparrow 23 (L), Henslow's Sparrow 1 (F,OD), "OREGON" JUNCO 1, and Tree Sparrow 7 (OD).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION TWO – GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

The first two months of the season continued the trend of the fall—record cold. In addition, snowfall was recorded for 66 straight days beginning Dec. 6. The total was approx. 80 in. (203 cm) thru the season. From mid-December to early February the thermometer did not reach as high as freezing. By mid-January, nearly all bodies of water in the area were completely frozen with the exception of Lake Ontario which was littered with floating ice. The blizzard of January 28 was followed by high winds for over a week which left large drifts along most roads, greatly restricting birding. The weather broke the second week of February with gradual warming and thawing thru the end of the month. The last weekend of the month saw most open ground bare while 12-18 in. (30-45 cm) remained in wooded areas and drifts to 10 ft. (3 m) lined some roads.

Paradoxically, in spite of the very cold fall and early winter, there were many reports of half-hardy species attempting to winter over, and numbers of species reported to local clubs

were nearly average each month. In contrast to this, many observers noted a general lack of numbers of individuals of small passerine species both at feeders and in the field, which was borne out in the Christmas counts and in feeder reports. With the thawing of late February the geese, ducks and hawks returned with, again, near average arrival dates.

Major positives for the season were, in addition to rarities, a good influx of N. Shrikes, a large concentration of Short-eared Owls in Avon, excellent numbers of Lapland Longspurs, and early Canada Geese in large numbers.

On the negative side were a lack of Rough-legged Hawks, only one Snowy Owl, and a near total absence of winter finches except for flocks of Evening Grosbeaks in the Finger Lakes part of the region.

Rarities: "Richardson's" Goose (sub spec.), Harlequin Duck, Common Eider, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Chipping Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock's Bay, CL—Canandaigua Lake, IB—Irondequoit Bay, LO—Lake Ontario, MP—Mendon Ponds, PB—Pt. Breeze, SB—Sodus Bay, WL—west lakeshore.

Observers: Ron & Kay Ballard, Harry & Gretchen Beaver, Roger Beebe, C. & S. Bennen, Nancy Boudrie, Julie Claffey, Roger Clark, Anne Clarridge, Bob & Dottie Coffee, Jack & Joyce Connors, Jerry Czech, Michael Darcy, Gertrude Davis, Jean & Neil Dilley, Bob & Frank Dobson, Kay & Jim Doris, Joan Esley, John & Arlene Foster, J. Richard Garnham, Genesee Ornithological Society, Ed Greco, Kevin Griffith, Tom & Marian Griswold, Olive Hoffman, Scott Kampmeier, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, John Koopmans, Steve Lauer, Gwen Leighty, Dorothy Leuze, Jim & Walt Listman, Warren Lloyd, Haywood & Emily Madden, Frank & Mary Mattei, Gordon & Jim Meade, Bob & Margaret McKinney, Joe & Thelma McNett, Laura & Neil Moon, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Chip Perrigo, Betty Perrigo, Vivian Pitzrick, Neil Prosser, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Al Shea, Ray & Ann Shea, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Bob & Sue Spahn, Ann Stear, Helen Steinhauser, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Bill Symonds, Bill Talpey, Steve & Camille Taylor, David, Mike & Tom Tetlow, Stan & Helen Thomas, Betty Wahl, Earl & Alice Wallace, Eleanor Weld, Robert White, Munroe Will, Peter Zachmann.

LOONS—DUCKS: There were no Com. Loons and only 1 Red-throated Loon reported for the season: Webster Park Dec. 5 (AK). Red-necked Grebe was again scarce: 1 Summer-ville Feb. 10 (RO,JCLRG+).

Canada Geese returned in large numbers in late Feb.: max 7021 Chili Feb. 27 (J&SS). A single female CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis hutchinsii*) commonly known as Richardson's Goose, which dropped out of a flock of geese was treated for an injured wing and remained at the farm of EG in Clarendon thru the season. Photos have been taken. The only Brant: 3 IB outlet Jan. 11 (J&TM) were found during the annual duck census.

While most ducks were pushed out early by the cold, there remained good numbers of Com. Goldeneye and scattered scoters of all three species. HARLEQUIN DUCK: 1 Pt. Breeze Dec. 13 (RC,BSy); 1 LO Feb. 10 thru (KG,mob). In addition there were 2 reports of COM. EIDER: 1 female BB Dec. 18 (WLi); 1 female SB Feb. 12-19 (D,M&TT); and King Eider: 1 imm. male LO Dec. 19 (G&JM,R&SS,J&AF).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Accipiter reports were the usual scattered few each month. While Rough-legged Hawks were few, record numbers of Red-tailed Hawks were reported: max 97 Little Lakes CBC Dec. 26. Lakeshore hawk migration was noted starting Feb. 19 with a good movement of Red-tailed, Rough-legged, and Marsh Hawks Feb. 26-27.

Wintering Virginia Rails: 2 MP Jan. 8 (GOS,RBA Trips) at a spring where they often have wintered, succumbed when it froze in mid-Jan. Am. Coot massed in good numbers: 700 CL Dec. 15 (RO), until that too froze.

The only shorebirds of the season were Com. Snipe: 1 Seneca Park Dec. 19 (TT,MMA) and **RED PHALAROPE**: 1, LO near BB Dec. 4-9 (WLi,R&SS+). There was a single report of a very rare winter **POMARINE JAEGER**: 1 BB Jan. 1 (WLi).

The normal scattered reports of Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were received each month and good numbers of Greater Black-backed Gulls were seen: max 250 IB Feb. 19 (CP,RC,BSy). Bonaparte's Gulls departed in early Dec. and only one Little Gull was reported: 1 SB Jan. 9 (MAS+).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: The season's lone Snowy Owl was found on the ice CL Feb. 4 (RO). A single Long-eared Owl was sighted at Avon Jan. 9 (J&AF). Short-eared Owl flocks occurred in at least two places: max 8 Hamlin Dec. (RC,BSy); max 52 Avon Jan. 8 thru (mob).

A few Belted Kingfishers could be found until the Jan. 28 blizzard. Resident woodpeckers were in very good numbers and a few Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported. Red-headed Woodpeckers could be found in one location: max 8 Avon Jan. 3 (J&AF).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: The cold and snow seemed to take its toll of half-hardy species as numbers of Carolina Wrens, Mockingbirds, Am. Robins, and Hermit Thrushes decreased through the season. No less than 6 **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS** were reported at the start of the season: 1 Wyoming Valley Dec. 18 (JS,KG); 1 Letchworth Park Dec. 18 (R&KB); 1 Greece Dec. 19 (CP+); 2 Hemlock Lake Dec. 26 (SK+); 1 Conesus Lake Dec. 26 (RC,BSy). None was reported in Jan.

The Starling population in the Gates roost was estimated at 325,000 on Dec. 19.

VIREOS-WARBLES: Warblers provided several of the best seasonal records. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 30 MP Jan. 8 (GOS,RBA). **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**: 1 MP Jan. 8 (CP,RC); well-documented, probably of the western race, near the spot of a late Nov. report of two. Com. Yellowthroat: 1 Brighton Dec. 4 (J&ND); at a feeder. Almost incredibly, **PALM WARBLER**: 1 Geneseo Dec. 26 (J&WLi); found at a feeder during CBC.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: To continue the record for feeder birds, the following lingered with man's aid: 1 each, male and female **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** appeared within a few miles of the large Gates roost: Chili Jan. 10, 22 (GL), (photographed). Rusty Blackbird: 2 Livonia Dec. 13 (HM). N. Oriole: 1 Livonia Dec. 21-24 (HM). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 Brighton Dec. 5-12 (J&ND). **RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE**: 1 Conesus Dec. 26 (CP,AS); 1 Webster Feb. (E&AW). **CHIPPING SPARROW**: 1 Rochester Jan. (J&JC); 1 Rochester Dec. 19 (CBC). White-crowned Sparrow: 10 Walworth Jan. (JE+); 2 Lima Jan. (J&AF).

The area House Finch flocks are doing well with max: 12 Highland Park Dec. (mob); 21 Brighton Jan. (J&ND).

Wintering open field birds were good with max: Lapland Longspur: 75 Kendall Dec. 24 (CP,RC) and Snow Bunting: 1000 Kendall Dec. 5 (B&FD).

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Robert Spahn has succeeded Richard O'Hara as Regional Editor for Region 2. We wish to thank Dick O'Hara for the excellent coverage he has given to Region 2 for the past several years. — The Editors