

ICC; 2 Big Flats; 1 report Penn Yan. Pine Siskin: 3 ICC; 1 ECC; 1 report Penn Yan. Am. Goldfinch: many everywhere. Rufous-sided Towhee: 3 ICC; 1 CCCC. **LARK SPARROW:** 1 Clifton Springs Dec. 3-12 (DW,JW)* photographed. Dark-eyed Junco: (Slate-colored) 259 ICC; 177 ECC; 120 GCC; (Oregon) 2 ECC. Tree Sparrow: one of the few birds readily found in the field during the period. Field Sparrow: 2 MCC; 2 ECC; 1 CCCC; 3 reports Penn Yan. White-crowned Sparrow: 3 ICC; 1 MCC; immature thru Feb. Penn Yan. White-throated Sparrow: 36 GCC; 28 ECC; 123 ICC; 1 MCC; a few at feeders thru Feb. Swamp Sparrow: 7 ICC; 6 WGCC; 1 GCC. Song Sparrow: 31 ICC; 26 MCC; 12 GCC; 12 ECC all very low; few at feeders. Lapland Longspur: 7 MCC; 6 ICC; 1 GCC; scattered individuals in Jan. Snow Bunting: 516 CCCC; 151 WGCC; 130 ECC; 65 GCC; 51 ICC; many large flocks reported including 200 Watkins Glen Feb. 21, 500 Elmira Jan. 21, 2000 near Yellow Tavern in Sen Co (P. Trail) and a mind boggling flock of 3000-5000 which stayed around Hall for several weeks (ML).

R.D. 2, Clyde, New York 14433

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY for LESLIE BEMONT

By the first weekend in December, the pattern for our record cold winter had already been set. The first of many sub-zero nights occurred Dec. 2. After that it was just more of the same. Ice quickly sealed lakes and ponds. Late fall migrants evacuated the area without delay.

Even the swift-flowing Susquehanna River, which generally outruns attempts to top it with an ice cover, was about 95% frozen from early January until the ice started to break up the last weekend in February.

However, (and this was a high point of a dull season!!) the few open channels of the river evidently offered a haven to Redheads, seldom seen in this area. About 100 were reported wintering during February at various localities along the river. Higher numbers of goldeneye and scaup also were counted. Mallards and Common Mergansers wintered in normal numbers. Only Black Ducks seemed down.

Reports of Great Blue Herons, unusual here after late fall, persisted through early January in widespread areas of the region.

Low hawk counts could be attributed to the continuous snow cover which blanketed fields from mid-December until mid-February. The area escaped heavy snow storms but it snowed a little every couple of nights, and there was no thaw. Even the few American Kestrels which usually remain through the winter apparently took off for easier hunting.

Noteworthy sightings for the season included Horned Grebe, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Also in defiance of the severe winter, many less hardy species tested their ability to survive, and apparently succeeded! Mockingbirds, robins, Carolina Wren and Tufted Titmouse were reported throughout.

Purple Finches were at feeders in record numbers, arriving in early January. Otherwise it was a poor year for wintering finches. There were only single reports for Pine Grosbeak, Redpoll, siskin and crossbills. Evening Grosbeak moved in later than usual but quickly built up numbers.

White-throated Sparrows were common at feeders but Song Sparrows were scarce.

It was an excellent year for Snow Buntings. A record 500 were reported on the Oneonta Christmas Census; 275 on the Tioga Census and reports of flocks continued throughout period.

Observers: Cutler and Jeanette Baldwin, Jean Barnes, Les Bemont, Reynolds Bennett, Helen and Allen Carpenter, Bill Chittenden, Mildred Clark, Gail and Warren Corderman, Anna and Marilyn Davis, Clare Gottschall, A. Hayes, Elva Hawken, D. Hempel, Claude Howard, Don Huntington, Cindy Kirch, Jo Koenig, M. Little, Florence Linaberry, Peter and Dorothy Martin, Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi, Evelyn and George Mead, Jim Mead, Jeanette Merrill, Mary Ann Middleton, John New, Rita and Robert Pantle, Chris Rounds, Robert and Jeanne Saunders, Robert and Mary Sheffield, Fred Shuler, K. Stalter, Ed and Frances Vermilya, Elizabeth Washburn, Donald Weber, Ruth and Sally White, Beryl and Tom Wilson, Kathryn Wilson, Irene and Wayne Wright.

Abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton; BCC—Binghamton Christmas Census Dec. 26 (official count); BCC No. 2—Binghamton Christmas Census Jan. 2; OCC—Oneonta Christmas Census Dec. 18; TCC—Tioga County (Owego) Christmas Census Jan. 1; WFC—NYSFBC Census.

LOONS—DUCKS: HORNED GREBE: 1 Oneonta Jan. 18, found floundering in snow after blustery winds, not near any open water. Recovered quickly and survived 6 weeks, first in the John New's bathtub and then in fish tank at Oneonta State University on a diet of "minnows from the bait shop." **Pied-billed Grebe:** 1 TCC, 1 Chenango Bridge Feb. 26. **Great Blue Heron:** 5 WFC. **Canada Goose:** 25 TCC, 50 Bing. Jan. 27 and Feb. 27.

Mallards: 99 BCC, 31 BCC No. 2, 6 OCC, 112 WFC. **Black Duck:** 21 BCC, 30 BCC No. 2, 6 OCC, 7 WFC, 5 Delhi Feb. 15. **Wood Duck:** 2 BCC. **Redhead:** 1 WFC, 25 wintered month of February Susquehanna River at Unadilla, 10 (all males) wintered at Wells Bridge, 54 "counted in river Vestal to Nichols" Feb. 23 (EW *et al.*), 11 highest of several Bing. reports for February! **Scaup sp.:** 5 Bing. Jan. 31 and Feb. 18, 5 Lounsberry thru Feb. **Common Goldeneye:** 33 WFC, 40 Vestal to Nichols Feb. 23, highest of Feb. reports. **Bufflehead:** 2 Oneonta Feb. 12, 1 Bing. Feb. 23. **Common Merganser:** 9 BCC, 5 BCC No. 2, 23 WFC, 6 Oneonta Feb. 12. **Red-breasted Merganser:** 1 Owego in January, 3 WFC, 1 Bing. Feb. 20.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: **Goshawk:** 1 BCC and BCC No. 2. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 1 BCC, 2 BCC No. 2, 1 OCC, 1 TCC. **Cooper's Hawk:** 2 BCC, 1 Owego Jan. **Red-tailed Hawk:** 4 BCC, 1 OCC, 5 TCC, no other reports until mid-Feb. **Rough-legged Hawk:** 2 OCC, 1 Sherburne Jan. 24, 1 (dark phase) Johnson City Jan. 22 "hovering over open field enclosed by clover leaf interchange of Rt. 17—busy traffic didn't disturb it at all" (LB), the only reports. **Marsh Hawk:** 1 Oneonta Dec. 26. **Merlin:** 1 TCC. **American Kestrel:** 6 BCC, 3 BCC No. 2, 3 OCC, 2 Otego Jan. 15, no February reports. **Ruffed Grouse:** 3 BCC, 7 BCC No. 2, 2 OCC. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** 2 BCC, 1 Delhi. **Turkey:** 6 BCC, 20 Delhi during February "in back of the school. Children put out feed and, with school staff, watched birds early morning come to it from perches in the trees." **American Coot:** 2 Bing. Feb. 2, five other reports. **American Woodcock:** 1 Greene all of February (A&MD), 1 Bing. Feb. 28. **Herring Gull:** 19 BCC, 8 BCC No. 2, 2 TCC, 11 WFC. **Ring-billed Gull:** 6 BCC, 3 TCC, 12 Bing. and 10 Lounsberry Feb. 23. **Gulls (sp)** 20 Otego Lake Dec. 4.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: **Mourning Dove:** 99 BCC, 28 BCC No. 2, 57 OCC, 28 TCC, 27 Oneonta Feb. 12. **Screech Owl:** 2 BCC, 1 Vestal, January. **Great Horned Owl:** 4 BCC, 2 TCC. **Barred Owl:** 1 BCC. **Belted Kingfisher:** 1 BCC, 3 BCC No. 2, 1 Wells Bridge Feb. 12, 1 Bing. Feb. 23. **Com. Flicker:** 1 Bing. in December and January, three localities. **Pileated Woodpecker:** 1 BCC, 1 TCC, 1 Delhi Feb. 13. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 1 TCC. **Hairy Woodpecker:** 20 BCC, 17 BCC No. 2, 29 OCC, 12 TCC. **Downy Woodpecker:** 36 BCC, 41 OCC, 21 TCC.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: 30 Franklin Feb. 24, "several" Port Crane Feb. 25, only reports. Blue Jay: 399 BCC No. 2, 394 OCC, 261 TCC. Common Crow: 274 BCC, 244 OCC, 149 TCC. Black-capped Chickadee: 213 BCC, 265 OCC, 157 TCC. Tufted Titmouse: 8 BCC, 15 TCC, daily Bing. reports thru period, 3 Owego observers made Jan. reports, 1 Franklin Feb. 22. White-breasted Nuthatch: 34 BCC; 33 OCC; 25 TCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 6 BCC, 4 OCC, 3 Oneonta Feb. 19. Brown Creeper: 8 BCC No. 2, 8 OCC, 3 TCC. **HOUSE WREN:** 1 Goodyear Lake Dec. 5 "observed several minutes around boat dock" (I&WW). Carolina Wren: 3 BCC, 1 OCC, reports from Bing., and Owego thru period. Mockingbird: 8 BCC, 1 OCC, reports thru period from Bing. Choconut Center, Oneonta, Otego, Delhi.

Am. Robin: 2 BCC, 3 OCC, 1 TCC, single reports throughout. Hermit Thrush: 1 BCC. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 9 BCC, 15 BCC No. 2, 17 OCC, 2 Bing. Feb. 13, only reports. **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET:** 1 OCC. Cedar Waxwing: 18 BCC, 71 BCC No. 2, 1 OCC, 6 Bing. reports in Feb. Northern Shrike: 1 BCC, 1 Jan. 15 and Feb. 12 at Otego, 1 Burlington Flats "took small birds near Dowdall feeder" thru period, single birds also at Owego and Delhi. Starling: 4190 BCC, 362 OCC, 283 TCC.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 Vestal Dec. 9, 27, 31 (GC), 1 Vestal throughout, 2 on Feb. 11 (B&TW).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark: 20 Cooperstown Dec. 14 (MK), 1 BCC No. 2. Red-winged Blackbird: 1 BCC, 2 TCC, no others until first migrants Feb. 26. Northern Oriole: 1 Bing. Dec. 22. Common Grackle: 2 BCC No. 2, no others until Feb. 27. Brown-headed Cowbird: 17 OCC, 1 TCC, 28 Bing. Jan. 25, 30 Oneonta Feb. 28 highest count. Cardinal: 69 BCC, 123 BCC No. 2, 76 OCC, 82 TCC. **ROSE-BREASTED GROS-BEAK:** 1 female Delhi Dec. 6 (MC). Evening Grosbeak: 158 BCC, 507 BCC No. 2, 300 OCC, 317 TCC. Purple Finch: 6 BCC, 15 OCC, really moved in after Jan. 6—reports of up to 20 daily at feeders in Oneonta, Norwich, Delhi, Bing. House Finch: 52 BCC, 2 OCC. Pine Grosbeak: one report, Owego, January. Common Redpoll: 20 Delhi Jan. 26. Pine Siskin: 6 BCC No. 2, only report. American Goldfinch: 156 BCC, 167 BCC No. 2, 33 OCC, 116 TCC, good counts all period. White-winged Crossbill: 20 Bainbridge Dec. 25, only report. Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 Bing. until early January; 2 Oneonta thru period (E&FW). Savannah Sparrow: 1 TCC, also Owego, January. Dark-eyed Junco: 83 BCC, 70 OCC, 97 TCC, good counts thru. Tree Sparrow: 266 BCC, 108 OCC, 222 TCC. Field Sparrow: 1 BCC, 4 Oneonta Dec. 5. White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Bing. Dec. 4, 5, 11 (M&RS). White-throated Sparrow: 52 BCC No. 2, 12 OCC, 3 TCC, several feeder reports throughout. Song Sparrow: 14 BCC No. 2, 5 OCC, very few reports. Snow Bunting: 30 Oneonta Dec. 1, 33 BCC No. 2, 500 OCC, 275 TCC, 50 Norwich Jan. 18, 25 Meredith Feb. 11 and 26.

7 Hubbell Ave., Oneonta, New York 13820

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

Frigid, fierce, formidable, ferocious, foot-deep, frosty, and forever—thirty-one miles of ice from Derby Hill to Fair Haven—four hundred plus inches (10+ m) of snow in the Tug Hill Plateau—out-of-sight heating bills—the worst winter in two hundred years—and you can have it! After early December the ground snow just got deeper and deeper—no thaw, no melt, no compaction, no let-up. By mid-January the half-hardies were either snowed under or frozen out, the duck and gull numbers dropped precipitously, and we still had the longest