

(*fide* MAS); 1 male Chili thru Feb. (RW, mob); the Gates and Chili birds probably the same individual. Feeders in this Chili area were also visited by a mixed flock of Redwinged Blackbirds, Rusty Blackbirds, and Brown-headed Cowbirds. Finches persisted thru the season, but in generally decreasing numbers. The stronghold of the Evening Grosbeaks was in the hills south of Rochester. The House Finch is a thriving resident in several localities in Brighton and Pittsford with scattered reports elsewhere. Pine Grosbeak numbers continued to increase well into February with excellent counts: 36 D Jan. 7; 30 D Jan. 29; 30 D Feb. 5; and max 45 D Feb. 7. Com. Redpolls also increased dramatically, with many feeders hosting flocks of 200+ in Feb. and a max 700 WL Feb. 12 (BD). A long vigil paid off when a **HOARY REDPOLL** appeared: 1 female Webster Feb. 25-28 (A & BK, mob, photo KG), and was subsequently viewed by 52 birders. Another visitor at the same feeder was a **DARK-EYED "OREGON" JUNCO**: 1 Webster Jan. thru (A & BK, mob). Also among the finches, a **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH** joined a flock of its American cousins at a feeder in Chili Center; while this is most likely an escapee, it does make a pretty addition to one's feeder contingent. Both crossbills were reported thru the season in decreasing numbers; the peak was in the first fall influx. Other welcome additions to the region's feeders were: **RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEES**: 1 Irondequoit Dec. 10 (RF); 1 West Rush Dec. 1 thru (AW); and White-crowned Sparrows: 6 West Rush Dec. 1-Jan. 31 (AW). A late record was Fox Sparrow: 1 Cuylerville Dec. 17 (MT, MM, BP). Lapland Longspurs were to be found in good numbers in the open fields west of Rochester on the lake plain: max single flock 80 WL Jan. 15 (R & FD); max 300 WL Feb. 12 (BD). Snow Bunting numbers were fantastic: max single flock 5000 Kendall Jan. 22 (B & FD); high counts: 7500 WL Jan. 22 (B & FD); 5000 WL Jan. 24 (KD, mob); 5000 WL Feb. 12 (BD). As testimony to the severity of this season, late February saw flocks of Snow Buntings appearing at feeders.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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A quote from Milne's Pooh sums up the winter weather: "The more it SNOWS—tiddely-pom The more it GOES . . . On snowing And nobody KNOWS . . . How cold my TOES . . . Are growing." Dec. and Jan. snowfall was three times normal. Average temperature was normal for Dec., 3 degrees below normal for Jan., and 10 degrees below normal for Feb. Although there was only one substantial snowfall during Feb., on the 5th and 6th, the deep snow cover did not melt at all.

Christmas counts were low in both species and individuals, although new highs were set for several feeder species. Comments indicated that birds were heavily concentrated at feeders—was it the birds or the birders that were concentrated? Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were more conspicuous. The Laboratory of Ornithology received an unusual number of calls from feeder watchers asking how to get rid of these hawks hanging around their feeders. The 12 accipiters (two Goshawks, five each of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's) seen on the Ithaca Christmas Count was an all-time high.

Waterfowl counts could not be taken later than Jan. 8. The Cayuga Lake count was less than half the 1972-77 numbers, mostly because of fewer Canada Geese and Mallards. For Region 3 as a whole the count was not drastically re-

duced, though below all but one of the preceding six years. Montezuma Refuge reported unusually high peak duck counts in Dec. "due, at least in part, to the availability of unharvested flooded corn fields located one mile north of the Refuge on the Seneca River." Peak count Dec. 15 was 35,000 Mallards and 5,000 Black Ducks. The 20,000 Mallards still there Jan. 1 left soon after when the Refuge froze over.

Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches were plentiful at feeders. Scarcity of Dec. reports and low Christmas Count numbers of out-of-season lingerers indicated that most had left early. Very few were seen after early January.

Top rarity was a live, though emaciated, Say's Phoebe picked up near Ithaca Dec. 13 and brought to the Laboratory of Ornithology. It died soon after and the specimen is in the Cornell collection. Other unusual sightings were Bald Eagle, a February Osprey, Hawk-Owl, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Common Raven, Boreal Chickadee, Hoary Redpoll, and a winter Savannah Sparrow.

Corrigendum: *The Kingbird* (Vol. XXVIII, No. 1) delete Olive-sided Flycatcher at MNWR Sept. 2.

Abbreviations: CBC—Cayuga Bird Club; CC—Christmas Count—Geneva and Watkins Glen Dec. 31, Ithaca, Central Cayuga and Montezuma Jan. 1, Elmira Jan. 2; WFC—January Waterfowl Count Jan. 8; * (starred)—Details on file.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: 1 Keuka L near Branchport Jan. 23 and 30 (ML). Horned Grebe: 35 WFC, lowest ever; during big snowstorm snowmobilers near Pine City found one floundering in deep snow far from water, took it to WH who released it on an open pond. Pied-billed Grebe: 14 WFC, lowest since 1968. Great Blue Heron: 3 Geneva CC, new high; almost no later reports. Canada Goose: 32,000 Central Cayuga CC decreased to 4584 for entire Cayuga L on WFC a week later. Brant: 1 north end Seneca L thru. Snow Goose: 1 blue phase Aurora Jan. 29. Gadwall: 68 WFC, second highest. Green-winged Teal: 1 Ithaca CC, not seen later. N. Shoveler: female Union Springs Feb. 19 (CBC). Redhead: 5599 WFC, low again. Scaup (both species) 1694 WFC, up from 1977 extremely low 192. Com. Goldeneye: 567 WFC, back to average after 1977 low. Bufflehead: 286 WFC, also back to average. White-winged Scoter: female Big Flats Jan. 1 (WH); male (WH) and female (CBC) west side Cayuga L Feb. 19. Ruddy Duck: 1 WFC Cayuga L. Hooded Merganser: 6 WFC, very low. Com. Merganser: 32 WFC, very low.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: 3 reports Cayuga L Basin; 1 imm Montour Falls Dec. 1; 1 seen several times making passes at Mourning Doves Big Flats near Elmira Dec. 11 on (T. Bates). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 10 total on 4 CC's; several Ithaca thru; 1 Odessa; 2 reports Watkins Glen; imm found frozen Elmira Feb. 15, their only report; 1 Hammondsport thru. Cooper's Hawk: 10 total on 5 CC's; several reports each month Watkins Glen; several Elmira reports including imm male in MW's barn Feb. 28; several Ithaca thru; at least 6 reports of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's at Keuka area feeders. Rough-legged Hawk: 10 Ithaca CC, second highest ever, fewer later; 9 Geneva CC, new high; not many reports Watkins Glen after heavy snow in Jan.; more than usual Penn Yan area, 1 injured dark phase taken by Cons. officer for recovery. BALD EAGLE: 1 Ithaca CC (D. Brann). Marsh Hawk: about 7 reports during period. OSPREY: 1 Six Mile Reservoir, Ithaca Feb. 11, extremely early (Steve Sabo). * Am. Kestrel: 76 Geneva CC, new high. Ring-necked Pheasant: very low on all CC's. Killdeer: three reports—1 each Elmira and Geneva CC; 1 Ithaca Feb. 8. Ring-billed

Gull: estimated 1000+ resting on Keuka L near Hammondsport Jan. 12 (ML). Bonaparte's Gull: 8 Hammondsport Jan. 12 (ML).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: no confirmed reports. **HAWK-OWL:** 1 Ithaca Feb. 18 (Dan Gray, graduate student under Dr. Cade) seen quite close in good light perched on dead tree, first Cayuga L Basin record.* **Barred Owl:** only report, 1 calling near Ithaca Feb. 11 (JC). **Short-eared Owl:** 1 Sheldrake Dec. 15 (WH); arrived at roost north of Penn Yan Dec. 1, early, max 5 (ML); 2 Hammondsport (ND). **Saw-whet Owl:** 1 calling Ithaca Feb. 5 (JC). **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 19 Ithaca CC, nearly double previous high; 8 Watkins Glen CC, new high. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1 Clyde feeder thru Dec. 26 (WEB); 1 Geneva CC; 2 Central Cayuga CC. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 1 Ithaca CC not seen again; 1 Central Cayuga CC; 2 imm Elmira Feb. 14. **Downy Woodpecker:** 218 Ithaca CC, new high. **NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** female Geneva CC (R. Bran, P & M Trail).*

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: SAY'S PHOEBE: see introduction, field note to follow. **Horned Lark:** numbers decreased after heavy snow in Jan. when farmers could not get into the field to spread manure, increased in late Feb. **Blue Jay:** 502 Ithaca CC, new high. **COMMON RAVEN:** 1 Connecticut Hill southwest of Ithaca Feb. 25, seen and heard (B. Talbot)*. **Black-capped Chickadee:** 1179 Ithaca CC and 374 Geneva CC, new highs. **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** 1 Trumansburg feeder Dec. 9 thru mid-Feb. (N. Dean). **Tufted Titmouse:** 57 Ithaca CC, new high; "seems to be increasing" Watkins Glen (JB). **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 44 Ithaca CC, new high; good numbers thru. **Winter Wren:** 2 Elmira CC. **Carolina Wren:** seem to be surviving the snow and cold surprisingly well, reported Ithaca, Watkins Glen, Elmira and Penn Yan. **Gray Catbird:** 1 Geneva CC. **Brown Thrasher:** 1 Ithaca early Dec. **Am. Robin:** a few reported on 4 CC's, max 23 Reading Center north of Watkins Glen seen each month. **Hermit Thrush:** 1 at Eldridge feeder, Ithaca Jan. 19 after big snowstorm, not seen again. **E. Bluebird:** 4 near Watkins Glen Dec. 31; 1 Montezuma CC; 2 Montour Falls end of Feb.; up to 5 Guyanoga Valley near Penn Yan thru. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** very scarce; not one report all winter at Watkins Glen though JB has looked for them, first winter none have been seen; 3 Geneva CC; only three reports Ithaca. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 1 each Ithaca and Geneva CC. **Northern Shrike:** 5 Geneva CC, new high; five reports Penn Yan; eight other reports.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Few icterids wintered. **E. Meadowlark:** one Dec. report, 12 Central Cayuga CC, no others. **Rusty Blackbird:** 1 Montezuma CC; 1 Freeville late Jan. **Evening Grosbeak:** fair numbers everywhere but not a heavy invasion; 1 with white and yellow plumage, no black, Big Flats Dec. 20 and Wellsburg Dec. 23, both near Elmira. **Purple Finch:** 37 Ithaca CC, high, but only one other Ithaca report; very few Watkins Glen. **House Finch:** 94 Ithaca CC, three times previous high; 48 Watkins Glen CC but disappeared from many feeders later; "continues to prosper" Penn Yan. **Pine Grosbeak:** 27 Elmira CC; reported in small numbers Ithaca, Watkins Glen, Geneva and Penn Yan, max 12. **Common Redpoll:** 82 Watkins Glen Dec. 12; reported on 4 CC's, highest count 128 Geneva CC; about Feb. began coming to feeders everywhere, flocks of 100+ reported Penn Yan, Elmira and Ithaca. **HOARY REDPOLL:** 1 at Elmira feeder Jan. 17 thru (WH). **Pine Siskin:** good numbers at feeders everywhere; 304 Ithaca CC, new high. **Am. Goldfinch:** plentiful everywhere thru; 687 Ithaca CC and 328 Geneva CC, new highs. **Red Crossbill:** Feb. 9 Ithaca (D. Lee); 25 Watkins Glen Jan. 9, and 10 there Jan. 27 (JB). **White-winged Crossbill:** a few Ithaca Dec. and Jan.; three reports Elmira Jan. and Feb., max 12. **Rufous-sided Towhee:** 1 Reading Center feeder thru; 1 Elmira CC and after at feeder. **SAVANNAH SPARROW:** 1 at feeder near Ithaca Jan. 15 thru (W. Dondero)*. **Chipping Sparrow:** 1 Geneva CC; 1 Dryden Jan. 18 (T. Mills). **Field Sparrow:** seen on 4 CC's, apparently disappeared about mid-Jan. **White-crowned Sparrow:** 2 Ithaca CC. **Swamp Sparrow:** 2 Ithaca CC, 1 Geneva CC, no later reports. **Song Sparrow:** fewer than usual wintered. **Lapland Longspur:** 1 Elmira Jan. 24 (WH); 1 Ithaca Feb. 18 (JC). **Snow Bunting:** scattered flocks thru area; max 700 Ithaca Dec. 21 (B. Howe).

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