

three Triple Cities and two Owego feeders all winter. Song Sparrow: two DOCC; 41 BCC; heard singing at Unadilla Feb. 21. Snow Bunting: one flock of about 200 in Chenango Co. in Dec.; 75 in Gilbert Lake area, n. of Oneonta, Feb. 3; the only reports.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

Winter season in central New York was characterized by less snow by the end of the period than the previous two seasons, 93.4 inches compared to 150 inches in 1978 and 145.3 inches in 1977. However, record sub-zero temperatures from Feb. 10-18 erased any thoughts that we had a mild winter. The snow that accumulated remained on the ground with very little subsequent thawing, and what little open water remained became quickly frozen over by the end of the period.

The consensus, among those who went afield, was that birds were very few. Red-necked Grebes were forced down in different parts of Oneida Co. during February as a result of inclement weather. A great attrition in surface-feeding and diving ducks occurred. Common Mergansers continued to decline as a wintering bird for reasons not fully understood.

Raptors, especially Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks, declined in numbers toward the end of the period with the snow staying on the ground and prey becoming harder to obtain. Ruffed Grouse apparently are beginning to show an increase in numbers along the Lake Ontario plain as testified by one observer. Hopefully more observations will continue to verify this. Unfortunately Ring-necked Pheasants are doing the opposite, becoming nonexistent in rural areas. Not only the below freezing temperatures, but the closing of open dumps have hastened the decline in gulls along the Lake Ontario littoral with the exception of the Great Black-backed Gull.

Then came the Great Gray Owls in Oswego to lift the despondent bird-watcher's waning hopes—undoubtedly the first modern regional record for these spectacular birds.

Horned Larks continue to show a decline in the region, possibly a reflection of changing agricultural practices. Am. Robins were found in well-protected places that offered sufficient food throughout the Region, notably in Oswego Co. where they can be hard to find in the winter. Icterids were in the Region at the beginning of the season and then seemed to vanish with the start of the new year. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak made a very late appearance in Chittenango and lingered until Dec. 18th. Winter finches were very scarce, except for the ever-expanding population of House Finches, Evening Grosbeaks and Am. Goldfinches. Swamp and Song Sparrows which are normally present in favored locations during the winter were very hard to find at these same sites toward the end of February. In summation, bird populations were very thin.

Abbreviations: FH—Fair Haven; LOL—Lake Ontario Littoral; OsH—Oswego Harbor; SL—Skaneateles Lake.

Observers: Ben Burtt Feeder Survey (BBFS); Gerald Church (GC); Mr. & Mrs. DeSimone; members of Genesee Ornith. Society; Gene Huggins (GH); Kirkland Christmas Bird Count (KCBC); Bob Long; B. & S. Peebles; Marge S. Rusk (MSR); Fritz G. Scheider (FGS); Skaneateles Christmas Bird Count (SKCBC); Gerald A. Smith (GAS); Christian G. Spies (CGS); MacKenzie Stewart; Mandy Stooks; Syracuse Christmas Bird Count (SYCBC); Elba Van Dresar; Waterfowl Survey.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: max. five on Jan. 6-14, SL (Waterfowl Survey); Red-necked Grebe: one on Dec. 18-21, OsH. (GAS), one on Feb. 19, Pompey Twp (CGS); six from Jan. 30-Feb. 28, diff. parts of Oneida Co. (DeSimones); Horned Grebe: max 13 LOL (Waterfowl Survey) Jan. 14; Pied-billed Grebe: one per day till Feb. 3; Double-crested Cormorant: one to two per day till Jan. 20, LOL (FGS, GAS); Great Blue Heron: one to two per day, last Feb. 2, s. Madison Co. (GC); MUTE SWAN: one adult from Feb. 10-18, OsH (mob), probably from Toronto pop.; Whistling Swan: six on Dec. 16 (SYCBC); Canada Goose: max 1,455 on Dec. 2, FH (MSR); Brant: one on Dec. 2, FH (FGS, CGS); Mallard: max 888 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC) to a max 70 on Feb. 28, Brewerton (FGS); Black Duck: max 17 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC) to a max six on Feb. 18, OsH (FGS); Gadwall: max 80 on Dec. 2, FH, last one on Feb. 18-24, OsH (FGS, MSR); Pintail: one to two per day till Feb. 13; Green-winged Teal: one female Dec. 30-Jan. 3, Brewerton (GAS); Am. Wigeon: max 29 on Dec. 2, last one Jan. 14, LOL (FGS); Northern Shoveler: nine from Dec. 9-16, Onon. L. (mob); Wood Duck: one to five per day, last a female Feb. 15 Brewerton (FGS); Redhead: max 54 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC) to two on Feb. 18, OsH (FGS); Ring-necked Duck: max 12 on Dec. 2, last one Jan. 14 LOL (FGS); Canvasback: max 210 on Dec. 2 to a max four on Feb. 28 LOL (FGS, MSR); Greater Scaup: max 800 on Jan. 27 to a max 100 on Feb. 24, LOL (MSR, FGS); Common Goldeneye: max 507 on Jan. 13 to a max 25 on Feb. 24 LOL (FGS, MSR); BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: two adult males, Feb. 15-18 OsH (mob); Bufflehead: max 90 on Feb. 3 to max ten on Feb. 24 OsH (FGS, MSR); Oldsquaw: max 50 on Dec. 24 to max 14 on Feb. 18 LOL (FGS); White-winged Scoter: one to three per day, Dec. 2-Feb. 18 LOL; Surf Scoter: one on Jan. 14-27, LOL; Common Scoter: one to five per day, Dec. 2-17 LOL; Ruddy Duck: max 42 on Dec. 9, last one Jan. 14 LOL; Hooded Merganser: max 30 on Dec. 2 FH to one on Feb. 18 OsH (MSR); Common Merganser: declining as a wintering bird, max 470 on Jan. 27 to 20 on Feb. 24 OsH; Red-breasted Merganser: max 11 on Dec. 2, FH, last one Feb. 18 OsH (FGS).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Accipiters in low numbers, Goshawk: one on Dec. 16, 20, near Clinton (DeSimones); Sharp-shinned Hawk: one to three per day thru the period, total of nine observed; Cooper's Hawk: one to two per day, total of eight observed; Red-tailed Hawk: 12 to 20 per day thru Dec., Jan., eight to ten per day thru Feb. (GAS); Rough-legged Hawk: eight to 16 per day thru Dec., Jan., four to six per day thru Feb., Schroppel & Hastings Twns. (GAS); Marsh Hawk: a total of five for the Region thru early Dec., none afterwards; Am. Kestrel: max 22 per day on Dec. 16 (SYCBC); Ruffed Grouse: max ten on Dec. 24 LOL (FGS); Ring-necked Pheasant: max 19 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC), a total of 27 for the Region, continued decrease; Am. Coot: max 69 on Dec. 2, FH to a max three on Feb. 24 OsH (MSR); Killdeer: one to four per day early Dec. to mid-Jan.; Common Snipe: one on Dec. 20, DeWitt; Dunlin: a record late date for the Region, one Dec. 24 Nine Mile Pt. (FGS); Glaucous Gull: one to six per day from Dec. 16-Feb. 10 LOL (FGS); Iceland Gull: one to three per day from Jan. 11-Feb. 3, LOL & Oswego R.; Gr. Black-backed Gull: max 389 on Jan. 27, OsH (MSR); Herring Gull: max 5,300 on Feb. 3 to max 75 on Feb. 18 OsH; Ring-billed Gull: max 2000 on Jan. 14 to 70 on Feb. 10 OsH.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 218 on Dec. 16, (SYCBC); Screech Owl: one to two per day, scarce; Great Horned Owl: one to three per day; Snowy Owl: a total of eight in Onon. & Oswego Cos. GREAT GRAY OWL: two birds Feb. 17 through

the end of period, Edward's Circle, Oswego (mob), 1st modern regional record; Barred Owl: one on Dec. 16, KCBC; no Short-eared Owls; Long-eared Owl: one on Dec. 16, (KCBC); Belted Kingfisher: max eight on Dec. 16 (SYCBC); Red-bellied Woodpecker: max eight on Jan. 1, Howland's Island (MSR), with one reported from Lacona (BBFS); Red-headed Woodpecker: one on Dec. 16 (KCBC) and one in West Winfield Feb. 14; Hairy Woodpecker: max 46 on Dec. 16 (KCBC); max 24 on the SYCBC; Downy Woodpecker: max 80 on Dec. 16 (KCBC), max 69 on the SYCBC.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: max 35 on Feb. 28, Clinton (DeSimones), scarce; Blue Jay: max 67 per day on Jan. 27, Sangerfield (GH); Common Crow: max 327 on Dec. 16 (KCBC), no Derby Hill flights in Feb.; Black-capped Chickadee: max 366 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC); Tufted Titmouse: 10 for the Region with a first time pair in Holland Patent Dec. 9 (VanDresar); White-breasted Nuthatch: max 61 on Dec. 16 (KCBC), one to nine per day; Red-breasted Nuthatch: max eight on Dec. 16 (SYCBC), scarce; Brown Creeper: max 19 on Dec. 16 (KCBC); Winter Wren: one on Dec. 16 (MSR), no other wrens; Mockingbird: a total of ten in the Region, one at Pulaski Dec. (BBFS) marks a northward expansion; Am. Robin: unusually common with a max of 300-500 at Rice Creek Bio. Station, Oswego (GAS); Golden-crowned Kinglet: a total of seven for the Region, very scarce; Cedar Waxwing: max 333 on Dec. 16 (KCBC); No. Shrike: one to three per day, moderate flight.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Icterids extremely scarce; E. Meadowlark: three on Dec. 16 (KCBC); Red-winged Blackbird: one to two per day up to end of Dec., none afterwards; Rusty Blackbird: a total of three birds for the Region; Common Grackle: a total of four birds for the season up to mid-Dec.; Brown-headed Cowbird: a total of 14 birds up to Jan. 7; Cardinal: max 72 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC); **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:** a single male Nov. 23-Dec. 18, Chittenango (MacKenzie Stewart); Evening Grosbeak: max 123 on Jan. 27 Brookfield (GH); Purple Finch: one to five per day thru the period, very low; House Finch: max 45 on Feb. 21, DeWitt (Bob Long), expanding; Pine Grosbeak: max 50 on Feb. 18, Starr Hill no. Oneida Co. (E. VanDresar) limited to perimeter of Adk's; Common Redpoll: one to two per day in scattered locations, very scarce; Pine Siskin: max 23 Feb. (BBFS), Pulaski, scarce; Am. Goldfinch: max 182 on Dec. 16 (KCBC); Rufous-sided Towhee: three in the Region from feeders at Jamesville, Pt. Pleasant and Clinton; Dark-eyed Junco: max 40 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC) to four on Feb. 7, Oakwood Cem. (MSR); Tree Sparrow: max 160 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC) to five on Feb. 10, Oswego & Scott Sw. (FGS); White-crowned Sparrow: one at a feeder Dec. 18-27, Oneida (B. & S. Peebles); White-throated Sparrow: max 45 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC) to one at the end of the period; Swamp Sparrow: one to two per day till mid-Dec.; Song Sparrow: max 42 on Dec. 16 (SYCBC) to one end of Feb.; Lapland Longspur: one on Dec. 7 LOL (FGS); Snow Bunting: max 200 on Jan. 27, Skyline Drive (E. VanDresar).

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE CHAMBERLAINE

Winter of 1978-79 started out on Christmas Eve. Up until that point, Fall carried through with cool temperatures and open waters. January was a wet, windy, snowy month with many false winter storm watches. Heavy squalls did occur in narrow bands across Jefferson and Lewis Counties. Freezing rains made