

Nashville Warbler: one at Penn Yan in Dec. Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: single birds at Big Flats, Ithaca and Phelps with nine on the GCC.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: No. Oriole: one male at Elmira and one in a flock of hundreds of Starlings at Penn Yan Jan. 16. Rusty Blackbird: one Ithaca Jan. 4-5 and two Jan. 6-7. DICKCISSEL: one at Reading Center feeder from late Jan. thru the period. Evening Grosbeak: ICC had 769; ECC 42; up to 70 at feeders in Guyanoga Valley; otherwise very scarce. Purple Finch: scarce; 25 ICC; two ECC; one Watkins Glen in Jan. House Finch: "mushrooming," "ubiquitous," "uncountable" are some of the adjectives reporters are using to describe this burgeoning species. For example, 60-80 at a Seneca Falls feeder seem to be keeping nearly all other birds, except Am. Goldfinches, away; flocks of 60-70 in Penn Yan; 351 on the ICC; 145 on the ECC; 94 on the WGCC; 60 on the MCC and 52 on the GCC. Savannah Sparrow: two CCCC. Vesper Sparrow: one Ithaca feeder Feb. 1. Tree Sparrow: this normally common winter visitor was scarce in all parts of the Region with almost no large flocks seen. Field Sparrow: eight ECC; two each GCC and CCCC; one ICC. White-crowned Sparrow: six GCC. White-throated Sparrow: present but in somewhat reduced numbers over recent years. Fox Sparrow: one Watkins Glen SP Dec. 4-6. Swamp Sparrow: two WGCC; one each on ECC and GCC. Song Sparrow: 35 GCC and 17 ICC but hard to find in many parts of the Region. Lapland Longspur: the only report was two at Ithaca Jan. 20. Snow Bunting: 75 MCC; one Penn Yan report in Dec.; on Dec. 21, as I was driving south of Romulus, I flushed a flock of 31 birds from the roadside. The birds then perched on the telephone wires spaced a few inches apart like so many swallows. In years of birding I have never before observed Snow Buntings perched on a telephone wire.

R.D. 2, Tyre Road, Clyde, New York 14433

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The winter of '79-'80 was outstanding for the lack of snow. One snowfall of four to five inches on December 13 melted off in a few days. The only other significant snowfall, in mid-February, was more persistent, but even so provided only patchy snow cover after a few days. Temperatures were generally mild until the first full weekend of January, when the rivers started to choke up with floating ice, just in time for the Waterfowl Census. There was still some more or less mild weather, off and on, until the last week of January. Then temperatures were generally freezing or below until the end of the period, even dropping below zero a few times. But conditions were never really severe, by comparison with other years, for more than a couple of days at a time.

Almost universally, birders, and the general public, complained about how few birds were around. Winter finches, indeed, were scarce, evidently satisfied with conditions further north. More surprisingly, blackbirds and robins were less common than conditions might lead one to expect. On the other hand there was a rather longer than usual list of sub-hardy species recorded, e.g. a Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, three Rufous-sided Towhees and no less than five Yellow-rumped Warblers. One suspects, but can hardly prove with the data at hand, that the real

problem was dispersal. The lack of snow cover left food more widely available than in other years so there was little need for dependence on feeders and other food concentrations and, therefore, birds were harder to find rather than really scarce. In the writer's own experience, provision of a really favored food supply, i.e. thistle seed feeding started in mid-February, produced a respectably-sized and almost constantly present flock of Am. Goldfinches within a few days, where before that only a very occasional one or two was seen.

The outstanding record of the season was another well-documented Golden Eagle, although one can hope that "rarity" is beginning to be the wrong term for the species. The first winter Eastern Phoebe record since 1953, when the current record keeping system started, must count as the actual rarity of the season.

Abbreviations: BCC—Binghamton Christmas Count, Dec. 30; CCC—Cortland Christmas Count, Dec. 29; DOCC—Delaware-Otsego Christmas Count, Dec. 15; TCC—Tioga Christmas Count, Jan. 1; WFC—Federation Waterfowl Census.

Observers: Cutler and Jeanette Baldwin; Peg Baxter; Don Bement (DB); Les Bement (LB); Herbert Bennett; Mike and Jean Bennett (M, JB); Reynolds Bennett (RB); Bruce Bozdos; Dorothy Burns; Alvin Carpenter; Sally Carry (SC); Lynn Clark, Mildred Clark (MC); Gail Corderman; Robert Corey; Anna and Marilyn Davis; Louise and Warren Dean; Mary Dobinsky (MD); Sadie Dorber (SD); Diane Drabo; Nancy Durgin; Polly and Earl Getkin; Barbara Gordon; Claire Gottschall; Dorothy Gracey; John Gustafson (JG); Esther Hanley (EH); Hugh Havens; Elva Hawken; Alice Hayes; Meg Horak; Jim and Kathy Hoteling (J, KH); Claude Howard; Larry Huggins (LH); Spencer Hunt; A. and H. Johnson; Paul Kalka (PK); Phyllis Keith; Margaret Layton; Jay Lehman (JL); Leona McDowell; Harriet Marsi (HM); Rick Marsi; Evelyn & Bud Mead; John New; Francis O'Leary (FO); Robert Pantle (RP); Booth Perkins; Pete Petokas (PP); Beverly Prince; James Riley; Robert Saunders; Mary Sheffield (MS); Julian Shepherd; Kenneth Stalter; E. Steinfeldt; Elizabeth Washburn; Anne Whitaker; L. and K. Whitehead; Connie Wilkins; Kathryn Wilson (KW); Tom and Beryl Wilson (T, BW).

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: two Otsego L Dec. 15. Horned Grebe: one Otsego L Dec. 15. Great Blue Heron: one BCC; three CCC; Feb. 9 Lisle; one Richford Feb. 24. Canada Goose: 150 Delhi Dec. 21 max, but nine other Dec.-Jan. reports of up to 45 birds from Otsego L, Franklin, Truxton, Owego, Windsor and Cannonsville. Mallard: 123 BCC; 81 CCC; 14 TCC; 420 WFC. Black Duck: 33 BCC; 13 CCC; 152 WFC. Pintail: one WFC, Cannonsville Reservoir; the only other report from Owego in Jan. Wood Duck: one Cannonsville Reservoir Jan. 1; no others. Redhead: two CCC, the only report. Ring-necked Duck: four CCC; one TCC. Canvasback: one BCC. Lesser Scaup: one Cannonsville Reservoir Jan. 1. Com. Goldeneye: one CCC; 17 TCC; 15 WFC. Bufflehead: two at Owego in Christmas Count period; no others. Com. Merganser: nine CCC; six TCC; 44 WFC.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: one Portlandville area Dec. 1, flew directly overhead at close range giving good look at facial markings (MD, KW); Feb. 3 Choconut Center (MS); also reported from Owego in Jan. Sharp-shinned Hawk: two BCC; at least nine other reports. Cooper's Hawk: two TCC. Red-tailed Hawk: four BCC; five CCC; nine DOCC; as always, present in small numbers all winter. Rough-legged Hawk: one BCC; six CCC; two DOCC; four Smithville Flats Jan. 27 and three Candor Feb. 2, the best of nine Jan.-Feb. reports. **GOLDEN EAGLE**: one at Center Village, n. of Windsor, Dec. 23 to 27 (LH, *vide* HM *et al.*)—several observers tried to find the bird Dec. 28, the first sunny day after a string of cloudy days, but failed—confirmation made from good pictures showing gold color of the head and shoulders—also white around rump and tail—several other searches also came up negative. Bald Eagle: one East Branch Delaware River Jan. 8 and two West Branch Dela-

ware River Jan. 10 (SD). Marsh Hawk: one TCC; two Dec. reports from Truxton and Vestal Center. Am. Kestrel: ten BCC; nine CCC; eight DOCC; 11 TCC. Ruffed Grouse: ten BCC; three CCC; four DOCC. Ring-necked Pheasant: two BCC; two in period TCC; only four other reports. Turkey: a flock of up to a dozen seen all period in Delhi area; 25 or more at Coventry Dec. 30. Am. Coot: one CCC; at Owego in Feb. Killdeer: one DOCC; Dec. 16 Owego; two Little York Jan. 12; 50 Cortland Feb. 28. Am. Woodcock: one Candor Jan. 2 (RP). Herring Gull: ten BCC; 70 CCC; four TCC. Ring-billed Gull: two BCC; 53 CCC; one TCC; five Otsego Lake Dec. 15.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: 408 BCC; 99 DOCC; 726 TCC. Mourning Dove: 85 BCC; 14 DOCC; 49 TCC; present in small numbers almost everywhere in the Region all period, the best non-census count 50 at Windsor Jan. 26. Screech Owl: one BCC; one in period TCC. Great Horned Owl: eight BCC; one CCC; one DOCC; one TCC. Barred Owl: one BCC. Belted Kingfisher: one BCC; two CCC; two DOCC; three TCC; three other Jan. reports and three Feb. reports. Com. Flicker: one TCC. Pileated Woodpecker: two BCC; one TCC. Red-bellied Woodpecker: two TCC, and present through period; one at Smithville Flats through at least Jan. 26; one Cortland, about Jan. 11. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Truxton Jan. 5, had been there since Nov. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one DOCC, the only report all winter. Hairy Woodpecker: 15 BCC; two CCC; 20 DOCC; 15 TCC. Downy Woodpecker: 47 BCC; 15 CCC; 28 DOCC; 49 TCC.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: EASTERN PHOEBE: one BCC (PK) at Chenango Valley State Park, description supplied. Horned Lark: 25 CCC. Blue Jay: 106 BCC; 37 CCC; 158 DOCC; 183 TCC. Com. Crow: 442 BCC; 298 CCC; 165 DOCC; 148 TCC. Black-capped Chickadee: 499 BCC; 136 CCC; 261 DOCC; 296 TCC. Tufted Titmouse: 11 BCC; two DOCC; 13 TCC; one Marathon Jan. 15; the usual regulars at Triple Cities and Owego feeders. White-breasted Nuthatch: 64 BCC; 52 DOCC; 33 TCC; usually a very static species, but seemed more common than usual this year. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one BCC; four DOCC; five TCC; continuing reports in Owego but nowhere else. Brown Creeper: 20 BCC; nine CCC; one DOCC; four Norwich Jan. 5. Carolina Wren: Jan. 6 Port Dickinson, the only report all period. Mockingbird: four BCC; one DOCC; one TCC; one Homer Jan. 12. Gray Catbird; one at Vestal Dec. 10 and 11 (T, BW); also reported from Owego in Jan. (RB). Brown Thrasher: one Milford Jan. 25 (EH). Am. Robin: five DOCC; one TCC; six more Dec. reports, two more in Jan. and four more in Feb.—usually one bird and not more than three per report, except eight Homer Feb. 20. Hermit Thrush: one Delhi Dec. 18 (SC). E. Bluebird: one still at Vestal Dec. 5 (J, KH). Golden-crowned Kinglet: four BCC; two CCC; three at Norwich Feb. 16, the only other report. Cedar Waxwing: 43 BCC; 13 CCC; two TCC. No. Shrike: two DOCC; two Portlandville-Oneonta Dec. 1; Dec. 5 Owego; one Delhi Jan. 9; no more Starling: 3553 BCC; 660 CCC; 487 DOCC; 431 TCC.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: one BCC; one at Delhi from Dec. 1 to the end of Feb. (MC); one at Truxton Dec. 15 (FO); one at Oneonta Dec. 16 (M, JB); one at Choconut Center Jan. 26 to Feb. 2 (MS), well-described—fed on suet; seldom reported in the Region during the winter and never that many.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: 614 BCC; 493 CCC; 497 DOCC; 805 TCC. Red-winged Blackbird: two BCC; 21 TCC; no others from Dec. 5 to Jan. 28 when one was at Delhi; then none until four Norwich Feb. 23. No. Oriole: one at Preble, in Cortland Co., Feb. 2 (PP), "carefully identified." Com. Grackle: one at a feeder in Norwich through Dec. and Jan.; five other Dec. reports plus one at Smithville Flats Jan. 27 and Owego Feb. 27. Brown-headed Cowbird: 11 BCC; 50 TCC; very few reports after Jan. 1. Cardinal: 132 BCC; eight CCC; 18 DOCC; 62 TCC. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one Homer several weeks in early Jan. (*vide* JG). Evening Grosbeak: 135 BCC; 305 CCC; 396 DOCC; 183 TCC; still common, in absolute terms, but definitely fewer than in recent years. Purple Finch: four BCC; three DOCC; one TCC; only a half-dozen other reports after mid-Dec. House Finch:

231 BCC; ten CCC; nine DOCC; 60 TCC; 30 to 50 at Norwich during Jan. and Feb. Com. Redpoll: four DOCC; the only report all season. Pine Siskin: one BCC, the only report all season. Am. Goldfinch: 121 BCC; one CCC; 23 DOCC; 256 TCC; present all period but not in large numbers. Red Crossbill: 12 DOCC, the only report all period. Rufous-sided Towhee: one BCC; Binghamton Dec. 19, one Delhi Dec. 13 to the end of Feb. Dark-eyed Junco: 115 BCC; one CCC; 36 DOCC; 170 TCC. Tree Sparrow: 125 BCC; 36 CCC; 67 DOCC; 101 TCC; numbers noticeably down. Chipping Sparrow: one BCC (LB, DB), seen again at feeder the next day then not again before the end of the period. White-crowned Sparrow: two DOCC; one Norwich Feb. 16 (JL). White-throated Sparrow: 12 BCC; two TCC; regulars at several Triple Cities and Owego feeders; six at Norwich Feb. 23. Song Sparrow: 16 BCC; five CCC; seven TCC; only very few other reports. Snow Bunting: 40 CCC, the only report all season.

710 University Ave., Endwell, New York 13760

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

The winter season can be best summed up as having been very mild for the Region in comparison to the three past winters. The area did not begin to experience winter with any degree of severity until the third week of January. Until that time, the ground remained largely free of snow, along with lakes and rivers remaining free of ice.

The total snowfall for the month of December was 13.8", which is about half the average 26.0" we normally receive during this month, and certainly a big difference from the record 40.9" we received in December, 1978. Snowfall accumulation for January was 24.5", closer to the average snowfall of 26.3", and in striking contrast to the 72.2" we experienced in January, 1978. February's snowfall came to 28.1", slightly above the average 26.9". Total snowfall for the season amounted to 71.5" by the end of February. Temperatures on the average remained mild for the season with record breaking highs occurring on December 11th, 63 degrees F., and on December 12th, 61 degrees F. It was not until the end of February that we began to experience below zero temperatures.

Positives for the winter include: Wintering flocks of Canada Geese resting and feeding in harvested cornfields in the southern highlands; continued expansion of the Red-bellied Woodpecker to the northern and eastern parts of the Region; and range extensions for the Tufted Titmouse into valleys which go into the Tug Hill Plateau and southern highlands from the Mohawk Valley; a very large flock of American Robins roosting in the vicinity of Onondaga Hill; the appearance of Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Common Yellowthroat and Northern Oriole in the latter part of the season; increased expansion in range and numbers of House Finch.

Negatives for the winter include: No Short-eared Owls, only one Snowy Owl and two reports of the Barred Owl; very low numbers of Goshawk and Rough-legged Hawk; only five Ring-necked Pheasants reported for the period; very low