

cramming into one nest box at dusk for overnight warmth. Ruby-crowned Kinglet lingered thru the CBC period with one D Dec. 6; and one Greece Dec. 21. **BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS** were present, but scarce: three Greece Dec. 13 (MD, KG, mob); one Brighton Dec. 21 (JT); one Hilton Dec. 27 (DS, MT); one to two Webster Park Dec. 29, 31 (MD, KG); and one D Feb. 15, 21 (mob). The Cedar Waxwing peak was 600 D Dec. 29. No. Shrike was very scarce with one BB Jan. 23 thru; and one Parma Feb. 17, being the only reports. Starlings were back in the old roost in Gates, 160,000 Dec. 21, but appeared to abandon it again shortly thereafter.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: The only records in this grouping were of the Yellow-rumped Warblers which typically winter in Mendon Ponds Park. The numbers varied from one to ten with some found by virtually any group birding the proper parts of the park.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Even House Sparrow turned up with an interesting individual, a melanistic bird in Webster Jan. 26 (A & BK). Blackbird records of note included: E. Meadowlark: two to three Avon Jan. 20-27; Rusty Blackbird: six Webster Dec. 21, late; and six H Feb. 28, early migrants; **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE:** one Greece thru Dec. 8 (mob); and a major push of early migrant Red-winged Blackbirds, Com. Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds during the warm spell Feb. 22-28. Winter finches were all reported, but in small numbers. The most interesting records were: Pine Grosbeak: max. 12 D Jan. 17; **HOARY REDPOLL:** one Spencerport Jan. 25 (R & KB); Com. Redpoll: max 150 Parma Jan. 8; White-winged Crossbill: max 6 Penfield Jan. 31; and Red Crossbill: one Webster Park, H Feb. 15, 28 respectively. Purple Finch was scarce. House Finch is still booming with all CBC's finding new highs. Noteworthy sparrows included: Rufous-sided Towhee: present at several feeders thru the season; Tree Sparrow: 533 Montezuma CBC Jan. 1; and 350 WL Jan. 11; Chipping Sparrow: one Greece Jan. 27, 29 (RD), rare in winter; White-crowned Sparrow: one Penfield Jan. 28; and one Webster Feb. 14, usually scarce in winter; and White-throated Sparrow: max 305 Rochester CBC, five times the previous high over a 77 year history. Finally, thru Jan. there were good sized flocks of Snow Buntings to the west of Rochester with max 500 H Jan. 1; 1030 WL Jan. 13; and 500 Holcomb (SE of Rochester) Jan. 24.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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December and January were extremely cold, the coldest in several years. Frequent below zero temperatures occurred from Christmas into early February with no above freezing weather except for a brief, mild thaw in late January. Snowfall was in small amounts only, but because of the freezing temperatures, it accumulated. Mid-February brought a sudden and dramatic change. For ten days the temperature soared into the forties, fifties and even mid-sixties before settling down to seasonal norms. Precipitation continued light.

The south winds accompanying the warm-up brought in migrants—Canada Geese by the thousands, an early flight of Whistling Swans and many icterids. At Elmira on February 28, "the biggest day anyone had ever seen," the geese acted strangely. Many observers noted that instead of going north via Horseheads and the Catherine Valley, which is their normal route to Seneca Lake, they were all going west toward Corning. There was no explanation for this behaviour.

In reading the species accounts below one will note for several species a large percentage of the birds reported on the Christmas Bird Counts came from the Ithaca count. Before assuming that the Ithaca area has a larger bird population, and it well may have, it should be noticed that there were 136 participants on that count compared to six at Watkins Glen and about 25 on each of the others so that the Ithaca circle was very thoroughly covered.

Seasonal positives: 1) an immature Double-crested Cormorant wintering on Seneca Lake; 2) a huge concentration of 25,000 waterfowl on Cayuga Lake Dec. 7 including Canada Geese, Mallards, Blacks, Redheads and Canvasbacks; 3) the heaviest Rough-legged Hawk flight in many years extending to all parts of the Region. The combined tally from the six Christmas Bird Counts was five times that of 1974 which was regarded as an excellent flight year; 4) an increase in Marsh Hawk sightings; 5) good numbers of wintering Common Flickers; 6) high numbers of feeder birds, especially Downy Woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmice and White-breasted Nuthatches; 7) extraordinary numbers of wintering flocks of American Robins, perhaps due to the excellent berry crop; 8) the first winter record of a Swainson's Thrush for the Region; 9) a Pine Warbler near Cayuga Village; 10) an abundance of wintering White-throated Sparrows.

Seasonal negatives: 1) very few Horned Grebes; 2) continued low numbers of scaup; 3) continued scarcity of Ring-necked Pheasants; 4) reappearance of the potentially destructive Monk Parakeet in the Region. This may be regarded as a plus or a minus depending upon your point of view. However, in view of past experience with exotic introductions and with this species' record of feeding on fruit and grain in its native habitat, your Regional Editor is compelled to look upon it as a definite minus; 5) almost no Snowy Owls; 6) very few Northern Shrikes; 7) no Red Crossbills; 8) few wintering Song Sparrows.

Rarities: Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Raven, Fish Crow, Swainson's Thrush, Pine Warbler.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; CBC—Christmas Bird Count (Central Cayuga Jan. 1, Elmira Jan. 1, Geneva Dec. 27, Ithaca Jan. 1, Montezuma Jan. 1, Watkins Glen Dec. 20); Co—County; L—Lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SAD—Seneca Army Depot; Schy—Schuyler; Sem—Weekly Cornell Seminars; Sen—Seneca; SP—State Park; WC—Waterfowl Count Jan. 10; * (starred)—confirming details on file.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: CBCs four, were present on Keuka L at Snug Harbor north of Hammondsport all year until the lake froze Jan. 15. Red-necked Grebe: three Cay L Feb. 9. Horned Grebe: scarce with only two reported on the CBCs and two on the WC. Double-crested Cormorant: an imm present on Sen L at Watkins Glen from Dec. 29 thru the period was an unusual winter record. Great Blue Heron: three wintered at MNWR. Whistling Swan: 27 flying north over Watkins Glen on Feb. 28; one unable to fly was found at Horseheads Jan. 20 and is being kept in an open pen but to date has made no move to leave. Canada Goose: counts at MNWR were 15,000 on Dec. 15 and 30,000 on Feb. 28; WC 13,000 on Feb. 28; at Watkins Glen JB counted 36,450 flying north between 9:30 and 12:30 and he states that very heavy flights had been flying since dawn. Snow Goose: one to three were sighted on Cay L all winter; 90 at MNWR Feb. 19 and 300 Feb. 28.

Duck numbers at MNWR as furnished by the personnel there:

Species	Maximum	Date	Species	Maximum	Date
Mallard	25,000	Dec. 15	Ring-necked Duck	55	Dec. 15
Black Duck	5,000	Dec. 15	Canvasback	12	Dec. 15
Gadwall	150	Dec. 8	Greater Scaup	50	Feb. 20
Pintail	200	Dec. 8	Com. Goldeneye	75	Feb. 20
Am. Wigeon	150	Dec. 8	Bufflehead	30	Dec. 15
Wood Duck	4	Feb. 17	Hooded Merganser	75	Feb. 20
Redhead	30	Dec. 15	Com. Merganser	100	Feb. 20

Mallard: CBCs 1,787; WC 3,000. Black Duck: CBCs 605. Gadwall: a few on Sen and Cay Lakes; Geneva CBC 12 and Ithaca nine. Pintail: one at Union Springs all winter; 100 MNWR Feb. 28. Green-winged Teal: one Elmira Jan. 10 (WH). Am. Wigeon: several wintered at Union Springs. Redhead: CBCs 290; WC 600; peak at Watkins Glen 1,000 Jan. 24; 1,500 west shore Cay L Feb. 28. Ring-necked Duck: two on Ithaca CBC and two Cay L Feb. 28. Canvasback: CBCs 290 mostly Geneva and Ithaca; WC 180; 500 Cay L Feb. 1; 60 Sen L off SAD. Greater Scaup: CBCs 26 with 21 at Geneva; 100 Cay L Feb. 1. Lesser Scaup: CBCs 53. Com. Goldeneye: CBCs 590 of which 474 were on the Geneva count. Bufflehead: CBCs 153 with 135 on the CC count. Oldsquaw: 38 on Geneva CBC and two on Ithaca count; eight Sheldrake Feb. 8. White-winged Scoter: two Central Cay CBC; one Watkins Glen Jan. 18. Hooded Merganser: eight Ithaca CBC; female Watkins Glen Dec. 31-Jan. 6. Com. Merganser: CBCs 112. Red-breasted Merganser: eight on Geneva CBC and nine on Ithaca CBC.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: two very early arrivals, one at Cayuta in late Jan. (P. Holt *vide* JB) and one at Lansing Feb. 11 (S. & J. Ayres *vide* DM). Goshawk: four on three CBCs. Sharp-shinned Hawk: CBCs nine; several reports of Sharpies picking off small birds at feeders. Cooper's Hawk: CBCs 13; reported at all Sem; five reports from Schy Co. Red-tailed Hawk: CBCs 284 with 102 from Geneva; an albino was at Ithaca. Rough-legged Hawk: CBCs 84; reported from all over the Region but the heaviest concentration appeared to be in the northern Finger Lakes. With the coming of the mid-Feb. warm weather the numbers dwindled rapidly. Bald Eagle: two adults and one imm at MNWR during Feb. Marsh Hawk: a total of 15 on four CBCs; other reports from Big Flats, Horseheads, Watkins Glen, Ithaca, Sampson SP and MNWR. Osprey: one on the Ithaca CBC but was not seen again. Ruffed Grouse: 34 on five CBCs; appears to be on the high side of its cycle. Ring-necked Pheasant: CBCs 19; reported at all Sem but in low numbers only; one flock of up to eleven was around Phelps all winter. Turkey: Ithaca CBC had 17 and Central Cayuga 7; 40 were found near Buttermilk SP where young were seen last summer; also noted on Connecticut Hill and at Newfield. Am. Coot: four CBCs had 132; 100 plus were on Sen L at Watkins Glen Jan. 23. Killdeer: two Phelps Dec. 27. Com. Snipe: one Phelps Dec. 27. **GLAUCOUS GULL:** an imm at Watkins Glen Dec. 9; an adult on Cay L and a 2nd year bird at the Waterloo dump on Jan. 10 (M. Resch & J. & N. Bandfield)*. **ICELAND GULL:** imm at Watkins Glen Jan. 18; adult Waterloo dump Jan. 10 (M. Resch & J. & N. Bandfield)*. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** one Waterloo dump Jan. 10 (M. Resch & J. & N. Bandfield)*. Herring Gull: CBCs 994 with 555 at Watkins Glen the highest ever for their CBC. Ring-billed Gull: CBCs 990 of which 526 were on the Ithaca CBC. Bonaparte's Gull: Central Cayuga CBC thirteen.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: CBCs 3703. Mourning: CBCs 2992 with 1495 on the Geneva count. Monk Parakeet: a bird which appeared in Elmira Heights last fall and built a "nest," still survives and visits feeders. This is the first bird of this species reported in the Region since 1974. Screech Owl: CBCs 13. Great Horned Owl: CBCs 59. Snowy Owl: one Ithaca Dec. 11. Barred Owl: three on two CBCs. Short-eared Owl: five on two CBCs; ten at Penn Yan; seven MNWR; one Poplar Ridge Jan. 8; two Watts Rd. quarry Sen Co.; two Horseheads Feb. 17. Saw-whet Owl: one Ithaca Jan. 13 and one Malloryville Jan. 19. Belted Kingfisher: CBCs 20. Com. Flicker: 69 on five CBCs; more than normal in the Ithaca and Watkins Glen areas. Pileated Woodpecker: 15 on five CBCs. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 102 on

five CBCs. Red-headed Woodpecker: ten on four CBCs with six on the Central Cayuga CBC; an imm wintered at Phelps. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: three CBCs found six; one Lansing Dec. 29. Hairy Woodpecker: 196 on the CBCs. Downy Woodpecker: 664 on the CBCs.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Phoebe: one on Trumansburg Rd., Ithaca, on Jan. 30 where the first one always appears. It survived and was joined by a second bird by the end of the period. Horned Lark: 1556 on four CBCs with 94% being found in the northern Finger Lakes. Blue Jay: CBCs 2010. **COMMON RAVEN:** one Sugar Hill, Schy Co Jan. 18 (Art Kopp). Com. Crow: 2466 on the CBCs. **FISH CROW:** the first of the Ithaca birds returned Feb. 3. Black-capped Chickadee: 3113 on the CBCs with 1870 on the Ithaca CBC. Tufted Titmouse: Ithaca had 142 of the 228 birds found on the CBCs. White-breasted Nuthatch: of the 486 found on the CBCs, 284 were on the Ithaca count. Red-breasted Nuthatch: "hard to find" at Watkins Glen but "more than usual" at Penn Yan; 51 of the 67 found on the CBCs were at Ithaca. Brown Creeper: 21 on 4 CBCs. Winter Wren: two on the Elmira CBC; one at Ithaca feeder Jan. 9 and for a few days. Carolina Wren: eleven on the CBCs with two at Elmira, five at Ithaca and two on the Watkins Glen count. Mockingbird: 49 on CBCs with 31 on the Ithaca count. Gray Catbird: five birds found on two CBCs. Brown Thrasher: a bird, which appeared on cold days only, was present at Ithaca from mid-Dec. on. Am. Robin: unusually large numbers for winter all across the Region and often in large concentrations such as the 325 found along one mile of the Watkins-Montour marsh. The CBCs found 601. Hermit Thrush: four on three CBCs. **SWAINSON'S THRUSH:** one well seen and studied Dec. 27 for the first Region 3 winter record (William Benning and WEB)*. E. Bluebird: regular all winter at Watkins where they had an all time high of 22 on their CBC. Also reported from Elmira, Horseheads, Ithaca, SAD, Penn Yan, Buttermilk Falls SP and Newfield. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 43 found on four CBCs. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: single birds on the Geneva and Watkins Glen CBCs. Cedar Waxwing: good numbers with 2519 on the CBCs. No. Shrike: single birds on the Central Cayuga and Ithaca CBCs, one at Aurelius Jan. 24, and one at Elmira Dec. 23 were the only reports received. Starling: not unexpectedly this species topped all others with 13,448 birds on the CBCs.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: three each on the Geneva and Ithaca CBCs, four Cay Marsh Feb. 15; two Union Springs Feb. 22. **PINE WARBLER:** one near Cayuga Village Jan. 1 for a rare winter record (W. Warne)*.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark: 14 on three CBCs. Red-winged Blackbird: 2,997 on three CBCs but nearly 2,800 of these were in one large flock south of Waterloo; flocks of 30-600 reported from various areas during the winter. No. Oriole: one at Penn Yan during Dec. Rusty Blackbird: Central Cay CBC had 25 and Elmira two; one Ithaca Dec. 12; 15 Tyre Jan. 21. Com. Grackle: only six on the CBCs. Brown-headed Cowbird: CBCs 174. Cardinal: CBCs 782; some observers felt there were more than usual. Evening Grosbeak: CBCs 1846 with 1496 from the Ithaca count, an area which seems to attract this species more than other parts of the Region. Purple Finch: generally reported as scarce but the CBCs totaled 273 with 219 on the Ithaca count. House Finch: the CBCs, totaling 1227 birds, seem to indicate that Ithaca with 615 and Elmira with 360 are the main centers of population for this increasing species. Pine Grosbeak: eight at Danby Jan. 17; a small flock at Ithaca in late Jan. Com. Redpoll: 317 on five CBCs; reports of small numbers from most parts of the Region. Pine Siskin: 315 on four CBCs; small flocks, up to 30 birds, came to feeders especially in Yates, Schy and Tompkins Cos. Am. Goldfinch: CBCs 1415 with 733 from Ithaca count. Some observers felt that, when the Siskins moved in to the feeders, the Goldfinch numbers dropped. Red Crossbill: no reports. White-winged Crossbill: the only report was of three at Canoga Feb. 14. Rufous-sided Towhee: two each on the Geneva and Ithaca CBCs; one Danby Dec. 13; one Elmira Dec. 27; one Ithaca last week in Feb; one Penn Yan throughout the winter. Dark-eyed Junco: CBCs 1144 with the Ithaca count having 503. "Oregon" Junco: one at a feeder south of Ithaca until Feb. 4. Tree Sparrow: CBCs 2002. Generally this species came back to about normal numbers after last year's low point

but in some areas observers felt they were still low. Chipping Sparrow: three on two CBCs; one at an Ithaca feeder Feb. 9 and 24. Field Sparrow: 13 on three CBCs; one at a Reading Center feeder during Jan. White-crowned Sparrow: eight on two CBCs. White-throated Sparrow: 495 on CBCs with 273 on the Ithaca count; higher numbers than usual everywhere. Fox Sparrow: one Brooktondale Dec. 2-8. Song Sparrow: 133 CBCs; observers comments—"few," "had to be looked for." Lapland Longspur: ten on CBCs of which nine were at Geneva; 17 King Ferry Jan. 10; two Canoga Jan. 25. Snow Bunting: 3125 CBCs well distributed over the Region.

Addendum: the following Elmira records were received too late for publication in the Winter issue (*The Kingbird* Vol. XXXI No. 1) Region 3 report.

Whistling Swan: one Nov. 6. Osprey: one Nov. 7 late. Merlin: one Nov. 3 (Dick Clements *vide* MV). Monk Parakeet: a banded bird built a "nest" in a blue spruce at Elmira Heights. Photographed by Tim Bates. E. Kingbird: a very late bird found by Tim Bates on Nov. 7. E. Bluebird: six on Oct. 22. Black-throated Green Warbler: Nov. 2—late.

Corrigendum: *The Kingbird* Vol. XXX No. 4 under Seasonal Plusses 5) referring to the Osprey nesting at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, the statement is made, "This would appear to be the first successful nesting of the species in central or western New York during this century." I am now in receipt of a communication from Dr. Allen Benton stating that there is a record, probably unpublished, of an Osprey nesting near Cato in Cayuga Co. in 1910.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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This winter season can be divided into four distinct subperiods on the basis of weather. The first three weeks of December were consistently cold enough to keep the month's two or three inches of snow cover in place without being bitterly cold, but there was little further accumulation. The last week of December and the first two weeks of January brought the really severe weather, several days when the temperature dropped below -10° F. and a couple of moderate snowfalls. The weather from mid-January to mid-February was erratic, the snow melting for a couple of days and then temperatures between zero and ten above for two or three days, then back to melting again before another minor cold snap. The latter half of February was ridiculously warm for the season—50° F. February 16 and 17 and even higher temperatures for much of the rest of the month.

Rough-legged Hawks and Snowy Owls both made good showings, but primarily in the northern half of the Region. However, the Snowy that took up residence at the IBM Owego plant probably got more attention than all the others combined. Northern Shrike numbers were disappointing.

Among the winter finches, Pine Siskins starred, mobbing many feeders in huge numbers and bringing a significant following of Sharp-shinned and/or Cooper's Hawks. Evening Grosbeaks, redpolls and goldfinches were fairly com-