

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 Allen Benton stating that there is a record, probably unpublished, of an Osprey nesting near Cato in Cayuga Co. in 1910.

R.D. 2, 793 Tyre Rd., Clyde, New York 14433

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

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-

mon, although unevenly distributed. Pine Grosbeaks were present in, for them, good numbers, but primarily in the northern half of the Region. Purple Finches were present in small well dispersed numbers, for the most part, and where seen in larger numbers there is at least the possibility of confusion with the now much more common House Finch. There were only two reports of White-winged Crossbills and no Red Crossbills at all.

The frigid start of the period might lead one to expect few of the "half-hardy" species, but Am. Robins and Cedar Waxwings were present in much larger numbers than usual during the first half of the period and only disappeared after the worst of the cold had passed and the large wild berry crop was depleted. Com. Flickers were also more common than is usual in the Region in winter. There was also a Hermit Thrush, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Brown Thrasher, several Rufous-sided Towhees, two Killdeers and two Com. Snipes. There were almost no blackbirds.

The rarities were an exhausted Gannet, which may more properly belong to Region 8, and two secondhand reports of possible Harris' Sparrows, geographically close enough to suggest they were of one bird.

The first indication that gas prices may limit the quantity of field observations surfaced in the form of reluctance to travel many miles to view probably frozen rivers in the name of the Federation Waterfowl Census. It is true, of course, that the Federation Waterfowl Census is not the most exciting event on the calendar in Region 4, even under the best of circumstances.

Observers: Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin; Don & Judy Bell; Reynolds Bennett; Cheryl Boise (CB); Nancy Brundage; J. Carey (JC); Alvin Carpenter (AC); Jane Chittenden; Mildred Clark; Reeva Clark; Gail Corderman; Anna & Marilyn Davis; James Davis (JD); Mary Dobinsky; Jennie Doig; Sadie Dorber (SD); Dave Fink; Polly & Earl Getkin; John Hanyak (JH); Shirley Hartman; Donald Hymers; Margaret Layton; Jay Lehman (JL); Betty Mabon; Janice Mangan; Harriet Marsi; Andy Mason; Evelyn & Bud Mead; John New; Dan Newby (DN); Robert Pantle; Linda Pearce; Booth Perkins; Peter Petokas (PP); James Riley (JR); Carol Ryder; Robert Saunders (RS); Mary Sheffield; William Stupke; Bill Toner; Elizabeth Washburn; Anne Whitaker; Kathryn Wilson; Tom & Beryl Wilson.

Abbreviations: BCC—Binghamton Christmas Count, Dec. 28; OCC—Oneonta Christmas Count, Dec. 20; TCC—Tioga Christmas Count, Jan. 1; SCC—Sherburne Christmas Count, Jan. 3; WFC—Waterfowl Census.

LOONS—DUCKS: GANNET: an imm in weakened condition landed in a driveway Dec. 9 in Middleburgh (Schoharie Co.) and was taken to the DEC office in Stamford (Delaware Co.)—it was being fed fish, and apparently gaining strength, in preparation for release on Long Island—the bird's picture made page 3 of the Dec. 11 *Oneonta Daily Star*. Great Blue Heron: 2 SCC; three Dec. reports from Cortland Co. and one from Chenango Forks—another Jan. report, from Tioga Co. and one Cortlandville Feb. 12. Whistling Swan: two at Apalachin Feb. 28, but gone the next day. Canada Goose: 94 counted over the city of Cortland Dec. 1 and two groups of 20 each in the same general area Dec. 6; no more until Feb. 14 at Itaska, in Broome Co.; two other reports before a tremendous surge of migrants Feb. 28—it was "many flocks," "flock after flock" and "five flocks in sight at a time" from Vestal Center to Windsor and points between. Mallard: 251 BCC; 30 TCC; 83 SCC. Black Duck: 39 BCC; five TCC; 56 SCC. Am. Wigeon: four North Norwich Marsh Feb. 28. Redhead: one Cortlandville Feb. 6, the only report. Com. Goldeneye: four TCC; 90 WFC. Hooded Merganser: one Owego-Nichols Jan. 10; no more. Com. Merganser: two BCC; 10 TCC; 284 WFC; none after Feb. 14.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: two Windsor Feb. 28 (JR). Goshawk: two SCC; also one Norwich Feb. 15 (JL). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one OCC; two BCC; three TCC; one SCC; fourteen other reports Dec. 30 to Feb. 9. Cooper's Hawk: three TCC; one SCC; eleven others Dec. 19 to Feb. 2. Red-tailed Hawk: two OCC; four BCC; 13 TCC; 14 SCC; six Otsego-Wells Bridge area Jan. 26; numerous other reports. Rough-legged Hawk: one BCC; one TCC; 11 SCC; eleven at Marathon Jan. 18 along Rte. 81 and 6 in the same area Jan. 25; a dozen more reports in Jan. and Feb., most from the three northern counties of the Region. Bald Eagle: eight around Cannonsville Jan. 8 and seven Jan. 12 (SD)—a DEC eagle count coordinator said there was a total of thirteen in the area; an adult at Homer Jan. 1 (PP). Marsh Hawk: one OCC; one TCC; no others. Am. Kestrel: three OCC; eight BCC; seven TCC; two SCC. Ruffed Grouse: one OCC; four BCC; one TCC; 11 SCC. Ring-necked Pheasant: one TCC; three SCC; five at a feeder daily in the Owego area and one to three seen half-a-dozen times in the Preble area during Jan. and Feb.; otherwise no reports. Turkey: six in highway median at Whitney Point Jan. 18; eight at Greene Jan. 31; a flock varying from six to 26 at Delhi during Jan. and most of Feb.; also reported from Vestal Center in Dec. Killdeer: one SCC; one Delhi Feb. 23 (JC). Com. Snipe: one SCC; one at Greene Feb. 1 (JD) and during most of early Feb. until the snow melted—seen easily by a number of people as it fed in the ditch along the road. Herring Gull: seven BCC; one TCC; the usual small numbers patrolling the rivers all winter. Ring-billed Gull: two TCC; one Binghamton Jan. 14; no others.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: 117 OCC; 949 BCC; 830 TCC; 470 SCC. Mourning Dove: 151 OCC; 246 BCC; 241 TCC; 472 SCC; 200 at Cortland Dec. 6; common all winter. Screech Owl: five BCC; one TCC; one SCC; also reported from Norwich and Middlefield (Otsego Co.). Great Horned Owl: one OCC; 21 BCC; five TCC; four SCC. Snowy Owl: one TCC, this bird spent all of Jan. and an undetermined part of Feb. hanging around the roof tops, parking lots and surrounding fields of the IBM plant in Owego—seen by many observers, but also missed by many who tried; six other reports from Norwich, Homer, and Middlefield and Westford in extreme eastern Otsego Co. Belted Kingfisher: eight BCC; four TCC; five SCC. Com. Flicker: 11 BCC; nine TCC; one Port Dickinson Dec. 11, in a hole in an apple tree in late afternoon being mobbed by chickadees, a Cardinal and a nuthatch; a dozen reports all season of one or two birds each in Triple Cities area; also two Sherburne Jan. 20. Pileated Woodpecker: one OCC; one BCC; three SCC. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Jan. reports from Owego, but no details. Red-headed Woodpecker: one OCC; apparently the same bird, an immature, remained about a month into early Jan. the head color going from "very faint red" to "quite bright red" in that time. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one at Choconut Center Jan. 1 and again Feb. 8 to 10, when it found suet feeder. Hairy Woodpecker: 17 OCC; 19 BCC; 12 TCC; 19 SCC. Downy Woodpecker: 52 OCC; 82 BCC; 52 TCC; 95 SCC.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: 60 SCC; Jan. 18 Owego. Blue Jay: 402 OCC; 678 BCC; 529 TCC; 441 SCC. Com. Crow: 169 OCC; 513 BCC; 362 TCC; 452 SCC. Black-capped Chickadee: 366 OCC; 775 BCC; 240 TCC; 392 SCC; seemed especially common. Boreal Chickadee: one at Binghamton Jan. 3 and 4 and once more a couple of weeks later (AC)—seen at close range from window. Tufted Titmouse: 13 BCC; 12 TCC; reported regularly from several feeders, but only in Owego-Binghamton area. White-breasted Nuthatch: 41 OCC; 94 BCC; 50 TCC; 44 SCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 11 OCC; 24 BCC; 7 TCC; 5 SCC; many more winter reports than usual, of well dispersed single birds. Brown Creeper: two OCC; 17 BCC; two SCC. Carolina Wren: five BCC; reported regularly from Port Dickinson. Mockingbird: 15 BCC; four TCC; Brown Thrasher: one at Kirkwood Jan. 14 (RS). Am. Robin: 550 BCC; four TCC; one SCC; several reports of "hundreds" in various Triple Cities localities with good wild berry crops, until at least Jan. 18—also many reports of one to five birds during that same period; heard singing Feb. 20 Endwell. Hermit Thrush: one Sherburne Jan. 14 (CB). E. Bluebird: eight BCC, split among reports of three different parties; migrants—two at Apalachin Feb. 23. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 15 BCC; one SCC; eight at Walton Feb. 22, the only other report. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Norwich Dec.

23 (JL), with descriptive details. Cedar Waxwing: 91 OCC; 1050 BCC; 692 TCC; 120 SCC; best wintering numbers on record, but very few after mid-Jan. No. Shrike: one BCC; one Kattellville Jan. 1 and one two or three miles north of there, at Chenango Forks, Jan. 31; no others. Starling: 143 OCC; 7026 BCC; 761 TCC; 574 SCC; Binghamton count mostly of flock roosting in Court House Square area.

VIREOS-WARBLED: none.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: 553 OCC; 1011 BCC; 761 TCC; 574 SCC. E. Meadowlark: one TCC, the only report all winter. Red-winged Blackbird: one BCC; only three other winter reports; migrants Feb. 19. Rusty Blackbird: one Port Dickinson Feb. 11; no others. Com. Grackle: one BCC; one TCC; the only winter reports; migrants Feb. 21. Brown-headed Cowbird: 13 BCC; one TCC; a flock of about 20 at Norwich from mid-Jan. thru the first week of Feb. otherwise only very occasional reports of one to four birds from almost all reporting parts of the Region. Cardinal: 34 OCC; 153 BCC; 77 TCC; 55 SCC; one singing Jan. 15 at Hillcrest. Evening Grosbeak: 459 OCC; 233 BCC; 183 TCC; 577 SCC; considerable numbers present away from feeders-absent or only sporadically present at many feeders. Purple Finch: 14 OCC; 88 BCC; nine TCC; nine SCC; small numbers present all season in the Triple Cities area; also reported from Norwich and Oneonta. House Finch: 30 OCC; 889 BCC; 407 TCC; also a flock of about 50 at a feeder in Norwich all season. Pine Grosbeak: 49 OCC; two BCC; 165 SCC; two Norwich Dec. 12, the first of the season; several reports of up to 40 birds from Chenango Co.; six at Delhi Jan. 21; 12 Choconut Center Feb. 22, last date. Com. Redpoll: nine OCC, first date; 315 BCC; 51 TCC; 242 SCC; otherwise only two reports of as many as 30 to 40 birds, but present in scattered small numbers to the end of the period. Pine Siskin: 208 BCC; 195 TCC; increasing thru Jan. to overpowering numbers at many feeders where sunflower seed and/or thistle seed was offered-seemed to almost completely displace House Finches at some such feeders and goldfinches at others, but no instance of displacing both reported. Am. Goldfinch: 58 OCC; 291 BCC; 215 TCC; 95 SCC; present all season in rather large numbers but unevenly distributed between feeders, apparently because of competition with siskins or House Finches. White-winged Crossbill: two OCC; six or more Feb. 21 Windsor (JR); no other reports. Rufous-sided Towhee: two OCC; one BCC, still present at Vestal Feb. 12; one TCC. Dark-eyed Junco: 63 OCC; 327 BCC; 242 TCC; 110 SCC; regular reports all season, mostly small numbers at feeders. "Oregon" Junco: one BCC, the same bird as reported in the fall season and present until at least Feb. 21. Tree Sparrow: 113 OCC; 226 BCC; 225 TCC; 399 SCC; numbers up from last year, but well below peaks of the more distant past. Chipping Sparrow: one at Chenango Lake, east of Norwich, Dec. 23 (DN, described to JL), not seen again. Field Sparrow: one BCC; one SCC; the only reports. HARRIS' SPARROW: Dec. 19 in Norwich, a large dark-headed sparrow with pink bill at feeder (Mrs. Lucy Briggs, described to JH), an inexperienced observer but able to identify bird from field guides later-bird did not return; Jan. 12 five miles n.e. of Norwich-another large dark-headed sparrow at a feeder (described to JL), observer a little more experienced, knowledgeable about common birds at feeder-again the bird not seen again; the two observers did not know each other and the second was not aware of the first's report. White-crowned Sparrow: one Jan. report from Owego, but no details. White-throated Sparrow: 11 OCC; 195 BCC, highest count ever; 75 TCC; 22 SCC; no reports of over ten at a time after Jan. 10, but present at several feeders all season. Swamp Sparrow: two BCC; one TCC; no others reported. Song Sparrow: three OCC; 43 BCC; eight TCC; 15 SCC; possibly migrants Feb. 18. Lapland Longspur: two BCC; probably more common than records indicate but an inconspicuous species in a frequently ignored habitat. Snow Bunting: 50 OCC; 25 BCC; 50 TCC; 27 SCC; of a half-dozen other reports two flocks of approximately 150 each Dec. 15 near West Winfield, but within northern edge of Otsego Co., were the max counts and 25 to 50 at Hillcrest Feb. 16 were the last.

710 University Ave., Endwell, New York 13760