

WLi, WS); one H 2-4 Feb (KB, PR); two Irondequoit 4 Feb (L & NM); one Penfield 17 Feb (R & MM); and one H 20 Feb (MD, KG); Com. Redpoll: max 600 Canadice Lake 27 Dec; Pine Siskin: fairly scarce until late Feb; Red Crossbill: max 13 Greece 20 Dec; and White-winged Crossbill: max 12 Sodus 24 Dec. Few half-hardy sparrows lingered. Among the reports were: Savannah Sparrow: one Avon 13 Dec (J & AF); Field Sparrow: seven reports; and White-crowned Sparrow: four Kendall 31 Jan. Typical low numbers of White-throated, Swamp, and Song Sparrows wintered. Tree Sparrow numbers were high, particularly early when a new high count of 806 was recorded for the LSCBC 19 Dec. Among the scarce Dark-eyed Juncos was one "OREGON" JUNCO: Webster thru Jan (MAS, mob, photos). The peak Lapland Longspur count was: 30 WL 16 Jan. Snow Buntings wintered in large flocks: 600 WL 31 Dec; 5000 WL 15 Jan; 9000 WL 24 Jan (KG); 2000 H 14 Feb; and 1000 K 20 Feb.

As a final note, in spite of some of the gloom above, there was really nothing shockingly missing this winter; it was more a case of having to work hard to find the birds under often miserable weather conditions and the lack of anything really special to pique interest. The regional species total of 120 was not really terribly low for Winter.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Looking back one remembers this as a rather rugged winter. December was about normal in both temperature and precipitation with the coldest days and the most snow about mid-month. January started mild but soon changed to severe cold with sub-zero days made more unbearable by high winds. Precipitation was below normal but, with no thawing days for three weeks, the snow accumulated. A brief thaw at the end of the month was followed by more extreme cold and ice storms that benefited neither man nor birds. Mid-February brought a welcome warm spell. The month closed with more cold. Precipitation was below normal.

There were six Christmas Bird Counts conducted in Region 3, as follows:

Name	Date	Numbers		
		Participants	Species	Birds
Central Cayuga	1 Jan	7	51	27,193
Elmira	1 Jan	26	48	9,565
Geneva	26 Dec	15	76	24,679
Ithaca	1 Jan	120	69	13,200
Montezuma*	1 Jan	7	44	22,754
Watkins Glen	27 Dec	5	50	2,327

*Only that portion of the count area lying in Region 3.

Seasonal positives: 1) encouraging reports of accipiters and Marsh Hawks though they are still far from their former abundance; 2) good numbers of Rough-legged Hawks from the southern Finger Lakes to the Pennsylvania line; 3) continued increase in Turkey numbers and territory; 4) a tremendous move-

ment of several thousand gulls heading south over Watkins Glen on 11 Jan. Were they leaving in advance of the sub-zero cold, high winds and ice storms?, 5) the best "winter finch" season in several years with fair to good numbers of all species including three reports of Hoary Redpolls; 6) more than the usual number of Lapland Longspur sightings; 7) good numbers of Snow Buntings.

Seasonal negatives: 1) very few diving ducks or wintering gulls at the south end of Seneca Lake. No rafts of ducks; 2) continued low numbers of Ring-necked Pheasants and Carolina Wrens; 3) few overwintering American Robins, Golden-crowned Kinglets, icterids, White-throated or Song Sparrows; 4) weather which encouraged birders to be feeder watchers rather than field observers.

Rarities: Red-throated Loon, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Common Raven, Fish Crow, Boreal Chickadee, Hoary Redpoll.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; CC—Christmas Count; Co—County; L—lake; max—maximum; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen—Seneca; Pomp—Tompkins; WC—January Waterfowl Count; * (starred)—Details on file.

Contributors and compilers: W. E. Benning, Jack Brubaker (Watkins Glen), John Confer, Vernon Dewey (MNWR), Bernice Hilfiker, Wilfred Howard, Herbert & Polly Keating, Helen Lapham, Malcolm Lerch (Penn Yan), Dorothy McIlroy (Ithaca), Paris Trail, Jeffery Walters, and Mary Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: ten north of Hammondsport on Keuka L in early Feb. **RED-THROATED LOON:** one at Myers Point, Cayuga L, 13 Feb (E. Gates)*. Horned Grebe: continues to be scarce with maximums of six on the Geneva CC and eight at Union Springs 7 Feb. Pied-billed Grebe: six on three CCs; four on the WC; up to four overwintered on Sen L at Watkins Glen. Great Blue Heron: reports of eight birds attempting to overwinter. At least four made it into Feb. Whistling Swan: two at Geneva 25 Dec and two at Union Springs 22 Feb. Canada Goose: 30,000 MNWR 10 Dec; 46,702 on five of the CCs with 15,000 plus on each of the Central Cay, Geneva and Montezuma counts; 19,108 on Cay L for the WC; 7,000 on the west shore on Cay L 29 Jan and 8,000 on the east shore 7 Feb. Snow Goose: one on Central Cay and two on Geneva CCs; four Sheldrake 14 Feb. More than the usual number of winter reports.

Maximum waterfowl numbers as reported by the Montezuma Refuge personnel:

Mallard	50,000	10 Dec	Canvasback	50	7 Dec
Black Duck	9,000	10 Dec	Greater Scaup	150	6 Dec
Gadwall	250	10 Dec	Com. Goldeneye	30	16 Feb
Pintail	300	7 Dec	Bufflehead	75	7 Dec
Am. Wigeon	200	7 Dec	Ruddy Duck	10	7 Dec
N. Shoveler	150	7 Dec	Hooded Merganser	40	7 Dec
Redhead	20	7 Dec	Com. Merganser	100	7 Dec
Ring-necked Duck	30	7 Dec			

Mallard: 1,280 CCs; 3,301 WC. Black Duck: 886 five CCs; 986 WC. Gadwall: 18 Geneva CC and reported thru the period from Sen L; five WC on Cay L. Green-winged Teal: one on Central Cay CC was the only report. Am. Wigeon: one Caton 4 Dec; all other reports were from Cay L with max 15 on Central Cay CC. Wood Duck: WC found six Cay L and one Keuka L. Redhead: 4,000 Central Cay CC; 2,000 Keuka L; 5,808 WC. Ring-necked Duck: one Keuka L only report. Canvasback: 755 on three CCs; 2,468 WC. Greater Scaup: 491 on three CCs; 308 WC. Lesser Scaup: 15 Geneva CC; 48 WC. Com. Goldeneye: 189 on three CCs; 637 WC. Bufflehead: 69 on two CCs; 169 WC. Oldsquaw: 37 Geneva CC; two Sheldrake 24 Jan. White-winged Scoter: one south end Sen L 27 Dec; one Ithaca 23 Jan and 7 Feb. Ruddy Duck: two on Geneva CC was the only report. Hooded Merganser: four WC.

Com. Merganser: 144 on five CCs; 108 WC. Red-breasted Merganser: 120 Ithaca CC and one Elmira CC.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: a very unusual winter record of six or seven soaring west of Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca 4 Feb (M. Barclay). Goshawk: reported from Geneva, Ithaca and Odessa. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks: 11 of each on the CCs. Widespread reports of increasing activities of these birds around feeders. Red-tailed Hawk: 138 on CCs, Red-shouldered Hawk: one south of Geneva 30 Jan (JW)*. Rough-legged Hawk: eight at MNWR 14 Dec but most observations were from the southern part of the region with 26 of the 37 CC sighting from Elmira. Marsh Hawk: nine on five CCs. Am. Kestrel: 130 on the CCs with 62 of them on the Geneva Count. Ruffed Grouse: the Ithaca CC had 27 of the 55 recorded on five CCs. Ring-necked Pheasant: still very scarce but all CCs recorded the species for a total of 36 with 24 on the Ithaca count. Turkey: ten each Ithaca 30 Jan and Bluff Point in Feb; many sightings in Chemung Co. Am. Coot: 165 on three CCs with Ithaca having 109; 509 WC. Killdeer: a remarkable 40 at MNWR 4 Dec; an overwintering bird at Phelps 8 Feb. Am. Woodcock: one Ithaca at the unusual date of 5 Jan (S. Weeks). Com. Snipe: an overwintering bird at Phelps in the same spot where the species plus Killdeer and Great Blue Herons often overwinter.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: CCs total 4,492 with 1,312 at Elmira, Mourning Dove: 803 of the 1,344 found on the CCs were at Geneva; at Elmira MW had up to 200 regularly at her feeding station. Monk Parakeet: the Elmira bird is still present. Screech Owl: 12 MNWR 3 Dec, and seven on three CCs. Great Horned Owl: ten MNWR 31 Dec and 24 on five CCs; nest at Montour Falls late Feb. Snowy Owl: one MNWR 2 Dec; one Lansing early Jan; one Ithaca 3 Feb. Barred Owl: two MNWR 15 Dec; singles on Geneva and Ithaca CCs; in Feb one at Camp Dittmer, Phelps, responded to the noon whistle at Clifton Springs by calling three times. Short-eared Owl: up to five at Milo Center, ten at Hall and 12 at Elmira; singles south of Ovid 29 Jan, Ithaca 5 Feb and two at Sheldrake 14 Feb. Saw-whet Owl: one Camp Dittmer, Phelps, late Feb. Com. Flicker: 60 on the CCs with 28 at Geneva. Pileated Woodpecker: Ithaca had 17 of the 23 found on the CCs. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 95 on the CCs mostly at Geneva and Ithaca. Red-headed Woodpecker: singles at Geneva 26 Dec and Waterbury southwest of Trumansburg 25 Jan. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: singles on the Geneva and Ithaca CCs, Myers Point 15 Jan, Ithaca 6 Feb and at Phelps. Hairy Woodpecker: 133 on all CCs. Downy Woodpecker: 460 on CCs. **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** one male Camp Dittmer, Phelps. 12 Dec. thru, photographed (P. Trail *et al.*)

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: a very early migrant Ithaca 28 Feb. Horned Lark: three CCs found 107. Blue Jay: 7,936 CCs with some reports of fewer than usual. **COMMON RAVEN:** two or three Arnot Forest early Dec; one east of Conn Hill, Tomp Co 4 Jan. **FISH CROW:** three Ithaca CC. Black-capped Chickadee: 2,586 on the CCs with 1,658 at Ithaca. **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** one at Camp Dittmer was known to have stayed for about one week (P. Trail *et al.*). Tufted Titmouse: 181 on CCs with 96 at Ithaca; reports indicate it is increasing. White-breasted Nuthatch: CCs 367. Red-breasted Nuthatch: five CCs 40. Brown Creeper: 25 on four CCs. Winter Wren: one Penn Yan Jan-Feb. Carolina Wren: Geneva, Elmira and Ithaca CCs totaled four birds. Also noted at Penn Yan, Odessa, Milliken Station and Phelps. Mockingbird: 24 of the 42 found on five CCs were at Ithaca. Gray Catbird: one Geneva 26 Dec. Brown Thrasher: one at Elmira at a feeder 14 Jan thru the period. Am. Robin: compared to last year's abundance everywhere, they were scarce with only three CCs reporting them for a total of 51. The only sizeable flock was 25 at Camp Dittmer in early Feb. Hermit Thrush: one Elmira 6 Feb. E. Bluebird: small numbers, up to eight, reported from Ithaca, Penn Yan, Lansing, Elmira and several Schuyler Co. locations. Golden-crowned Kinglet: generally scarce; 13 on 3 CCs. No. Shrike: three on two CCs; one south of Newark 21 Jan and one Ithaca 25 Jan. Starling: 12,558 on the CCs with 4,888 at Elmira.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: seven Camp Dittmer, Phelps thru late Dec.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird: 64 on five CCs, low. Rusty Blackbird: three Phelps during Feb. Com. Grackle: only 15 on four CCs. Brown-headed Cowbird: 97 on CCs. Cardinal: 718 on CCs with 314 at Ithaca. Evening Grosbeak: 1,111 on four CCs—nearly all in the southern portion of the region. Scattered reports of small numbers elsewhere. Purple Finch: 175 on Ithaca CC; also a few at Penn Yan, Watkins Glen, Odessa. House Finch: the upward spiral continues. The CCs totaled 1,523; up to 80 at Keating's feeder in Sen Falls. Pine Grosbeak: found at several locations in Tomp Co with 60 on the Ithaca CC; 12 Pine City 24 Jan and a small flock at Burdette in Feb. **HOARY REDPOLL**: one Clifton Springs 31 Jan (E. Donohue)*; at Dryden one 10 Feb, two 11 Feb, four 13 Feb (L. Stafford); one Mt. Zoar, Elmira 11 Feb thru (D. Clements). Com. Redpoll: biggest invasion year since 1977-78; 55 on three CCs with reports becoming more numerous and widespread thereafter, especially in Feb, with max of 350 at Tomp Co airport. Pine Siskin: 15 on the Ithaca CC; reported from Penn Yan, Elmira after 1 Jan, Watkins Glen feeders the last week of Feb. Am. Goldfinch: 1,044 on all CCs. Red Crossbill: Camp Dittmer, Phelps Jan (P. Trail); Danby 28 Jan (Dan Gray). White-winged Crossbill: 24 Brooktondale 5 Dec; up to 100 Ithaca Dec; 21 on the Elmira CC and several sightings later; Trumansburg and Camp Dittmer Jan; Ithaca, Arnot Forest and Penn Yan Feb. Rufous-sided Towhee: six on the Ithaca CC was an unusual find. Savannah Sparrow: one Central Cay CC. Dark-eyed Junco: 440 on the CCs mostly from the Elmira and Ithaca areas. Tree Sparrow: 440 on the CCs. After two years of low numbers in some areas they are coming back. At Penn Yan ML banded 75 against only two for each of the past two years. Field Sparrow: one at Ithaca and three at Elmira all on 1 Jan. White-crowned Sparrow: one Elmira 16 Jan the only report. White-throated Sparrow: 110 on the CCs. Generally considered to be down. Song Sparrow: scarce with only 48 on the CCs. Lapland Longspur: reported from Penn Yan; 9 Elmira 12 Feb; up to six in the Ithaca area 13-14 Feb. Snow Bunting: 3,267 on the CCs with 2,319 from the central Cay count; reports of flocks from all parts of the region.

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

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET T. MARSI

December was mild, with never enough snow to cover the wild seed crop. Rivers and lakes were open. January continued mild until the sixth, when winter arrived with a vengeance. For the next three-and-one-half weeks, overnight thermometers consistently read below zero, and daytime temperatures never higher than the mid-twenties and more often were in the mid-teens. Little snow fell except for one storm January 23rd, accompanied by wild, driving winds. The eight inches registered accumulation drifted one to two feet deep, effectively covering many field plants. This condition remained until the night of January 31st when a warm, lashing rainstorm of over two inches hit the southern part of the region, washing away most of the snow, and ending one of the coldest Januaries on record. In contrast, February's temperatures were 1.6 degrees higher than normal. Snow was 6.9 inches below normal and spread out during the month. Thus two weather trends predominated for the season, namely, a long, sustained, bitter cold spell and little snow cover except for the last week of January. A third environmental factor should be mentioned, and that is a very poor wild berry crop.