

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.

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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.

The severe weather did not apparently negatively impact most of the normal winter species or those expanding their winter territories north. Although three of the four Red-bellied Woodpeckers reported were Christmas Census birds with no further details, the Newark Valley observer reported a bird "in residence, more or less, since last October or so . . . feeding regularly, every morning and often in the afternoon, eating mostly suet." (LD). Tufted Titmice, Cardinals, Mourning Doves, House Finches and White-throated Sparrows thrived on feeder fare. Mockingbirds seemed more abundant than ever. One observer noted three, and one day five, birds regularly in his yard, until the last week in January. They first stripped his Mountain Ash, then his *Pyrocantha* and finally his Barberry. When these foods were exhausted, the birds left (BB). Only the Carolina Wren showed noticeable attrition after mid-January. These birds depend on suet to survive. Suet, frozen solid, would be tough on a wren's bill. The deep freeze did not appreciably alter the pattern for ducks and geese either. Rivers and lakes freeze over every year. A thin layer of ice is just as formidable as a thick one. As might have been anticipated, the high December count of Great Blue Herons (9) dwindled to one for the rest of the period.

Some species may have been affected by the light snow cover. Turkey reports, for example, were very high. The snow, too light to cover their food, made their dark silhouettes easily visible. The "winter finches" also found adequate food in the wild, apparently coming to feeders only after the January storm when small bands of Pine Siskins and large congregations of Common Redpolls descended upon the dependable food supply. Accompanying this was the usual flurry of reports of predators at feeders. At one station a Sharp-shinned Hawk, diving after a bird, struck a window, leaving a clear imprint of its body and feathering on the pane (LB). Two Northern Shrikes were also reported during the same period at feeders. Evening Grosbeaks seemed to prefer wild food as their presence at feeders was sporadic, though they were reported often in the wild. Also in the field, many small flocks of Pine Grosbeaks were seen, observers often noting their trusting nature. One reporter commented, "Talking quietly and imitating the soft, whistling calls, we watched the flock . . . until our necks got stiff. The grosbeaks sat and chewed through sumac fuzz, watching us and whistling among themselves." (RM). White-winged Crossbills made several February appearances. Only one Red Crossbill report came in. Horned Lark and Snow Bunting reports were normal. The paucity of wild berries was reflected in the small numbers of "half-hardies" reported. Cedar Waxwings, American Robins, Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds were down after December. Only one Eastern Bluebird was seen. A few Common Flickers made it through the winter, one reported in January feeding on sumac (GK).

The only rarity for the period was the Hoary Redpoll. There were two well-documented reports, one in Newark Valley (JB) and one in Norwich (JL). A third was reported banded in Endicott, without details.

Abbreviations: BCC—Binghamton Christmas Count 27 Dec; CCC—Cortland Christmas Count 20 Dec; DOCC—Delaware-Otsego Christmas Count 19 Dec; TCC—Tioga Christmas Count 1 Jan; WFC—Federation Waterfowl Census.

Observers: Jean Barnes, Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Don Bell, Judy Bell (JB), Don Bemont, Les Bemont (LB), Herb Bennett, Lois & Steve Bingley, Bruce Bozdos (BB), Nancy Brundage, Ted Buckley, Alvin Carpenter, Jane Chittenden, Mildred & Peter Clark, Reeve

Clark, Doreen Curtin, Anna & Marilyn Davis (A & MD), Louise Dean (LD), John Dillon, Mrs. Dixon, Mary Dobinsky (MD), Sadie Dorber, Polly & Earl Getkin, Claire Gottschall, Pauline Gray, Gerald & Audrey Gregory, Cherylin Greiner, Miriam Hartman, Shirley Hartman, Elma Holway, Claude Howard, Pearl Johnson, Ruth Jones, Cay Jordan (CJ), Paul Kalka, Eugene Kirch, Gail Kirch (GK), John Knapik, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman (JL), Florence Linaberry (FL), Anne & Harvey Loomis, Clarence Manning, Andrew Mason, Harriet Marsi (HM), Rick Marsi (RM), Leona McDowell, Bud & Evelyn Mead, David Messinco (DM), Louise Moore (LM), Robt. Miller, Edith & Leon Nettleton, S. Nively, Robt. Oggins, Robert & Steve Pantle (R & SP), Robt. Paratley, Kay Perkins (KP), Chuck Pettis (CP), M. Reynolds, Jean & Robt. Saunders (J & RS), Joe Sedlacek (JS), Mary Sheffield (MS), Robert Sheffield (RS), Sean Strohofer, Chris Theophanis, Loretta Thompson, Eliz. Washburn, Anne Whitaker, Connie Whitcomb (CW), Beryl & Tom Wilson, Kathryn Wilson (KW), Gerald & Irene Wright, Cliff Yates, Giovanna Zevan.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: one 27 Dec seen feeding along the south bank of the Susquehanna R below the confluence with the Chenango R (HM, BB, JS). Horned Grebe: One 16 Jan found floundering in a backyard in the snow in Cherry Valley, was transported to the Susquehanna R near Cooperstown (LM). Great Blue Heron: Two BCC, one DOCC, two TCC, four others, all Dec, all Broome Co., one Jan Delhi. Canada Goose: 140 CCC, 11 TCC; four other Dec reports, two flocks at Oxford, one of which was estimated to be 103+, (A & MD), one group at Whitney Point Reservoir and a flock of 75 on Otsego Lake (MD); 134 were reported on WFC, including a flock of 100 seen in Windsor flying south (CP); no reports from early Jan through Feb. Mallard: 175 BCC, 72 CCC, 334 WFC. Black Duck: 15 BCC, one TCC, 302 WFC; 37 23 Feb Pepacton Reservoir Outlet (JL). Canvasback: one 13 Jan Susquehanna R at Chenango Forks (GK, FL). Com. Goldeneye: one BCC, 30 TCC, 57 WFC. Hooded Merganser: one 16 Jan below Rockbottom Dam in Binghamton (J & RS). Com. Merganser: nine TCC, 58 WFC.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Goshawk: one 21 Feb south of Gilford, "an obvious accipiter, larger than a crow, sitting in a tree so that its white underparts were clearly discernible. Pigeons around the farm were seen flying into the woods." (JL). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one BCC, one CCC, two DOCC, one TCC; 11 other reports were received. Of these five came from one feeding station, three from another and one from a third. Cooper's Hawk: one BCC, two TCC; one other reported 19 Dec Vestal; one in Jan in Tioga Co; two in Feb, one in Endwell, one in Vestal. Red-tailed Hawk: three BCC; one CCC, two DOCC, six TCC; many other single reports well-dispersed through the area and the period. Rough-legged Hawk: three CCC, four DOCC, one TCC; two other reports, one 19 Dec Owego, one Feb Otselic. Bald Eagle: four WFC at Cannonsville Reservoir; one 7 Jan at Pepacton Reservoir and one ad 11 Feb at Fish's Eddy. Am. Kestrel: five BCC, two DOCC, five TCC—as usual several others during period. Ruffed Grouse: five BCC, three CCC, seven TCC. There were several other reports from Owego, Vestal east, north central Vestal, Oneonta. However, hunters complained of a poor season. Ring-necked Pheasant: one BCC, three CCC. No other reports. Turkey: two CCC, two DOCC, one TCC; 11 other reports well-dispersed through the area and the period. Several were of flocks of 14 to 25 which were seen regularly in a particular vicinity. Herring Gull: 17 BCC, one DOCC, 15 TCC. There were the usual several reports of individual birds seen cruising the rivers but one report of 60 birds on Otsego Lake 29 Dec (MD) deserves separate mention. Ring-billed Gull: seven BCC, one TCC; one 3 Jan Newark Valley the only other report.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: 401 BCC, 218 CCC, 598 DOCC, 515 TCC. Mourning Dove: 60 BCC, 175 CCC, 183 DOCC, 116 TCC. Common throughout area throughout period. Screech Owl: one BCC, one CCC; one Jan Tioga Co; two Feb Otselic. Great Horned Owl: 12 BCC, one CCC, one DOCC, three TCC. Several other scattered reports during period. Barred Owl: one 22 Dec Oneonta (KW). Belted Kingfisher: six BCC, one CCC, one DOCC, one TCC. Also reported in Jan from Tioga and Broome Cos. and in Feb at Chenango Valley State Park. Com. Flicker: one BCC, one CCC, one TCC; two other

reports both from Vestal but so far apart that two different birds are probably involved. Pileated Woodpecker: one BCC, one TCC; nine other scattered reports in period. Red-bellied Woodpecker: four TCC (R & SP), one Newark Valley all period (LD). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one frequently seen at a suet feeder during Jan and Feb in Choconut Center (MS). Hairy Woodpecker: seven BCC, 33 CCC, 19 DOCC, eight TCC. Downy Woodpecker: 44 BCC, 71 CCC, 28 DOCC, 49 TCC.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: none reported on Christmas Counts; large flock (estimated 75) Jan through Feb in outlying Union (CW). In Feb four reports: six birds near barnyard in Sanitaria Springs, 40 outside Norwich (JL), 20 Edson Corners (MD, KW), a "large flock" Whitney Point (A & MD). Blue Jay: 115 BCC, 206 CCC, 320 DOCC, 144 TCC. Com. Crow: 158 BCC, 442 CCC, 297 BOCC, 433 TCC. Black-capped Chickadee: 318 BCC, 279 CCC, 288 DOCC, 372 TCC. Tufted Titmouse: 17 BCC, ten CCC, none DOCC, seven TCC; several other reports in Broome Co during period, one from Tioga Co and four reports from one observer in Norwich. White-breasted Nuthatch: 41 BCC, 38 CCC, 34 DOCC, 50 TCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: six BCC, none CCC, seven DOCC, one TCC. A few other scattered reports from Endwell, Tioga Co, Vestal, Walton, Oneonta. Brown Creeper: four BCC, four CCC, four TCC; two reports of birds singing, one 25 Feb, one 27 Feb, both Norwich (JL). Carolina Wren: none reported on a Christmas Census. However, there were seven different locations in the Vestal-Endwell area and one in Tioga Co where birds were reported. Two birds north of those areas were reported, one in Norwich and one in Meridale. Mockingbird: two BCC, none CCC, two DOCC, six TCC; several records well-dispersed over the area during the period, coming from Vestal, Binghamton, Newark Valley, Oneonta, Lounsberry, Norwich and Johnson City. Am. Robin: five BCC, one TCC, three other reports from different areas in Broome Co in Dec. No others until 20 Feb when three showed up in Vestal. E. Bluebird: one 7 Jan Apalachin. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two BCC, three CCC; only two other reports, one 14 Feb Chenango Valley State Park, the other Norwich. Cedar Waxwing: 88 BCC; a Dec. report of a flock of 25 in Vestal; the only other report was of a single bird seen in Norwich. No. Shrike: one imm 26 Jan in East Vestal at a feeder; one ad 8 Feb in West Vestal at a feeder. A shrike sp. was also reported in Norwich on CCC. Starling: 5,004 BCC, 198 CCC, 342 DOCC, 829 TCC.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: None.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: 252 BCC, 590 CCC, 319 DOCC, 697 TCC. Red-winged Blackbird: one BCC, one CCC, one DOCC, three TCC; one 30 Dec through 1 Jan, Middlefield and one 3 Jan Tioga Co the only other reports for period. Com. Grackle: five BCC, two DOCC, one TCC; three other winter birds, Tioga Co, Walton, Oneonta. The flock of 25 reported 27 Feb were probably spring migrants. Brown-headed Cowbirds: 25 TCC. Three Jan reports, Tioga Co, Port Dickinson, Vestal Center. Cardinal: 48 BCC, 38 CCC, 34 DOCC, 97 TCC. Evening Grosbeak: 139 BCC, 230 CCC, 332 DOCC, 248 TCC; reported regularly from all areas from early Dec through entire period. Purple Finch: 16 BCC, one CCC, none DOCC, one TCC; very few reports; one seen regularly at a feeder in Vestal in Dec and in Feb (B & TW); two females 24 Jan in Norwich (JL). House Finch: 184 BCC, two CCC, none DOCC, 169 TCC. There were many reports from Broome, Tioga and Chenango Cos. Reports from Otsego, Delaware and Cortland Co. were sparse. One observer in Johnson City had an albino bird. He noted that it was not at his feeder daily but showed up at fairly regular intervals, leading him to speculate that there might be rotating flocks and the 60 he counted daily might not be the same birds. If so the number of birds would be far greater (BB). Pine Grosbeak: none BCC, 15 CCC, 31 DOCC, 16 TCC; a banner year for this species; over 25 reports from all sections of the region. **HOARY REDPOLL:** three well-documented reports: in Newark Valley a male and female were observed 5 Feb periodically between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at a distance of eight feet. The "entire bird was whiter all over with no real brown tones to it . . . the rump and undertail coverts were unstreaked . . . the male had a light pink wash on rump . . . breast likewise" (JB). The birds returned 6 Feb. On 24 Feb at the same station a Hoary Redpoll was again observed. There

was no way of knowing if it was one of the previous visitors. In Norwich, at one station on 4 Feb "a very light (white) colored" bird was observed. On 20 Feb a "very light and frosty colored male (pink on breast, crown and rump) bird" was reported and on 28 Feb "seen at 50 ft. with 8x binoculars, preening with back towards me, turned to side also, very light streaking on the sides down near undertail coverts, sides almost totally white, no streaking on undertail coverts or rump . . . totally light pink" (JL). Another Hoary Redpoll was reported banded in Endicott. No details. Pine Siskin: three TCC; no other Christmas Counts reported them; there were scattered reports of small groups at feeding stations from Broome and Tioga Cos. and one report from Oneonta. Am. Goldfinch: 178 BCC; 30 CCC; 64 DOCC; 237 TCC; large flocks (up to 150) reported frequently both in the wild and at feeders and from all areas. Red Crossbill: one DOCC the only report. White-winged Crossbill: none reported on a Christmas Count. There were six reports at other times during the period: 23 Dec and 16 Jan from Oneonta (MD, MD & KW), 22 Feb Binghamton (CJ), 24 Feb and 27 Feb Delhi at same feeding station by same observer (MC) and two other Broome Co. reports with no details. Rufous-sided Towhee: one DOCC only report for season. Savannah Sparrow: one TCC only report for season. Dark-eyed Junco: 135 BCC, 50 CCC, 21 DOCC, 92 TCC; the usual number of feeding station reports from all areas through the period. "Oregon" Junco: one daily in Port Dickinson (KP). Tree Sparrow: 219 BCC, 202 CCC, 98 DOCC, 227 TCC; as usual reports from all sections throughout period. Chipping Sparrow: three CCC, only report. Field Sparrow: one TCC, only report. White-crowned Sparrow: one DOCC, one TCC, White-throated Sparrow: 36 BCC, one CCC, four DOCC, one TCC; many reports from Broome Co. feeding stations of anywhere from one to 12 birds staying all winter; otherwise one report from Norwich, one from Newark Valley and one from Oneonta. Swamp Sparrow: one BCC, one TCC. Song Sparrow: two BCC, 15 CCC, none DOCC, three TCC; only three other reports all winter, these from Broome and Tioga Cos. This seems to be a low count for this species. Snow Bunting: 77 CCC, no others on Christmas Counts; 11 other reports all during the season, a few from each area. One flock between Oneonta and Davenport was estimated to be between 200 or 300 birds (MD). Another in Otselic (DM) and one in Johnson City to be over 100 (CW).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL DeBENEDICTIS

The winter 1981-82 was, in general, mild and ornithologically dull. The cold weather that set in just prior to the Christmas Bird Counts was not relieved until mid-February. Precipitation for the winter was just about normal, even though this February was the seventh driest on record at Syracuse; total snowfall had just surpassed the annual average of 110 inches at the end of the season. January was very cold, averaging nearly 9° below normal and was the second coldest recorded at Syracuse. December and February were more nearly normal. The first, all too brief warm spell, came 15 February, but lasted only about 30 hours. The cold weather and persistent northerly winds left most waters frozen by late December. Oswego Harbor was full of ice for much of January. When the ice cleared, only a moderate number of waterfowl appeared, although this number included both Barrow's Goldeneye and King Eider. Dabbling ducks were very scarce this winter. The closing of many landfills, especially in Oswego, forces us to adopt a new base line for winter gull populations, especially of the "white-