

donia 19 Dec thru 27 Feb (DCar+); and Darien Center 22 to 26 Jan (TH), unusual for winter; Vesper Sparrow: two Town of Charlotte 5 Dec; Savannah Sparrow: two Town of Hanover 21 and 22 Jan (ASm, PSm), very very late (or early?); White-throated Sparrow: widely reported all season with max 20 Tuscarora Indian Reservation 21 Jan; White-crowned Sparrow: two Belmont all season; one imm Jamestown 22 Dec thru; and four Fredonia 30 Dec to 3 Jan, more than usual for winter; and HARRIS' SPARROW: one at J. Goetz' feeder, Fredonia, 9 to 21 Dec (JG, JF, TM, FR)—very very rare, and third occurrence in Chautauqua Co. (RS). From the sparse Snow Bunting reports, the max was 250± near Delevan in Feb. Good numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds were reported all season, with max 165+ at Kent Switch 1 Jan (coming or going? or did *they* know?). Other significant icterid reports include: E. Meadowlark: seven Fredonia 1 Dec; seven Town of Kiantone 22 Jan, not bad for winter; Rusty Blackbird: max 13 Town of Chautauqua 25 Feb (FR, LBk), a record winter high for upstate; plus five other reports of single Rusties; and N. Oriole: an ad male at Jamestown 7 to 19 Jan (RS, DG, Kerr), studied at the feeder. House Finches are still doing well with max reports: 86 Scio 6 Feb, and 85 Depew 28 Feb. The only "northern" finches noted were: Com. Redpoll: three on JmstCC; and one Jamestown 2 Jan; and Pine Siskin: five on JmstCC; and one Jamestown 6 Dec. Max report of Evening Grosbeaks was 48 Limestone 20 Jan, less than half the usual high count.

Addendum: to *The Kingbird* Vol. XXXIII No. 1, Winter 1983, an imm RAZORBILL on the Niagara R. swimming "on both sides of the International Boundary" near Fort Niagara SP 27 Nov (B. Duncan, KMcLaughlin *vide* JT, *The Prothonotary*, Vol. 48, No. 12, Dec. 1982), a first for our Region and second authentic inland NY State record.

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 – GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The prospects of a mild winter frequently elicit both favorable and unfavorable reactions from the general populace. The 1982-83 winter season was no exception. Thoughts of "half-hardies" lingered in the minds of many, yet the possibility of seeing no winter finches was clearly etched upon those same minds. These mild-wintered premonitions proved to be the case, but there were many interesting deviations from what might have been expected.

Summer, it seemed, lingered on into December with eight dates recording new high temperatures. A new high temperature for the month was attained on 3 December when the thermometers topped out at 72° F. Snowfall obviously was well below the norm with 11.6 inches, but general precipitation was only slightly below normal with a total of 2.17 inches. January brought with it some variety at least, with both warm and cold spells, yet the overall pattern continued to say the same thing. The average temperature was a balmy 3.8° above normal at 27.4° F. Total seasonal snowfall accumulations reached only a meager 24.8 inches. February was no exception. The heat wave continued with an average temperature of 29.1° F., a full 4.7° above normal. The measurable precipitation was 1.09 inches below the average at 1.23 inches.

As might have been expected, the winter season was dominated by various contrasts in populations. Loons tarried on the lake well into January as did Horned Grebes. Great Cormorant any year or season is a big plus. Open waters

produced areas for wintering Great Blue Herons. The ice-free lakes of the southern reaches of the Region harbored better than usual concentrations and numbers of puddle ducks for the Christmas Bird Counts. The wintering American Kestrel population was very good. A positive note on the Ring-necked Pheasant—it may have held its own this season as observations were up. A Pomarine Jaeger sitting on Charlotte Pier in January? What will appear next? A proliferation of Snowy Owl reports signaled a good season for this much sought after northern species. Multiple reports of Tree Swallows gave you a hint of what the climatic conditions were. The mimids fared well with catbird and thrasher reported, and the mild winter seemed to be to the mockingbird's liking as the population appears to be on an upswing. Northern Shrikes were well-reported. The Yellow-rumped Warblers of Mendon Ponds and Spencerport enjoyed strong populations, and an Ovenbird wintered in the Region due to a sheltered yard and gracious hosts. Wintering sparrows were up in numbers with Song, Swamp and White-throated reported regularly with a smattering of Field, White-crowned and even a Chipping. Red-winged Blackbirds made a strong showing. A Northern Oriole chose a sunflower feeder at which to spend a few December days and tarried long enough to be counted on the Rochester Christmas Bird Count. The story of the positives appears influenced, as might have been expected, by the unseasonable weather.

Quite possibly we might also attribute some of the negatives to those same conditions. The occasional duck visitors such as King Eider and Harlequin Duck went unreported, and most wintering duck populations stayed well out of reach of optical aids, thus making counting very difficult. Rough-legged Hawks were down. White-winged gull reports were few and far between due partially to the fact that there were few large gull concentrations. The absence of consistent ice in the proximity of open water was a deterrent to gull watching in general. Short-eared Owl reports came from new and varied locations, but the overall population may have been on the down side. The oft common Snow Buntings were tough to find, if they could be located at all. Other than a few Evening Grosbeaks and two Common Redpolls, winter finches were nonexistent. The positives appeared to outweigh the negatives, yet the season itself didn't lend easily to a frenzy of avian observation. On the other hand, I didn't hear too many birders complaining.

Rarities: Great Cormorant, Red-necked Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Tree Swallow, Ovenbird and Northern Oriole.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay area, CBC—Christmas Bird Counts, CH—Charlotte, CL—Conesus Lake, DC—Duck Census (L. Ontario), H—Hamlin Beach State Park, IB—Irondequoit Bay, IC—Island Cottage Woods, L—Letchworth State Park, M—Mendon Ponds, PB—Point Breeze, S—Sodus Bay, WL—West Lakeshore (Charlotte to Pt. Breeze).

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LOONS-DUCKS: Loons were reported from L. Ontario each month during the season. Red-throated Loon: three WL 3 Dec, one IB 29 Jan, good winter showing. Com. Loon: max three L. Ontario 15 Jan, one Pultneyville 20 Feb, very late. Grebes put in a relatively good season with Pied-billed Grebe: five CL 2 Jan. Horned Grebe: 13 L. Ontario 9 Jan (DC). Cormorant species—note the plural form—put in winter appearances in the Region. **GREAT CORMORANT:** one imm CH 9 Jan (MD, CP), viewed and studied as it flew over the pier. Double-crested Cormorant: one CH 18 Dec, one imm CL 1 Jan, and presumably the same individual at CL 5 Jan. Great Blue Heron: reports were good from Dec. and Jan., yet we were down to a single report during the first half of Feb. Where did they go? Mute Swan: one S 1-16 Feb. Tundra Swans were reported in Dec. and Jan. from open waters of Conesus and Silver Lakes as well as Sodus Bay. Brant: three H 9 Jan, one S 26 Jan-6 Feb. Canada Goose was noted regularly on L. Ontario with 400+ WL 30 Jan. Puddle ducks were well-reported due to open water on the southern lakes of the Region and the warm spell at February's terminus. Wood Duck: one female Pultneyville 1-31 Jan, two WL 26 Feb, early arrival. Green-winged Teal: two CL 26 Dec, two WL 27 Feb. Am. Black Duck: max 200 CL 23 Dec. N. Pintail: two WL 9 Jan, one CL 5 Jan, one WL 15 Jan, one BB 17 Feb. Blue-winged Teal: one BB 28 Feb, early arrival. Wintering diving ducks were present as usual. The open water made concentrations tough to find and observe. Ring-necked Duck: max 12 S 26 Jan, not always reported throughout the season. Greater Scaup: max 7,750 WL 3 Dec. Lesser Scaup: max 3,000 WL 3 Dec. Oldsquaw: 200 max WL 5 Dec. All three scoters were reported and White-winged did well as usual. Black Scoter: one Russell Station 22 Jan, last report. Surf Scoter: one WL 15 Jan, last report. White-winged Scoter: max 2,000 EL 31 Dec. Com. Goldeneye: max 2,000 WL 3 Dec. Bufflehead: good numbers present thru the season. Hooded Mergansers: three Round Pond 27 Feb, first migrants. Com. Merganser: plentiful. Red-breasted Merganser: seen thru the season.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Generally speaking, the hawks fared quite well. Accipiters were readily found and Red-tails and Am. Kestrels enjoyed a successful winter. Turkey Vulture: one early H 22 Feb. Bald Eagle: one ad Honeoye L. 26 Dec, one ad CL 1 Jan, one ad BB 27 Jan. N. Harrier: nine Lima 27-31 Dec (J & AF). The discovery of a harrier roost was most exciting. All three accipiters were well-reported with good records thru the reporting period. Rough-legged Hawk: reported but not very plentiful. Merlin: one Livonia intermittently from 1-29 Dec, one was photographed in Penfield, other details unknown. Peregrine Falcon: one H 26 Feb (RS). Ring-necked Pheasant: there were a fair number around during the season. How they fared during the mild winter remains to be seen. Wild Turkeys are still being reported regularly from the southern portions of the Region, while an apparent roost has been located near the lakeshore. Virginia Rail: one imm M 22 Jan, a traditional wintering spot. Am. Coot: reported each month during season. Killdeer: all three months saw reports of this hardy species. Open water springs provided wintering areas for individuals. Dunlin: one CH 4 Dec, a late individual. Com. Snipe: one Durand-Eastman Park 4 Dec, 14-17 IB 6-10 Dec, no reports after. Am. Woodcock: one Victor 28 Feb, displaying. **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** one IB 31 Dec, seen thru 5 Jan (BCa, mob). **POMARINE JAEGER:** one imm IB, CH 9 Jan (mob), the bird was present for two days before it disappeared. At times it could be observed sitting on the Charlotte pier. Little Gull: quite noticeable during Dec with a few lingering on into Jan, absent in Feb. Iceland Gull: one IB 31 Dec (MD, KG), one PB 16 Feb (MD, WS), an off year. Glaucous Gull: one PB 25-31 Jan, one IB 12 Feb, one Webster 14 Feb, one BB 27 Feb. Gr. Black-backed Gull: numbers were good again. Black-legged Kittiwake: one imm IB 11 Dec (MD, KG), bird was approaching adult plumage, unusual for the season.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Doves: doing quite well, numbers steady. E. Screech-Owl: they're always around if you look for them, 19 Leicester 18 Dec (WS), CBC. Interestingly enough, Snowy Owls had a great season. There were five plus reports thru period from several locations. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Pittsford 24 Feb, road kill. Open water brought Belted Kingfisher reports from Dec thru Feb, Woodpecker observations were about normal. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Leicester 18 Dec. N. Flicker: numerous sightings.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: max 260 7 Feb. **TREE SWALLOW:** Two separate reports of rare winter sightings came from the Region. One BB 6 Jan (CP, WS), eight Spencerport 13-17 Jan (B&CL). Tufted Titmouse: doing very well. Red-breasted Nuthatch: present locally during period. Carolina Wren: numerous reports, should have a good year due to winter conditions. Winter Wren: reports from Dec and Jan. Golden-crowned Kinglet: reported thru Feb. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one DE 11 Dec, one Oklahoma Beach 25 Jan, a road kill. E. Bluebird: 13 max CL 26 Dec, still making progress in southern portion of Region. Hermit Thrush: some reports, yet seemed low based on the type of winter we experienced. Gray Catbird: one Pittsford 11 Dec (AS), one H 20 Jan (MD), one Seneca Park 26 Feb (GH, TP). N. Mockingbird: well-reported. Brown Thrasher: one Greece 19 Dec (GM), one Rochester 14-15 Feb (MD, KG, PR). N. Shrike: good numbers thru reporting period.

VIREOS-WARBLED: One might have suspected that this section would have produced a few "half-hardies" for the season, yet for the most part that was not the case. Yellow-rumped Warbler: Mendon Ponds and a small area in Spencerport produced two good pockets of wintering birds with 30+ at Mendon and 15+ frequenting the Spencerport locale. **OVENBIRD:** one Greece 30 Dec thru Jan (A&MM). This bird spent a good portion of the season in a protected area around a feeding station.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rufous-sided Towhee: three reports in Dec, two reports in Feb, max two S 16 Feb. Am. Tree Sparrow: This boreal species was found in very good numbers during the season. Chipping Sparrow: one H 28 Dec (MD), a bit on the late side?, one MP 30 Jan, even later yet. Field Sparrow: one CL 26 Dec, reported thru remainder of period. Song Sparrow: many wintered over. Swamp Sparrow: they are found regularly during reporting period. White-throated Sparrow: more common than usual. White-crowned Sparrow: 13 PB 24 Dec, four-eight PB 1-15 Jan, pretty decent numbers for winter. Dark-eyed Junco: well reported thru season. Snow Buntings: strangely scarce. Lapland Longspur: present all three months, 90 Hamlin all thru Feb. The sparrows did extremely well this season, yet icterids and finches didn't parallel this tendency for the season. E. Meadowlark: one Retsof 23 Dec (MD), only one? Rusty Blackbird: three separate reports from Region, one each month. **NORTHERN ORIOLE:** a single female visited a Greece feeder from 12 thru 19 Dec (DM). Winter finches failed to put in much of an appearance this winter. Com. Redpoll: two Penfield 19 Jan (RC). Evening Grosbeak: scattered small flocks were present each month.

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REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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The Region experienced the mildest winter in many years with above average temperatures and little snow. The only real normal winter weather were a few days in mid-December, again in mid-January and finally the second week of February. Snow cover, when there was any, was light.

As usual this type of weather was not conducive to driving birds to the feeders. They were able to find ample food in the fields and remained there much to the disappointment of feeder watchers. The mild weather may have held the northern water birds—loons, grebes, diving ducks—to the north of here, as relatively few wintered on our lakes.