

Feb (NB); one Norwich 19 Dec "probable Northern" (JL); one Otselic 11 Dec (DM), two Otselic 14 Jan (DM). European Starling: 4,602 BCC; 387 DOCC; 882 SCC; 472 TCC; common thru.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Endicott station reports one bird, probably the same one, sighted 7 Jan-9 Jan, 12 Feb-13 Feb (JS).

TANAGERS—WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: 29 BCC; 16 DOCC; 22 SCC; 96 TCC; common thru. Am. Tree Sparrow: 22 BCC; 77 DOCC; 232 SCC; 151 TCC; many other reports, feeder reports of only one or two, roadside reports larger, up to 35. Field Sparrow: nine SCC; one TCC. Song Sparrow: eight BCC; one DOCC; 10 SCC; eight TCC; seven other Jan reports, six Broome Co, one Tioga Co, low for this species (open winter?). Swamp Sparrow: three SCC; five TCC. White-throated Sparrow: ten BCC; three DOCC; three SCC; four TCC; five other reports of one or two intermittently at feeders, four Broome Co, one Tioga Co, low for this species in past few years. White-crowned Sparrow: one DOCC. Dark-eyed Junco: 57 BCC; 68 DOCC; 81 SCC; 230 TCC; many reports thru area thru period. Snow Bunting: none. Red-winged Blackbird: one DOCC; one TCC; reported CCC but no numbers. Dec. reports of six Truxton, Cortland Co, and two Delhi. Jan. reports one Broome Co, one Tioga Co, one Delhi 1-5 Feb. E. Meadowlark: one Milford 11 Feb (MD). Rusty Blackbird: one report Tioga Co Dec, no details (AW). **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** 50 Binghamton 15 Jan; "at feeders, driven in by snowstorm; stayed about 15 min; observed at close range but through swirling snow; same shape as Rusty Blackbirds; at least some with light eyes but didn't check entire flock so can't say there were females with dark eyes; plumage on all seemed the same—dark with a slight sheen; there was definitely no rusty; it was mainly the total lack of rusty color which determined the conclusion these birds were Brewer's Blackbirds; a small number—about five—were observed briefly same place about a week later." (CH). Com. Grackle: eight SCC; one TCC; ten Windsor 4 Dec only other report (JS). Brown-headed Cowbird: one DOCC; one TCC; three Truxton 7 Dec (FO'L); one Delhi 16 Dec (MC); 2 Middlefield 28 Dec (NB); 100 Norwich 5 Jan (JL); 40 OPM 8 Jan (MD, KW); one Tioga Co Jan (LD). Pine Grosbeak: two BCC (ML, JC, EW); one Pharsalia State Lands 30 Jan (JL). Purple Finch: 22 BCC; 102 DOCC; 78 SCC; 106 TCC; several other reports thru period from OPM region "flocks of 10-25 feeding in ash trees," one Broome Co feeding station reported intermittent appearances of a flock of eight to ten; one station in Delhi had a similar flock of up to seven showing up off and on thru Jan; one female was reported in Newark Valley in Feb; and two Dec, one Jan report of two to four from Norwich. House Finch: 320 BCC; 18 DOCC; 248 SCC; 784 TCC, increasing everywhere but still low numbers in OPM and Delhi areas. White-winged Crossbill: one report of 15 Cortland 1 Jan (CD). Com. Redpoll: one BCC, only report. Pine Siskin: three BCC; four SCC; two Truxton 19 Dec (RP), one Endwell 24 Jan (FL); no other reports, low count. Am. Goldfinch: 96 BCC; 61 DOCC; 59 SCC; 213 TCC, all period everywhere in good numbers. Evening Grosbeak: 115 BCC; 296 DOCC; 325 SCC; 108 TCC; many reports from all areas but numbers generally low, no complaints about this species costing a fortune in sunflower seed this year. House Sparrow: 255 BCC; 505 DOCC; 467 SCC; 688 TCC; reports from all areas all period but several comments such as "scarce this year."

Box 1, Friendsville Stage, Binghamton, New York 13903

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBENEDICTIS

The winter of 1982-83 proved to be much tamer than most had predicted. The only two cold spells, the first two weeks of December and mid-January to mid-February, were only slightly cooler than seasonable. Most of the winter saw

temperatures considerably above normal. The season was very dry. With only a third of its average total, Syracuse was out of contention for the snowiest city in New York. Several local skiing events were curtailed or cancelled because of lack of snow. In fact, at the end of the season the real concern was the very low levels of our lakes, with no prospect for a significant spring runoff to replenish them.

The ground was generally open all winter. Your editor was able to complete the Syracuse Christmas Bird Count in canvas running shoes, something he had never expected possible, because of the absence of snow. These open conditions recurred several times during the winter. One expects numbers of "half-hardy" species to persist through such a winter, but they were little in evidence after mid-January. The one ornithologically significant weather event of the season, a severe ice storm in mid-January, is a likely explanation for their sudden disappearance. Several species, like Common Snipe, Hermit Thrush and Rusty Blackbird, were most notable for their near absence this winter.

Waterfowl were more difficult to categorize. Poor weather for the waterfowl census partially account for low numbers then, but later and under more favorable conditions, numbers generally remained low. Tundra Swan, Snow Goose and Brant persisted quite late this winter, but mid-winter counts of ducks were very low. White-winged gulls were present in the best numbers in some years, and single Thayer's Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull were the only true rarities of the season.

Irruptive species were little in evidence. Hawks and Northern Shrike were generally scarce, though Northern Harrier did better than in many winters, due to the open conditions. A few Snowy and Short-eared Owls were found, and Northern Saw-whet Owls were almost conspicuous in February. Numbers of American Robin and Cedar Waxwing were unexceptional, but both persisted conspicuously in western Oswego County, from whence they often vanish in winter. Golden-crowned Kinglets were found in very good numbers. Of the winter finches, only Evening Grosbeak and Purple Finch, the latter most unusually abundant, were conspicuous this winter. The few reports of our other winter finches all appear in the summaries below.

A review of past winter season reports from this and other regions indicates that more care is needed in describing the status of our winter avifauna. Reports should distinguish short-term from long persistent individuals, and note which species actually persist through the late winter when most open water is frozen. This can be accomplished by more carefully applying the three terms generally used for winter records: winter, wintering, and overwintering. In this regional report, a "winter record" implies a short-term stay, a "wintering record" implies a long-term stay, and "overwintering" implies persistence through the late winter. It is unfortunate that both the Christmas Bird Counts and the Federation's waterfowl census come so early in the winter that they fail to properly reflect the avifauna which actually overwinters in this Region.

Very mild weather at the end of February brought the return of raptors, crows and icterids to Derby Hill and elsewhere in the Region. Early Derby Hill totals rivaled the exceptional spring of 1981. It was a great pleasure to end the season with House Finches, Northern Cardinals and Red-winged Blackbirds singing widely in urban Syracuse. A total of 119 species were reported this

winter. The two gulls mentioned above were the only great rarities found. "Oregon" Juncos were reported for the first time since it was merged into Dark-eyed Junco, and the usual small numbers of Barrow's Goldeneye and King Eider, including a striking adult male of the latter, were found.

Contributors: Lee Chamberlain, Kate Coyle, Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, John Hanyak, Gene Huggins, Ruth Knight, George Maxwell, Margaret S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, Roy Slack, Gerald A. Smith, Greg Smith, Magdalena Stooks, Elba VanDresar.

Abbreviations: CBC—Christmas Bird Count; DH—Derby Hill, Oswego Co; FH—Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co.; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; NYSARC—report submitted to New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon—Onondaga; twsp—township.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: last LOL on 2 Dec. Com. Loon: five Skaneateles Lake 15 Jan is a good winter count; one overwintered Oswego and one FH 12 Feb. Pied-billed Grebe: singles overwintered Baldwinsville and Oswego. Horned Grebe: winter max 16 Oswego 6 Jan, last Skaneateles Lake 15 Jan. Double-crested Cormorant: last Oswego 19 Dec. Great Blue Heron: at least one overwintered along Oswego River. Tundra Swan: three near Bridgeport persisted to 15 Jan. Mute Swan: adult overwintered FH. Snow Goose: singles HIGMA 1 Jan and Oswego 13 Jan are our first, overdue winter records. Brant: singles near Bridgeport 9 Jan and Oswego to 13 Jan are record late. Canada Goose: max 1,776 Skaneateles Lake 15 Jan. Wood Duck: female overwintered Baldwinsville: arrival Brewerton 21 Feb. Green-winged Teal: last n. Onon Co 11 Dec. Am. Black Duck: max 311 Skaneateles Lake 15 Jan. N. Pintail: male overwintered on Oswego River; arrival FH 27 Feb. N. Shoveler: last Brewerton 18 Dec. Gadwall: last five Oswego River 27 Jan. Am. Wigeon: last FH 16 Dec. Canvasback: late winter max 15, may not have overwintered, arrival Brewerton 21 Feb. Redhead: late winter max four, may not have overwintered, arrival Brewerton 21 Feb. Ring-necked Duck: male persisted to 8 Feb Oswego, arrival FH 28 Feb. Greater Scaup: late winter max 650 Oswego. Lesser Scaup: late winter max seven Oswego. King Eider: about five individuals reported LOL including a regional first ad male Oswego 16-20 Feb. Oldsquaw: max 98 Oswego. Black Scoter: one Oswego 13-27 Jan. Surf Scoter: one Oswego 13 Jan. White-winged Scoter: one Oswego 13 Jan, three DH 27 Feb. Com. Goldeneye: late winter max 832 Oswego. Barrow's Goldeneye: two or three Oswego area thru early Feb. Bufflehead: late winter max 35 Oswego. Hooded Merganser: about four overwintered Brewerton, low. Com. Merganser: late winter max 1,400 Oswego. Red-breasted Merganser: late winter max 19. Ruddy Duck: 87 Onon Lake mid-Dec, last there 9 Jan.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arrival DH 28 Feb, early. Bald Eagle: imm FH 22-27 Jan, untagged. N. Harrier: one to three/day thru winter, arrival DH 19 Feb. Sharp-shinned Hawk: only singles all winter, scarce, arrival DH 20 Feb, record early. Cooper's Hawk: as above, arrival DH 20 Feb record early. N. Goshawk: scattered singles during winter, arrival DH 28 Feb. Red-shouldered Hawk: arrival DH 20 Feb, record early. Red-tailed Hawk: arrival DH 20 Feb. Rough-legged Hawk: widespread but scarce, arrival DH 20 Feb. Ring-necked Pheasant: none northern Pompey twsp this winter, where normally persistent, yet another sign of its continued decline in the Region. Ruffed Grouse: max 11 LOL 27 Jan is very high count. Am. Coot: last Onon Lake 17 Jan. Killdeer: last Jamesville 17 Jan, arrival Oswego 20 Feb. Bonaparte's Gull: last Oneida Lake 2 Jan, late. Ring-billed Gull: late winter max 2,000 Oswego. Herring Gull: late winter max 3,000 Oswego. **THAYER'S GULL:** imm Fulton 27 Jan (FGS, JH, NYSARC). Iceland Gull: max six Oswego River mid-Feb. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** near ad Oswego 19-20 Feb (FGS, RK, GAS). Glaucous Gull: max eight Oswego River early Feb. Great Black-backed Gull: late winter max 110 Oswego.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: late winter max 190. Snowy Owl: about six reported during the winter. Long-eared Owl: one S. Onon 13-16 Feb. Short-eared Owl: at least six overwintered near Central Square. N. Saw-whet Owl: about six reported, much above average, including an apparently territorial pair near Palermo. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: two Syracuse CBC 18 Dec rather late. N. Flicker: very scarce after mid-Jan.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: last LOL 5 Dec, arrival s. Onon Co. 29 Jan. Am. Crow: 10,000 past DH after 19 Feb. Tufted Titmouse: widespread, to four/day. Red-breasted Nuthatch: to three/day widespread thru winter. Carolina Wren: only report of one overwintering Fayetteville. Winter Wren: last Skaneateles CBC 29 Dec. Golden-crowned Kinglets: late winter max ten, best since 1968. E. Bluebird: four Oneida in Dec (*fide* EV), five W. Camillus valley thru 27 Jan (GAS). Hermit Thrush: one northern Pompey twsp 22 Jan (DWC) only report for winter. Am. Robin: mid-winter max 20 most unexceptional. Gray Catbird: last Syracuse CBC 18 Dec. N. Shrike: about nine reported, seldom persistent, rather sparse.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: last two Camillus valley 13 Jan. Com. Yellowthroat: last Skaneateles CBC 29 Dec, late.

TANAGERS—WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: mid-winter max 30/day, low. Field Sparrow: last Syracuse CBC 16 Dec. Song Sparrow: 28 on 9 Jan, to five/day after mid-Jan. Swamp Sparrow: one overwintered S. Onon. White-throated Sparrow: to 25/day, rather widespread. Dark-eyed Junco: to six/day; two "Oregon"-type northern Pompey twsp 22 Jan-6 Feb (DWC), first reports since 1973. Snow Bunting: max only 100 near Phoenix, low. Red-winged Blackbird: small numbers overwintered Syracuse (max 17), arrival DH 21 Feb. E. Meadowlark: only two singles reported all winter. Rusty Blackbird: last n. Onon Co. 11 Dec, usually overwinters. Com. Grackle: two mid-winter reports only, arrival Phoenix 16 Feb. Brown-headed Cowbird: mid-winter max nine. Pine Grosbeak: 20 Carter Circle on 6 Jan (MS) only report. Purple Finch: to 50/day, best numbers since 1968; FGS noted a close association between this species and ash samaras. House Finch: widespread, singing nearly everywhere by late Feb, but no large concentrations noted. Com. Redpoll: 12 Snake Swamp 15 Jan and one there 6 Feb (GM) only reports. Am. Goldfinch: max 100, about normal. Evening Grosbeak: not in numbers until early Jan, max 55, low.

ADDENDA: Com. Scoter: 56 Beaver Lake 22 Oct is a very high count away from LOL. Ruddy Duck: 308 Beaver Lake 10 Nov (GS) is new regional high count.

Educational Communications and Studies,
Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse, New York 13210

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

The mildest winter in thirty years produced correspondingly unremarkable birding. No rarities were reported. Be it shrikes or redpolls, there were few northern visitors. Of course this can not be directly attributed to the mild weather here, but more likely to a good cone and lemming year in the Far North. Minimal freezing of the St. Lawrence River meant greater dispersion of wintering eagles and waterfowl.

Except at higher elevations, there was no snow accumulation between storms. Here at 600 ft. the maximum fall was about 10 in. 1 Feb. There was snow in mid-December, but rains soon washed it away. Over half the days each month reached temperatures above freezing, and only ten days in January and February had readings below zero. For January and February mean (and extreme) daily high and low temperatures were: Jan—high 35 (47), low 10 (-20); Feb—high 32 (47), low 16 (-4). There were 13 days in January and eight in February with measurable precipitation. Total precipitation for the two months was 1.60 and 2.43 in., respectively.