

50 DOASCC; 137 NCBCCC; 530 TCBCCC. N. Shrike: one CCBCCC; one 10 Dec. OPM (MD, KW); one 20 Jan. Plymouth (HME); one 1 Feb. So. Otselic (DM). Eur. Starling: 947 CBCCC; 891 CCBCCC; 424 DOASCC; 1370 NCBCCC; 2401 TCBCCC.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-rumped Warbler: one 31 Dec. Norwich (DW). Com. Yellowthroat: one CBCCC.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: 18 CBCCC; nine CCBCCC; eight DOASCC; 45 NCBCCC; 34 TCBCCC. Am. Tree Sparrow: 235 CBCCC; 35 CCBCCC; 27 DOASCC; 89 NCBCCC; 106 TCBCCC. Chipping Sparrow: one Dec. Tioga Co. (LD). Field Sparrow: one NCBCCC. Song Sparrow: seven CBCCC; one CCBCCC; two DOASCC; 27 NCBCCC; six TCBCCC. White-throated Sparrow: three CBCCC; seven NCBCCC; 52 TCBCCC; one 17 Dec. Oneonta (MD); eight 23 Jan. Br. Co. (GK, HM). Dark-eyed Junco: 184 CBCCC; 12 CCBCCC; 29 DOASCC; 216 NCBCCC; 281 TCBCCC; good numbers thru. Snow Bunting: one large flock (100+) 17-23 Jan. Br. Co. (AC, CJ, GK, HM); Jan-Feb Chen. Co. "normal numbers" (CC); seven locations Chen. Co. (JL, DM, HME, DW). Red-winged Blackbird: one CBCCC; one CCBCCC; 15 TCBCCC; one 18 Feb. Norwich (JL); three Feb. Norwich (DW); 100 24 Feb. Br. Co. (JS); 100 28 Feb. OPM (MD); one 28 Feb. So. Otselic (DM); Feb. Tioga Co. (LD). E. Meadowlark: one 24 Feb. Br. Co. (JS). Com. Grackle: one CBCCC; one NCBCCC; one 31 Dec. thru 31 Jan. Delhi (MC); ten 1 thru 31 Jan. Walton (SH); 30 18 Feb. Br. Co. (HM); general return 23-24 Feb. Br. Chen. Cos., OPM, Tioga co. Brown-headed Cowbird: 200 DOASCC, "in one field"; three 5 Dec, one 19 Dec. Delhi (MC); one Feb. Norwich (DW); 20 10 Feb. (CL) two 17 Feb. two 19 Feb. Norwich (JL). Pine Grosbeak: two DOASCC. Purple Finch: 24 CBCCC; 26 DOASCC; 17 NCBCCC; one TCBCCC; one to seven off and on Dec., Jan. Delhi (MC); one to eight Feb. OPM (MD); five to ten mid-Jan. thru Feb. So. Otselic (DM); Tioga Co. (LD); 105 banded Feb. Vestal (GK). House Finch: 114 CBCCC; 101 CCBCCC; 37 DOASCC; 616 NCBCCC; 607 TCBCCC. **RED CROSSBILL:** 30 17 Dec. OPM (MD, KW); two CBCCC; thereafter approx. 25 locations Chen. Co. 25 locations Chen. Co. (Crossbill Hunters). White-winged Crossbill: 15 11 Jan. Chen. Co. (DN); thereafter approx. 28 locations (Crossbill Hunters). Pine Siskin: one 1 Dec. Br. Co. (CH); over 40 locations Jan., Feb. Chen. Co. (Crossbill Hunters); six 24 Feb. Br. Co. (JS); eight 27 Feb. Br. Co. (FL, HM). Am. Goldfinch: 47 CBCCC; 32 CCBCCC; 162 DOASCC; 115 NCBCCC; 158 TCBCCC; sporadic reports thru except Chen. Co. where Crossbill Hunters found approx. 15 locations. House Sparrow: 326 CBCCC; 312 CCBCCC; 348 DOASCC; 395 NCBCCC; 860 TCBCCC.

Box 1, H.C. 61, Powderhouse Road, Binghamton, New York 13903

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL DeBENEDICTIS

An ornithologically dull fall portends only bad things for the coming winter. So it was. Everyone wondered where all the birds were, although surprising numbers of some species were found. However, one had to work for everything.

The weather again duplicated that of the previous winter. December was generally mild, with two cold snaps and exceedingly warm temperatures at the end of the month. Runoff from the thaw caused severe flooding in northeastern Oswego and northern Oneida Counties. January turned sharply, though not brutally colder, with snow in Syracuse every day of the month, and into early

February. Mid-February weather was more seasonal, and the end of the month saw a genuine warm spell. Total snowfall in Syracuse at the end of the season was only a couple inches short of the average total for the entire winter, with two months of snow to go.

Water bird numbers generally were unspectacular, probably because of the early and unrelenting freeze-up of shallower lakes and ponds in the Region. Numbers of overwintering waterfowl were not very high, but almost all of the expected species were found. Loons and White-winged Scoters were noted more regularly than usual, and mid-winter records of Tundra Swan, Black Scoter, Harlequin Duck (the only real rarity of the season), and Barrow's Goldeneye were especially noteworthy. White-winged gulls were uncommon, and no rare gulls were observed this winter. Although there were not many land birds about, the winter did not appear to be hard on what was present. A few types, like Horned Lark and Lapland Longspur, were found somewhat more regularly than usual, though numbers were not high. Most species that overwinter here were less numerous than usual, but a few half-hardy species like Gray Catbird and Brown Thrasher were noted. Field Sparrow was a surprising miss. Almost no raptors, and few owls were found.

There are two clear exceptions to this gloomy picture. First, American Robins and Cedar Waxwings were widespread all season, and unusually numerous in Oswego County. One report of a Bohemian Waxwing was received. The explanation for this is clearly the excellent berry crop. The second exception was winter finches, but only in mature spruce/pine plantations at higher elevations. Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finches, and Pine Siskins were the most widespread forms. Both Red and White-winged Crossbills were frequently seen in northern Herkimer County and in the highlands of southern Onondaga and Madison Counties; a visit to the southwestern Tug Hill at the end of the season produced none. Three of the finches gave evidence of nesting. Nest building by Pine Siskins and numerous pairs and flight songs of both crossbill species were observed. None had been confirmed nesting at the end of the season. Crossbills have not been even suspected to have nested in the Region since 1973! In contrast, Pine Grosbeak was reported only from the Adirondacks. Evening Grosbeaks were extraordinarily scarce; Dorothy Crumb, who usually feeds them by the bucketful, had only one visit from this species during the entire winter. The few Common Redpoll reports were confined to late December-early January.

With the warm weather in late February, the spring migration was clearly evident. 24 February saw widespread arrivals of Canada Goose, Ring-billed Gull, Am. Robin, Red-winged Blackbird and Com. Grackle. About 9700 Am. Crows passed by Derby Hill, but only about 100 hawks were counted during Feb. A total of 119 species and two additional forms were reported, which is about average.

Contributors: Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, James Farquhar III, John Hanyak, Scott Harris, Lynn D. Hemink, Ruth Knight, Jeanne Lally, Gary N. Lee, Robert L. Post, Margaret S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, Gerald A. Smith, Betty Starr, Magdalena Stooks.

Abbreviations: arr-arrival; BBS-breeding bird survey; CBC-Christmas Bird Count; DH-Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; FH-Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co.; last-last of season; Onon-Onondaga; Syr-Syracuse; twsp-township.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr (three) DH 28 Feb. Com. Loon: seen more regularly than usual to 2 Feb. Horned Grebe: last Skaneateles L 22 Dec, arr DH 28 Feb. Red-necked Grebe: last Onon L 15 Dec. Double-crested Cormorant: at least two overwintered Oswego. Tundra Swan: two Oswego 9 Jan. (LH), imm Onon L 25-28 Jan. record late. Mute Swan: two Oneida CBC 25 Dec. Snow Goose: last FH 8 Dec, arr Seneca River Flats 24 Feb. Wood Duck: singles Oswego R 16 Dec and 2 Feb. N. Pintail: one overwintered Oswego R. Blue-winged Teal: last Howland's Island 1 Jan. (RK), late. N. Shoveler: last FH 8 Dec. Gadwall: last (five) Oswego 24 Jan. Am. Wigeon: last Oswego R 17 Jan. Canvasback: mid-winter max five, low. Redhead: mid-winter max 21, low. Ring-necked Duck: last (12) 6 Jan. Greater Scaup: mid-winter max 1100 Oswego. Lesser Scaup: mid-winter max 20 Oswego. **HARLEQUIN DUCK**: female Oswego 24-27 Jan (FGS, mob) is the 15th Regional record. Oldsquaw: mid-winter max 115 Oswego. Black Scoter: one Oswego 29 Jan. most unusual. White-winged Scoter: mid-winter max 16 Oswego. Com. Goldeneye: mid-winter max 500 Oswego. Barrow's Goldeneye: females Caughdenoy and Oswego 14-16 Jan. (FGS, RK), male Fulton 16 Jan (MSR). Bufflehead: mid-winter max 244 Oswego. Com. Merganser: mid-winter max 1800 Oswego. Red-breasted Merganser: mid-winter max 25. Ruddy Duck: last (14) Onon L 16 Dec.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: imm Oswego 9 Jan, Minetto 13 Jan. N. Harrier: last Syr CBC 15 Dec; arr Oriskany Falls 16 Feb. N. Goshawk: four reports all winter. Rough-legged Hawk: max 16 cent Oneida Co. 13 Jan. Virginia Rail: one found in snow Cazenovia 14 Jan. (Spencer Baird *vide* DWC) died next day. Am. Coot: last Fulton 19 Jan. Killdeer: four apparently overwintered s.e. Onon Co. Com. Snipe: one Clay Marsh 2 Feb. only report. Bonaparte's Gull: last Oneida L 15 Dec. Ring-billed Gull: mid-winter max 5500 Oswego. Herring Gull: mid-winter max 2100 Oswego. Iceland Gull: max two, last 14 Feb. scarce. Glaucous Gull: max and last eight Oswego R 2 Feb, early departure. Great Black-backed Gull: mid-winter max 220 Oswego.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: about four reported, none persistent. Long-eared Owl: injured bird Syr 24 Jan. sent to Cornell Univ. N. Saw-whet Owl: single Limekiln L 17 Jan (GL) and Noyes Sanct 28 Feb (FGS, JH, DWC), later calling by day in response to whistled imitation. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last DeWitt 9 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: mid-winter max 30, better than most years, arr DH 13 Feb, max 175 there 24 Feb. Tufted Titmouse: fewer reported than in previous few winters. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max seven, almost entirely confined to potential nesting areas. Winter Wren: last FH 6 Jan. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two reported without details thru mid-Jan. E. Bluebird: arr (four) n. shore Oneida L 24 Feb. Am. Robin: numbers not outstanding but more widespread than usual to 50 in Oswego area in mid-winter. Gray Catbird: last DeWitt 9 Feb. N. Mockingbird: fewer reported than in previous few winters. Brown Thrasher: one Big Moose 21 Jan (GL). Cedar Waxwing: several counts in low hundreds thru Jan better than usual. Bohemian Waxwing: Limekiln L 22 Jan (JL). N. Shrike: about five reported thru 24 Jan.

VIREOS-WARBLED: only reports on CBC's.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rufous-sided Towhee: one town of Onon 26-31 Jan (JH). Am. Tree Sparrow: mid-winter max 25, low. Song Sparrow: mid-winter max 3, low. Swamp Sparrow: only report after CBCs three town of Onon, 3 Feb. White-throated Sparrow: mid-winter max 10, low. White-crowned Sparrow: last Holland Patent 7 Dec; "arr" DH 21 Feb (GAS) no doubt overwintered nearby. Dark-eyed Junco: mid-winter max 30, female Oregon-types n. Pompey twsp and Pratts Falls in Jan (DWC, mob). Lapland Longspur: max 6 Oswego R 19 Jan, more reports than usual. Snow Bunting: mid-winter max 500. E. Meadowlark: two Oswego R. 13 Jan.

Educational Communications and Studies, Upstate Medical Center,
766 Irving Ave., Syracuse, New York 13210