

(MD,CC); two locations in the same day. Killdeer: one Greece 5 Jan, only report. Com. Snipe: one Brockport 5 Feb, one Chili 19-27 Feb. Little Gull: max 15 DE 31 Dec. Iceland Gull: 2nd yr bird 22-28 Feb; ad Charlotte 25 Feb. Glaucous Gull: 2nd winter bird Greece 8-14 Jan, imm Charlotte 18 Feb, one IB 26 Feb.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** **Com. Barn-Owl:** one Richmond 23 Feb (WC), scarce in the Region at any time. **Snowy Owl:** *intro*. **Long-eared Owl:** max five LLCBC. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 91 RCBC. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** one LLCBC, only report. **Downy Woodpecker:** max 195 RCBC. **Hairy Woodpecker:** max 55 RCBC. **Northern Flicker:** max 21 RCBC.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** **Horned Lark:** max 236 LSLCBC. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 26 LLCBC. **Carolina Wren:** three reports. **Winter Wren:** one Greece 18 Dec, one DE 5 Jan. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 26 LLCBC 26 Dec. **Hermit Thrush:** two Parma 18 Dec. **Gray Catbird:** one Greece 18 Dec, two Hemlock 26 Dec. **Brown Thrasher:** one Webster 7 Dec, one Greece 18 Dec, unusual in winter. **N. Shrike:** max four RCBC 18 Dec.

**WARBLERS-VIREOS:** **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max two RCBC. **Yellow-throated Warbler:** *intro*.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** **Rufous-sided Towhee:** one Webster 1 Jan, only report. **Chipping Sparrow:** one Greece 18 Dec, see *intro*. **Field Sparrow:** max three Greece 18 Dec. **Swamp Sparrow:** max 30 RCBC. **White-throated Sparrow:** max 101 RCBC. **White-crowned Sparrow:** one RCBC, imm Hamlin 12 Feb. **Snow Bunting:** max 700 Kendall 1-28 Feb. **Rusty Blackbird:** max nine Warsaw 17 Dec. **Brewer's Blackbird:** male Manitou 8 Feb (RO'H), first winter record? **Com. Redpoll:** two CL 26 Dec, scarce. **Pine Siskin:** max seven Webster 27 Feb.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612

## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

The winter of 1989 was warmer and drier than normal. During December, Ithaca received only one inch of precipitation, the fifth least in 80 years of weather data. After a light snow on 2-3 Dec, winter really settled in with colder temperatures from 8-14 Dec. The period from 11 to 13 Dec became really cold as arctic air lowered temperatures to below zero. Ithaca set a new record low of -19°F on 12 Dec, the coldest December day since 1917 and the coldest temperature ever so early in the season. Temperatures were more seasonal for the remainder of December, including a warm, moist front on 23 Dec which caused a mix of sleet, freezing rain, and rain. By mid January, the winter "thaw" was underway and continued into February. It turned out to be the warmest January since 1967 on a statewide basis. The only time during the month when temperatures dipped below seasonal levels was the period from 3 to 7 Jan, when a cold air mass settled over the state. Precipitation in the Region for January occurred in scattered amounts with no significant accumulations.

At Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, waterfowl numbers for the season peaked in December, and the mild winter resulted in many lingering through the remainder of the winter. Refuge staff report maximum waterfowl numbers on 6 Dec, with 20 Snow Goose, 36,000 Canada Goose, 69,000 Mallard, 7,000

Black Duck, 750 Wood Duck, 80 Ring-necked Duck, 330 Hooded Merganser, and 250 Common Merganser. Wintering gull populations at the Refuge peaked in January. The maxima were: 3900 Ring-billed Gull, 2078 Herring Gull, and 70 Great Black-backed Gull. Three Bald Eagles were present all Season, as were Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, and as many as 83 Great Blue Herons.

The mild winter and absence of deep snow seems to have dispersed flocks of land birds, making it more difficult to find them. Flocking birds which seemed scarcer than usual included Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blue Jay, Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. Evening Grosbeak and Purple Finch were especially scarce, and there were no Oldsquaw or scoters, although Common Loon was plentiful. Two to five Common Loons were present on every major lake in the Region all season. Perhaps the weather never became severe enough, the waterways frozen enough, or the snows deep enough to concentrate these winter residents at the expected locations or at feeding stations.

The following species were present, as expected, all season throughout the Region: Great Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, American Kestrel, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper.

The relatively mild, snowless season made for some interesting Christmas Bird Counts in the Region. Gulls and waterfowl were present in unusually high numbers. There were many reports of half-hardy species such as Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Rusty and Red-winged Blackbirds, Northern Mockingbird, and Carolina Wren. A total of 18 Carolina Wren was present in the Region. There were numbers of large resident species including Great Horned Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Ruffed Grouse, and Wild Turkey. Birds associated with agriculture, including American Crow, Mourning Dove, and Red-tailed Hawk, were present throughout the Region in record high numbers. The single irruptive species present was Rough-legged Hawk, but there were virtually no winter finches. Unusual species for area bird counts were Red-throated Loon, Brant, Winter Wren, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Long-eared Owl, and Northern Bobwhite. A single **phalarope** (either Wilson's or Red [*probably the latter* — Ed.]) was present near Watkins Glen during the count period, but could not be found on the day of the count. A report has been forwarded to NYSARC for review. Highlights for the season were Red-throated Loon, Lesser Black-backed Gull, phalarope sp, and Winter Wren.

Contributors: J. Brubaker, G. Butcher, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung County Audubon Society, D. Clements, John & Sue Gregoire, T. Gingrich, B. Hilfiker, D. McIlroy, Onondaga Audubon Society, Schuyler County Bird Club, Scott & Sally Sutcliffe.

Abbreviations: CL - Cayuga Lake; CV - Chemung Valley; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; QCM - Queen Catherine Marsh; WG - Watkins Glen.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Red-throated Loon**: one Ithaca CBC, first in 27 years; one CL 29 Jan Elm Beach. Com. Loon: *intro*; max five Ithaca CBC. Red-necked Grebe: one WG 4 Jan; one Sheldrake 14 Jan. Great Blue Heron: *intro*. Tundra Swan: four CL 14 Jan. Brant: one CV CBC. Canada Goose: *intro*. Wood Duck: *intro*. Am Black Duck: *intro*; 32 WG 31 Dec; 734 Sheldrake 14 Jan. Mallard: *intro*. N. Pintail: max nine Aurora CBC. Gadwall: max 32

Aurora CBC. Redhead: max 4000 Canandaigua L Jan, scarce elsewhere. Ring-necked Duck: *intro*. Scaup species: max 2100 Aurora CBC. Com. Goldeneye: present in small numbers throughout; ten WG CBC, 30 Ithaca CBC. Hooded Merganser: *intro*; 77 Waneta L 10 Dec. Com. Merganser: *intro*; 191 Waneta L 10 Dec. Red-breasted Merganser: very scarce, but present throughout.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Bald Eagle: *intro*; one Ithaca 11 Dec. N. Harrier: *intro*. N. Goshawk: scarce; one Burdett all Season, three WG CBC. Red-shouldered Hawk: none. Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*. Ruffed Grouse: max nine Ithaca CBC. N. Bobwhite: six CV CBC, unexpected. Wild Turkey: max 50 CV CBC, Big Flats. Phalarope species: *intro*. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*; 1200 Ithaca CBC. Herring Gull: *intro*; 700 Ithaca CBC. Iceland Gull: one Ithaca 11 Dec Stewart Park. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** ad Stewart P Ithaca after 5 Feb (McIlroy). Great Black-backed Gull: *intro*; 13 Watkins Glen 18 Dec, 48 Ithaca CBC, 64 Aurora CBC.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Mourning Dove: max 756 Ithaca CBC. E. Screech-Owl: six Ithaca CBC, five CV CBC, two WGCC. Snowy Owl: one Dryden 6 Jan, one Fayette Jan, only reports. Long-eared Owl: one Fuertes Bird Sanctuary on Ithaca CBC, one Aurora CBC, one heard only Burdett 2 Jan. Short-eared Owl: two Waterloo Dec; present Hayt's Corners Jan-Feb, max 16; one Burdett 20 Feb. N. Saw-whet Owl: single report, one downtown Ithaca 25 Feb (*vide* McIlroy). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Phelps all Season; one CV CBC; no other reports. Pileated Woodpecker: max 14 Ithaca CBC.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Horned Lark: widespread but few flocks; max 161 Montezuma CBC. Am. Crow: max 1693 Ithaca CBC, record high count. Fish Crow: max three Ithaca CBC. Com. Raven: none. Black-capped Chickadee: max 1780 Ithaca CBC. Tufted Titmouse: 128 Ithaca CBC, 14 Aurora CBC, eight Montezuma CBC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: present all season throughout; max 23 Ithaca CBC. White-breasted Nuthatch: max 194 Ithaca CBC. Brown Creeper: max 19 Ithaca CBC. Carolina Wren: *intro*. Winter Wren: one Ithaca CBC (Hog Hole), one CV CBC, one QCM 1 Jan. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 44 Ithaca CBC. E. Bluebird: present all season in areas near the lakeshores. American Robin: max 63 Montezuma CBC. N. Mockingbird: max 25 Ithaca CBC. Cedar Waxwing: observed feeding on Bittersweet and Common Buckthorn; max 252 Ithaca CBC. N. Shrike: two Montezuma CBC, one CV CBC, only reports.

**VIREOS-WARBLED:** Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Ledyard Road, Aurora, 28 Jan. Com. Yellowthroat: one QCM 16 Dec.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** N. Cardinal: increasing throughout the Region; max 328 Ithaca CBC. Am. Tree Sparrow: *intro*. White-throated Sparrow: *intro*. Song Sparrow: *intro*. Swamp Sparrow: one QCM 16 Dec. Snow Bunting: max 2000 Mt. Pleasant February. Purple Finch: *intro*. Com. Redpoll: sole report, five Ithaca CBC. Pine Siskin: sole report, ten Ithaca CBC. Evening Grosbeak: *intro*.

**CORRECTION:** In the Region 3 Fall Report, Paul Novak was incorrectly listed as a recipient of the Federation's Stoner Award. Paul writes that he was a recipient of the Laboratory of Ornithology's Benning Award for students in ornithology.

449 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville, New York 13068

## REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

This winter at Binghamton was relatively mild and open, with little snow. This low snowfall is consistent with the below average snowfall of the last nine years. For example, total snowfall for January and February, normally the