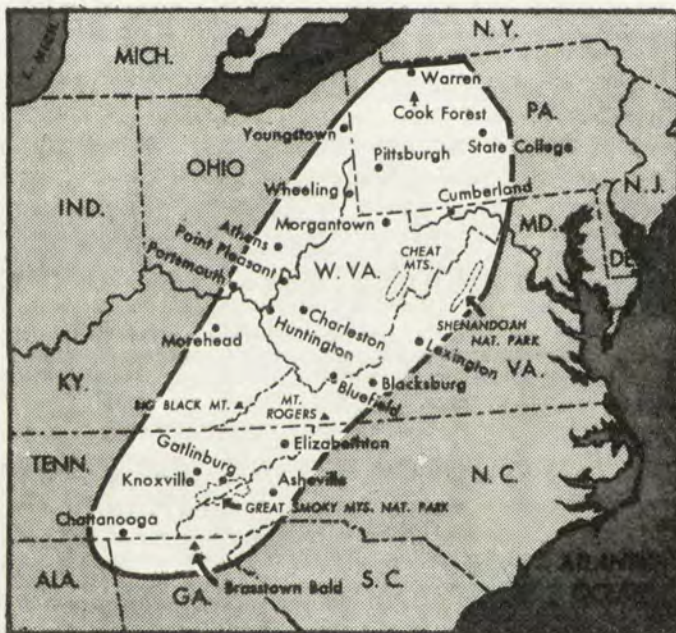


Burton, Lou Burton, Otto Carlson, (JC) Julie Claffey, Lincoln Crone, Marion Crone, (JCz) Jerry Czech, James Doherty, Earl Donaldson, Flora Elderkin, Louise Fiurie, John Foster, Genessee Ornithological Society, Frank Guthrie, Wilfred Howard, Paul Kelsey, Allen Kemnitzer, Clarence Klingensmith, (WL) Walter Listman, (WLI) Warren Lloyd, Dorothy McIlroy, Alice McKale, Willard McKale, John Morse, Mrs. Alan Newman, Richard O'Hara, Glen Perrigo, Martin Phillips, Frances Rew, (MS) Mary Smith, Donald Snyder, Sally Spofford, Robert Sundell, (MSu) Mary Sunderlin, Ora Swanson, Sarah Talpey, James Tate, Thomas Tetlow, Alice Ulrich, Gertrude Webster, Mary Welles.—RICHARD C. ROSCHE, P.O. Box 693, Bernardsville, NJ 07924.

APPALACHIAN REGION / George A. Hall

This was the winter season that averaged out the eventful winters of the past few years to give the "normal" winter picture. In other words this winter was subnormal, or as one contributor called it, "dull". For the first time in several winters there was essentially no influx of "northern" species. Even the permanent residents and the normal winterers were in low numbers. While there were a few occurrences of great interest and novelty, most observers could only look forward hopefully to a spring with more birds.



The mild weather of the fall continued into December, which was warmer than normal and had little snowfall. Cold weather did not set in until after the first of the year, and January was quite cold: this was the result of continuous cold with few extremes. At Pittsburgh the weather station reported a 161 degree-day temperature deficiency for January. February was about normal in temperature and March again was colder than usual. Wintery weather stayed on until the end of

the period. Rainfall for the year was slightly in excess of normal. In the north most of this came as snow and at Meadville, Pa. a total of 158.5 inches of snow (a new record) were recorded. Contrast this with Blacksburg, Va. where only 22 inches fell. Most of the lakes and ponds froze up in January and this eliminated many wintering waterfowl.

The season did produce four most unusual records for the Region: Glaucous Gull in Tennessee, Varied Thrush in Pennsylvania, and Black-headed Grosbeak in West Virginia and Virginia. The early spring migration was slow, and while arrival dates were about normal many migrants remained in low numbers at the end of the period.

LOONS, GREBES, AND HERONS—Com. LOONS remained in the Region rather late, with dates of Dec. 5 at Sayers Dam, Pa. (MC1 fide PWS) and Meadville, Pa. (RCL); Dec. 20 at Gallipolis, O. (HES); and Dec. 23 at Conneaut Lake, Pa. (RCL). The spring arrival was about on time, with a rather early Feb. 20 at Pymatuning Lake, Pa. (RCL & RFL). Red-throated Loons were seen on Dec. 22 (2) and Mar. 21 (1) at Sayers Dam (MC1 fide PWS), the first records in four years. Horned Grebes wintered more commonly than is usual: through the season at State College, Pa. (MW); 18 at Conneaut Lake on Dec. 27 (RCL); near Gallipolis on Dec. 20 (HES); Warren, Pa., Jan. 17 (CP fide JCS). One in Letcher Co., Ky. on Mar. 13 was apparently the first local record (RHP).

A surprising number of Great Blue Herons apparently wintered in the area, with reports coming from Gallipolis (HES), Williamsport, Pa. (PWS), Charleston, W. Va. (NG), and Pittsburgh (DBF). A Com. Egret was present at Knoxville, Tenn. from Jan 1 to 21 (GW, JMC, FJA). Two egrets at Seneca Lake, O. on Mar. 13 (AN & RN fide JSt) and one at Gallipolis on Mar. 27 (HES) were somewhat early. A Black-crowned Night Heron was seen at Charleston on Dec. 7 and Jan. 2 (NG) and 2 were seen at Gallipolis on Jan. 16 (HES). An Am. Bittern was noted at Raccoon Creek State Park, Pa. on the very late date of Dec. 26 (NK).

WATERFOWL—The early winter waterfowl population was rather low, and after the January freeze-up waterfowl were scarce in the n. part of the Region, and uncommon s. of the freezing line. However, the spring flight, which started on time, was one of the best in recent years. Sizeable numbers of ducks were still moving through at the end of the period.

The Whistling Swan flight started somewhat early with reports from Clarion Co., Pa. on Feb. 13 (WF fide RCL), and Feb. 27 at Sayers Dam (MC1 & CH fide PWS), and built up to such counts as 450 at Indiana, Pa. on Mar. 13 (CDW) and 350 at Pymatuning Lake on Mar. 19 (RFL). This year swans were unreported away from the principal flight line across the Region. A Blue Goose wintered at Jersey Shore, Pa. (PWS) and 1 was

seen at Johnson City, Tenn. Feb. 3-21 (PR). A Snow Goose was seen in Butler County, Pa. on Dec. 25 (B&GM); and 50 in Allegheny County, Pa. on Feb. 8 (JAG fide DBF). A flock of 20 Snow Geese near Kingsport, Tenn. on Jan. 11 was unusual (TWF).

The dabbling duck flight was about on time and while most species were present no great numbers were reported. A Eur. Widgeon was reported at Seneca L. on Mar. 11 (JSt), the only report of the season. Diving ducks were in moderately good numbers by the end of the period. The seldom-reported Greater Scaup wintered near Pittsburgh (RB fide DBF); 2 were killed at Cherokee L., Tenn. in December (fide FJA) and in Loudon Co., Tenn. on Mar. 8 (PP & FJA). Oldsquaws were unusually common in March and were reported in small numbers throughout the Region. White-winged Scoters were reported from Meadville on Dec. 5 (RCL); Sayers Dam on Dec. 22 and Mar. 13 (MC1 & CH); and on the Ohio R. at Gallipolis on Jan. 12 (HES).

HAWKS AND EAGLES—Of great interest this winter were the numerous reports of both species of eagles. At least 2 Bald Eagles wintered at Conneaut Marsh, Pa. (RCL) and nesting was reported there on Mar. 13 (RS fide RFL); 2 were present in March at Pymatuning L., Pa. (RCL); 1 was seen in Westmoreland Co., Pa. on Feb. 2 (PDH fide DBF); 1-3 were to be seen all season near Kingston, Tenn. (FJA) and 1 at Norris Lake, Tenn. on Jan. 9 (JCH fide FJA). One adult and 1 imm. Golden Eagle were seen from time to time in Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park, Tenn. (TH fide FJA); 1 was reported at Norris Lake on Jan. 9 (JCH fide FJA) and 1 was observed at Woodsfield, O. on Jan. 4 (MCh fide JSt). Other winter sightings of Golden Eagles came from Asheville, N.C. (2), Woodbury, Tenn. (6), Murfreesboro, Tenn., Franklin, N.C. and Mt. Rogers, Va. (WRS).

Goshawks were reported from Harrison Co., O. on Dec. 30 (EHS). Zelienople, Pa. on Dec. 23 (DBF), and Girard, O. on Mar. 20 (LT). Many more Red-tailed Hawks wintered in the area than is normal, and at Pittsburgh the Christmas Bird Count (infra "CBC"), listed a total of 19, a 12-year high (DBF). Rough-legged Hawks were not especially common in n. Pennsylvania (RCL), but were widely reported in the Region, even as far s. as Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. (RCL), E. Liverpool, O. (NL), and Huntington, W.Va. (HES). There were two reports of Peregrines: Feb. 20 at Boone Lake, Tenn. (PR) and Mar. 21 at Conneaut (RS fide RFL).

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS, AND GULLS—A very late Virginia Rail was seen at Ashton, W.Va. on Dec. 13 (HES). Com. Snipe apparently wintered in greater-than-usual numbers. No early shorebird migration was reported, in part because of high water levels, but a flock of 30 Dunlin at Pymatuning L., Pa. on Dec. 2 and 1 on Dec. 27 (RCL) were unusual. Bonaparte's Gulls at State

College, Pa. on Dec. 26 (MW) and Pymatuning, Pa. on Dec. 23 were slightly late, and one at Dalton, Ga. on March 27 (first local record) was quite early (JH fide APH). Possibly the most remarkable bird reported this winter was the **Glaucous Gull** at Ft. Loudon Dam, Tenn. from Mar. 7 until at least Mar. 28, and seen by many observers (AM & CNC fide FJA).

DOVES, OWLS, AND WOODPECKERS—Mourning Doves were unusually common during the winter with typically large Christmas counts coming from Lock Haven, Pa. where 221 were listed compared with 81 last year (PWS) and Pittsburgh, where a 12-year high of 196 was reported (DBF). The seldom reported Long-eared Owl was recorded on the Pittsburgh CBC on Jan. 2 (DBF); 1 was found dead at Conneautville, Pa. on Jan. 3 (DN fide RCL); and 1 was seen at Rote, Pa. on Mar. 21 (CH fide PWS). Short-eared Owl was reported from State College (MW) 2 at Jersey Shore on Dec. 26 (PWS); and 1 at Warren on Mar. 26 (WLH fide JCS). A Snowy Owl at Charleston, W.Va. from Dec. 22 to at least Jan. 29 (NG) was one of the very few recent records for the state and is approaching the southern limit of its range. Saw-whet Owls were seen at State College on Dec. 24 (MW) and at Fancy Gap, Va. on Feb. 27 (RK fide DLC).

Previous accounts from time to time have mentioned that the Pileated Woodpecker populations have been increasing in recent years, but a total of 33 reported on the CBC in the highly developed, highly air-polluted Charleston, W.Va. region is most remarkable (NG). The Charleston CBC also reported a 24-year high of 49 Red-headed Woodpeckers. Red-bellied Woodpecker was absent near Aliquippa, Pa. (NK), and in lower-than-normal numbers in Crawford Co., Pa. (RCL), both localities being on the periphery of the range.

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS—An E. Phoebe was seen at Clarksville, Pa. on Jan. 16 and may have survived the winter (RKB). Migrant phoebes were seen at North Park, Pa. on Mar. 16 (LS fide DBF); Mar. 21 at Hartstown, Pa. (ER fide RFL) and Warren (CP fide JCS), but none had been seen at Morgantown, W.Va. by the end of the period.

An early Purple Martin was reported from Blount Co., Tenn. (JEH fide FJA), while elsewhere arrival was about on time: Mar. 16 at Ona, W.Va. (MK); Mar. 17 at Clarksville, Pa. (RKB); and Mar. 21 at McClintic Wildlife Station, Pt. Pleasant, W.Va. (JSt). Some mortality from the cold weather was noted at Clarksville (RKB) and at Ona (MK). A Tree Swallow at Pittsburgh on Mar. 19 was somewhat early (JKe fide DBF). Other dates were Mar. 21 at Conneaut (RS fide RFL) and Mar. 23 at Blacksburg (CAS fide JWM). Two very remarkably early swallow records were a Barn Swallow at Ona on Mar. 21 (HES) and 2 Cliff Swallows near Blacksburg on Mar. 23 (CAS).

CORVIDS AND TITMICE—The CBC in Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park listed 12 Com.

Ravens (FJA). Flocks of 20-40 ravens were seen with the Golden Eagles in w. North Carolina in December, and in each case the eagles were spotted by watching the behavior of these flocks (WRS).

Some high counts of Black-capped Chickadees on CBCs were: 935 at Pittsburgh (DBF); 108 at Raccoon Creek State Park, Pa. (JEL fide DBF); and 149 at Lock Haven, Pa., up 50 percent from last year (PWS). At Morgantown, Carolina Chickadees were scarce and very few Black-caps appeared this season (GAH). The Carolina Chickadee continues to move north of the Allegheny R. in the Pittsburgh region (DBF).

NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS—Red-breasted Nuthatches had been very scarce in fall migration, and this situation continued through the winter. Most areas reported a complete absence and the rest mentioned only singles or other low numbers. Brown-headed Nuthatches continue to do well in the Dalton, Ga. area (APH) and this spring they were observed near Chattanooga, Tenn. on Mar. 14, apparently excavating a nest cavity (FJA et al.). Brown Creepers were unusually common at Dalton, Ga. (APH).

WRENS, THRASHERS, AND THRUSHES—The Carolina Wren continues to do well in the northern part of the Region, being reported as far north as Warren, Pa. (JKi fide JCS), but was in poor numbers at Meadville, Pa. (RCL). At Pittsburgh, also on the periphery of the permanent range 142 were counted on the CBC, an all-time high, (DBF), and they were up 75 percent at Newcomerstown, O. (EHS). It remains to be seen what the cold weather of late winter did to these populations. A House Wren was seen at Wise, Va. on Jan. 17 (RHP), and a Bewick's Wren was at Ona, W. Va. on the CBC (MK). A few Brown Thrashers made it through the winter as usual but records at Wayne, W. Va. on Mar. 24 (HES) and Fancy Gap, Va. on Mar. 26 (RK fide DLC) were probably early migrants. One of the highlights of the season was a **Varied Thrush** at Bradford, Pa. from Dec. 30 to at least Feb. 15 (CCU). This is the first record for the Region of this species which is turning up more and more frequently in the East. Hermit Thrushes successfully wintered at State College (MW) and Lock Haven, Pa. (PWS), somewhat farther n. than usual. Eastern Bluebirds were unusually common along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia (DLC), but were felt to be uncommon at Kingsport, Tenn. (TWF). At Morgantown they were somewhat more common than usual (GAH).

WAXWINGS AND SHRIKES—Sizable flocks of Cedar Waxwings were reported from Aliquippa (NK) and Kingsport (TWF), but elsewhere they were not mentioned as being especially common. A N. Shrike was seen on the Linesville, Pa. CBC on Dec. 28 (RCL) and one at Saybrook, Pa. on Jan. 19 (CNe).

WARBLERS AND ICTERIDS—Myrtle Warblers were missing or very scarce in the middle part of the Region, where they normally winter in small numbers, and were decidedly uncommon at Dalton where none were listed on the CBC (APH). A Nashville Warbler was present at State College, Pa. from Dec. 24 to 26 (MW). Except for a few Pine Warblers in the s. part of the Region and the Louisiana Waterthrush arriving about on time at Kingsport on Mar. 27 (TWF) and Knoxville on Mar. 28 (JMC & JCH), no other warblers were reported. The arrival of Red-winged Blackbirds and Com. Grackles in the northern part of the Region was delayed slightly by the early March snows and cold weather. A Baltimore Oriole was found in Co-hutta, Ga. on Jan. 15 (JG fide APH), and one spent the winter at a feeder in Knoxville (WEE fide FJA).

FRINGILLIDS—For the first time in several years there were virtually no "northern" finches reported in the Region. A few scattered Evening Grosbeaks were reported as far s. as Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park on Jan. 3 (FJA) and Dalton, Ga.—1 on Feb. 28 (JKr fide APH) but the overall numbers were low and the birds did not remain long at any one place. Purple Finches were also notable by their absence. White-winged Crossbills were unreported and the only report of Red Crossbills came from Blacksburg, Va. where 62 were reported on the CBC (JWIM). Pine Siskins were also in very low numbers at a few scattered localities and were unreported at most places. Conversely Am. Goldfinches were unusually abundant in W. Pennsylvania and more came to the feeders than ever before: farther s. into West Virginia numbers were normal, but at Newcomerstown, O. the species was absent (EHS) and it was scarce at Wise, Va. (RHP). The House Finch continues to move w. in the Region and was reported throughout the winter at Blacksburg, (GMS fide JWM) and Front Royal, Va., where a high count of 8 was made on Feb. 4 (RRA). Most remarkable were reports of **Black-headed Grosbeaks** at Blacksburg, from Feb. 2 to the end of the period (JSi fide JWM) and at Charleston on Mar. 9 (fide NG). In both cases numerous observers were able to see the birds and the identifications seem correct.

Rufous-sided Towhees were unusually abundant at Charleston where a total of 415 was reported on the CBC (NG) and one banded 53 during January and December (CK). These large numbers apparently reflected the heavy fall migration farther north. The outstanding sparrow of the season was the White-throated Sparrow which wintered in much higher than normal numbers throughout the n. part of the Region. Typical CBC totals were 530 at Charleston (NG), 103 at Lock Haven (compared with 32 last year—PWS), and 140 at Blacksburg (JWM). White-crowned Sparrows were not especially common although two apparently did

winter at Lewisburg. (COH). A **Harris' Sparrow** was seen and collected at Ona in late December (LK), the first specimen for West Virginia although there have been several reliable sight records. Fox Sparrows were more common than usual with reports coming from Meadville, Pa. (RCL); Kingsport (TWF); up to 10 at a feeder in Ona (MK), and many more sightings than usual at Dalton (APH). Tree Sparrows were unusually abundant in the n. part of the Region, as for example at Lock Haven, where 484 were listed on the CBC as compared with 231 last year (PWS), but at Morgantown (GAH) and other places farther south they were in below normal numbers. "Dark-eyed" Juncos were also low at Morgantown (GAH) but normal at most places, and more common than usual at Dalton (APH). A Lincoln's Sparrow in Letcher Co., Ky. on Mar. 27 was quite early (RHP). Snow Buntings were in moderate numbers as far south as Pittsburgh, with flocks of up to 350 seen at Meadville (RCL). They were reported from near Christiansburg, Va. on Feb. 10-11 (GD fide JWM), but only one was seen on the North Carolina-Tennessee balds (FWB & TWF). The only report of Lapland Longspurs was 1 seen on Jan. 2 near Pittsburgh (DBF).

CORRIGENDUM—In the paragraph headed Woodpeckers and Flycatchers in the Summer 1970 account (*AFN*, 24: 683) the following sentence was omitted by the printer.—A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported from Stahlstown, Westmoreland Co., Pa. on June 18 (C&RS fide DBF), the first record for southwestern Pennsylvania, but oddly the second record for this Region this year.

CONTRIBUTORS—Richard R. Almy, Robert L. Ake, Fred J. Alsop III, Clinton S. Banks, Fred W. Behrend, Ralph K. Bell, George H. Breiding, Ronald Byrom, James M. Campbell, Dennis L. Carter, Mrs. Mary Chapman, Morton Claster, Glen Dudderar, Mrs. W. E. Edington, Thomas W. Finucane, David B. Freeland, Walter Fye, James Garrett, Joseph A. Grom, Norris Gluck, Mrs. Anne P. Hamilton, C. O. Handley, Sr., James Hart, Cecil Hazlett, Tom Henry, Paul D. Hess, William L. Highhouse, J. C. Howell, James E. Hunt, Mrs. Constance Katholi, Randall Kendrick, Mrs. John Kennedy (JKe), Nick Kerlin, Jr., Lloyd Kiff, Mrs. Maxine Kiff, James King (JKi), Janice Kreischer (JKr), Mrs. Nevada Laitsch, Robert C. Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman, James E. Lester, Betty & George McCray, Andy Morton, John W. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Neel (CNe), Avis Newell, Chuck Nicholson (CNC), David Nicolls, Rosalie North, Paul Pardue, Kenneth C. Parkes, Richard H. Peake, C. Putnam, Mrs. Ellis Racy, Peter Range, Richard Sandburg, Lettie Savage, Paul W. Schwalbe, G. M. Shear, Ellis H. Shimp, Joyce Simpson (JSi), Harry E. Slack, Walter R. Spofford, James C. Stevenson, Mrs. Jerie Stewart (JSt), Mrs. C. A. Stone, Cliff & Randy Stringer, Lili Tod, Mrs. Caroline C.

Urban, Grant Ward, Mrs. Cora D. Williams, Merrill Wood.—**GEORGE A. HALL**, Department of Chemistry, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va. 26506.

WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION / Thomas K. Soulen

A few of the migrants which had lingered later than usual due to warm weather late in the fall still were present into December, but once winter began in earnest, there was little let-up. Snowfalls



reached record proportions in some areas, with Michigan being hit most consistently. Ponshair noted that two January blizzards left 20-foot drifts in their wake in sw. counties, and Valentine reported that the season's 160-plus inches erased a 136-inch record dating back to 1886 in Alpena County. Snow also was heavy in s. and e. Wisconsin and parts of Minnesota. Portions of e. Michigan experienced several periods of icy conditions; Valentine noted that a Feb. 20 ice storm damaged trees extensively in the n.e. Lower Peninsula. Heavy snow bypassed parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin, but even though few cold records were set, temperatures frequently were below normal in these areas also.

The fall's scarcity of winter finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches continued through the winter, making for considerable contrast with last winter. Warmer weather the last few days of February brought the first noticeable groups of migrants, and many species appeared Mar. 14-15 with another spurt of warmth; Kelley noted a heavy wave during this latter period in the Detroit area. The last few days of March brought another push of birds into the Region. A number of the unusually early migrants noted in the following summary apparently came as part of one of these March movements.

LOONS, GREBES, HERONS—There were observations of Com. Loons in two Michigan counties from December (Berrien; RS) through mid-February (Ottawa; HC, JP). The only Red-throated