

Dearborn). Three Worm-eating Warblers and a Tennessee Warbler were early on St. George I. on Mar. 27 (HS), the latter the earliest for the Tallahassee Division; 2 Tennessees were seen on Mullet Key the next day (PF). Rarely wintering, a Nashville Warbler was seen well near Homestead on Feb. 21 (TCM); a remarkably early one on St. George I., Mar. 11 (HS), was the first spring record for the Tallahassee Division (*F.S.U.), and another was early at Rockledge on Mar. 22 (AC). Also record-breaking was the beginning of the Parula Warbler's migration at Daytona Beach on Feb. 11 (GC), and a Yellow Warbler at Daytona Beach on Dec. 7 was remarkable whether very late or wintering (GC & Geo. Murray). Two Ovenbirds on St. George I. on Mar. 27 (HS & NW) were the earliest of record for the Tallahassee Division, as was a N. Waterthrush there on Mar. 6 (HS; *F.S.U.). Even earlier, though not record-breaking, was a La. Waterthrush on the upper St. Marks R. (Wakulla Co.) on Feb. 17 (Tom Morrill). Other wintering rarities included Yellow-breasted Chats at Lakeland (G. J. Horel) and Fort Pierce ("HV") and a Wilson's Warbler at St. Petersburg, Dec. 20 (GW).

ORIOLES, BLACKBIRDS, GROSBEAKS, AND BUNTINGS—A Bullock's Oriole wintered at a Tallahassee feeder (FS), and others were sighted near Flamingo on Jan. 3 (JO) and Mar. 21-28 (CO, et al.). Two Brewer's Blackbirds at Islamorada on Feb. 21 (GC) were most unusual for the Keys. Winter records of Blue Grosbeaks came from St. Augustine (Dec. 23-26, GC), Bartow, Jan. 2, PF, JB, et al.), and Fort Pierce (Feb., Harold Wilson; March 9, 2 by Mrs. Hubert Graves). One on Mullet Key, Mar. 27 (JE), was the earliest spring arrival for the Northern Peninsula. The Tallahassee Division, with only one previous March record of the Indigo Bunting, had a rash of them this year: 1 at Ruth Breen's feeder on Mar. 16 was followed by a second one on the 27th; on the latter date, however, others appeared at Tallahassee feeders, and 3 were counted on St. George I. (HS & NW); finally, 2 were seen at each of 2 localities on the St. Marks N. W. R. on March 29 & 31 (CG). Another Indigo Bunting at Mullet Key on the 27th (JE) was also relatively early. Also record-breaking in the Mar. 27 flight on St. George I. was a Painted Bunting (HS & NW), and one wintered as far n. as DeLand (RL). Single Dickcissels were found in March at Winter Haven (PF) and on Mar. 20 at Panacea (JS & JG); these March appearances over the years are puzzling in view of the species' normally late spring migration.

FINCHES AND SPARROWS—By all accounts, the flight of northern finches (Carduelinae) was much reduced, with Purple Finches not reaching Tallahassee until mid-January. Edscorn considered the Rufous-sided Towhee "shockingly scarce" in central and s. Florida. Southerly records of Henslow's Sparrows came from near West Palm

Beach, 2 on Feb. 21 (HL, CO, JE, et al.), and s. Martin Co., 2 on Dec. 5 (HL, PS, et al.); and of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow near West Palm Beach, Dec. 29-Jan. 24 (CO, HL, PS, et al.). A Lark Sparrow wintered at Melbourne Beach (JE, et al.), and there were several records of the White-crowned Sparrow: Monticello (winter; Wm. Hearn), near Homestead (2 on Dec. 6, CO), Lakeland (Dec. 26, JE & VM), and Pass-a-grille (2 in Jan. & Feb., VM & Polly Sherman). An unusual concentration of Fox Sparrows near Tallahassee peaked at about 20 individuals (Veronica Panteleidis), and single birds were reported at nearby locations (JS, Robert Godfrey). The rare Lincoln's Sparrow was found near the Withlacoochee River (Sumter Co.) on Mar. 12 (JE).

EXOTICS—Canary-winged Parakeets (*Brotogeris versicolurus*) continued to increase and spread; 2 were seen near the Tamiami Trail 35 miles W of Miami, Mar. 13 (CO), and about 20 in the e. part of the Everglades Nat'l Park, Mar. 27 (TCM). More and more, there is need of a firm policy against introductions. The matter is just as simple as the question of whether any one or a few individuals should be permitted to change our natural environment without the consent of the general populace.

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ONTARIO—WESTERN NEW YORK REGION

/ Clive E. Goodwin and Richard C. Rosche

ONTARIO

Most Ontario residents would agree that the less said about the winter of 1970-71 the better. Record breaking cold and snow fall was recorded across the Province, and heavy ice and deep snowdrifts curtailed bird watching activities. In spite of these miserable conditions the season produced a good assortment of species, and the heavy snow may have tended to concentrate birds at feeders, allowing them to be seen.

The cold weather continued well past the end of the season—this account is being written with snow falling among the early tulips—but many early migrants appeared on time or even ahead of schedule, with a brief warm spell which moved in with a fast-moving frontal system over s. Ontario on Mar. 14-15. Windsor hit 61° on the 14th, but the balmy weather was short-lived and migration dropped off and was running late by the end of the month.



GREBES, HERONS—Twenty-five Red-necked Grebes appeared in Hamilton Bay on the improbable date of Feb. 15 (GWN, AW), and a Horned Grebe was picked up at Fanshawe L., London, on Feb. 3 (WD). There is some precedent for such unseasonable grebe appearances, but they continue to be a puzzle: possibly the Hamilton birds were caught up in the fast moving frontal system that swept up the East Coast about that time. A few Pied-billed Grebes attempted to winter, and there were the usual reports of wintering Great Blue Herons in the south. A bird of this species at Washburn on Mar. 15 was the Kingston area's earliest by 5 days (RDW).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS—Heavy ice conditions delayed early spring arrivals, or perhaps merely hindered observation of returning birds. Over the winter itself a remarkable variety of species was recorded, to the point that reports of isolated wintering birds that would normally justify comment must be omitted. A measure of this diversity was given by the Toronto Ornithological Club's mid-winter Waterfowl Inventory on Jan. 10, when 23 species were recorded, three more than the previous highest count over the 24 years of this annual census. Mute Swans continue to spread along the Lower Great Lakes: there were at least 2 in the Toronto area throughout (T.O.C.), 3 at Hamilton to late January (fide RC), and 2 at Sombra, Feb. 21-27 (DR,

JPK). A Whistling Swan wintered on Big Creek, Jan. 16–Mar. 28 (RC)). The usual heavy numbers of this species in late March at Long Point did not materialize this year, and only about 2500 were reported (GMCK), but there was a major concentration at Wallaceburg, with some 10,000 there on Mar. 21 (NR). White-fronted Geese made news again; readers will recall 13 which were seen at Hamilton in early spring 1970 were assessed as possible escapes, but events this year suggest the species may be appearing more frequently in the Region. There were 5, with 2 Snow Geese, on the Ottawa R. near Windover on Nov. 29 (IN); a bird at Kingsville on Mar. 20 (JAG, KO, PT) and there are two later sightings which will appear in the next report. A Brant was seen at Ottawa Dec. 6-12 (fide RAF). The Toronto Canada Goose flock had increased to 608 birds on the mid-winter inventory: this represents an average annual increase of some 14% since the birds were released in 1963, although the actual increase plots as an uneven curve which roughly approximates the initial stages of a logistic curve. The Toronto Christmas Bird Count (infra "CBC") also recorded a record 50 Gadwalls; and 3 birds of this species at Kingston on Jan. 1 & 3 were the first in winter there (K.F.N.). Wintering reports of interest from the Kitchener–Waterloo area were a Green-winged Teal at Blair on Dec. 15 (CAC, DC), 2 Wood Ducks at Waterloo on Dec. 7, and another at New Dundee on Jan. 17 (PP, CAC). The outstanding early spring report came from Point Pelee, where a **Common Teal** was seen, Mar. 27-30 (JAG, JPK, AR); there are less than a dozen prior sightings recorded. An easterly Ring-necked Duck was reported from Prince Edward Co. on Dec. 5 (WF). Com. Goldeneye were present in open stretches of the Kaministiquia R. throughout (KD), and the species was very common on the Niagara River (HHA). The goldeneye x Hooded Merganser hybrid reappeared at Sarnia for the fourth successive year (DR). Barrow's Goldeneyes are occurring more frequently on the lower Lakes: this year there were 2 at Oakville throughout (T.O.C.) and another at Niagara Falls (fide HHA). Bufflehead numbers continue high: record numbers occurred on the Niagara River, and the Toronto CBC was only five below the record total set last year. Inland records of this species were 2 at Doon on Feb. 21 (CAC), and single birds throughout at Manotick and Britannia (RAF). An Oldsquaw was picked up in a snowdrift at Manitouwadge on Feb. 23 (KC). A Harlequin Duck again spent the winter off the Toronto Is., except for a brief period when this bird—or another—appeared off Oakville (T.O.C.). Com. Eiders are extremely rare on the Great Lakes, but birds were seen off Mimico from January 30 (JL et al.), and Chippewa to January 10 (HHA). The only King Eiders reported were from Wheatley on Dec. 24 (JAG, JPK), only the second record for the

Detroit Survey; Toronto throughout (T.O.C.); and Van Wagner's Beach, Hamilton on Dec. 26 (JBM). Ottawa had its first census record of a White-winged Scoter with a bird that was present throughout December (RAF), and a Com. Scoter was seen on Dec. 13 off Burnt I., Manitoulin (JN). Com. Merganser was another species in good numbers at both Niagara and Toronto (HHA; CEG) and a Red-breasted Merganser was seen on the Sault Ste. Marie CBC on Jan. 1 (JBM, RD et al.).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES—Late Turkey Vulture reports were of birds at Long Point on Dec. 27 (GY, JF) and in Kent Co. on Dec. 28 (JAG), and early returning bird was seen at Hamilton on Mar. 20 (RHW). Goshawks continue in good numbers: there were some 13 reports, ranging from Thunder Bay to Ottawa and Kent Co. Ottawa had good numbers of Accipiters generally, with 4 Cooper's Hawks and 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks on their December census in Ontario (fide RAF); there were also several Sharp-shinned reports from Hamilton (RC). There were near-record number of Red-tailed Hawks along L. Erie and L. Ontario, from Kent Co. to Niagara and thence to Kingston, where the 48 on the CBC was an all-time high. There were only small numbers further inland. There was a late movement in Kent Co. on Dec. 28, with 58 Red-taileds, and 67 Rough-legged Hawks counted; such movements appear to be a regular feature of the southwest (AHK). Few Rough-legs remained after this movement, but there were some heavy concentrations elsewhere; in the Toronto area estimates of part of the heavy wintering Buteo population ranged 50 to 90, with the proportions assessed between 4 Red-taileds to 1 Rough-leg (JAS) to 7 to 1 (GB, AD). At Kingston the 74 Rough-legs on Dec. 27 were unprecedented (K.F.N.). There was a Red-shouldered Hawk at Ottawa on Dec. 2 (HNMCK) and 6 reports from s.w. Ontario. Both species of eagles appeared in good numbers: there were 11 Bald Eagle reports, mostly from the Kingston area; and no less than 7 Golden Eagles! Single birds were seen at Westwood on Jan. 17 (BW); Pine Grove, Jan. 31 (GB, AD); Hamilton, Dec. 29 (GWN); Long Point, Dec. 27 (RC); Burwash, Mar. 3 (KM); Bradley's Marsh, Kent Co., Jan. 10 (RS fide DR); and Rondeau on Dec. 28 (RSi). Southwestern Ontario had two periods of high Marsh Hawk numbers; 35 at Point Pelee on Dec. 13 (JPK) and 38 in Kent County on Dec. 28 (DR). A gray phase Gyrfalcon was seen at Aurora on Oct. 4 (HL), and there were three reports from Mattice, including one on Dec. 27 (JHE). Other falcons appeared in relatively good numbers, including a surprising—and encouraging—5 winter Peregrine Falcons: birds were at Ottawa, Dec. 23–Apr. 3 (JLu et al.); Thunder Bay, Dec. 28 (RK); Kingston, Mar. 20 (AEH, RDW, PM); Kent Co., Dec. 28 (JAG); and Port Hope throughout the period (ERMCD). At least 3 Pigeon Hawks were reported from the Ottawa

Valley (WEG et al.; MR, RP) and 5 from Thunder Bay (KD). The high count of 21 Sparrow Hawks on the London CBC was a record there (WRJ).

GROUSE, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS—There was a record count of 145 Gray Partridge on the Kingston Dec. 27 CBC. Kent Co. yielded a Virginia Rail, a Sora and a Com. Gallinule on Dec. 28; the last two species were the first winter records for the Detroit survey (fide AHK). An Am. Coot on the Preston CBC, Dec. 26, was the first winter record for that area. An early Com. Snipe was seen at Rondeau on March 14 (JPK) and the 6 on the Dec. 27 London CBC equals the previous high count (WRJ). Other shorebird records of late or wintering birds were: 3 Killdeer at Komoka on Dec. 27 (WG), and another at Picton on Feb. 12 (KCa); a Purple Sandpiper at Niagara Falls, Jan. 1–Feb. 20 (HHA); and 6 at Dunnville on Dec. 1, when 110 Dunlin and 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper were also seen (AVM). The most striking record was a Sanderling on Dec. 28 on Van Wagner's Beach (CW).

GULLS AND TERNS—White gulls were unusually numerous and widespread, although the numbers in the traditional centers of concentration—along L. Ontario particularly around Kingston—were unexceptional. Among the higher counts of Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were (Glaucous first): 15 and 3, Ottawa, Dec. 15 (DB); 9 and 3, St. Clair R., Dec. 7–Feb. 22 (RS, DR); 10 and 1, Sudbury, Dec. 19 (CB, JN); 2 and 1, Kitchener, Jan. 17 (CAC); 2 of each, London, Dec. 25–Jan. 3 (FC, WRJ et al.) the third and first records for Middlesex Co. respectively; and there were also 2 Glaucous Gulls on the Montreal R. on Jan. 2 & 10 at Marathon on Jan. 9 (JBM, PMe). Greater Black-backed Gull and Herring Gull numbers were low on the Niagara R. (HHA), and for the second year in a row at Toronto (CEG); however, there were 8000 Herring Gulls on the St. Clair River on Jan. 2 (DR, JPK et al.), and an all-time high of 325 at London on Dec. 27 (WRJ). A bird of the Thayer's race seen on Jan. 2 among the St. Clair R. gathering was well described (DR). A Black-headed Gull was at Fort Erie to Jan. 2 (PMB, HHA et al.), and good numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were seen in s.w. Ontario in early winter with 500 at Rondeau on Dec. 28 (fide AHK) and 2000 at Kingsville on Dec. 13 (JPK). A Com. Tern at Oakville on Dec. 2 was the latest winter record in the Hamilton region (GWN, AW).

DOVES, OWLS, KINGFISHER—Mourning Doves continue to winter in ever-increasing numbers: there were 4 on Manitoulin I. on Jan. 3 (JN, CS); 40 at Blair on Jan. 1 (CAC, JC), where the first wintering occurred last year; some 1000 in the Port Hope area (fide ERMCD), and the now-customary high counts from the south and west. Great Horned Owls were reported in good numbers from several areas, but it was not a Snowy

Owl "year", and only isolated birds were reported from most areas. Kingston—the usual centre of abundance—had only about 7, but there were 15 reports both at Ottawa and in Prince Edward Co. (TRS), unusually high counts for an off year. Ottawa also had an invasion of Barred Owls, with 28 reports between Christmas and mid-March (RAF), and there were about 8 reported from other areas. It was a remarkable year for the less common owls, although Long-eared and Short-eared Owls, the more usual species, were in relatively small numbers. Hawk Owls were seen at Toronto, Jan. 6 (RF); Ottawa, Jan. 1-3 (SO); Wasi Falls, Dec. 31–Mar. 23 (HP); and Peterborough, Dec. 26 onwards (MP). **Great Gray Owls** staged an invasion, and reports of this rare species were widespread; 2, Leith, Feb. 15–Mar. 15 (TM, MDK); 2, Codrington, Feb. 14 onwards (JMS et al.); and single birds at Ottawa, Jan. 30 (fide RAF); McGregor Township, Mar. 21 (RK); Sunbury, Feb. 24 (EG); Kingston, Mar. 1 (RDW); Azilda, Feb. 20 (KM); South Baymouth, Feb. 21 (MG); Huntsville, Feb. 11 (MA); Walter's Falls, Mar. 19 (GM); Presqu'île Provincial Park, Feb. 14 (TRS); and Barrie, Feb. 20 (JH, GE). This is the heaviest incursion since the huge invasion of 1965-6, which was wholly unprecedented. There were scattered reports of Saw-whet Owls, and single Boreal Owls in King Township on Jan. 3 (HB, DG); Toledo on Jan. 1 (WEG) and Surbury on Feb. 22 (AG, KM). The last two birds were subsequently found dead, and this seems to have been the fate of many of the owls in Ontario this year, as the deep snow apparently made mice hard to find. Belted Kingfishers are rare in Ottawa in winter; a bird was seen on Dec. 15 and again on Jan. 10 (RAF, DB, HNMCK).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—Yellow-shafted Flickers were in particularly good numbers in Toronto (T.O.C.), and continue to winter with increasing regularity in the Province: there were 2 on the Ottawa C B C, the second C B C record there, and 2 others during February (fide RAF); a bird at Shebandowan on Feb. 23 was picked up dead the next day (ND). Pileated Woodpecker populations are strong judging by the number of reports received, and Hairy Woodpeckers appeared more regularly in s. Ontario than during the last two years. Three-toed Woodpeckers of both species provided only scattered reports. There were 2 Red-bellied Woodpeckers in the southwest, and 1 at East Lake, Prince Edward Co., on Mar. 21 (NP); a Red-headed Woodpecker was on Bell's I., Kingston, throughout (K.F.N.). A remarkable flycatcher sighting which was omitted from the fall summary was a **Cassin's Kingbird** at Ottawa, Sept. 19–Oct. 8 (DB et al.), the third Ontario sighting, one that was carefully documented. Two E. Phoebes at Waupoos on Mar. 6 (KCa) were early, as was a Tree Swallow at Point Pelee on Mar. 20

(KO). Ottawa had a Barn Swallow on Dec. 2, the latest ever there (fide RAF).

CROWS, CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES—There was a Gray Jay at Picton on Mar. 15 (JW), and Com. Ravens are prospering: the Huntsville C B C had 101 on Jan. 10, a "fantastic increase" (fide HP); the species was reported as common at Mattice (JHE) and Virginiatown (PWR). Boreal Chickadees provided few reports in the south, but the New Year saw a minor influx at Pimisi Bay (LdeKL), and the birds were in good numbers at Manitouwadge (JBM). Tufted Titmice were particularly common in the Hamilton area, with 11 different birds between Oakville and Winona during the winter, at least 5 remaining throughout (fide RC). There were 5 White-breasted Nuthatches present at Thunder Bay throughout the winter (KD), but Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce there, although in good numbers through the rest of the north.

WRENS, MIMIDS, THRUSHES—A Winter Wren on Big I. Dec. 30–Jan. 3 and a Brown Thrasher at East L., Dec. 5-25 were the first winter records for Prince Edward Co. (TRS). A Mockingbird was at Kingston on March 1 (NM) and at Sault Ste. Marie Dec. 26–Jan. 1 (AGG). Robin is another species that is wintering in ever-increasing numbers: there were 25 on Feb. 7 at Wawa (JBM) and 38 on the Dec. 26 Thunder Bay C B C, where 100 were seen the previous week (KD). There were also early Robin movements: 500 at Cobourg on Mar. 15 (GC) and 200 at Point Pelee on Mar. 21 (JAG). A **Varied Thrush** was seen in King Township on Dec. 27 (GN), continuing the pattern of winter appearances of this species in the Province. Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets were at a London feeder on Dec. 27 (DCr).

PIPITS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, STARLINGS, WARBLERS—A Water Pipit at London on Mar. 20 (JT) set a new early date for the area by two weeks, and Point Pelee provided one of the infrequent winter records of this species, on Jan. 5 (AR). There were the usual isolated records of Bohemian Waxwings in e. Ontario, and Cedar Waxwings were in good numbers at Thunder Bay, with 147 on Dec. 26, and some throughout the winter (KD). There were two wintering reports of Loggerhead Shrikes: a bird at London on Dec. 27 (JB, CH), and 1 at Wasi Falls on Dec. 26 (HP). Northern Shrikes made news in the south and east, with high or records numbers in most areas along L. Ontario from Toronto east. They tapered off further west, with only moderate numbers at Waterloo and very few in s.w. Ontario (CAC, AHK); the Lakehead had average numbers. In northern areas Starlings seem to replace native species as the first spring migrants: at Manitouwadge the first appeared on Mar. 4 (JBM), at Valrita birds were seen on Mar. 29 (JHE), and the wintering birds at Virginiatown were supplemented by new arrivals on

Feb. 25 (PWR). There were fewer reports of wintering warblers than in recent years, but a Myrtle survived at Sault Ste. Marie until Dec. 27 (AGG) and there was a Yellowthroat at Rondeau on Dec. 28 (fide AHK).

MEADOWLARKS, BLACKBIRDS—An E. Meadowlark on Dec. 11 at Ottawa was late (DL). A Yellow-headed Blackbird on Jan. 1 & 10 at Leamington was the second winter record for s.w. Ontario (JAG, DRa). Blackbird numbers continue high, and there were an abundance of wintering reports, particularly of Brown-headed Cowbirds: there were an estimated 2000 on Dec. 28 in Kent Co. (fide AHK), and the 200 in Dumfries Township on Dec. 7 was the biggest winter gathering on record in that area (CAC, WS et al.). These wintering populations often seem to suffer great attrition as winter wears on: at Purpleville 33 on Dec. 13 gradually vanished in the New Year (GB, AD), a pattern also noted by these observers last year. Two Red-winged Blackbirds on Dec. 7 in North Dumfries Township comprised one of the few winter records in the area (CAC, WS) and there were a record 6 on the Ottawa CBC (fide RAF). Returning blackbirds staged some spectacular congregations: on Mar. 27 at Long Point 300,000 Redwings were counted between 6:30 and 8:00 a.m. (MHE), and the previous day **one million** had been estimated in late afternoon (DRG, GY). Com. Grackles were estimated at 250,000 in St. Thomas in March (MF).

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS—More northerly Cardinal records included 2 at Sault Ste. Marie to Dec. 26 (AWi) and a ♂ at a South Baymouth feeder throughout (JN). To the south feeders provided some spectacular aggregations: there were 20 at a Pine Grove feeder in early December (EM fide GB), and an astonishing 46 at Dr. Axtell's Rose Hill Road feeder near Fort Erie during February. It was not a winter finch year: only Evening Grosbeaks appeared in good numbers—a new high of 121 on the Dec. 27 London CBC—but on the whole it was only a moderate flight. A few Purple Finches appeared, and in the Wasi Falls–Callander area there were good numbers (HP), whilst still further north at Manitouwadge (JBM) and Mattice (JHE) there was a good variety of finch species. Apparently food supplies were adequate in the north. A **Lark Bunting** at a London feeder from Dec. 24 to Mar. 8 (MC fide WRJ) was the first for Middlesex Co., and probably the first winter record for Ontario. Several southern areas remarked on a wide variety of passerines, especially native sparrows, particularly in the early winter: there was a Savannah Sparrow at Burlington on Dec. 26 (LG), and 2 at Ottawa to the end of February were the first successful wintering there (MCu); two Field Sparrows wintered at Kearney (LV); a Chipping Sparrow at Kingston to Dec. 27 (JCB) and 2 at Burlington Feb. 14-15 (AW, GWN); and there was a Song

Sparrow on the Jan. 3 Manitoulin CBC (JN et al.). A Song Sparrow at Pimisi Bay on Mar. 15 was 20 days early (LdeKL)! One hundred Lapland Longspurs were visiting the Nepean dump during early March, and the species was regular elsewhere in the Ottawa area (MB, DB, DL). Snow Buntings were widespread in medium-sized flocks; the largest number reported was 5000 at Kettle Point on Jan. 17 (EN), and in Prince Edward County 30-50 birds were visiting a feeder—an unusual event in s. Ontario (TRS).

ERRATA—Contributors point out that the first paragraph on p. 50 of the autumn account (*Am. Birds* 25: 50, 1971) is misleading. The sentence "But the passage was far more extensive..." should read "But the passage of migrants was far more extensive." On the same page the reference to a Whistling Swan at South Essford should read: "a bird at Kingston on Nov. 14 (S. Essford fide GW).

In Audubon Field Notes 23: 474, 1969 the first Canadian record of a Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported. This immature specimen subsequently led to disagreement among the museum authorities, and was finally sent to the British Museum who suggest it is a form of Herring Gull. Dr. D. W. Snow writes: "We feel sure that it is not any race of *fuscus*, and reasonably sure that it is one of the American forms of *argentatus*, with which it agrees both in its generally less speckled body plumage (as compared with *fuscus* or European *argentatus*) and in the pattern of its outer tail feathers (generally showing less white than immatures of Old World *argentatus* and much less white than immatures of *fuscus*)." Our first Lesser Black-backed Gull is still awaited!

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WESTERN NEW YORK AND NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA.—Many contributors described the winter season as "a long and hard one". Most of the Region experienced extremely heavy snowfall; 116 inches at Erie, Pa. was a record for a single season and Rochester, N.Y. received the second heaviest fall, on record, 142 inches; lesser amounts fell in n.w. New York. Temperatures were about normal, with few extremes.

Complete freeze-up occurred early. Montezuma Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Seneca Co., N.Y. had no open water after Dec. 7 and ice conditions remained severe there, as in many other areas, through the end of the period. The heavy snow caused concentrations of open field birds on the plains s. of L. Ontario. A number of interesting half-hardy species were in the Region, at least during the early part of the season. There were almost no northern finches. The first influx of spring migrants took place on Feb. 26 & 27, somewhat earlier than in some years; March 14 and Mar. 27 and 28 were other noticeable migration days.

GREBES—Warm water being discharged by a power plant into Lake Erie in the harbor at Dunkirk, Chautauqua Co., N.Y. has, for many years, provided open water for a great variety of lingering and unusual water birds; this season was the best ever as the notes below will indicate. Red-necked, Horned, and Pied-billed Grebes were observed there throughout the season. There was a weak flight of Red-necked Grebes during the last week of March; 1 or 2 were at the s. end of Cayuga Lake at Ithaca, Tompkins Co., N.Y. where they are rare (DM). The relative scarcity of Pied-billed Grebes in recent years was not reflected by a count of 15 on Dec. 5 at Conesus Lake, Livingston Co., N.Y. (TT); 66 noted on Jan. 2 on the Presque Isle State Park, Pa. Christmas Bird Count (*infra* "C B C") was the highest count in many years and certainly one of the highest on any C B C conducted in the Region.

SWANS, GEESSE—Southbound Whistling Swans lingered in several localities through the first ten days of December with the maximum count of 120 occurring on Chautauqua L. at Prendergast Point, Chautauqua Co. on Dec. 2 (FE); 1 was noted on Feb. 7 on Cayuga L. at Aurora, Cayuga Co. (GA); northbound migrants appeared with the Feb. 26-27 warm spell but it was not until a month later that maximum numbers occurred; the flats at Groveland, Livingston Co. produced the maximum

count of 127 on Mar. 28 (GP, et al.). This latter area should be acquired by some agency such as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and managed as a migratory waterfowl refuge.

The distribution and occurrence of geese continued to change markedly. Large numbers of Canada Geese remained until freezeup in December and early January; a southbound flock was noted in a snow squall over Alfred, Allegany Co., N.Y. as late as Jan. 12 (CK); about 500, an unusually high number, wintered in the Cayuga Lake Basin (fide SS); a major northward flight occurred over the entire Region on Feb. 26 and by Mar. 6 there were an estimated 18,000 in the Iroquois Nat'l Wildlife Refuge area of Genesee, Niagara, and Orleans Counties, N.Y. (AM, WM, et al.). A late Brant was at Manitou, Monroe Co., N.Y. on Dec. 6 (WL). Rather late Snow Geese occurred on Dec. 1 at Manitou (WL) and on Dec. 5 at Montezuma Refuge (WB); spring migrants included 3 at Elmira, Chemung Co., N.Y. from Mar. 22 through 24 (MS, et al.) where they are very uncommon and 8 migrating over Fredonia, Chautauqua Co. on Mar. 28 (RS, et al.); the maximum spring count was 35 on Mar. 27 at Montezuma Refuge (TT). Late were 3 Blue Geese on Dec. 3 at Iroquois Refuge (JM); an immature at Dunkirk Jan. 24—Mar. 22 was the first winter record for the Niagara Frontier region (OC, FE, et al.); 3 at Elmira Mar. 22-24 were the first Chemung Co. records (MS, et al.); 7 flying over Fredonia, N.Y. on March 28 were unexpected for that locality (RS, et al.).

DUCKS—About 200 Black Ducks were at Dunkirk on Mar. 12 (CB) and Mar. 26 (AU, et al.). 35 Gadwall wintered on Cayuga L.—more than in any other recent year (WM). There were about 400 Pintail on the flats at Groveland, on March 28 (JD, et al.); this was the maximum spring count. The Am. Widgeon was more common than in recent winters on Cayuga L., where up to 66 occurred (WB); the maximum spring count was 200 on Mar. 28 at Groveland (JC, et al.). Late stragglers were single Shovelers on Dec. 1 and 2 at Dunkirk (OC) and on Dec. 3 at Iroquois Refuge (JM).

There were some good counts of wintering Redheads from the central New York lakes region—6025 on Jan. 1 on the Central Cayuga County, N.Y. C B C and 600 on Jan. 10 (RO) and 1500 on Feb. 7 (WL) on Canandaigua L., N.Y. Three Ring-necked Ducks were still on Canandaigua L. on Jan. 10 (RO); they were unusually common during March in the Elmira region (WH); the spring maximum of 175 occurred on Mar. 28 at Groveland, N.Y. (GP, et al.). It was the best eider winter since 1966-67. Single **Com. Eiders** were carefully studied on Dec. 12 on the L. Ontario shore at Manitou (WL) and at Webster, Monroe Co. (AK). Also on Dec. 12 there were 3 King Eiders at Manitou (WL) and 2 at Webster (AK); other singles occurred on Dec. 26 along the L. Ontario

shore e. of Rochester (JCz) and from Feb. 6 through 27 at Dunkirk, on Lake Erie (OC, et al.). Maximum counts of scoters included 1500 White-winged Scoters on Dec. 5 on L. Ontario e. of Rochester (G.O.S.), and 20 Surf Scoters on Feb. 21 at Presque Isle, Erie Co., Pa. (DS). Some 300 Com. Mergansers were at Dunkirk on Jan. 22 (CB).

HAWKS—Nearly a dozen Goshawks were reported from the Rochester, Ithaca, and Elmira regions during the period. Cooper's Hawks were more common than during recent winters; many of these visited backyard feeding stations. Wintering Red-tailed Hawk populations were high on the plains s. of L. Ontario but low elsewhere; exceptionally high counts included 48 on Dec. 30 on the Oak Orchard Swamp, N.Y. C B C, 105 on Jan. 1 on the Montezuma, N.Y. C B C, 46 on Jan. 3 on the Conesus-Hemlock-Honeoye Lakes, N.Y. C B C, and 41 on Feb. 7 in Niagara County, N.Y. (AM & WM); spring migrant activity was evidenced by 3 migrating birds on Feb. 27 in the Genesee River Valley at Belmont, Allegany Co., N.Y. (DB & LB) and on Mar. 28 when 22 were seen migrating near Geneseo, Livingston Co., (JD, et al.). Wintering Rough-legged Hawks were moderately common on the Lake Plains and locally in the southern sections; in n. Seneca Co., for example, they were more common than in recent years (WB); a heavy migration of unusually high numbers took place on Feb. 27 and 28—84 were counted on Feb. 27 (OC) and 71 occurred on Feb. 28 (FR, et al.) as they moved n.e. along the L. Erie shore at Stockton, Chautauqua Co.; 12 were at Braddock Bay, Monroe Co. on Feb. 27 (GP); there was a good movement a month later when 19 were recorded in Wayne Co., N.Y. on Mar. 27 (TT) and smaller numbers were noted along the south shore of L. Erie in Chautauqua Co. A **Golden Eagle** was observed at Webster, N.Y. on March 14 (WLI). Eleven reports of Bald Eagles were received involving about 12-13 individuals, 4 of which were adults, 3 immatures, and the rest unaged. Wintering Marsh Hawks were uncommon as usual; spring migratory movements were evident on Feb. 28 when 7 were noted at Braddock Bay, (GP), on March 21 when 12 were observed migrating near Geneseo, (JF), and on March 23 when 15 were at Montezuma Refuge (MP).

TURKEY, RAILS—A Turkey was noted on Jan. 10 in the Canandaigua L. area (RO) where it had not been previously reported; in the Ithaca area, turkey populations were about the same as in previous years but individuals were scattered rather than in flocks; this was thought to be due partially to snowmobile pressures (PK fide SS). A Virginia Rail, always rare in winter, was studied on Jan. 9 and 10 at Mendon, Monroe Co. (GP). Am. Coot maximum counts included 300 on Chautauqua L. on Dec. 10 (FE), 40 on Canandaigua L. on Jan. 10 (RO), and 35 at Dunkirk on Feb. 20 and 26 (FE, et al.).

SHOREBIRDS—Com. Snipe, reported regularly in recent winters, were noted in two localities; 3 were at Greece, Monroe Co. on Jan. 9 (WL), and 5 were at Towerville, Chautauqua Co. on Jan. 22 (OC). The still rare but increasing Purple Sandpiper occurred at Braddock Bay, Dec. 1-21 where 3 were observed (G.O.S.); another was noted on Dec. 26 along the L. Ontario shore e. of Rochester (JCz). Three late Dunlin also frequented the Braddock Bay area from Dec. 1-21 (G.O.S.).

GULLS—Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were reported sparingly from areas adjacent to the Great Lakes and Niagara River. An Iceland Gull that frequented a dump at Horseheads, Chemung Co. was thought to be only the second record for that area (MW, et al.). Great Black-backed Gulls were much more numerous than usual at Erie, Pa. (RB), whereas, together with Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, they were less common in the Niagara R. area (fide HA). The Lesser Black-backed Gull, recorded for seven consecutive years at Ithaca, failed to return this year (fide JT). C B C data again showed the Ring-billed Gull to be far more common than the Herring Gull along the s. shore of L. Erie at Dunkirk, N.Y. and Erie, Pa.; the reverse is true in all other parts of the Region during winter. Two tagged Ring-billed Gulls that were noted at Erie originated from breeding colonies in Lakes Huron and Michigan (RB). One of two **Black-headed Gulls** that appeared at Dunkirk on Jan. 17 and 19 (OC, et al.) was thought to be the same individual that frequented the Niagara R. opposite Buffalo, Dec. 19-Jan. 2 (fide HA); a single bird stayed at Dunkirk through Jan. 24 (OC, et al.). About 150 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Dunkirk on Dec. 2 (FE); most unusual for so early in the southern tier counties of New York were 50 Bonaparte's Gulls at Wellsville, Allegany Co. on Mar. 29 (DB & LB). In the Rochester region 1 to 2 Little Gulls were frequently noted Dec. 5-20 (G.O.S.); 1 to 2 fed in the lower Niagara R. in the Lewiston, Niagara Co., N.Y. area Jan. 1-10 (B.O.S.).

OWLS—Screech and Great Horned Owl totals on some of the C B Cs in the eastern part of the Region were especially noteworthy. The reader is referred to the American Birds, 25, 2 for specifics but it seems pertinent to ask a question here: Are these owls actually more common in central New York than in the western and southern counties or is it only on the central New York counts that observers are in the field during the hours of darkness? A maximum of 8 Snowy Owls were reported from scattered localities on the L. Ontario plains; an additional observation came from the Keuka Park, Yates Co., N.Y. area (FG). The L. Ontario plains also harbored a fair number of Short-eared Owls in widely scattered "colonies", the highest numbers of which occurred during March; maximum counts included 16 on Mar. 13 near Geneseo, (ST) and 10 Mar. 22-Apr. 1 at Montezuma Refuge (MP).

WOODPECKERS—Yellow-shafted Flickers were

more common than usual during the early part of the winter; the largest numbers seemed to be concentrated in the wet woods areas of the Iroquois and Montezuma Refuges, N.Y. and at Presque Isle, Pa. according to the C B C data. A total of 71 Red-bellied Woodpeckers was reported on nine of the 16 C B Cs taken in the Region; most of these were localized in the central New York area as usual where 26 were counted on the Conesus-Hemlock-Honeoye Lakes, N.Y. C B C and 21 on the Montezuma C B C; this southern species continues to increase markedly. About 10 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported during December and January which was an increase over most recent winters; none were reported after January.

CROWS, CHICKADEES, TITMOUSE, NUTHATCHES—A Com. Crow roost at West Seneca, Erie Co., N.Y. contained about 7000 birds on Jan. 3 (AM, WM, et al.) and Feb. 27 (LC & MC); in the hilly southern tier a roost at Alfred, N.Y. held about 250 birds in late January and early February (CK). Black-capped Chickadee populations were about normal, as was to be expected after the lack of a southward flight last autumn. A single **Boreal Chickadee** visited a feeder at Horseheads, N.Y. on Dec. 25 (LA); another was studied on Jan. 3 and Feb. 7 at Pendleton Township, Niagara Co., N.Y. where one was present last fall (AM, WM, et al.). A total of 218 Tufted Titmouse was recorded on 13 of the 16 C B Cs; the heaviest concentrations occurred in the Hamburg-East Aurora, circle, followed by the Elmira and Jamestown circles; only the Buffalo, Fredonia, and Montezuma C B Cs lacked them. Although they were far less common than a year ago, Red-breasted Nuthatches were locally fairly common during the early part of the season; most apparently moved farther south for there were few reports during February and March.

MIMIDS, THRUSHES, WAXWING, SHRIKE—Mockingbirds continued to be widespread in small numbers; at Alfred where this bird has first appeared recently, 1 was seen on three occasions (CK). More Brown Thrashers than usual were reported during the early part of the season, but after mid-winter few were noted. Robins, too, were more numerous than in the average winter; a rather high count of 250 was at Rochester on the late date of Dec. 13 (JD). There were several reports of wintering E. Bluebirds during the first half of the season. Cedar Waxwings were moderately common throughout the season; the maximum count was 300 on Feb. 21 at Webster (WLI). There were more reports of N. Shrikes than a year ago, but it was not considered to be a major flight year by most observers; as expected, most observations were on the L. Ontario plains.

WARBLERS—Away from Presque Isle, Pa. where they winter regularly in fair numbers, Myrtle Warblers were seen only at Mendon Ponds Park, Monroe Co., during December and January when up to 7 were noted (GP).

BLACKBIRDS—All of the usual half-hardy blackbirds, but especially the Red-winged Blackbird, were generally more scarce than in recent years, although there were a few notable exceptions; at Pittsford, Monroe Co., 250 Red-winged Blackbirds, 15 Com. Grackles, and 300 Brown-headed Cowbirds were estimated on Feb. 11 (GP). The warm weather of Feb. 26-27 brought a flood of migrant blackbirds into the Region; there was a notable movement also at Erie, Pa. on March 14 (RB). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was observed closely at a feeder with Red-winged Blackbirds at Rochester on Jan. 19 & 31 (AN).

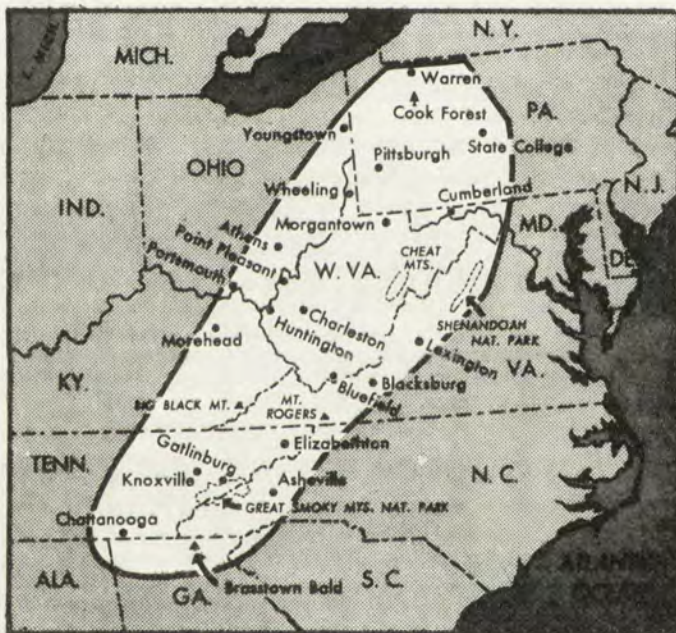
FRINGILLIDS—A Dickcissel occurred from Dec. 1 through Jan. 16 at Webster (ED). Generally small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks were scattered in many parts of the Region during the early part of the winter but most had disappeared by early February. Purple Finches were very scarce all season. House Finches seem to be definitely established in the Elmira area where up to 7 were seen at one feeder all winter and where there were at least seven other reliable reports during the season (WH); 2 ♂♂ were at Ithaca on Feb. 22 (DM, et al.); another occurred at a feeder at Amherst, Erie Co., N.Y. on Dec. 4 and 6 and on March 7 (RBr). There were 4 reports of small numbers of Com. Redpolls. Two reports of Pine Siskins totaling 26 birds were on the C B Cs; there were no other reports. The only crossbills noted were 2 Reds on Dec. 16 at North Boston, Erie Co., N.Y. (TB) and 7 White-winged Crossbills on Mar. 12 at Boston, Erie Co., N.Y. (TB). A very late Savannah Sparrow was noted on Dec. 14 near Ithaca (DM); there are few winter records. Seven Vesper Sparrows, many more than during the average winter, were reported during December and January, Slate-colored Juncos were about average in abundance; however, an interesting note was that none were seen at Alfred until mid-March (CK)! Reliable Oregon Junco reports included 1 present throughout the period at Webster (MSu), and 1 during December and January at a feeder at Pine City, Chemung Co. (LF). White-crowned, White-throated, and Song Sparrows wintered more commonly than usual in many parts of the Region; however, the White-throated Sparrow was less abundant than usual at Alfred, and Presque Isle, Pa. and the White-crowned Sparrow was less frequent also at Presque Isle. Most observers thought Snow Buntings were less frequent than in some years; however, some of the flock sizes were far larger than in many years; maximum counts were 1000 on Jan. 18 at Elmira (fide WH); 1500 on Jan. 15 at Elma, Erie Co., N.Y. (GW); 2000 on March 14 in Sheridan Township, Chautauqua Co. (OS, et al.); and 1250 on March 21 at Lima, Livingston Co. (JF, et al.).

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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