

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.

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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

Loon report came from Milwaukee on Dec. 26 (MD). Horned Grebes were noted in Hennepin Co., Minn. on Dec. 1 (VL); Cook Co., Minn. on Jan. 23 (TD); and in Ottawa Co., Mich. on Feb. 13 (HC, JP). There were at least 12 Pied-billed Grebes observed Jan. 10 at Harsen's I., St. Clair Co., Mich. (EK) and Feb. 4 at Buchanan, Berrien Co., Mich. (WB). Up to 11 Great Blue Herons overwintered in the Monroe Co., Mich. marshes (JAG, JPK); there were scattered other reports, mostly on Christmas Bird Counts (infra "CBCs"). Single Black-crowned Night Herons were seen on Dec. 22 at Erie Marsh, Monroe Co., Mich. (JAG) and Dec. 26–Jan. 23 in Dakota Co., Minn. (fide JCG); additional birds were observed on CBCs at Appleton and Fremont, Wis., and Bloomington, Minn.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS—Eight of the resident Mute Swans in Alpena Co., Mich. spent the winter (AEV), and 2 birds were seen at Saugatuck, Allegan Co., Mich. on Feb. 26 (BM); up to 4 individuals were noted in three s.e. Michigan counties from Feb. 26 through Mar. 21: Oakland (FH), St. Clair (JPK), and Wayne (JAG). Nine Whistling Swans were still present Dec. 1 in far n. Bayfield Co., Wis. (DB); 500 were noted in Wabasha Co., Minn. on Dec. 12 (FZL), with some birds still there Dec. 20 (BTV). Two of the 15 Trumpeter Swans in Carver Co., Minn. flew away Feb. 17 (KH). A Canada Goose in Midland Co., Mich. on Feb. 14 was unusual (RGM), as was a White-fronted Goose in Jefferson Co., Wis. on Mar. 28 (DB, et al.). Snow Geese wintered in Winnebago Co., Wis. (DT) and in Crow Wing and Olmsted Cos., Minn. (fide JCG); a bird was seen Jan. 9 in Allegan Co., Mich., along with 2 Blue Geese (BM). A Blue Goose at St. Joseph, Berrien Co., Mich. on Dec. 26 was the first noted there in recent winters (WB, JW). There were a number of Pintails seen: 7 wintered in the Erie Marsh, Monroe Co., Mich., for the fifth winter record from the Detroit area (EK); 2 ♂♂ in Midland Co., Mich. on Feb. 14 were unusual (RGM); and there were 6 reports from four Minnesota counties from early December through mid-February (fide JCG). Blue-winged Teal on the Alpena, Mich. CBC in Hennepin Co., Minn. on Dec. 29 (fide JCG), and in Winnebago Co., Wis. (DT) in February were noteworthy, as was a wintering Am. Widgeon in Hennepin Co., Minn. (VL). Among the 9 winter reports of Wood Duck from all three states were 2 northern ones from Cass and St. Louis Cos., Minn. (fide JCG). Good numbers of Redheads and Canvasbacks were present in the Detroit area in March (JAG, JPK). A Ring-necked Duck in St. Louis Co., Minn. wintered rather far north (fide JCG), as did a Lesser Scaup in Alpena Co. (AEV). A Barrow's Goldeneye in Ozaukee Co., Wis. on Jan. 4 was noteworthy (MD, DG). Two Oldsquaws were present "inland" in Sauk Co., Wis. on Dec. 26 (PA). Harlequin Ducks (at least 4 total) were observed in St. Louis Co., Minn. from Dec. 5 through

Jan. 21 (MMC, KRE, JCG, JG). In Michigan, a ♂ of this species was present and photographed Jan. 8–28 at St. Joseph (WB, et al.), a ♀ was noted there Mar. 7 (HK), and a ♂ on Mar. 25 (WB); on the other side of the state, a ♂ was observed at Grosse Ile, Monroe Co., for the second Detroit area Michigan record (JAG, JPK, KO). A ♀ eider (sp.) was noted near Detroit on Jan. 16 (JPK), and 2 Com. Eiders were seen on the Marquette, Mich. CBC. There were 2 reports in Wisconsin of White-winged Scoters, from La Crosse Co. Dec. 11 (JRR) and Milwaukee Co. Dec. 26 (MD); one bird of this species was observed in Alpena Co., Mich. in January (fide AEV). A Surf Scoter was seen on the Traverse City, Mich. CBC, and a Com. Scoter on the Hales Corner, Wis. CBC.

VULTURE, HAWKS, EAGLES, OSPREY—A **Turkey Vulture** present Dec. 22 in Monroe Co. constituted a first winter record for the Michigan counties in the Detroit area (JAG, et al.). There were Goshawk reports from 6 Minnesota and 7 Wisconsin counties, mostly northern (fide JCG & NRB). Red-tailed Hawks were still migrating Dec. 6 in Winona Co., Minn. (12 birds; BTV) and Dec. 13 in St. Clair Co., Mich. (28 birds; RJS); this species was considered numerous in the Detroit area. Six Red-shouldered Hawks were noted during the season in the Detroit area, an encouraging observation considering the species' recent scarcity there (fide AHK). Five phenomenally early Broad-winged Hawks were noted Mar. 15 at Point Huron, Macomb Co., Mich. (WALL). The only areas where large numbers of Rough-legged Hawks elicited comment were in Kenosha and Ozaukee Cos. in s.e. Wisconsin (MD) and in Ottawa Co. in s.w. Michigan (JP). A **Ferruginous Hawk** was seen on the L. Geneva, Wis. CBC, not too far from where one was reported on Jan. 10 in Kenosha Co. (MD). An imm. Golden Eagle observed in Ottawa Co., Mich. on Jan. 9 stayed well into March (GW). There were observations of this species in Grant Co., Wis. on Mar. 27 (BK) and from six Minnesota counties (fide JCG). The fall migration peak of Bald Eagles at Duluth was on Dec. 5 (22 birds, fide JCG); spring movement (48 birds) was noted at the Upper Mississippi Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in s.w. Wisconsin on Feb. 22 (KK). Quite amazing were an **Osprey** noted in St. Croix Co., Wis. on Dec. 31 (MO) and a gray phase **Gyr Falcon** in Wabasha Co., Minn. on Dec. 23 (fide JCG; specimen now in Bell Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis).

GROUSE, GRUIFORMES, SHOREBIRDS — Spruce Grouse have been noted in Wisconsin only rarely in recent years; one was present in Iron Co. on Dec. 11 (JE). There were very few Bobwhite reports. A Sandhill Crane observed on the Waterloo State Recreation Area, Mich. CBC appeared injured but was able to fly; 54 of these birds in Jefferson Co., Wis. on Mar. 28 were rather early (WP). Virginia Rails lingered late near Detroit,

with 2 birds in Monroe Co. Dec. 22 (CF) and 1 in Lapeer Co. Dec. 26 (EN). Two Am. Coots in Midland Co., Mich. on Jan. 2 were unusual (EEK). There were 7 Killdeer observations in December, distributed in all three states; except for a Jan. 9 bird in Winona Co., Minn. (FZL), this species was not reported again until the first returning migrants appeared during the last few days of February. An Am. Woodcock was observed on the Kalamazoo, Mich. C B C. A **Purple Sandpiper** was seen and photographed on Dec. 23 at St. Joseph (WB). A Dec. 5 Least Sandpiper in Wayne Co., Mich. was two weeks later than the previous record departure date in the Detroit area (JAG, EK). Dunlins were noted until Dec. 4 in Berrien Co. (WB); Dec. 19 in Milwaukee (DG); and Dec. 22 in Monroe Co., Mich. (JAG). A very early Semipalmated Sandpiper was observed at close range on Mar. 31 in Berrien Co. (WB, HK, GS).

GULLS—Glaucous Gulls were noted at a number of localities: 5 Michigan birds in Macomb (AR) and Monroe (JPK, AM, et al.) Cos., as well as 2 in Alpena Co. (AEV), 1 in Berrien Co. (WB), and 1 in Ottawa Co. (JP, GW); Wisconsin birds in Bayfield (DB, et al.), Brown (EDC), and Douglas (TS) Cos.; and Minnesota birds in Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Cos., with peaks totaling up to 30 or more birds present at the several localities (JCG). Iceland Gulls were reported from several Michigan locations: Monroe (AM) and Wayne (EK) Cos. Dec. 22-24 and Berrien Co. Dec. 8-27 (WB, RP); 1 individual also was present Jan. 3 in Bayfield Co., Wis. (DB, et al.). A very early Franklin's Gull appeared in Ozaukee Co. on Mar. 30 (DG). Single adult **Ivory Gulls** noted Feb. 17 in St. Louis Co. (MMC) and Mar. 14 in Lake Co., Minn. (JB) may have been the same bird. At least 2 **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were observed in Michigan: an immature at St. Joseph, Berrien Co. Dec. 12 (WB) may have been the bird seen Dec. 27 at New Buffalo (WB, MM, SC); a Dec. 12 bird in Monroe Co. is the fifth Detroit Survey record (JAG, KO).

DOVES, OWLS—Several observers commented on good numbers of wintering Mourning Doves; there were northern reports from Duluth (fide JCG) and from Oconto Co., Wis. (CR). The first Barn Owls noted in several years in the Detroit area were 2 birds present from Dec. 22 to Feb. 13 in Monroe Co. (WR, et al.); this species also was observed on Jan. 6 in Sauk Co., Wis. (KL) and on C B Cs at Niles, Mich. and Oshkosh, Wis. C B C participants armed with tape-recorded calls found Screech Owls in the Detroit area to be quite numerous; Great Horned Owls also were found in encouraging numbers (at least 18) in this area (fide AHK). There were few Snowy Owl reports from s. counties in the Region. Only in n.e. Michigan (AEV) and near Duluth (JCG, et al.) were there observed more than scattered individuals; up to 18 birds were present in the Duluth area. There was one report of a **Great**

Gray Owl, on Jan. 23 at Grand Portage, Cook Co., Minn. (LH, JM). A Boreal Owl was trapped and banded on Feb. 21 in Alpena (CFB, AEV).

WOODPECKERS, SWALLOWS, TITMICE, NUT-HATCHES, WRENS, MIMIDS—A Red-bellied Woodpecker wintered for the second time near Posen, Presque Isle Co., Mich., considerably north of other Michigan reports of this species; the bird was banded this year (fide AEV). Other northern wanderers were noted in Vilas Co., Wis. on Feb. 28 (LG) and on the Walker, Minn. C B C. This species continues to increase in the Detroit area (fide AHK). Red-headed Woodpeckers were scarce in s.w. Michigan (fide RS) and in Wisconsin (fide NRB). Wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted in Oakland Co., Mich. (RE, NTK, MJW), on the Berrien Springs, Mich. C B C, and in Milwaukee (MD, DG) and Rock (CS) Cos. in Wisconsin. There were 6 far northern reports of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers, 5 in Minnesota and 1 in Wisconsin. A Tree Swallow on Mar. 14 in Berrien Co., Mich. was the earliest ever recorded there (CN). A Boreal Chickadee in Buffalo Co., Wis. Dec. 23-Jan. 21 was unusually far south (fide JCG). A Tufted Titmouse which was present throughout the period in Alpena Co. was the first known report for that area (AEV). Red-breasted Nuthatches were very scarce throughout the Region; few were reported other than the scattered individuals noted on C B Cs. There were 2 Michigan reports of Carolina Wrens—on Dec. 27 in Kent Co. (JH), and during January and February in Lapeer Co. (RLL); this species also was noted in Milwaukee on Dec. 2 (ES). Mockingbirds were observed in Ozaukee Co., Wis. Dec. 29-Jan. 4 (MD, DG); in Vernon Co., Wis. on Jan. 5 (VW); and throughout the period in Berrien Co. (fide RS). Scattered wintering Brown Thrashers were reported from various areas throughout the Region.

THRUSHES, CORVIDS—Although Robins were not reported in numbers at most localities in the Region, flocks of up to 50 appeared beginning in December along Minnesota's North Shore in Cook Co. (fide JCG). Varied Thrushes made quite a showing. In Michigan there were reports from Mar. 9 on in Wayne Co. (EC, et al.) and from Dec. 26 on in Muskegon Co. (GW); a bird had wintered previously in both of these areas. In Minnesota birds were observed in Nobles Co. Dec. 23-Feb. 10 (HSH) and in Lake Co. from Mar. 9 into April (PS). Wisconsin observers located birds in three counties: Columbia on Jan. 10 (JS), Milwaukee through the winter (MD), and Shawano at least through Mar. 28 (TW). In addition to scattered C B C reports, 1 Hermit Thrush was observed Feb. 14 in Oakland Co., Mich. (RuS). E. Bluebirds were noted Jan. 20-24 very far north in Cook Co., Minn. (fide JCG). A small group wintered at Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co., Mich. (fide AHK), and

birds appeared on four other Michigan CBCs; 3 migrants in Monroe Co., Wis. on Mar. 3 were rather early (EL). **Mountain Bluebirds** were noted at Lutson, Cook Co., Minn., Jan. 20-24 (fide JCG). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was present Jan. 1-12 in Minneapolis (MH, ETS). Corvids of special interest seen during the CBC period were 3 Black-billed Magpies at International Falls, Minn. and a **Clark's Nutcracker** at Bloomington, Minn.

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, WARBLERS—Ruby-crowned Kinglets lingered late in several locales: Sauk Co., Wis., Jan. 1 (TA), Monroe, Mich. and St. Paul, Minn. (CBC). The only Bohemian Waxwings reported were in Price Co., Wis. Dec. 19-20 (MHa) and on Minnesota CBCs at Duluth and International Falls. Some areas reported good numbers of N. Shrikes, but there certainly was no obvious widespread invasion. A **Loggerhead Shrike** in Dane Co., Wis. under observation throughout December was remarkable (TA). A Myrtle Warbler was present at a feeder Dec. 21–Feb. 10 in Midland, Mich. (EEK, RGM, NW), and 3 birds of this species were noted on the CBC at Kalamazoo.

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS—There were the usual reports of scattered wintering icterids; quite notable among them was an adult ♂ Baltimore Oriole near a feeder in Midland Co., Mich. from Dec. 21–Jan. 7; although one wing drooped slightly, the bird appeared healthy and strong in flight (EEK, NW). Three Cardinals in Forest County on Jan. 31 were somewhat n. of their normal range in n.e. Wisconsin (CR); this species appears still to be increasing slowly in numbers in the n.e. Lower Peninsula (AEV). In marked contrast to last year, winter finches generally were scarce, and a number of observers reported seeing few individuals of those species that did appear. Valentine noted that for the first time in ten years, there were no observations of Pine Grosbeak or of either crossbill from the n.e. Lower Peninsula, and Com. Redpolls and Pine Siskins were noted there only three times each. Evening Grosbeaks were present in moderate numbers through most of the Region, except in s. counties, where observations were widely scattered; Am. Goldfinches also were present in good numbers in many areas. Rufous-sided Towhees were more in evidence than is the case some winters. Among the unusual sparrows noted were a Savannah in Waukesha Co., Wis. on Feb. 21 (DG) and a Harris' in Rock Co., Wis. on Jan. 24 (TE). There were quite a few observations of Field and White-throated Sparrows during the season, and among the Fox Sparrows reported was one very far n. in Wisconsin, in Vilas Co., during January and February (LT). Two White-crowned Sparrows near Detroit were unusual (RD, HH), as were 6 at a feeder in Manitowoc Co., Wis. (RC).

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION / Vernon M. Kleen and Lee Bush

Boreal species were conspicuously absent this winter and several common winter sparrows were low in numbers except in the extreme n. part of the Region. The freezing rains of last winter,



which made food unavailable for several days in many areas, may have been partially responsible for this year's decline of common winter residents.

Sea ducks, gulls, birds of prey, shrikes, longspurs, and a few summer or fall holdovers made the season interesting. For example, Rough-legged Hawks may have been more common this year than ever before.

The period was marked by a warm, mild De-