

locations during December; 16 birds wintered at Delmar Game Farm (Fordham).

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Five late Chimney Swifts, Loudonville October 6 (French). An adult Red-headed Woodpecker was seen in Schenectady November 7. Six very late Eastern Kingbirds seen October 14 between Rennsalaer and Stockport (Fordham). Few Winter Wrens wintered. Gray-cheeked Thrush October 1 at Schenectady and October 5 at Loudonville. A Gray Shrike was reported on Christmas Count at Scotia December 30.

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

Five Cowbirds on January 5 and a Purple Grackle seen on January 6. A female Cardinal was reported at Schenectady December 2 and at Loudonville January 1 through 10.

Evening Grosbeak – Large flocks ranging from 100 to 150 have visited the feeding stations in Amsterdam since the middle of January, males predominating. At "Bird Haven," Amsterdam, from March 5 to 6 the flocks numbered between 200 and 300 daily, 100 Grosbeaks being banded in four days. Mrs. Fitzgerald's banding record as of March 12 was 910 Grosbeaks. The earliest local record of Pine Grosbeaks, 3 at Delmar October 31, many scattered subsequent reports through February 24. A few flocks of 50 to 125 Redpolls were observed during February, and 11 Pine Siskins in a flock Feb. 23. A Vesper Sparrow was seen near Voorheesville Feb. 24. Ten White-Crowned Sparrows were banded at Delmar October 12 to 14 (Fordham). There were four December reports of White-throated Sparrow, and two December reports of Swamp Sparrow.

Lapland Longspur – Six November 6 with Horned Larks and Snow Buntings. A flock of 40 to 50 Snow Buntings were reported near Saratoga Lake on February 24.

Mrs. I. A. Rosa
8 Grieme Avenue
Amsterdam, N. Y.

and
Mr. Fraser R. Turrentine
110 Union Avenue
Schenectady, N. Y.

REGION 7 – NEW YORK – (PART 1 – ROCKLAND COUNTY)

It was a weird winter in the lower Hudson Valley. November and early December were ominously cold and snowy; Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine and Evening Grosbeaks moved in from the north in numbers unmatched in the past 25 years during November. Then the winter suddenly turned soft; Grosbeaks tended to thin out even before Christmas. Birding in January and February was notably poor.

Snowfall for the winter as a whole was less than half of normal, even with early March making a valiant effort to restore a balance. As a whole, too, the winter was not unusually cold or windy.

LOONS – DUCKS:

Ducks were present in disappointing numbers in early winter, then reached unusual abundance in late February. *Rockland Audubon Society* field trip Feb. 24 noted 2300 Am. Mergansers on the Hudson between Tomkins Cove and Haverstraw. Ring-necked Ducks showed an increase over previous years, with 70 on Congers Lake on Mar. 8, the biggest single flock yet recorded here. Am. Golden-eyes remained rather scarcer than in winters a dozen years ago; Canvasbacks and Ruddy Ducks were down from recent winters. Blacks were abundant, though, and 4 to 6 Baldpates were at Congers Lake through February and early March. A male Lesser Scaup, with a female, was identified at close range through a 20X telescope by Mr. and Mrs. John C. Orth at Lake Tiorati, Palisades Interstate Park, on Dec. 2, but Scaup Ducks were scarce all winter. A Mute Swan spent the winter at Rockland Lake; only one or two are recorded each winter. Least Bittern at Iona Island marsh, Feb. 3 (Orth) to Mar. 3 (Joseph Ossman).

HAWKS – OWLS:

A rather early Turkey Vulture near West Nyack on Feb. 24 (Herman Kretschmar, Deed). 150 Red-tailed Hawks at Bear Mountain (Komorowski) on Nov. 6. Several Rough-legged Hawk records, ranging from Nov. 9 (John Bull) to Feb. 10 (Mr. and Mrs. Orth), both at Bear Mountain. Bald Eagles normal in number. Ruffed Grouse apparently increasing and extending their range southward from the Palisades Interstate Park. Great Black-backed Gulls much increased over former years. One Snowy Owl near Tuxedo, Nov. 10, reported (Mrs. J. Y. Dater).

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Many wintering Sapsuckers. Red-breasted Nuthatches consistently numerous well into March. Brown Creepers commoner than usual. Carolina Wren is moving northward from the Palisades; one singing at Haverstraw Feb. 24. Mockingbird passed the winter in Upper Nyack. One wintering Brown Thrasher at Nanuet (Mrs. Walter Bollman). Hermit Thrush at Tappan (Henry H. Haire). Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Bear Mountain Dec. 3 (Orth) and at Stony Point Jan. 12 (Deed). Flock of 50 Prairie horned Larks near New City on Feb. 23 (Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steffens) and smaller numbers on subsequent days.

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

A red-letter find was a Dickcissel wintering at Palisades (Miss Jennie Fox). The first flock of 23 Evening Grosbeaks came on Nov. 4 at Valley Cottage (Mrs. Jamie H. King); smaller flocks were seen in the following three weeks, then no more. Pine Grosbeaks appeared on Nov. 9, near West Nyack (Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper) and on the summit of Bear Mountain (John Bull). John C. Orth, Park Naturalist of the Palisades Interstate Park, compiled records of 42 Pine Grosbeaks in the park through Decem-

ber, then none except a flock of 20 on Mar. 8. In late November and early December, Pine Grosbeaks were almost abundant* in the rest of Rockland County; after that, they were irregular. No Redpolls. Several wintering Towhees.

A phenomenon of the winter was the strange scarcity of Juncos and Tree Sparrows; observers could often be afield for four or five hours without seeing a single bird of either species. On the other hand, White-throated Sparrows were far above normal numbers. A late Fox Sparrow was watched in West Nyack to Dec. 11 (Mr. and Mrs. William G. Irving).

Robert F. Deed
50 Clinton Ave.
Nyack, N. Y.

REGION 7 — NEW YORK

(PART 2 — NEW YORK, BRONX, WESTCHESTER and RICHMOND COUNTIES)

The winter was abnormally mild with very little snow. Consequently a number of birds that regularly move farther south wintered here and the variety of species reported on the various Christmas counts was greater than usual (103 on the Bronx-Westchester count of Dec. 23). In late October and in November groups of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks began to appear. Scattered reports of Crossbills and Redpolls in our area or nearby, as well as good numbers of Siskins, all gave promise of a flight year for winter Finches; but possibly because of the generally mild weather the flight rapidly petered out, though individuals or small groups have been noted sporadically throughout the winter, especially in northern Westchester. Brown-capped Chickadees (which are reported here at intervals of from ten to twenty years) were recorded for the first time since 1941.

LOONS — DUCKS:

Common and Red-throated Loons and Horned Grebes wintered in usual numbers off the Bronx and Westchester shores of Long Island Sound. One of these Grebes in Van Cortlandt Park on Jan. 5 (Kieran). A few Pied-billed Grebes could be found in the ponds and lakes that remained open. European Cormorants (about 25) wintered, as they have for a number of years, around Rye and Mamaroneck. About 25 Great Blue Herons were present at Playland Lake, Rye, on December 23, and in somewhat reduced numbers through the winter. A Green Heron in Central Park Nov. 5 was very late (Mrs. Messing). An American Bittern, Bronx Park, Dec. 23 (Ephraim) also reflects the mild weather. A Gadwall was observed at Davenport Neck, Dec. 23 (Bull and Darrow). Twenty-three Wood Ducks at Van Cortlandt Park, Oct. 28 (Kieran) were a very good count nowadays in this area. Between 8,000-10,000 Greater Scaup and about 1,000 Canvas-back wintered around Pelham Bay and Ferry Point Parks at the west end of Long Island Sound (Norse and Cantor). A Redhead at Pelham Bay

Park Jan. 25 (Kane, Buckley). As usual, there could be found in Pelham Bay Park 20 - 60 Buffle-head, and a few Old-Squaw, Surf and White-winged Scoters on the more open water nearby, and off Rye (Herbert). Hooded and American Mergansers wintered at Playland Lake; Red-breasted Mergansers were common in the Sound.

HAWKS - OWLS:

A number of Red-tails and Rough-legs wintered in the Pelham Bay-Whitestone Bridge area. A Bald Eagle flying over Van Cortlandt Park, Dec. 23 (Solomon, Komorowski); 3 - 6 regularly seen at Croton Point during February. The usual small numbers of wintering Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Marsh Hawks. Peregrine Falcons held their customary urban posts. At least four Clapper Rails wintered in the Pelham Bay area, and possibly as many as three Virginia Rails, two Soras and a Coot in the small marsh at Van Cortlandt Park. Among shorebirds, in addition to the Killdeer and Purple Sandpipers regularly wintering at Rye, were a Woodcock, Baxter Creek Dec. 23 (Norse, Cantor), a Wilson's Snipe, Elmsford Dec. 9 (Ryan), and Greater Yellowlegs at Pelham Dec. 23 (Ephraim). Iceland Gull at Hillview Reservoir, Dec. 23 (Komorowski, Russak, Solomon); Glaucous Gull at same place Jan. 13 (Komorowski), and at Central Park Reservoir Jan. 31 (Mrs. Messing). Two Black-headed Gulls in New York Harbor, Dec. 23, recorded the past few winters (Ryan); five Laughing Gulls at Rye Dec. 23; 35 Bonaparte's Gulls at Baxter Creek December 23. A dead oiled Dovekie at New Rochelle, Dec. 20 (Darrow). A few Barn, Barred, and Long-eared Owls wintered in the conifer groves at Croton Point, Bronx, and Pelham Bay Parks.

SWIFTS - SHRIKES:

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ardsley Swamp; Dec. 23 (Thomas) was very unusual. Horned Larks, about 300 at Van Cortlandt Park Nov. 6; 250 at Crooks' Point, Staten Island Nov. 11, where they winter and breed.

Two Brown-capped Chickadees at Grassy Sprain, Dec. 23 (Bull), were the first reported in ten years.

A singing Carolina Wren at Van Cortlandt Park Nov. 4 (Kane, Buckley); two Winter Wrens at New Rochelle Dec. 23, and a Short-billed Marsh Wren at Pelham Bay Park, Dec. 23 (Ephraim).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were extraordinarily numerous on migration, in Bronx Park 32 were counted on Sept. 26, and 24 on Oct. 20 (Young); a larger number than usual wintered, being well scattered over the area. Catbird at Manursing Island Dec. 23, and Hermit Thrush wintering in Central Park. A Migrant Shrike at Van Cortlandt Park till late November, and one at Iona College Campus, New Rochelle Jan. 3 (Ryan).

The winter Starling roost under the viaduct at 125th Street was estimated to total 82,000 on Dec. 29 (Ryan). The massed flights of birds approaching the roost from all quarters of the compass a half hour before sunset is spectacular.

VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Very late warblers: Pine, two, Bronx Park, Dec. 23 (Kane, Buckley); Black-poll, Rye, Nov. 4 (Ryan); Wilson's, Bronx Park, Oct. 29 (Komorowski); Yellow-throat, Croton Point, Nov. 25 (Ryan, Harrison, Boyajian).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

A few Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds, Grackles and Cowbirds are always found in the Starling roost; some birds of these species were also noted during the winter at Hillview Reservoir, Bronx and Pelham Bay Parks.

Twelve Evening Grosbeaks in Central Park Oct. 21 (Maumary), 30 at Rye Nov. 4 (Ryan), and 9 at Bronx Park Nov. 5 (Young); the birds soon disappeared from the vicinity of the City, being last reported on Dec. 17 from Bronx Park Solomon), but small flocks have been occasionally seen throughout the winter in northern Westchester. Five Pine Grosbeaks (a rare bird here) noted at Hartsdale Nov. 20 (Oppenheim), 2 at Croton Point Dec. 22 (Ryan, Fischer et al.) and a few through January and February in the Bedford area (Grierson). Other northern finches: Common Redpoll 1, New Rochelle Nov. 21 (Ryan); Pine Siskin, small flocks wintered; Red Crossbill, 1, New Rochelle, Jan. 8 (Ryan); Lapland Longspur, 2-4, Crook's Point, Staten Island Nov. 11 (Ryan), and March 2 (Dawn, Eisenmann); Snow Bunting, Van Cortlandt Park, Dec. 3 and 17 (Kane, Kieran), Crook's Point, March 2 (Dawn, Eisenmann). Other unusual finch records: Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Baxter Creek, Dec. 23 (Norse, Kantor); House Finch, Yorktown Heights, Nov. 10, 11 (Pearl); this bird seems to be wandering from its Long Island breeding area.

George Komorowski
240 East 199th Street
Bronx 58, N. Y.

REGION 8 — LONG ISLAND

The winter season was characterized by mild weather, few cold periods and very little snow, none lingering. The open winter led to an abundance of Anatinae ducks, Mourning Doves and Towhees. Winter finches occurred rather regularly early in the season but diminished in numbers by mid-winter. Rare or wanting were most species of hawks, white-winged gulls and Lapland Longspur.

LOONS — DUCKS:

Maximum Loon and Grebe count (rather scarce elsewhere) Montauk, February 17, 48 Common and 32 Red-throated Loons, also 40 Horned Grebes. Holboell's Grebe less common than usual; no Eared Grebes reported. Great Blue Heron common; maximum, Lawrence, flock of 21 on February 12. American Bittern wintered in several locations. Usual large flock of Canada Geese at Mecox in mid-winter and some 1,200 American Brant on western bays of south shore.

Among the great numbers of Baldpate and Pintail wintering at Jones Beach in February were a maximum of 50 Gadwall and 32 Shoveller. A European Teal, same location, February 9 was the only winter record of this