

the fall season ended. Both Northern and Prairie Horned Larks were present in Saranac Lake area through the winter. There seems to have been a very definite movement into the northern part of the state on February 22nd as this is given as the first appearance date for Horned Larks at Essex (R. M.), Keeseville (T. L.), and Tupper Lake (A. Amstutz); it was difficult to discern a return movement increase at Saranac Lake. While a few Crows are resident in the Adirondack-Champlain region all winter, there is a definite influx beginning in mid to late February. Migrating flocks were seen at Plattsburgh, February 18th (Leo Provost) and at Westport on February 25th. The Champlain Valley is a spring as well as fall flyway for this species. Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches present in good numbers through the winter. Red-breasted Nuthatch common through December in Saranac Lake region; none since then. The Robin also illustrates the difference in arrival dates for the lake valley and the interior mountains (the east to west separation is only 40 miles, none north to south; elevation difference is about 1500 feet). Keeseville, Feb. 2nd (T. L., he does not think this was a wintering bird); Essex, March 2nd (R. M.); Tupper Lake, March 27th; Saranac Lake, March 27th. The same with the Blue Bird which first appeared at Essex March 3rd, and at Saranac Lake on March 27th. This has been a Gray Shrike year. Chase reports them common in the Moira section to the north of the mountains through the winter. They were not reported at Keeseville until March 19th, or Tupper Lake until March 23rd. One female was at Trudeau on March 18th. These reports suggest the possibility of a retreating movement at that period.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: At Saranac Lake (G. M. M.) an extraordinary record was a flock of Meadowlarks on January 8th with a foot of snow and a temperature of 22 below zero the preceding night. Eight birds still present on January 10th. No further report until March 12th when returning migrants probably were seen. This species appeared at Plattsburgh (L. P.) on March 7th. Redwings sent in advance scouts to Keeseville, March 1st; Essex, March 2nd; Tupper Lake, March 7th. The main first flights came at Saranac Lake, Plattsburgh and Tupper Lake between March 14th and 21st. Rusty Blackbirds at Essex March 6th, Plattsburgh, March 25th. Bronzed Grackles arrived variously between March 21st and 28th. Some Cowbirds wintered at Peru, January 26th (T. L.), spring arrivals at Trudeau, March 20th. Evening Grosbeaks did not arrive in most areas in any numbers until late December. From then on there were numerous flocks in Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake; still present at end of March. No banded or marked birds reported. Along Lake Champlain they were absent or very few all winter; none at Keeseville or Plattsburgh; small numbers at Essex. At the latter two places, however, large flocks appeared immediately following a heavy snowstorm on March 29th-30th. This was a winter when Purple Finches remained all winter in unprecedented numbers in both the interior mountains and along the Champlain Valley. No Pine Grosbeaks or Redpolls reported from any point all winter. Pine Siskins abundant at Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake all winter. Numerous Goldfinches in mountains till mid-January when they became much less common. Both Crossbills numerous in mountains all winter. Have been coming to feeders. A few Juncos wintered as usual but the numbers are always small. White-throated Sparrows through winter to early March at Chase's feeder, Saranac Lake. Song Sparrows arrived March 27th to April 1st. Lapland Longspurs, 1 on January 10th with Meadowlarks at Saranac Lake, several more on January 12th to 14th (A. Gurley). Flock of 15 in mid-January at Keeseville (T. L.).

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REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

Region Eight consists of the eleven counties of Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady, Schoharie, Greene, Albany, Columbia, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Warren and Washington. It is an area of lakes, rivers, and mountains, cultivated in the valleys and completely wild in many parts.

The most prominent streams are the Hudson River, which traverses the entire area from north to south, and the Mohawk River, which crosses most of the area in a general west to east direction. Hundreds of lakes dot the landscape, of which the largest are Lake George, Sacandaga Reservoir, Saratoga Lake and Round Lake.

Elevation above sea level varies from about 25 feet at the Hudson River south of Albany, to 4,000 feet at the top of several of the Catskill peaks. The highest point in the region is Hunter Mountain, in Greene county, which towers 4,025 feet above sea level. None of the higher Adirondack peaks occur in this region, but several respectable mountains of about 3,000 feet elevation are found in Warren county.

Besides the Adirondack and Catskill ranges, several other mountain chains enter the region. Outliers of the Berkshire mountains, locally known as the Grafton Mountains, enter northeastern Rensselaer county at elevations of about 2,500 feet. The Taconic Range extends along the eastern border of Rensselaer and Columbia counties, with the highest peaks reaching about 2,000 feet. The Helderberg Escarpment, an outlier of the Catskills, lies slantwise across Albany county, reaching elevations of more than 1,600 feet. In these mountainous areas, much of the land is covered with some type of forest, although practically all of it has been forested at some time.

Ecologically, most of the forests are of the oak-hickory, or Appalachian forest association, and the hemlock-northern hardwoods association. At the higher elevations, the northern coniferous forest of spruce and balsam may be found. Besides these dominant formations, there are numerous bogs, cat-tail marshes of considerable extent, and other minor but interesting areas. Among the largest and most interesting of these smaller areas is the pine barrens near Albany and Schenectady. In this area of sand, pitch pine is the only common tree, and the entire area is covered with scrubby plants such as scrub oak, hazelnuts, sheep laurel, and New Jersey tea. This is the only known breeding habitat in our region for the prairie and pine warblers, and has many interesting plants and animals.

Two bird clubs are at present located in Region Eight. The Sassafras Bird Club at Amsterdam and the Schenectady Bird Club, with members in Schenectady, Albany and Troy, as well as in outlying districts, cover Montgomery, Schenectady and Albany counties with a fair degree of effectiveness. Unfortunately, the highly interesting areas in Greene, Warren and Rensselaer counties are poorly covered by these groups, and additional bird clubs in these counties would be very helpful. A club with headquarters in Glens Falls could cover Warren, Washington and parts of Saratoga counties, one in the area of Catskill or Coxsackie would improve coverage of Greene county, while a Rensselaer-Columbia county group is needed to adequately survey these neglected spots.

Well studied spots include Amsterdam, Schenectady, Albany, Vischer Ponds along the Mohawk north of Albany, the pine barrens, the upper Hudson River above Albany, the Tomhannock Reservoir in Rensselaer county, and the Mohawk River from Schenectady to Albany. A summer colony at Jenny Lake in Saratoga county has led to a careful study of the summer birds in that locality. Work at the Huyck Preserve, near Rensselaerville, Albany county, has resulted in adequate knowledge of the birds of that vicinity. Many other areas remain relatively poorly known.

A mild December, an unusually cold January, a slightly warmer than usual February, and a cold windy March characterized the winter in Eastern New York. Precipitation was about normal for the season. A late snowstorm at the end of March slowed migration and brought wintering birds and early migrants scurrying to feeding stations. The only prominent migrant waves appeared near the end of February and the first week in March.

LOONS — DUCKS: No Loons were reported. Horned and Pied-billed Grebe

appeared at the end of March. A Great-blue Heron was seen most of the winter at Schenectady (Hallenbeck). Two Green-winged Teal were recorded Troy on the Christmas count (Andrews-Bartlett). Other good waterfowl records in December included Old Squaw and Greater Scaup. March waterfowl migration was near normal, with flocks of Mallards, Blacks, Pintails, American Goldeneyes and American Mergansers. Shovellers, Baldpates, Redheads, Canvasbacks, Buffleheads, Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers were recorded in small numbers.

HAWKS — OWLS: Sparrow Hawks wintered in some numbers. Wintering Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks were seen by Esly Hallenbeck. A Goshawk was reported from Schaghticoke on March 15 (A. C. Newman). One Killdeer wintered at Collins Lake, Scotia. Great Black-backed Gulls, unusual here, were reported several times in February, while one Iceland Gull was seen at Schenectady on March 2 (Hallenbeck). A Short-eared Owl was seen near Rensselaer on Feb. 7 (N. Harrington).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Kingfishers arrived at the end of March. Woodpecker numbers were normal, with reports of Pileated from four counties. First reports of Phoebe were March 29. Horned Larks were seen in small flocks, largest group numbering about 50. Tree Swallows were first seen on March 28. A Tufted Titmouse at feeder of B. D. Miller in Schenectady was found dead on Dec. 26. Several records of wintering Robins and Bluebirds reflects the mildness of early winter. Cedar Waxwings, on the other hand, scarce. At least a half dozen Gray Shrikes were seen, more than usual.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Wintering Meadowlarks were seen near Greenville on January 18 (G. Zimmer). A few Red-wings wintered, but great flocks began to appear about Feb. 25. An immature male Baltimore Oriole spent the winter at the feeder of Mrs. Charles Grace at Slingerlands. On March 29 he uttered his first song. Grackles appeared on Feb. 19 and have straggled through since then. There are two February records of Cowbirds, possibly wintering birds. Most observers first saw them after March 20. A Rusty Blackbird was seen at Amsterdam on March 30 (Fitzgerald).

A Cardinal was seen in Amsterdam in late March. Evening Grosbeaks were late for the most part, but by late February and March flocks of 15 to 40 appeared in several places. Purple Finches were the most abundant winter species, with flocks up to 300 reported. Four Pine Grosbeaks were seen near Voorheesville on April 1 (G. Zimmer). Redpolls were completely lacking. Pine Siskins and Goldfinches were seen in small numbers. A Savannah Sparrow was seen at Gallupville on March 30 (G. Zimmer). Fox Sparrows appeared on March 7 and are still with us. Tree Sparrows have been abundant. Song Sparrows wintered in small numbers, and appeared as migrants about the first week in March. Small flocks of Snow Buntings were reported throughout the winter, but never in groups of more than 40.

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REGION 9 — HUDSON - DELAWARE

Region Nine contains segments of two major river valleys, the Delaware on the west and the Hudson toward the east. In this region are six counties—Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland — and the northerly two-thirds of Westchester.

Topographically and ecologically, the region is richly varied. From the region of Slide Mountain (4,204 feet) near the Greene County border, the land cascades downward toward the south, where the corner of Rockland County touches the northern end of the 450-foot Palisades of the Hudson. Between the Catskills and the Palisades are two major mountain ranges lying roughly on a southwest-northeast line: the prominent ridge of the Shawangunk Range (average elevation 1,600 feet) and the tumbled hills of the Hudson Highlands and the Ramapos (up to 1,300 feet at Bear Mountain) on the Orange-Rockland line and extending into Putnam and northern Westchester. Lowest elevations are the marshes of the Hudson River, only a few feet above sea level.

Measured by ruggedness of terrain, Ulster County is outstanding, but Sullivan has 3,080-foot Mongaup Mountain in the westward extension of the