

Fourteen Red Crossbills and a group of some twenty White-winged Crossbills were seen on the Schenectady Christmas Count (SBC). A small group of White-winged Crossbills was reported from Ballston Lake in late February and early March (NVV). The first local record of Oregon Junco was made on January 9 near New Scotland when Mr. and Mrs. Byran Hipple carefully studied one which was with a group of Slate-colored. In late March two "suspicious-looking" juncos were reported from a feeder in Amsterdam, but specific identification could not be made before the birds departed. A White-throated Sparrow was seen at Scotia on January 24 (EH). Several groups of Snow Buntings were reported, with an estimate of 1,000 near Scotia on March 8 being especially noteworthy (Mr. and Mrs. J. Voght). Two Lapland Longspurs were recorded on the Troy Christmas Count of January 2 (SBC).
901 State Street, Schenectady, N. Y.

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

ROBERT F. DEED

Most of this winter's snowfall was packed into March and late February. After a nasty November, the season led off with a mild, wet December. Then came a deceptively rigorous January; most people seemed to think it was a mild month, yet records showed that it was much colder than average, as well as the driest in Weather Bureau history.

The more violent weather of late February and all of March — with coatless days interspersed with windy 20-degree days, and thunderstorms mixed with snowstorms — didn't seem to affect the spring migration one whit. On Feb. 16, migrant robins and grackles appeared at Nyack in numbers, and song sparrows and cardinals burst into full song — all on a cold, blustery day. On Feb. 19, redwings appeared in flocks of up to 200 in the interior of Rockland County; on Feb. 26, flocks of Canada geese headed northward; on Mar. 9, robins and fox sparrows flooded into Rockland County in great numbers.

Waterfowl population remained about normal in Ulster County, but was regarded as subnormal in Rockland, Orange, Putnam, and Westchester until the northward migration began. Then the ducks were more than satisfactory.

Northern finches apparently went farther south, too, like the waterfowl. They were abundant in early winter, though less so than in 1951-52; most were absent in January and early February, reappearing then in good-sized flocks. Brown-capped Chickadees were a rare treat of the winter. Red-breasted Nuthatches wintered in modest numbers.

LOONS — DUCKS: A Common Loon on Orange Lake, Orange County, Mar. 26 to 28 was early (Edward D. Treacy). At Lake Gleneida, Putnam County, Mrs. George W. Little got a high count of nine Pied-billed Grebes on Jan. 17. Rockland County had a Great Blue Heron on Mar. 19, a new early date (Dr. M. R. Hopper, Eugene R. Brown); in Katonah, Westchester, Mrs. Ruth G. Grierson found one on Mar. 29, and her husband Stanley saw one at Cross River the next day.

The waterfowl census in Ulster County on Jan. 23 turned up a Canada Goose on Ashokan Reservoir — very unusual (Henry and Ilse Dunbar, Fred Hough). The reservoir also held an outstanding number of 650 Black Ducks at the same time, although all but 30 or 40 acres of the lake was frozen.

Numbers of the beautiful Ring-necked Duck are evidently still rising. On the waterfowl census, Jan. 15, Mr. and Mrs. Grierson and John and Edward Kelly counted 262 on Titicus Reservoir in Westchester; in early March, more than 125 were on Congers Lake in Rockland; four were even on the Hudson River at Cornwall, Orange County, from Dec. 27 through Jan. 3 (Treacy).

Canvasbacks, too, were widely distributed in the lower Hudson Valley. The Rockland Audubon Society Christmas count found more than 250 at Stony Point; only 75 were still there on Feb. 27, but others were scattered up and down the river from Piermont to Cornwall. Redheads appeared on Congers Lake for the first time in recent years, six of them from Mar. 9 to Mar. 31 (Dr. Hopper). Buffleheads also moved inland: to Lake Gilead and Lake Gleneida at Carmel, Putnam County, on

Jan. 17 and Mar. 12 (Mrs. Little); to Congers and Rockland Lakes, Rockland County, from Mar. 6 to 21 (Dr. Hopper); to the Bear Mountain lakes through Mar. 27 (John C. Orth).

A flock of Ruddy Ducks on the Hudson at Piermont, Rockland County, built up to nearly 500 by the end of March. The Griersons found a Green-winged Teal at Katonah on Mar. 11; Ed Treacy reports three at Orange Lake, Orange County, a day later. Wood Ducks arrived at Katonah on Mar. 14 (the Griersons) and at Burnside, Orange County, on Mar. 19 (Treacy). Two Red-breasted Mergansers, rare inland, were on the Hudson at Cornwall on Mar. 30 (Treacy).

HAWKS — OWLS: Ed Treacy discovered a Turkey Vulture roost at Orr's Mills, Orange County, with three birds on Feb. 24 and about three dozen by the end of March. A Cooper's Hawk was seen killing a Ruffed Grouse at Katonah on Mar. 18 (William Russell), and a Goshawk occurred Jan. 17 in Sullivan County (Dimock). No Rough-legged Hawk reports.

An injured Virginia Rail was found at Haverstraw, Rockland County, on Mar. 8 (John C. Orth). Coots wintered in numbers; Mrs. Little counted 57 on Lake Gleneida at Carmel on Jan. 17, about the same as a year earlier. A Woodcock was heard calling at New City on Feb. 19, a new early date for Rockland (John M. Price); a full courtship performance was heard at 11 p. m. on Mar. 10 (Hopper, Brown). Woodcock arrived at Carmel, Putnam County, on Mar. 12 (Mrs. Little); at Pound Ridge, Westchester, on Mar. 13 (the Griersons); in Sullivan County on Mar. 24 (Dimock, Hammond, Niven). Wilson's Snipe were reported from Carmel by Mrs. Little on Mar. 12, from New City by Dr. Hopper on Mar. 10.

The Saw-whet Owl, recorded only twice previously in Rockland County, was found three times in January: dead birds on Jan. 11 and Jan. 30 and another alive on Jan. 21, all in the Bear Mountain area (Orth, John Kenney). A Snowy Owl was also seen near Bear Mountain on Jan. 31 by J. Ossman.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Kingfishers were fairly numerous in Westchester and Rockland, as usual, and two were reported from Ulster County by Fred Hough. In Sullivan County, Wilbur P. Carr saw a Kingfisher on Jan. 29. Carr reports the Pileated Woodpecker increasing in Sullivan County.

For some unknown reason, the standard woodpeckers of the Bear Mountain-Harriman region were down in numbers at the Christmas count on Jan. 2: Downy, 31 last year, 16 this year; Hairy, 11 last year, none this year; Pileated, 8 last year, 3 this year. This decline, Jack Orth reports, was even more marked in some other species: Blue Jay, 145 last year, 10 this year; Black-capped Chickadee, 196 last year, 88 this year; White-breasted Nuthatch, 41 last year, 12 this year; Goldfinch, 103 last year, 4 this year; Slate-colored Junco, 251 last year, 45 this year; Tree Sparrow, 469 last year, 291 this year; Song Sparrow, 25 last year, 6 this year. On the other hand, Pine Siskin increased from 2 last year to 108 this year, and House Sparrow from 82 to 106.

The Phoebe set a new early date of Mar. 10 in Rockland County. Prairie Horned Larks were at their nesting site in Pearl River, Rockland, by Feb. 25 (Homer S. Kelsey) but no nest has been found yet. A good flight of 100 Tree Swallows on Mar. 19 (Hopper, Brown) was rather early for Rockland County.

Brown-capped Chickadees occurred for the first time in Rockland County, Dec. 27 through Jan. 10 (Dr. Hopper, Thomas G. Dow) and in Westchester County on Jan. 29 through March at the feeding station of Andrew McWaters, Mt. Kisco, and Feb. 4 at Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Pearl's home in Yorktown Heights. This Chickadee also appeared on the Sullivan County Christmas count for the first time.

A Carolina Wren stayed at a feeder in Katonah from Dec. 21 well into January (William Russell), and another was seen near New Paltz, Ulster County, on Feb. 20 (Dr. Robert Pyle). A few Hermit Thrushes wintered, and — very remarkably — two Olive-backed Thrushes, one on the Bear Mountain census Jan. 2 (Orth) and another in Rockland County on Jan. 14 (Mrs. Frances H. Irving). Golden-crowned Kinglets were noticeably scarce.

In Mt. Kisco, Westchester, a dozen Cedar Waxwings were observed feeding on firethorn berries on Dec. 16 (Helena and John Bennet). Mrs. Little studied a flock of 16 waxwings on Mar. 25 at Carmel, noting that four appeared larger and had white wingbars, like Bohemian Waxwings.

Five Gray Shrikes were reported: Jan. 9 at New City, Rockland (Frank R. Steffens), Jan. 30 at New Paltz (John Burroughs N. H. S. field trip), Jan. 30 in Sullivan County (Kenneth D. Niven), Mar. 13 at the West Point Military Academy (Treacy), and Mar. 24 at Temple Hill, Newburgh (Treacy).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: A Rusty Blackbird near New Paltz, Ulster, on Jan. 30 (Dunbar, Cragin, Meng, Hayes) and three Rusties in Sullivan County on Feb. 18 (Hammond) were unusual, as were two Meadowlarks in Sullivan County the following day (Hammond). Wilber Carr was startled to find a male Baltimore Oriole at Ferndale, Sullivan County, on Mar. 20.

Records of Evening Grosbeak and Pine Grosbeak were too numerous to list in full. Notes of these species in Westchester and Putnam Counties are especially copious. In Ulster County, Fred Hough comments that the Evening Grosbeak population was lower than in some years, but the Pine Grosbeak was far higher — the reverse of the usual situation. Both were common in Sullivan County, spotty in their occurrence in Rockland and Orange. In the Highlands, for example, Pine Grosbeaks occurred for the first time on a Bear Mountain census, Jan. 2, then were not reported until Mar. 18 or 19, when Ranger Muz Jones at Lake Sebago described a large flock of "Canadian Robins" in the tamarack groves. Hough observed a preference of Pine Grosbeaks for tamarack and lilac buds and for the fruit of cedar and honeysuckle — but even more particularly for the winged seeds of the maples. He believes the abundance of maple seeds was a factor in attracting the birds this year.

Flocks of Evening Grosbeaks in Westchester ranged up to 60 on Jan. 2 at Katonah (William Russell), 11 on Jan. 8 at Mt. Kisco (Mrs. John Trainer), and 30 on Mar. 14 in Bedford (Letitia Morris). Notable records of Pine Grosbeaks in Westchester included 30 on Dec. 19 in Katonah (Mr. and Mrs. Frank McKown) and 50 on Dec. 23 in Katonah (Russell).

Purple Finches were less abundant than usual. In Ulster, Hough reports Pine Siskins also scarce, but the Rockland and Bear Mountain Christmas counts had by far the highest numbers ever. Redpolls were reported from Ulster only once, a flock of about 100 near Lake Mohonk (Pyle). A flock of 24 were seen in Sullivan County on Jan. 29 (McBride) and 60 at Carmel, Putnam County, on Mar. 20 (Mrs. Little). None in Rockland County.

No White-winged Crossbills were noted in Ulster County or in Sullivan, but elsewhere the flight was the best in modern times. In Putnam, a flock of 12 seen by Mrs. Little on Dec. 28 in Carmel grew to 25 or 30 by Jan. 4 and 5. A dozen were seen on February 6 in Bedford Hills by the John Kelly family and two were spotted on Feb. 20 in Bedford Center by Peter Ferret at Rippowam School, where Westchester's first record was obtained two years ago. Rockland's records included a flock of 20 on Jan. 30 (Mr. and Mrs. Edmund G. Barron) and a scattering of others to Mar. 24 (James Bloor).

A probable Pink-sided Junco was watched from Jan. 9 through 15 at the home of Frank R. Steffens, New City, Rockland. Many Towhees wintered. Snow Buntings occurred Dec. 26 for the first time on the Rockland Audubon Society Christmas count, and a flock of seven was seen on Mar. 27 in Sullivan County (Carr).

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REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Cold weather in early January sealed many lakes and ponds which reduced numbers of fresh-water ducks to a minimum. With practically all of the western bays frozen, Scaup and Black Ducks resorted to the ocean. The cold weather was short-lived, however, and by late January a thaw had set in. There has been little extremely cold weather since and no heavy snow fall all winter. Despite this the Anatinae remained scarce until spring migration.

A notable feature of the winter was the scarcity of late-winter birds, especially sparrows, along the grassy strips at Jones Beach. In years of bountiful seed harvest, many flocks resort these strips in March and April. Several factors contributed to the present sterility: the severe erosion of fall hurricanes caused by washing away of dune grasslands; fill operations for several miles at Gilgo; widening of the causeways from the mainland with removal of the side grassy strips; and extraordinary high March winds. The