

15 near Keeseville: Red-tail, Red-shoulder, Broad-wing, Goshawk, Sparrow Hawk and Osprey. Amstutz reports a Pigeon Hawk Mar 17 at Sunmount. No eagles reported this year as yet. Spruce Grouse were at the Whitney Estate near Tupper Lake Mar 16 (Amstutz). Although there was no mention of Ruffed Grouse from the western areas, near here they have wintered in very good numbers. Killdeer: Sunmount Mar 28 (Kingsbury), Tupper Lake Mar 31 (Amstutz).

Shrikes — Sparrows: Winter residents, Junco, Canada Jay, Red and White breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Goldfinches, Chickadees, Pine Siskins, Tree Sparrows and Snow Buntings, reported in from few to fair numbers in this region. Shrikes were common only near Keeseville. Migrants: Robin, Mar 13 at Sunmount, Feb 27 at Tupper, Mar 13 at Keeseville; Bluebird, Mar 17 Tupper, Apr 2 Keeseville; Golden-crowned Kinglets, Tupper Mar 31; Phoebe, Apr 10 Keeseville; Red-wing, Mar 15; Cowbird, Mar 15, Grackle Mar 10; Song Sparrow, Tupper Mar 16, Keeseville Mar 29. Only one report of Evening Grosbeaks: at Perron's feeder in Tupper Lake. There were 15 in the first flock which has since built up to 50 or 60.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Lesperance is planning to return to school for some time and will be unable to do much field investigation himself, in particular during the next few months. It seems appropriate at this time then to ask again for cooperation from others who spend time in the Adirondack-Champlain region this summer. Please send your records to Mr. Lesperance in Keeseville so that he can continue to give adequate coverage especially during this period.)

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

The winter months in the Mohawk-Hudson area were generally mild and dry. At Schenectady precipitation was well below normal during each of the four months. January temperatures were a bit below average, but December, February, and March were considerably warmer than might be expected.

These weather conditions possibly accounted for the lack of any northern finch flight. Such species as Siskins, Crossbills, and Pine Grosbeaks were completely unrecorded, and there were only scattered reports of the other finches. Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes, however, seemed more common than usual. Several Goshawks were observed and there was one report of the Snowy Owl.

Other records of interest include an American Bittern, a Barrow's Goldeneye, an Iceland Gull, an Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, a Pine Warbler, and the Oregon Junco.

The Schenectady Christmas Count, taken on December 22, revealed 42 species, and the December 29 Troy Count total was 29 species.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons were present in small numbers locally until mid-December. A Red-throated Loon, the first reported locally since 1951, was seen at Saratoga Lake on Dec 8 (M. Foote, E. Hallenbeck). Also observed there on that date was a Red-necked Grebe. The Pied-billed Grebe was recorded for the first time on both the Schenectady and Troy Christmas counts (SBC). A Great Blue Heron was present at Collins Lake, Scotia, throughout most of the winter; on December 23 an American Bittern, quite a surprise in winter, was seen there (R. Stone, R. Yunnick). In spite of the relatively warm weather, the March waterfowl migration was not overly good. Canada Geese in particular were poorly represented. For the second winter in a row a male Barrow's Goldeneye appeared on the Hudson a few miles above Albany. The bird was seen on several occasions between Jan 13 and

19 (SBC), and this year, at last, it was the only member of its species to be recorded on the state waterfowl count. Wood Ducks first appeared on Mar 23; two were seen that day at Vischer Ponds (M. Brown, E. Hallenbeck, J. Meritt). There was only one March report of the Hooded Merganser.

Hawks — Owls: A Goshawk was seen at Albany on Dec 5 (S. Madison). One was at Schenectady on Dec 22, and on the 28th the species was reported from Loudonville (M. French). Near Altamont, the Goshawk was seen on Jan 20 and Feb 23 (Hallenbeck and others). Rough-legged Hawks were frequently reported throughout the winter, with the high count for one day being five. Two Bald Eagles were observed along the Hudson on Jan 13 (SBC), and another was seen just north of Troy on Mar 13 (B. Austin).

On Jan 23 four Bob-whites were seen at East Chatham (E. Radke); these are almost undoubtedly some of a group released by sportsmen's clubs in Columbia County last fall. An Iceland Gull (Kumlien's race) was observed at Troy on Dec 29 (SBC), an addition to the composite Christmas count list there. Great Black-backed Gulls were recorded in good numbers during March. There were several winter reports of the Mourning Dove. On Feb 7 a Snowy Owl was observed on the Ellis Hospital grounds in the center of Schenectady (fide Hallenbeck), but the bird was not recorded after that date. No Short-eared Owls were reported.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Pileated woodpeckers were observed in encouraging numbers. On December 22 a female Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker was seen near Watervliet Reservoir, just south of Schenectady. This constituted the first local report for this species in five years. The bird was still present at the same spot on Jan 20. Two Phoebees were seen in Niskayuna on Mar 16 (G. Angst), an early arrival date. Swallows, however, were unrecorded. Inexplicably, Red-breasted Nuthatches were almost completely absent: the only report is of an individual wintering at a feeder in Red Rock (M. Smilow). At Scotia the Carolina Wren was reported throughout the period (Hallenbeck); three individuals were seen there on several occasions during March. The species was also reported from Delmar (S. Fordham). There were several scattered winter Robin reports. Mrs. A. Lukens of Niskayuna got quite a surprise on Jan 11 when she saw ten at her feeder, this on a day when a record low temperature reading for the date was recorded. A Brown Thrasher was present at a Schenectady feeder throughout most of the winter (C. Keseberg). The first Hermit Thrush was reported Mar 17 (Kaskan). Cedar Waxwings were scarce.

Northern Shrikes were reported in very good numbers. At Amsterdam eight individuals were banded in December (M. Fitzgerald). There were many observations of individual birds, particularly early in the winter. The last definite report of which I know is of one at Meadowvale Marsh on March 3 (Kaskan).

Warblers — Sparrows: At Gallupville a Myrtle Warbler was observed daily between Dec 11 and 17 (G. Zimmer). A Pine Warbler was present at a Nassau feeder from late November until Mar 14 (E. Turner).

A good group of some 120 Cowbirds was observed on the Schenectady Christmas Count. The expected Evening Grosbeak incursion did not materialize this winter. At Amsterdam, where over 1000 of these birds were banded last year, the only report was of a lone individual on Jan 20 (M. Fitzgerald). There were one or two scattered reports from the Burnt Hills area. No Evening Grosbeaks were seen in the Middle Grove region, although a few had been present there in the fall (R. Hennig). This was unquestionably a winter when many observers found themselves in the position of wondering how to dispose of a season's supply of sunflower seed. As mentioned earlier, no Siskins, Crossbills, or Pine Grosbeaks were seen. Purple Finches were absent until about mid-March and were scarce thereafter.

The Cardinal continues to become increasingly common locally. At least six were recorded along the Hudson below Albany on Mar 17, and better coverage of the area that day would undoubtedly have revealed many more. A Cardinal was seen at Mechanicville on Mar 7 and 8 (fide Hinckle), and at least one bird was present throughout the winter at Niskayuna (H. Eddy). A group of some 25 Redpolls in Niskayuna on Jan 4 constitutes the season's only report for that species (H. Arnold).

Two Oregon Juncos were present at East Chatham late in the winter, and the birds were seen by many observers. The species was last recorded there on Mar 17. A White-crowned Sparrow was present at Burnt Hills from Dec 29 until Jan 19, and this bird, too, attracted many local observers. The White-throated Sparrow was reported as wintering at Niskayuna (Eddy) and Loudonville (French). Although Snow Buntings were reported in small numbers during the fall, there were no winter reports.

16 *Ellen Lane, Scotia 2*

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

The winter period showed some weather abnormality. November was warm, followed by a warm and wet December. January was cold with a run on sub-zero temperatures from the 14th thru the 20th. Snowfall for the month was about normal. February was warm and dry with only 1/3 the amount of normal snowfall. March appeared to be about normal.

Throughout our Region there was one comment that was characteristic of our winter season — "No Northern Finches!" Evening and Pine Grosbeaks were almost non-existent during the period, while Purple Finches, Siskins and Crossbills were almost as scarce. It was a decided "off year" for this group. The Rough-legged Hawk was the only Northern visitor that occurred here in numbers, which were not high but nevertheless good for that species.

In contrast, the scarcity of northern visitors was greatly compensated for by the presence of an unusual number of wintering vagrants from the fall migration — birds that normally winter further south. This added new species to the winter lists and many late dates were recorded. Apparently the stable, fair weather of October and November influenced numerous migrants to linger longer than usual and finally "running out of migration fuel," they had no alternative but to attempt wintering. Most of these birds seemed to be in the counties bordering the Hudson River, with the greatest concentrations being in the lower part of the Valley. According to Wilber Carr, birding in Sullivan County was very poor in general.

To date the Spring migration has appeared normal and unspectacular.

Loons — Ducks: The Common Loon was seen off Grand View, Rockland Co., Dec 29 by David Hill, making a first record for this bird on a RAS Christmas count. At least two Great Blue Herons are known to have wintered. One about the vicinity of Tomahawk Lake in Orange Co. (Martha Earl) and another near New City (Dr. Katherine Fagan). Five were recorded on the RAS Christmas count, Dec 29. A first winter record for the Green Heron in the Bear Mt. area was made on Dec 22 by John Orth, John Kenney and Peter Smith. Another first winter record was a Black-crowned Night Heron found near Congers Lake, Dec 29, by RAS Christmas count participants, Katherine Dienemann and Dr. Marjorie Hopper. Some late staying Canada Geese were reported in the Region: 20 at the Cross River Reservoir, Westchester, Dec 28 (Wm. Russell). One bird on the Ashokan Res. in Ulster, Dec 29 and again Jan 9 (Al Feldman). Feldman reports early Spring migrants over the Ashokan Reservoir, Mar 12. A late Snow Goose was seen near Cornwall, Orange Co., Dec 5 (Paul Jeheber, fide Treacy). The wintering Duck populations seemed to follow the usual trend, some species up in numbers while others were down. Considerable shifting of these birds during mid-winter was undoubtedly caused by the freezing over of many lakes and streams. Nothing unusual has been reported on the Spring migrants.