

were scarce. At Old Chatham several Red Crossbills were seen on Dec 2, 3, and 20 (Reilly).

The rarity of the period is very probably the Grasshopper Sparrow seen at Livingston on Jan 18. During a high wind and heavy snowstorm that day Howard Munson was called to check on two sparrows that had appeared at a sill feeder. By the time he arrived one of the birds had flown. The other, however, was so weak that it was easily picked up. The bird died shortly thereafter. The specimen was turned over to the New York State Museum at Albany, where verification of the identification was made. One can only conjecture as to whether the second bird was also a Grasshopper Sparrow.

Some forty to fifty Fox Sparrows, the first of the season, were near Chatham Center on Mar 29 (ADBC). A White-crowned Sparrow was at Amsterdam on Dec 31 (Fitzgerald), and for the second January in a row one appeared at Burnt Hills. An individual was present there between Jan 13 and 22. Another, or perhaps this same bird, was noted there on Mar 3 (Foote). A White-throated Sparrow was at Amsterdam from Jan 21 on (Fitzgerald).

Snow Buntings were reported much more frequently than in recent winters. Most of the records were made during February and March. The high count was the 300 or so at Oppenheim on Mar 23 (Murphy). During February flocks of up to 200 were noted in Columbia County (ADBC). There were many reports of flocks ranging from 50 to 100 in the Schenectady area. Lapland Longspurs were unrecorded.

16 *Ellen Lane, Scotia 2*

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

As compared to last winter (56-57), birds remaining in the Hudson Valley following the Fall migration showed a lower normality. Numbers of common migrants were down and the drain out seemed progressively greater as one traveled up the Hudson from Rockland and Westchester. The Northern visitors were not numerically high except for the Siskin in Rockland where it was very abundant (Deed). The vagrant and rarity list shows several interesting finds and new records. It is worthy to note that the number of bird watchers operating feeding stations has increased considerably in the past decade and that this practice has paid off in influencing birds to remain in the vicinity for the season. This is one way to attract rarities that would otherwise not be discovered.

Winter did not settle upon us with any great severity until the season was half over. December was warm and wet followed by some snowfall and cooler weather in January. In early February, however, Winter tightened its hold — dropped its temperatures more and dumped a series of snows upon the ground to a total accumulation of 5-6 feet or more in some areas up in the Catskills. As of April 1 much snow still remained in the mountainous areas, kept there by cool north to east winds that had been constant through almost all of March.

March snowfalls along the Atlantic Coast coupled with the almost constant winds gave the Hudson Valley one of the latest and poorest Spring migrations in a number of years. Although a few birds managed to come through close to on time most flights however, were two weeks or more late. In the northern part of our region at least, the scarcity of migrants during the last two weeks of March was amazing.

Loons — Ducks: A Common Loon was seen near Stony Point on Jan 12 (Irving Kennedy), the third winter record of this species for Rockland. On Feb 13 Lynn Braganca found an emaciated Great Blue Heron near Bedford, Westchester. Apparently the bird found the going difficult against winter odds. Of interest was Rockland's second winter record of the Snow Goose discovered near Haverstraw, Dec 28. It remained through most of January (J. Orth; J. Kenney; E. Treacy; F. Steffens). Down in Rockland four Redheads decided to abandon the Hudson River and spend the season on a small pond near Nanuet, six miles inland, (B. Deed). Bob Deed remarked that when the ice broke in the lower Hudson River and nearby lakes about Mar 1, the ducks began to show up almost immediately which contrasts with their habit of the past few years in staying away or remaining scarce for two or three weeks following the ice break. A Hooded Merganser remained on the Ashokan Res., Ulster County through most of Jan (Al Feldman).

The Turkey Vulture showed up over the region on Mar 2, (Treacy) later than the usual dates of the past few years.

Wintering hawks were probably about normal. Broadwings seldom attempt to winter and are rarely seen at this time of year. Two were seen early in the season, one at Pearl River, Dec 29 (Joseph Morlan), and one or the same bird at Tappan on Jan 2 (Deed). An adult Broadwing was seen near Katonah, Westchester, Mar 20, an early migrant date (William Russell). The Rough-legged Hawk was seen about its usual haunts near Stone Ridge on Dec 2 and was last seen Feb 5 (F. Hough). Another was seen on Feb 22 by Stan Grierson et al, near Katonah, Westchester. Bald Eagles attracted attention in several places along the Hudson River and in a couple of cases inland, during the Winter. Wilson's Snipe remained near Lake Deforest, Rockland for most of Dec. Dr. Marjorie Hopper saw two or more in mid-December and Mr & Mrs Frank Steffens had one on the Xmas count, Dec 28, a first. Near Blooming Grove, Orange County, Martha Earl checked frequently a Wilson's Snipe that was wintering near her place. Deep snows in the lower Hudson area must have disturbed many of the owls, especially the Long-eared and Saw-whet. One Long-eared was found dead in the woods near Bedford, Westchester on Mar 13 (Hurdman). Other reports from the area indicate a nearby group. The uncommon Short-eared Owl was seen hunting in the Tri-Loba Hill Sanctuary near Katonah, Feb 18 by Ruth and Stanley Grierson.

There are some signs that the little Saw-whet Owl found it difficult to cope with the dearth of food forced upon him by the late winter snows. On Feb 22 one was found near South Salem, Westchester by Miss M. Yocca and was apparently starving. The attempt to help it failed. On Feb 26 another Saw-whet was found dead in Mt. Kisko, Westchester by Joe Brunco. William Russell had more pleasant experiences with this interesting little owl. On Mar 23 & 24 he heard one calling for considerable periods of time, Katonah. This is also becoming late for Saw-whets to remain in our region.

Swifts — Shrikes: A Kingfisher was seen about Kingston Point, Ulster County on Feb 4 (Arthur Cragin). A vagrant **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was discovered in New City, Rockland on Nov 26 but disappeared shortly after Dec 1 (Deed). It was Rockland's first record. Thomas Dow and David Hill made another Rockland first when they discovered an **Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker** near Blauvelt on Dec 28. Apparently there was a slight southward movement of the Acadian Chickadees last Fall with very few being detected. The only ones reported in our region were found near the Ashokan Reservoir, Ulster County on Jan 1 and 14 (Henry & Ilse Dunbar).

Again the Tufted Titmouse showed a good winter count for most of our counties. For the first time two visited the feeder of the writer regularly all winter, and this is under the shadows of the Catskills! On the property of Charles Bergeret in Yorktown Heights, Westchester as many as ten were seen!

A small number of Red-breasted Nuthatches wintered in the region. Like the Titmouse, the Carolina Wren was found in good numbers throughout many areas of the Hudson Valley. A Long-billed Marsh Wren was found in the Piermont Marsh, Rockland on Dec 28 (Deed et al). The Mockingbirds of the Lake DeForest area in Rockland probably wintered successfully. One Mocker was seen near Stone Ridge, Ulster on Dec 22 (Hough), and was probably the one that was seen there in early Nov. Mrs. R. J. Comas had a solitary Catbird coming to her feeding station in Yorktown Heights, Westchester, throughout the season. Wintering robins were

scarce. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Brown had a Hermit Thrush near their home in Upper Nyack, Rockland on Feb 18. Although reported, Bluebirds were also scarce in the region. Golden-crowned Kinglets, likewise, were down in winter numbers. Shrikes were off.

Vireos — Warblers: A Yellow-breasted Chat was noticed in Nyack, Rockland sometime in Jan and only a block from where one wintered a year ago (fide Deed).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Meadowlarks were reported in Ulster (Hough), in Orange (Earl), Rockland (Deed) and Westchester (Grierson). Some Redwings were not too late in arriving but most were slow and scattered.

The finding of the **Orchard Oriole** (male) spending at least December near Tappan, Rockland was indeed spectacular for this bird. It was in an unthrifty condition and probably succumbed later on. The record makes another Rockland first (Mr. and Mrs. Archer Stansbury et al).

A Baltimore Oriole appeared at the home of Ed Treacy in Highland Falls, Orange County on Dec 1 and stayed until Feb 17. It was attracted to the suet feeder (Ed Treacy). Cardinals were abundant all through the region. A Dickcissel was found singing in Katonah, Westchester on Mar 12 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kurka. Evening Grosbeaks were fairly common in some sections, less so in others. Feeding stations have a tendency to keep the flocks around. Purple Finches were generally scarce throughout the region. Pine Grosbeaks showed spotty occurrences and were not very common. A few flocks of Redpolls wandered about the region during the winter and some of the Redpoll subspecies were identified by alert observers. Three **Greater Redpolls** were studied carefully by Helen Braem as they visited her feeder in Mt. Kisco, Westchester on Mar 20. William Russell also carefully identified a **Hairy Redpoll** on Mar 20, near Katonah, Westchester. It was in a flock of Goldfinches. If flocks of Redpolls were studied persistently more such records would undoubtedly come up. Pine Siskins were decidedly common down state especially in Rockland (Deed) but were scarce up in the Ulster region. On Jan 24 Eugene Brown estimated one flock near Nyack, Rockland to contain over 1,000 birds. A nice concentration! Both Crossbills were very scarce.

The RAS Xmas count tallied six Vesper Sparrows on Dec 28, the second time on count. Only one Savannah Sparrow was reported anywhere in the region during the Winter. It was found on the RAS Xmas count. Tree Sparrows were one of the more common winter birds in the Region. A **White-crowned Sparrow** was observed visiting the feeder of Helen Sterley in Kingston, Ulster County on Feb 7 and thereafter. It was checked by Henry and Ilse Dunbar and the find makes a first winter record of this bird for Ulster. Two or three Fox Sparrows wintered in Rockland (Deed). Song Sparrows were scarce in the upper part of the Region. They were over two weeks late in arriving as Spring migrants. A few Snow Buntings were wandering through parts of the region.

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REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOT

Winter settled on the land early in 1958 and although late December Audubon Counts were high, South Nassau topping 120 species, rapid diminishing of less hardy birds showed by middle to late January. Three heavy snowfalls, including one March 20-22, brought a food shortage and hundreds of feeding stations in the region catered to numerous House Finches, Juncos, Tree and Song Sparrows. A mass migration westward on Long Island in October left Blue Jays comparatively scarce this winter in many eastern areas and fewer early winter Red-winged Blackbirds and Cowbirds were reported.

A surprisingly large number of Red-necked Grebes and Eiders showed up on Long Island waters during the winter. The fourth Annual Statewide