

The Red Crossbill was reported from the Chatham area during the last part of December (ADBC) and again on Feb 22 and 23 (Reilly). On Mar 8 four White-winged Crossbills and three Red Crossbills were seen feeding along a roadside near the southern shore of Sacandaga Reservoir (Scott). The White-wings were singing. It is not often that one sees both species of Crossbill together. Cardinals were reported in good numbers, especially in the Mohawk Valley.

A Towhee was at Schenectady on Dec 20 (SBC), and another was at Chatham on Dec 27 (ADBC). No less than six were at Chatham on Jan 27 (LaPointe), and the species was reported continually there thereafter. A Vesper Sparrow was at a Nassau feeder on Jan 18 (Turner). Others were reported early in March from Columbia. From Feb 15 to 28 a Fox Sparrow was seen daily at a New Concord feeder (Radke) and most of the more frequent March reports of this species were of single birds. The wintering population of Slate-colored Juncos was down in the southern part of the area. An Oregon Junco put in an appearance at a West Sand Lake feeder in mid-January (Bordt). The bird was present there at least until the latter part of March and was seen by many observers. Snow Buntings were rather frequently and widely seen during January, February and March, with reports from Columbia, Greene, and Schoharie Counties as well as the capital district. Lapland Longspurs were again unrecorded.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

In this region we experienced a relatively open winter, smitten by a long run of cold spells that drove the frost deep into the barren ground. In spite of the constant cold there were no recordings of extreme sub-zero temperatures. In the lower elevations, at least, most of the winter snow was gained in March with up to a foot on the 12th and another 3-5 inches on the 27th, the latter topped with winter's last real chilly fling of 5 to 10 degrees above zero on the 29th. So spring came slowly, as was evidenced by the belated awakenings of the great chorus of Hylas which were, for the most part, unable to help initiate the return of spring in March by being kept in their cold winter beds longer than usual. Ungreeted as they were by the Hylas, many of the spring migrants arrived close to within normal limits.

Studies and general observations of the winter bird populations in our region showed a high number of lingering migrants from the fall migration and a low normality among most of the visitors coming from the north. Perhaps this status was best reflected in the tally of the various Christmas counts.

Loons — Ducks: With sharp eyes afieled the few Red-necked Grebes that occurred in the Rockland-Westchester areas this season didn't have much of a chance in escaping detection. John and Margaret Kelly first reported one on Croton Lake, Westchester County on Dec 14, after which none were reported until mid-March when there were several reports. On March 12 William Russell saw a pair on the Cross River Reservoir, Westchester, and following this report subsequent observations were made on the Hudson River and Stillwell Lake, Rockland Co. (Ed Treacy) and Lake DeForest, Rockland (Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steffens). Others reporting this specie were Joseph Malone at Croton Point and Martin Breck and Ralph Odell at Muscoot Reservoir, Westchester. Bob Deed says that this bird used to be fairly regular before 1949.

An American Widgeon was added to the RAS Christmas count for the first time, indicating a scarcity of this duck in our region during winter. The arrival of ducks to our waters in March was concentrated toward the latter half of the month. The beautiful Green-winged Teal seldom favors us with numbers and only one observation was reported — a pair by Stanley Grierson at the Tri-Loba Hill Sanctuary near Katonah, Westchester. On Dec 3 Mr. and Mrs. Bob Deed saw a sizable raft of

Canvasbacks on the Hudson River at Stony Point, Rockland Co. and estimated about 1400 birds. In mid-March another large concentration was seen on the Hudson River near Kingston, Ulster Co. (Sam and Helen Hayes).

Hawks — Owls: The Turkey Vulture was first noted in the Ulster County area on Mar 4 (Dan Smiley). The wintering hawk numbers seemed about normal with the Red-tailed being most frequently reported. Mrs. George Little reports the finding of a Goshawk in the lower Putnam County area on Dec 27. Rough-legged Hawks were found in the New Paltz section of Ulster (Robert Pyle) and the Katonah section of Westchester (Wm. Russell). The Virginia Rail does not commonly stay in our region during the winter, and so the finding of one is bound to be a thrill. On Jan 18 one was discovered along the Hudson River at Crugers, Westchester, by members of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society field trip party and afforded them a pleasant surprise. Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly photographed a Virginia Rail at Croton Point, below Crugers, on Jan 27, probably the same bird. Two Killdeer were seen near Kripplebush, Ulster Co. on the rather late date of Dec 4 (Fred Hough). The March return of the Woodcock seemed to be a little better than usual. An Iceland Gull, down from the north, was observed about the Croton Point area by many during the winter. Of the Owl populations the Saw-whet was the only one to receive much mention and these reports came from Westchester. One was found in the town of Bedford by Philip Ranieri on Dec 19, and Stanley Grierson spotted one in the Todd Sanctuary, Katonah on Jan 7.

Swifts — Shrikes: The Woodpeckers made a good showing on many winter lists. Flickers remained throughout most of the region. On Dec 17 Ruth and Stanley Grierson observed near Katonah, Westchester a hybrid between the Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted Flickers. They noted the typical black mustache line of the Yellow-shafted and the underwing and tail pink of the Red-shafted. A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen near Alligerville, Ulster on Jan 18, (Sanford Cross). The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was up in numbers. An all-time high count of four was made in Rockland on the Christmas count. A female came to the feeding station of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Orbison in Mount Kisco, Westchester, from Nov. 26 to Dec 13. Another Sapsucker was found in Hurley, Ulster Co. on Jan 10 (H. and I. Dunbar et al). The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was again reported in northern Westchester (Mrs. George Little). Phoebe's started arriving in mid-March — the 18th at Katonah, Westchester (Wm. Russell); Mar 20 first noted in Rockland (Mrs. Wm. Irving) and on Mar 21 up in Ulster at Kripplebush (Mrs. Fred Hough). There was some indications that the Black-capped Chickadee population was in a low. There were a few reports on Red-breasted Nuthatches, from most counties, with the highest number (5 or 6) coming from Fahnestock Park, Westchester (Wm. Russell, Ralph Odell).

Carolina Wrens were found but no increases were noted. The Christmas count turned up two Long-billed Marsh Wrens in lower Rockland Co. (RAS). The Mockingbird put in another bid for its existence here in our cold winter climate. We know of at least three records: one Mocker remained about the New City, Rockland Co. nesting site; another wintered in Putnam Co. just north of Carmel (Mabel Little), and still another was seen up in Ulster Co. on Dec 30 near New Paltz by Dr. R. Pyle. The wintering Catbird number was up with reports coming from nearly all of the counties. Two Brown Thrashers were found by Henry and Ilse Dunbar near Alligerville, in Ulster Co. and represents the only winter record received. Last November many observers were noting the large number of Robins that were lingering behind and suspected that many would remain here to pass on-coming season. The predictions came true and Robin counts were high in all counties reporting. A few Hermit Thrushes were known to have wintered, probably normal. Most areas reported Bluebirds, but they were considered scarce. Both Kinglets were down in number as compared to some years. Cedar Waxwings were unusually abundant in Rockland Co. (Bob Deed et al).

Vireos — Warblers: On the late date of Dec 2 Wendy Shedd and Joyce Pistone found a dead Blackpoll Warbler in Bedford Village, Westchester, and turned it over to Stanley Grierson's study collection. Of late years more records have been coming Malone has given us a record for this winter. They found one on Croton Point, in on wintering Yellow-breasted Chats and careful observing by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Westchester, on Mar 15.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A few Redwings arrived in the latter part of February. In March a partially albino Redwing arrived for the third time in a nesting site at the Tri-Loba Hill Sanctuary near Katonah, Westchester (Stan Grierson). The female Baltimore Oriole reported in Kingston, Ulster last fall was last seen on Dec 7 (Arthur Cragin). A female **Bullock's Oriole**, visitant from the west, was found many times during the winter visiting the feeding station of Herbert Jacoby and other stations in the neighborhood in Mt. Kisco, Westchester. It was carefully studied by several people. The Cardinal population remains high throughout the Region. A Dickcissel frequently visited the feeder of Betty Van Soosten in Hurley, Ulster Co. during the forepart of the season but disappeared in January. Another immature male Dickcissel was observed by Robert Hamerslag on Mar 15 at his feeder in Katonah, Westchester. Evening Grosbeaks did not winter in any great abundance. Purple Finches, on the other hand, were very numerous. The Pine Grosbeak was virtually non-existent in this region. Redpolls and Pine Siskins were generally scarce. A solitary White-winged Crossbill was found in Katonah, Westchester on Dec. 29 by Wm. Russell and was the only winter report. Numerous Towhees remained in our region to winter and were seen in Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Ulster and probably occurred in the other counties.

Eight Savannah Sparrows were tallied on the Rockland Audubon Society Christmas count on Dec 27. This is a record high. Ed Treacy had a Oregon Junco at his feeder in Highland Falls, Orange Co. on Mar 16. The lack of snow probably made the Tree Sparrows less conspicuous than otherwise. The Rockland Christmas count found another high in the 23 Field Sparrows observed on that day (Dec 27). Two Field Sparrows spent the winter in the vicinity of a feeder in Katonah, Westchester (Elizabeth Odell). White-throated Sparrows were at a winter high in the Hudson Valley. Even a few Fox Sparrows remained in our region. Three were observed up in Ulster during latter December, and there were two down in Rockland at the same time. Song Sparrows were generally common. Snow Buntings were notably absent.

Correction: The Purple Gallinule given on page 129 of **THE KINGBIRD**, vol. VIII, No. 4 should be Common Gallinule.

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REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Low temperatures occurred in early winter and stayed throughout January with little snow. There were frequent strong northwest winds and in places ponds and bays were almost, if not completely, frozen over.

Down in winter population were both loons, Horned Grebes, Common and King Eiders, Rough-legged Hawks, Goldfinches, and Siskins. Almost entirely if not completely absent were both crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks, and Redpolls.

The waterfowl count was successful, with credit given to the fifty observers, many of whom year after year respond to this challenge of facing winter's coldest blasts. Similar to last year, maximum freeze-ups of the winter came on or about census time.

Outstanding was an adult Golden Eagle on January 3 at Manorville and an immature Golden Eagle circling nearby (G. Raynor). A Bald Eagle and a Great Horned Owl were also reported on the Central Suffolk Christmas census on December 26 (D. Puleston).

A good late winter flock of some 25-30 Lapland Longspurs was present in early March at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary and the much proclaimed European Redwing, present from February 21-25, was viewed, or searched for, by an estimated 300 people.