

I am having some luck in securing new correspondents; I have received an offer from Mrs. John Delehanty of Tupper Lake to make her observations and notes available. I want to publicly extend my welcome to Mrs. Delehanty, and I hope it will not be too long before we may build up to the original seven-member group that was in the area five years ago. I earnestly solicit record contributions from those observers in the Adirondack-Champlain region.

A large population of loons, grebes, mergansers, and gulls was present at Lake Champlain throughout the winter, and a few Canada Geese stayed also. Geese returned to Tupper Lake on Mar 29. A Goshawk was reported along the Clintonville Road in late Jan, but there were no other hawk observations of interest. A few Mourning Doves stayed all winter in the Whickman's Marsh area.

Blue Jays and White-breasted Nuthatches kept things interesting at feeders in the interior parts of the area where birds in general were scarce. Mrs. Delehanty successfully taught Black-capped Chickadees to eat from her hand, as a newspaper article and picture will testify. A wintering group of Cowbirds was noted in the Whickman's Marsh region.

Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks generally predominated the feeding station picture in the Tupper Lake area (Amstutz, Delehanty). Pine Siskins were also observed. The rare Hoary Redpoll was reported in the region on more than one occasion.

There was little evidence of any spring migration as the period drew to a close, undoubtedly because of the late winter storms in areas to the south of us.

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

This has been an unusually mild winter, the mercury falling below zero on only two occasions, both in Jan. Snowfall was only light to moderate with the heaviest two-day fall reaching only 9+ inches. Snow did not accumulate. Usually the snow from one storm would disappear before the next arrived. Frequently snow on the ground would persist for days because the temperature would remain consistently below the freezing mark for long periods. The continued cold weather with the thermometer seldom getting above 20° froze up all bodies of water except parts of the Hoosic and Hudson Rivers and fast running brooks.

No rarities were reported for the period, no doubt because there was a noticeable lack of observers in the field. Feeding station reports were plentiful but, except for the Christmas censuses, field work virtually ceased. Perhaps the observers were conserving their energies for the Christmas counts and after they were all over needed the rest of the winter to recuperate. Of course there were a few exceptions to this. To them we say, "Thank you for your records".

Grebes — Ducks: A late Red-necked Grebe was seen on Dec 13 at Tomhannock Reservoir (Yunick), while the last Horned Grebes (8) were seen on Dec 15 at Saratoga Lake (Hallenbeck). (Shortly after the above dates both these bodies of water froze up solid.) To the close of the period there have been no returning Grebes (or loons) sighted. The last fall migrant Canadian Geese (1,500) were seen at Ghent on Dec 15 (Alan Devoe Bird Club). The ADBC also reported the first northbound spring migrants at Stockport Station on Mar 27. The mid-winter duck count, taken on Jan 17, was about the same as last year. However, a Canvasback was seen for the first time on a duck count in this region. Black Ducks were noted at their breeding ground at Meadowdale on Mar 28 (Johnston) while returning Wood Ducks were first reported on Mar 26 at Stockport (ADBC).

Hawks — Owls: The usual wintering Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks were generally reported throughout the region. A Goshawk was present for two days, Feb 21 and 22, at Canaan (ADBC). A migrant Marsh Hawk on Mar 26 and 15 Red-shouldered Hawks on Mar 19 were seen in Delmar (Madison). First Killdeer were reported on Mar 27, and more generally on the 28. An Iceland Gull was seen on the Hudson River near Cohoes on Jan 1 and 2 (Sabin). Black-backed Gulls were slightly more numerous this winter than last with daily counts being as high as eight. No other unusual gulls were reported. Mourning Doves wintered in greater numbers than for several years past. Snowy Owls went unreported until Mar 15 and 16 when they were seen at Palenville (fide Feldhusen) and Dunnsville (Van Vorst). No Saw-whet Owls were reported during this period.

Woodpeckers — Warblers: Flickers were reported in Jan from two different areas, apparently wintering. First Phoebees were seen at Chatham on Mar 14 (ADBC). A Boreal Chickadee wintered at West Sand Lake (Bordt), while a Ruby-crowned Kinglet lingered to Dec 10 at Poestenkill (Kilcawley). A Long-billed Marsh Wren reported on Dec 6 and again on Mar 13, both at Stockport Station, suggests possibly that the species may have wintered (ADBC). A Brown Thrasher did winter in the Chatham area where it regularly came to a feeder (Radke). Robins wintered rather sparingly, while Catbirds apparently were absent. Bluebirds first returned on Mar 21 at Ghent (ADBC). Cedar Waxwings were occasionally seen as were Gray Shrikes. Two Common Yellowthroats were seen on the Schenectady Christmas census, Dec 26, but not afterwards.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Meadowlarks wintered sparingly, also, as did Red-winged Blackbirds and Cowbirds. However, spring migrants of these species were widely reported the latter half of Mar, becoming particularly abundant after Mar 27. A Baltimore Oriole was seen at a feeder in Schenectady on the day of their Christmas census. Another Oriole was seen in Chatham from Dec 13 through 24 (ADBC). Cardinals, Evening Grosbeaks, and Redpolls have been widely reported, the latter two in sufficient numbers and widespread enough to be referred to as an invasion. Among the flocks of Redpolls, a Hoary Redpoll was seen in Chatham on Mar 13 (Reilly). Purple Finches were conspicuous by their absence as compared to a year ago. Pine Siskins were generally reported with a good share being seen at feeding stations, a species one does not usually expect. Pine Grosbeaks were occasionally reported from Columbia County (ADBC). Both the Red and the White-winged Crossbills were reported during the period. Red Crossbills were seen at Delmar (Fordham) in the last week in Jan, on Feb 5 at Old Chatham (Reilly), and the White-winged Crossbill on Feb 7 at Red Rock (ADBC). Towhees first arrived on Mar 10 at South Schodack (ADBC). A late Grasshopper Sparrow, reminiscent of the one a year or so ago, was banded at Nassau (ADBC) on Dec 24. An uncommon wintering species, the Savannah Sparrow, was banded in Jan at Castleton (ADBC) and was seen at least through Feb 2. Fox Sparrows showed up in numbers the last four days in Mar. One or two White-throated Sparrows and more than the usual number of Song Sparrows wintered in the area. Snow Buntings were regularly reported but not in large numbers until Mar when as many as 500 to 1,000 were estimated in the Meadowdale area (Johnston). Careful checking of these large flocks revealed one and sometimes two Lapland Longspurs.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Due to its geographical position the Hudson Valley was able to pass through another winter season spared by the raging demons of storm that held many surrounding regions in a grip that can be called a "real winter". Dec, Jan and Feb passed without extremes of temperature or precipitation and this pattern was so consistent that it continued on through the first three weeks of Mar without a single break in terms of spring weather. It looked as if Mar had to absorb some cold that should have come in Feb. Snow came and went particularly in lowland areas and this undoubtedly had a strong influence on attracting wandering winter birds that entered this region. From this we note two outstanding features in the activities of our regional bird-life — First, a tremendous concentration of Redpolls occurred along with a near common-place number of Rough-legged Hawks. Second, the stable cool weather covering much of the eastern seaboard during Mar held any early mass migration flights in check until toward the end of the month when the weather began to change thus permitting migrants to flood in with many species being from two to four weeks late.

Some wandering Western birds were accidental in this region during the season: The House Finch was found in New City, Rockland County on Mar 19 (Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steffans) and up in Ulster County at Naponach on Mar 26 (Chandler Young). A Western Tanager (female) was found dying by George Wood near his residence at Accord, Ulster County sometime in mid-Mar. It was given to Heinz Meng who added it to his skin collection. Oregon Juncos were reported in Putnam (Mabel Little) and Dutchess (Ralph Waterman Bird Club) Counties.