

**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

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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.

**Loons — Ducks:** Wintering Great Blue Herons were seen in the following counties — Dutchess (Waterman); Ulster (Pyle); Rockland (LeMaire). A general impression indicates that the wintering duck population was on the low side. Ed Treacy reports the shooting of a Snow Goose near West Point, Orange Co. in early Dec. On Dec 20 two Snow Geese were seen in Rue Harbor near Mammaronneck, Westchester by Eugene Decker. Three Canadas and an unidentified smaller goose were also present. Another Snow Goose wintered with some domestic ducks at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County (RWBC). Six Green-winged Teal were at Cruger Island, Dutchess Co. on Mar 26 (RWBC). The Wood Duck was back at the Tri-Loba Hill Sanctuary, Katonah, Westchester on Mar 24 (Ruth and Stanley Grierson). The Canvasback showed a high on the Christmas census taken in Rockland. Hooded Mergansers were at Kingston Point on Mar 24 (Arthur Cragin) and a nice flock of 25 was seen on the Dutchess Co. side Mar 26 (RWBC). An earlier arrival was at Wappingers Falls, Dutchess Co. on Mar 13 (Jean Wisner).

**Hawks — Owls:** A wandering Turkey Vulture was seen by Ed Treacy and H. Pemberton on Jan 23 near Bear Mt. and is an interesting mid-winter record. Excepting the Rough-legged most of the wintering hawks seemed to be about usual in the region. Mr. and Mrs. William Irving had a Goshawk on the RAS Christmas count Dec 26 near West Nyack. This is a first for the Rockland counts. Rough-legged Hawks in both phases made a spectacular show in our region this winter. They were reported in all counties with several known in Ulster Co. alone. Bob Deed found the number of Bald Eagles in the Rockland Co. area for the winter disappointingly low. A Virginia Rail was found in the Bear Mt. - Harriman Section on the Christmas census taken there on Jan 2 (RAS). Most Killdeer were late in their Spring flight but one early fellow was seen near Pine Plains, Dutchess Co. on Feb 7 (RWBC). A lingering Woodcock was located by Frank Steffens on Dec 3 near Pearl River, Rockland. The Spring return of Woodcocks was late, the last days of Mar. Two Common Snipe wintered around Pine Plains, Dutchess Co. (Decker; Palmatiers). One Snipe was reported on the RAS Christmas count and another was seen at Piermont on Feb 14 (Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Cooke). John Orth et al had a Laughing Gull for the first time on the Wildlife census taken at Bear Mt. Jan 2.

At Yonkers, Westchester Co. on Mar 13 Lester Walsh, an experienced birder of the Saw Mill River Audubon group, was going over a bunch of gulls that were flying about a temporary sewage outlet in the Hudson and among them spied an **Ivory Gull**, rare visitant from the Arctic regions. This gull is characterized by being all white with black legs. The Saw Mill River group also had some interesting finds among the Alcids found on the Westchester shore of Long Island Sound. On Jan 31 a Razorbill Auk was identified at a distance off shore and on Feb 21 five Dovekie were first spotted by Arthur Olsen for the group. Wintering Mourning Doves were reported as more common in Dutchess and Rockland Counties. The Owl population seemed to be about normal as usual. There may well have been more but only one **Snowy Owl** was reported during the period. It was seen by Leslie Pearl on Jan 24 near Amawalk, Westchester Co. An injured Short-eared Owl was found in the vicinity of New Paltz, Ulster Co. (March) and was turned over to Heinz Meng. A Saw-whet Owl was hit by a car in Mt. Kisco, Westchester on Dec 22 and over in Rockland Co. another was seen by Gene Brown on Feb 23 right in a village street of Upper Nyack.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Several Kingfishers were observed wintering in the Dutchess Co. area (RWBC). In Putnam Valley, Westchester Co. Mr. Paul Wolf had, among the many birds coming to his feeder, a Flicker that came regularly eating as his main diet — seeds. Several Fish Crows were reported seen along the Hudson River during Jan and Feb by various members of the Ralph Waterman Bird Club. Although the species was scarce this winter one **Boreal Chickadee** did show up in Katonah, Westchester, coming to the feeder of Mr. and Mrs. Robertson Barrett and stayed all winter. Another was seen in Rockland Lake Village on RAS Christmas count. Again the Tufted Titmice reports were common, even showing increase as Mrs. William Grierson states that there has never before been so many seen in northern Westchester. Red-breasted Nuthatches seemed to be more common in Dutchess Co. than in the other areas. Reports indicate a stable population of Carolina Wrens in this region. Two Long-billed Marsh Wrens were at the Piermont Pier in Rockland Co. on the RAS Christmas Count. The increase in Mockingbirds has again attracted attention. One winter report came from Rockland (RAS), another near Patterson, Putnam Co. (Mabel Little), three in Dutchess Co., one at Hyde Park, one near Poughkeepsie and one at Pleasant Valley (RWBC). Martha Earl and

Ed Treacy each had a Mockler for the Orange Co. record — one near Warwick and the other near Highland Falls. Up in Ulster Co. Elizabeth Burroughs Kelly enjoyed a wintering Mockingbird about her place at Riverby. Down in Westchester Co. at Tarrytown Mrs. T. L. Reibling also had one of these birds regularly visiting her feeder. Catbirds did not winter in any great abundance. On Mar 22 a Brown Thrasher was found in Bedford Village, Westchester by Peter McCullum. It had been killed by a car and was turned over to Stanley Grierson's study collection. Robins wintered in low numbers and their return in Mar was late. A very late Gray-cheeked Thrush was seen Dec 18 by Margaret Clare Dye in her yard at Cornwall on the Hudson, Orange Co. Bluebirds appeared disappointingly scarce. Both Shrikes were scarce.

**Vireos — Warblers:** A late Black-throated Blue Warbler appeared Dec 10 at the feeder of Mrs. Frank McKown in Katonah, Westchester. Wintering Myrtle Warblers were way down. Otis Waterman found a dead Chat near Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co. on Dec 26 following another dead one that was found by Ray Connelly two days earlier near the same city.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Some Redwings wintered. Some Spring arrivals were early or usual but the big flights were late, not arriving until the latter half of Mar. One early Redwing was at Mt. Kisco, Westchester Co. on Feb 22 (Helen Braem). Baltimore Orioles were reported at several places. A female at the feeder of Mrs. Javius Matsumoto in Chappaqua, Westchester Co. on Dec 15 and 17. Another female was seen about the home of Mrs. Jamie King, Valley Cottage, Rockland Co. on Jan 1 and was checked by Dr. M. Hopper. Other Baltimore Orioles were reported at Salt Point and Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co. during the winter (RWBC). There was one record for Ulster Co. near New Paltz in latter Dec (Ralph Johnson). Cardinals are at an all-time high judging from their commonplace occurrence throughout most lowland areas of our region. Five Dickcissels were about the feeder of Mrs. William Irving, West Nyack, Rockland Co. in early Mar. The Evening Grosbeak population in the region was good for the season. Pine Grosbeaks were virtually non-existent although one did show up at Margaret Dye's feeder on Dec 31 at her home in Cornwall on the Hudson, Orange Co. Of the winter flights about the region the Redpoll was widespread and numerically impressive. All counties had them with the greatest concentrations appearing to be in Rockland and Orange Counties. Flocks were so large in Rockland that they were impossible to estimate accurately but Bob Deed felt that one Feb flock certainly had over ten-thousand birds in it. Martha Earl reported similar finds in adjacent Orange Co. Small numbers of Redpolls wandered in cities and towns, especially during snow storms, and many visited feeders. They did not pass up any chance for food. A Hoary Redpoll came to the feeder of Arthur Weeks on Feb 22 at his home in Kitchawan, Westchester and was later photographed by Stanley Grierson. Two Hoarys were at Naponach, Ulster Co. on Mar 2 and were seen by C. Young. Pine Siskins were generally down. A small flock of White-winged Crossbills was seen by William Russell on Dec 22 at Amawalk Res., Westchester Co. Towhees wintered in low numbers. The Ralph Waterman Bird Club had good luck in finding several Savannah Sparrows in their area during the course of the winter. The species was also reported in Rockland (Deed et al) and one was seen near New Paltz, Ulster Co. on Dec 31 (R. Pyle). Rockland County birders are happy to add a new species to their county list. This was a **Seaside Sparrow** at Grassy Point, Dec 27 and credit for the interesting find goes to John Price Jr. and Dr. Marjorie Hopper. Field Sparrows were up on the RAS Christmas Count and Chandler Young reports five at his place in Naponach, Ulster Co. on Mar 5. White-throated Sparrows wintering seemed concentrated down state. Andrew McWaters had seven Fox Sparrows at his place in Mt. Kisco, Westchester Co. on Jan 23. Foxies were late in migration. A high of thirty-eight Swamp Sparrows was reported on the RAS Christmas Count. Thirty-four were concentrated about Piermont Pier. Song Sparrows were about in good numbers. Migrants were also late. Martha Earl reports some very large flocks of Snow Buntings in the Orange Co. area. One flock may well have contained several thousand birds. Snow Buntings were also fairly abundant during latter winter in the Dutchess and Ulster County areas.

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