

Many birders from outside areas journeyed to Saranac Lake to see the crossbills (Ed — see field notes section for an account of the Saranac Lake crossbill influx).

Tree Sparrows were present in normal numbers. A Whitethroated Sparrow was at a Tupper Lake feeder from Dec 8 until Jan 6 (Amstutz, Kingsbury). A few Song Sparrows were seen late in March, the first one being on Mar 22 at Tupper Lake (Delehanty). The Savannah Sparrow was reported on Mar 28 (Amstutz) and Mar 30 (Delehanty). Slate-colored Juncos were present in good numbers, with singing birds being heard late in March. Eight Lapland Longspurs were sighted near West Chazy on Jan 15 (Delafield). Snow Buntings could be readily found in suitable areas.

Corrigendum: Following are several corrections to the fall summary (**Kingbird**, Vol. 10, No. 4, pp 196-197):

The only Horned Grebes, Common Goldeneyes, and Ruddy Ducks reported by Harriet Delafield were at Lake Champlain on Oct 28. Records of those species by this observer on other than the above date and in other than the above locality are incorrect. The Rough-legged Hawk location for this observer's report of this species was Canon Corners, not Saranac Lake. Under the paragraph on warblers Harriet Delafield's home area was erroneously stated as Tupper Lake; it should read Saranac Lake, and the Rusty Blackbird record near Clayburg on Oct 23 should be credited to this observer. Also, the height of the Horned Lark and Snow Bunting migration was Oct 27; the date Oct 23 should be deleted in connection with this observer's Snow Bunting reports (Ed — the Editor regrets these errors of omission and commission, which were the fault of the editorial board, not of the observer or the regional reporter).

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

The first half of this winter, up until February 13, was unusually severe in that the temperature fell to 0° or below on 25 days, 13 of them in January. The coldest day of the winter occurred on February 2nd when the thermometer dipped to 18° below zero. After February 13 there was a warming trend evident and the thermometer climbed to a high of 73° on the 28th of March. Snowfall was considered about normal until March when the fall was about double the normal expected amount. Total precipitation for the period was 8.40", or 0.32" above average. Most bodies of water were frozen over about December 10th.

The wintering bird populations approached what could be called normal conditions, with but few exceptions. One of the puzzling facts was the complete absence of all gulls from December 26 to February 26. Usually a few can be found along the Hudson River, but not so this winter. Deviations from the normal in other respects were the good Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, and Short-eared Owl flights. In conformity with normal conditions was a lack of any pronounced invasions by so-called "northern finches". Unusual species for this period were few, such as Virginia Rail and Catbird. Rarities or near-rarities included Whistling Swan, Snow Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, Dickcissel, and Oregon Junco.

Loons — Ducks: The last Common Loon was seen at Saratoga Lake on December 10 as were six Horned Grebes (Hallenbeck). No herons were reported wintering, however an early Great Blue Heron was seen near Onderdonk Lake (Albany County) on Mar 29 (Kent). Three Whistling Swans, two adult and one immature, were seen on Glass Pond, Guilderland on Mar 15 (Linch). Subsequently they were reported by many observers at the Meadowdale Marshes until the 26th. On the 31st, only the immature swan could be found (Sabin). Apparently the adult birds had moved on in the interim between the 26th and the 31st. A late fall Canada Goose was seen on a New Concord pond on Dec 2. A single bird of this species accompanied by a Snow Goose was seen feeding at Castleton near the Hudson River on Feb 10 and again on Feb 12 (Cook). The spring Canada Goose flight reached Region 8 during the last week of Mar. Mallards, Black Ducks, Common Goldeneyes, and Common Mergansers wintered well and in their usual numbers along the Hudson River. Noted with these wintering ducks were one Pintail, one Ring-necked Duck and one Red-breasted Merganser at Troy on Schenectady Bird Club's Troy

Christmas Count, Dec 31. Returning dabbling ducks were as follows: American Widgeon at Niskayuna on Mar 26 (Kaskan), Pintail at Stockport Station on Mar 2 (Erlenbach) and at Meadowdale on Mar 7 (Eddy), Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal at Meadowdale on Mar 31 (Sabin), and Wood Duck at Meadowdale on Mar 26 (Bartlett, Hallenbeck). A Canvasback was observed at Saratoga Lake on Dec 4 (Schenectady Bird Club field trip). On Feb 26 a Canvasback was seen at Stillwater and a Ring-necked Duck at Mechanicville (Stone, Yunick). Ring-necked Ducks arrived in numbers at the close of the period with a high count of 30 birds at Meadowdale on Mar 29 (Austin). Four Lesser Scaup arrived at Cohoes on Mar 28 (Foote) and thirty Greater Scaup at Niskayuna on Mar 29 (Hallenbeck). The only report this winter of a Barrow's Goldeneye concerns a beautiful male bird seen on the Hudson River above Troy on Feb 2 (Austin). A pair of Buffleheads were seen in the same general area as the preceding species from Feb 2 through the end of the period (Yunick). Five Hooded Mergansers were observed at Tomhannock Reservoir on Dec 5 before it became frozen over (Austin). A pair of this latter species was seen on the Hudson River above Troy on Jan 15 (Mid-winter duck count). Migrants started to show up the last two days of the period with as many as ten noted at Vly Creek Reservoir on Mar 31 (Sabin). Six Red-breasted Mergansers were observed at Saratoga Lake on Dec 10 and one at Niskayuna on Mar 29 in company with fifty Common Mergansers (Hallenbeck).

Hawks — Owls: The first spring Turkey Vulture report was of three birds seen at Red Rock (Columbia County) on Mar 1 (Smilow). This species wasn't generally reported until the last few days of Mar. With the exception of two birds seen at West Glens Falls on Jan 15 (Sabin), single Goshawks were seen at Castleton on Jan 15 and 18 (Cook), at Nassau on Feb 2 (Shineman), and at Castleton again on Feb 15 (Cook). A few Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were reported. Red-tailed Hawks were numerous enough but appeared to be slightly less abundant this winter. A late Red-shouldered Hawk was observed at Saratoga Battlefield on Dec 4 (Schenectady Bird Club field trip), and either a wandering, wintering individual or an early spring migrant was noted at New Concord (Columbia County) from Feb 26 to 28 (Radke). Rough-legged Hawks, predominantly light phase birds, were common to abundant in many areas. At Meadowdale and vicinity on Mar 15, seven individuals were counted with five visible in the air at one time (Hallenbeck). Certainly, these hawks should **not** have gone hungry considering the extremely high mouse populations in all areas. A lone Marsh Hawk was seen at Cohoes on Jan 15 (Schenectady Bird Club's Mid-winter Duck Count field trip). Early arrivals were noted at Meadowdale on Mar 19 and 26 (Hallenbeck). A fine adult Bald Eagle was seen under ideal conditions near Meadowdale on Dec 1 (Waite). Ruffed Grouse and Pheasants were widely reported. Bob-whites were reported from several localities chiefly in Columbia County (Alan Devoe Bird Club), and at Schenectady (Eddy). Two Virginia Rails were observed feeding in a small, spring-fed, open brook at Canaan from Jan 22 to Feb 4 (Gokay). While one of the birds appeared normal in all respects, the other oddly enough appeared to be a much darker runt of a bird and was considered to be an immature bird. This report was confirmed by Dr. E. M. Reilly, of the New York State Museum, and is reported upon elsewhere in this issue. First spring arrivals of Coots were seen at Niskayuna on Mar 29 (Hallenbeck). Except for a Killdeer seen at Saratoga Lake on Dec 10 (Hallenbeck) none were reported until early spring arrivals appeared between Feb 25 and 28 in many areas. The only Woodcock reported were of singles seen at Raymertown on Mar 22 and 28 (Yunick). A Common Snipe was seen, on the Schenectady Christmas Count, near Meadowdale on Dec 26 (Waite). All gulls disappeared from lakes and ponds when there was no more open water available. Usually some birds continue to be present along the Hudson River, but after four Herring Gulls were counted there on the Schenectady Christmas Count on Dec 26 no species of gulls were seen until Feb 26 when five Black-backed, twenty-five Herring and three Ring-billed Gulls were seen (Stone, Yunick). About a week later the Black-backed Gulls became abundant when over 100 were seen at Hudson (Mapes). Numbers of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls did not increase until the last few days in March after the ice had gone out of the rivers. Mourning Doves wintered in considerable numbers in several areas. Resident Screech and Great Horned Owls were regularly reported. Snowy Owls were reported on eleven different occasions, the last one being seen at Basic Creek

Reservoir on Mar 22 (Kent). Two Long-eared Owls were present all of January in Delmar (Madison) and one was noted at Stockport Station on Jan 14 (Brown). Short-eared Owls were reported almost as many times as Snowy Owls, with the last report coming from Guilderland Center on Mar 18 (Hallenbeck). Only one Saw-whet Owl was reported for the period. It was a single bird observed and photographed at Broadalbin on Feb 18 (Wright).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Belted Kingfishers may have wintered at Schenectady or Meadowdale. At Schenectady a bird was seen on Jan 29 and Feb 24 (Kaskan). At Meadowdale a bird was seen on Jan 10 only (Hallenbeck). Two Flickers were observed in Columbia County in December. One was at Canaan on the 3rd (Gokay) and one at Chatham on the 27th (Erlenbach). Probably the same Flicker was seen near Troy on Jan 14 (Long) and 15 (Schenectady Bird Club's Mid-winter Duck Count field trip). Spring arrivals of this species appeared in the last week of March in several areas, along with Phoebees. Horned Larks were first heard singing on Feb 9 (Foote). Tree Swallows were first reported from Columbia County on Mar 28 (Alan Devoe Bird Club). There was no Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion this winter and only an occasional report was received, as was also the case with the Brown Creeper although one was present at Slingerlands the entire month of December (Grace). Tufted Titmice and Mockingbirds were quite regularly reported. Apparently the winter weather killed off or drove south any Carolina Wrens since none were reported during the period. A lone Catbird was seen at Latham on Jan 27 only (Hicks) and a Brown Thrasher, on the Troy Christmas Count, at Melrose on Dec 31 (Yunick). Robins were regularly but sparingly reported. The spring influx took place about the beginning of the third week in March, after which they became common. Six Bluebirds were seen at Ghent from Dec 5 to 8 (Erlenbach), five at Scotia on Dec 28 (Hallenbeck), two at Ghent on Feb 11 (Erlenbach), and a general influx of spring migrants during the last ten days of March. Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen in Schenectady (Eddy) and at Tomhannock (Austin) on Dec 5, on both the Schenectady and Troy Christmas Counts (Dec 26 and 31 respectively), at Altamont on Jan 17 (Waite), and at Gallupville on Jan 31 (Zimmer). No other were reported. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen only on the Schenectady Christmas Count on Dec 26 (Madison) and at Meadowdale on Mar 23 (Eddy). Cedar Waxwings were reported on both the Schenectady and Troy Christmas Counts (Dec 26 and 31), two in Columbia County in Jan (Erlenbach and Gokay), and three in Albany County in Feb (Eddy, Hallenbeck, Waite, and Zimmer). No shrikes were reported in March.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: This winter apparently was a good one for Meadowlarks and Cowbirds as they were reported by most all observers. Red-winged Blackbirds on the other hand were not reported until they made their spring appearance along the Hudson River after Feb 24. A second large influx of this species occurred in the vicinity of Ghent on Mar 15 when over 1,000 were noted (Erlenbach). Only one Baltimore Oriole was seen during this period. It was seen to feed on dried grapes at Latham on Dec 5 and again on Dec 7 (Hicks). Rusty Blackbirds were commoner this winter than usual judging by reports received. Common Grackles were noted at Schenectady on Dec 7 (Van Vorst), at Albany on Jan 27 (Thomas), and along the Hudson River with the migrating Red-winged Blackbirds. Dickcissels were reported as follows: one present at a feeding station in Canaan throughout the month of December, said individual travelling with a flock of House Sparrows, and one which appeared at a feeding station in Old Chatham on January 18 only (Alan Devoe Bird Club). Cardinals were widely reported during the period. Evening Grosbeaks, except in the area east of the Hudson River, were rather scarce until the month of March. During the first three weeks of March they were quite common in most areas. The species was still present at the close of the period. Purple Finches have been even scarcer than Evening Grosbeaks, with a flock of 24 at Schermerhorn Road, Rotterdam on Mar 19 (Schenectady Bird Club field trip) considered unusual for this winter. Pine Grosbeaks were reported from Columbia County only, in Jan and Feb (Mickle, Radke, Reilly). Redpolls were scarce this winter in comparison to a year ago. In December, a flock of five was seen at Taborton on the 2nd (Yunick), another flock at Nassau on the 18th (Shineman), and a flock of 29 at Saratoga Battlefield on the 4th (Schenectady Bird Club field trip), and four on the Schenectady Christmas Count on Dec 26 (Kaskan, Yunick). None were reported

in January. In February two reports were received from the Melrose area where 50 were seen on the 18th and 20 on the 25th (Yunick). Pine Siskins and Goldfinches were widely reported with the former having a slight edge in numbers. Red Crossbills were reported occasionally from Chatham during Jan (Reilly) and from Scotia on Mar 24 and 28 where flocks of 4 and 20 were seen respectively (Hallenbeck). Towhees were present throughout the period except for the month of March. In East Chatham a single bird was present at a feeding station from Dec 1 to Feb 28 (Wilson), while another bird visited a feeding station at Red Rock on Dec 21 and again from Jan 1 to 31 (Smilow). Returning Savannah Sparrows were reported from Canaan on Mar 29 (Payne). Several Vesper Sparrows were reported from Columbia County on Jan 29, Feb 1, 2, and 19 (Alan Devoe Bird Club). Juncos, Tree Sparrows, and Song Sparrows were widely reported. An Oregon Junco was present in Albany off and on from Jan 28 to Mar 9 (Thomas). No others of this species were reported this winter. Field Sparrows first appeared at Latham on Mar 13 (Hicks) and at Berne on Mar 27 (Kent). White-throated Sparrows were noted at Loudonville on Jan 21 and 28 (French), as well as one on the Troy Christmas Count, Dec 31 (Kilcawley). A Fox Sparrow was present at Slingerlands from Dec 1 at least to Feb 28 (Grace), while another individual was present at Charlton all of Feb (Hackett). The only report of Swamp Sparrow concerns the two recorded on the Schenectady Christmas Count, Dec 26 (Kaskan, Yunick). Snow Buntings were quite common this winter with as many as 1,000 estimated present at Meadowdale on Jan 10 and the last two seen at the same place on Mar 15 (Hallenbeck).

652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerland

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Typical winter weather was slow in reaching us since November went down through the shortening days as quite pleasant. We were glad to get these "lucky" days but they ended abruptly after the first few days of December. The first appreciable snowfall of the season came on the 12th, and from then on it was constant winter lasting through to mid-February. A sub-zero period occurred during the latter part of January and early February. Warmer weather then arrived so that by the end of the month much of the snow had melted away. Spring came gradually, being held back by light snows and cool weather of the first half of March. In some shaded areas the first snowfall was still on the ground come April.

Our winter birdlife was, as usual, interesting but hardly spectacular. Ducks were down in numbers while remaining hawks were about in fair abundance. The Rough-legged Hawk occurred in numbers about the same as last winter. Owls were normal except for a slight incursion of the Snowy which always attracts attention. The Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, and Cardinal seemed to be at an all-time high in the Hudson Valley. In numerical abundance the Cardinal leads with the Titmouse next followed by the Carolina Wren. The northern finches continued spotty and were generally unimpressive in numbers. Spring migrants of February and March arrived about the usual time for the type of season.

Loons — Ducks: The winter waterfowl population hit a low as indicated by the annual count in January. Wintering Pied-billed Grebes were reported in Dutchess Co (J. Beck), Putnam Co (M. Little), and Westchester Co (S. Grierson). Stan Grierson watched a Great Blue Heron flying over Bedford Center, Westchester Co, on Jan 28, a time of severe cold and snow. We wonder how the big bird made out. During the latter part of February and early March a small number of Mute Swans appeared on the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster Co, making a first interior record for this area (Al Feldman et al). During early January near Manuet, Rockland Co, a lone Pintail was seen by Frank Steffens as it mingled with some tame Mallards. The only winter record for the Green-winged Teal came from the northern Westchester Co area covered by Stan Grierson. He also had the only winter record for the Wood Duck. Thirteen Red-breasted Mergansers were seen near Grand View, Rockland Co, on Jan 2 by Edwin Gamble — a nice concentration for this species.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vultures were spotted in many areas of the region by the end of February. A Goshawk was seen near Lomontville, Ulster Co, on Dec 26 (Mrs. H. Dunbar, A. Feldman). It was chasing the common pigeon. Dutchess Co observers found the Red-tailed Hawk in good abundance in that area. The ever