

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

magnificent Rough-legged Hawk was about the region in good numbers with nearly every county reporting them. Various Bald Eagles were reported along the Hudson River during the course of the winter, but some observers feel they are down in numbers. Mr. William Russell reports seeing a **Gyr Falcon** on Feb 7, flying south over Katonah, Westchester Co. It is a treat of a lifetime to spot one of these rare visitors from the North. A Pigeon Hawk was seen by Mr. and Mrs. John Dye and Martha Earl near Hamptonburgh, Orange Co, on Dec 26. A pair of this species was also seen near Clinton Corners, Dutchess Co, on Mar 24 by T. Haight and F. Germond. Sparrow Hawks were about in near usual numbers.

Dr. Andrew Weir found a Virginia Rail in a marsh near South Salem, Westchester Co, on Dec 22; the bird was undoubtedly attempting to winter. Over in Orange Co near Blooming Grove Martha Earl also discovered a Virginia Rail in one of the local swamps and reported it stayed there through most of the winter. A Coot was seen on the Bear Mountain Count Jan 2. The return of Killdeer was first reported on Feb 24, in Dutchess Co (Walter Clare; J. Germond). Woodcock were in South Salem, Westchester Co, on Mar 7 (Ruth Rice) and at Tappan, Rockland Co, on Mar 2 (Nancy McDowell). On Jan 23 Richard Donovan rescued a Common Snipe from the claws of a cat that lives in the vicinity of Armonk, Westchester Co. Stan Grierson aided the situation by caring for the injured bird.

A Glaucous Gull was observed near Piermont Pier, Rockland Co, on Mar 12 (Joseph Morlan; Julian Scala) and again on Mar 15 at the same place by Marjorie Hopper. Most gulls were up in the Rockland area (Bob Deed). Mourning Doves were fairly numerous during the winter. Near the Armonk School in Armonk, Westchester Co, a pair of Mourning Doves really got off to an early nesting start. Students saw them building a nest in a nearby spruce on **Feb 14**, and by the 23rd they appeared to be sitting on eggs (Mrs. Wm. Grierson).

In some sections of Ulster Co the Great Horned Owls were more noisy last fall than they were during January and February, their usual time, but down in Rockland Co the situation was reversed. We wonder what influenced the difference. Snowy Owls did make a pretty good showing in our region this year; they were reported from most counties. An interesting incident concerning this owl comes from Dutchess Co. According to Eleanor Pink et al one comes to the Green Haven Prison and spends every winter inside the walls and has done this for the past eleven years! It is said to live on the local pigeons. Dr. Heinz Meng of New Paltz, Ulster Co, took possession of an injured Snowy that really turned out to be quite tractable. The only Short-eared Owl reported for the winter season was seen by Stan Grierson in the Tri-loba Hill Sanctuary area of Katonah, Westchester Co, during late January and early February. Mr. Walter Clare Jr. of Dutchess Co was getting a Christmas tree on Dec 11 from a large evergreen stand located near Hyde Park, and as he went about his pleasant task he came face to face with an owl. One would suspect a Saw-whet, but upon close scrutiny Mr. Clare concluded he was looking at a rare visitor — the **Boreal Owl**. This is a first record for Dutchess Co, and we wish others could have been fortunate enough to see it also. Saw-whets were reported here and there throughout the region.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Most of the wintering Kingfisher reports came from Dutchess County. Flickers were off for the season. A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was seen visiting a feeder at Millbrook, Dutchess Co, during mid-winter and was checked by E. Brown and G. Ball. This is another first for the Dutchess Co records of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club. Sapsuckers were found in Rockland (RAS) and in Orange Co (E. A. Mearns Bird Club) on the Christmas Counts. At Cornwall-on-Hudson M. Ward had one on Jan 23.

In early December an empidonax flycatcher appeared at the feeder of Mr. and Mrs. John Dye, Cornwall-on-Hudson, Orange Co, and judging from the great amount of yellow underneath it was believed to be a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**. It slept on the window sill behind the feeder but was not seen after Dec 11. A Tree Swallow was noted near Hyde Park, Dutchess Co, on Mar 16 (Alice Jones); this is an early date. Very few Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared on any of the winter lists. Two were seen near the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster Co (Al Feldman), and there was one near Barrytown in Dutchess Co (Brother Michael). Mockingbirds were reported from most counties. Catbirds were very scarce. Brown Thrashers were also scarce; one wintered at Middletown, Orange Co (Mrs. J. Kniep Jr), and there was another at

Nyack, Rockland Co, late in the winter (Marjorie Hopper). Nowhere in the region was there any indication that Robins were numerous. All counties reported Bluebirds in small numbers, although Mrs. Javius Matsumoto of Chappaqua, Westchester Co, had as many as 18 about her place on Jan 14 and 27. John Leaycraft of West Nyack, Rockland Co, saw nearly 40 in a flock near there. Cedar Waxwings were not numerous anywhere in the region. Northern Shrikes, too, were scarce. One was noted near West Haverstraw, Rockland Co, on Dec 26 (John Orth, John Kenney), and there was another on Jan 2 in Harriman Park (M. Hopper).

Vireos — Warblers: Myrtle Warblers were extremely scarce this year. A Pine Warbler was studied closely by Mrs. Chandler Stetson on Dec 18 as it fed on her windwssill feeder in South Nyack, Rockland County.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The first Red-wing was reported on Feb 22 by Stan Grierson who found one singing at Armonk, Westchester Co. The next few days found them spreading through the Hudson Valley in good numbers. From Dec 2 to 11 Mr. and Mrs. John Dye (Cornwall-on-Hudson) had another interesting visitor to their feeder. This was a male Baltimore Oriole that ate quite a variety of the fare offered — sliced oranges, ash seeds, wild bird seed, and raisins. He should have stayed! A few Rusty Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Cowbirds were reported wintering. Again the Cardinal numbers have reached new highs. In Rockland Co the Christmas Count yielded 341, the highest count of any report. This fraction alone indicates how common this bird has become in this Valley. A Dickcissel appeared at Saugerties, Ulster Co (Mrs. J. Remensnyder), early in the winter, and another remained throughout the winter in Peeksville, Westchester Co (John Given). Evening Grosbeaks wandered about the region visiting the many feeders, but it was no year of great abundance. Purple Finches were spotty. Again the Pine Grosbeak all but completely avoided us. Three were seen at Orangeburg, Rockland Co, on Jan 13 (John Zehner). In contrast to being so numerous last year Redpolls were broken down to just individual birds this year. Some areas did not report them at all. Pine Siskins were very scarce. A small flock of Red Crossbills was seen near Kripplebush, Ulster Co, on Dec 26 (F. Hough), and another flock was observed in Barrytown, Dutchess Co, on Mar 10 (Br. Michael). No White-winged Crossbills were reported.

Most of the wintering Towhees seemed to be down in the Westchester and Rockland areas. The Rockland Audubon Society had five Savannah Sparrows on the Christmas Count, and four were found up in Ulster on the count there. Savannahs were returning from the South during the last few days of March. Vesper Sparrows were found during the winter in Rockland Co (RAS); Dutchess Co (RTWBC), and in Ulster Co (JBNHS). During part of December Paul Wolfe had a Pink-sided Junco at his feeder in Putnam Valley, Westchester Co. Field Sparrows wintered quite heavily in Rockland and Westchester Counties. Rockland had a high of 33 on its Christmas Count. In Dutchess County Marion Van Wagner had four at her feeder in Pleasant Valley all winter. White-throats were about in near normal numbers. Most of the Fox Sparrows reported were down in the Rockland Co area. Marion Van Wagner (Pleasant Valley) had one at her place on Feb 24, which she believed to be an early migrant. Swamp Sparrows were low, but most of the Song Sparrow counts were high. Members of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club of Dutchess Co were fortunate to have Brother Michael spot for them a small flock of Lapland Longspurs feeding with Horned Larks and Snow Buntings in an open area near Red Hook. This was during the January period. Snow Buntings were about usual in this region.

Accord 1

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

The winter of 1960-61 was a desperate one for numerous species of wildfowl and water birds. Cold weather prevailed for a couple of weeks after an early December snowfall, but then the cold modified somewhat and landbirds on the Christmas Counts were rather high in species, but low in number of individuals.

The Waterfowl Census (January 14-22) barely preceded a prolonged steady sub-freezing period which included the remainder of January and the first part of February. Practically all our bays, including the larger ones, were deeply frozen. There were very few channel holes, and on western Long Island these were thronged