

one Mar 14 at Saranac Lake (Delafield). Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: one closely studied Feb 9 (Hart) along the Osgood River near Osgood Pond.

Horned Lark: two on Mar 1 at Saranac Lake (Delafield); first noted by Sibley between Chazy and Plattsburgh on Mar 10 in small flocks, then commonly until the end of the period.

Tree Swallow: Mar 28 and 29, two, Saranac Lake (Delafield); Mar 30, Reparius and Johnsburg (Brockner); Mar 30, Chazy (Sibley). Blue Jay: notably scarce in Saranac Lake area (Delafield). Black-capped Chickadee: generally normal. Boreal Chickadee: at least two regular feeder birds at Saranac Lake; one along Trudeau Road Mar 29 (Delafield). White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches: normal in Saranac Lake area (Delafield). Brown Creeper: one Dec 31 Saranac Lake (Hart).

Robin: first at Tupper Lake on Mar 22, increasing to 50 there on Mar 29 (Delehanty); first at Chazy Mar 25 (Sibley); first at Keeseville Mar 30 (Lesperance); 14 on Mar 29 at Saranac Lake (Delafield). Eastern Bluebird: six at Keene on Mar 30 (Brockner).

Cedar Waxwings reported: March 17 at Tupper Lake (Delehanty). Bohemian Waxwing: a belated report of four at Tupper Lake on Nov 29 (Delehanty). Northern Shrike: very common in the Keeseville area throughout the period (Lesperance); seen at Tupper Lake on Jan 25, Feb 1 and 6 (Delehanty). Loggerhead Shrike: one at Tupper on Mar 29 (Delehanty).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Eastern Meadowlark: Mar 11, four, good numbers thereafter, Saranac Lake (Delafield). Redwing: 105 at Saranac Lake on Mar 22 (Delafield); seen at Tupper Lake Mar 23 (Delehanty). Common Grackle: one wintered at feeder at Saranac Lake (Delafield), first migrants there Mar 28; six seen at Tupper Lake Jan 3 (Delehanty); first seen at Keeseville on Mar 24 (Lesperance). Cowbird: first at Keeseville Mar 11 (Lesperance); over 100 at Saranac Lake Mar 31 (Delafield).

Cardinal: one at feeder at Saranac Lake until mid-Jan (Delafield); another, a male, reported "close to kitchen window feeder" at Essex (Mason). Evening Grosbeak at Tupper Lake they were but "occasional all winter" (Delehanty); at Saranac Lake they were "notably scarce, with feeders deserted" (Delafield); Sibley complains of same situation at Chazy, but reports 10 there on Feb 25, and 30 on Mar 10 near Chazy Landing.

Pine Grosbeak: "good numbers" at Saranac Lake until the middle of Feb (Delafield); groups of from two to 12 at Tupper Lake from Jan 10 to Mar 25 (Delehanty); 10 near Malone on Jan 4 (Sibley); six near Chazy on Jan 6 and 13, and three near Chazy Landing on Mar 16 (Sibley).

Redpoll: small flocks at Saranac Lake in early Mar (Delafield); at Chazy small groups noted on Jan 13 and peaked to flocks of 100 or more by Mar 10 (Sibley); two on Feb 27 and 100 on Mar 26 at Tupper Lake (Delehanty). Pine Siskin: five on Jan 13 at Saranac Lake (Delafield).

Slate-colored Junco: low in numbers in some areas. Fox Sparrow: two at Saranac Lake on Mar 31 (Delafield). White-throated Sparrow: one at feeder all winter at Saranac Lake (Delafield). Song Sparrow: at Saranac Lake "back in good numbers by Mar 30" (Delafield); 78 reported Mar 30 at Lake Placid (Brockner); noted Feb 25 at Chazy (Sibley) and Mar 29 at Tupper Lake by Delehanty. Snow Bunting: "more than usual" in Saranac Lake area (Delafield).

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

Except for February, this was a fairly mild winter. The coldest, snowiest weather of the winter took place during February, when on the 11th the temperature dipped to -18° (a new record for that date), and a total of 34.5 inches of snow fell during the month (the second heaviest February fall of record). The greatest snow depth of 17 inches occurred on February 24th and 25th. December was generally normal. January was near average except that snowfall was over a foot below normal and the ground was bare much of the time. February was colder and wetter by 3.2° and 1.45 inches, respectively. The last three weeks of March were very mild with the lowest temperature during this period of 23° on the 20th, and culminating with a high of 79° on the 30th (a new record for this date). Ice went out of the Hudson River in the Albany-Troy area on the 12th and

13th. Ground frost disappeared in most sections during the second half of the month.

The most notable thing about the birdlife this winter has been the presence of considerable numbers of northern species which do not visit our region every winter. One to several of the species occur almost every winter, but the pattern is different each year. This year it seems as though most all the unusual winter birds showed up together, some more abundantly than others. The list includes Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Shrike, Evening Grosbeak, Redpoll, and Lapland Longspur. Birds which should have gone south last fall but which were reported at least once during the winter were: Flicker, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Mockingbird, Hermit Thrush, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Towhee, Field Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow. The most unusual record for the period is the mid-winter occurrence of the Scarlet Tanager in Columbia Country. (see field notes section).

Loons — Ducks: The last Horned Grebe of the fall migration was seen Dec. 3 at Saratoga Lake (Schenectady Bird Club field trip). A lingering Great Blue Heron was seen at the Coal Pocket Area on Dec. 3 (Tucker). Early Canada Goose spring migrants were seen at Stockport Station on Mar 13 (Radke), and Mar 30 at Chatham Center (Knoll). Mallards and Black Ducks wintered in their usual numbers in the Green Island Area of the Hudson River. Wintering with them were two American Widgeons, two Pintails, two drake Redheads, a female Canvasback, several Lesser and a Greater Scaup, and a female Hooded Merganser. American Widgeon and Pintail arrived on Mar 22 at Niskayuna Widewaters (Hallenbeck), while Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, and Wood Ducks arrived on Mar 20 at Vischer Ferry (Tucker). The first Ring-necked Ducks were seen Mar 25 on the Upper Hudson (Wickham) and Mar. 30 at Marwin's Pond (Radke). On Mar 21 the first Lesser Scaup were seen at Emboght Bay (Bush) and the next day at Niskayuna Widewaters (Hallenbeck). A female Bufflehead was seen on the Mid-winter Duck Count, Jan 13 at Stillwater (SBC). Oldsquaw apparently arrived Mar 31 since it was seen both at Watervliet Reservoir (Arnold) and Lock 7 on the Mohawk River (Hollenbeck), and White-winged Scoter on Mar 24 at Lock 7 (Hallenbeck). A late Ruddy Duck was seen on Dec 3 at Saratoga Lake (SBC), and a Red-breasted Merganser on Dec 22 at Old Chatham (Reilly). Hooded Mergansers were migrating on Mar 25 on the Upper Hudson River (Wickham).

Hawks — Owls: The first Turkey Vultures of the season were seen at Kiskatom on Mar 16 and 17 (Smith) and at Old Chatham (Powell) on Mar 26. Goshawks were seen Dec 24 and Mar 15 at Old Chatham (Reilly) and Feb 14 at Claverack (Thurston). Northbound Red-shouldered Hawks were first observed Mar 24 and 25 at Niskayuna Widewaters (Hallenbeck) and Catskill (Bush) respectively. Rough-legged Hawks still continue present at the end of the period. Peregrine Falcons were seen Dec 17 at Old Chatham, and Mar 26 at Albany (both Reilly) for the only reports on this species. No eagles were reported. On Mar 18 a Pigeon Hawk was seen at Catskill (Bush). Three Bobwhites were seen on Dec 3 at Old Chatham (Reilly). Undoubtedly these are birds stocked by the N.Y.S. Conservation Department in efforts to reestablish this species. Since Region 8 is at the northern limits of its range, it is certain that they will never become common. First Killdeer were reported from Black Creek Marshes on Mar. 17 (Wickham), Woodcock from Collins Lake on Mar 20 (Tucker), and Common Snipe from Black Creek Marshes on Mar 29 (Shedd). The northward movement of Great Black-backed Gulls started Mar 15 at Castleton (Radke). In the next week they were being widely reported. It was also during this time that Herring and Ring-billed Gull numbers were increasing. The seldom observed Barn Owl was reported from South Schodack where two were seen hunting in daylight on Feb 25 (Burland). Snowy Owls were very spotty this winter, with one seen on Jan 19 at Feura Bush (Betts), one at West Charlton on Feb 20 (Halverson), and three at Albany Airport on Mar 1 (Betts). Long-eared Owls roosted in the same group of pines in Delmar they did a year ago. They were first reported in the last week of January, reached a peak of ten individuals toward the end of the first week in February and were last seen on Mar 11 (Madison). Short-eared Owls were reported from Voorheesville Depot at Guilderland Center, Castleton, and the Black Creek Marshes. The latest report at hand is of eight birds seen Mar 11 at Voorheesville Depot (Sabin).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Kingfishers were reported on the Christmas Census in the Tri-Cities area, on Feb 10 at Collins Lake outlet (Hallenbeck) and Black Creek Marshes (Arnold), and not again until Mar 31 at Vischer Ferry (Hollenbeck). Flickers were reported each month except February from Colonie, Old Chatham, Catskill, and Niskayuna River Road. The earliest Phoebe was seen at Kiskatom on Mar 27 (Smith). They became generally common in Columbia County on the 29th, and on the 30th in the rest of the area. Tree Swallows followed a similar pattern except that the first birds were noted at East Greenbush on Mar 24 (fide Wickham). Rough-winged Swallows were first noted at Watervliet Reservoir on Mar 31 (Arnold). Boreal Chickadees were quite widely reported. Most records were of singles and an occasional pair. However, on Mar 27 four individuals were seen at Rensselaerville (fide Sabin) in company with an estimated 100 Black-caps patronizing a well-filled feeding station. Tufted Titmice have been repeatedly reported from all areas in Region 8 south of the Mohawk Valley and occasionally from points just north of it. Red-breasted Nuthatches were about average, as were Brown Creepers. The only Carolina Wren reports came from Greene County in the extreme southern part of the region, and then only as late as January. Several Mockingbirds were reported this winter. The northernmost was seen at Burnt Hills on Dec 20 (Footie). Others were observed Jan 12 at Colonie (Fuller), Feb 16 at Claverack (Thurston), and Feb 23 at Albany (fide Johnston). There was one other individual that remained in the vicinity of a feeding station at Livingston from Dec 20 through the month of February (Munson). The only report of a Catbird is of one at a feeder in Rensselaer in mid-January (H. Smith). The same is true of a Brown Thrasher in early January at Crown Point (Barker). Robins wintered in several areas. A late Hermit Thrush was reported Dec 30 on the Troy Christmas Census (SBC). Bluebirds apparently wintered in very limited numbers in Greene County. Spring arrivals were first detected in southwestern Albany County and northwestern Green County the last week of March (Bondy, Haskins, Kent). Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported on the Schenectady, Troy, and Chatham Christmas Census (SBC-ADBC). Ruby-crowned Kinglets however, were seen only on the Schenectady Census (SBC). In addition, one bird was seen Dec 27 at Loudonville (French). Bohemian Waxwings were first reported Jan 7 at Latham (Hicks) and Jan 14 at Slingerlands (Long). Later reports were from Rensselaer and Watervliet (fide Benton). Northern Shrikes were present from Dec 23 at Old Chatham (Reilly) through Feb 16 at Castleton (Cook). A Migrant or Loggerhead Shrike was found dead on Mar 15 at Castleton (Cook). This identification was verified by Dr. E. M. Reilly of the N.Y.S. Museum.

Vireos — Sparrows: Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Cowbirds wintered in limited numbers. The spring blackbird migration started on Mar 9 with just a few Redwings along the Hudson River at Catskill (Bush). By the 13th, 1200+ blackbirds were in the Castleton Marshes (Wickham). These were divided between Redwings (15%), Grackles (25%), and Starlings (60%). By Mar 15 the flocks had increased to 5000+ (Wickham), made up of Redwings (60%), Grackles (20%), and Starlings (20%). By the end of the month the Redwings and Grackles were roosting away from the Castleton Marshes. A female Baltimore Oriole was present in Elsmere from Jan 10 (McNary) to about Jan 25 (LeMaitre). Rusty Blackbirds were not reported between Dec 13 at Livingston (Munson) and Mar 17 at Old Chatham (Reilly). A Scarlet Tanager, referred to above, was at Nassau on the unlikely dates of Dec 30 (Burland) and Jan 17 (Shineman). Cardinals are reported more frequently than Evening Grosbeaks which this winter have been most everywhere. Purple Finches have been relatively scarce. The only prolonged presence of a sizable flock occurred at Ghent where a flock of about 20 were present throughout February. Pine Grosbeaks, like their yellow, black and white cousins, were everywhere. Redpolls did not become common until late January. The only December reports were on the Troy (SEC) and Chatham (ADBC) Christmas Censuses, Dec 30, as well as a late Savannah Sparrow, same date. Vesper Sparrows were noted along the Voorheesville-Altamont Road during January (Shedd, Waite). No others were reported until Mar 27 at Catskill (Bush) and Mar 31 near Westerlo (Kent). Large flocks of north-bound Juncos went through from Mar 21 to 23 and from Mar 27-31, particularly in Columbia County. An Orgeon Junco was present at a feeder in Colonie from Dec. 26 through Mar 31 (Fuller) for the only definite report on this species. An

early Chipping Sparrow was seen Mar 30 at Castleton (Benton). Field Sparrows apparently wintered in southern Rensselaer and northern Columbia Counties (Radke, Cook, and Erlenbach). A very early White-crowned Sparrow was seen at Catskill Mar 14 (Bush), for the only report of this species. White-throated Sparrows wintered in a few locations in the Region. Regular spring migrants began to appear during the last week of March. Fox Sparrows persisted through December in Columbia County. First arrivals were recorded from Mar 14-31 at Livingston (Munson). The last Swamp Sparrow was seen Dec 23 on the Schenectady Christmas Census (SBC). First spring migrants were detected at Black Creek Marshes on Mar 31 (Arnold). Song Sparrows wintered in a surprising number of places, more than usual. Lapland Longspurs were recorded on the Troy (SBC) and Chatham (ADBC) Christmas Censuses, Jan 12 and Feb 21 on the Voorheesville-Altomont Road (Shedd), and on Mar 1 near Delmar (Betts). Snow Buntings were reported in usual numbers from most areas where expected. The latest date was Mar 7 in Columbia County (ADBC).

652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Compared with the winter of 1960-1961, the winter of 1961-1962 was almost tropical. Temperatures remained average throughout most of the region, and although snows were frequent they were of short duration and slight depth. Unfortunately most of them took place on weekends tending to keep Saturday and Sunday birders at home. The ground remained relatively free of snow until February's normally colder temperatures preserved it, but March brought a number of warm days and what promised to be an early spring.

The most common greeting among birders was "What happened to the Blue Jays?", and "Have you seen the Pine Grosbeaks at . . . ?". Where the former bird was conspicuous by its absence, the latter bird was reported more frequently than ever before. Most reporters in the region offered a low acorn yield as the cause of the Blue Jay's disappearance, and surely something must have happened to the seed crop farther north to bring the Grosbeaks in as they were.

This was a winter marked by a serious depletion of Common Mergansers and Canvasbacks, and a marked incursion of Boreal Chickadees, Horned Larks and Snow Buntings.

The following abbreviations are used in this report. Edgar A. Mearns. Bird Club — MBC; Rockland Audubon Society — RAS; R. T. Waterman Bird Club — WBS; Counties — Dutchess - Dutc, Orange - Oran, Putnam - Putn, Sullivan - Sull, Ulster - Ulst and Westchester - West.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: a flock of undetermined number was heard Mar 19 over S. Nyack (Deed). Red-necked Grebe — two Mar 18 off Piermont on the Hudson. Horned and Pied-billed Grebes were down in numbers but were passing through the area by mid-March. Great Blue Heron — one Dec 2 (late date) Marlboro, Ulst (Dye). Mute Swan — which have been on the increase of late, have suddenly exploded with reports from most areas, especially in the southern part of the region; two were at Ashokan Res. during Mar; three in Dutc during Dec; about 30 wintered in Rockland Lakes area where several regularly nest. Canada Goose — flying over Rock Mar 14 (Deed); over Putn Mar 29 (Little) and over Dutc Mar 13, 17, and 30, flights were small however. Snow Goose — a flock of 50 to 60 over Dover Plains, Dutc Mar 29 (Decker); one Mar 31 Crugars Island (Waterman). Blue Goose — one Feb 25 on Hudson River at Jones Point, second record for Rock (Deed).

The annual Waterfowl count on Jan 14 showed numbers up almost double due to a high Black Duck count and it also showed Canvasbacks and Common Mergansers seriously down in numbers. Shoveler — seven arrived Dec 19 and remained until Dec 24 at Lederle Lab's in Pearl River, Rock; four returned in early Jan and remained thru Mar 2, the second record of this species for Rock (Steffens). Wood Duck — as last year, two were reported on this year's Waterfowl count, one Basher Kill, Sull (Niven) and one Amenias, Dutc (Strauss); two Dec 22 Katonah, West (S. Grierson). Ring-necked Duck — Several large flocks were reported during the season in Rock, Putn and Dutc. Canvasbacks are down severely in numbers from several hundred in past years to four birds this year which remained to the end of the period. Ruddy Duck — not reported from this region. Common Merganser — 157 was one half of last year's count and only one tenth of the 1957 count.