

at Normans Ridge, Mar 14, 16 (HD). Blue Jay: fine comeback after the dearth last winter, often ten to 13 at our feeder (HD). Common Crow: one or two at intervals thru period, back in numbers Mar 27 (HD). Black-capped Chickadee: normal (HD). Boreal Chickadee: more in evidence than usual (HD). White and Red-breasted Nuthatches: common in areas where seen (TL); normal (HD). Brown Creeper: common in most areas (TL); two on count day, one Jan 12 and Feb 27 (HD). Robin: reports of single birds at L. Placid and Saranac L. thru period (HD); some wintered, these were very light colored, and fed on dried and frozen berries or at small springs where the edges did not freeze. Main arrival, Mar 10 (TL). Hermit Thrush: one, Jan 8 and 12; Ray Brook (K, fide HD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: Mar 20, Ray Brook (K). Cedar Waxwing: one, Mar 20, Tupper L. (Mrs. Martin). Loggerhead Shrike: one, Feb 27 and Mar 28, Saranac L. (HD). Northern Shrike: one, Jan 5, 9 & 10, Tupper L. (D). Starling: Flock, Saranac L all winter, numbers back by late Mar (HD).

Vireos — Sparrows: Myrtle Warbler: one, (heard), Mar 31, L. Placid cutoff (HD). House Sparrow: reports show increase in range and numbers (HD). Eastern Meadowlark: one, Mar 25 (D). Red-winged Blackbird: two, Tupper L, all winter (D); one or two at intervals during winter, Saranac L, first migrants, Mar 17, 45, Mar 26 (HD). Common Grackle: migrants began to appear Mar 20 (TL); Saranac L, Mar 25 (HD). Brown-headed Cowbird: three wintered Tupper L (D); five wintered Ray Brook (K); one at feeder all winter (Dr. J. Heins); one or two reported thru period, Saranac L, (HD), migrants began to appear Mar 20 (TL); 48, Mar 26 (HD). Evening Grosbeaks: large numbers after last season's dearth (we used over 225 lbs of sunflower seed) (HD); present in great numbers (TL). Purple Finch: up in numbers, the only bright spot of the long winter (TL); greatest numbers since 1959, which was also a snowy winter; flocks of 30-50 at feeder in Feb, thinning out by mid-Mar (HD). Common Redpoll: reports on Jan 2 and others at intervals during period, 16, Mar 16 (HD); one report on Peru Rd nr Plattsburgh, late Mar (TL). Pine Siskin: small scattered flocks, numbers seemed down (TL); good to large numbers from Dec 12 on, lessening by mid-Mar (HD). Amer. Goldfinch: three, Dec 12, Saranac L, present in small numbers thru period (HD). Red Crossbill: Ray Brook, Dec 5 thru Jan 29 (K); one, dead, Keeseville (TL); pair, Mar 31, L. Placid cutoff (HD). White-winged Crossbill: one Mar 17, Sunmount (A); small numbers thru period Saranac L until Mar 16 (HD). Slate-colored Junco: Mar 31 (my first), Saranac L, other reports three or four days earlier (HD). Tree Sparrow: occasional reports of small numbers thru period (HD). Savannah Sparrow: Mar 27, Tupper L (D). White-throated: 'most of winter' Ray Brook (K). Song: well established, Mar 30, Tupper L (D); two, Mar 27, Westport and Mar 30, Saranac L (HD). Snow Bunting: decidedly fewer than 1961-62 probably due to deep snow (HD).

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

This winter was unusually severe. After a few warm days in early December, the latter part of the month was cold enough to average 23.0° in temperature (3.5° below average) at Albany. Average temperatures at Albany in January and February were 20.3° and 17.2° (2.4° and 6.5° below normal means, respectively.) Snowfall was about average, except during January, when twice the usual amount fell. March averaged close to normal in temperature, with precipitation almost an inch above normal for the month. The last week of the month was above average in temperature, and a noticeable influx of migrant occurred during the week.

In contrast to last winter, very few unusual species appeared. The hawk population seemed low, and finches (particularly in the first half of the winter) were in low numbers. On the other hand, high populations of some of the more common species — especially Blue Jays, Mourning Doves, and Tree Sparrows — were noted. Flocks of ground-feeding birds — e.g., Horned Larks, Snow Buntings and Longspurs — seemed much larger and more widely distributed than usual. Unusual species reported

included Blue Goose, Gadwall, Glaucous Gull, Oregon Junco, Blue Grosbeak, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Abbreviations used: Alan Devoe Bird Club — ADBC; Schenectady Bird Club — SBC; Greene County Bird Club — GCBC; Black Creek Marshes — BCM; br — breasted; com — common; I — Island; L — Lake; Nisk — Niskayuna; nr — near; pk — park; pr — pair; R — River; Sar — Saratoga; Sch — Schenectady; thr — throated; Visch Fy — Vischer Ferry; WW — Widewaters; Cr — Creek; Res — Reservoir; Sta — Station; Tomh — Tomhannock.

Observers: Gus Angst — GA; Pauline Baker — PB; Thomas & Arlene Brown — TB, AB; Lee Burland — LB; James & Barbara Bush — JHB, BB; Eleanor Byrne — EBB; Juanita Cook — JC; Hazel Eddy — HE; Paul & Georgia Erlenbach — PE, GE; Mabel French — MWF; John Fuller — JF; Esly Hallenbeck — EH; Vernon Haskins — VH; Betty Hicks — BH; Marcia Kent — MK; Mary Kilcawley — MKil; Howard & Muriel Munson — HM, MM; Dr. W. Myers — WM; John & Eloise Payne — JP, EP; Eleanor Radke — ER; Edgar M. Reilly, Jr. — EMR; Walton Sabin — WBS; Benton Seguin — BRS; Jane Silvernail — JS; Robert & Mary Lou Shedd — RS, MLS; Myra Smilow — MS; Walter Smith — WSm; Catherine Thorne — CT; Henry Thurston — HT; Donald Tucker — DJT; Beverly Waite — BW; Peter Wickham — PPW.

Loons — Ducks: Com Loon: last, Dec 8, Sar L (EH, PPW). Red-necked Grebe: one, Mar 30, Lock 7, Sch (DJT). Horned Grebe: last, Dec 8, Sar L (EH, PPW). One was picked up in fresh condition inland at Durham Feb 19 (VH) and presented to the State Museum; perhaps this bird was leaving frozen Lake Ontario. Pied-bill Grebe: first, Mar 22 Hudson R nr Troy (PPW). Great Blue Heron: one, Dec 29, flying south nr Kinderhook (LB, JC); one, returning, Mar 25 at Stockport Sta (HT), preceding a general movement into the area the latter days of the month. Green Heron: one was reported from Old Chatham on the astonishingly early date of Mar 7 (EMR). American Bittern: one on a Castleton lawn Mar 12 (JC) was extremely early — no others reported during the period. Canada Goose: first, Mar 17 Stockport Sta (ADBC); many flocks were reported over the latter half of the month. Blue Goose: seven were in a field nr Schodack Center Mar 28 (LB). American Widgeon: first Mar 24 at Stockport Sta (HT). Pintail: one-female, wintered at Green I (SBC); first spring migrants Mar 25 at Stockport Sta (HT) and Mar 26 at BCM (RS, MLS). Gadwall: one pr were at Stony Cr Res Mar 30 (BRS). Green-winged Teal: Mar 26, BCM (RS, MLS) and Mar 27, Nisk WW (PPW) first reports. Blue-winged Teal: earliest at Lock 7, Sch, Mar 30 (DJT). Wood Duck: one pr, Mar 11, Meadowdale (BW); others appeared two weeks later. Redhead: no reports. Ring-necked Duck: migrating north in large numbers, first Mar 27 at Stockport Sta (ER) and at Nisk WW (PPW). Canvasback: two were on the Hudson R nr Troy Jan 19 (SBC); early migrants appeared Mar 27 and 30 at Stockport Sta (ADBC). Scaup: a few reappeared on the Hudson R nr Troy after the hunting season (and the Christmas Count): two females were at Green I Jan 19 (SBC) and ten were near Troy Feb 24 (SBC). Early migrants appeared Mar 27 (PPW) and thereafter. One flock at Lock 7, Mar 30, was definitely identified as Greater (DJT). Bufflehead: four were at Sar L until Dec 8 (PPW, EH); no more were seen until Mar 24 at Lock 7 (DJT). Hooded Merganser: a female was in the same locality nr Cohoes Dec 29 (SBC) as one observed in Dec 1961. A small group were migrating up the Hudson R nr New Baltimore Mar 17 (WBS). Red-br Merganser: first report, two on the Mohawk R nr Cohoes Mar 30 (BRS).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: a very early bird appeared Mar 7 over E. Greenbush (MS). Others were reported from several areas during the last week of Mar. Goshawk: Individuals were at New Concord Jan 1 (ER) and nr Reichard's L through Feb and early Mar (fide PPW). Both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were reported throughout period in low numbers, with the latter predominating. A Red-shouldered Hawk at New Concord Jan 25 (ER) is the only record for Jan and Feb; an adult observed at Kiskatom Mar 17 (WBS) was probably returning. Rough-legged Hawk: widely reported throughout period, but few were present in any one area. Bald Eagle: one, Feb 17 at Catskill (Traver) the only report. Marsh Hawk: only a few reports. Osprey: first Mar 24, Chatham Center (JS). Peregrine Falcon: singles reported Dec 29 nr Tomh (SBC), Feb 6 and Mar 16 at Meadowdale (EH).

Wild Turkey: a flock of 12 Feb 6 nr Lexington (MK) the sole report. Coot: a single bird remained on Tomh Res until at least Jan 26 (PPW). It is not known whether the bird wintered successfully. Returning birds appeared Mar 25 at BCM (RS, MLS) and Mar 31 at Cocksackie (CT). Killdeer were reported at Thacher Park Dec 22 (SBC) and along the Hudson R nr Troy Jan 5 (EBB). Early migrants appeared Mar 9 at Lawrenceville (JHB) and nr Kinderhook (PPW). Woodcock: arrived in a marked wave Mar 25-26 (WSm). Com Snipe: one wintered at Meadowdale (SBC). Migrants were observed Mar 24 at Castleton (JC) and thereafter. Glaucous Gull: a second year bird was observed carefully at Nisk WW Mar 30 (BRS). Great Black-backed Gull: two, Mar 9 nr Stuyvesant (PPW) preceded a widespread movement into the area the latter part of the month. Herring Gull: four, Mar 8 nr Troy (BH) and 60, Mar 9 at Stuyvesant and Albany (PPW), the first spring migrants. One-three appeared irregularly in the Troy area during the winter (SBC). Ring-billed Gull: appeared with Herring Gulls Mar 9 (PPW) and thereafter. Numbers of both species built up rapidly in late Mar, with 800-1000 at Visch Fy the last week in Mar. Bonaparte's Gull: a flock of 22, Sar L, Dec 8 (PPW) may have been there as a result of a storm just previous. Mourning Dove: wintered in very large numbers. Several flocks of 50-150 were seen, and feeder reports were widespread. Barred Owl: reported Feb 2 at Westerlo (MK), Feb 15 at Livingston (HM, MM) and Mar 1 at Hudson (TB, AB). Barn Owl: one was flying over a field nr Kinderhook Feb 10 (PE, GE). Snowy Owl: no reports from this area this winter. Short-eared Owl: one was at Voorheesville in Feb (BW et al) and three-four in Albany in Feb and early Mar (fide WBS).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Kingfisher: Dec 22 at Sch (SBC) and Jan 6 and 20 at Collins L outlet (EH), the only winter records. First spring report, Mar 17 at Kiskatom (GCBC). Flicker: one or more wintering birds were at Red Rock, Troy, Meadowdale, Guilderland, and Colonie. Returning individuals appeared Mar 23 (SBC) and thereafter. Sapsucker: one, Mar 30 at Nisk (GA) was early. Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: one, at Sch Dec 22 (SBC) may have been the same one reported in the last issue. Phoebe: two, Dec 22 on the Schenectady Christmas Count were outstanding (SBC). Returning birds appeared Mar 24 at Stockport Sta (HT) and widely thereafter. Horned Lark: large flocks of 100-1000 birds frequently seen, particularly in Feb and Mar. Single and paired birds were singing about what may have been their nesting territories on Feb 9 (PPW, JF). Tree Swallow: first, Mar 16 at Castleton (JC). Tufted Titmouse: many reports of wintering birds. Black-capped Chickadee: a white-headed partially albino chickadee reappeared at a feeder in Westerlo where it had spent the previous winter (MK). Winter Wren: several were reported wintering, with single birds at Troy, Scotia and Waterford, and four at Durham. Carolina Wren: no reports. Mockingbird: single birds wintered at Hudson, Delmar, Guilderland and Old Chatham. Brown Thrasher: one, at a feeder nr W. Sand L Dec 13-16 (fide WBS). Hermit Thrush: one Feb 11 at a feeder nr Sch the only individual reported (fide HE). Bluebird: reports of wintering birds from Ghent, Visch Fy, and Meadowdale. Appeared in many other areas the last week in Mar. Pipit: a flock of at least six at Meadowdale Mar 26 (BW) was the first report. Northern Shrike: several reports: Dec 22, Meadowdale and Dec 29, nr Troy (SBC); Jan 18 and Feb 15-28, New Concord (ER); Feb 7, Westerlo (MK); and four reports from different areas during Mar which may indicate a migrational movement.

Vireos — Sparrows: No warblers were reported. Meadowlark: several wintered in protected areas; migrants arrived the last week of Mar. Red-winged Blackbird: a group of four wintered at Claverack (HT) and a group of 3 to 17 appeared regularly at a dump in Scotia (EH). Single birds were reported from New Concord, Canaan, and Rensselaer. First migrants appeared Mar 5 nr Castleton (PPW) but there was no real influx until Mar 8-9, when they appeared suddenly in many places in flocks as large as 200. Baltimore Oriole: one was at a feeder in Troy until Dec 18 (fide MKil). Rusty Blackbird: one was at a New Concord feeder during Feb (ER) and a flock of 4-8 was present with the Redwings in Scotia through the winter (EH). Flocks of 10-35 observed Mar 30-31 were clearly spring migrants. Com Grackle: a partially albino grackle at a Claverack feeder (HT) was the only report for the winter following the Christmas Counts. Spring migrants followed a pattern almost identical with that of the Redwings. Cowbird: a few single birds

and small flocks were observed during the winter. Returning birds appeared Mar 8 at Kiskatom (WSm) and Mar 9 at Nisk (HE) and Loudonville (MWF). Cardinal: a common bird in many areas, with 39 reported on the Troy Christmas Count, more than double any previous record (SBC). Rose-br Grosbeak: three in female or imm plumage seen Feb 6 feeding with a Robin in some cedar trees near Athens (JHB, BB) were unprecedented. Blue Grosbeak: one-four birds were still present in Catskill in Dec and early Feb by at least three observers (Wm, JHB, BB). Evening Grosbeak: scarce in early winter, but large flocks formed in Feb and Mar. Purple Finch: became quite widely reported in Feb and Mar. Pine Grosbeak: quite scarce, with only six records scattered throughout the area of flocks and single birds from Jan 9 to Mar 14. Redpoll: a flock of 65 nr Durham during Feb (VH) constitutes the only report. Pine Siskin: after a virtual absence early in the winter, large numbers appeared in all areas during Mar. Red Crossbill: four, Dec 15 at L George (WBS, PPW), a small flock at Old Chatham Dec 28 (EMR) and three at Tomh Res Mar 31 (PPW) the only records. Towhee: two wintered at Scotia (EH). Vesper Sparrow: last, Dec 12, Catskill (JHB); no winter reports. Oregon Junco: one appeared Jan 12 in Colonie (JF) at a feeder where one had appeared the previous winter; two appeared at a Slingerlands feeder (BW); and one was observed Jan 7 at a Nisk feeder and infrequently thereafter (HE). Field Sparrow: two late birds were in Catskill Dec 29 (GCBC). None were observed during the winter. First spring migrants appeared Mar 28 at Ghent (PE, GE) and Mar 30 at Meadowdale (RS, MLS). White-throated Sparrow: a few birds wintered in protected areas. Chipping Sparrow: recorded Dec 22 at Sch (SBC) and Dec 29 at Catskill (GCBC). Fox Sparrow: early individuals were seen Mar 7 at Kiskatom (WSm) and Mar 17 at Catskill (WBS) before a marked wave Mar 25-26. Swamp Sparrow: possible wintering birds were nr Sch Dec 22 (SBC) and Tomh Res (PPW) Jan 5. Migrants returned to Visch Fy Mar 31 (EH). Lapland Longspur: a very large number reported, with the largest flock 20-40 nr Kinderhook during Feb and early Mar (ADBC). Chestnut-collared Longspur: two individuals in winter plumage were observed carefully and the distinctive tail pattern noted by two competent observers Feb 14 and 21 with the large flock of Lapland Longspur previously noted (HT, EMR). Snow Bunting: these appeared in large numbers in many areas, with the largest flock reported approx 1000 at Slingerlands Jan 15 (BW, MLS).

Box 465A, RFD #4, Troy

Addendum:

Record of Bald Eagles seen in Northern New York State by John Schempp, a Survey Pilot for the Conservation Dept. as reported to Dr. Paul P. Wickham (fide Walton B. Sabin): —

January 14; two adults, Lake Champlain (Region 7)

January 16; five adults and two juveniles, on the ice in St. Lawrence River between Ogdensburg and Alexandria Bay (over about a 25 mile stretch of the river) (Region 6).

Ed: Since this report concerns two other Regions and to keep it intact, I am adding it to Dr. Wickham's report of Region 8.

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The winter of 1962-63 was so constant in its weather conditions that one got the impression it would never end. Fred Hough sums it up well in his report: "The cold winter temperatures set in during December and remained consistently stable until latter March. The first snowfall of December remained and because of the temperature stability most subsequent falls remained too, and built upon one another. For this area there was never a great amount of snowfall in any one storm. It was not a winter of extreme temperatures or precipitation. Winter let go and spring came in nicely during the last week of March."

In general it was a fair season for birding, with a better than average for accidentals. Ducks were down in numbers largely due to the ice which arrived early, and was unyielding through to late March. Northern finches were definitely off this