

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

winter, with scattered reports of Grosbeak, Siskin, etc. A marked increase in numbers of these species was noted in most parts during the first half of March. The spring migration got off to a poor start with a number of species arriving late for no apparent reason, and was picking up rather well at the close of the period.

Abbreviations used: First four letters of each county — ex. Rock — Rockland County; MBC — Mearns Bird Club; WBC — Waterman Bird Club.

Contributors: BA — Bob Augustine; EB — Elsie Brown; Ebu — Enid Butler; FC — F. Cummings; ID — Iris Dean; GD — George Decker; RFD — Robert F. Deed; BD — Betty Deul; ME — Martha Earl; DE — Douglas Eckels; LF — L. Fay; FG — Florence Germond; Dr.MH — Dr. Marjorie Hopper; FH — Fred Hough; PJ — Paul Jeheber; BL — Brother Leo; ML — Mabel Little; DL — D. Lloyd; HM — Mrs. Harold McLoughlin; RO — Ralph Odell; EP — Eleanor Pink; FR — F. Ramsey; HS — Herb Small; MV — Marion Van Wagner; OW — Otis Waterman; BW — Bradford Whiting.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: First spring record Mar 31 at Carmel, Putn (ML). This is late but consistent with the late spring thaw. Red-necked Grebe: Our only record for the season a single bird on the Hudson Riv. at Grand View, Rock. Mar 10 (RFD). Horned Grebe: One of those unique occasions when one was found in a farm yard at Oxford, Oran on Jan 27 and turned over to Martha Earl. She released it unharmed on the Hudson R. next day. Pied-billed Grebe: Made their first appearance throughout the region on Mar 23. Great Blue Heron: A few winter reports where water remained open; Dec 15 in West, and Feb 25 in Rock. Ducks: Our poorest year for the annual waterfowl census. Only twelve species reported which was our next to lowest count, and the lowest number of individuals ever reported. Probably a combination of poor weather, too much ice, and too few people in the field. Canada Goose: An unusual date of Dec 2 for about 100 birds at Hawthorne, West (BA). Spring migrants arrived Mar 6 in West; Mar 9 in Dutch and Mar 25 in Oran. Snow Goose: A flock of 50 birds at Crugars Is., Dutch on Mar 30 (MBC). Mallard: A patch of unfrozen water at the Rockland Light and Power Plant in Monroe, Oran brought the number of mallards to five times last year's count on the waterfowl census. Numbers were well down throughout the rest of the region. Black Duck: Our lowest count in nine years, and one tenth the number that was found last year. Pintail: Fifteen birds on the Hudson R. on Mar 16 (WBC) is an exceptionally high number for this region. Green-winged Teal: One bird from Dutch on annual waterfowl census, but three birds observed throughout much of the winter at Blooming Grove, Oran (ME). Blue-winged Teal: Mar 15 at Congers Lake, Rock (Dr.MH); a new early date for that county. Wood Duck: Only one bird on annual census. Migrants arrived Mar 16 in Dutch, but not till Mar 26 in Oran, and Mar 28 and 30 in West. Redhead: Four birds remained on Lake Gleneida, Putn until it froze in early Jan (ML). Ring-necked Duck: Winter numbers lower than usual. Heavy flights reported from Dutch from Mar 24 on to end of period (WBC). Canvas-back: 30 birds at Crugars Is., Dutch on Mar 30 (WBC). This is the most birds of this species seen at one time for the past several years. Common Golden-eye: More abundant than they have been for the past several years. Red-breasted Merganser: One on the Hudson R. at Fort Montgomery on Dec 29 (PJ). Five on the Hudson R. in Dutch on Mar 16 (WBC).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: Returned to Oran Mar 8, West Mar 14, and Dutch Mar 18. Goshawk: A number of reports. Most interesting that of an immature male killed by hitting a picture window at the home of Vernon Boles in Katonah, West on Feb 9. Sharp-shinned Hawk: No reports. Cooper's Hawk: No reports. Red-tailed Hawk: Numbers definitely down throughout region. Sam B. Phelps Jr. of Walden, Oran reports success in finally luring a Red-tailed to a platform feeder in his farm yard. After three years of trying, he has had the bird taking meat scraps regularly. Red-shouldered Hawk: Numbers appeared to be normal. Rough-legged Hawk: Reports of average to better than average numbers. Bob Deed noted them to be more common than the Red-tailed on the North Jersey Meadows just south of our region. Bald Eagle: Seems to be less each year. National Audubon Count yielded none, but at least ten birds were reported as wintering, with six of them immatures. Marsh Hawk: Only one winter record; that in Dutch Jan 29 (BW). First migrant at Blooming Grove Mar 21 (ME). Osprey: Two over Basher Kill, Oran. on Mar 28 (ID). Sparrow Hawk: Very few reported from Dutch (OW); down in numbers

in Oran (ME); and none observed this winter in Putn (ML). Virginia Rail: One wintering bird in Dutch was found in a Muskrat trap Jan 16 (BW), and three wintered in the Hawthorne area of West (BA). Killdeer: Wintered sparingly throughout much of region. Woodcock: Earliest date Mar 8, a bird in courtship at Shrub Oak, West (ROC). Common Snipe: Wintering records from Dutch and Oran. Migrants appeared in Blooming Grove, Oran on Mar 11 and a bird was observed in courtship flight there on Mar 25 (ME). **White-winged Gulls:** Normally very rare, this was the best year in memory for both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls. The former was reported all along the Hudson through our region, and the latter was reported from Dutch at Beacon, one bird on Mar 23 (WBC); and from West at Croton Point, six birds on Jan 26 (RO). Great Black-backed Gull: Wintered in moderate numbers. Increased greatly during Mar (WBC). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** A bird of this species was first observed on Nov 27 at Croton Pt., West and was observed again on Dec 2 by many West birders (BA). Mourning Dove: Numbers half as numerous in Dutch this year as compared with last. Owls: An excellent season for owls. Most species represented, with some unusually fine observations. Dutch reports several individuals of Screech, Saw-whet and Long-eared species found in starved condition during the latter part of Feb and early Mar. Screech Owl: Many reports from most areas. Horned Owl: Many reports esp. from West. Snowy Owl: Two reported; one on Dec 28 at West Point (FR), and the other on Jan 7 along Old Storm King Road in east Oran (FC). Barred Owl: Same as Horned. Long-eared Owl: Sarah Uyehlyhi of Chester, Oran had a bird of this species on the railing of her back porch for more than an hour and fifteen minutes on Jan 28. Short-eared Owl: Only two reported, both from Dutch. Saw-whet Owl: two reported from Dutch; two from Ulst; one from West; and a remarkable record of one studied by flashlight on the back porch of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steffans of New City, Rock on Jan 1.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Belted Kingfisher: Icing conditions caused very few reports. Flicker: Few reports throughout season. Waves reported Mar 25 Oran, Mar 26 West, and Mar 30 Dutch. Pileated Woodpecker: Numbers seem to have increased. Margaret Dye reports them at suet feeders in various locations at Cornwall all winter, but no details are given on this unusual behavior. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** The bird reported last fall at Monroe, Oran remained until Jan 31. Mrs. Jessup at whose home the bird fed, reported that she felt the bird may have died since it slept for long periods of time throughout the day for the last few days that she observed it; something it did not do previously. Another of this species was reported at Stanfordsville, Dutch (BD) from Dec 26 to the end of the period; and another at Garnerville, Rock on Jan 2 and from Feb 8 to the end of the month. This made the third record for Rock. Red-headed Woodpecker: One imm. male reported at a Dutch feeder from Jan 27 to the end of the period (FG). Martha Earl reports their having maintained good numbers in central Oran. Sapsucker: Four reports from Rock, but none elsewhere. **Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:** Two, both in West. One female reported on the Peekskill Christmas count, and a male on Dec 15 at Valhalla (BA, DE). The latter remained till Mar 3 and was observed by many. Phoebe: Arrived generally in area on Mar 9, 10 and 11. Horned Lark: Scarce in early winter but numbers increased to average or above during Mar. Tree Swallow: Arriving in area Mar 26 (Oran, West and Sull) and Mar 28 (Ulst). Blue Jay: Normal winter population. **Raven:** A bird on Mar 26 at Shrub Oak, West (RO). Crow: Wintered in large numbers. One roost near Poughkeepsie had about 5600 and another near Beacon was large but uncouned. Several hundred were observed roosting at Monroe, Oran, and many other reports were received. Fish Crow: Two reported in Mar at a dump in Beacon, Dutch (GD, MV). Chickadee: Black-capped maintained normal to better numbers, but Boreal were unreported; a marked contrast to last year's invasion. Nuthatch: White-breasteds were normal in numbers, but Red-breasteds were only sparsely reported: at least five from West, two from Dutch, and two from Rock. Wrens: There were the usual reports of Winter Wrens, but the Carolina which was so low last winter has recovered with as many as three wintering at one feeder in Cornwall, Oran (PJ). Mimids: Mockingbirds were reported from all their previous locations, and continue to increase in numbers. Brown Thrashers were widely reported with wintering numbers better than usual. No Catbirds were reported. Robin: Wintered in usual numbers; first migrant flocks noted Mar 7 in West, Mar 9 in Oran, and Mar 10 in Dutch. **Varied Thrush:** This accidental arrived

at the home of Leroy Brown in Tarrytown, West on Jan 1 and remained until the 26th. A careful identification was made, and a number of competent observers saw the bird. It is not the first record for this species in West. Hermit Thrush: A number of winter records, one of a bird remaining thru Jan, Feb, and half of Mar at the home of Fred Hough in Accord, Ulst. Bluebird: Winter numbers constant for past several years. Kinglets: Both species well represented in Dutch, and Oran, but not mentioned by other reporters. Pipit: One winter report on Dec 1 at Croton Pt West (BA). Only spring report one flock at Barrytown, Dutch. Mar 25 (BL). Northern Shrike: Four reports, all from Dutch. None after Jan 27.

Vireos — Warblers: Warblers: Two very late records from West. A Parula Warbler struck a picture window in Portchester on Dec 13; and a Palm Warbler was observed in Hawthorne on Dec 1 (BA). Myrtle Warbler: At least five were in the Hawthorne area during Dec and the only other reports were of two birds in the Dutch area. One of the latter birds fed daily on a honey and water solution from Dec 15 to Feb 19 (DL). Meadowlark: Scarce in Dutch, but normal throughout rest of region. Redwing: Two wintered in Dutch; and four other birds were reported from Ulst in the northern part of the region where they are quite rare in winter. Migrants appeared early in March as usual and passed through in large flocks. Rusty Blackbird: Flocks of up to 20 birds wintered in Dutch and West. Migrants arrived on Mar 22 and 23 throughout region. Grackle: Winter records more numerous than usual. No Feb migrants noted; arrived about two weeks later than usual, about Mar 8. Cardinal: Numbers better than usual, as many as 20 birds at some feeders. **Indigo Bunting:** An astounding but well documented record of two males with some blue in the wings and two females or immatures at Herb Saltford's home in Dutch from Dec 11 to 15. Dickcissel: Two Dutch records, Nov 25 (MV) and Nov 29 (EB); and one Oran, Dec 16 (LF). Evening Grosbeak: Reports from all areas. Scarce throughout early and mid-winter. Numbers increased greatly during Mar. Purple Finch: A phenomenal increase after Mar 1. Relatively scarce in early winter. House Finch: Well established in Hawthorne area of West throughout winter (BA), and two pair resident at Dr. Marjorie Hooper's home in Upper Nyack, Rock. from Nov 5 thru Mar 15. Pine Grosbeak: Absent from Sull, Ulst and Dutch; and only single birds reported from Oran, Rock and West. Largest flock reported was eight birds in Putn (ML). **European Goldfinch:** A bird observed at the home of Mrs. J. R. Adams in Chappaqua and photographed by Mr. Adams. First appeared Nov 13 and was last seen on Dec 31 (BA). Redpoll: Not much more numerous than the Pine Grosbeak. Small flocks and single birds reported from most areas however. Pine Siskin: Same status as Redpoll. Goldfinch: Large numbers reported throughout entire region. Red Crossbill: An immature spent the month of Dec and half of Jan at the home of M. Scandrett in Cornwall, Oran. Last reported Jan 17. White-winged Crossbill: A few reported from Sull, Oran and West. First report Feb 16 at Cornwall; last Mar 22 at Chappaqua. Towhee: More reports than usual in Rock, occasionally more than one bird at a time. Few noted elsewhere. Savannah Sparrow: Two winter records in Dutch; one in Dec. (EP) and another from Feb 15 to the end of the period (EBu). Migrants arrived on the early date of Mar 29 at Kripplebush, Ulst (FH). Vesper Sparrow: Reported three times in Dutch and four times in Oran. Oregon Junco: Two records for Dutch, three for West and one from Rock. Tree Sparrow: Numbers normal to above. **White-crowned Sparrow:** One Dec 22 in Dutch (EP), and another spent the month of Jan in Ulst (HS). Fox Sparrow: The usual winter records; sparingly throughout much of region except Rock where numbers seemed to be better than usual. Migrants were passing through during the second week of Mar. Swamp Sparrow: Wintering birds reported in Dutch and Oran. Song Sparrow: Usual wintering birds, more scarce in Dutch. Lapland Longspur: Dutch reports one on Dec 28 (MV) and three Jan 18 (HM). Snow Bunting: Numbers lighter than last year throughout much of region. Martha Earl, however, reports her best year for this species since 1959. Gladys Hall had a bird at her feeder in the village of Washingtonville from Dec 11 throughout the winter. No birds of this species reported after Mar 12.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls