

very small numbers, one to seven, after Mar 21. Tree Sparrow: "not very many this winter" RB (JK); same for other areas. White-throated Sparrow: one Jan 1 thru Mar SL (ED); one Dec 16 thru Jan RB (JK). Song Sparrow: one Dec 31 (RH, DY); back Mar 13 SL (GK); Mar 26 RB (JK); Mar 29 TL (RM). Snow Bunting: four Dec 31 L Placid, 30 Feb 28 Port Kent (JH); 30 Feb 3, six Feb 28, seven Mar 3 SL (HD); 100 Malone Jan 8, three L Placid Jan 21 (RH); 50 TL Jan 31 (RM).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

After a December which was mild and very dry, Jan, Feb and March were near normal in temperature and provided us with a surplus over the usual average precipitation. Temperatures in Dec (all data taken at Albany) averaged 31 degrees, 4 degrees above normal, and precipitation totalled only 0.97 in., 1.62 in. below normal. Temperatures in Jan, Feb and Mar averaged 22, 23 and 34.3 degrees, respectively; these were one degree below mean average temperatures for Jan and Feb and about one degree above that usual for Mar. Total precipitation: Jan—2.29 in., 0.18 in. below normal; Feb—2.17 in., 0.51 in. above normal; Mar—3.63 in., 0.91 in. above normal.

Due to the late onset of cold weather, ducks and gulls remained in good numbers into late Dec and Jan on larger lakes, reservoirs and the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. Numbers of gulls were even higher than last year in early Jan. The expected widespread movement of finches materialized; Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks were especially abundant, but Pine Siskins, goldfinches and, to a lesser extent, crossbills were all frequently reported. Purple Finches, however, were decidedly uncommon. The discovery of a cowbird roost of at least 1000 birds in Albany was also of much interest.

Migration in Mar seemed closely related to three periods of above-average temperatures during the month: Mar 1-5 (featured by Killdeer, the blackbirds, and the early ducks and gulls); Mar 18-20 (many more ducks, Woodcock, C. Snipe, Robin, E. Bluebird, E. Meadowlark, Fox Sparrow); and Mar 23-24 (Sparrow Hawk, E. Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Savannah Sparrow, Field Sparrow).

The local highlights of the period was the bright male Varied Thrush which appeared at a Rensselaer Co feeder. Other rare or unusual species reported during the period included Mute and Whistling Swans, Shoveler, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Glaucous Gull, Red-bellied, Red-headed and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers, four Dickcissels, Hoary Redpoll, Oregon Junco and a wintering Lincoln's Sparrow.

Abbreviations used: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; ADCC—Alan Devoe (Chatham) Christmas Count; GCC—Greene County (Catskill-Coxsackie) Christmas Count; SCC—Schenectady Christmas Count; TCC—Troy Christmas Count; MR—Mohawk River; nr—near; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; RL—Round Lake; SL—Saratoga Lake; SS—Stockport Station; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; UH—Upper Hudson R (between Troy and Stillwater).

Observers: GA—Gus Angst; GB—Guy Bartlett; TB, AB—Thomas and Arlene Brown; HFB—Hazel Bundy; LB, VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; JHB, BB—James and Barbara Bush; JC—Juanita Cook; HE—Hazel Eddy; PE, GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; JF—John Fuller; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; VH—Vernon Haskins; MK—Marcia Kent; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; SRM—Samuel Madison; PM—Peggy McGuirk; MM—Mary Mickle; WN—Wendy Neifus; DR—David Rothaupt; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; DS, MS—David and Muriel Stoner; DJT—Dr. Donald Tucker; BW—Beverly Waite; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; GMZ—Gladys Zimmer; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin and Barry Havens.

LOON-DUCKS: Due to the late freeze of SL, TR and the rivers, many waterfowl remained later than usual in the Region. Common Loon: reported to Dec 18, SL (bsh); no spring reports. Red-throated Loon: present to Dec 5, SL (bsh). Horned Grebe: at SL to Dec 18 (bsh). Several Mar reports, first Mar 20, NWW (HFB, SRM, EH, PM) and nr Castleton (JC). Pied-billed Grebe: early report Mar 8, Chatham (MM). Great Blue Heron: first Mar 25, Palenville (Jean Hervey) and Mar 31, Alplaus (HFB). MUTE SWAN: two Embought Mar 20 (JHB). WHISTLING SWAN: one Dec 18 SL (bsh). Canada Goose: no Dec reports; first spring Mar 5, Latham (HFB, PM); small groups in Mar, max 100 Embought Mar 20 (JHB). Amer Widgeon: no winter reports, first Mar 6, SS (PPW). Pintail: one remained UH through Jan 19 (SBC); very com in Mar, groups of up to 40, first Mar 4, SS (WN). Green-winged Teal: one remained at TR to Jan 1 (SBC) and one SS to Jan 2 (TB, AB); first spring Mar 8, SS (WN), widely noted Mar 19. Blue-winged Teal: first Mar 22 (GB, DS, MS), widely following week. SHOVELER: two males and a female appeared in pond at NWW Mar 31 (early) (HFB, MS). Wood Duck: first Mar 8, Castleton (JC) and SS (WN), widely Mar 19–25. Redhead: two at RL Dec 5 (bsh) and six at Cementon Mar 28 (JHB, BB). Ring-necked Duck: three on UH to Jan 19 (HFB, PM); first spring Mar 8, Castleton (JC), rapid influx after Mar 19. Canvasback: one Jan 8 Green Island (SBC) and three Feb 12 and 27 Stillwater (HFB, PM); one Mar 9 nr Castleton (PPW) with seven additional records later in Mar, max six Mar 28, Cementon (JHB, BB). Scaup: last Dec 26, SS (ADBC); also six Feb 5, Stillwater (HFB, PM); first spring Mar 19, NWW (GB, BRS). Common Goldeneye: remained on UH through winter, with modest passage noted in Mar. Bufflehead: at SL through Dec 11 (bsh); one on MR nr Niskayuna Dec 26 (SBC); first spring Mar 23, NWW (PPW). Oldsquaw: seven at SL to Dec 18 (bsh); two Mar 20, NWW (HFB, EH, SRM, PM)—early. White-winged Scoter: at SL to Dec 18 (bsh); three Mar 27 on MR nr Crescent (bsh)—early. Ruddy Duck: two nr Castleton Mar 8 (JC)—very early. Hooded Merganser: remained to Dec 18, SL (bsh); first spring Mar 10 Castleton (PPW). Common Merganser: a few on UH throughout winter. Return flight in Mar relatively low in numbers. Red-breasted Merganser: first spring Mar 26 MR (PPW, HFB, PM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: only report—one Mar 10 Catskill (BB). Goshawk: only report—one Mar 6, Greenville (CK). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one report each in Dec, Jan and Feb; probable migrants noted Mar 13 and 24 Schodack Center (LB, VB). Cooper's Hawk: at least nine reports, Dec 26–Mar 9. Red-tailed Hawk: most com hawk of winter, max 15 TCC. Red-shouldered Hawk: no reports Dec or Jan, four reports Feb 12–22; probable migrants observed Mar 19 (GB, BRS) and Mar 25 (WN). Rough-legged Hawk: widely seen this winter but not numerous, last of period Mar 20 Altamont (BW). Marsh Hawk: reported at SS Jan 2 (TB, AB) and sporadically during winter at Ghent (PE, GE). First spring Mar 26, Berne (MK). PEREGRINE FALCON: an immature flew low over several observers nr TR Jan 1 (SBC)—only record. PIGEON HAWK: a female or immature bird of this species was seen at close range perching and flying on at least three occasions by one group: Jan 2 nr Lock 7, MR; Feb 12, Meadowdale; and Mar 6, Meadowdale (all

bsh)—very likely same individual. Unfortunately, no other observers were able to see this bird. Sparrow Hawk: widely but sparsely reported through the winter; evidence of a return movement in late Mar; for example DS recorded eight Mar 21–27, and BB six Mar 23. Bob-white: scarce, reported only from Catskill and Meadowdale. Pheasant: markedly decreased throughout Region this winter. Virginia Rail: one Mar 17 Tygert Rd marsh nr New Salem where species has wintered some recent years (EH, GA). Coot: a flock of remained at SL to Dec 18 (bsh). Killdeer: no Dec records; first spring Mar 3 Schodack Center (LB, VB), Mar 6 Meadowdale (GB, BRS); more widely Mar 11–19. Woodcock: first Mar 8, Castleton (JC), widely Mar 18–25. Common Snipe: three Feb 5 Tygert Rd marsh nr New Salem (bsh) where usually 1–2 have wintered through severe weather in other recent years. First spring Mar 17 Collins L (DJT). GLAUCOUS GULL: an adult on the UH Jan 1 (WBS, SRM, PM)—lone record. Great Black-backed Gull: remained until Jan 8, UH (SBC), max 44 TCC Jan 1; first spring Mar 4, SS (WN), max 50 Mar 6, SS and 40 Mar 19 (PPW). Composition of migrants changed from predominantly adult Mar 6 to largely immature in late Mar. Herring Gull: remained in numbers into Jan with 475 on TCC Jan 1. A few seen throughout winter, rapid influx Mar 3 on. Ring-billed Gull: less com than preceding two species in late Dec and early Jan, only 34 TCC Jan 1; a few individuals reported through the winter. First spring Mar 6, SS (PPW); in late Mar the most abundant gull. In contrast to Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls present (at this time mostly immature birds), these were almost exclusively adults. Mourning Dove: again wintered in high, though local, numbers. Screech Owl: very scarce—reported once in Gallupville in Dec (GMZ), once in Old Chatham in Dec (Dr. E. M. Reilly, Jr.) and at West Sand L Mar 20 (Katherine Bordt) but missed on all local Christmas Counts. Great Horned Owl: fairly com in less settled parts of the Region, with six recorded on local Christmas Counts. Barred Owl: reported at Canaan (one), TR (new area, two), Altamont (one) and Lisha Kill (one). Short-eared Owl: only report one Feb 20 Niskayuna (SRM, PM).

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Kingfisher: very scarce—reported to Dec 18, SL (bsh); also—two Jan 1 Cohoes Area (TCC); one Mar 12 Lock 7 MR (GB, BRS); one late Mar West Sand L (Katherine Bordt). Yellow-shafted Flicker: more reported this winter than usual, from at least ten localities; a light influx during Mar. Pileated Woodpecker: not particularly com but recorded in most reporting areas. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: one Dec 26 in an orchard nr Catskill, Greene Co (JHB)—the first record for Region 8 for several years. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: one was reported as wintering in Oak Hill, Greene Co (VH)—very unusual. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: a female was observed and banded in Jan and a male appeared several times in Feb at a feeder in Niskayuna where this species has appeared in previous winters (RPY)—it is usually unreported at this season in the rest of Region 8. BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: one reportedly ate suet at a feeder in Catskill Jan 26–27 (BB)—lone report. Phoebe: marked influx Mar 23–27 (mob). Horned Lark: rather scarce in early winter, much more com in Feb and very early Mar. Tree Swallow: only record—three Mar 25 Vly (JHB). Common Crow: pronounced migration occurred late Feb and most of Mar. Black-capped Chickadee: com in all areas, with 445 TCC Jan 1. Boreal Chickadee: at feeders in Catskill (*vide* JHB), Chatham Center (ADBC) and West Sand L (C. W. Greene and mob) and one was seen at Meadowdale Feb 20 (bsh). Tufted Titmouse: widely reported, especially in southern areas; total of 31 individuals recorded on four area Christmas Counts. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one or two individuals reported at a number of local feeding stations as well as the regular resident populations in some of the larger evergreen tracts. Winter Wren: one reported Dec 26 (GCC) and one was flitting about a stone wall in Niskayuna Feb 3 (HE). Carolina Wren: one at a feeder in Chatham Dec 12 and remained into Jan (MM); two were seen at a feeder in Catskill Jan 5 (E. Rusack); one singing Mar 6 SS (PPW). Mockingbird: continuing its recent rapid increase; at least 22 reported

during the period from eleven localities in five counties. Catbird: one at a feeder in West Glenville Jan 19, remained in vicinity until Feb 21, when found dead (Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Harris). Brown Thrasher: lone report—one, Jan 8–10 Glenville (*vide* Nancy Slack). Robin: widely reported throughout winter, with a general influx Mar 18–20 in most areas. VARIED THRUSH: a male in bright orange and soft gray plumage appeared at a feeder in Sliters' Corners, Town of West Sand L, Rensselaer Co on Jan 20 and remained until Mar 17 (mob). Surprisingly, this thrush fed exclusively on typical "birdseed." When the ground was free of snow, it usually disappeared from the feeding area. Hermit Thrush: only reports—one Feb 6 TR (WBS *et al.*) and one late Feb Colonie (Mrs. W. H. Enos). Bluebird: wintering birds reported only from Greene and Columbia Cos. In Chatham area, Bluebirds roosted in a hole in a tree during sub-zero periods (MM). Marked influx of the species occurred Mar 15–20. Cedar Waxwing: wandering groups of up to 40 seen occasionally. Northern Shrike: twelve reports for winter, with no particular pattern, last Mar 14 Schodack Center (LB, VB).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: one feeding in low brush along the shore of TR Jan 1 (PPW, DS, JF, DR). Eastern Meadowlark: more than usual number of reports from at least six areas, max ten Jan 9 Kiskatom (JHB, BB) and eight Jan 19 UH (HFB, PM). Noticeable influx Mar 15–20 in many areas. Redwing: ten reports Dec 20–Feb 28. One reported Catskill area Mar 1 (JHB), 28 Mar 2 Castleton marshes (PPW); on Mar 3, 1500 were present, Castleton marshes (PPW); also reported from many other localities. Grackles also arrived in many sections Mar 3. Rusty Blackbird: recorded Dec 18 SL (bsh), Feb 6 Meadowdale (EH, GA) and Mar 6 (bsh). Cowbird: a large winter roost was discovered in Jan in the city of Albany independently by Paul Connor and PPW. Evening counts at the roost: about 780 Jan 24 and 1040 Feb 5 (PPW). These counts far exceed the largest previous winter max of the species for Region 8. To my knowledge, this is the first icterid winter roost found in Region 8. Cardinal: somewhat less com this winter than last; on ADCC, GCC, SCC and TCC combined, 101 reported compared with 139 in 1964–1965. DICKCISSEL: two at feeder nr Chatham in Dec (ADBC). Another discovered at a Niskayuna feeder Dec 26 (RPY *et al.*), remained there until mid-Jan when it was attacked and injured (presumably fatally) by a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Still another appeared in the Gallupville area about Jan 10, seen in that area occasionally through Mar 31 (CMZ). Evening Grosbeak: very com all winter, with apparent influx in late Dec and early Jan, max 511 TCC (a record number). Numbers peaked at a Niskayuna banding station the first two weeks in Feb (RPY); throughout Mar, the population dwindled, although many still present end of Mar. Purple Finch: very scarce all period. Pine Grosbeak: fairly com in small groups, especially in highland areas, Dec–Feb. By Mar 15 very few left, although still present at Taborton Mar 27 (PPW). Common Redpoll: abundant throughout winter; 845 reported on ADCC, GCC, SCC and TCC combined; some representative max: 600 Jan 9 (bsh); 325 Feb 19 (SRM, PM); 700 Feb 20 (bsh). HOARY REDPOLL: one banded, photographed and released Mar 20, Niskayuna (RPY, DS). The bird was pale, with white, unstreaked rump, short bill (7.8 mm.) and only faintly streaked sides of breast, and was with a large group of Common Redpolls. Pine Siskin: widely reported, but not in very large numbers. Red Crossbill: five reports of three–twelve during winter, last Mar 4 Karner (JF, DR). White-winged Crossbill: ten reports, scattered throughout winter, max 14 Feb 12 nr New Salem (bsh), last Mar 9 Lisha Kill (HFB, PM). Rufous-sided Towhee: one at a feeder East Ghent Jan 24, remained the rest of the winter (Marion Kern). Savannah Sparrow: one arrived Mar 23 Ghent (PE, GE). Slate-colored Junco: scarce in all sections this winter. OREGON JUNCO: a junco with very dark hood, brownish gray back (with sharp line of demarcation between hood and back) and tinge of pink on the sides appeared at an East Greenbush feeder in Jan and Feb (Mrs. Robert Don). Tree Sparrow: still not as com as two years ago, but more com than in

1964-1965. Field Sparrow: flock of about 12 wintered in Colonie (JF, DR); first spring Mar 24, Altamont (BW). White-throated Sparrow: at least 18 individuals reported, including five at one feeder in Chatham (MM). Fox Sparrow: reported into mid-Dec in Greene and Columbia Cos, two were still coming to a feeder at Oak Hill in Jan (VH). An abrupt spring movement occurred Mar 18-20, although this was less widespread and spectacular than that of 1965. LINCOLN'S SPARROW: a medium-sized sparrow with striped brown and white crown, prominent buff breast band and thin but noticeable eye ring was noted at a Cropseyville feeder Jan 27-Feb 10 (WBS, bsh, PPW, *et al.*). Swamp Sparrow: remained in some of the denser local marshes well into Feb. Lapland Longspur: only reports—one ADCC Dec 26, two with flock of Snow Buntings nr Muitzeskill Feb 26 (JC). Snow Bunting: scarce early in winter; groups of up to 75 noted Jan and Feb; 200 Feb 21 Greenville (CK) and 600 Feb 26 nr Muitzeskill (JC)—possibly evidence of spring movement. No Mar reports.

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REGION 9 — DELEWARE — HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The past winter season did much to alleviate the drought conditions in the Region, with most reservoirs either full or at the worst about 75% of capacity. Late January and February brought the best snows in several winters, but March was very dry with almost no snow reported. Temperatures for the most part were as expected, although milder fall weather seemed to persist late into the season. Christmas counts found lakes and rivers completely open, and they did not freeze until just prior to the Waterfowl Count on January 16 when temperatures dropped to near zero for several days. The freeze was extensive enough to cut the census to about half as many individuals as last year.

The period was about normal for species and numbers of birds observed and reported. There were a few highlights, but in general, no unusual trends. Almost all species of northern finches were found, some in good numbers compared to an almost total absence last year.

Your reporter must include a word of thanks to Margaret and John Dye who will be leaving the Region in a few months to live in Pennsylvania. They have faithfully contributed the records for Eastern Orange Co. for as long as your reporter has been on the job. They will be sorely missed.

Abbreviations used: First four letters of each county; RAS—Rockland Audubon Society; WBC—Waterman Bird Club.

Contributors: BA—Bob Ausustine; A & MB—Arlene & Martin Borko; ID—Iris Dean; ME—Martha Earl; FG—Florence Germond; SG—Stan Grierson; MH—Marjorie Hopper; FH—Fred Hough; DJ—David Junkin; MK—Mary Key; HM—Helen Manson; JO—Jack Orth; EP—Eleanor Pink; AP—Alma Polhemus; ET—Ed Treacy; MV—Marion VanWagner