

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

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: one very late fall record Dec 5 White L. Sull (A & MB). First spring arrival Mar 18 Vanderberg Cove, Dutch. Very few from then to end of period. Pied-billed Grebe: one wintered Tomahawk L Oran (ME). Green Heron: one very late date Dec 5 Iona Is. (JO). Little Blue Heron: one unconfirmed report of adult at Mt. Kisco, (DJ). American Bittern: one at very close range Jan 17 Katonah, West (SG). Canada Goose: earliest record six Mar 12 Dutch. Many reported since. At end of period, several pairs present on number of east Oran lakes. Snow Goose: winter birds reported several areas. Migrating flocks reported last week Mar. Putn and Dutch. Relatively good numbers compared to previous seasons. Ducks: Poor throughout Region from mid Jan thru Feb due to hard freeze. Populations good before and after that period. Gadwall: four persisted Iona Is. Marsh thru Jan 2, unreported afterward. Pintail: at Basher Kill as early as Mar 12 (A & MB). 26 in Otterkill Cr at Hamptonburg Mar 14 (ME). Blue-winged Teal: none till Mar 28 when one at Pleasant Valley Dutch (MV). American Widgeon: several Mar 19 Basher Kill (ID). Few reported before end of period. Shoveler: two at Rock L. from Dec 16 thru Jan 8 (RAS). Redhead: four Kensico Res. Dec 26 (Howard Spendelow). Canvasback: several Dec reports from Dutch and Oran. Largest count 125 MBC Christmas Count. Spring birds appeared Mar 12 on with two spending last week Mar on small pond in village square at Monroe, Oran (Jack Kniep). Ruddy Duck: as usual wintered on Hudson off Piermont. Estimated 2,000 Dec 14 (MH & AP). Hooded Merganser: two at Iona Is. Dec 5 (JO). First spring record Mar 10, one pair at Basher Kill (ID).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first reported Mar 3. Most residents arr by Mar 14. Goshawk: one Neversink, Sull Dec 16. Another shot at Mt. Kisco, West, now in possession of Dutch Comm. Coll., Poughkeepsie. An unprecedented report of six trapped by a game "preserve" in the area of Red Hook during Feb and Mar. Sharp-shinned Hawk: two winter birds: one from Oran, the other from Sull, none elsewhere. Cooper's Hawk: one only, WBC Christmas Count. Red-tailed Hawk: wintered in good numbers throughout Region. An interesting account of two Red-tails pursuing a hen pheasant about 75 ft. above ground at Golden's Bridge, West on Jan 11. The pheasant easily escaped. Red-shouldered Hawk: continues quite scarce. Missed on most Christmas counts, only two reported during season. Rough-legged Hawk: single birds reported on several occasions in Oran, West, and Dutch. Always scarce, but better than usual this season. Bald Eagle: winter population somewhat better than last year, with birds returning to usual haunts. Not more than a half dozen birds reported. Marsh Hawk: one Dec 26, MBC Christmas count, one Mar 17 nr Stanford, Dutch (HM). PIGEON HAWK: One Stone Ridge, Ulst Mar 17 (FH). Sparrow Hawk: wintered well. Numbers excellent from Mar on. Ruffed Grouse: numbers not quite as good as last year, but still plentiful. Bobwhite: a few reported from Dutch, Jan Feb & Mar, also reported on MBC Christmas count in Oran, and earlier (Dec 8) in Dutch. Coot: about 50 wintered at Rock L. Killdeer: earliest Mar 3 near Hyde Park. Many reported in the Blooming Grove area by the end of Mar. Woodcock: first birds reported in several counties on Mar 3. Numbers good at the end of the season. Common Snipe: more winter reports from Rock West and Oran than usual. Gulls: normal for season. Unusual numbers of Ring-billed and Herring gulls inland away from Hudson during late Mar. ICELAND GULL: only white-winged gull reported for season; Feb 19 Croton Point. (Westport Aud. Soc.). Mourning Dove: wintered in fair numbers. Some feeders supported unusually large flocks. Owls: more reports than during most winter seasons. Great-horned Owl: many reports of roosting birds. Only one nesting, Stony Point. Two young from Mar 11. SNOWY OWL: One only, at Ashoken Res. in late fall. Long-eared Owl: two killed by cars in West, four near New City thru Dec and Jan, four near Blooming Grove Oran thru Feb and Mar. Short-eared Owl: one near Crugar's Is. Dutch Mar 19 (EP). Saw-whet Owl: Several trapped and banded in Ward's Pound Ridge Reserv. this fall by DJ. One heard frequently at Kripplebush, Ulst. during Mar (FH).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: maintained good numbers despite freeze. Flicker: usual scattered winter reports. Mar movement relatively light. Pileated Woodpecker: high counts in Dutch. Normal elsewhere. One report of a bird eating berries of Virginia Creeper at Mohonk Mt House Feb 7. Red-bellied Woodpecker: an unverified report of one at a feeder Nov 18 and Jan 26 Hamptonburg, Oran (Louise Albert). Red-headed Woodpecker: Good numbers thru season in Town of Blooming Grove (ME). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: unreported throughout season. Fall birds in Dutch did not persist. E. Phoebe: arr late thru much of region. One Feb 7 & 8 Poughkeepsie (MK). Horned Lark: few birds reported thru Dec and Jan, many in Dutch during Feb. Mar numbers reduced. Tree Swallow: first arr Oran Mar 19. Few reported to end of period. GRAY JAY: one first reported Nov 24, spent greater part of Dec at feeder in Somers, West (Harry Peyton). Common Crow: about 4,700 reported during Dec at roost near Poughkeepsie. Many more wintered near Monroe, Oran. FISH CROW: one and possibly two wintered Poughkeepsie. At least ten reported there in Mar. Black-capped Chickadee: very plentiful all winter. BOREAL CHICKADEE: at Hawthorne, West from Dec 20 thru mid-Feb. Reported there for the past several winters. (BA). White-breasted Nuthatch: plentiful all season. Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported in good numbers from all areas. Best year in memory for Region. Winter Wren: none reported in Ulst, but the usual few elsewhere. Carolina Wren: a few Jan and Feb reports from Rock. None elsewhere except at West Park, Ulst, where one bird was reported by Mrs. Hugh Kelley. Mockingbird: remain in regions where they bred last year. Robin: numbers lower than expected in winter. Spring arr on time, but numbers not as high as usual. Flocks small, few, and far between. VARIED THRUSH: at feeder of Mrs. Edwin K. Merrill Bedford Village, West from Jan 30 to Feb 5 (mob). Hermit Thrush: wintered at Sparrow Bush, Oran Jan 14 to Mar 5 (Mr. & Mrs. Maynard Hammond). Other winter reports: Fowlersville, Sull Jan 16 (A & MB); Dutch Feb 6 (FC). Eastern Bluebird: as usual, scarce, but many encouraging reports thru month of Mar. Golden-crowned Kinglet: numbers reduced, none some areas. Pipit: only report 15 at Hamptonburgh Apr 2 (ME). Cedar Waxwing: numbers reduced in Ulst, normal elsewhere. Northern Shrike: single birds reported each month of season in Dutch. Loggerhead Shrike: one Mar 25 nr Unionville, Dutch (HM).

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: one Dec 8 and Jan 15 Dutch, another WBC Christmas Count Jan 2, one Dec 11 to Dec 19 at feeder of (A & MB) in Monticello. Palm Warbler: at Armonk, West Dec 1 (SG). E. Meadowlark: scarce Redwinged Blackbird: first flock Mar 3. Few in early Mar, more later. BALTIMORE ORIOLE: one WBC Christmas Count Jan 2. Rusty Blackbird: one pair at Chapaqua, West Feb 16, another pair nr Poughkeepsie Feb 25, max 19 during Mar in Dutch. Common Grackle: scattered individuals throughout winter. First flock Mar 3, many late Mar. Cowbird: winter numbers high. After snow of Jan 23, more than 300 at feeder Highland Falls (ET). More than 600 in Dutch Jan 15. Heavy concentrations not noted through rest of season. Cardinal: unaccountably sparse in Rock thru season. Normal to plentiful elsewhere. Evening Grosbeak: flocks small but everywhere thru winter. Purple Finch: sparingly reported thru season, scarce in some areas. House Finch: continues to increase. Observed in the southern and eastern portion thru winter. From 12 to 15 thru Mar in Dutch. Pine Grosbeak: reported thru season from all areas. Numbers small, most flocks less than 12. Common Redpoll: many single birds reported. Flocks generally scarce and small. Red Crossbill: more reports than usual. One flock of 30 Mar 31, in Dutch (MK). White-winged Crossbill: also well reported in most areas. Many single birds, and a number of small flocks. Savannah Sparrow: wintered again on the New Paltz flats Ulst. (Hans Wever & Heinz Meng). First migrant Mar 14 in Dutch. Vesper Sparrow: ten during Feb in Dutch. None there in Mar. Slate-colored Junco: generally scarce thru season. Inc in

late Mar. OREGON JUNCO: two adult males at Poughquag Dutch all winter. One at Cornwall Feb 26. (C. Klanka). Tree Sparrow: same as Slate-colored Junco, scarce thru season. Flocks few and small. Field Sparrow: reported each month during season in Dutch. Max six in Jan. Only one in Mar. White-throated Sparrow: reported every month of season. Max 36 on WBC Christmas Count. Fox Sparrow: every month in Dutch. Max nine in Dec. First migrants Mar 3 in Oran. Swamp Sparrow: two during Dec in Dutch. Song Sparrow: wintered in fair numbers. One at feeder Mohonk Lake. First record there. Many in Basher Kill area by Mar 20. LAPLAND LONGSPUR: One Feb 7 at Salt Point, Dutch. Snow Bunting: Max 50 Jan 28 Dutch. Smaller flocks Oran, Sull and Ulst.

Spring reports due no later than June 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND FRED HEATH

Much of the data for the winter season report comes from eleven local Christmas Counts: Brooklyn (abbreviated Bk)—Dec 26, 90 species; Bronx-South Westchester (Bx)—Dec 26, 99; Captree (Ca)—Dec 28, 82; Central Suffolk Co. (CS)—Dec 27, 122; Montauk (Mk)—Dec 26, 75; Northern Nassau Co. (NN)—Dec 26, 89; Queens (Qn)—Jan 2, 87; Quogue-Watermill (QW)—Dec 29, 75; Staten Island (SI)—Dec 26, 68; Smithtown (Sm)—Dec 27, 81; Southern Nassau Co. (SN)—Jan 2, 113.

A table of 23 species, showing numbers of individuals recorded on each of the counts will provide an easy comparison with future years' counts. Most of the species chosen are important winter residents; both gulls, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, both nuthatches, etc. Other species have shown tremendous increases in recent years, either as permanent residents (Tufted Titmouse, Cardinal or House Finch) or as winter residents (Mourning Dove, Brown Thrasher). The crossbills are included to chronicle last fall's invasion. The Pied-billed Grebe and the Belted Kingfisher were chosen as weather indicators. Usually each count's success in recording numbers of these two species depends upon mild weather which results in open water.

The table shows a fantastic number of Mourning Doves on this year's counts. The total number recorded is nearly twice the last two year's totals. Titmouse, Cardinal and House Finch showed no appreciable gains over last year's numbers. The Mockingbird continues its expansion throughout Long Island with marked increases every year. Myrtle Warblers were far below numbers, perhaps due to the poor bayberry crop.

Hérons were exceptionally good this winter. Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night herons were recorded in unusually large numbers on the Christmas Counts. Two Green Herons, a Yellow-crowned Night Heron and a Glossy Ibis were also recorded, all very late. The return flight of egrets and Glossy Ibis was earlier than usual.

Notable rarities included Tufted Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye and Bullock's Oriole. There were extremely late occurrences of Little Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, House Wren, Parula Warbler and Northern Waterthrush. Mid-winter records also included a Least Bittern and dowitchers, probably Long-billed.