

Mar 7 (GK). Black-capped Chickadee: normal. Boreal Chickadee: one Dec 29 SL (EB); four Dec 30 SL (CDT); one Jan 4, four Jan 31 L Clear (HD). White-breasted Nuthatch: few reports of one or two SL (GK) and RB (JK). Red-breasted Nuthatch: more frequent in woods than above. Brown Creeper: reports of one or two thru period, three Dec 30 SL (CDT). Brown Thrasher: one Dec 26-30 SL (ED). Robin: returned Mar 26 RB (JK); Mar 27 SL (HD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: two Feb 14, one Mar 2, two Mar 4 RB (JK). Northern Shrike: reported more frequently than usual particularly during Feb SL and Gabriels (EB, HD, DY). Starling: back all areas early Mar, 300 Mar 11 SL (HD, GK).

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: very late bird seen Dec 2, 6, 10 and 11 even after snowstorm RB (JK). House Sparrow: not such large numbers as other years. Eastern Meadowlark: one Mar 15 RB (GTC). Red-winged Blackbird: few winter reports of single feeder birds; first flock RB Mar 27 (JK); SL Mar 28 (HD); Mar 29 TL (RM). Common Grackle: back late Mar RB (JK), SL (EB). Brown-headed Cowbird: four Mar 11 SL (EB); seven Mar 24 RB (JK). Cardinal: pair thru period Bloomingdale (IW). Evening Grosbeak: Dec 2 three flocks totalling about 200 Loon L (GTC); from then on very few reports of small numbers SL except for 100 Kiwassa Dec 30, Jan 15 and Feb 3 (Emigh, HD, EA); RB, JK reported "plenty around" after Feb 5, from 60 to 160; 50-75 daily at feeder TL (RM). Purple Finch: two to five Feb & Mar SL & Bloomingdale (EB, IW); two by end of Feb RB (JK); five Mar 12, increasing after that, TL (RM). Pine Siskin: one or two Jan 25 thru period RB (JK). American Goldfinch: flock from 40 to 100 all winter TL (RM); 25 to 50 RB (JK); small flocks to 30 SL (ED, HD). Red Crossbill: small flocks thru period Barnum P area (GTC) and RB (JK). Slate-colored Junco: one or two thru period all areas except TL. Tree Sparrow: small numbers thru period SL (HD) and RB (JK). White-throated Sparrow: two Dec 4 thru 25 SL (ED); two Dec 30 (CDT); one all Jan to Feb 12 SL (EB). Song Sparrow: one Dec 22, 25, 30 SL (ED); two singing Mar 31 SL (HD); back Mar 28 RB (JK). Snow Bunting: good numbers SL and L Placid (mob); 20 Dec 19 Cooperville, 20 north of Plattsburgh Feb 7 (JH).

CORRIGENDUM: We regret the words "flying away from nest" found their way into the Fall Season report after Dr Meade's Baltimore Oriole. Naturally there was no nest involved.

The Grackle on Oct. 9 was at Saranac Lake not Madawaska.
Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

December was nearly average in temperature and precipitation (all data taken at Albany), averaging 27.3°, 0.8° above normal, and totaling 3.04 in., of precipitation, 0.45 in. above normal. January was mild throughout, averaging 27.0°, 4.3° above normal. Precipitation totaled only 1.22 in., 1.25 in. below normal. February and March, on the other hand, were both consistently cold months, averaging 18.0° and 29.0°, 5.7° and 4.0° below normal, respectively. Precipitation totaled 1.76 and 2.56 in., 0.44 and 0.16 in. below normal, respectively.

All observers registered disappointment at the low numbers of many species of landbirds present this winter. The Schenectady Christmas Count recorded the lowest number of species- 37- since 1950. One local field trip held one Jan afternoon near TR attracted about 20 observers who identified *five* species! "What has happened to the birds?" was a common plaint.

Nevertheless, this negative outlook does not represent a true summary of Region 8 winter bird populations in 1966-1967. Populations of most small landbirds, especially the sparrows, seemed generally low. In addition, the winter finches (as expected) were virtually wholly absent. Open country species, however, were well represented; e.g., Mourning Doves, Horned Larks, Meadowlarks and Snow Buntings all wintered in well above average numbers. Fruit-eating species such as Robins and Cedar Waxwings also seemed more plentiful than usual. Finally, as a further optimistic note, southern species such as the Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird, and Cardinal are all on the increase in Region 8, with the Cardinal, especially, enjoying a spectacularly rapid increase. Only 11 years ago (1955) the Schenectady Christmas Count recorded its first!

To those tired of winter, Mar offered little solace. Only two breaks in the generally cold weather were afforded—on Mar 10-11, when temperatures reached the high 50's, and on Mar 25-31, after a two-week cold period, when they reached the 50's again. It was not until this last week in Mar that ice really began leaving most streams and tidal marshes. Spring influx of landbirds and waterfowl was very much correlated with these two mild periods; major movements of early landbird species were associated with each, while a minor movement of ducks and gulls was associated with the first and a widespread movement including many more species of waterfowl was associated with the second.

Highlighting the unusual species seen in the area were a Sandhill Crane and a Painted Bunting—the former coming to a cornfield, the latter to several feeders. Other rare or unusual species included Gadwall, Common Teal, Short-eared Owl, Carolina Wren, Varied Thrush and Palm Warbler.

Abbreviations used: GCBC—Green County Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; SCC—Schenectady Christmas Count; SRCC—Southern Rensselaer County Christmas Count; TCC—Troy Christmas Count; AR—Alcove Reservoir; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; R—River; RL—Round Lake; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; SS—Stockport Station; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; UH—Upper Hudson R (between Troy and Stillwater); VFG—Vischer Ferry area; WR—Water-vliet Reservoir.

Observers: GA—Gus Angst; GB—Guy Bartlett; HFB—Hazel Bundy; LB, VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; JHB, BB—James and Barbara Bush; MB—Martha Bush; PC—Paul Connor; MC, AG—Murray and Alice Giddings; WG—William Gorman; MDG—Monte Gruett; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; VH—Vernon Haskins; MK—Marcia Kent; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; SM—Samuel Madison; PM—Peggy McGuirk; MDM, PDM—Mary and Philip Mickle; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; HHS—Harvey Spivak; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin and Barrington Havens.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one remained at Lock 1, Hudson R near Troy to at least Jan 8 (SBC); no Mar reports. Red-throated Loon: last, Dec 24 TR (PC). Horned Grebe: last, Dec 18 SL (bsh); first spring, Mar 31 NWW (PPW, MDG). Great Blue Heron: one at Green Island Jan 8 (SBC)—unusual; winter records have been very few over the past several years. American Bittern: one at NWW Mar 31 (HHS). Canada Goose: last reports, Dec 24 TR (PC) and Dec 25 flying over West Sand L (*fide* PPW)—this may have been the same flock. Returning birds noted in small groups Mar 26-31. Snow Goose: only report—eight Mar 30 SS (MDM, PDM). Mallards and Black Ducks were reported sparingly through the winter. GADWALL: eight Dec 11 AR (PM, SM, HFB)—rather late. American Widgeon: first Mar 27 SS (PPW). Pintail: four on the UH Dec 31 (TCC); no winter reports; first spring, Mar 11 SS (PPW); marked influx Mar 27-31. COMMON TEAL: one male observed with about 20 male Green-winged Teal at SS early in the morning on Mar 27 (PPW)—only the second Regional record of which I am aware. Green-winged Teal: observed through Dec 31 (TCC); first spring, Mar 11 SS (PPW), with large influx Mar 27-31. Wood Duck: first, Mar

19 NWW (bsh), late. Redhead: only report- one Dec 11 SCR (bsh). Ring-necked Duck: reported to Dec 18 UH (HFB, SM, PM); first spring, Mar 27 SS (PPW). Canvasback: observed well into Dec, including 60 Dec 11 AR (HFB, PM, SM), last Dec 31 and Jan 8, UH (SBC); twelve (mostly males), returning, at SS Mar 27 (PPW). Scaup: recorded to Dec 4 SL (bsh) and Dec 11 AR (SM, PM, HFB); a few observed at SS and NWW Mar 27-31; those in Mar which were identified were Greater Scaup (EH, PPW, MDG). Common Goldeneye: last, Dec 18 SL (bsh); no winter reports; first, Mar 12 Lock 7, Mohawk R (RPY); gradual influx observed through rest of month. Bufflehead: observed to Dec 18 SL (bsh); only spring reports Mar 27 and 29, SS (PPW, SM, PM). Oldsquaw: four to five remained on SL through Dec 18 (bsh); no other reports. White-winged Scoter: a small group remained on SL through Dec 18 (bsh); no other reports. Common Scoter: one female Dec 18 SL (bsh)— the lone report. Ruddy Duck: last Dec 11, one RL (bsh) and five AR (PM, SM, HFB). Hooded Merganser: a few reported into Dec, last Jan 2 near Castleton (SRCC); first spring Mar 18 (bsh) with marked influx Mar 24-31. Common Merganser: reported to mid-Dec, but on none of the local Christmas Counts; one female Jan 8 UH (SBC) the *only* winter record; returning birds appeared Mar 11 on. Red-breasted Merganser: only reports, Mar 29 and 31, VFG (EH).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first spring, Mar 11 Kiskatom (JHB, BB). Goshawk: four reports, Jan 2-Feb 7, from widely separated areas. Sharp-shinned Hawk: only reports Mar 8 Catskill (BB) and Mar 25 NWW (HHS). Cooper's: only three reports, all early winter. Red-tailed: most common winter hawk, reported from most areas, max 12 Mar 19 Meadowdale area (bsh). Red-shouldered: two in Jan Chatham Center area (MG, AG), one near Delmar Jan 15 (SM, PM), and one Mar 12 Meadowdale (bsh)—only reports. Rough-legged: widely seen throughout winter, max 20 Mar 19 Meadowdale area (bsh). Marsh: five reports scattered through period. Sparrow Hawk: widely reported, max 12 TCC Dec 31. Ruffed Grouse: widely reported, but appeared less common than in other recent years. Bob-white: reported from Meadowdale; one also appeared at a feeder in East Greenbush Jan 5 and fairly regularly through rest of period (MDG). **SANDHILL CRANE:** one was observed feeding in a cornfield of standing corn and roosting in a nearby open field about two miles east of Whitehall. The overall gray color, dull red patch on the forehead above the bill, long legs, large size and piercing resonant call were among field marks noted (WBS, BRS, SM, GB, PPW *et al.*). The bird was present from at least mid-Feb through Mar 26 in the same locality and, I believe, is a first record for Region 8. Virginia Rail: up to two seen at Tygert marsh near New Salem Jan 7-Mar 19 (mob). American Coot: a flock of 50 was still at AR Dec 11 (SM, PM, HFB) and one of 100 remained at SL through Dec 18 (bsh); last TR Dec 24 (PC).

Killdeer: observed into early Dec; last, Dec 31 TR (TCC). Returning birds seen Feb 28 Catskill (BB) and from Mar 10 on elsewhere. American Woodcock: first Mar 11 Cedar Hill (*vide* MK), widely Mar 22 on, max 20 Mar 31 Old Chatham (PPW). Common Snipe: two remained at Tygert marsh throughout winter (mob); probable migrants from Mar 11 on. Great Black-backed Gull: rather few in Dec, last Dec 18 UH (PM, SM, HFB). No winter records, first spring Mar 11, several areas; heavy influx last week in Mar. Herring Gull: numbers increased and decreased along the Hudson R during the winter depending on the weather conditions and amount of river ice present; gradual influx from Mar 11 on. Ring-billed Gull: a few reported during Dec; last, ten Jan 8 UH (SBC); late in arrival, first Mar 26 NWW (SBC). Mourning Dove: wintered in almost all reporting areas, max 301 TCC Dec 31. Screech Owl: *only* report- two throughout Jan, East Greenbush (WG PPW). Great Horned Owl: a few widespread reports, max five TR Dec 31 (TCC). Snowy Owl: one near Catskill Jan 10-11 (BB) and one at West Lebanon, Rensselaer

Co, Feb 12 (B. R. Carman) the only reports. Barred Owl: only report- one road-kill found in Jan in Greene Co (GCBC). SHORT-EARED OWL: observed Dec 31 near Mechanicville (WBS, HFB) and Mar 5, Meadowdale (BRS, GB).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: reported wintering in at least three areas; a few returned in late Mar. Yellow-shafted Flicker: a few reported throughout winter. Pileated Woodpecker: scattered reports of 1-3 from many areas throughout period. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one male appeared Feb 18 at a Niskayuna feeder where the species has occurred in previous winters. Eastern Phoebe: first, Mar 11 East Schodack (MDG); marked influx Mar 29-31. Horned Lark: many flocks noted, max 401 SRCC Jan 2. Blue Jay: one landbird which seemed up in numbers this winter; counts included 416 TCC Dec 31 and 343 SRCC Jan 2. Common Crow: fairly common, max 437 SCC Dec 24. Black-capped Chickadee: common, max 421 TCC Dec 31 and 454 SRCC Jan 2. Tufted Titmouse: apparently still slowly increasing. White-breasted Nuthatch: max 94 TCC Dec 31 and 90 SRCC Jan 2. Red-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce outside of sections where it is a permanent resident. Brown Creeper: most observers saw few, max 14 SCC Dec 24. Winter Wren: at least five were reported from Center Brunswick, East Greenbush, Malden Bridge and Tamarack during the period- an unusually high number. CAROLINA WREN: one at SS Mar 31 (MDM, PDM) marks the second successive year the species has been reported in Mar at this locality. Mockingbird: becoming more common in almost all lowland areas; approximately 20 reported this winter. Catbird: an individual which had lost its tail was observed near Speigletown Dec 18, but not subsequently (PM, SM, HFB). Brown Thrasher: singles observed at feeders in Troy (Ross and Leila McCarney) and Burden Lake (WBS). Robin: widely reported in flocks of up to 20 in several areas; heavy influx Mar 10 and subsequently. VARIED THRUSH: another male appeared this winter, this time at several feeders in West Glenville, Schenectady Co, sporadically from Jan 8 through (at least) Mar 24 (mob, including bsh, WBS, RPY, HFB, PM). This is only the second record for Region 8. Eastern Bluebird: reported in late Jan from Greenville (CK) and Meadowdale (EH); very late spring movement. Golden-crowned Kinglet: few reports, no pattern. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one in Chatham Center through Dec 12 (MG, AG) and one appeared at a feeder in Averill Park in early Jan (*vide* Katherine Bordt). Cedar Waxwing: more common this winter with flocks of 15-75 reported from several areas throughout period. Northern Shrike: at least ten reports of at least five individuals, Dec 24-Mar 12. Loggerhead Shrike: reported at Meadowdale Mar 5-19 (bsh, GA).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: singles reported at Schodack Center Dec 2-5 (Noel Albertson) and at Coxsackie Feb 15 (*vide* JHB). PALM WARBLER a dead individual in fresh condition was picked up on Jan 25 after hitting a window of the General Electric Research Laboratories in Niskayuna (RPY); the specimen was turned over to the State Museum in Albany. Eastern Meadowlark; many more than usual reported, max "up to 50", Schodack Center (LB, VB) and 25 SRCC Jan 2. Red-winged Blackbird: 17 were still roosting in the Castleton marshes Jan 2 (PC) and a few birds wintered at feeders locally; very light influx Mar 4-5, followed by a major movement with moderating weather on Mar 10-11 when hundreds were observed. Interestingly, Red-wings seemed "on territory" everywhere far up into Washington Co Mar 11-12, suggesting that almost all of Region 8 was occupied in this movement. Rusty Blackbird: winter reports Jan 8, UH (SBC), Jan 10-11, Catskill (BB) and Jan 21, Warren Co (bsh); return movement Mar 10 and subsequently. Common Grackle: a few winter reports totaling about 15 individuals; general influx Mar 10-11 with the other blackbirds. Brown-headed Cowbird: 332 counted at the Albany roost Jan 2; seemed more widespread than in some recent winters. Cardinal: noticeably more common, with

up to five males and six females seen at one feeder in East Greenbush and almost every feeder in the area attracting at least a pair; max 95 TCC Dec 31 and 69 SRCC Jan 2. PAINTED BUNTING: an adult male- absolutely resplendent with brilliant red breast, purplish head, green back and scarlet rump- visited several feeders in the Hudson area from late Dec through at least mid-Mar and was seen by mob, including WBS, PPW, MDC, PM. The origin of this bird is not known, but its ability to withstand an upstate winter is remarkable. Evening Grosbeak: extremely scarce- only five reports of up to 20 birds for the whole period. Purple Finch: very few records, about eight for the period. Redpolls and Pine Siskins were unrecorded, except for a flock of 150 of the former at Meadowdale Mar 5 (GB, BRS) and a few of each species in the Durham area in Feb and Mar (VH). Even Goldfinches seemed few and far between. Red Crossbill: one coming to a Scotia feeder throughout the winter (mob) was unique this year. Rufous-sided Towhee: one came regularly to a feeder near Burden Lake (*fide* Katherine Bordt); possible early record- one Mar 13 Cossackie (MB).

Sparrows: Savannah: one each TCC Dec 31 and SRCC Jan 2; only other reports- Mar 11, Meadowdale (EH) and Kiskatom (JHB, BB)—may indicate returning birds. Slate-colored Junco: considered by many observers as scarce, max 184 TCC Dec 31 and 158 SRCC Jan 2. Tree: present in good numbers, max 930 TCC Dec 31. Field: scattered individuals or pairs observed throughout the winter, although rare. White-throated: at least 13 individuals, widely scattered, reported during the winter. Fox: last two Jan 2, SRCC; reported in Catskill Mar 7 (*fide* JHB) and in many sections from Mar 10–11 on; the birds appeared more plentiful and more ready to remain in local areas than in most spring migrations. Swamp: fewer wintered than usual, reported only from Castleton marshes and NWW (PC, HHS)—total of four. Song: wintered widely at feeders, sparingly in marshes, max 57 TCC Dec 31. Lapland Longspur: reported Dec 17, Schodack (LB, VB), Dec 31, TR (TCC), Jan 7 and 21, near WR (bsh) and Feb 5, Guilderland (SM, PM) in groups of 1–4. Snow Bunting: reported throughout winter, occasionally in large flocks, max 300–400 Feb 13, Greenville (CK) and 400+ Mar 18, near Kinderhook (SBC).

12 Columbia Drive, East Greenbush 12061

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The weather during the winter season was as to be expected, except for the large amount of snow. There were no sub-zero days until February, and then there were very few for the remainder of the period. The ground was snow covered most of the time, and in some of the higher regions of the Catskills exceeded 100 in. for the season. March remained winterlike for most of the month.

Resident bird populations were about normal except for a few species. Northern winter visitors were few and far between, and some went unreported. Several species were unaccountably low in numbers locally such as Black-capped Chickadee. The period was not without its rarities, as will be seen in the report.

We welcome to our list of contributors Mr. Dave Junkin of Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River, Westchester.

Abbreviations: Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange Co; Sull—Sullivan Co; Ulst—Ulster Co; West—Westchester Co; Rock—Rockland Co; RAS—Rockland Audubon Soc.; WBC—Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club; FWC—Federation Waterfowl Count, Jan. 14—Jan 22. MCC—E. A. Mearns Bird Club Christmas Count, Dec 26; RCC—