

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—

Rockland Audubon Society Christmas Count, Dec 26; WC—Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club Christmas Count, Dec 24.

Contributors: EA—Ethel Abrams; JB—Jean Beck; A, MB—Arlene & Marty Borko; CC—Carrie Carnwright; PC—Pauline Chernick; RD—Roz Davis; ID—Iris Dean; ED—Ed Ditterline; ME—Martha Earl; FG—Florence Germond; RG—Ruth Grierson; SG—Stan Grierson; TH—Thelma Haight; FH—Fred Hough; AJ—Alice Jones; PJ—Paul Jeheber; MK—Mary Key; JK—James Key; LMcB—Laura McBride; HM—Helen Manson; JM—John Marsh; AM—Al Merritt; BM—Barbara Merritt; EP—Eleanor Pink; FS—Frank Steffens; CT—Czecker Terhune; EDT—E. Treacy; PV—Pat Valkenburg; MVW—Marion VanWagner; OW—Otis Waterman.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: always rare—one Jan 24 Beacon (MK & AJ). Horned Grebe: more common than usual, as many as eight in the Hudson off Piermont in mid-Mar. Pied-billed Grebe: usual winter records; three on WCC; two Cornwall Bay, Mar 14 (A, MB). Great Blue Heron: first Mar 2 Millbrook, Dutch, (FG); one Mar 24 Chelsea (MK). American Bittern: one Dec 10 Crugers Is. (OW); one Jan 17 Katonah (SG). Mute Swan: 46 on FWC, almost all in Rock; do not seem to be extending range noticeably to other counties. Canada Goose: 116 on FWC, compared to 126 last year, still high when compared to previous years; first migrants noted in several locations throughout Region on Mar 11, 12, and 13, many reports thereafter, all flocks contained only a dozen or two.

Mallard: 1,039 on FWC largest number ever reported. Pintail: three Jan 15 Beacon (FWC); five migrants on Hudson at Cornwall Mar 11 (EDT); 14 in the Otterkill at Hamptonburgh Mar 13 (ME). Green-winged Teal: one on FWC at Hunn's L Dutch; two Feb 22 same area; three Mar 10 Cornwall Bay. (EA, BM). Blue-winged Teal: one FWC Beacon. (MK). American Widgeon: six Cornwall Bay Mar 11 (A, BM). Shoveler: one at Lederle Labs, Pearl R Feb 1, remained several days (FS). Wood Duck: one, Piermont, RCC; two or three wintered in Dutch; numbers good during Mar. Redhead: one Jan 11–20 Sylvan L Dutch (WBC). Ring-necked Duck: numbers continue high in southern portion on FWC; first winter record for Ulst at Ashokan Res. Dec 31, also observed in Jan (J, MK; AJ). Canvasback: about 100 wintered on Hudson off Piermont, more than in recent years but far fewer than in the late fifties; several small flocks noted along Hudson during Mar. Common Goldeneye: a few more than last year's low. Bufflehead: reported as "positively abundant" at Piermont Pier (RAS)—daily counts of about 30 birds. OLDSQUAW: one MCC on Hudson at Cornwall. (EDT, PJ). WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: two, FWC, Hudson R at West Pt (MBC). Ruddy Duck: one Dec 1 Salt Pt, Dutch, (CT); 245 on FWC, largest number in thirteen years of count. Hooded Merganser: almost none reported during winter, but Mar numbers higher than usual. Common Merganser: numbers better than low of last year, but still continues scarce; more during Mar than all previous months. Red-breasted Merganser: always rare; Bob Deed states: "This winter I have seen more Red-breasted than Common locally (Nyack); something that has never happened before."

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: arr most areas second week of Mar; one Feb 5 Cornwall Bay (CC, A, BM). Goshawk: one Mar 2 pole trapped at pheasant preserve near Millbrook, Dutch. Cooper's Hawk: one Mar 19 Fowlersville, Sull (A, MB). Red-tailed Hawk: normal for most of Region, appears low in Dutch. Red-shouldered Hawk: one, Stone Ridge, Ulst (no date) (FH); one Dec 26 Moore's Mills (OW, HM). Rough-legged Hawk: one, Kripplebush, Ulst from Nov to mid-Mar (FH); one Haverstraw (RCC); three Dec 22 Hamptonburgh, Oran (ME); two MCC. Bald Eagle: reports continue, but fewer each year. Marsh Hawk: one Feb 18 Red Hook (JM); one Mar 19 Greenville, Oran (ID). Ruffed Grouse: much less than last year. Bobwhite: very scarce, but better than the last few years;

Dec reports—ten at Amawalk, West, two Blooming Grove and Monroe, three Poughkeepsie; eight Poughkeepsie on Jan 29 (JB). Ring-necked Pheasant: generally low, except 17 at Katonah Jan 30 (SG). VIRGINIA RAIL: one, MCC, U.S. Military Academy; one Feb 3 & 17 Red Hook (Bob Bard). American Coot: Numbers low in Dutch, but highest in many winters elsewhere. 207 on RCC; 32 Tomahawk L Dec 15, seven wintered (ME).

Killdeer: reported every month from Dutch and Oran. Woodcock: one RCC New City; most arr about Mar 12, observed in courtship at that time. Common Snipe: RCC, one; one Mar 3 Katonah (RG); two Hamptonburgh Mar 11; two Blooming Grove Mar 13 (ME). Gulls: usual winter populations. ICELAND GULL: one Croton Pt Mar 24 (Bob Augustine). Mourning Dove: good numbers thru the Region every month. Screech Owl: three Jan and three Mar records in Dutch (WBC); one in Dec at Tri-Loba Hill Sanc. Katonah (SG). Great Horned Owl: good numbers each month, esp in Dutch; Mar records lower; two heard calling Feb 15 Bedford Village, West. SNOWY OWL: one Jan at Stissing, Dutch (BD); one Jan 4-20 Red Hook (MK); one Mar 7 Hyde Pk (AJ); one Feb 26 Pleasantville (ED). Barred Owl: more from Dutch than usual. Long-eared Owl: four Jan 2 Monroe (ME). Short-eared Owl: one regularly Feb and Mar, Chernick Sanct. Pleasantville, (ED).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Yellow-shafted Flicker: one Jan 1 Briarcliff (S. B. Neil). RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: more than ever before; one most of season at Bear Mt, another near Haverstraw; one male Feb 18 to end of period at Standfordville, Dutch (FG), one thru much of Mar at Campbell Hall, Oran. Red-headed Woodpecker: one all season, Pleasant Valley; one Dec 19-26 Hopewell Jct; many widespread reports from central Oran all season. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: seldom reported in winter; one Dec 3-30 Millbrook, Dutch (RD); one New Paltz (Seldon Spencer). Eastern Phoebe: generally late thru Region; first, one Mar 17 Wappingers Falls (JM). Horned Lark: reported thru season, but numbers low. Tree Swallow: first, 20 Mar 4 Ward Pound Ridge Reserv. Cross River, West (PV); most did not arr until the last weekend in Mar. Blue Jay: high thru Region. Fish Crow: one, Jan, Vassar Hosp. Poughkeepsie (EP); one Mar 1 Glenham, and one Mar 12 New Hamburg (MK); one Mar 28 Poughkeepsie (OW); one Cornwall Bay Mar 25. (B, AM). Black-capped Chickadee: reported low in most areas except Sull; MCC had less than half the number usually reported. White-breasted Nuthatch: also low locally. Red-breasted Nuthatch: very poor season, none from most areas; single birds from Dutch Mar 10, and West Feb 13.

Winter Wren: sparingly reported, absent from some areas. Carolina Wren: only report from Dutch, three separate locales Mar 27. Mockingbird: ever increasing; highest numbers of any season to date; Dutch reported anywhere from 25 to 30 each month (WBC). Catbird: one Ulst (FH), at least two Rock (RAS). Brown Thrasher: more wintering than usual; four from Dutch (WBC); one West near Tarrytown. Robin: many winter records, some of large numbers; heavy flight Mar 27. Hermit Thrush: sev records from Rock (RAS). Golden-crowned Kinglet: very few. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two Jan 27 at New Windsor (Diantha Bradley); one Dec 3 and two Mar 31, Red Oaks Mill (MK). Water Pipit: 20 Hamptonburgh Mar 27 (ME). Cedar Waxwing: good numbers thru season in Dutch, average to less elsewhere. Shrike: eight Dutch records—species in doubt.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: less than usual in Rock this winter. Yellowthroat: one near New Paltz Dec 2 (Hans Weber). Yellow-breasted Chat: one, RCC Dec 26, near Pearl River; one Jan 1 Cross R, West (PV). Eastern Meadowlark: few wintered near Kripplebush (FH); many wintered in Dutch (WBC). Red-winged Blackbird: usual winterers in southern part; massive movement on Mar 11 in most areas, very common from that date. BALTIMORE ORIOLE:

three records; one Jan 20—Feb 3 Nanuet (Mrs. Royal Taplin) probably the same bird Feb 19 Pearl River (Robert Olley); one Jan 31 South Salem, West thru latter half of Jan; one all period at Millbrook (RD). Rusty Blackbird: sev winter reports; 11 from Dec 30 to end of period at Stissing (TH)—unusual there in winter; many reports from mid-Mar to end of season thru Region. Common Grackle: usual reports, esp in Southern portion; large movement Mar 11, all areas. Brown-headed Cowbird: not as numerous as usual except for Dutch, where numbers were very high thru season.

Fringillids: An exceptionally poor season for northern species. Most reports of single bird seen once or twice throughout season. Cardinal: reported down in Ulst, but not alarmingly. Evening Grosbeak: single records of small flocks from Oran Jan 16, Dutch Dec 30; three reports totaling 10 birds from Sull during Feb; none elsewhere. Purple Finch: very low. House Finch: more numerous than last species, esp in southern portion; WBC had 44 reported thru period. Pine Grosbeak: only one Feb 11, Briarcliff (K. Hohenstein). American Goldfinch: less than usual. Red Crossbill: seven at Kanawauke L Jan 2 (FS). Rufous-sided Towhee: about ten wintered. Savannah Sparrow: one Jan 6 Pleasant Valley; two WCC. Vesper Sparrow: two WCC. Slate-colored Junco: scarce early in season, improved later. OREGON JUNCO: one Neversink, Sull Mar 23-31 (PC); one Mar 28 Coopers Corners, Sull (LMcB); one thru season Chappaqua (Mrs. A. Lentz). Tree Sparrow: same as Slate-colored Junco. CHIPPING SPARROW: one Dec 20 and Jan 3 at Pleasant Valley (MVW). Field Sparrow: a few wintering birds in Oran and Dutch. HARRIS' SPARROW: one near Kripplebush Feb 7, remained thru season (FH). White-crowned Sparrow: reported thru season at Cross R, West; two imm all winter at Salt Pt (mob). Fox Sparrow: each month thru season; very good flight in late Mar. Swamp Sparrow: one Jan and Feb in Dutch; sev others on local Christmas Counts. Song Sparrow: good thru season. LAPLAND LONGSPUR: one Mar 8 Blooming Grove, Oran (ME). Snow Bunting: reported every month by WBC, numbers low; scattered flocks elsewhere; none after mid-Mar.

Spring report due no later than June 10.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND FRED HEATH

Most observers felt that bird populations were low this winter. The accompanying table of Christmas Count data would seem to support this statement, especially regarding feeder birds, winter finches and bark feeders. Even without a table it was also clear that hawks and owls were present in below normal numbers.

The aforementioned table lists counts of 23 species on 10 of the 12 Regional Counts taken this year. They are as follows: Brooklyn (abbreviated Bk)—Dec 26, 68 species; Bronx-Southern Westchester (Bx)—Dec 26, 98; Captree (Ca)—Dec 31, 105; Central Suffolk (CS)—Dec 26, 117; Montauk (Mk)—Jan 2, 85; Northern Nassau (NN)—Dec 26, 91; Queens (Qn)—Jan 2, 85; Quogue-Watermill (QW)—Dec. 23, 74; Staten Island (SI)—Dec 26, 73; Southern Nassau (SN)—Jan 2, 121.

The weather was milder preceding this year's Counts than last year's. This may be seen by comparing total numbers of Pied-billed Grebes and Belted Kingfishers, up 33 percent this year. Their wintering populations are probably controlled by the amount of open water available more than by any other factor. The availability of water is also probably a critical factor in determining wintering populations and survival of many other birds, not only water birds but landbirds as well.