

standing winter visitor; 59 Dec 31 (CDT); 40 Feb 8 Malone Rd (GTC); much road kill reported. The birds stayed in the area until late Feb and early Mar. Common Redpoll: seven Dec 31 (GTC). Pine Siskin: another visitor in large numbers; 186 Dec 31 (CDT); diminishing thru Mar. American Goldfinch: fewer than above species but small flocks in evidence all period; 100 Dec 31 (CDT). Red Crossbill: flocks of five to 20 Dec 2–Feb 23 TL (RM); 15 Dec 24, two Jan 1, 12 Jan 25, eight Feb 18 SL (EA,HD); one singing Jan 10, groups up to 25 thru Mar 28 RB (JK). Slate-colored Junco: one or two thru period all areas except TL, mostly feeder birds. Tree Sparrow: more reports than usual thru period; 25–30 Dec 28 thru Mar 1 TL (RM); eleven thru Mar 12 SL (HD); two Dec 1 thru Mar 26 RB (JK). Field Sparrow: two Mar 28 RB (JK). White-throated Sparrow: one at feeder Dec 3 thru Mar 30 SL (EB); one to three at feeder Dec thru Jan, one Feb 17 RB (JK); three Dec 31 (CDT). Fox Sparrow: feeder birds, one Jan 31 thru Feb 4 Lower Saranac L (GTC); one Mar 24–27 SL (EB); one Mar 24–26 RB (JK). Song Sparrow: a few feeder reports thru period; back Aus M Mar 28 (GTC), SL Mar 24 (HD). Snow Bunting: 15 Dec 30 SL (HD); 57 Dec 31 (CDT); six Jan 11 SL (EA).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

HAZEL F. BUNDY

This past winter was erratic, and in general was very dry. We had about 50 per cent of the snow we usually get in a season. Precipitation during December was 3.9 inches, 1.31 inches greater than average. There was a heavy rain of 1.48 inches on Dec 12, and a deep snow on the 28th and 29th resulting in 12 inches of snow on the ground. We had intensively cold weather in Jan, averaging eight degrees below normal, with precipitation about three-fifths of the normal 2.47 inches. The snow on the ground steadily diminished during the month, from nine inches on Jan 1, to one inch on Jan 31. Feb was cold, with average temperatures 2.6 degrees below normal. Ground cover during the entire month was of an amount too small to measure. March was rather sunny and dry, with a four-inch snow on the 11th and heavy rain of about one inch on the 17th and 18th. An intense high pressure system dominated the area for the first week of the month, delaying migration until about the 9th, when the temperature moderated.

Birds at the feeder were more common in Dec and Jan than in the same period in 1966–67. However, the dry winter with the thaw of late Jan and generally open country caused a marked decrease of birds at feeders in Feb and Mar. Hawks appeared to be holding their own, with the now usual small numbers reported in this Region. Owls were recorded in about the usual numbers, also. The following species of land birds wintered in unusually high numbers: Robin, Horned Lark, Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow. On the other hand, winter finches were a disappointment after an encouraging fall season. Crossbills were entirely absent.

Many interesting facts and some unusual species were turned up when the countryside was scoured for the Christmas Counts. Total numbers provided statistics for the noting of population changes, unwelcome though some of them may be—see the main body of the report for the vast number of Starlings, and for other comparisons.

The highlight of the period was a Kittiwake, the first ever reported in this Region. Other unusual or out-of-season species included Whistling Swan, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Saw-whet Owl, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Dickcissel, and Oregon Junco. A probable Lark Bunting was also described, the second listing for the Region.

Abbreviations used: CM—Castleton marshes; Emb—Embought; Gr Co—Greene Co; Gr—Greenville; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; SS—Stockport Station; GCBC—Greene Co Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; Christmas Counts: ADCC—Alan Devoe (Chatham), Dec 30; SCC—Schenectady, Dec 23; SRCC—Southern Rensselaer, Dec 31; TCC—Troy, Dec 30; GCC—Greene Co.

Observers cited more than once: GA—Gustave Angst; GB—Guy Bartlett; HFB—Hazel Bundy; L&VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; JB,BB—James and Barbara Bush; PC—Paul Connor; P&GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; M&AG—Murray and Alice Giddings; MDG—Monte Gruett; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; VH—Vernon Haskins; RK,MK—Ralph and Marcia Kent, Jr.; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; PMcG—Peggy McGuirk; PM, MM—Philip and Mary Mickle; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; NS—N. Snare; HHS—Harvey Spivak; AS—Alice Stevens; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin, and Barrington Havens.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: no report for Dec, a surprising omission. Horned Grebe: to Dec 9 SL (bsh); many Mar reports beginning Mar 22 Gr (CK). Pied-billed Grebe: to Dec 9 SL (bsh, HFB, PMcG); first spring Mar 23 (bsh). Great Blue Heron: arr Mar 30 (GE,MM) and Mar 31 (mob). WHISTLING SWAN: a flock of 20 on Watervliet Reservoir Mar 25 (MK)—the largest flock ever reported in this Region. Canada Goose: the only Dec reports were of small flocks—Dec 12 (M&AG) and Dec 13, 14 (VH); earliest spring reports Mar 16 (MDG,PPW). Snow Goose: one Valatie Pond Dec 2, 27 (M&AG,PM,MM) and again in the same area Dec 30 (ADCC).

With the exception of a few wintering ducks, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead and Hooded Merganser were last recorded on Dec 9 SL (bsh, HFB, PMcG). Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Scaup, Common Goldeneye, White-winged Scoter, and Common Merganser were last recorded Dec 17 (bsh). One Oldsquaw was reported Dec 8 SL (EH). Surf Scoter and Common Scoter were reported Dec 8 SL (EH), evidently a remnant of the unusually good flight of these species in Oct and Nov.

Wintering ducks: Mallards and Black Ducks present in somewhat lower numbers, max 158 Mallards and 427 Blacks (bsh); two Pintail Dec 30 (TCC); one Green-winged Teal, a few Common Goldeneye, one Hooded Merganser, and a few Common Mergansers were reported to be winter visitors (bsh,SCC,TCC); one Scaup Green Island Feb 24 (PMcG).

Spring duck reports: arr Mar 10—Pintail, Wood Duck, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser; at the same time, Mallards and Blacks were reported in increasing numbers; arr Mar 15 and 16—Green-winged Teal, Am. Widgeon, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser. Six Gadwall were reported Mar 17 (PM,MM) and a total of ten from Mar 28 to Mar 31 (mob). Canvasback and Scaup reported beginning Mar 23 and 24. Oldsquaw: singles at SL and SCR, arr Mar 24 (bsh); one Mar 27, 28 SCR (GA,HFB). Blue-winged Teal: arr Mar 26. Three male Shoveler were noted Mar 27 CM (MDG).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: one Feb 3 Spencertown (H. and M. Webb), one Mar 19 Kiskatom (JB,BB), two Mar 27 Helderbergs (GA). Goshawk: one Jan 13 Meadowdale (GB,BRS), two Feb reports (bsh), one Mar 10 Schodack Center (PC), and one Mar 16 Hillsdale (NS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: five scattered reports Dec through Mar. Cooper's Hawk: eight reports Dec 21 to Mar 9. Red-tailed Hawk: seen in many areas, max 16 Dec 30 (TCC). Red-shouldered Hawk: three winter reports—one Dec 19 Chatham (M&AG), one Feb 25 and two Feb 28 Gr Co (CK, JB,BB); probable spring migrants were singles, Mar 24 (bsh) and Mar 28 near SCR (HFB). Broad-winged Hawk: one Mar 25 Catskill area (JB,BB); two Mar 26 Meadowdale (Robert and Mary Lou Shedd). Rough-legged Hawk: numerous reports, max 23 Dec 30 (ADCC). Marsh Hawk: six scattered reports Dec 10 to Feb 7. OSPREY: one seen sitting in a tree at a distance of 30 to 40 feet, and then flying,

along the Hudson R near Glenmont, Dec 31, by six weeks the latest date ever recorded (SRCC) and was seen in the same area for about three weeks. *PEREGRINE FALCON*: one Dec 31 (SRCC). *PIGEON HAWK*: one Jan 14 near Saratoga Battlefield (GB,BRS). Sparrow Hawk: widely reported, max 11 Dec 31 (SRCC).

Bobwhite: unreported in entire Region since Jul 17, 1967. Ring-necked Pheasant: max 14 Dec 31 (SRCC). Am. Coot: to Dec 17 (bsh). Killdeer: Dec 2-18 Ghent (P&GE); first spring Feb 28 Alphaus (HFB), with many reports from Mar 9 on. Am. Woodcock: Mar 20, two locations in Gr Co (JB,BB,CK); four reports Mar 25-30. Common Snipe: one wintered at Tygert Marsh; first spring Mar 10 NWW (HHS). Greater Yellowlegs: one unusually early, Mar 31 Hudson R (MDG,PPW).

GLAUCOUS GULL: one Dec 9 (bsh). *ICELAND GULL*: one at sewer outlet on Hudson R, just below Albany Dec 17 (PPW). Great Black-backed Gull: a total of only three on the five Christmas Counts in the Region; first spring Mar 11, max 60 Mar 16 near SS (PPW). Herring Gull: max 64 Dec 23 (SCC); first spring Mar 8 near SS (MDG,PPW). Ring-billed Gull: total of only four on three Christmas Counts; first migrants Mar 9 NWW (HHS). Bonaparte's Gull: one Mar 24, unusually early, Lock 7 Mohawk R (GA). *KITTIWAKE*: first report for Region—one in imm plumage observed flying up west side of Hudson R, north of Castleton, opposite Van Wies Point, at an elevation of forty feet, Mar 15 by two observers (WBS and Hudson Winn); black mark on back of head seen, as well as black-tipped tail; wing pattern showed predominantly black angular pattern along wing with trailing edge white. Mourning Dove: reported widely, max 453 Dec 30 (ADCC).

Owls: Screech: tallied on two Christmas Counts—one Dec 30 (TCC) and two Dec 31 (SRCC); one Jan 1 Ghent (P&GE) and Mar 2 Emb (JB,BB). Great Horned: reported from several localities; a total of nine on five Christmas Counts. Snowy: reported in Jan in Gr Co (*vide* JB), Loudon Heights (MK), Long Lake, near Selkirk (*vide* Helen Budlong), and in Feb at Rensselaerville (MK). Barred: only one report for second consecutive year—Feb 14 Catskill (JB). Short-eared: four Jan 20 Selkirk (WBS), and three Jan 21 in the same location (Sam Madison, A. Kass). *SAW-WHET*: two reports—Jan 21 Gr (*vide* CK), and Feb 25 Ghent (GE).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Common Nighthawk: a record early date of Mar 27 Vly (BB,GCBC). Belted Kingfisher: several scattered winter reports; spring arr Mar 20. Yellow-shafted Flicker: a few individuals wintered in several localities; many reports from Mar 27. Pileated Woodpecker: reported regularly from several areas; apparently increasing, as evidenced by Christmas Counts: 1967 total for SCC, TCC and SRCC was 15, as compared to a total of two for 1966. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Dec 31 (SRCC); one male wintered at Niskayuna feeder for fourth or fifth year. Hairy Woodpecker: Christmas Count totals down slightly this year. Downy Woodpecker: numbers almost constant. *BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER*: one heard, and then seen, de-barking hemlocks in Thacher Pk Feb 24 (bsh).

Eastern Phoebe: an unusual report of two in Durham Dec (VH); numerous spring reports, beginning Mar 24. Horned Lark: unusually large total of 1843 on five Christmas Counts. Tree Swallow: first Mar 23 SS (SBC) and Chatham (MM). Black-capped Chickadee: Christmas Count totals in two areas about the same as those of 1962, with appreciably higher totals in 1963. Tufted Titmouse: increasing *very* slowly. Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported from the usual areas, max 10 Thacher Pk Feb 24 (bsh). Brown Creeper: max 15 Dec 23 (SCC); several Mar reports. Winter Wren: one Dec 21 Chatham (PM), three Dec 30 (SCC), and one Dec 30 (ADCC). Carolina Wren: only one, Dec 23 (SCC).

Mockingbird: continuing to appear in a few new areas. Robin: wintered in unusual numbers, part of the time in large flocks, including a flock of more than 150 Dec 23 (SCC), and one flock of more than 100 in Niskayuna Feb 22 and 23 (RPY). Her-

mit Thrush: one report—Dec 30 (TCC). Eastern Bluebird: a few wintered in Gr Co and Columbia Co; first spring Mar 9 Catskill (Harry Miller).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Christmas Count total of 24 in three areas rather high when contrasted with total of 14 for the same Counts the previous year. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two Dec reports; one Feb 26 Gr (AS), first migrating by Mar 31 (RPY). Water Pipit: on an unusually early date, Mar 24, three flocks totalling 17 were seen in three locations—SCR, along the Hoosick R, and near the Saratoga Battlefield (bsh). Cedar Waxwing: a few observers remarked on their scarcity; Christmas Count totals, however, were higher than those of previous years; a few flocks were seen Jan through Mar, max 300 in Jan (bsh). Northern Shrike: only six reports—five in Dec, one in Jan. Migrant Shrike: singles, Feb 3 French Hollow (bsh) and Mar 23 Colonie (HHS). Starling: included in the SRCC is the startling count of 15750 at the roost at the Dunn Memorial Bridge and the Plaza area in Albany; the counts for SCC and TCC each tripled in 1966, and tripled again in 1967, with the result that the totals on the 1967 SCC and TCC are over ten times as large as those for 1965; a nesting pair with four young was reported in southern Albany Co in Dec.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: one Dec 21 Ghent (P&GE). Eastern Meadowlark: several Dec reports, max 25 Dec 10 South Schodack (L&VB); two Jan reports: migrants beginning Mar 19 NWW (HHS). Red-winged Blackbird: large flocks, notably 200 Mar 8 CM (MDG,PPW), 120 Mar 9 Meadowdale (GA), 2300 Mar 10–17 NWW (HHS); large flocks Mar 9 and 10 and hundreds Mar 20 CM (PC); “poured north with mild spells Mar 16, 20, 21” (RPY), thousands Mar 24 (MDG); the main movements were from Mar 8 to 17, and Mar 20 to 24. Baltimore Oriole: an uncommon winter record—one Dec 31 in SRCC area (L&VB). Rusty Blackbird: three Dec reports, max four Dec 30 (TCC); first spring arr, two Mar 10 East Greenbush (PPW). Common Grackle: several winter reports; main migration movements Mar 8–10 and Mar 20, 21. Brown-headed Cowbird: about 800 in one flock on farm fields near Guilderland Dec 23 on the SCC, an unprecedented number outside of a roost (WBS,PPW); migrants from Mar 8 on, with waves paralleling those for other icterids.

Cardinal: total count generally holding steady, with the exception of a notable decrease in the TCC area, where 45 were reported in contrast to the previous year's 95. DICKCISSEL: after skipping the previous winter, two reports—two Dec 30 (ADCC), and one Feb 17 Ghent (GE). Evening Grosbeak: small to moderate numbers reported in Dec and on the Christmas Counts and thereafter, a general influx the first two weeks of Feb and a general decline by mid-March; present in small numbers through Mar. Purple Finch: several reports of small numbers during Dec and Jan, max 12–20 Jan 18–31 Chatham (P&MM); max for Mar, 20 Mar 2 Glenville (EH), and 17, banded Mar 16 (RPY); virtually absent after Mar 16. Pine Grosbeak: two reports in Feb—seven Feb 21, 23 Berne (RK), and three Thacher Pk Feb 24 (bsh). Common Redpoll: meager reports—120 Dec 30 (ADCC), 50 Jan 23 Muitekill Rd (L&VB), and two Feb 16 (bsh). Pine Siskin: one lone individual in the entire Region, Dec Emb (JB). Rufous-sided Towhee: total of three on Christmas Counts; two feeder reports Jan through Mar—Berne (MK) and Earlton (Lillian Halloran). Lark Bunting: a bird which was more than likely a female of this species was seen Mar 23, and briefly the following morning, at Ghent; it was described as having a bunting bill, striped breast, white wing patches, head and back greenish-brown-striped, white edging on sides of tail, and tail not forked; it was feeding at a sunflower feeder which hangs under the porch roof and stayed about an hour about a bush near the porch; the bird was observed at a distance of five to six feet, between 3:00 and 4:00 P.M. on a rainy day (P&GE).

Sparrows: Savannah: one at feeder Jan 18 Emb (JB), one Meadowdale Feb 25 (EH), and one Mar 31 NWW (HHS). Vesper: Mar 5 Emb (JB,BB), and Mar 31 Gr (CK). Slate-colored Junco: noticeably more common this winter, as evidenced

by larger total on Christmas Counts, and by numerous feeder reports including feeders from which they have been absent the past few years. *OREGON JUNCO*: two reports—one male Dec 30 in the TCC area (John Fuller), and one Mar 24 Delmar (Owen Knorr). Tree: reported widely in large numbers; the SRCC total of 1349 was twice as many as that of the previous year. Chipping: unusually early, Mar 23 Hillsdale (NS). Field: two Dec 30 (TCC); first migrants Mar 27 (PC and GCBC). White-crowned: more wintered than in any previous years. White-throated: wintered in very high numbers; a flock of more than 50 near Lock 7 Dec 23 (SCC); the total of 59 on the SCC compared with only two the previous year; numerous feeder reports from many localities. Fox: reported from all sections of Gr Co Mar 16 (GCBC), in other areas Mar 20 on. Swamp: five reports during period. Lapland Long-spur: unreported for first time in nine years! Snow Bunting: only a few, medium-sized flocks; last Mar 14 (EH,GA).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

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A very heavy snowfall of about 12 inches in late December combined with below zero cold in January kept the ground covered for most of the period. But, in reality, the period was marked by very little snow. Almost none was reported in February, and with the exception of that one storm in late December, very little in any other month. At the close of the period numbers of brush fires have been reported indicating the dryness of the season.

What we lacked in snow, we made up for in low temperatures. After a mild December which produced record numbers of birds on most Christmas Counts, the thermometer spent most of the first three weeks of January below freezing, and much of that time below zero. Icing conditions on the lakes and rivers brought the Federation Duck Count to very low numbers, with most species being driven out to open water. February remained cold; but March was warmer than most years, with many warm days.

Resident birds appeared to hold their own, but only time will tell any temperature effect on the more susceptible southern species that have been spreading their range northward. So far no obvious changes have been reported. Ducks maintained their relative numbers, although much lower as mentioned above. With the warmer temperatures of March, the thaw was rapid and mid to late March saw a flood of waterfowl streaming back to breeding territories. Blackbirds, Robins, Tree Swallows, Fox Sparrows, pipits and bluebirds were moving by mid-March, with the latter nesting in many areas by the end of the month.

Winter finches were scarce but not completely absent as they were last year. The season did have its few rarities to buoy the spirits of birders, including Whistling Swan, a few late-lingering warblers, and the first Dutchess record of Harris' Sparrow.

Observers cited: EBr—Edward Briggs; EB—Enid Butler; MB—Martin Borko; RFD—Robert F. Deed; ME—Martha Earl; TG—Tom Gilbert; FG—Florence Germond; SG—Stanley Grierson; WG—Mr & Mrs Wm. Grierson; FH—Fred Hough; AJ—Alice Jones; J,MK—Jim and Mary Key; ML—Mabel Little; BL—Betty Lang; HM—Helen Manson; JM—John Marsh; A,BM—Al and Barbara Merritt; PM—Peg Moon; JCO—John C. Orth; VP—Vivian Parkhurst; W,TS—William and Trixie Strauss; ET—Ed Treacy; SU—Sarah Uyehlyi; MV—Marion VanWagner; OW—Otis Waterman; WBC—Waterman Bird Club.

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