

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.

Area Compilers: Robert F. Deed, Martha Earl, Mrs William Grierson, Fred Hough, Mabel Little, Al Merritt, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Otis Waterman.

Abbreviations: BCC—Bear Mt. Christmas Count, NE Rock, Dec 23; MCC—Mearns Bird Club Christmas Count, SE Oran, Dec 30; RCC—Rockland Audubon Society Christmas Count, SE Rock, Dec 30; WCC—Waterman Bird Club Christmas Count, W Dutch, Dec 30.

Localities: C-on-H—Cornwall-on-Hudson; Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange County; Putn—Putnam Co; Rock—Rockland Co; West—Westchester Co.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: three Rondout Res. Feb 13 (AJ). Red-necked Grebe: one Croton Pt, West Mar 9 (JM *et al*). Three Mar 20 New Hamburg, Dutch (AJ *et al*), first Dutch record in five years. Horned Grebe: extremely large flight from Mar 20 to end of period; most reports from Hudson R, max 25 Mar 27 (WBD). Great Blue Heron: several reported on Christmas Counts in area; none thereafter till Mar 7, a few regularly thereafter. Mute Swan: one Mar 24–30 at C-on-H, joined by two others Mar 27 (A,BM). WHISTLING SWAN: one, Fishkill Plains Mar 16, two Hudson R at Rhinecliff—first Dutch records in 25 years (WBC). Canada Goose: excellent spring flight from Mar 15 to end of period, most residents established by end of period.

Pintail: from one to four in Dutch during third week of Mar; max 15, Mar 24 C-on-H (A,BM); also at Basha Kill same date. Green-winged Teal: arr most areas Mar 23–24, good numbers thru end of period. Blue-winged Teal: arr Basha Kill Mar 24 (PM,MB); arr Dutch Mar 30. (WBC). Am. Widgeon: one BCC; migrants arr all areas Mar 24, numbers good to end of period. Shoveler: always rare, one Basha Kill Mar 24 (PM,MB); two males and one female Mar 31, Poughkeepsie (WBC)—second county record in six years. Wood Duck: arr Mar 10, West Pt (Gene Le-Bleu); did not arr in numbers till Mar 23, 24 and then very few. Ring-necked Duck: arr Mar 10; in limited numbers thru end of period, from 30, Mar 24 C-on-H, to 50 on Hudson R in Dutch. Canvasback: best movement for mid-Hudson in recent years; about 60 Mar 24 C-on-H, to 300, same date, Crugers Is, & 100 Rhinecliff. Greater Scaup: all reports were of this species; 30, Mar 24 C-on-H; 50, Rhinecliff; 100 Crugers Is; 250, Rockland L. Common Golden-eye: scattered individuals Hudson R thru season; max 36, Mar 24 (JM,OW). Bufflehead: good numbers last week of Mar-18 on Mar 24 Hudson R. Dutch (WBC); 30 or more Rockland L Mar 30 (RFD). Oldsquaw: one, Mar 24 (A,BM) at C-on-H; one Vanderburgh Cove, Dutch Mar 30. (JM,OW). White-winged Scoter: one Dec 10–17, joined by five more on latter date, at C-on-H (A,BM); four on Hudson R at Rhinecliff Mar 27–30 (AJ,W&TS). Ruddy Duck: one Sylvan L, Dutch Dec 30 (AJ *et al*), two Mar 25, Iona Is (JCO). Hooded Merganser: scattered winter reports; found on several Christmas Counts; about 30 reported in Dutch from Mar 10 to end of period. Common Merganser: numbers better than in recent years; 100 or more, Hudson R last half of Mar. Red-breasted Merganser: new species on Federation Waterfowl Count for Region—one on Hudson off Nyack; best spring movement ever reported—eight at C-on-H Mar 24 (A,BM), WBC reported seven on Hudson R Mar 23, 24 on Mar 24, and two on Mar 31.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture; two records for Feb 28—one, Queensborough, Bear Mt Pk (JCO) and one Clove Valley, Dutch (HM,EB); bulk of residents returned Mar 10–15. Goshawk: one, Carmel, Putn Jan 1 (ML). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one imm in vicinity of feeder on property of Ronald Wells, Mt Kisco, Dec 6; one Feb 4–20, Pleasant Valley, Dutch (MV). Red-tailed Hawk: more wintering reports than usual; excellent movement the latter half of Mar; 23 over Blooming Grove Mar 26 (ME). Red-shouldered Hawk: one at Mianus Gorge Jan 20 and Jan 22; two reports in Dutch at Hillside L, one in Jan and one in Feb. Rough-legged Hawk: best season in years, reported from most areas; six at one time at Hamptonburgh Feb 4 (A,BM&ET), and six on Mar 26 at nearby Blooming Grove (ME); max seven, Feb 16 Pine Plains, Dutch (VP,FG). Bald Eagle: usual winter reports, about as rare as in the recent past. Marsh Hawk: more winter records than usual; one MCC; two Feb

along Hudson R; three in Mar- two in Dutch and one in Oran. *PEREGRINE FALCON*: one last week of Mar near Carmel, Putn (ML).

Ruffed Grouse: still regularly reported but numbers appear to be declining. Bobwhite: 50 or more reported from Dutch (WBC); few reports elsewhere. Ring-necked Pheasant: reported down in numbers in Ulst (FH), normal elsewhere; five using shelter at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct. Katonah, on Jan 9 (SG). Virginia Rail: calling regularly from Mar 17 at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct. (SG). Am. Coot: sev Dec records; migrants arr last week of Mar, numbers low. Killdeer: sev winter records; migrants arr on time in mid-Mar, numbers good. Am. Woodcock: arr most areas Mar 13-14; numbers good. Common Snipe: one wintered Briarcliff Farm, Pine Plains (VP); first migrants Mar 11 Blooming Grove (ME) and Mar 22 Dutch (WBC). Greater Yellowlegs: three at Wawarsing Mar 23 (JCO); one Poughkeepsie, Mar 21 (AJ). Lesser Yellowlegs: one, Mar 24 C-on-H (ABM). *PECTORAL SANDPIPER*: rare in spring; one Mar 30-31 in Dutch (AJ, MK, TG) observed at 50 feet with 20x scope; only other record for Mar, was one Mar 27, 1954 (RAS). Iceland Gull: one Dec 24, C-on-H (ET); two Croton Pt. Mar 9 (OW *et al*). Great Black-backed Gull: numbers good thru season on Hudson. Ring-billed Gull: good numbers thru season; outnumbered Herring Gulls by three to one at times. Bonaparte's Gull: one, Mar 2 on Hudson R at Staatsburgh very early (JM, AJ, OW). Mourning Dove: normal to better.

Screech Owl: more reports than usual; one at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah residing in Wood Duck box. Great Horned Owl: normal to better. *SNOWY OWL*: one report—one Larchmont Dec 8-20 (Bob Augustine). Barred Owl: usual winter numbers. Long-eared Owl: frequently reported in Dutch; eight at Pleasant Valley, and 15 at Poughkeepsie—some may be repeats since areas are not too far from each other. Short-eared Owl: one, Tri-Loba Hill Sanct. Katonah Jan 3 (SG); one Jan 28, Salt Pt (AJ). Saw-whet Owl: one in Dec at Verbank killed by car (HM); one Feb 22, 23 at Millbrook (BL).

*GOATSUCKERS—STARLING*: Belted Kingfisher: better numbers than usual in spite of ice conditions. Yellow-shafted Flicker: usual few wintered; numbers good at end of period. *RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER*: one report—one, L Lucille, New City Jan 3 (Joe Weise) and Jan 8 (Ruth Steffens). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one, Feb 14 and 17 in Dutch (EB, AJ). Hairy Woodpecker: number down in Dutch, condition not noted elsewhere. Eastern Phoebe: one RCC and one WCC; migrants arr most areas Mar 20-21. Tree Swallow: first, Mar 24, 25; numbers few to end of period. Blue Jay: plentiful thru Region. Fish Crow: two or three along Hudson R in Dutch (WBC), none elsewhere. Black-capped Chickadee: local scarcities of last year not reported except in Rock; most Christmas Counts show numbers up as much as two or three times that of last year. Tufted Titmouse: low on RCC, but normal to better elsewhere. White-breasted Nuthatch: also low on RCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: wintered in several areas but only a few. Brown Creeper: usual numbers thru winter; one singing at Basha Kill Mar 20 (ID).

Winter Wren: more reported than usual. Mockingbird: a record 25 on RCC and 18 on MCC; numbers good elsewhere. Catbird: more winter records than usual; most Christmas Counts had several. Brown Thrasher: one thru early part of season at New Paltz (Hans Weber); one thru late Mar at Hyde Pk (WBC). Robin: good winter numbers; migrants in large numbers by Mar 21-23. Hermit Thrush: one on RCC and 2 on MCC; migrants low in late Mar. Eastern Bluebird: two, MCC; residents arr mid-Mar, nesting most areas by Mar 30. Kinglets: both species unreported most areas, but usual few in Dutch; two Ruby-crowned on MCC. Water Pipit: four RCC, five WCC very late date of Dec 30. Cedar Waxwing: very few reported; max 30 Mt. Kisco Feb 5. Northern Shrike: none from most areas; three on WCC, with single birds noted Jan, Feb and Mar; one at Chester Mar 25 (SU).

*VIREOS—SPARROWS*: *MAGNOLIA WARBLER*: one Dec 1, Red Oaks Mill, Dutch (MK). Myrtle Warbler: only one reported from Rock where some regularly

winter. *PALM WARBLER*: one on WCC (J,MK). *YELLOWTHROAT*: one on RCC at Mt. Ivy (Homer Kelsey). Eastern Meadowlark: max 18, Katonah Jan 27 (SG); numbers normal to less. Red-winged Blackbird: good numbers wintering along Hudson R; early Mar brought large flights, males on territory most areas by Mar 20, and females arr by Mar 30. Baltimore Oriole: one at Tomahawk L feeder Dec 21, and one at feeder of Mrs. John Knudsen, Mt. Kisco Jan 5. Rusty Blackbird: only report 26 wintered at Stissing (TG); WBC reports migrants on Mar 30. Common Grackle: status same as Redwing.

Cardinal: numbers good with no evidence of change. *DICKCISSEL*: one Dec 31-Jan 11 at feeder in Chester (SU); one Jan 13-31 at Millbrook (FG). Evening Grosbeak: many reports, but few from any one area, numbers small-definitely not a flight year. Purple Finch: reported normal to better in Rock, but few elsewhere. House Finch: continues to increase—81 on RCC, 57 of them reported by Wesley Hennessy in Clarkstown. Pine Grosbeak: only reports, four at Mt. Kisco Jan 18 (WG), and one on MCC. Common Redpoll: only report, one small flock at Mt. Kisco Feb 26 (WG). Pine Siskin: only report on Mar 16 and Mar 19, two at C-on-H (Carol Klanka). Am. Goldfinch: fewer than usual. Rufous-sided Towhee: more winter reports than usual and well represented on most Christmas counts; migrants moving in by Mar 29. Savannah Sparrow: scarce in some areas, but nine at Lamontville Dec 30 (Dr. Robert Pyle), and 16 on MCC. Slate-colored Junco: numbers better than usual—double the average on MCC, and the second highest count for this species on RCC. *OREGON JUNCO*: one report—one Ward's Pound Ridge Reservation, banded by Pat Valkenburgh and photographed by SG. Tree Sparrow: status same as Slate-colored Junco. Field Sparrow: three near Eddyville, Ulst on Dec 30 (Hans Weber); five on MCC. *HARRIS' SPARROW*: first Dutch record—one at home of Mr & Mrs James Sweeney near Dover Plains from Jan 15 thru Mar, photographed on both 8 mm and 35 mm film (OW,EB, mob). White-crowned Sparrow: three on RCC; two wintered in Dutch and one in Oran. White-throated Sparrow: wintered in better than usual numbers. Fox Sparrow: more winter records than usual; migrants heavy by Mar 17, last report Mar 30. Swamp Sparrow: winter numbers less than usual; most Christmas Counts had at least one. Song Sparrow: normal to better; numbers definitely higher than usual especially in southern portion—twice as many as usually reported on MCC, and a record high on RCC. Snow Bunting: reported on RCC; 30 in Dutch all winter; 50 or more at Blooming Grove, Oran on Feb 29.

Spring Reports due by June 5.

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## REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND WILLIAM POST

The weather in December was very mild. Numbers of birds lingering through to the Christmas Count period remained high. All the counts had ideal weather and near-record lists. We birded in our shirtsleeves the day of the Captree Count, Dec 21. The reasons new high counts were not made appeared to be: a) the lack of winter finches—no crossbills, redpolls or Pine Grosbeaks and very few Pine Siskins or Evening Grosbeaks; b) low feeder populations with few rarities reported; c) no Tree Swallows—this species was missed entirely (see previous two issues for details on its poor breeding success and fall migration).

Data from seven Christmas Counts is available this year: Brooklyn (abbreviated BkCC)—Dec 23, 74 species; Captree (CaCC)—Dec 21, 110; Central Suffolk (CSCC)—Dec 26, 115; Bronx-Southern Westchester (BxCC)—Dec 23, 98; Montauk (MkCC)—Dec 30, 118; Northern Nassau (NNCC)—Dec 30, 98; Southern Nassau (SNCC): Dec 30, 121. As is usual, Southern Nassau and Central Suffolk recorded 115 or more