

CORRIGENDUM: The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker reported in the October 1968 issue was seen by Geoffrey Carleton at Aiden Lair June 19 and may be the southernmost summer record for this species in Essex County.

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — HUDSON — MOHAWK

HAZEL F. BUNDY

Altogether a rather "average winter," although it seemed harsh, perhaps due to the almost continuous ground cover after the mid-point of December. On Dec 15 there was an eight-inch snow, and about nine additional inches during the remainder of the month. December was colder than usual, with the result that much snow remained, and the minimum ground cover was four inches Dec 15-30. Temperatures for January were slightly below normal, those for February and March about normal. Jan, Feb, and Mar were drier than usual, with precipitation in March only about $\frac{1}{2}$ the average amount. Ponds and lakes were still largely ice-bound at the end of March.

In general, the past winter was a very poor one for birding. However, there were several bright spots in the over-all picture. Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Rough-legged Hawks were much more numerous, with an unusually high percentage of dark phase Rough-legs (bsh). There was a notable increase in the number of Barred Owl reports. Northern Shrikes were noted three times as frequently as usual. The Starling population declined markedly.

Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks furnished the greatest excitement, with several observers having the opportunity to view the former, and many the latter species. Other unusual species included Glossy Ibis, Peregrine Falcon, Glaucous Gull, Varied Thrush, Hoary Redpoll, and Oregon Junco.

The following observations reflect the negative factors. The number of Blue Jays decreased considerably. The Cedar Waxwings population was extremely low. Evening Grosbeaks, in good supply early, apparently exhausted local food supplies, and moved south. Purple Finches were scarce. Very few half-hardies, such as the Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and White-throated Sparrow, remained through the winter.

Observers cited more than once: GA—Gustave Angst; GB—Guy Bartlett; HFB—Hazel Bundy; L&VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; J&BB—James and Barbara Bush; JC—Juanita Cook; P&GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; MLG—Murray L. Gardler; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; BH—Barrington Havens; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; SM—Samuel Madison; WDM—Will Merritt, Jr.; PM,MM—Philip and Mary Mickle; ER—Edgar M. Reilly, Jr.; WBS—Walton Sabin; HHS—Harvey Spivak; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin, and Barrington Havens.

Area compilers: Rena Dodd, Betty Laros, and Clarissa Ketcham.

Abbreviations: CM—Castleton Marshes; Emb—Embought; Gr—Greenville; M'dale—Meadowdale; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; Nisk—Niskayuna; SL—Saratoga Lake; SS—Stockport Station; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; WR—Watervliet Reservoir; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; Christmas Counts: ADCC—Alan Devoe (Chatham), Dec 28; GCC—Greene Co, Dec 29; SCC—Schenectady, Dec 21; SRCC—Southern Rensselaer, Dec 22; TCC—Troy, Dec 29.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: three SL Dec 1 (bsh); two Mar 26 Hudson R (ER). Red-throated Loon; one picked up in field in Rotterdam Dec 29, and later released at Delmar Game Farm (Chet Griffith). Horned Grebe: ten Dec 1

SL (bsh); first spring Mar 26 Hudson R (ER). Pied-billed Grebe: arr spring Mar 19 (P&GE). Great Blue Heron: one injured observed Dec 1 Galway L (Mildred Crary); one wintered Medusa Swamp, first reported Jan 27 (CK), seen occasionally thereafter by several observers; Mar 29 in two areas—WR (bsh) and NWW (HHS). Green Heron: one very early report—one Mar 24 Malden Bridge (ER). GLOSSY IBIS: one adult seen in flight near Amsterdam Mar 26, "characteristic flight and bill well observed" through 10x50 binoculars and telescope (MLG). Canada Goose: no Dec reports; earliest spring—20 Mar 18 Emb (JB); max 500 Mar 27 (ER), and 475 NWW Mar 29 (bsh).

Last fall reports of migrant ducks: one Green-winged Teal, three Ring-necked Duck, 75 Common Goldeneye, 35 Bufflehead, three Oldsquaw, and 30 Common Merganser Dec 1 (bsh). Christmas Counts indicated Mallards and Black Ducks present in slightly higher numbers than in the previous year. The Annual Duck Count Jan 12 recorded 143 Mallard, 417 Black Duck, one Pintail, four Common Goldeneye, one Hooded Merganser, and one Common Merganser (SBC).

Spring duck reports: most species arr five or six days later than in previous year. Mallards and Black Ducks appeared Mar 16 lower Hudson R (PPW); an estimated 100 Mallards and 2000 Black Ducks lower Hudson R Mar 22 (SBC). Pintail: arr CM Mar 15 (JC), max 50 Mar 22 lower Hudson R (SBC). Green-winged Teal: first reports—one Feb 22 Mohawk R (bsh); 11 Mar 19 SS (PPW). Blue-winged Teal: first spring—ten Mar 15 CM (JC). Am. Widgeon: a few Mar 19 SS (MM,PPW); max 25 Mar 30 NWW (MLG). Shoveler: one Mar 22 SS (SBC); one Mar 29 Emb (JB); three Mar 30 NWW (MLG). Wood Duck: arr Mar 15 CM (JC). Ring-necked Duck: earliest—CM Mar 15 (JC); other reports from Mar 20, with max 60 Mar 30 NWW (MLG). Canvasback: arr Mar 22, 20 SS (SBC). Scaup: arr CM Mar 15 (JC); other reports Mar 23 on, with max 100 Mar 29 Emb (JB). Common Goldeneye: two Feb 8 upper Hudson (bsh); max 20 Mar 31 SS (MM). Bufflehead: arr Mar 28 NWW (EH, Marie Bedford). Hooded Merganser: first Mar 15 CM (JC); max 15 Mar 30 VFG (SBC). Common Merganser: earliest—two Mar 16 SS (PPW); max 70 Mohawk R Mar 30 (GB,BH). Red-breasted Merganser: first reported Mar 22, from three areas.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first spring Feb 21 Catskill (J&BB). Goshawk: one Dec 21 (SCC); one Jan 23 M'dale (HHS); five from Mar 14 to Mar 30 (MLG, bsh). Sharp-shinned Hawk: four scattered reports from Dec 2 to Mar 17 (JB, MLG, SM). Cooper's Hawk: four singles—Jan 30, Mar 16, 17, 22 (CK, JB, MLG, SBC). Red-tailed Hawk: throughout period; many reports of six per day by single observers; total of Christmas Counts in five areas was 65, as compared to 53 in previous year; a definite invasion during Feb, as evidenced by the following—14 Feb 2, 17 Feb 8, 20 Feb 16, 17 Feb 21, 16 Feb 22 (bsh). Red-shouldered Hawk: six winter reports, and six singles Mar 19–30, twice as many as two previous years. Rough-legged Hawk: many reports from many observers; max, 12 Jan 25 Schodack (L&VB) and 15 Feb 22 (bsh). Bald Eagle: one Dec 23 near Surprise (Joseph Kruppenbacher). Marsh Hawk: reported Dec 21 (SCC), Dec 22 (SRCC), Jan 5 Chatham (MM), and Mar 28 Old Chatham (ER). Osprey: two Mar 30 Gr (Marianne Werner). PEREGRINE FALCON: one Dec 22, for the second consecutive year on the SRCC.

Bobwhite: one Dec 22 (SRCC); eight Dec 20–31 Greene Co (*vide* JB), and Jan 1–16 at feeder in Catskill (CK). Am. Coot: 50 Dec 1, SL, and one Dec 14 SL (bsh). Ring-necked Pheasant: considerable increase—several reports, max 18 Feb 6 Nisk (GA); 172 on a total of five Christmas counts (27 in 1968). Killdeer: arr Mar 9 Catskill (JB); many from Mar 18. Am. Woodcock: arr Mar 18 near Rexford (WDM). Common Snipe: first spring Mar 22 near Rexford (WDM).

GLAUCOUS GULL: one Mar 19 SS (PPW). Great Black-backed Gull: arr Feb 23 lower Hudson R (WBS,SM); common early Mar SS (PPW). Herring Gull: few in Dec; early migrants—six Feb 23 (WBS,SM); common early Mar. Ring-billed Gull:

eight Dec 22 (SRCC), and four Dec 29 (TCC); many Mar reports.

Owls: Screech: two Dec 22 (SRCC); seven singles Jan 5 to Mar 5. Great Horned: reported from six or seven localities; Jan 30 nesting New Concord (J&M Gunn). Snowy: only two—one (GCC), and one Feb 11 Ghent (M. Kern). Barred: six areas during period—an appreciable increase over one report for each of the two previous years. Short-eared: only two—one Feb 1 near Catskill (J&BB); one Mar 30 near NWW (HHS). Saw-whet: a total of four—one late Dec near Troy (Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy); one Jan 24 Schenectady area (Mr. and Mrs. Albert Getz); two found dead in Town of Durham Mar 14 and 17 (Vernon Haskins).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: a few wintered; spring arr mid-Mar. Yellow-shafted Flicker; several winter records; small influx noted from Mar 29 on. Pileated Woodpecker: reported consistently through period from several areas; max three Dec 2 Gr (CK). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one on SCC; one male appeared at Nisk feeder for fifth or sixth consecutive year—Dec 15, 25, into early Jan, and one female late Jan (RPY); spring arr—two Mar 29 Old Chatham (ER). Hairy Woodpecker: numbers appearing about the same. Downy Woodpecker: also, approximately constant.

E. Phoebe: arr Mar 17 Ghent (P&GE). Horned Lark: common, especially in early winter; max 200 Jan 11 Castleton (JC). Tree Swallow: first Mar 27—five SCR (HFB), and Gr (CK). Blue Jay: appear to have decreased—several observers commented on the scarcity; total of five Christmas Counts was 713, as contrasted to 1403 for previous year. Common Crow: migrants from Feb 21 (PPW). Boreal Chickadee: one at feeder near W. Sand Lake Dec 22 (SRCC). Tufted Titmouse: appeared to be just about constant in numbers. Brown Creeper: reported occasionally. Winter Wren: one Dec 21 (SCC); one Mar 29 Old Chatham (ER). Carolina Wren: one Dec 7, Feb 8, 9, and Mar 12 Chatham (MM,PM). Mockingbird: population holding about the same. Catbird: one winter report—Dec 1–5 at feeder near Gr (CK). Brown Thrasher: one at feeder in E. Greenbush Feb and Mar (*fide* PPW); one Ghent Mar 19 (P&GE). Robin: a few wintered, no large flocks reported; migrants began to appear about Mar 19; common by Mar 27. *VARIED THRUSH*: a male appeared Jan 21 at the feeding station of Mr. and Mrs. John McCreight, Hudson Falls, and was a daily visitor thereafter, until at least Feb 17 (*fide* Harold Burrell). E. Bluebird: again a few wintered in Greene Co and Columbia Co; probably spring migrants—Mar 20 Gr (CK), Mar 23 Catskill (JB), and two Mar 23 Old Chatham (ER), and Mar 23 Catskill (JB).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: sparse reports, from four areas. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Dec 21 (SCC). Water Pipit: 12 Mar 26, eight Mar 27 Gr (CK); four Mar 30 SCR (SM). *BOHEMIAN WAXWING*: an unprecedented number of reports, five in all—six Dec 21 (SCC); 20–30 Jan 28 Nisk (RPY); eight Feb 1 E. Greenbush (PPW *et al*); 15 Feb 8 few miles north of North Troy (bsh); and six Feb 19 Medway (CK, Irene Irwin). Cedar Waxwing: *very* scarce; eight Dec 21 (SCC); 15 Dec 22 (SRCC); five scattered reports of 4–6; 27 Jan 15 Berne (Marcia Kent). Northern Shrike: a total of four on Christmas Counts; additional reports many more than usual, with two Dec, four Jan, seven Feb, and seven Mar. Starling: totals on each of the five Christmas Counts diminished markedly, the population appearing to have decreased by more than 50%.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark: Christmas Count total was high, 86; first spring Mar 16 Catskill (JB). Mar 17 and 18 marked the widespread arrival of Red-winged Blackbirds, and Common Grackles, somewhat later than usual. Baltimore Oriole: one very early—Mar 30 Old Chatham (ER). Rusty Blackbird: earliest Mar 20 Gr (CK); max 40 Mar 24 Old Chatham (ER). Brown-headed Cowbird: an Albany roost built up steadily through the winter to a max of 2500 late Feb and early Mar (PPW).

Cardinal: Christmas Count total almost double that of previous year. *DICKCISSEL*: one Feb 20 Gr (Harry Ketcham). Evening Grosbeak: present in fairly large

numbers through Dec; disappeared gradually, with only occasional reports thereafter. Purple Finch: *very* scarce; small Christmas Count total of 14; scattered reports of only 1-3 thereafter. House Finch: dwindled in Dec at Nisk feeder, with the last observed Dec 23 (RPY). *PINE GROSBEAK*: widely reported throughout period, by many observers and in many areas; Christmas Count total 326 including flock of 60 WR (SCC); flocks of 10-15 often seen; max 35 Dec 11 Gr (CK), and 35-40 Jan 5 (L&VB). *HOARY REDPOLL*: one Mar 7 Poestenkill (Robert and Nancy Brown); two Feb 23 Schenectady (Robert and Shirley Phillips)—all individuals described as being very white, and appearing strikingly different from Common Redpolls. (See Ed. Note under Hoary Redpoll record in Region 1 Report, this issue.) Common Redpoll: abundant, with large flocks of more than 100 reported at several feeders, as well as other reports. Pine Siskin: present throughout period—several feeder reports, max 20 Alplaus (*fide* HFB). Am. Goldfinch: common. Red Crossbill: two near Chatham Jan 15 (Murray Giddings). White-winged Crossbill: one at feeder several days in Jan Old Chatham (John and Mary Hillen). Rufous-sided Towhee: two Dec 29 (GCC); two feeder reports—pair Dec to Jan 6 Earleton (Lillian Halloran), and one throughout Feb and Mar Nisk (GA). Sparrows: Savannah: one Dec 22 (SRCC); one Dec 29 (TCC); one Mar 2 upper Hudson (bsh); two Mar 29 Old Chatham (ER); one Mar 30 (BH,GB). Vesper: one Dec 29 (TCC); one Jan 5 Schodack (L&VB). Slate-colored Junco: frequent feeder reports, scarce elsewhere, migration weakly evident last week of Mar. *OREGON JUNCO*: one "pink-sided", described as follows: "gray hood, especially gray underneath, but with brownish feathers in the gray on the back of neck and head, back quite brown, underparts clear white, sides with a very noticeable rusty or pale orange wash, at least ½ inch in width, contrasting with hood and wing color," at feeder E. Greenbush (PPW). Chipping: one Dec 29 (TCC); first spring Mar 22 E. Greenbush (Monte Gruett). Field: several winter feeder reports. White-crowned: four Dec reports; two Mar 2, in song, WR (bsh). White-throated: wintered in low numbers. Fox: 14 Christmas Count total (none in 1968); migrants from Mar 20; max 60 near SCR Mar 30 (SBC, mob). Swamp: first spring Mar 19 Ghent (P&GE). Lapland Longspur: four reports Dec 22, max five Sugar Hill Rd (near Rexford) (EH, R. McCullough); one Jan 12 (SBC). Snow Bunting: throughout period, usually in small flocks up to 25; two large flocks—180 Dec 25 M'dale (bsh), and 150 Feb 26 Gr (CK).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

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The weather this winter season was cold, and remained cold without any marked fluctuations. No sub-zero temperatures were reported, but then the thermometer rarely recorded an above freezing temperature either. Proof of this was in the ice accumulation on the lakes and rivers. March saw a layer approaching 20 inches on most bodies of water at higher elevations. Snows which came in December remained through most of the season sending many ground feeders to feeding stations. Heavy snow storms in early February and March gave the impression of a severe season, but this was not substantiated by the bird records reported.

Belying the severity of the season were the unusual numbers of species that should have moved farther south but which stayed the season: Catbirds, thrashers, towhees, thrushes, kinglets and orioles to name a few. The survival of the Carolina Wren probably indicates the general absence of ice storms to which it usually succumbs. Most Christmas counts were well below average expectations, but this was due more to the poor weather and visibility of the late December weekends