

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

EDWARD D. TREACY

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

than to the birds. Some species were unusually low, however, as exemplified by the Blue Jay and Ruddy Duck. By the time the annual Waterfowl Count came around in mid-January, most of the rivers and lakes were ice-bound giving the lowest numbers of species ever reported in the Region. Owls, both resident and migrant, were much higher than usual. In general, it was a much more interesting season than we've had for several years.

Observers cited: MBC—Mearns Bird Club; WBC—Waterman Bird Club; MB—Martin Borko; EB—Eugene Brown; RD—Robert F. Deed; ME—Martha Earl; SOG—Stanley O. Grierson; AJ—Alice Jones; JK—John Kenney; J,MK—Jim & Mary Key; HM—Helen Manson; HMe—Heinz Meng; A,BM—Al & Barbara Merritt; JO—John C. Orth; EP—Eleanor Pink; RP—Robert Pyle; W,TS—William & Trixie Strauss; ET—Edward D. Treacy; SU—Sarah Uyhelyi; RV—Ruth VanEtten; MV—Marion VanWagner; OW—Otis Waterman.

Area Compilers: Robert F. Deed, Martin Borko, Mrs. William Grierson, Fred Hough, Al Merritt, Eleanor Pink, Otis Waterman.

Localities: Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange Co; Putn—Putnam Co; Rock—Rockland Co; Sull—Sullivan Co; West—Westchester Co.

LOONS—DUCKS: No loons. Horned Grebe: none until last week of season. Only a few Pied-billed Grebes reported. Great Blue Heron: two Jan records in Dutch; four Mar 29 at Barrytown probably indicate northward movement. *COMMON EGRET*: one, Mar 30 at Fisherman's Flat, Rhinecliff (Joyce, Don & Scott Davis)—verification forms filed. American Bittern: one, Bear Mt. Christmas Count Dec 22, at Iona Is. (JO,ET,JK). Mute Swan: two, Mar 18–20 at Cornwall; about 60 Rockland L Mar 9. *WHISTLING SWAN*: one Mar 7 Hyde Pk (Don Davis). Canada Goose: good size flocks returning by second week of Mar; several pairs on the Hudson R at end of season apparently waiting for ice to leave inland lakes; max 212 at Rockland L Mar 1 (EB).

Pintail: Good numbers of last few years not realized this season, only a few Dutch records in Mar. Green-winged Teal: late arr; first Mar 22, very few thereafter till end of season. Blue-winged Teal: only report, one Mar 22 Vanderberg Cove, Dutch. Am. Widgeon: late return to north parts; numbers good at Rockland L as early as Mar 9. Shoveler: always rare—one Dec 2 Amenia (W,TS); one Mar 9 Rockland L (EB). Wood Duck: on time; two Dec records for Dutch. Red-head: always rare; one Mar 19 New Hamburg. Ring-necked Duck: arr on time in good numbers; max 113 Mar 29 from Hyde Pk to Barrytown along Hudson R. Canvasback: wintering numbers very low on lower Hudson; marked increase Mar 15–22, as many as 250 in Beacon area these dates. Greater Scaup: five Mar 15–22 New Hamburg. Common Goldeneye: numbers lower than usual but constant thru season. Bufflehead: more numerous than usual on lower Hudson, out-numbered Goldeneye at Piermont Pier thru most of season. Ruddy Duck: absent from lower Hudson where they usually winter; *none* reported on federation waterfowl count Jan 12. Hooded Merganser: arr mid-Mar on Hudson R, max 10 Mar 29 Vanderberg Cove, Dutch. (HM). Common Merganser: recovering from lows of past several years; constant along the Hudson thru season; max 60 Jan 12 near Haverstraw. Red-breasted Merganser: only two reports—singles Mar 22 and 24 on the Hudson near New Hamburg, Dutch.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: one at Chester Feb 18 (RV); residents arr mid-Mar as usual, first Mar 6 East Fishkill (J,MK). Goshawk: observed for some time at residence of Fred Hough in Accord, Mar 9; one pursuing a red squirrel in Chapaqua Feb 22 (Mrs. John Lentz). Cooper's Hawk: more records than usual, all Dutch—one in Dec, three in Jan, two in Feb, and one in Mar. Sharp-shinned Hawk: only three reports—singles Dec 13 and Jan 6 Dutch; one Jan 26 at Ward's Pound Ridge Reservation, West. Red-tailed Hawk: good winter population thru region; two or three active nests in Dutch by end of season, and several mated

pairs reported in E. Oran. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Dec 29 at High Falls (Bob & Ev Rifenburg); one at Wappingers Falls Mar 15. [Broad-winged Hawk: It is hoped to present full details of two extraordinarily early reports of this species in a future issue.] Rough-legged Hawk: more reports than ever before—max 14 at one time in vicinity of Galeville Airport near Wallkill, Ulst (HMe,RP). One hit a window in West on Nov 7. The stunned bird recovered in about 15 minutes and flew off. Bald Eagle: fewer numbers than usual, but more widely scattered; max seven Jan 11 at Mongaup Res. Sull (MB). Marsh Hawk: two north of New Paltz Dec 29 (RP); one Mar 23 near Bullville (Margaret Moon). Sparrow Hawk: normal to slightly better.

Ruffed Grouse: numbers low, but continues to hold. Bobwhite: unusually high numbers thru Jan and Feb in Dutch—40 in Jan and 47 in Feb; only report elsewhere, four on Rock Christmas Count Dec 28; usually reported on Mearns Count in Oran, but missed this year. *VIRGINIA RAIL*: one Jan 12 Highland Falls (MBC). Am. Coot: only reports from Rock where 35 were reported Mar 9 (EB). Killdeer: usual scattered winter reports; first numbers, 15, Mar 23 at Wawarsing, Ulst (JO). Woodcock: normal and on time. Common Snipe: more wintering birds than usual; max 8 Hamptonburgh Mar 30 (A,BM). Iceland Gull: only white-winged gull reported; one Mar 15 New Hamburg (mob). Great Black-backed Gull: good winter numbers along Hudson R. Ring-billed Gull: winter numbers lower than usual—max 100 Mar 12–22 on Hudson R in Dutch. Laughing Gull: five, Piermont Pier Mar 29; rather early (RD). Mourning Dove: numbers better than usual all season. Screech Owl: more reports than usual especially in Westchester; several birds reported killed by cars. Great Horned Owl: WBC reports 8 in January with three on Christmas Count in Dec. Barred Owl: more than usual. Long-eared Owl: better than usual; Martha Earl reports a roost of more than 20 in Blooming Grove most of winter. Ruth VanEtten was startled to see two standing in her back yard in Chester on Mar 8. They returned on the 9th and 13th. Short-eared Owl: an unusual winter concentration near the Galeville Airport, Ulst. Heinz Meng found 16 there Jan 12. The number increased to 40 by Feb. Your reporter saw 14 there on Mar 9. Saw-whet Owl: more reports than usual, several of killed birds, but three live ones reported from Dutch thru Jan and one in Oran.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Yellow-shafted Flicker: fewer winter records than usual; migrants in good numbers by Mar 23. Pileated Woodpecker: normal few reports; one unusual record at suet feeder in Warwick, Dec 30 (SU); two excavating nest site at Cornwall on Mar 30. Red-bellied Woodpecker: regularly thru season at suet feeder at Ridgebury, Oran; one in South Nyack Feb 28 (RD). Red-headed Woodpecker: wintering numbers lower than usual; three birds reported Dutch, one first reported Nov remained thru period and went from imm to adult plumage. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Dec 28–30 at Vassar College (MK)—only report. E. Phoebe: one Dec 27 Millbrook, Dutch; one West Nyack, Feb 6 (B. Gravenstein); one Feb 3–28 and again Mar 4 at Vassar College probably wintered (OW) Horned Lark: good numbers all winter. Tree Swallow: first, Wurtsboro Mar 23. (MB); in good numbers thru region by end of Mar. *GRAY JAY*: one arr at feeder of Robert Craighead in Cross River, West Nov 27 remained thru Jan into Feb. Blue Jay: unusually scarce all winter, most Christmas counts down to about one quarter their usual number; numbers recovering by mid-Mar. Common Crow: about 4,500 at Poughkeepsie roost, down to about 3,800 by end of Feb. Fish Crow: three or four all winter at Poughkeepsie; five more reported elsewhere in Dutch in late Mar. Red-breasted Nuthatch: more wintering than usual; at least three or four regular visitors to different suet feeders thru season. Brown Creeper: usual winter reports, perhaps better than average.

Winter Wren: usual winter numbers. *CAROLINA WREN*: more reports than usual, often unreported; one Rock Mar 1; one Dec at Millbrook; one Jan 2 Vassar College; one Mar 30 near Newburgh. Mockingbird: good numbers throughout area.

Catbird: less wintering reports than usual—one Dec 31 Pleasantville and one thru Feb Cornwall. Brown Thrasher: more winter records than usual—one Jan 6 Poughquag, one South Salem Jan 16, and one at Monsey Feb 11–15. Robin: usual winter numbers, but migrants generally late; numbers good by end of season. Hermit Thrush: more winter records than usual—one Dec 18 Red Oaks Mill, one Blauvelt Jan 6, one Jan 15–31 Poughkeepsie, one Cornwall Mar 7, one thru entire month of Mar at Red Oaks Mill. Eastern Bluebird: numbers less than usual, but still good for winter. Golden-crowned Kinglet: reported in poor numbers except in Rock where numbers were good. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: wintered at Kripplebush, frequently ate suet (FH); one on Waterman Christmas Count Dec 29; and one singing at Rhinecliff Mar 29 (WBC). Cedar Waxwing: less than usual, unreported most areas. Northern Shrike: seven reported in Dutch; one West record in Chapaqua Feb 26–28.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: two on Rockland Christmas Count Dec 28—first since 1964. House Sparrow: three Dutch people reported numbers down about 75% at their feeders thru season. Eastern Meadowlark: usual winter reports, max 14 at Katonah, (SOG). Red-winged Blackbird: usual winter birds esp in southern part; marked influx Mar 15–20. BALTIMORE ORIOLE: two Dec records in Dutch—singles Dec 15–26, and Dec 1–29; other birds coming to feeders were one in Mt. Kisco thru Dec, and another in Central Valley for most of season. Rusty Blackbird: one Dec 14, and seven Dec 1–Jan 12, Dutch; migrants appeared Mar 23 and 29, also Dutch. Common Grackle: usually arrives late Feb—Very late this year, first mid-Mar and not common until late Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: numbers generally low except in Rock where 431 were found on Christmas Count. DICKCISSEL: one at Dr. Marjorie Hopper's feeder Upper Nyack Jan 7, two the following day. Evening Grosbeak: numbers down after highs of last Nov and Dec; shows no sign of usual spring increase at end of season as southern birds come north on migration. Purple Finch: numbers low but constant thru season. House Finch: Dutch population holding, expect good increases this year. A pair spent the winter at a feeder in Washingtonville, and another pair at New Paltz. Bob Deed reports this species a dominant village bird over most of Rock. At the close of the season at least three males could be heard singing daily near his residence in South Nyack. Pine Grosbeak: came in last fall in excellent numbers, and unlike the Evening Grosbeak, maintained good numbers thru the entire season; 328 on Bear Mt. Christmas Count was the most numerous species on the list; reported from all areas throughout the entire season. HOARY REDPOLL: one female at Coleman's Station, Amenia, Dutch. First discovered by Dr. Haydock of Sharon, Conn. Jan 19, remained thru Mar 15. Observed by most of the competent birders in Dutch. First county record since Mar 8, 1912. (See Ed. Note under Hoary Redpoll record in Region 1 report, this issue.) Common Redpoll: in good numbers in all areas thru entire season, some flocks over 100. Pine Siskin: numbers unusually low considering the numbers of other finches; only a few scattered reports. American Goldfinch: numbers unusually high thru season; at least 600 reported in Dutch for season. White-winged Crossbill: six Dec 29 Vassar College (J,MK); Mabel Little reports two in the Carmel area (no date). Rufous-sided Towhee: three or four winter reports with one all season at Red Oaks Mill (J,MK). Savannah Sparrow: reported on the New Paltz flats thru early Jan (RP); migrants arr in Dutch and Oran the last week of Mar. Vesper Sparrow: one Dec 21 Pleasant Valley—only winter report; first migrant Mar 29 at Chester (SU). OREGON JUNCO: one Mar 7 West—only report. Chipping Sparrow: one wintered at feeder in Chester (SU)—Dec 23 to end of period (mob). Field Sparrow: several wintered in Dutch, singing noted Mar 19 and 29. White-crowned Sparrow: one, Dec 20—Jan at Pleasant Valley (MV); one Dec 1–Jan 26 Salt Pt; two during Jan at Poughkeepsie (AJ). White-throated Sparrow: average to better numbers thru winter at feeders. Fox Sparrow: usual good numbers of migrants; arr mid-Mar; several winter records. Swamp Sparrow: several scattered winter reports. Song Sparrow: good migratory movement near Greenville, Oran Mar 19 (Iris Dean). Lapland Longspur: several reports; one Ar-

monk Feb 21 (David Scribner); one to three in the Pleasant Valley area of Dutch from Dec 24-Feb 1 (EP); one at Red Hook Jan 5 (AJ). Snow Bunting: more reports than usual thru entire winter; last report Mar 18 at Blooming Grove (ME) and at Bashakill (MB); max 500 Feb 12 at Millerton, Dutch (Thelma Haight).

Spring reports due no later than June 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

Last fall's Evening Grosbeak invasion, easily this area's largest ever, was all but over by late December. By the Christmas Count season only a few scattered flocks remained. During mid-winter only the Montauk area offered numbers of "winter finches"—siskins were common there along with smaller flocks of Red Crossbills, and a flock of Pine Grosbeaks wintered at the Manor. The large numbers of red-polls reported from eastern Massachusetts failed to reach Long Island, and widely scattered flocks of only up to forty were seen during January and February.

Data from only five Christmas Counts is available this year: Captree (abbreviated CaCC)—Dec 21, 131 species; Central Suffolk (CSCC)—Dec 26, 110 species; Montauk (Mk)—Dec 28, 102 species; Northern Nassau County (NNCC)—Dec 29, 100 species; and Queens (QCC)—Dec 21, 82 species. Last year it was mentioned in this column that the Captree Count "is still growing, and with a few more observers and experience with the area, its total may soon rival that of the two perennials." (Central Suffolk and Southern Nassau). This year they put it all together. Their total of 131 set a state record. Numbers of Cardinals and House Finches on the Montauk count indicate a continuing increase on eastern Long Island—Cardinal, 51 (previous high 20) and House Finch, 66 (previous high 25).

A massive warm front on March 19 sent temperatures into the low 70's. A number of unusually early migrants were noted following its passage, and after several less pronounced warm fronts during the next two weeks. A Least Bittern and a Blue Grosbeak were recorded on March 25, a White-eyed Vireo on the 29th, and another White-eyed Vireo plus a Cattle Egret on the 31st. A rumored Brown Pelican at Oak Beach on the 20th caused great speculation and a diligent search by several competent birders, but alas, no valid confirmation.

Birders who read the U.S. Daily Weather Maps closely can often spot the conditions which produced the above records. In general, it requires a strong warm front advancing north over the Caribbean to move across the southeastern states and out over the Atlantic, forced seaward by colder air covering the eastern states. Usually, this warm air will extend northward *over water* and recurve towards the New England states. Trans-Caribbean migrants will remain airborne across the Florida peninsula and the southeastern states under such conditions. Unable to land, unable to turn back into the wind, and unwilling to fly toward colder air, they must remain aloft until the warm air mass finally strikes land. The arrival of this warm air is usually associated with rain as the air masses collide, but birders willing to suffer the weather might find their spirits anything but dampened by such often exciting early migration. For a fuller explanation of this phenomenon see Aaron Bagg and James Baird's excellent analysis (illustrated with weather maps) of an early April migration in Massachusetts, published in *Audubon Field Notes* (15: 381-383, 1961).

Rarities reported this season included Tufted Duck, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Common Murre, Black Guillemot, Black-billed Magpie, Varied Thrush, and Boat-tailed Grackle. Unusually late or wintering birds were Cattle Egret, Turkey Vulture, Red Phalarope, Willet, and Northern Waterthrush. Un-