

Peasleeville (HMR). AMERICAN COOT: first sighted Feb 12 in Saranac R at SL by JK, later noted by mob through period. Killdeer: 1 Mar 20 & 25 SL (JK). Mourning Dove: 2 Mar 28-31 TL (RM); 4 at feeder thru winter until Mar 1 Peru (HMR). Great Horned Owl: 1 Feb 16 RB (GTC). 1 Clinton Co (FS). Barred Owl: 1 Mar 7 Peru, harassed by crows (HMR).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Feb 26 Osgood R Franklin Co (GTC). Hairy Woodpecker: 2 to 4 observed all areas. Downy Woodpecker same as Hairy. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 Dec 10 SL (GTC). Horned Lark: 20 Feb 13 Whallonsburg (GTC); 3 Mar 28 LP (JK); about 500 Peru mid-Mar, small numbers rest of season (HMR). Gray Jay: 2 Mar 31 near Lake Clear (HD). Blue Jay: 15 to 25 in a day all areas. Common Crow: first Feb 4 TL (RM); first Mar 4, 15 Mar 22 SL (EA,HD); beginning to flock Jan 13, numerous then Peru (HMR). Black-capped Chickadee: "amazing" nos at feeders (GTC,RM); not so many in woods. White-breasted Nuthatch: 1 to 2 all areas. Red-breasted Nuthatch: few all areas except Peru. Brown Creeper: 1 Dec 26-Feb 24 SL (JK). Robin: 1 Dec 23 SL (EB); 5 Feb 1 Willsboro (GTC); late returning all areas. Eastern Bluebird: very early return, pictures taken Mar 19 RB (fide GTC). Cedar Waxwing: 12 Feb 20, 20 Mar 28 Peru (HMR). Northern Shrike: 1 Feb 13 Whallonsburg (GTC). Migrant Shrike: 1 Mar 28 LP (HMR). Starling: 1 to 7 thru period SL (JK); numerous thru period Peru (HMR); occasionally since Mar 19 TL (RM); first Feb 25, numerous after Mar 23 Trudeau Rd (EA,HD).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: 1 to 8 thru period SL (JK); numerous Peru thru period (HMR). Redwinged Blackbird: 1 Dec 2 & 14, back for spring Mar 23 SL (EA,HD); 1 Mar 20, numerous after that Peru (HMR); back Mar 25 TL (RM). Common Grackle: back Mar 22 TL (RM); 23 Mar 28 SL (JK). Brown-headed Cowbird: 1 injured Jan 22 & Feb 4 SL (EA); back Mar 28 TL (RM); 5 Feb 8 SL village (JK). Evening Grosbeak: numerous all areas (mob) except Peru where only 20 noted thru Feb (HMR). Pine Grosbeak: common, 30 Mar 26 Beekmantown, most GTC had ever seen together. Common Redpoll: this was the common finch this winter, HD received many calls from people who had never seen them before, those who knew them were amazed to see so many, stayed until Mar 29 SL (HD). Pine Siskin: 3 flocks Feb 21 Port Henry to Crown Point (GTC); up to 8 Dec 5 to 14 SL (JK). Red Crossbill: notably abundant Jan & Feb, tapered off to a few in late Feb after hemlock seed was exhausted; highest count Wawbeek to Saranac Inn Jan 11 when 18 flocks averaging 40 birds mostly this species were noted (GTC); 1 to 8 Dec 4 to Mar 23 SL (JK). White-winged Crossbill: same as Red but not as many (GTC); 1 on Christmas wreath picking at cones SL door Jan 30 (Alford fide JK). Slate-colored Junco: 3 Dec to Feb 15 SL (GTC); 6 all winter SL (ED). Tree Sparrow: 3 to 6 thru period SL (HD,GTC). White-throated Sparrow: 2 before Christmas thru period SL (EB). Fox Sparrow: 1 before Christmas thru period SL (EB). Song Sparrow: 1 Feb 1 Willsboro; 1 Feb 21 Crown Point (GTC); 1 Dec 6 SL (ED); late returning in spring (HD). Snow Bunting: 120 Feb 13 Whallonsburg (GTC); 2 Jan 10 TL; large flock Jan 11 Little Wolf P, Town of Altamont (RM); 4 Feb 25 Normans Ridge, Vermontville, "on the snow 'dunes' and flying with the flying snow" (JK); flocks to 200 thru mid-Mar Peru (HMR).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

MARION J. FORD

Undoubtedly the most significant weather factor for the winter was the record-breaking snowfall which began Dec 25 and continued until Dec 27 piling up to 36 inches on the ground on the 28th. There was only a total of four days the entire

month of Dec that there was no snow on the ground. The average temperature for Dec was 21.6° with a minimum of -22°. The cold weather of January did little to melt the snow cover with the average temperature for the month of 9.7. Additional snowfall, however, was very slight. Temperatures and snowfall in Feb and Mar were more nearly normal. Most bodies of water were frozen over by mid Dec. Few lakes were open before almost the end of the period. On Mar 21 the Lower Hudson channel was open. Because of the heavy snowfall some Christmas counts were markedly affected; some were only token counts with few observers, few hours spent, and small area covered. One did not report.

The northern birds were in very plentiful supply all during the period. Red Crossbills, some White-winged Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, and Boreal Chickadees were regularly reported.

Highlights of the period were Mute Swan, several Dickcissels, Iceland Gull, Yellowthroat, Wood Thrush, Common Teal, and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker.

Observers cited more than once: DA—Douglas Allen; W&KA—W. & K. Applegate; bhs—Guy Bartlett, Barrington Havens, Benton Seguin; BS—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin; T&EB—T. & E. Brown; HFB—Hazel F. Bundy; L&VB—L. & V. Burland; JB—James Bush; MJF—Marion J. Ford; MG—Monte Gruett; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; BH—Barrington Havens; HS—Barrington Havens, Benton Seguin; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; ML&MJ—Mary Lynch & Mary Johnston; MM—M. Mickle; PM—P. Mickle; BRS—Benton R. Seguin; RPY—Robert P. Yunick.

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

Abbreviations: Emb—Embought; FC—Fish Creek; GL—Glenville; Gr—Greenville; Hoos—Hoosic River; KL7—Lock 7 Mohawk River; LH—Lower Hudson River; Mville—Mariaville; Mdale—Meadowdale; Nisk—Niskayuna; NWW—Niskayuna Widewaters; SL—Saratoga Lake; SS—Stockport Station; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; UH—Upper Hudson River; src—Southern Rensselaer Christmas count Dec 21; tcc—Troy Christmas count Jan 1; scc—Schenectady Christmas count Dec 20; gee—Greene county Christmas count Dec 28; hmbc—Hudson Mohawk Bird Club record.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: 1 Dec 6 SL (BS). Horned Grebe: 6 Dec 6 SL (BS); 2 Mar 27 Emb (JB); 1 Mar 25, 28 LH (MM,PM,T&EB). Pied-billed Grebe: first Mar 8 FC (BS). Great Blue Heron: only report 4 Mar 29 Nott Rd. Sch'dy (HS). MUTE SWAN: first seen Mar 20 LK 7 (EH); again Mar 21 & 22 (EH et al). Canada Goose: 150 Dec 1 Berne (Marcia Kent); first spring arrivals Mar 8 LH (W&KA); max 300 Mar 25 Emb (JB). Snow Goose: two reports 18 Mar 28 LH (T&EB); 1 Mar 28 Mdale (BS). Mallard: present thru period; 307 tcc; 100 in Feb Cohoes Bridge (DA). Black Duck: present thru period with Mallards; 546 tcc; migrants 499 Mar 14 SS (DA). Pintail: 1 all winter Cohoes Bridge (DA); max 25 Mar 21 (hmbc); first arr Mar 18 LH (MM,PM,T&EB). COMMON TEAL: 1 Mar 21 LH (hmbc). Green-winged Teal: first arr Mar 18 LH (several observers); 15 Mar 21 LH (hmbc). American Widgeon: 15 Mar 21 LH (hmbc). Shoveler: one report 1 Mar 22 UH (BS). Wood Duck: 1 scc "listed only once previously in 1954"; first arr 3 Mar 14 Athens (DA); Ring-necked Duck: 8 Dec 6 SL (BS); first arr Mar 14 SS (DA). Canvasback: 10 Dec 6-14 (bhs); 1 Feb 28 Stillwater (bhs); 15 Mar 14 Athens (DA). Scaup: Dec 6-14 (bhs); 1 female Feb 21 UH (BS); Mar 8-29 (bhs); max 50 Mar 29 LK7 (HFB). Common Goldeneye: 250 Dec 6-14 SL (bhs); first migrants 3 Mar 14 SS (DA); 100 Mar 21 LH (hmbc). Buffhead: 2 Dec 6, 14 (bhs); first arr Mar 8 LH (MM,PM,T&EB). Oldsquaw: last date Dec 6-14 (bhs). White-winged Scoter: 2 Dec 6-14 UH (BS). Hooded Merganser: 1 wintered FC (bhs); first arr 2 Mar 14 SS (DA); 10 Mar 21 LH (hmbc). Common Merganser: 20 Dec 6-14 FC (bhs); earliest 1 Jan 18 Cohoes Bridge (DA); other reports beginning

Mar 14 max 60 Mar 25 LK7 (EH). Red-breasted Merganser: last report 12 Dec 14 (bhs); 1 Feb 28 Hoos (bhs); several Mar 25 LK7 (EH).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 2 Mar 22 Kiskatom (JB). Goshawk: 4 Jan 1 Riverview Rd. Sch'dy (BRS); 1 Feb 7 SL (HS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 srcc; 1 Dec 30 Gr (CK); 1 Jan 5 Gr (CK). Cooper's Hawk: 2 srcc; 1 Jan 10 Scotia (EH); 1 Jan 14 Gr (CK); 1 Mar 12 Gr (CK); 1 Mar 15 Gl (EH). Red-tailed Hawk: fairly commonly reported over area from Dec 6-Mar 28; max 27 Dec 7 (BS); albino reported Feb 14 New Lebanon (M&A Giddings). Red-shouldered Hawk: four reports of 1 each; srcc; Mar 21 Karner (BS); Mar 21 LK7 (EH); Mar 28 Mville (DA). Rough-legged Hawk: seen thru period & on all Christmas counts max 6 Mar 22 Schodack (L&VB). Marsh Hawk: 1 Dec 13 Duaneburg (DA); 2 on Christmas count 1 each srcc & scc; several in Mar. Sparrow Hawk: numerous reports 1 Dec 10 at feeder "evidently after birds" (BH); max 18 srcc. Ruffed Grouse: few reports, several observers reported as uncommon thru period, max 8 tcc. Bob-white: total of four reports 1 each on srcc & tcc; 1 wintered near feeder from Dec 30 thru period East Greenbush (MG); 1 Jan 3 Middleline Rd Glenville (Francis Bundy). Ring-necked Pheasant: several observers reported as scarce this winter perhaps because of decreased stocking by the Conservation Dep't., max 47 tcc. American Coot: 7 Dec 6 SL (BS). Killdeer: 1 Dec 19 Rotterdam (DA); first arr 1 Mar 13 Catskill (JB). American Woodcock: scattered reports from mid Mar on. **ICELAND GULL:** 1 reported srcc in first-winter plumage Dunn Memorial Bridge. Great Black-backed Gull: 1 Dec 14 UH (BS); 1 srcc; first migrants 5 Mar 21 LH (hmhc). Herring Gull: 62 srcc; 4 Feb 25 LH "at Albany when ice has just gone out" (DA); migrants arrived from Mar 12 on. Ring-billed Gull: 13 srcc; 10 Feb 25 LH at Albany (DA) max 100 Mar 21 LH (hmhc). Mourning Dove: common thru area. Barn Owl: 1 downy nestling rescued by a conservation officer in Adamsville when nest in church belfry was destroyed on Sept 21, cared for, banded, and released in large barn in Dormansville by Marcia Kent in Berne in March (Walton Sabin). Screech Owl: 1 srcc. Great Horned Owl: 4 srcc, 1 scc; 1 heard Feb 13 Alplaus (fide HFB). Snowy Owl: 1 Jan 3 Jenny Lake (BH). Barred Owl: 1 srcc; 1 Jan 31 Altamont (Beverly Waite); 1 Feb 28 TR (hmhc).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: Belted Kingfisher: several wintered in area; 1 srcc; 2 scc. Yellow-shafted Flicker: scattered reports thru area, max 5 srcc. Pileated Woodpecker: 1-5 reported on all Christmas counts; 2 reported daily Dec & Feb at suet feeder Gr (Gladys Wissisky). Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Mar 22 & 26 Catskill (JB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Dec 20 & 25 (BH); 1 Dec 25 & Jan 1 Nisk at feeder for 6th or 7th consecutive year (RPY). Hairy Woodpecker: reported as fairly common by most observers, max 60 tcc. Downy Woodpecker: reported as common by most observers, max 81 tcc. **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** 1 male Jan 31 and again Feb 13 Delmar in two dead pine trees (Virginia Puddicombe). Eastern Phoebe: two winter reports 1 Jan 5, 9, 21, 22 Gr (CK); 1 Jan 10 LK7 Rd. (RPY); first spring migrants Mar 28 Chatham (E. Powell); Mar 31 Ghent (P. & G. Erlenbach). Horned Lark: several reports of fairly large flocks, 343 srcc; c. 500 including Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings Dec (L&VB). Blue Jay: apparently regaining numbers over last year, total on four Christmas counts 1058 compared to total 713 for five counts last year. Common Crow: regular numbers reported, max 507 srcc. Boreal Chickadee: eleven reports, wintered thru period at one location Nisk (DA); 2 srcc; 1 scc; 1 tcc. Tufted Titmouse: regularly reported by most observers, max 26 srcc. White-breasted Nuthatch: regularly reported by most observers, max 77 srcc. Red-breasted Nuthatch: numerous reports, one observer cited "common-good year for them" (DA); max 25 scc. Brown Creeper: occasional reports, max 16 scc. Winter Wren: two reports, 1 Dec 13 & Jan 24 (bhs); 1 gcc. Mockingbird: observed over area, some regularly in same place, max 3 scc. Robin: a few wintered, migrants returned in numbers from Mar 28 on. **WOOD THRUSH:** 1

srcc. Hermit Thrush: 3 individual reported in three different locations. Eastern Bluebird: first seen 1 Mar 23 South Sch'dy (DA); 1 Mar 28 Mdale (bhs). Golden-crowned Kinglet: reported from seven or more areas, max 10 scc. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 srcc; 2 scc. Cedar Waxwing: few reports most in Dec, max 50 scc. Northern Shrike: scattered reports, only 1 on Christmas counts. Starling; apparently regained numbers over last years Christmas counts, the total for four counts was 13,139 and the highest max total of 5,262 for one year in counts for forty years for scc.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: *YELLOWTHROAT*: 2 scc, seen in separate areas; previous record 2 in 1959.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: Scattered sighting thru period, 12 srcc; migrants from Mar 14 on (DA). Redwinged Blackbird: scattered reports thru period, migrants arr 150 Mar 21 LH (hmbe). Rusty Blackbird: 1 Mar 1 Crounse's Swamp (ML&MJ). Common Grackle: a few winter residents; migrants arr Mar 15 Mville (DA). Brown-headed Cowbird: total four Christmas counts 158; first migrants Mar 12 Mville (DA); "abundant Albany downtown roost" (DA). Cardinal: generally reported in good numbers. *DICKCISSEL*: four separate reports; 1 srcc; 1 tcc; 1 TR (hmbe); female Mar 6 Alplaus (HFB). Evening Grosbeak: reported in good numbers from all areas, max 497 srcc; 1 all yellow (no black) was seen at feeder for third consecutive year on Dec 10 & regularly thru Jan Gr (CK). Purple Finch: scattered reports, max 22 srcc; daily Feb 17-Mar 31 Altamont (ML&MJ). House Finch: 3 Mar 18 Catskill (JB). Pine Grosbeak: scattered reports of small flocks, max 57 Mar 26 Mville (DA); "females outnumbered males at all times by 10-1" (DA). Hoary Redpoll: 1 Mar 11 identified at close range described as generally light overall with pure white rump (BH). Common Redpoll: generally reported over area, max 280 scc; flocks up to 75 all Feb in Troy (E. & H. Long). Pine Siskin: max 12 Jan 17 (bhs). American Goldfinch: reports from most observers, 212 srcc. Red Crossbill: larger numbers & reported from all areas especially during Jan & Feb, max 175 Feb 7 Malta (HS); 100 Mar 29 Malta (HS). White-winged Crossbill: several scattered reports, max 8 Jan 25 Mdale (BS); 1 female daily at feeder Jan 30-Feb 28 Gl (MJF). Rufous-sided Towhee: several sighting over area, 3 scc "widely separated areas," previous records 1 in 1958, 2 in 1967, 2 tcc; 1 gcc; 1 at feeder Jan 12 for 2-3 weeks Gr (fide CK); "may be a trend toward a wintering bird" (Walton Sabin). Vesper Sparrow: 1 tcc. Slate-colored Junco: generally reported. Tree Sparrow: present in usual numbers, total 2288 on four Christmas counts; 97 Feb 1 Berne (Marcia Kent). Field Sparrow: a few scattered reports; 8 tcc; 2-6 Mar 1-31 Chatham & Ghent (MM, M&A Giddings). White-crowned Sparrow: four reports; 1 scc "became #104 on the composite list" previously listed on near dates only. White-throated Sparrow: thru area, some reported as "few," max 62 scc. Fox Sparrow: a few scattered reports, 1 daily at feeder thru period Gl (MJF). Swamp Sparrow: 1 srcc; 1 scc. Song Sparrow: several reports seen daily thru period, total four Christmas counts of 121. Lapland Longspur: 2 srcc; with flock of c. 500 Horned Larks & Snow Buntings Dec Columbia County (L&VB). Snow Bunting: flocks reported thru area over period, max 248 GCC; 92 Dec 1 Berne (Marcia Kent); 213 Dec 15 Berne (Marcia Kent).

155 Van Buren Rd., Scotia, N.Y. 12302

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Temperatures averaged well below normal for most of the winter. March was the only month that was normal, caused not by extremes, but by consistent cold