

(GTC). Great Blue Heron: 1 SL (DC). Woodcock: 1 arrived Mar 23 PS too early to survive (SE). Screech Owl: 1 Feb 20 PS (SE). Great Horned Owl: 1 Mar 6 PS (SE). Barred Owl: 1 Feb 20 Newcomb (TM).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Pileated Woodpecker: 2 Mar 28 AB (GTC). Hairy Woodpecker: 1 Dec 28 St. Regis Mtn (TM); 1 Mar 13 Moody P (DB); 2 Jan-Mar AB (GTC). Downy Woodpecker: 2 Jan-Feb Moody P (DB); 2 Jan-Mar AB (GTC). Horned Lark: 25 Feb 2 Witherbee (SE); 25 Feb 18 Malone (SE); 5 Feb 20 passing over L Clear (TM); 3 Feb 26 PS (SE). Blue Jay: absent from much of the woods during much of period, high count of 6 Jan thru Mar AB (GTC). RAVEN: 1 Mar 28 Mineville (Francis Singer). Common Crow: first report 1 Feb 27 L Colby (GTC); 6 Mar 2 RB (DB); 22 Mar 13 L Clear (TM); 60 Mar 27 L Clear (TM). Black-capped Chickadee: scarce, maximum 5 thruout period PS (TM). Boreal Chickadee: only report, 5 L Colden Ranger Cabin Feb 18 and 19 (Martin Pfeiffer). White-breasted Nuthatch: scarce, maximum 3 Dec 28 St. Regis Mtn (TM); 1 PS (SE); 2 Jan thru Mar AB (GTC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 or 2 at various feeders in several areas thru period. Robin: 1 Mar 16 Port Henry (GTC). Brown Creeper: 1 Feb 28 AB (GTC); 1 Jan 15 PS (SE). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1 Feb 8-10 PS (SE). Northern Shrike: 1 Feb 26 RB (GTC); 1 Feb 28 Chazy (GTC); 1 Mar 15 Elizabethtown (PF).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Redwinged Blackbird: 75 Mar 16 Port Henry (GTC); 10 Mar 15 PS (SE); 50 Mar 26 Bloomingdale (TM). Rusty Blackbird: first report, 1 Mar 15 PS (SE). Common Grackle: first report, 2 Mar 15 PS (SE). Brown-headed Cowbird: 8 Feb 2 Witherbee (SE). CARDINAL: 2 thru period Elizabethtown (PF); 1 Mar 16 Westport (GTC). Evening Grosbeaks: scarce in many areas, maximum 100 Feb 3 PS (SE); 40 thru Mar Saranac Inn (HD). Purple Finch: 1 thru Mar Saranac Inn (HD); 1 Mar 27 PS (TM); 3 Mar 28 Moody P (DB). Pine Grosbeak: only report, 1 Feb 2 Witherbee (SE). Common Redpoll: 2 Mar 12 PS (SE). Pine Siskin: 2 Feb 18 Malone (SE). Goldfinch: 35 Feb 17 AB (GTC); 25 Mar 27 Saranac Inn (TM). Red Crossbill: 30 Mar 1 Milbank Park (DB). White-winged Crossbill: no reports. Slate-colored Junco: no reports. Tree Sparrow: maximum 7 Jan thru Mar AB (GTC). WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: 1 Dec 9 PS (SE). Song Sparrow: first report 1 Mar 27 PS (TM). Lapland Longspur: 2 Feb 18 Malone (SE). Snow Bunting: 5 Jan 18 PS (SE); 60 Feb 2 Witherbee (SE); 10 Feb 26 Witherbee (SE); 6 Feb 27 RB (GTC); 7 Crown Point Mar 16 (GTC).

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REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

RICHARD E. PHILION

The winter of 1970-71 was a long, cold, and snowy one. This year the heavy snow began before Christmas and lasted on the ground until April. There was 43.8 inches of snow that fell in the Albany area during the month of December, 15.2 inches in January, 17.6 in February and 32 inches in March. By the end of March the total snow for the season was within an inch and a half of the all time record for seasonal snowfall at Albany. The record was 110 inches. It was another cold winter with temperature several degrees below normal in December, January, and March, with January 8.8° below normal for the month. Five new low temperature records were set at Albany Airport during the month of January including a -28° which is the lowest ever recorded there in any month or year. February averaged a little warmer and turned out to be 1.7° above normal. Ponds and lakes were covered with snow and ice by the end of March.

Most striking this year, aside from the weather, was the near absence of winter finches which only last year were found in near record numbers. No complaints were heard this year over the ravenous eating habits of Evening Grosbeaks at home feeders. Apparently, a plentiful seed crop in the more northern regions inhibited the mass migrations which occurred over the past two years. Both Crossbills went unreported while Purple Finches, Pine Grosbeaks and Redpolls were extremely scarce. Even Goldfinches were lower in number especially in December and January. Less regrettably the Starling population declined to a third of last year.

Increases in the population of Mourning Doves, Mockingbirds, Northern Shrikes, Ring-necked Pheasants and Song Sparrows were apparent from Christmas Count reports.

Rare species recorded this year were a Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Great Gray Owl (first record for region 8 in over 50 years, banded, photographed and seen by many), and an Oregon Junco.

Abbreviations: Ca—Castleton; Ch—Chatham; Cox—Coxsackie; Ctk—Catskill; EG—East Greenbush; GR—Greenville; HF—Hudson Falls; HR—Hudson River; LK—lock MR—Mohawk River; NE Col—Northeast Columbia County; Nisk—Niskayuna; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; PM—Poentic Marshes; RL—Round Lake; SL—Saratoga Lake; Sch—Schodack; Sch Cntr—Schodack Center; SS—Stockport Station Marshes; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; Sp—Spencertown; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; TCC—Troy Christmas Count; VFWM—Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area; WG—West Ghent; GCC—Greene County Christmas Count; SCC—Schenectady Christmas Count; SRCC—Southern Rensselaer Christmas Count; fsm—first spring migrants.

Observers: DA—D. Allen; GB—G. Bartlett; T&AB—T&A. Brown; L&VB—L&V Burland; JB—J. Bush; PC—P. Connor; GE—G. Erlenback; P&GE—P&G. Erlenback; MJF—M. J. Ford; M&A—M&A. Giddings; MDG—M. D. Gruett; MK—M. Kent; CK—C. Ketcham; EM—E. Mansell; WM—W. Merritt; MM—M. Mickle; REP—R. E. Philion; EP—E. Powell; EMR—E. M. Reilly, Jr.; WBS—W. B. Sabin; BRS—B. R. Seguin; S&RS—S&R. Silverman; B&HT—B&H. Tullar; M&WU—M&W. Ulmer; BW—B. Waite; RPY—R. P. Yunick; HMBC—Hudson Mohawk Bird Club field trip; mob—many observers.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Dec 5 SL (BRS); 1 Jan 10 HF (WBS). Red-throated Loon: 1 Jan 10 LK6 Champlain Canal (WBS). Horned Grebe: 20 Dec 5 SL (BRS); 1 Jan 2–30, Cohoes (DA); 5 Mar 31 NWW (DA). Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Dec 5 SL (BRS); 2 Jan 2–10 Cohoes (DA); 1 Jan 10 HF (WBS); 2 Mar 16 NE Col (RD); 4 Mar 20 SS (DA). Great Blue Heron: 1 Mar 20 SS (DA); generally reported one week later. Canada Goose: fsm Feb 15–28 SS (S&RS, T&AB); 200 Mar 31 NWW (DA). Snow Goose: 11 Dec 19 WG (P&GE); 20 Dec 20 SL (BRS). Mallard: throughout winter; 500 Jan 10 HR (Duck count). Black duck: throughout winter; 475 Jan 10 HR (Duck count). Pintail: 2 in Jan Cohoes (BRS); 12 Mar 20 SS (DA). Green-winged Teal: 2 Dec 5 SCR (BRS); 6 Mar 20 SS (DA). Blue-winged Teal: 1 female TCC Waterford, seen at 15 feet in small stream, made no effort to fly, probably injured (DA, Peter Leeds); 10 Mar 20 SS (DA). American Widgeon: 1 female Dec 19 on Bozenkill, possibly crippled (BRS); 1 Mar 28 SCR (DA). Wood Duck: 1 Dec 5 SL (BRS); 2 Mar 20 SS (REP). Ring-necked Duck: 1 Dec 5 SL (BRS); fsm Mar 27 LK 7 MR (BRS). Canvasback: 6 Dec 5 SL (BRS). Scaup Duck: 20 Lesser Dec 20 SL (BRS); 1 TCC Cohoes; 2 wintered at Troy (BRS); 1 female Greater Jan 10 Thomson, on Champlain Canal (WBS); fsm Mar 27 LK 7 MR (BRS). Common Goldeneye: 200 Dec 20 SL (BRS); 2 TCC Cohoes; 30 Jan 10 Corinth (WBS); fsm Mar 14 LK 7 MR (BRS); 50 Mar 20 SS (DA). Bufflehead: 14 Dec 20 SL (BRS); 1 TCC Cohoes; 2 wintered at Cohoes (BRS); fsm Mar 28 LK 7 MR (BRS). Oldsquaw: 1 Dec 5 SL (BRS); 1 TCC Cohoes, present through Jan 30 (DA). White-winged Scoter: 1 Dec 12 SL (BRS); fsm Mar 21 LK 7

MR (BRS). Ruddy Duck: 1 female Dec 5 SCR (BRS). Hooded Merganser: 5 Dec 5 RL (BRS); 1 TCC Cohoes; 8 Mar 20 SS (DA). Common Merganser: 4 Dec 5 NWW (MJF); 1 Dec 20 SL (BRS); 2 TCC; 2 SRCC; 1 Feb 28 HR, below Albany (MM); 35 Mar 6 HR, below Albany (DA). Red-breasted Merganser: 1 Dec 5 LK 6 MR (BRS); 6 Mar 31 NWW (DA).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 1 Feb 20 SS (S&RS) very early; 1 Mar 27 Ctk (JB). Goshawk: 1 SCC; 2 TCC; 1 Feb 24 Ch (M&WU); 1 Mar 1 Gr (CK); 1 Mar 20–26 Ch (M&A). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Jan 13–19 Old Ch (B&HT); 1 Jan 27 Ctk (JB); Jan 31 EG (MDG); 1 Feb 27 TR (HMBC); 1 Mar 24 Sp (EM). Cooper's Hawk: 1 Dec 20, Jan 17 (BRS); 3 TCC; 1 Jan 30 Gr (CK); 1 Mar 20 SS (DA). Red-tailed Hawk: fairly good numbers—19 SCC; 19 SRCC; 11 GCC; 36 TCC. Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Dec 7 NE Col (RD); 1 TCC; 1 Feb 1–18 Ca (JC); 1 Mar 17 Cox (JB); 1 Mar 26 VFWM (WBS); 1 Mar 26 Sch Cntr (PC). Broad-winged Hawk: 1 Mar 13 Ch (M&AG) very early; 1 Mar 21 LK 7 MR (BRS); 1 Mar 28 NWW (BRS). Rough-legged Hawk: 2 Dec 4 So Schtdy (DA); 1 Dec 19 CK (JB); 4 SCC; 2 SRCC; 11GCC; 5 TCC; 1 dark phase wintered Selkirk (WBS). *GOLDEN EAGLE*: 1 Mar 30 Spier Falls on HR (fide MK). Marsh Hawk: 1 SRCC; 1 Feb 28 WG (GE); 1 Mar 7, 10 Ch (EP); 1 Mar 14 Sch Cntr (PC); 1 Mar 18 Ctk (JB); 1 Mar 28 Sch Cntr (PC). *PEREGRINE FALCON*: 1 Feb 14 Gr (CK). Sparrow Hawk: 17 SCC; 19 SRCC; 6 GCC; 19 TCC; wintered in usual numbers. Ruffed Grouse and Pheasant: reported quite generally. Bobwhite: not reported. American Coot: 2 Dec 5 NWW (MJF); 1 Dec 20 SL (BRS); 1 Mar 22 Athens (JB). Killdeer: fsm Feb 28 Ca (JC) and WG (GE); 5 Mar 15 Nisk (RPY). Woodcock: 1 Mar 1 Gr (CK) early; 1 Mar 6 SS (S&RS) and Sch (L&VB); 1 Mar 16 Schtdy; 1 Mar 18 VFWM (WM); 4 Mar 27 PM (fide DA); 1 arr 28 Sch Cntr (PC). Common Snipe: 1 SCC. Great Black-backed Gull: 12 Dec 20 SL (BRS); 1 Feb 28 HR, below Albany (MM and T&AB); 6 Mar 6 SS (DA). Herring Gull: a few present throughout winter whenever HR was open; 50 Mar 6 SS (DA); 300 Mar 17 Cox (JB). Ring-billed Gull: 20 Dec 5 NWW (MJF); 1 Feb 28 HR, below Albany (MM and T&AB); 100 Mar 6 SS (DA). Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Dec 5 SL (BRS). Mourning Dove: 276 SCC; 255 SRCC; 44 GCC; 394 TCC. Snowy Owl: 1 Mar 26 thru 31 Settle's Hill Altamont (BW); Screech, Great Horned and Barred Owls: reported from usual areas; 1 Barred Mar 10 Schtdy, unusual location for Owl (GB). *GREAT GRAY OWL*: 1 Feb 24–Mar 20 Half Moon (mob), banded and photographed Mar 10, first record for Region 8 in over 50 years. Long-eared Owl: 1 SRCC, shot by grouse hunter in front of HMBC observers, "thought it was a partridge when it flew from pine tree." Short-eared Owl: 1 Dec 26 Sch (P&GE). Saw-whet Owl: 1 Feb 3 Saratoga Co (BRS); 1 Feb 13 Columbia Co. (EMR); 1 Mar 25 VFWM (WM).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: Belted Kingfisher: several wintered in area; 1 SRCC, 1 TCC, 2 SCC. Yellow-shafted Flicker: few wintered; 1 SCC, scattered individuals thru period. Pileated Woodpecker: several reported on Christmas Counts. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: none reported. Hairy Woodpecker: common; max 57 SRCC. Downy Woodpecker: common; 130 TCC; 131 SRCC. Eastern Phoebe: no winter reports; fsm Mar 28 Ghent (DA). Horned Lark: largest flock 55 (Northern race) Halfmoon (DA); Christmas Count numbers greater than last year, max 388 SRCC. Tree Swallow: none reported thru period. Blue Jay: seemed scarce at many feeders yet Christmas Count totals comparable to last year. Common Crow: usual number wintered; max 857 SCC. Black-capped Chickadee: max 50 Feb 27 TR (HMBC). Tufted Titmouse: regularly reported by most observers; max 24 SRCC. White-breasted Nuthatch: common; max 135 TCC higher than most years. Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce, few reports; max 10 SRCC. Brown Creeper: occasional reports; max 17 SRCC. Winter Wren: 2 reports, 1 GCC, 1 TCC. Mockingbird: observed over area in increased numbers; 25 on 3 Christmas Counts compared with 6

last year. Robin: a few wintered; migrants from mid-March on. Hermit Thrush: only one report, 1 GCC. Eastern Bluebird: a few wintered in southern counties; migrants from mid-March on. Golden-crowned Kinglet: a few wintered; max 19 TCC. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 Feb 27 TR (HMBC); 3 SRCC. Cedar Waxwing: few wintered; most reports in December and at end of period; max 20 SCC. Northern Shrike: 8 reports throughout area, 6 on Christmas Counts compared to only 1 last year. Starling: numbers significantly down, max 2098 TCC compared to 7117 SRCC last year.

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: a few winter reports. Redwinged Blackbird: first migrant Feb 26 GR (CK); waves by Mar 1. Baltimore Oriole: 1 reported at Ch Dec 26-Jan 17 (MM). Rusty Blackbird: only report, 1 at feeder in GR (CK). Common Grackle: last fall migrants, 50 Dec 1 Columbia Co.; a few winter reports; first spring arrivals, 10 Feb 28 Sch (PC) and at Nisk (RPY). Brown-headed Cowbird: some winter reports; first spring migrants Mar 17 in Mariaville (DA). Evening Grosbeak: very few; one flock of about 65 during most of winter in Averill Park area (REP). Purple Finch: few wintered; 4 at feeder Mar 27 at Nisk (RPY). House Finch: 1 pair Mar 21 Nisk (RPY). Pine Grosbeak: only report - 1 Jan 17 at Berne (MK). Common Redpoll: very scarce; 22 Jan 2 TCC and 1 Mar 26 Spencertown (EM). Pine Siskin: only report 1 Dec 27 SRCC. American Goldfinch: winter population lower than usual. Rufous-sided Towhee: 3 Dec reports from Columbia, Rensselaer and Greene Cos. (P&GE, SRCC, M. Bush). Savannah Sparrow: 2 reported at a feeder Jan 17 in French Hollow (BRS). Vesper Sparrow: 1 Dec 27 EG (W. Gorman) and 4 Jan 2, 5, 25 Ca (J. Cook). *OREGON JUNCO*: 1 reported at feeder Jan 3 Latham (GB). Field Sparrow: a few wintered mainly in Columbia Co. White-crowned Sparrow: 3 reports - 1 Dec 27 at Rensselaer (J. Baum), 1 Dec 29 Athens (M. Bush) and 1 Feb 1-24 in Ch (L&VB, EP). White-throated Sparrow: fewer reports than usual. Fox Sparrow: first migrant Mar 9 Ctk (JB); many reports but low numbers beginning Mar 20. Swamp Sparrow: a few Christmas Count reports. Song Sparrow: rather numerous especially in lowlands along the Hudson River. Lapland Longspur: 7 individuals seen with Horned Larks on Christmas Counts. Snow Bunting: several large flocks (max 150) reported throughout winter.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Temperatures for the season averaged well below freezing, with one extended period of sub-zero weather in late January and early February. A minimum of minus sixteen degrees was reported in Ulst. Snow remained on the ground throughout the season with December dropping the highest amount; better than 32 inches. March was slightly warmer than usual, but there were sufficient cold spells to retard the advance of spring. Most bodies of water were frozen long before the Federation Waterfowl Count in mid-January. The Hudson River was frozen to its very southern limits. Thaw came in late February and progressed rapidly; freeing the river of ice to the northern limits or the region by the end of that month. Local ice fishermen report ponds in the Highlands frozen to depths of better than 17 inches. Many ponds in the higher elevations were still frozen thru the end of the period.

Resident species were relatively normal with few exceptions. Northern visitors were scarce. Winter finches did not arrive in any substantial numbers, and very few were reported on local Christmas counts. The first wave of spring migrants arrived about Feb 27 and another movement was reported about Mar 16. Generally water-