

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.

Edgewood Dr. Rd. 3, Averill Park, N.Y. 12018

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-

fowl were in good supply except in the dead of winter due to ice. Hawks were exceptionally well represented with a much larger influx of Roughlegs than usual.

Your reporter wishes to take this opportunity to thank Mr. William Grierson of Mt. Kisco who took over the chore of reporting Westchester Co. records due to the illness of his wife, Mildred, our regular reporter. Thanks are also due Major John Getgood who so ably compiled records in the vicinity of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for the past several years. He has been reassigned and will be leaving the area in June.

Observers cited: MB—Martin Borko; JD—Jeff Daley; RFD—Robert F. Deed; FG—Florence Germond; DF—Davis Finch; BG—Bernd Gravenstein; SG—Stanley Grierson; JG—Maj. John Getgood; TH—Thelma Haight; FH—Fred Hough; PJ—Paul Jeheber; AJ—Alice Jones; HM—Helen Manson; MK—Mary and Jim Key; PM—Philip Meisner; JO—John C. Orth; EP—Eleanor Pink; AP—Alma Polhemus; RP—Dr. Robert Pyle; R,FS—Ruth and Frank Steffens; W,TS—William and Trizie Strauss; CT—Czecker Terhune; JT—John Tramontano; RV—Ruth VanEtten; MVW—Marion VanWagner.

Area Compilers: Robert F. Deed, Martin Borko, Mr. & Mrs. William Grierson, Fred Hough, Al Merritt, Eleanor Pink, Otis Waterman, Major John Getgood, John C. Orth, Iris Dean, John Tramontano.

Abbreviations: mob—many observers; Dutch—Dutchess Co. Oran—Orange Co.; Rock—Rockland Co.; Sull—Sullivan Co; Ulst—Ulster Co.; West—Westchester Co.; USMA—U.S. Military Academy at West Point, WBC—Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club of Dutchess Co.; Special Counts: BCC—John Burroughs Natural History Society Christmas Count in the vicinity of New Paltz Dec 27; MCC—Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club of Orange Co. Christmas Count in eastern Orange Co. Dec 27; RCC—Rockland Audubon Society Christmas Count in most of Rockland Co, Dec 27; BMCC—Bear Mountain Park Christmas Count Jan 2; WCC—Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club Christmas Count in western Dutchess Co. Jan 2; FWC—Federation Waterfowl Count Jan 9-17.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Dec 4 Rhinebeck (MK); 1 Dec 3 and 11 Nyack (AP). Red-throated Loon: 2 Dec 4 Rhinebeck on the Hudson R; 1 on Hudson at Nyack on RCC was the second record for that count. *RED-NECKED GREBE*: very rarely reported; 1 Mar 30 Vanderburgh Cove, Hudson R in Dutch (AJ, HM). Horned Grebe: appeared on Hudson with the thaw; 2 Feb 25 Cornwall Bay; numbers continued to increase thru end of period. Great Blue Heron: usually absent thru winter; 1 Feb 4 Dover, Dutch (Mary Yegella); 5 Mar 21 Tamarack Swamp, Dutch, breeds there (EP). *COMMON EGRET*: rarely reported in spring; 1 Mar 29 Rockland L. (PM). Mute Swan: 24 on RCC; 8 on FWC; several wintered along Hudson shore at Jones Pt. *WHISTLING SWAN*: 1 Dec 10 on Hudson off Nyack; carefully observed by AP who is familiar with the species. Canada Goose: WBC reports 300 dur Dec, 50 in Jan, but 0 in Feb; first migrants 15 over Katonah, West (Rugh & Heather Grierson); late Mar saw nesting birds on most of the Lakes in the Highlands; they are becoming more and more numerous in recent years. Snow Goose: late fall migrants reported No 28 from Rockland L. 500 birds observed there; 1 Dec 3 Vanderburgh Cove; and 1 Dec 5 Verbank, both Dutch (MVW, M,JK). Mallard and Black Duck: WBC reports numbers down, but normal elsewhere; Bob Deed reports them abundant along the Hudson in Rock and along Sparkill Cr; late Dec had more than 200 Blacks at Rio and Mongaup Reservoirs in Sull until ice drove them out. Gadwall: 1 Dec 20 Rock L. (RS), continued thru RCC. Pintail: more winter reports than usual; sev in Dutch, driven out by ice, 3 returned Mar 10 and increased to about 20 by the end of the period; MB reports 1 Dec 25 at Rio Reservoir, very late. Green-winged Teal: lingered later than usual; 9 Jan 2 on Congers Lake, Rock (BG), seen later but in smaller numbers; 4 Feb 25 Rockland L. (PM); spring migrants were back by Mar 17 in Dutch, numbers continued to increase thru end of period. Blue-

winged Teal: 5 Mar 30 Vanderburgh Cove (AJ). American Widgeon: 17 Dec 18 Rockland L (PM), common there by Feb 28; first reports Dutch Mar 17. Shoveler: 3 Jan 2 Rockland L (BG); also 1 at Lederle Labs, Pearl River thru Dec (FS). Wood Duck: absent from FWC but 2 on MCC; 3 Dec 27 and Jan 25 at Armonk; common by Feb 28 at Rockland L; 2 spring arr March 2 in Dutch. Redhead: as many as 14 March 16 on Rockland L, remained thru end of period (JO); 1 Feb 12 Standfordville, Dutch (FG). Ring-necked Duck: 2 Dec 18 Rockland L (PM); a remarkable 291 on FWC, most from Putn and West; 4 migrants arr Mar 6 Dutch, max 27 on Mar 27, numbers lower than usual thru Mar. Canvasback: 1 on the Hudson in Dutch on the WCC was the second census record; spring migrant appeared Feb 25 on Cornwall Bay, 5 birds increased to 16 by Mar 2, several continued to end of period; about 30 Mar 4 at Jones Pt (JO). Greater Scaup: 75 Mar 17 at Beacon on the Hudson R (WBC). Lesser Scaup: 1 Mar 16 Hudson R, Dutch, 2 Mar 17, 6 Mar 31. Common Goldeneye: 42 on FWC was well above 9 of last year but nothing like the highs of a few years ago. Bufflehead: numbers good; reported by the scores on Rockland L and the Hudson R off Rock. **COMMON SCOTER**: 2 Mar 27 Crugers Is (Herb Saltford). Ruddy Duck: 17 on FWC, none reported the past 2 years on that count; 18 Dec 18 Rockland L (PM). Hooded Merganser: 10 wintering birds on FWC is low but within normal limits; first migrants in Dutch Mar 1, these 3 birds inc to 25 Mar 27 (WBC). Common Merganser: numbers better than recent years; peak 72 Mar 24 and 89 Mar 27 on Hudson R in Dutch. Red-breasted Merganser: first Mar 13 Denning's Pt, Dutch (WBC); peak 8 Mar 20; last 6 Cornwall Bay Mar 27; 1 the same date Hyde Park, and 4 Mar 31 Vanderburgh Cove.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: are early again this year; first Feb 25 over Queensboro Area of Bear Mt State Park; most residents in area by Mar 17. Goshawk: 1 Dec 19 Hopewell Jct. (DF); observed there again Jan 16 and 18; 1 dur Jan and Feb at Stissing, Dutch (TH); 1 Dec 25 flying low over Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah (SG). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 3 Jan reports in Dutch; 1 in Feb; MB reports 1 Mar 16 at Wurtsboro, Sull. Cooper's Hawk: more reports than usual; WCC had 2, their first record in 13 years; 1 was in Pleasantville, West Dec 24 (Marshall Howe); another Jan 12 at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct; 1 Mar 22 Hyde Park; and another Jan 1, and Mar 30 at Bashakill. Red-tailed Hawk: numbers better than recent years; 24 on MBC; max of 33 on WCC and 14 on RCC; 10 obs in Hamptonburgh area Feb 28. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Dec 27 High Falls, Ulst (Bob and Ev Rifenberg); 1 Jan 30 New Paltz (RP); an imm Feb 28 at Mt Hope, Oran; and an ad Mar 26 at Bashakill. Rough-legged Hawk: more wintering birds than usual, reported from most areas; max 8 Mar 30 at Chester, Oran (RV). Bald Eagle: virtually absent from the Highlands where it has been a regular winter resident in past years; none reported on any Christmas Counts; best records from Sull where 3 were at Bashakill Mar 26; 2 at Rio and Mongaup Reservoirs Dec 25; and 1 at Bashakill Dec 25. Marsh Hawk: observed frequently at Piermont Marsh where they formerly wintered but had been absent for years; 1 obs 2 times dur Dec at Kripplebush, (FH); 1 Mar 30 Bashakill (JT). Sparrow Hawk: 7 Mar 23 Bashakill (JT); numbers better than usual thru season. Ruffed Grouse: very few reports, continues low; one note of interest occurred on Jan 10 when an adult male went thru 2 panes of glass in a window and was nursed back to health and released by Stan Grierson. Bobwhite: all reports Dutch, 1 in Dec and 8 in Jan. Ring-necked Pheasant: numbers continue down; WBC reports numbers lowest since 1963. Common Gallinule: 1 Dec 18 Rockland L (PM). Coot: numbers increased well since lows of a few years ago; Dec 18 saw 75 on Rockland L where they have been numerous thru the winter. Killdeer: usual report of single wintering birds; inc noticeable in Dutch from Mar 20 on; RCC had a new high of 10. Woodcock: 1 Feb 5 Katonah (Ed Kurka); usual courting birds obs by mid-March. Common Snipe: singles reported on Dec 18, Jan 16, and Feb 15 in Dutch; 1 killed by a cat Mar 16 at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah (SG); 13 Mar 30 at one small wet spot

in Chester (RV). Gulls: a strong movement of Herring and Ring-bills inland away from the Hudson with the advent of spring thaw, many reports from the farm land of Oran and Sull; WCC had a record low of 4 gulls due to closing of the Beacon Dump a few years ago. White-winged gulls: Marshall Howe obs 3 Iceland and 2 Glaucous Jan 1 at Croton Point; a single Iceland Mar 21 at Rockland L (RFS), third record for Rock. Great Black-backed Gull: AJ lists between 75 and 100 thru Mar on Hudson off Dutch, these are good numbers for this far north on River. Ring-billed Gull: peaks in early Mar, 100 on Mar 6 and 200 Mar 15. (AJ) Mourning Dove: highest numbers in years; as many as 60 at Bashakill from Dec thru Mar, previous highs from 10-12 (MB); most Christmas Counts markedly increased over last year; MCC, 229 compared to 54 last year; WCC, 349 to 205; RCC, 314. Screech Owl: normal to better. Great Horned Owl: more reported than usual; 1 Feb 17 on nest near Croton Falls Res (Les LeViness). Snowy Owl: only report 1 Dec 27 Amenia (FG; TH; W, TS). Long-eared Owl: 3 on MCC was new to that count; 1 Mar 11 New City, Rock (Anne Epple). Short-eared Owl: 1 MCC.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: numbers low as expected due to ice. Flicker: more reports than usual in winter, on most Christmas Counts, several remained in specific territories all winter; missed on RCC for the first time in 24 counts. Pileated Woodpecker: about usual, sporadic reports thru season. **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**: more wintering than usual; 2 Jan 1-2 at same feeder in New City; another two miles away at the same time; the 14th occurrence in Rock with all but five since Jan 1, 1968; 2 more, male and female, at the home of Mrs. John Arfmann in Ridgebury, Oran from Christmas to end of period; 4 reports from Dutch, 3 in Dec and 1 in Mar. Red-headed Woodpecker: absent from usual areas in Oran; Mar 6 south of Spring Valley, Rock had been there since last summer (RS); 1 Jan 15-16 East Park, Dutch. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Dec 25 feeding on apples at Fowlerville, Sull (MB); 1 on BMCC. Eastern Phoebe: 1 Mar 16 (FG); 1 Mar 18 (JD), both Dutch; scarce until the last week of Mar when numbers were normal. Tree Swallow: an unusual early influx; a small flock Mar 16 over Stone Ridge, Ulst; 150 Mar 16 at USMA (JG); 4 Mar 19 Cross River, West (Ruth Grierson). Blue Jay: well up over last year; most Christmas counts 2 or 3 times normal. Common Crow: lower than last year; noticeable movement Mar 16 in Ulst. Fish Crow: all reports Dutch, 1 Feb, 8 Mar, 7 of the latter near Poughkeepsie. Parids: both chickadee and titmouse normal to better. White-breasted Nuthatch: numbers about double on most Christmas counts. Red-breasted Nuthatch: wintered near Kripplebush (FH); very few elsewhere; only 1 in Dutch Feb 10 at Hyde Park (CT); another wintered near Monticello (Ruth Pokorny). **HOUSE WREN**: 1 Dec 1 Plass Rd Pleasant Valley, Dutch (CT, MVW), normally a record to be dismissed but not when reported by these two excellent birders. Winter Wren: very few reports, most in Dec; single birds from most counties. Carolina Wren: has not recovered from kills of the last two years; only 2 reports: 1 Dec 28 South Salem, West and 1 Mar 14-15 Cornwall, Oran. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 RCC was the fifth record for that count. Mockingbird: numbers stabilized; good reports of residents from most areas and on most Christmas Counts. WCC had first record in 1960, the 36 reported there this year were twice last years high count; RCC reports 43; MCC 13. Catbird. usual few; WBC had 3 in Dec and 1 in Jan; another Jan 24 at Katonah, West. Brown Thrasher: not usually reported in winter, more than ever before; 1 Feb 24 South Salem (Mary Knapp); 1 MCC was a new species for that count; 1 Mar 29 Cornwall. Robin: more than usual; first mig Feb 23; usual numbers thru Mar; plentiful by end of season. **VARIED THRUSH**: 1 at the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Donald Weisner of Katonah, arr Feb 14 and remained thru Mar 15 (mob); on Feb 26-27 another was obs in Thornwood, 15 miles from Katonah where the other bird was still in residence (Bob Petras, Dan Blum) **HERMIT THRUSH**: 1 Dec 29 Salt Point, Dutch (CT, MVW). Eastern Bluebird: several winter records in the vic of Katonah, New

Bedford areas of West; WBC reports better than usual numbers thru winter, 10 in Dec, 6 in Jan, 19 in Feb, 16 in Mar; first return to USMA Mar 9 (PJ). Golden-crowned Kinglet: RFD reports numbers better than in recent years thru Rock; appears the same thru rest of region. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: only report 1 Dec 18 Greenville, Oran (Iris Dean). Cedar Waxwing: 38 on WCC was first record since 1966; only other report Jan 10 from New Paltz (Hans Weber). Northern Shrike: more than usual; 4 Dec 18-Mar 14 from Dutch; 1 Mar 11 at Middletown; 1 Mar 14 Wurtsboro. Starling: continues very high; more than doubled on BCC.

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: BMCC reports 3; RCC dropped to 0 from a high of 280 in 1952, due largely to disappearance of favorite habitat, bayberry, which has fallen victim to suburbanization. *YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT*: 1 Dec 27 Amenia (TH, FG). Icterids: On a foggy, drizzly Feb 27 an estimated 2500 (70% grackles, 30% redwings and cowbirds) passed over Nyack in less than an hour, movement ceased abruptly as the fog began to lift (RFD). Eastern Meadowlark: numbers down, a few reports thru season; a flock of 20 Mar 20 in Dutch. Redwinged Blackbird: usual winter birds especially in south; a large movement Feb 25-27; thousands in West; first females Mar 9. *BULLOCK'S ORIOLE*: A young male Dec 8 at the feeder of Mrs. Mary Ordway, New Paltz (*vide* Heinz Meng.) Rusty Blackbird: 4 wintered at Stissing, Dutch; and another 4 at Poughkeepsie; Stissing birds left Mar 4; migrants arr Pleasant Valley Mar 7-10 (JD); numbers low thru end of period. Common Grackle: usual winter records; first mig Feb 18 Greenville (Iris Dean); numbers excellent from then to end of season. Cowbird: numbers usite low (if that seems possible); the only exception is a remarkable 1500 in the New Paltz area on BCC. Cardinal: MB reports numbers up in Sull; 162 on WCC beats prev record of 125 in 1966, only 79 in that count in 1969; normal thru rest of region. Evening Grosbeak: not a year for this species; 2 or slightly more on most Christmas Counts; most birders went for long periods of time without seeing any. Purple Finch: very few reports, far outnumbered by the following species. House Finch: reported on every Christmas count in region; WCC reports a tripling of the count from last year to a total of 64, first reported in 1965; RCC had 47. Pine Grosbeak: 4 Mar 7 at feeder in Hyde Park (AJ); 2 on MCC; and 2 on BMCC only other reports. Common Redpoll: 5 on WCC (AJ); 2 Jan 9 East Park, Dutch (AJ). Pine Siskin: 1 Dec 16-Jan 1 Vassar Coll, 1 WCC only other report. Goldfinch: down thru region; inc somewhat in Mar. Rufous-sided Towhee: usual few on Christmas Counts, several regularly thru period. Savannah Sparrow: 2 on WCC spent the winter. Vesper Sparrow: 7 on MCC; 4 WCC; none thru rest of period. Slate-colored Junco: numbers up over 1968-69; 519 on MCC was more than double 1969 count. Tree Sparrow: also more numerous, but not abundant. *CHIPPING SPARROW*: 1 Dec 17 Cornwall feeder (Al & Barbara Merritt). Field Sparrow: usual winter birds; numbers good in Dutch where 30 were reported from Dec-Feb; none there in Mar. Fox Sparrow: 1 thru Jan Amenia (W, TS); first mig Mar 3 at Wurtsboro; numbers normal thru Mar. Swamp Sparrow: 2 in Dutch; only 4 others reported. Song Sparrow: excellent numbers; 142 on WCC compared with 92 last year, they usually average 50; RCC had 210; MCC 72. Snow Bunting: 14 Dec 30 Rockland L; 35 Dec 23-29 Salt Point (CT); 9 MCC; and 12 Jan 5 at Wurtsboro.

Spring reports due no later than June 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928