

This was a good northern finch and Snowy Owl year. It was also a good year for the usual feeder birds, quite a change from the previous winter. Most water stayed frozen as usual so waterfowl were scarce.

Observers: GTC—Greenleaf T. Chase; SE—Stephen Everett; RM—Robert McKinney; RAM—Ruth A. Meier; TM—Ted Mack; WR—William Rutherford.

Abbreviations: L—lake; LP—Lake Placid; P—pond; Pltbsy—Plattsburg; PS—Paul Smiths; Pt—point; SL—Saranac Lake; TL—Tupper Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Black Duck: 1 Jan 15 Pltbsg (SE,TM). American Goldeneye: 10 Jan 15 Pltbsg (SE,TM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: 1 Jan 9 Black P,PS (WR). Rough-legged Hawk: 2 Jan 15 Mooers (SE,TM); 1 Feb 18 Witherbee (SE). Sparrow Hawk: 1 Jan 15 Rouses Pt (SE,TM). *BALD EAGLE*: 1 Feb 26 Mineville, soaring fairly high (C. A. Petty). Ruffed Grouse: 1 Dec 11 PS (TM); 4 Jan 26 Franklin Falls (TM). Great Black-backed Gull: 1 Jan 15 Chazy Landing (SE,TM). Herring Gull: 1 Jan 15 Pltbsg (SE,TM); 2 Mar 1 PS (SE). Ring-billed Gull: 1 Mar PS (SE). Snowy Owl: 1 Dec 10 TL (GTC); 2 Feb 7 Big Chazy River (GTC); 1 Mar 1 Crown Pt (GTC). Great Horned Owl: 1 Jan L Clear (TM). Barred Owl: 1 Jan 8 L Clear (TM); 1 Mar 27 Indian L (RM). Saw-whet Owl: 1 Mar 18 PS (WR).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Hairy Woodpecker: 1 Jan 3 LP (SE). Horned Lark: 25 Jan 15 Pltbsg (SE,TM); first migrants—8 Mar 1 PS (SE); 10 Mar 1 Ray Brook (GTC). Blue Jay: max at feeders—16 PS (WR); 16 TL (RAM). Common Raven: 1 seen for 10 days in mid Jan and again on Feb 25 Middle SL to Lower SL; wedge-shaped tail seen as it patrolled roads for dead birds (GTC). Common Crow: first probably not wintering at a dump—4 Mar 1 PS (SE). Black-capped Chickadee: max 50 Feb TL (RAM). White-breasted Nuthatch: 3 Mar 18 Indian L (RM); 1 thru winter TL (RAM). Red-breasted Nuthatch: a few at feeders. Brown Creeper: 1 Jan 22 Marcy Dam (TM). Golden-crowned Kinglet: a few in several areas thru winter. Starling: arrived TL Mar 3 (RAM).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Redwinged Blackbird: 20 Jan 15 Pt au Rouche (SE, TM); first migrant—1 Mar 20 TL (RAM); 1 Mar 27 Indian L (RM). Brown-headed Cowbird: 150 Jan 15 Pt au Rouche (SE,TM). Evening Grosbeak: people with feeders went broke buying sunflower seed; max 150 TL (RAM). Purple Finch: one report—1 Feb 26 SL (GTC). Pine Grosbeak: widely reported—15 Jan 3 LP (SE); max 33 Jan 15 Redford to Rouses Pt (SE,TM); 15 Mar 27 Indian L (RM). Common Redpoll: fairly common all winter—max 150 TL (RAM). Pine Siskin: a few at feeders—max 20 Jan 15 Chazy Landing (SE,TM). American Goldfinch: stayed at feeders more than usual this winter. Red Crossbill: only report—small flock Mar 31 Childwold (RAM). White-winged Crossbill: only report—large flock Dec 14 Childwold (RAM). Slate-colored Junco: first—1 Mar 25 PS (TM); 1 Mar 25 TL (RAM). Tree Sparrow: a few at feeders all winter. Song Sparrow: 1 Jan 22 PS (TM); 1 Feb 18 PS (SE). Snow Bunting: 100 Jan 3 LP (SE).

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REGION 8 HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD E. PHILION

The weather systems responsible for a mild November prevailed during the months of December and January and provided the region with unusual mid-winter conditions. The mean temperature for December was 30°, a + 3.5° departure from normal. A high temperature of 55° was recorded on December 16 while the low for

the month was set on the 31st with a -1° reading. Most lakes and ponds had open water during the Christmas count period which accounted for the number and variety of waterfowl seen at that time.

No sustained cold weather developed during January but a record -14° was set on the 6th. Prevailing winds from the SSW pushed warm air into the region to set a record of 52 on the 13th. The monthly total of 8.5 inches of snowfall was modest by comparison with previous winters. Yet, Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins and Goldfinches flooded the region by late January and at the same time many half-hardy species persisted in the area until colder weather arrived in mid-February.

February and March were above average in snowfall and 2.5° colder than normal.

Uncommon species recorded during the period were Whistling Swan, Bald Eagle, Iceland Gull, Monk Parakeet, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, House Finch, Greater Redpoll, and Oregon Junco.

Abbreviations: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; CC—Christmas Count; Col. Co.—Columbia County; HMBC—Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club; HR—Hudson River; L7—Lock 7; LH—Lower Hudson; NWW—Niskayna Wide Waters; NYSWC—New York State Waterfowl Count; SCC—Schenectady Christmas Count; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; SPA CC—Saratoga Christmas Count; SRCC; Southern Rensselaer Christmas Count; SS—Stockport Station; TCC—Troy Christmas Count; WSL—West Sand Lake.

Observers: DA—D. Allen; PC—P. Connor; JC—J. Cook; GE—G. Erlenback; MG—M. Gruett; MK—M. Kent; MM—M. Mickle; PM—P. Miller; BHS—G. Bartlett, B. Havens, R. Seguin; BRS—B. R. Seguin; WBS—W. B. Sabin; LT—L. Thomas; RPY—R. P. Yunick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: 1 Mar 26 NWW (BHS). Red-necked Grebe: 1 Dec 18 SPA CC. Horned Grebe: 3 reports in Dec; 1fm 23 SL (BHS). Pied-billed Grebe: fsm 24 Mar 18 Lake Lonely Outlet (BHS); 2 Mar 26 NWW (BHS). Great Blue Heron: fsm 1 Feb 10 Glenville (MF); 1 Mar 26 HR (HMBC). *WHISTLING SWAN*: 1 Mar 31 SS (DA). Canada Goose: max 165 Dec 2 Col Co (ADBC) 4 Dec 26 SRCC; several March reports, fsm 12 Mar 15 Mohawk River (DA). Snow Goose: 1 Mar 26 NWW (BHS). Mallard: total of 40 from regional CC reports; max 185 Jan 16 NYSWC HR; fsm 40 Mar 13 LH (DA). Black Duck: total of 108 from regional CC reports; max 650 Jan 16 NYSWC HR; fsm 150 Mar 13 LH (DA). Gadwall: fsm 7 Mar 13 LH (DA); 1 Mar 18 HMBC. Pintail: late report 2 Jan 16 NYSWC HR; fsm 8 Mar 13 LH (DA); max 60 Mar 18 HMBC. Green-winged Teal: 3 March reports, fsm 4 Mar 13 LH (DA). Blue-winged Teal: fsm 3 Mar 26 Stony Pt (PC); 10 Mar 31 Vosburgh Marsh (DA). American Widgeon: fsm 1 Mar 11 HR (T & A Brown); 1 Mar 18 HMBC. Wood Duck: fsm 10 Mar 13 LH (DA); 2 other reports Mar 26. Redhead: 1 Mar 19 Stony Pt (PC). Ring-necked Duck: fsm 6 Mar 18 HMBC; 10 Mar 26 SCR (BHS). Canvasback: 2 Dec 5 & 12 SL (BHS); several Mar reports, fsm 1 Mar 11 HR (T & A Brown); max 35 Mar 31 LH (DA). Greater Scaup: 25 Dec 11 & 19 Dec 12 SL (BHS) —field marks noted on this report. Scaup in general were reported in late Dec; fsm 4 Mar 18 HMBC. Common Goldeneye: max 70 SPA CC; 21 Jan 16 NYSWC HR; fsm Mar 11 HR (T&A Brown). Buffhead: 30 Dec 5 SL (BHS); 5 Dec 18 SPA CC; fsm Mar 11 HR (T&A Brown). Oldsquaw: 3 December reports; 5 Dec 12 SL (BHS). White-winged Scoter: 5 Dec 5 & 7 Dec 12 SL (BHS); 4 Dec 18 SPA CC. Surf Scoter: 1 Dec 18 Old Pond Chatham (MM). Ruddy Duck: 1 Dec 5 & Dec 12 SL (BHS). Hooded Merganser: fsm 2 Mar 18 HMBC; several reports on March 26. Common Merganser: total of 62 from CC reports; last 2 Jan 16 NYSWC HR; fsm 2 Mar 13 LH (DA). Red-breasted Merganser: 3 Mar 18 HMBC; 4 Mar 26 NWW (BHS).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: fsm 2 Mar 19 NWW (BHS). Goshawk: 2 Jan 2 TCC; 1 February report Spencertown (fide Wayne Trimm); 3 March reports, last 1 Mar 20 Berne (MK). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Dec 26 SRCC; 1 Jan 2 TCC; 4 other reports Jan thru Mar. Cooper's Hawk: 1 December report ADBC. Red-tailed Hawk: total of 44 thru CC period; 4 Mar 26 HR (HMBC). Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Dec 26 SRCC; 1 Feb 2 Rotterdam (DA); 1 Mar 19 Stony Pt (PC). Rough-legged Hawk: total of 14 over CC period; scattered reports thru period. **BALD EAGLE:** 1 mature Dec 5 Sacanda Res. (Steve Wadsworth). Marsh Hawk: 1 in March ADBC; 1 Mar 19 E. Greenbush (PC). Sparrow Hawk: total of 43 from CC reports; 7 Mar 26 Schodack Ctr (PC). Ruffed Grouse: total of 30 from CC reports. Bobwhite: 3 Jan 16 Muetzeskill (R. Dodd). Ring-necked Pheasant; total of 44 from CC reports. American Coot: 6 Dec 18 SPA CC; 6 Dec 12 NWW (BHS). Killdeer: 2 Dec 26 SRCC; fsm 1 Mar 18 HMBC. American Woodcock: 1 Mar 16 East Berne, road kill (fide WBS). Common Snipe: 1 Dec 19 SCC; 1 Mar 31 Schodack Ctr. (PC). **ICELAND GULL:** 1 Dec 9 Mohawk River (DA) & 1 Dec 12 SL (BHS) both immature. Great Black-backed Gull: fsm 3 Mar 13 LH (DA); 12 Mar 18 HMBC. Herring Gull: max 102 Dec 26 SRCC. Ring-billed Gull: total of 95 on CC reports. Mourning Dove: total of 526 from CC reports. Screech Owl: 1 Jan 2 TCC; 1 Feb 12 Schodack Ctr. (PC). Great Horned Owl: total of 7 from CC reports also thru period. Snowy Owl: 1 Dec 15 Albany (PC); 1 Dec 26 SRCC; 1 Jan 1 West Mt. (MK). Long-eared Owl: 1 Dec 1 Schodack Landing (JC); 1 Dec 26 SRCC. **MONK PARAKEET:** 1 thru Jan and Feb attended feeder and traveled in company of Mourning Doves Glenville (fide Marion Ford); origin of bird uncertain but suspect a local escapee (WBS).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: total of 8 from CC reports, scattered reports thru period. Yellow-shafted Flicker: total of 9 from CC reports; seen Jan and Feb ADBC. Pileated Woodpecker: total of 3 from 2 CC reports. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Dec 4 L 7 (BHS); thru Jan and Feb Mariaville (DA). **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** 1 Mar 4 ADBC Sanctuary first time reported by ADBC member (G. Woodward & E. Reilly). Eastern Phoebe: fsm 1 Mar 4 Malden Bridge (G. Woodward). Horned Lark: total of 105 from CC reports; generally reported as being scarce thru period; max 50 Mar 5 L 7 (BHS). **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** 1 arr mid Nov seen thru period at feeder WSL (J. Chenette). Tufted Titmouse: total of 74 from CC reports. Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce thru period, total of 8 from CC reports. Winter Wren: 1 Dec 18 ADBC; wintered Jan thru Mar at Collins Lake (DA). Brown Creeper: total of 15 from CC's. Mockingbird: no apparent increase over last year based on CC totals. Catbird: 1 Dec 19 SCC; 1 Dec 26 SRCC; evidence of a mild December. Brown Thrasher: apparently wintered in several locations; 3 Jan 4 Rotterdam (DA); thru Feb in Spencertown and Ghent (GE&PM). Robin: unusually common for the period; 33 from CC reports; large flocks reported Jan, Feb, and Mar. Hermit Thrush: 1 Jan 2 TCC. Eastern Bluebird: 2 Dec thru mid Feb in Rotterdam (DA); a Feb report from Col Co (ADBC); fsm 4 Mar 1 Chatham (MM). Golden-crowned Kinglet: scarce thru period; 2 Dec 19 SCC. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: no reports. Cedar Waxwing: total of 29 from CC reports; wintered in Rotterdam (DA); fsm 2 flocks Mar 12 L 7 (BHS). Northern Shrike: fewer reports than last year; 1 Dec 11 SCR (BHS); 1 Dec 18 SPA CC; Shrike reported Dec 29 Meutziskill Rd (JC). Migrant Shrike: 1 Mar 25 Mechanicville (BRS). Starling: abundant as usual.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: 1 Dec 19 SCC. Pine Warbler: 1 well documented seen at feeder Mar 31 E Greenbush (MG). Palm Warbler: 1 Jan 2 Castleton (JC); only 1 other Jan record for region. Eastern Meadowlark: total of 20 from CC reports; 2 reports in Feb. Redwinged Blackbird: total of 9 from CC reports; fsm 75 Mar 2 Schodack (PC). Rusty Blackbird: 2 Dec 26 SRCC; fsm 30 Mar 18 Schodack Ctr (PC). Common Grackle: CC total of 8; wintered locally;

large flocks Mar 18 HMBC. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 325 Dec 18 ADBC CC; hundreds Mar 8 Rensselaer (PC). Evening Grosbeak: abundant thru period; total of 1146 from CC's; Purple Finch: total of 26 from CC's. *HOUSE FINCH*: continuing to increase over region; CC totals 15; 2 Jan 20 thru Feb Loudonville (MF); thru period in Scotia and Schenectady (DA). Pine Grosbeak: more numerous than in recent years; 59 from CC's; 75 Jan 20 Thacher Park (MK); large flocks reported in Feb ADBC. Common Redpoll: unusually abundant at feeder stations in Jan thru Mar; CC totals 175; max 250 Jan 5 Sacandoga Res (DA). *GREATER RED-POLL*: 1 Mar 25 Schenectady; this rare subspecies from Greenland was observed and banded in the company of Common Redpolls. It's overall measurements were in agreement with known data (Forbush) especially the dimension and profile of the bill. (RPY); last reported in region 8 in 1947. Pine Siskin: total of 10 from CC's yet considered abundant thru period at feeder stations. American Goldfinch: abundant. Red Crossbill: only 1 report 12 Jan 22 thru Mar 4 Schodack Center (PC). White-winged Crossbill: 1 Dec 26 SRCC; 2 Jan 22 Schodack Center (PC); 1 Mar 18 Saratoga (BHS). Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 thru Dec Spencertown (PM). Savannah Sparrow: 1 Dec 4 Meadowdale (BHS). Slate-colored Junco: abundant thru period. *OREGON JUNCO*: 3 Dec 19 SCC; 1 seen periodically from Dec 19 thru Mar 20 Albany (LT). Tree Sparrow: CC total of 1426. Field Sparrow: 1 Dec 1-10-27 Chatham (B & H Tullar); 1 Feb report from ADBC. White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Dec 18 thru Mar 26 Mechanicville (BRS); 1 Jan 9 L 7 (BHS). White-throated Sparrow: high CC total of 99; wintered in Col Co ADBC. Fox Sparrow: 1 Dec 29 Ghent (GE); 6 Jan 2 TCC; fsm 1 Mar 10 Mechanicville (BHS). Song Sparrow: CC total of 134 higher than usual. Snow Bunting: flock of 25 Dec 4 Col Co (JC); 60 Jan 2 TCC; generally considered scarce this year.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The mild weather of last fall continued well into the winter season. December was relatively warm with less than the usual amount of snow. January was more normal in temperature, but with much less snow or any precipitation for that matter. February had its cold moments, but nothing spectacular. Snow was perhaps slightly above normal. Lakes were slow to freeze, and for the entire month of December would skim over at night only to melt the next day. A good hard freeze did not set in until well into January, and then the first half of March saw the ice depart, especially in the lowlands. March stayed consistently cold, with very few warm days.

Gene Brown, of the Cockland Audubon Society mentioned that this was the first winter in memory when we had every northern finch that we could expect to see; even the purple finch was more numerous than it has been in recent years. The small amount of snow favored hawk activity; and the mild weather may well have influenced some of our migrants to remain with us well beyond their usual dates, and survive at that. Spring migration started on time, and perhaps a bit before for some species. Most of the above observations will be born out by the text of the report.

Your reporter wishes to extend his thanks to Frank and Ruth Steffens who have contributed their records to this column since its beginning. They have recently retired and moved to Arizona to enjoy all those hummingbirds. They will be sorely missed.

Area Compilers: William Howe, Central Westchester; Robert F. Deed, Rockland Jack Orth, Bear Mt. Pk. and Wawarsing; Al Merritt, Cornwall; Dr. John Tramon-