

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.

Edgewood Drive Averill Park, N.Y. 12018

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-

tano, Western Orange; Martin Borko, Sullivan; Fred Hough, Ulster; Otis Waterman and Eleanor Pink, Dutchess.

Observers cited: AA—Anthony Amos; GB—Gene Brown; EB—Enid Butler; FG—Florence Germond; WH—William Howe; AJ—Alice Jones; M,JK—Mary and Jim Key; A,BM—Al and Barbara Merritt; VP—Vivian Parkhurst; EP—Eleanor Pink; B,TS—Bill and Trixie Strauss; MVW—Marion Van Wagner.

Abbreviations: BMCC—Bear Mountain Christmas Count, Jan 2; BCC—Burroughs Natural History Society Christmas Count, Dec 26; MCC—Mearns Bird Club Christmas Count, Dec 26; RCC—Rockland Audubon Society Christmas Count, Dec 18; WCC—Waterman Bird Club Christmas Count, Jan 2; SCC—Sullivan Audubon Society Christmas Count, Jan 1.

LOONS—DUCKS: Loons: none reported. Red-necked Grebe: 1, Rhinebeck, Mar 26 (J,MK). Pied-billed Grebe: more winter reports than usual. Cormorant: 1, probably Double-crested, Dec 13, on Hudson off Dutch (AJ). Great Blue Heron: a few more than usual thru winter. 5 returned to Tamarack Sw., Dutch, Mar 19. Inc. to 12 by end of month (FG). American Bittern: 1, Piermont Marsh, Jan 3 (AA). 1, Croton Pt. Mar 31 (WH). Mute Swan: good winter numbers in Rock until ice drove them to Hudson R. 2, Iona Is Mar 19, and 3 at Cornwall Mar 18. Canada Goose: more reported than usual. Excellent migrant numbers in Mar. Residents on most lakes by end of period. Max 1,200+ over Amenia, Dutch, Jan 7, and again on Jan 24. (B,TS). Brant: a flock of 100+ over Hamptonburgh Oran Dec 31 (Frank and Ruth Steffens). Mallard, Black Duck: former continue to outnumber the latter by almost 3 to 1 thru period. Good numbers for both. Gadwall: 2, Rockland L. Feb 4; increased to 9 by Mar 19. Previous early date was Mar 30. Pintail: never common. 1, Croton Pt. Mar 23. A male and 2 females at Piermont Pier on unusual date of Jan 14 (AA). Numbers up in late Mar, esp in Dutch. Green-winged Teal—unusual record of 1 on Rockland L Dec 26 (GB). Migrants reported in West and Rock on Mar 19. First report in Dutch Mar 29. Late for there. Blue-winged Teal: 2, Mar 8, Stormville, Dutch; very early (EB). American Widgeon: usual few reports in winter in Dutch. Wood Duck: more than usual. 7, in Blooming Grove, Oran Dec 26 (MCC). Redhead: 1, Dec 29, Sylvan L (AJ). Another Mar 16, near Staatsburgh (M,JK). Ring-necked Duck: winters regularly in West, but rare elsewhere. 2 Rockland L, Feb 4. Migrants are in usual numbers in mid-Mar. Canvasback: more than usual. Numbers up esp in Mar. A good number of 68 on BMCC. A single bird on Mongaup Res Feb 27 in very unusual for Sull. Greater Scaup: first, 12, Mar 16 (M,JK). Peak Mar 29 with 200 on Hudson in Dutch. Lesser Scaup: 9, Mar 16 on Hudson off Dutch. Common Goldeneye: numbers seem down slightly. Buffhead: seems to inc in numbers each year. Max 150, Rock L. mid-Mar. Ruddy Duck: winters regularly on lower Hudson Max 180 Croton Pt. Mar 31. Hooded Merganser: usual wintering birds. Migrants arr on time and in expected numbers. Reported lower in Dutch. Common Merganser: numbers normal to lower. Generally late in leaving area. Red-breasted Merganser: more than usual. Good numbers dur Mar. Reported on both the RCC and the MCC. An unusual number of 20 Dec 18 on Hudson in Dutch. (EP).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first, 12, Queensboro, Bear Mt. Pk. Mar 2. Numbers good thru end of period. Goshawk: many more than usual. 1, Pleasantville Dec 19, and again Mar 5. 3 Ulst records dur Jan. 1, near Kripplebush lingered into Feb. 1, Black Rock Forest, Cornwall Dec 29; and 1, Feb 9 near Meyers Corners, Dutch. Sharp-shinned Hawk: sev thru season. Usually hunting about bird feeders. Cooper's Hawk: in much the same locations and circumstances as the previous species. Red-tailed Hawk: usual numbers to better in most areas. Down somewhat in Dutch. Red-shouldered Hawk: more than usual, with several reports each month and many in Mar. Rough-legged Hawk: numbers not as good as last year, but still

excellent. Reported from all areas with several wintering in the vicinity of Galeville Airport, Ulst. *GOLDEN EAGLE*: one near Briarcliff, Dutch Feb 9 (VP). Same area reported in winters of 1969 and '70. Bald Eagle: only 1 or 2 reports from Hudson Highlands of single birds. Best records from Sull where as many as 7 were reported in the vicinity of Mongaup, Rio and Rondout Reservoirs. Most were imm. Marsh Hawk: a few winter reports with sev dur Mar. Sparrow Hawk: 1, hunting at a bird feeder in Cornwall Mar 18 (A,BM). Ruffed Grouse: few reports, scarce. Bob-white: ab 15 reported in Dutch thru period. Common Gallinule: 1, L Tappan, Blauvelt, on remarkable date of Feb 10 (Emily Paulson). Coot: usual few winter birds, but numbers lower than usual dur Mar in Dutch. Killdeer: usual winter birds. Also lower than expected dur Mar. Woodcock: phenomenal influx in early Mar. As many as 30, Mar 2 in southern Dutch. (B. Serra) 14 more the same day in South Millbrook (Howard Roeller). Common Snipe: 2 wintering reports; excellent migrant numbers dur Mar. *DUNLIN*: 1, Croton Pt, Mar 19 (WH). *GLAUCOUS GULL*: 1, Croton Pt. Feb 6-25 (WH). Another Mar 7, Wappingers Cr., Dutch (MVW). Another on Hudson near New Hamburg, Mar 18. *ICELAND GULL*: 1, Croton Pt. from Jan 21 thru period. 2 there Feb 6. Another at Tomahawk L. Oran Jan 1. Ring-billed Gull: usual winter numbers. Excellent movement up Hudson dur Mar. Bonaparte's Gull: 4, Croton Pt, Dec 12. Flocks of 25 and 19 at Piermont Pier on Jan 12 and 14 respectively (AA). Mourning Dove: excellent numbers of last winter continue thru this. More than 400 reported on BCC. Screech Owl: a few more than the few winter reports. Great Horned Owl: breeding in Popolopen Gorge, and at the Glen in Cornwall. Another heard almost daily thru season in Dutch. Snowy Owl: a good flight year. Reported in cent. West. and at Middletown, Oran. 2 reports from Dutch dur Jan and 1 on RCC. Barred Owl: 1, Dec 21, Canoe Hill, Dutch. Another all month of Dec at Hudson River State Hosp. Dutch. 1, Mar 1 at Yankee L. Sull. Long-eared Owl: all reports Dutch. As many as 20 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Valentine Beuche in Wappingers Falls from Dec thru rest of period. Short-eared Owl: a few found wintering in the vicinity of Galeville Airport, Ulst where they were so common a few winters ago. 1, Dec 17, Amenia. Another Piermont Pier Jan 17 (AA). Saw-whet Owl: 1, Croton Pt. Feb 21, 22 (George Smalls). Another at Palisades Dec 16 (AA).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Flicker: more than usual. Pileated Woodpecker: seems to hold its own, but numbers quite low. Max of 8 on BCC. Red-bellied Woodpecker: many more than usual. At least one or two birds reported from all counties. Red-headed Woodpecker: usual few winter birds. Numbers seem down from previous years. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only reports West, Ulst and Dutch. Phoebe: arr most areas Mar 20-23. Numbers good by end of month: Common Crow: numbers normal. Fish Crow: 1 wintered Croton Pt. 3 there Mar 11 and inc to 8 by Mar 31. 2 at Cornwall from Mar 21 to end of month. 1 or two thru Feb and Mar at Vassar Coll. 2, Vanderburgh Cove Mar 18-25. Red-breasted Nuthatch: excellent numbers. Too many reports to list. House Wren: 1 at Howells on the extreme date of Mar 30 (Peg Moon). Winter Wren: well reported esp in Dutch. Carolina Wren: an excellent winter. Population has rebuilt since last big kill of a few winters ago. Mockingbird: continues to increase, but slightly. RCC had 46. Catbird: many winter reports. *BROWN THRASHER*: very rarely reported in winter. 1, Fort Montgomery Feb 26 thru Mar 5. 1, Goshen, Dec 26, MCC. 1, New Paltz, Feb 4, 6. 1, Highland Hosp. Beacon, Feb 25. Robin: many winter reports. Excellent numbers dur Mar migration. Wood Thrush: 1, Nov 20, Monticello (Ken Niven). Hermit Thrush: 1, Westmoreland Sanct. Dec 19. Another Cornwall Dec 5. 2, Dutch last week of Feb. Mar movement good. Eastern Bluebird: good numbers thru season. Flocks of 10-20 reported from Dutch dur Jan and Feb. Kinglets: excellent numbers for both species. Lower in Mar. Pipit: only Mar record, 1, Mar 19, Central Valley, Oran. Cedar

Waxwing: only a few reported. Northern Shrike: 1, Mt. Kisco, Dec 19-24. 2, Ulster: 1, Clove Valley Jan 1 and another Accord Jan 20. 1, Fishkill, Dec 26; 1, Wappingers Falls, Mar 8. Loggerhead Shrike: 1, Croton Pt Mar 23, 25. 1, Bashakill, Mar 28. 2 Jan reports in Dutch and 3 there in Feb. Starling: more than 1,000 roosting at a location in Poughkeepsie in Dec.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: no longer the winter resident in Rock that they were a few years ago, largely due to succession in habitat. 8 birds in Dutch dur Feb. Meadowlark: about 175 at Salt Point, Dutch dur Jan. Red-winged Blackbird: more wintering than usual. Migrants in excellent numbers by first week in Mar. 1, a partial albino, returned for fifth year to feeder of Mrs. Homer Williams in Poughkeepsie. *BALTIMORE ORIOLE*: more reports than usual. 1, Hawthorne Dec 26. 4 at various locations in Dutch in Jan, and 1 thru Feb. Rusty Blackbird: good winter reports. Migrants well represented thru Mar. Common Grackle: arr most areas last week of Feb numbers excellent thru Mar. Cowbird: large numbers in several locales, but low in others. Cardinal: normal to better. Dickcissel: 1, Dec 8, in Pleasant Valley (MVW). Northern Finches: all species well represented. Too many reports to list. All species in good numbers including Purple Finch. Common Redpolls reported by the hundreds in most areas in Mar. Siskins in excellent numbers thru end of seasons. One interesting report of House Finch diminishing in numbers. Believed driven from feeders by aggressive Siskins. One report of House Finch nesting in Dutch by Mar 24. Both species of Crossbill well represented, but numbers lower than expected. Rufous-sided Towhee: more wintering than usual in all areas. Savannah Sparrow: 9, Eastview, West, Feb 5. More than 75 near New Paltz on Feb 27 an unusual concentration for that time of year. 4 to 6 reported thru season at feeders in Dutch. Vesper Sparrow: 1, Eastview, West. Feb 21. 1, Dutch, Dec 20; and 3 reports there dur Jan. *OREGON JUNCO*: 1, Mar 15, near Bonticou, Ulst. (June Polatsekeneer), fide R. Pyle. Tree Sparrow: numbers lower than usual but still good. Chipping Sparrow: arr Rock Mar 23. White-crowned Sparrow: spent entire season at feeder of (B,TS) in Amenia, Dutch. White-thr. Sparrow: small flocks in most areas thru entire season. Fox Sparrow: a few winter reports but excellent numbers from first week of Mar thru end. *LINCOLN SPARROW*: first seen Jan 10 at Amenia. Remained thru Feb 23 (B,TS). Swamp Sparrow: all reports Dutch. 4 in Dec and 1 in Jan. Lapland Longspur: 6, MCC, Goshen 1, (no date) Kingston, first record for Ulst. As many as 3 reported twice near Red Hood in early Dec. 2 there on WCC. Snow Bunting: 2, Croton Pt. Dec 12; 15, Wurtsboro, Oct 18; 2, Ridgebury, Oran Dec 9; Dutch, Dec 7; about 50 in Dutch Dec 5. Also reported from Ulst.

Spring reports due June 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

Detailed information was made available from only six of the twelve Christmas Counts unducted locally this year. The relatively warm weather—with no freeze-overs preceding the counts—continued into January. Mainly this factor, perhaps, but also a light "winter finch" flight, and ever-increasing observer interest, pushed several counts species totals to new highs. Foremost (as usual) was Captree (abbreviated CaCC) on Dec. 19, with a new State high of 144 species. Except for several inexplicable "misses" (Glaucous Gull, Palm Warbler), this year's total might have reached the mystical 150 mark; in fact, at least eight additional species were