

1 Feb 24 Ind L (RMc); 1 Mar 9 FF (TM); 2 Mar 27 Ch R (GP). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 Feb 10 Ampersand Bay SL (GTC); 1 Feb 16 PS (Frank Graves). Horned Lark: first migrants—17 Mar 2 L Clear School and fed by kindergarten class (Louise Rutherford). Common Raven: 1 Dec 3 (TM)—croaking repeatedly near junction of Goodnow and Hudson Rivers, GTC comments that this may be the same raven reported by Hugh Fosburgh from the nearby Northwoods Club last July; 1 Dec 4 Ray Brook (GTC)—wedge shape of tail seen as bird flew over Department of Environmental Conservation building, bird was calling and flying beside a crow so size and difference in wing beat was easily seen; 1 Dec 26 North Elba (Major Day)—no details; 1 Feb 27 Ray Brook (GTC), bird perched near road and was seen at less than 20 feet so that throat bristles were clearly seen; 1 Mar 17 FF (TM), this bird spent afternoon flying back and forth along far side of upper reservoir and to one point on the near shore with rather lengthy stops to perch and croak, Crows were within this area, but the two did not associate; 4 Mar 24 Cascade and Porter Mountains (TM), 2 pairs circling, 1 near and above Porter summit and 1 pair repeatedly passed over Cascade summit in a circle, circles were not near any noticeable ledges and were at high altitude with birds calling in croaks as usual plus an unusual bell note, birds sometimes held in wind with one just above another, on one occasion a lower bird turned completely over and touched its feet to those of the top bird; 1 Mar 27 High Falls Gorge near L Placid (GP), wedge tail seen when bird dropped from cliff to circle on flat wings with no flapping before soaring back into cliff and disappearing. Black-capped Chickadee: max 25 feeder birds thru period TL (RAM); 18 Feb 24 at feeders Ind L (RMc). Boreal Chickadee: max 12 Mar 31 Mad (TM). Common Crow: returned to PS Mar 3 (TM); approximately 100 Mar 5 L Clear (TM). Nuthatches—more than usual of both kinds seen at feeders. Robin: first migrant Mar 17 FF (TM); 1 Mar 19 TL (MK); 2 Mar 31 Mad (TM). Northern Shrike: 1 Jan 27 TL (RAM). Starling: returned Mar 11 to PS (TM).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Redwinged Blackbird: 3 Dec 4 at feeder PS (William Rutherford); 2 Dec 9-15 SL (MK); 1 Mar 2 SL (MK); 1 Mar 8 TL (RAM); 1 Mar 9 PS (TM) this is not a common winter bird within the Adirondack Park altho it is found in Champlain Valley at this season. Brown-headed Cowbird: flock Dec 4 TL (RAM). Evening Grosbeak: plentiful at all times but not so overwhelmingly as in the previous winter; max 150 TL (RAM). Pine Grosbeak: several seen thru winter in most areas but no large invasion and no large road kills noted of this or other winter finches. Pine Siskin: noticeable increase in March. American Goldfinch: as many as 40 at some feeders. Red Crossbill: scarce—11 Jan 16 PS (TM); 6 Feb 25 PS (TM); 2 Mar 4 FF (TM). White-winged Crossbill: not reported. Slate-colored Junco: returned Mar 19 TL (RAM). White-throated Sparrow: 1 Dec 2 TL (RAM). Tree Sparrow: at feeders until Jan 16 and returned Mar 14 TL (RAM). Song Sparrow: 1 Mar 31 Mad (TM). Snow Bunting: 50 Dec 21 Raquette Pond (RAM).

P. O. Box 125, Paul Smiths, New York 12970

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD E. PHILION

In retrospect the winter of '73 was about as moderate and open as one can hope in this section of the northeast. The mean temperature for the month of December was 28.9° or 2.4° above normal while the high and low temperatures were 52° (6th) and 1° (17th) respectively. Snowfall was above normal for the

month (22.5") yet by the end of the month, during the Christmas count period only 2–5 inches of snow remained. Larger streams and the Hudson river remained open thru most of the winter but waterfowl were not present in unusual numbers.

January was 4.3° above normal and set two record highs for a change, 53° on the 16th and 59° on the 18th. Snowfall was 11.2 inches or 5.9 inches below normal and about the same as February. A low temperature of -21° was recorded February 18th but again record highs were set in March on the 8th (64°) and 17th (69°). Only a trace of snow was measured at the Albany airport for the month and most lakes were open by the 15th.

Half-hardy species such as Carolina Wren, Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Grackle, White-throated and Field Sparrows, to mention a few, wintered in the region. On the other hand the winter finch population was a mixed bag. Pine Grosbeaks appeared everywhere but at the backyard feeder, but Redpolls and Pine Siskins were dramatically reduced from last year while other boreal species went unreported.

Notables for the period include a late Loggerhead Shrike, Peregrine Falcon, Monk Parakeet, and a Red-headed Woodpecker.

Observers cited are: A&TB–A&T Brown; JC–J Cook; MF–Mabel French; B&HG–B&H Gardina; M&AG–M&A Giddings; WGG–WG Gorman; MM–M Mickle; RP–R Phillon; EP–E Powell; BW–B Waite; WBS–WB Sabin; RPY–RP Yunick;

Abbreviations: ADBC–Alan Devoe Bird Club; CC–Christmas Count including ADBC, Schenectady, Southern Rensselaer and Troy; HR–Hudson River; TR–Tomhannock Reservoir; WSL–West Sand Lake.

LOONS–DUCKS: Common Loon: 3 Mar 25 TR (RP). Horned Grebe: 1 Mar 25 TR (RP). Pied-billed Grebe: 3 Mar 15 HR (JC). Great Blue Heron: 1 Dec 30 TCC; 1 Feb 21 Schodack Ctr. (JC); 3 Mar 15 HR (JC). Canada Goose: 11 Dec 7 Queenchy Lake (ADBC); 16 Mar 4 HR (B&HG); max 150 Mar 24 HMBC. Mallard: total of 112 from regional CC reports. Black Duck: total of 226 from regional CC reports. Pintail: fsm 2 Mar 4 HR (A&TB); 5 Mar 24 (HMBC). Green-winged Teal: fsm 2 Mar 4 HR (A&TB); 12 Mar 24 (HMBC). Blue-winged Teal: fsm 19 Mar 25 HR (JC). American Widgeon: 1 Mar 4 HR (A&TB); 5 Mar 24 (HMBC). Wood Duck: 3 Mar 24 (HMBC). Redhead: fsm 55 Mar 24, seldom seen in such number on HR (HMBC & MM). Ring-necked Duck: fsm 10 Mar 18 Castleton (RP); max 45 Mar 24 (HMBC). Canvasback: 1 Feb 1 HR (A&TB); max 60 Mar 24 (HMBC). Scaup: 4 Dec (TCC); max 200 Mar 24 HR (MM). Common Goldeneye: total of 4 on CC's; max 40 Mar 25 HR (JC). Bufflehead: 5 Mar 25 TR (RP). Common Merganser: 1 Feb 1 HR (A&TB); 4 Mar 25 TR (RP). Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Mar 24 (HMBC).

HAWKS–OWLS: Goshawk: 1 Dec 16 WSL (RP); 4 Dec 30 TCC; 1 Feb 8 Altamont (BW). Cooper's Hawk: 2 from regional CC reports. Red-tailed Hawk: total of 79 from CC reports. Rough-legged Hawk: total of 17 from CC reports; 1 Mar 16 Rensselaer (RP). Marsh Hawk: total of 3 from CC reports; 1 Mar 24 (WGG). PEREGRINE FALCON: 1 Mar 16 Altamont (BW). Sparrow Hawk: total of 33 from regional CC reports. Ruffed Grouse: total of 38 from CC reports. Ring-necked Pheasant: total of 99 from CC's alone—double last years total. Killdeer: absent Jan and Feb. American Woodcock: 1 Feb 27 Colonie (WBS). Great Black-backed Gull: 3 ADBC CC; fsm 6 Mar 24 HMBC. Herring Gull: total of 117 from CC reports. Ring-billed Gull: total of 136 from CC reports. Mourning Dove: impressive total of 823 from CC's alone. Screech Owl: total of 5 from CC reports. Great Horned Owl: total of 9 from CC reports. Snowy Owl: only 1 report this year, 28 Dec Valatie (M&AG & MM). Barred Owl: 1 Dec 30 TCC; 1 Feb 23

Altamont (BW). Long-eared Owl: 2 Dec 30 TCC. *MONK PARAKEET*: a single bird with nest near Eagle Mills seen by the several on TCC.

GOATSUCKERS—*STARLING*: Belted Kingfisher: total of 6 during CC period. Yellow-shafted Flicker: total of 26 from CC reports. Pileated Woodpecker: total of 6 from CC's *RED-HEADED WOODPECKER*: 1 immature at feeder thru Jan Ghent (B&HG) (MM). Eastern Phoebe: fsm 1 Feb 20 Delmar fide (WBS); several reports late March. Horned Lark: max 465 ADBC CC. Blue Jay: total of 1030 from CC reports. Black capped Chickadee: less abundant than last year. Tufted Titmouse: total of 94 from CC reports. Red-breasted Nuthatch: more abundant than last year, total of 34 from CC reports. Winter Wren: 2 from CC reports; 1 Mar 28 Altamont (BW). Brown Creeper: total of 18 from CC reports. Carolina Wren: 1 caught in squirrel trap at time of TCC; 1 Mar 24 (HMBC). Mockingbird: present in good numbers, total of 20 from CC reports; 3 Jan 8 Indian Ladder (BW). Catbird 1 Dec 28 Chatham (B&HT). Brown Thrasher: 1 ADBC CC. Robin: total of 22 from CC reports; fsm starting around March 11. Hermit Thrush: 2 Feb 18 E Greenbush (WGG); 2 reports Mar 11, 1 banded, Schenectady (RPY). Eastern Bluebird: 4 Jan 1 Altamont (BW); fsm 1 Feb 28 Albany fide (WBS). Golden-crowned Kinglet: total of 41 from CC reports, up from last year. Cedar Waxwing: total of 105 from CC reports yet appeared to be scarce by mid-winter. Northern Shrike: 1 ADBC CC; 1 Mar 9 Ghent (ADBC). *LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE*: I seen by many on TCC. Starling abundant.

VIREOS—*SPARROWS*: Myrtle Warbler: 1 Mar 24 (HMBC). Eastern Meadowlark: total of 46 from CC's. Red-winged Blackbird: total of 64 from CC reports. Rusty Blackbird: 1 ADBC CC. Common Grackle: several reports thru winter. Brown-headed Cowbird: 127 from CC reports down from last years total. Cardinal: total of 427 from CC reports. Evening Grosbeak: surpassed last years total—1670 from CC reports. Purple Finch: reported in good numbers—total of 74 from CC reports. House Finch: 26 banded Schenectady during period—much more numerous this winter (RPY); CC totals 15; 2 Dec 3 Loudonville (MF). Pine Grosbeak: total of 431 from CC reports—fed largely on sumac panicles thru winter becoming scarce in March. Common Redpoll: total of 10 from CC reports—a striking contrast to last years abundance. Pine Siskin: 42 from CC reports; max 100 Feb 26 Queechey (MM). American Goldfinch: 724 from CC's; abundant thru period especially at feeders. Red Crossbill: 10 Dec 30 TCC; returning flocks seen in early Mar (RPY). Slate-colored Junco: 379 from CC totals. Tree Sparrow: numbers down from previous years—total of 985 from CC's. Field Sparrow: scattered reports of wintering birds. White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Dec 30 TCC; 1 Mar 17 Hudson (J. Silvernail). White-throated Sparrow: many wintered; total of 72 from CC. Fox Sparrow: 1 Dec 17 SCC; 1 Mar 17 Chatham (EP). Swamp Sparrow: 3 Dec 23 SRCC. Song Sparrow: total of 84 from CC's. Snow Bunting: total of 113 from CC reports; 13 Feb 19 (BW).

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