

24 Saranac Lake (MK); Mar 24 TL (RM); Mar 25 PS (TM). Lapland Longspur: 1 Mar 22 Wil (GC & JP); 1 Mar 22 Es (JP); Mar 23 Es (JP). Snow Bunting: many, many reports.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK -

RICHARD E. PHILION

This may have been a winter of discontent for many of us, but the weather provided much of the Northeast with a generally mild and snowfree landscape. December and January were each 1.7° above normal. A 61° on Dec 4th and 5th equalled records for those two days while a -13 on Dec 19th set a new record low for that date. As last year, most streams and at least portions of larger lakes and reservoirs were open till late December. Christmas count weather was generally moderate with little snow on the ground, yet half hardies were not especially well represented. The availability of open water during the CC period and the NYSWC in mid-January led to above average numbers of the more common waterfowl, but except for a late pair of Common Gallinule did not turn up anything very unusual. Flights of Canada Geese were still moving in late December.

February and March were slightly below the mean temperature but the average snowfall was 11 inches below normal. Ice went out of many lakes by March 7th, unusually early for Region 8.

Above average counts of Red-tailed Hawks and House Finches were noted as well as the modest advance of Red-headed Woodpeckers through the region. Winter finches in general were more scarce in early winter than late winter.

Notables for the period include a bald eagle, common gallinule, iceland gul and hoary redpoll.

Abbreviations: Col. Co.—Columbia County; L7—Lock 7 Mohawk River; LLO—Lake Lonely Outlet; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; SL—Saratoga Lake; SCR—Stoney Creek Reservoir; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; VFWM—Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management.

Contributors: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; DA—Doug Allen; B,H,S,—G. Bartlett, B. Havens, B. Sequin, T&AB—T&A. Brown; Cc's—Christmas Counts include Schenectady, Southern Rensselaer, Troy and Columbia Co; JC—J. Cook; MF—M. French; M&AG—M&A. Gidding; WG—W. Gorman; MG—M. Gruett; HMBC—Hudson Mohawk Bird Club; PM—P. Mickle; NYSWC—New York Waterfowl Count; RP—R. Philion; BW—Beverly Waite; RPY—RP Yunick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon 3 Dec 8 SL (B,H,S); fsm 1 Mar 3 SL (B,H,S). Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Dec 12 ADBC; fsm 1 Mar 9 TR (HMBC). Great Blue Heron: fsm 1 Mar 22 Mohawk (DA); 1 Mar 23 Lower Hudson (HMBC). Canada Goose: 50 Dec 8 SL (B,H,S); total of 238 from 3 CC reports; spring migration from Mar 3. Snow Goose: 30 Dec 24 E Greenbush (fide MG); 1 Dec 15 ADBC CC; 2 Mar 17 SL (B,H,S); 2 Mar 23 Lower Hudson (HMBC). Mallard: thru period; total of 802 from CC reports. Black Duck: thru period: total of 649 from CC reports up from 226 '73. Pintail: fsm 4 Mar 17 L7 (B,H,S). Green-winged Teal: fsm 30 Mar 23 Lower Hudson. Blue-winged Teal: 8 Jan 13 NYSWC (HMBC); fsm 4 Mar 24 NWW (BRS). American Wigeon 1 Jan 13 Fish Creek; fsm 2 Mar 17 Fish Creek (B,H,S). Wood Duck: fsm 1 Mar 8 Col Co. (ADBC). Ring-necked Duck: fsm 1 Mar 8 Col Co. (ADBC). Ring-necked Duck: reported Dec 3 Chatham (MM); fsm 6 Mar 10 SCR (B,H,S); max 50 Mar 23 Lower Hudson (HMBC). Canvasback: 1 Feb 18 LLO; 30 Mar 25 SL (B,H,S). Lesser Scaup: 1 Dec 8 SL; 6 Jan 27 LLO 100 Dec 15 ADBC CC; 30 Jan 13 NYSWC

(HMBC). Common Goldeneye: Dec 8 SL; 3 Jan 13 NWSMC; 6 Jan 27 LLO (B,H,S); fsm 40 Mar 23 Lower Hudson (HMBC). Bufflehead: fsm 1 Mar 3 Upper Hudson, 1 Mar 17 L7; 4 Mar 31 (B,H,S). White-winged Scoter: 4 Dec 8 SL (B,H,S). Black Scoter: 1 Dec 8 SL (B,H,S). Hooded Merganser: 4 Dec 8 SL; 1 Jan 13 & Feb 18 Fish Creek; max 30 Mar 31 Fish Creek (B,H,S). Common Merganser: 20 Dec 8 SL; Feb 10-18 Fish Creek; March 2 thru period (B,H,S). Red-breasted Merganser: Mar 10-Mar 21 SL (B,H,S).

HAWKS-OWLS: Turkey Vulture: fsm 1 Mar 28 Saratoga (RPY). Goshawk: about average reports; total of 4 from CC's; 1 Mar 31 L7 (B,H,S). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Jan 26 Col Co. (E. Mansell). Cooper's Hawk: 2 TCC; 1 Jan 6 pursuing siskins at feeder Schenectady (RPY). Red-tailed Hawk: numerous, total of 114 from CC's compared with 79 last year. Broad-winged Hawk: fsm 1 Mar 28 Hillsdale (N. Snare); 1 Mar 31 VFWM (B,H,S). Rough-legged Hawk: total of 3 from CC's vs 17 last year; 4 Jan 20 NYSC (HMBC). **BALD EAGLE:** an adult seen along the Hudson River on the TCC. Marsh Hawk: 1 Dec 12 ADBC; fsm 1 Mar 25 Castleton (JC) Kestrel: thru period; total of 54 from CC's up from 33 last year. Ruffed Grouse: average numbers. **COMMON GALLINULE:** a rare report in mid-winter, 2 Jan 13 HR (NYSWC). American Coot: fsm 1 Mar 31 LLO (B,H,S). Killdeer: most arrived in early March. American Woodcock: fsm 1 Mar 23 Altamont (BW). Common Snipe: 1 SCC; 1 Feb 3 Ghent (B&HG). **ICELAND GULL:** 1 Mar 31 SL (BHS). Great Black-backed Gull: 2 ADBC CC; fsm 3 Mar 10 NWW (B,H,S). Herring Gull: thru period; total of 281 from CC's vs 117 last year. Ring-billed Gull: thru period; 306 from CC's vs 136 in 73. Bonaparte's Gull: fsm 2 Mar 31 SL (B,H,S). Mourning Dove: 1192 on CC's exceeded last year's impressive total of 828. Great Horned Owl: 1 Jan 30 E Greenbush (WG); 4 on SRCC. Snowy Owl: 1 Dec 24 E Greenbush (MG); 1 Feb 8 Hudson (WG). Barred Owl: 1 Jan 13 NYSWC (HMBC). Saw-whet Owl: 1 heard early Mar Amsterdam (DA); 2 Mar 15 & 1 Mar 20 Malta (WG).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLINGS: Belted Kingfisher: thru period. Common Flicker: apparently few wintered, 1 SCC. **RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:** 1 SCC; 1 ADBC CC & thru period; 1 Dec 10 Mariaville; 1 thru Feb Mont. Co. (DA). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Feb 3 an early arrival Chatham (PM). Eastern Phoebe: fsm 1 Mar 31 (B,H,S). Common Crow: totals doubled over last year's CC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: total of 33 vs 44 last year on CC's. Winter Wren: 1 SCC-thru Dec Ne Col Co. (R. Downe). Carolina Wren: 1 SCC. Mockingbird: numbers up from last year, total of 30 vs 20 on CC's. Robin: did not take advantage of the mild winter, 5 on CC's compared with 22 last year; fsm arr Mar 10. Hermit Thrush: 1 SRCC. Eastern Bluebird: 2 Dec 6 ne Col Co (R. Drowne); 3 Jan 13 S Muetzeskill (ADBC); 1 Jan 10 Scotia (DA). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 SCC. Cedar Waxwing: scarce thru period, only 8 SRCC. Northern Shrike: 1 Dec 14 Chatham (M&AG); 2 on CC's; 1 Jan 27 SCR (B,H,S); 1 Mar 13 E Greenbush (RP). Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Jan 3 Waterford; 1 Jan 6 Watervliet Res &; Jan 31 RL (B,H,S)

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: total of 13 from CC's; 5 Dec 28 Castleton (JC). Rusty Blackbird: 20 Dec 8 Hudson (T&A Brown). Brown-headed Cowbird: large flocks but localized, 575 SRCC & 355 ADBC CC. Cardinal: little change from last year. Evening Grosbeak: began arriving 2nd week of October but in much smaller flocks than previous years; total of 668 vs 1670 last year CC. Purple Finch: 34 on CC vs 74 last year. House Finch: stil increasing, 35 on CC's; very numerous in Nov & Dec, banded 56 in Nov, 68 in Dec with max 30 banded on 8 Dec; scarcer in mid-winter; (RPY). Pine Grosbeak: 1 SRCC vs total of 431 last year; 5 Dec 29 Castleton (JC). **HOARY REDPOLL:** 1 Apr 8 Mariaville (DA); 1 banded in yard Mar 3, & Mar 9 with stubby bills and un-

streaked rumps—a third specimen banded Mar 9 was a hybrid Hoary/Common' (RPY). Common Redpoll: 6 SRCC becoming more abundant in late winter. Pine Siskin: 'a modest invasion at Jenny Lake in Dec & Feb' (RPY); generally scarce elsewhere. American Goldfinch: slightly better than last year's CC total but became scarce in mid & late winter. Red Crossbill: 2 SRCC. White-winged Crossbill: more widely reported than previous years; 6 TCC; 1 Jan 17-20 Loudonville (MF); 1 Jan 26 Mariaville (DA); 1 Mar 23 Castleton (JC). Rufous-sided Towhee: 2 SCC. Dark-eyed Junco: numerous in Feb and March. Tree Sparrow: total of 1388 from CC's compared with 985 last year. Chipping Sparrow: 1 Jan 1 Col Co (E. Mansell). White-throated Sparrow: few wintered; total of 13 from CC's vs 72 last year. Fox Sparrow: 1 Mar 19 ADBC; 1 Mar 24 (VFWM) (B,H,S). Song Sparrow: 73 from CC's compared with 84 last year. Snow Bunting: max 355 SRCC.

Please direct all future reports to our new records chairwoman Gladys Snell, 151 N. Toll, Scotia, N.Y.

Edgewood Dr., Averill Park, N.Y.

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Temperatures for Dec and Jan were slightly above average, but Feb was colder than usual. March was cool throughout. There were almost no below zero days for the whole season. Most large bodies of water did not freeze until well after Christmas counts, and were open again by the end of Feb. Snows were infrequent, and most precipitation came as rain. Over nine inches in Dec; 3.35 inches for Jan; 3.40 inches for Feb; 5.30 inches for March (all records Ulster Co.). The early thaw brought water-fowl thru the region quite early in March. There were no spectacular movements, and many species went almost unreported. The mild winter caused many species to linger into the season. Northern visitors were generally sparse and not impressive. Redpolls and Siskins were an exception and did make a good showing. They were not widespread, but locally good at certain feeders. Resident species held near normal.

Observers cited: AA—Anthony Amos; MB—Martin Borko; NC—Noel Cutright; TH—Thelma Haight; CH—Charles Hills; FH—Fred Hough; PJ—Paul Jeheber; AJ—Alice Jones; JMK—Jim and Mary Key; EK—Eric Kiviat; ABM—Al and Barbara Merritt; KR—Kate Redmond; FAR—Forrest and Aline Romero; ES—Eric Single; WTS—William and Trixie Strauss; CT—Czecher Terhune; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; JT—John Tripp; MVW—Marion VanWagner.

Abbreviations: First four or five letters of each county; BMCC—Bear Mountain Christmas Count, Dec 30; FWC—Federation Waterfowl Count, mid—Jan; MCC—E. A. Mearns Bird Club Christmas Count in E. Orange Co., Dec 22; RCC—Rockland Audubon Soc. Christmas Count, Dec 16; SCC—Sullivan Audubon Soc Christmas Count, Dec 27; WCC—R. T. Waterman Bird Club Christmas Count in W. Dutchess Co. Dec 29.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: only report, 1 Dec 29 Ashokan Res. Red-throated Loon: first time on MCC, 1 Hudson R at West Point (PJ, EDT). Horned Grebe: first time on MCC; 1 Jan 15-19 Wurtsboro was the only other winter report; usual Mar migrants did not materialize, probably went thru quickly with open water farther north. Great Blue Heron: very few winter reports; 5 or 6 at Tamarack Sw from Mar 19 on. American Bittern: 1 Dec 4 near Cruger's Is. (EK). Mute Swan: continues to inc in area and has finally spread northward with nesting on Garrison's Pd, Fort Montgomery at the end of Mar; 9 on BMCC; 31 on RCC. WHISTLING SWAN: 1 Mar 23-25, Traver Marsh, Dutch (FAR). Canada Goose: