

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:

remained in excel nos until Jan freeze; returned in good numbers in Mar and Apr; almost every pond in the Highlands has a nesting pr or more at end of period. Snow Goose: 1 Dec 16 near Amenias (WTS). Mallard and Black Duck: up 3 or 4 times their usual nos on most Christmas counts. Gadwall: 4 on RCC at Rockland L, second time in 27 years for that count. Pintail: more than ever before; 9 on FWC was 3 x previous max; 30 on SCC which usually turns up none or possibly 1 or 2; 28 Mar 5 at Briarcliff Farm Dutch; 27 Mar 20. at 6½ Station Rd., Goshen (JT). Green-winged Teal: 4 Dec 4 Dieterich Pd, Dutch (MVW); 1 Jan 13 near Cuddebackville (JT); March movement was poor. Blue-winged Teal: 1 Dec 4 near Crugers Is (EK). American Wigeon: 3 Dec 1 Dutch; 19 thru Dec 16 Amenias (WTS); 77 on RCC. Wood Duck: more than usual; 10 Dec 27 Lamont Geo Obs near Nyack (AA); 16 Mar 20 at 6½ Station Rd, Goshen (JT). **RED-HEAD**: 1 Sylvan L, Dutch was first record for WCC, remained thru Jan 7 (MVW). Ring-necked Duck: max 80 aJn 1 Bog Brook Res, Town of Southeast; Mar movements were small and unimpressive. Canvasback: unreported for the 4th time in 20 yrs on FWC; Mar numbers excellent with 800 Mar 10 Vanderburgh Cove and 600 Mar 15 Ulster Park, probably the same birds. Common Goldeneye: 83 on SCC was excellent; very poor elsewhere. Oldsquaw: 1 MCC Dec 22. Cornwall Bay (PJ,EDT); 35 on SCC has to be some kind of record for area and season. Ruddy Duck: RCC had 163, the highest number since 1966. Hooded Merganser: SCC produced 91, another record for season and location; Mar movements were poor; 13 Jan 1 Putman L. (CH) Common Merganser: max 35 Mar 27 Dutch.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: several unusual winter reports, 3 Jan and 7 Feb all Dutch, first migrants last week of Feb Bear Mt St Pk, about 2 weeks early. Goshawk: all records Dutch; 1 Dec 16 Pokeepsie; 3 late Feb and 1 Mar 10. Sharp-shinned Hawk: more than usual; sev in Dutch thru season and 1 at Monticello. Cooper's Hawk: 2 reports, 1 thru Dec near Amenias, obs on Dec 22 eating Mourning Dove; 1 Jan 13 near Wurtsboro. Red-tailed Hawk: good numbers thru season; obs nesting in March in Dutch. Red-shouldered Hawk: more than usual; 1 Dec 24 Rock; 1 Dec 29 High Falls; 1 Mar 5 Middletown; 1 Mar 10 Goshen; 1 Feb 15 Dutch. Rough-legged Hawk: fewer than usual but scattered thru region and season. Bald Eagle: 1 Dec 27 Vassar Coll; max 11 (5 ad & 6 imm) on SCC, highest count in State for last 10 years. Marsh Hawk: a few more than usual. **MERLIN**: 2 reports both by excellent observers: 1 Dec 28 Tallman Mt, Rock (AA); 1 Jan 14 Red Oak Mill (JMK). Bobwhite: continues to hang on; 2 males and 5 females Feb 23 Stissing Mt Rd, Dutch. Turkey: max 11 Feb 17 near Monticello. Clapper Rail: 1 first time on RCC at Piermont Pier (AA,ES). Virginia Rail: more than usual; 1 on RCC for 3rd time at West Nyack Dump (ES); 2 or 3 Dec 23 at Thompson Pd, Dutch (EK); observed there again Jan 7. Coot: numbers very low; 1 Mar 25 Tamarack Sw, Dutch. Killdeer: sev thru season in Dutch; good Mar movements reported, over 50 in Dutch; Ulster had its first winter record with 3 Dec 29 near Stone Ridge (NC,KR). Woodcock: 1 second week of Jan near Red Hook; max 8 Mar 27 Canoe Hill (FAR). Common Snipe: 4 on RCC at Piermont Pier (AA,ES); Mar numbers good thru region. Great Black-backed Gull: better numbers than usual on upper Hudson R; RCC reported 81, about 2 x the previous high. Herring Gull: a new high for RCC, 1,969, 20 years ago they averaged 400 to 600. Ring-billed Gull: 920 on RCC their highest ever. Laughing Gull: 2 Jan 13 at Piermont Pier (ES). Bonaparte's Gull: 30 Dec 23 Piermont Pier (AA); 3 Mar 24 Bashakill (MB). Mourning Dove: 586 on RCC, highest by margin of 100; more than 200 reported from Dutch in Mar (AJ); at least 3 nesting reports that month. Owls: most resident species normal. Snowy Owl: 1 Jan 11 and again Jan 17 at Sterling Forest (Lee H Deed); 1 Jan 13 west of Liberty (AJ); 1 Feb 7 Circleville (JT). Short-eared Owl: 1 Jan 13 Piermont Pier (ES).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Flicker: 3 or 4 all season at feeders in Dutch; 1 in Orange. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1 in Dutch and another in Rock thru season; 1 Dec 29 Tallman Mt, Rock (AA); 3 on RCC in the New City area; 1 BMCC. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 daily in Dec at feeder in P'kpsie except when needed for the Christmas Count (AJ); 1st winter record for Ulst, 1 Dec 29 near Lamontville (Ruth Craig & Al Brayton). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 on RCC near New City; 1 Jan 20 near Staatsburg (AJ); 1 Feb 5 Cornwall-on-Hudson (A,B,M. Phoebe: arr Mar 23 in Dutch and Mar 24 in Ulst. Horned Lark: good numbers all season in farm country. Tree Swallow: 10 Mar 20 Bashakill (MB); 2 Mar 25 Beavertdam on Shunpike, Dutch (FAR). Common Crow: only 502 on RCC; low; about 2,500 wintered at Hudson River State Hospital, less than former years, this latter group down to 400 at the end of period. (AJ). Fish Crow: 4 Jan records in Dutch, most at Hudson R St Hosp; 10 reported dur Mar at P'kpsie and along Hudson R in Dutch. Red-breasted Nuthatch: many reports from all parts of region thru season. Brown Creeper: 4 regularly thru Dec in Dutch. Winter Wren: usual few reports. Carolina Wren: wintered in reduced numbers, but made it thru season. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 on RCC at West Nyack Dump, 1st time on that count away from the Hudson R; 1 Dec 4 near Cruger's Is. (EK). Mockingbird: 46 on WCC was excellent; 49 on RCC broke previous record. Brown Thrasher: more reports than usual. Robin: usual winter numbers; exc migration by the last week of March. Hermit Thrush: 1 Jan 10 Dover Furnace (Jim & Bonnie Fiedler); 1 Jan 3 Cornwall-on-Hudson (ABM); 1 dur Jan near Kripplebush (FH); 7 on RCC tied 1950 record high. Bluebird; 4 on WCC at Clove Valley was the first time that count in 3 years; not reported elsewhere until late Mar. Golden-crowned Kinglet: exc numbers thru region all season; RCC had 41, tying 1952 record. Water Pipit: only report Mar 18 Bashakill. Northern Shrike: a few more than usual; 1 on WCC for 4th time; 1 Jan 2 Sharon Station (WTS); 1 Mar 2 Pleasant Valley (FAR). Loggerhead Shrike: about the same abundance at Northern Shrike; 1 Jan 1 Pawling (CH); 1 Jan 15 Middletown; 1 Feb 5 Middletown (JT).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: the usual few winter reports; 1 Dec 22 Dutch (MJK); 1 Jan 2 Salt Point (MVW); an unusual number of 17 Jan 1 at Southeast (CH). House Sparrow: continues downward trend; 523 on RCC was half the max of 1,293 in 1963. Red-winged Blackbird: wintered in good numbers with usual good movements in March; max 3,000 Mar 25 (FAR). Northern Oriole: 1 Dec 17 Dutch (CT); thru season at Middletown feeder. Rusty Blackbird: higher numbers than usual esp in Dutch. Common Grackle: reported from several locations on Feb 23, appears to favor this arr date most years. Cowbird: every month; max 300 Mar 25 Standfordville (FAR). Cardinal: numbers down to 96 on WCC from high of 162 in 1969. *DICKCISSEL*: only report, 1 Jan 6 near Dutchess Hill (AJ). Evening Grosbeak: fall numbers were exc, but dropped off in Dec to a very few local birds; no real northern movement at end of period. Purple Finch: numbers low but holding. House Finch: outnumbered Purple Finch by far on all Christmas Counts; 79 on RCC was 10 x the number of Purples; 68 on WCC, first reported that count in 1965. Pine Grosbeak: unreported. *HOARY REDPOLL*: 1 feeding with about 80 Common Redpolls at the feeder of John Tripp in Circleville, remained there from Feb 24 to mid-Apr, observed by Libby Van Etten, who with Mr. Tripp had studied a bird of this species at a feeder in Rockport, Mass in mid- Feb, bird was observed as close as four feet and all field marks noted. Common Redpoll: many feeder reports, rarely noted in the field; appeared in late Jan-early Feb and remained thru rest of period. Pine Siskin: excellent numbers at feeders; max 68 Jan 26 Circleville (JT). American Goldfinch: lower than usual; only 66 on RCC where 466 were reported last year. Red Crossbill: reported in Carmel last 2 weeks of Mar; a few in Ulst dur early part of

season; unreported elsewhere. White-winged Crossbill: many reports from all areas of region, most of single or only a few. Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 Dec 29 near New Paltz. Savannah Sparrow: 3 Feb 6 Salt Point (MVW); 25 on RCC, all at Piermont Pier. White-crowned Sparrow: 2 at feeder of WTS in Amenia thru Jan; 3 on RCC at New City (James Bloor), 7th time on that count; 3 on MCC. Fox Sparrow: 1 Feb 23 Pleasant Valley; a very poor showing dur Mar for the second year in a row. Swamp Sparrow: 1 thru season at Stissing (TH). Snow Bunting: usual few winter birds; max 20-60 month of Jan in vic of Gretna Rd, Dutch.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

FALL REPORT RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR JANUARY ISSUE

REGION 10 — MARINE

HUGH D. MCGUINNESS

September and the first half of October were mild in Region 10, as the weather was dominated by a series of slow, easterly-moving, high pressure systems. The accompanying light winds were almost invariably from the northwest, and often petered out leaving the region stagnant and unseasonably warm. Without chilly nights the fall migration began quietly, and early migrants seemed to trickle through our area. However, during the closing of October and the first three weeks of November the nights became cold, and the northwest winds howled at 20-40 mph. During these bitter days great throngs of wind-drifted migrants were seen along the coast with most spectacular flights of cowbirds, grackles, blackbirds, and finches.

Perhaps the most surprising flight of this period was that of the Red Crossbill. Crossbill incursions of the past have often been betrayed by exceptionally early arrivals. This year there were no early reports. Instead, hordes of Red Crossbills staged an abrupt and brief appearance. Arriving on Oct 27, they reached their peak on Nov 6, and — with the exception of a few small flocks — had moved through our area by Thanksgiving. Data pertaining to the numbers of crossbills in previous incursions is lacking, however; the 1900+ recorded on Nov 6 is a new maxima for the region, and indicates that the movement must be one of the most massive ever recorded.

Record numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpiper highlighted the early fall. On Aug 24, 25 were found on a farm field at Halsey Lane, Bridgehampton. Over the next two weeks the numbers diminished, and the birds disappeared. A larger flock of 55 to 75 birds was found a few miles to the east at Sagaponack on Sept 9 (entirely new flock? — ed.). Numbers slowly decreased, and 20 seen on Sept 22, was the last report received.

The potato beetle, *Lepitnotarsa decemlineata*, seems to have been the food source responsible for the lengthy stay of the Buff-breasts. Abundant in the potato fields, the beetles were uprooted from their plants during plowing, and remained plentiful for only a few days after the harvest. At Halsey Lane the field was plowed on the last two days of August, and within a week the Buff-breasts had disappeared. The fields at Sagaponack were never plowed, but both the birds and the beetles were gone by early October. The correlation between the insects and the birds is further evidenced, since the Buff-breasts were never seen in fields laying fallow or replanted with winter rye.

Other birds more common than usual this season were: Cattle Egret; Stilt Sandpiper; Wilson's Phalarope; Laughing Gull; Red-headed Woodpecker; Pine