

eaten by a cat (AG). Cape May Warbler: 1 adult male Dec. 9-11 at suet feeder Moriah (TB, GC, AG); two other reports with no details; bird should be in Bahamas for winter; there are at least two other Northeast Dec. records. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 Dec. 23-31 Wes (JC). Ovenbird: 1 Dec. 21-24 eating seed Wes (GC, FH, NM); 1 singing Mar. 30 Es (JP). Eastern Meadowlark: 1 Dec. 31 Wes (TB). Cardinal: 28 on John Peterson's Essex Co. census; 2 SarL Feb. 18 (MK); 1 Feb. 28 IndL (M&RMc). Purple Finch: commonest winter bird at PS; flocks of 50 to 100 could be seen in deep woods most places as well as along roads from Mal to Es. House Finch: 2 Dec. 14 FCBC; carefully identified making second Essex Co. record. Pine Grosbeak: from 2 to 12 could be seen most days Dec. thru period; max 26 Mar. 1 IndL (R&MMc). Common Redpoll: went elsewhere this year. Pine Siskin: common this winter; active nest found 30 feet up on black spruce limb Mar. 29 Chubb R (Phil Warren). Red Crossbill: not reported. White-winged Crossbill: a few in black spruce areas; 20 singing males Jan. 20-Feb. 1 Chubb R (TB, NM, JP, PT); first state nesting record here on Feb. 22 when a nest was being built (DA, Pat & Wm. Casselman, JP, PT). Dark-eyed Junco: all areas had wintering birds this year; 13 Jan. SarL (MK); 30 Feb. IndL (M&RMc). Tree Sparrow: 117 Dec. 28 ECBC. A sampling of most sparrow species lingered on or wintered LC including 1 Field Sparrow Dec. 19 Es (JP). Snow Bunting: up to 300 LC.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

GLADYS SNELL

The winter season in our area was relatively mild with the snowfall less than normal in all months except February. The mean temperatures for December, January and February were above normal with March falling -2.7 degrees from normal.

The most exciting sighting was the Mountain Bluebird found on December 20 at Cox-sackie, which is the first verified N.Y. State record for this bird. It was seen by hundreds of Northeastern United States birders and a detailed write-up and photograph will be published in *The Kingbird*. Other uncommon sightings were: Iceland Gull, Short-eared Owls, Varied Thrush, and Northern Oriole.

"The most noticeably scarce birds were: chickadees, nuthatches, and winter finches except Evening Grosbeaks and Purple and House Finches. The most noticeably numerous were: robins, Evening Grosbeaks, and Purple and House Finches." (RPY)

Through our "Dial-A-Bird" (377-9600), reports were received of a wintering Towhee and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in late January. We welcome all reports from any birder in our area.

Abbreviations: ADBC—Alan DeVoe Bird Club; DMA—Douglass M. Allen; CC—Christmas Count; Col Co—Columbia County; RPG—R. P. Guthrie; HMBC—Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club; HR—Hudson River; LH—Lower Hudson region of the Tri-city area; JL—Jenny Lake; MR—Mohawk River; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; TP—throughout period; RL—Round Lake; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; fs—first reported sighting; SL—Saratoga Lake; TCA—Tribity Area; TCC—Troy Christmas Count; VFWM—Vischer's Ferry Wildlife Management Area; RPY—Robert P. Yunick.

LOON-DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Mar. 22 LH (HMBC). Red-necked Grebe: 1 Dec. 1

SL. Horned Grebe: 1 Dec. 1 and 1 Mar. 30 SL. Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Mar. 22 LH (HMBC), Mar. 23 Cones Pond Col Co (ADBC), 1 Mar. 27 Niska Isle. Great Blue Heron: 1 Mar. 29 Cocksackie, Canada Goose: 230 TCC (HMBC), 250 Col Co CC (ADBC), throughout area after Mar. 6. Brant: only report 2 Col Co CC (ADBC). Snow Goose: 45 Mar. 22 LH (HMBC), 1 Mar. 15 NWW. Mallard and Black Duck: numerous TP in TCA and Col Co. Pintail: fs 3 Mar. 1 NWW, Mar. 6 Col Co (ADBC). Green-winged Teal: 10 Mar. 22 VFWM, 12 Mar. 22 and 4 on 27 NWW, Mar. 29 HR Col Co (ADBC). Blue-winged Teal: 5 Mar. 22 LH (HMBC), thru Mar. HR Col Co (ADBC). American Wigeon: few TP. Wood Duck: fs Mar. 8 Col Co (ADBC), few in TCA after Mar. 25. Redhead: fs Mar. 9 HR Cocksackie, Mar. 22 LH (HMBC) and HR Col Co (ADBC). Ring-necked Duck: fs 4 Feb. 26 HR Coeymans, thru Mar. all areas. Canvasback: thru Feb. and Mar. all areas. Lesser and Greater Scaup: several thru Mar. in all areas. Common Goldeneye: 1 TCC (HMBC), several sightings in Feb., numerous during Mar. Bufflehead: 1 TCC (HMBC), many sightings in Mar. Oldsquaw: 1 Mar. 19 Lock 6, 1 Lock 7. White-winged Scoter: 12 Dec. 1 SL. Hooded Merganser: fs Mar. 13 SCR, Mar. 23 Col Co (ADBC), a few in TCA thru Mar. Common Merganser: 53 CC (HMBC), Feb. 28 thru Mar. in TRC, after Mar. 23 Col Co (ADBC). Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Mar. 22 LH (HMBC), 3 Mar. 23 NWW, 12 on Mar. 30 Fish Creek.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 3 Mar. 24 Catskill, 1 on 29 New Baltimore. Goshawk: 4 CC TCA and Col Co, few thru Feb. and Mar. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 CC (HMBC), few thru period. Cooper's Hawk: Jan.-Feb. Col Co (ADBC), 1 Mar. 29 Cocksackie. Red-tailed Hawk: TP. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Mar. 10, 3 on 29 Greenwich and New Baltimore, 1 Mar. 28 SCR. Broad-winged Hawk: 1 Mar. 19 Niska Isle. Rough-legged Hawk: 12 CC (HMBC and ADBC), TP. Marsh Hawk: a few TP Cocksackie, New Baltimore, Col Co. Kestrel: 54 CC (HMBC), 22 CC (ADBC), occasionally TP. Ruffed Grouse: 13 CC (HMBC), 7 CC (ADBC). Ring-necked Pheasant: few TP. American Coot: 10 Dec. 1 SL. Killdeer: 1 TP. American Woodcock: 1 Feb. 25 SCR, 2 Mar. 17 New Baltimore. Common Snipe: few LH (AMBC) and Col Co (ADBC) Jan.-Mar. Iceland Gull: 2 Schenectady CC Lock 7 (HMBC). Great Black-backed, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls: TP all areas. Rock Dove: 2262 CC (HMBC). Mourning Dove: TP all areas. Screech and Great Horned Owls: TP all areas. Barred Owl: 1 Jan. 30 Altamont, 1 heard in Jan. Col Co (ADBC), 1 Mar. 7 Malta. Short-eared Owl: 28 Feb. 12 Cocksackie roost, 15 scattered Feb. 17 Cocksackie. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Jan. 10 Mariaville, 1 Mar. 12 Malta.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: 5 CC (HMBC), 4 CC (ADBC), few TP. Common Flicker and Pileated Woodpecker: TP. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1 female Dec. 26, 29 Voorheesville. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 CC Schenectady (HMBC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Troy CC (HMBC). Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: TP. Eastern Phoebe: 1 Mar. 24 Catskill. Horned Lark: 706 CC (HMBC), Dec. and Jan. only Col Co (ADBC), 100 plus Feb. 2 and 150 on Feb. 15 Cocksackie, 75 Britton and Brookwood Roads. Tree Swallow: few TP. Blue Jay and Black-capped Chickadee: TP. Tufted Titmouse and White-breasted Nuthatch: a few TP. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 11 CC (HMBC), 5 CC (ADBC), 2 banded in Dec. 14 in Jan. 11 in Feb. 13 in Mar. JL (RPY). Brown Creeper: 17 CC (HMBC), 2 CC (ADBC), 2 TP E. Greenbush, 1 Mar. 17 New Baltimore. Winter Wren: 1 TCC (HMBC), 1 Feb. 12 and Mar. 24 Catskill, Feb. 28 Col Co (ADBC). Carolina Wren: 1 Dec. 29 Voorheesville, occasionally TP Loudonville, 1 Mar. 17 Selkirk, 2 wintered at feeder in Scotia (Jim Underwood fide DMA). Mockingbird: TP TCA and Col Co. Catbird: 1 Feb. 19 Selkirk. Brown Thrasher: 2 CC (HMBC), wintering at feeder Chatam Center (ADBC). Robin: numerous reports all areas, large flocks during Jan. Varied Thrush: 1 adult male last half of Jan. and first half of Feb. Slingerlands. Hermit Thrush: 2 Feb. 12 Athens, 1 Feb. 15 Cocksackie. Eastern Bluebird: 1 Jan. 22 Miller Rd., a pair Feb. 15 Col Co (ADBC). Mountain Bluebird: 1 Jan. 12 thru 20 and Mar. 2 Cocksackie (RPG and hundreds of N.E.U.S. birders). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 CC (HMBC), Dec. 1 and 30 and in Jan. Col Co (ADBC). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 TCC (HMBC), 1 thru late Jan. Voorheesville (fide RPY). Water Pipit: Dec. 1 Col Co (ADBC). Cedar Waxwing: 485 CC (HMBC), 14 CC

(ADBC), numerous during Dec. few in Mar. Northern Shrike: 1 CC (HMBC), 1 Jan. 22 Farm to Market Rd. Migrant Shrike: 1 Dec. 20 Green Co CC. Starling: TP.

VIREO-WARBLER: Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 CC (HMBC). Pine Warbler: 1 Dec. 17 Muitzeskill Col Co (ADBC). Common Yellowthroat: 1 CC (HMBC).

BLACKBIRD-SPARROW: House Sparrow: TP, Eastern Meadowlark: 17 CC (HMBC), TP Col Co (ADBC). Red-winged Blackbird: 15 CC (HMBC), intermittent TP. Northern Oriole: 1 CC and until Jan. 18 (HMBC). Common Grackle: 15 CC (HMBC), 3 CC Col Co (ADBC), few TP. Brown-headed Cowbird: 272 CC (HMBC), 23 CC (ADBC), few TP. Cardinal: 274 CC (HMBC), 62 CC (ADBC), few scattered thru region TP. Evening Grosbeak: Numerous thru region TP. Purple Finch: numerous thru area, "Best invasion in 10 years in Schenectady" (RPY), banded 278 in March. House Finch: numerous thru area, "Most numerous winter number since first appeared in this area in 1964," banded 7 in Dec., 23 in Jan., 14 in Feb., 22 in Mar. (RPY). Pine Grosbeak: 12 Dec. 14 CC (ADBC), 6 Dec. 24 RL, 2 Mar. 14 near Corinth. Common Redpoll: fewer than usual this year, 2 left Latham in mid-Jan., 18 Feb. 12 Delmar. Pine Siskin: uncommon south of Adirondacks, 2 Feb. 2 JL, increased there in Feb. and Mar. (RPY). Goldfinch: numerous TP. White-winged Crossbill: 1 at feeder Feb. 23 and 25 Loudonville. Rufous-sided Towhee: wintered Nov. thru mid-Feb. New Salem (FIDE RPY). Savannah Sparrow: 1 Feb. 14 Cossackie. Dark-eyed Junco: numerous thru area TP. Tree Sparrow: few thru area TP. Field Sparrow: wintered at feeders E. Greenbush and Schenectady, 1 CC (HMBC). White-crowned Sparrow: 1 CC (HMBC), 1 Jan. 12, 26, 27, Feb. 2, 26 Loudonville. White-throated Sparrow: 185 CC (HMBC), 27 CC (ADBC), numerous thru area TP. Swamp Sparrow: 4 CC (HMBC), 1 Feb. 15 Coeymans. Song Sparrow: 82 CC (HMBC), 18 CC (ADBC), few TP. Lapland Longspur: 5 TCC (HMBC), 1 Feb. 12, 4 on 15, 12 on 17 Cossackie. Snow Bunting: 16 TCC (HMBC), Jan. Col Co (ADBC), 7 Feb. 12, 100 plus on Feb. 17 Cossackie.

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REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

EDWARD D. TREACY

This winter will go down as the mildest on record. Temperatures rarely went below freezing much less below zero. The Hudson River never froze through the region, and only rarely did it have flow ice on it from farther up stream. Fred Hough summed up the season well when he wrote, "There was no excessive snowfall . . . and a pattern of extended fall weather followed by a winter of light snow . . . ending with a March which remained stable enough to pass without major storms, cold spells or outbreaks of warm spring weather." In fact, the unspring-like weather persisted through most of April.

The warmth of the season must have been primarily responsible for the number of migrants and summer residents lingering well past their usual departure dates.

In the N. Y. Times of Feb. 16, an article reporting the winter flocking of from 6,000 to 12,000 American Robins near Bloomingdale, N. J. received considerable notoriety. We had a similar phenomenon near New Paltz in mid-January when Selden Spencer and several others reported from 30,000 to more than 50,000 entering a spruce grove to roost at night. On Jan. 16, Mr. Spencer counted about 20 per second entering the grove over a period of one-half hour, making a total of 36,000 for the time period.

Winter finches failed to show except for a few cases, possibly indicating mild weather in their home territories. With the exception of the Icterids and Turkey Vulture, most return-