

(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 Cocksackie. 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 Cocksackie. Snow Bunting: 16 TCC (HMBC), Jan. Col Co (ADBC), 7 Feb. 12, 100 plus on Feb. 17 Cocksackie.

151 North Toll St., Scotia, N.Y. 12302

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-

ing migrants failed to appear on time; and the period was at least a week behind schedule at the close.

Observers cited: GB—Gene Brown; MB—Marty Borko; JD—Jeff Davis; RFD—Robert F. Deed; JF—Jim Fiedler; FH—Fred Hough; TH—Thelma Haight; AJ—Alice Jones; JMK—Jim & Mary Key; ABM—Al & Barbara Merritt; EP—Eleanor Pink; RP—Robert Pyle; WTS—William & Trixie Strauss; MVW—Marion VanWagner; RCC—Rockland Audubon Christmas Count, Dec. 28, 1974; WBC—Waterman Bird Club; WCC—Waterman Bird Club Christmas Count, Dec. 28, 1974.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 on WCC, first since 1963. Red-throated Loon: 1 Feb. 2 Piermont Pier (RFD). Horned Grebe: only report 1 Jan. 12 Sylvan Lake, Dutch. Great Blue Heron: a few wintered, most back by late Mar. American Bittern: 1 Mar. 15 Iona Is. Canada Goose: exc. winter numbers, most residents back by late Feb. Migrant flights thru Mar. Max. 1,500 Mar. 17 Amenia (WTS). RCC had 552 a new high for a species first reported in 1964. Snow Goose: 1 Jan. 26 Amenia (WTS). Mallard: numbers reached new highs thru season. Black Duck: much lower than the latter species. Gadwall: 10 Mar. 5 Rockland L was quite high (GB). Pintail: Max 10 Mar. 29 Hudson River at Dutch. Blue-winged Teal: 3 Mar. 16 Vanderburgh Cove, early. Shoveler: always rare. 1 Mar. 1 Morgan L. Poughkeepsie (AJ). Wood Duck: WBC reports 28 dur. Mar. Max. 15 Mar. 30 Stissing (TH). Canvasback: better than 200 spent most of season on Hudson off Cornwall. Oldsquaw: 27 Dec. 28 Ashokan Res. (Ruth Craig). Hooded Merganser: 4 Dec. 30 Dover; 4 Mar. 18 Netherwood. Max 12 Mar. 22 Rhinecliff. Red-breasted Merganser: more winter reports than usual. 45 Dec. 1 Hudson off Ulster (RP). 1 Mar. 22 Rockland L (GB). 3 Mar. 29 Rondout Res. (MB).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first Feb. 25 Bear Mt. inc. steadily from that date. Goshawk: A few more than usual. 3 Mar. reports from Dutch, 2 in Dec.; 1 on RCC was 4th time for that count. Red-tailed Hawk: many reports from all areas. An albino has been observed near Verbank for about the last 15 years. New nest trimmed with pine boughs observed Feb. 6 in Dutch early (MVW). Broad-winged Hawk: 3 very early birds: 2 Mar. 9 along Rt. 84 in Oran (ABM), and 1 Mar. 29 Pleasant Valley, Dutch (MVW). Rough-legged Hawk: an excellent season, more than usual. Golden Eagle: 2 observed vic of Stissing and Pine Plains, N.E. Dutch on and off Dec. thru Mar. 1 wintered same vic about 4 yrs. ago (mob). Bald Eagle: only 1 report from the Hudson Valley where 20 years ago there would have been dozens. Wintering numbers in Sull continue high. Probably the highest in N.E.U.S. First 3 at Rio Res. Dec. 15. Inc. to 16 (10 as & 6 imm) by Jan. 19. Last report 2 same place Mar. 24 (MB). Single adults at Rondout Res. & Basher kill thru season. Marsh Hawk: 2 Jan. 12 Galeville Airport. Inc. to 5 by end of season. Kestrel: 19 on WCC, avg 10. Ring-necked Pheasant: only 3 on WCC which had 146 in 1961. Turkey: 8 Jan. 11 Dover Plains, Max. 20 Jan. 4 Sackett Lk. Sull. and 15 Jan. 30 Forestburg, Sull. Virginia Rail: 2 dur. Dec. & Jan. near Stissing, Dutch (TH). Common Gallinule: 1 Dec. thru Jan. 29, Pleasant Valley (mob). First winter record for Dutch. Ring-billed Gull: 68 on WCC, avg 8. Bonaparte's Gull: second time on RCC: 4 in 1972, 110 this year. Snowy Owl: only report 1 on Mearns Christmas Count and Goudy Christmas Count at Newburgh. Probably the same bird. Barred Owl: heard at Kripplebush toward end of season, but not as frequently as last season (FH). Short-eared Owl: 8 dur. Jan. Galesville Airport, Wallkill. Saw-whet Owl: 1 killed by car in Dutch dur. Mar. was only report (AJ).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: good numbers due to open winter. Flicker: record Christmas counts. WCC had 24, avg 6. RCC had 28 which topped previous record set in 1952. Red-bellied Woodpecker: more than ever before. 4th time on RCC since 1970. Sapsucker: Rare in winter, 1 Mar. 26 New Hamburg; 1 Feb. 4-Mar. 15 Cornwall. Phoebe: 1 Feb. 8 Amenia, very early (WTS). Horned Lark: 17 on RCC was first since 1967. Crow: 3,000 at Poughkeepsie roost reduced to 1,500 at end of period (AJ). Fish Crow: wintered at usual spots in Dutch. 7 on WCC at Poughkeepsie. Red-breasted Nut-

hatch: not common but a few were in the Town of Denning, Ulst. in mid-season. Brown Creeper: one of a few species with a below normal count. Carolina Wren: came thru the period in excellent numbers. RCC had highest count since 1960. Mockingbird: highest counts this year were on RCC with 74. Last year's record count was 49. 65 on WCC beat previous high of 46 in 1973. Catbird: thru region in larger numbers than ever before. Brown Thrasher: always rare in winter, 1 Dec. 15 Forestburgh (Ed McBride). Robin: RCC was surprisingly low, but all other counts up. (see introductory remarks). Hermit Thrush: 2 winter reports: RCC had 6. Eastern Bluebird: WBC had 22 reports dur. Feb. Cedar Waxwing: 192 on WCC avg 30. Northern Shrike: only report 1 Amenia Dec. 12 (WTS). Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Mar. 29 Cruger's Is. Dutch (mob). Starling: tremendous inc. in Dutch. 5,000 on WCC was 3,000 more than avg.

VIREOS-SPARROWS: **Black-and-white Warbler:** 1 Dec. 20 Red Oaks Mill, Dutch (JMK). **Cape May Warbler:** 1 Dec. 4 Vassar Campus feeding in Scotch Pine. Yellow-rumped Warbler: reported every month from Dutch. Also wintered in better numbers than usual in Ulst. **Pine Warbler:** New to RCC. 1 at Stony Pt. Battleground (Nancy Single). **Yellow-throat:** 1 Dec. 13 Amenia (WTS). Icterids: more winter records than usual due to mild season: Red-winged Blackbird: very heavy influx from Feb. 20 on. 450 on RCC was new record. Rusty Blackbird: only 1 on WCC but 53 on RCC. 5 were at Stissing Feb. 17. Common Grackle: flocks of several hundred persisted at Highland Falls thru Dec. Major influx last week of Feb. thru last week of season. Cardinal: 107 on RCC was low for that count. **Indigo Bunting:** 1 male in molt coming to feeder at New Windsor Feb. 12-Mar. 31 (Paul Jeheber). Dickcissel: only 1 report Jan. 5-12 Pleasant Valley (EP, JD). Purple Finch: better than usual, at most feeders in Dutch. House Finch: record numbers on Christmas Counts. RCC had 139, prev. high 92 in 1971, first reported 1962. WCC had 94, prev. record 68 in 1973, first reported 1965. Pine Grosbeak: 3 Nov. 18 Cohecton (AJ). 1 on RCC were the only reports. Common Redpoll: 2 Mar. 14 East Park (Tom Gilbert) were the only ones reported. Pine Siskin: only a few; 10 Mar. 30 Stissing was all for Dutch. 25 Jan. 24 Welch Lk. 7 Nov. 18 Cohecton. Rufous-sided Towhee: usual few wintering. Savannah Sparrow: prev. record on RCC was 29 in 1972. This year 50, 46 of which were at West Nyack Dump (Eric Single). Field Sparrow: 75 on RCC, prev. high 43 in 1972. White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Dec. 11-13 at feeder in Dover; 1 Dec. 1 Amenia (WTS). Fox Sparrow: 3 reports all Dutch; 1 Dec. 2 thru Jan. Snow Bunting: Max 300 Dec. 29 Amenia., well reported thru region dur. period.

Spring reports due June 5.

Summer reports due Sept. 1.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 – MARINE

HUGH D. MC GUINNESS

With a Ross' Gull to the north, a Yellow-nosed Albatross to the south, and Gyrfalcons in every direction, there is little wonder that regional reporters termed this season everything from "catastrophic" to "the epitome of boredom." But come on fellows, it wasn't all that bad! So what if seabirds were minimal; so what if half-hardies were low despite good conditions, and winter finches were less than casual; so what if most of the rarities were fall leftovers, or repeats from last winter; so what if the one truly outstanding record was found as a road-kill; there were still plenty of interesting occurrences. Admittedly, some may be a little sublime, but certainly none are too far-fetched to be appreciated by the aver-