

VIREOS--WARBLERS: None: this is usually a very easy section to write for the winter season.

WEAVERS--SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird: a few winter in Clinton Co. near the lake; 8 migrants Lewis Feb. 22 (DN); and common at Essex and Westport by Feb. 26 (JP). Brown-headed Cowbird: 50 FCBC; 45 SLCBC; 1 at a Piseco L. feeder Feb. (DMc). Cardinal: 5 SLCBC; 4 ECBC; 12 FCBC. Evening Grosbeak: max. 144 ECBC; absent many areas. Purple Finch: only 2 reports. Pine Grosbeak: 23 SLCBC; 35 ECBC; 44 Moriah (NM); many others. Common Redpoll: max. 242 ECBC; scattered flocks seen in most areas. Pine Siskin: 67 ECBC and absent in much of region. American Goldfinch: max. 48 FCBC and generally scarce. White-winged Crossbill: absent. Red Crossbill: 2 ECBC. Rufous-sided Towhee: 2 FCBC. Tree Sparrow: max. 105 ECBC; scarce or absent many inland areas. White-throated Sparrow: 2 FCBC; 1 ECBC. Song Sparrow: 1 ECBC. Snow Bunting: max. 86 FCBC; 54 ECBC.

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

REGION 8 -- HUDSON-MOHAWK

GLADYS SNELL

The winter was relatively mild with the exception of the below normal temperatures of late January and early February (-18 degrees Fahrenheit (-28° C) with wind chill of -55° F (-48° C) and -63° F (-53° C) on two occasions). Many species were noticeably decreased following this period. A mild late February brought "early spring invasion" a little ahead of normal. Earlier predictions that the 1975-76 season would be a "finch year" were confirmed when eight of the nine species of finches which might reasonably be expected were observed. Only White-winged Crossbill went unreported. Two species, Common Redpoll and Pine Siskins were reported in record numbers by the Southern Rensselaer Christmas Count.

There were five Christmas Counts this year: Columbia County and Schenectady on December 20; Southern Rensselaer County December 27; Troy and Amsterdam (a new "trial" count) January 3. Some of the highlights of these were: Red-bellied Woodpecker, a first, and a White-crowned Sparrow, a second appearance for the Schenectady count; Winter and Carolina Wrens in Southern Rensselaer, a first for both; Savannah Sparrow in Troy; and three Lapland Longspurs in Amsterdam.

A few uncommon or unusual sightings were reported: a Glaucous Gull December 27 on the Hudson River at Greenport; an Iceland Gull February 29 on the Hudson River at New Baltimore; a Short-eared Owl January 1 in Amsterdam; a Gray Catbird December 20 in Chatham. The rarity of the season was a Harris' Sparrow in Chatham for most of the period.

Abbreviations: A--Amsterdam; cc or ccs--Christmas Count or Counts; Col Co--Columbia County (Alan DeVoe Bird Club); D-A-B--Dial-A-Bird; EG--East Greenbush; FR--Five Rivers Environmental Education Center; HR--Hudson River; LG--Lake George; L6--Lock 6 Mohawk River; mob--many observers; NB--New Baltimore; RL--Round Lake; S--Schenectady; SR--Southern Rensselaer; thru--throughout period or through date given; T--Troy.

LOONS--DUCKS: Horned Grebe: 1 late Dec. LG; 2 Feb. 28, 29 HR at NB. Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Feb. 28, 29 HR at NB. Great Blue Heron: thru Dec. Col. Co.; 1 Scc. Canada Goose: large flock Dec. 12 Chatham; 8 Col. Co. cc; many reports Feb. 21-26. Mallard: 759 ccs. Black Duck: 852 ccs; many late Feb. HR Col. Co. Pintail: Dec. 8 Col. Co.; 10 Feb. 18, 19

and several flocks Feb. 28, 29 HR at NB. Blue-winged Teal: 3 Feb. 29 HR Col. Co. Am. Wigeon: pair Feb. 19, 28 Col. Co.; Feb. 28, 29 HR at NB. Wood Duck: during Dec. and Jan. Col. Co. Ring-necked Duck: 2 early Dec. LG; Feb. 21 thru HR at NB. Canvasback: 23 Jan. 31 SL; hundreds Feb. 21 thru Col. Co. and HR at NB. Greater Scaup: 2 cc; Feb. 21 HR at NB. Common Goldeneye: 8 Jan. 31 SL; 4 Feb. 25 HR Col. Co.; hundreds Feb. 28, 29 SL. Bufflehead: Feb. 21 HR at NB; Feb. 28 Stockport Station Col. Co.; Surf Scoter: before cc LG. Hooded Merganser: Feb. 22 Stockport Station; 2 Feb. 28, 29 HR at NB. Common Merganser: 9 ccs; 1 Feb. 28, 29 HR at NB.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: 1 cc; Feb. 9 thru at EG, Saratoga Co., and NB. Sharp-shinned: 1 Jan. 13 FR; 3 Jan. thru Col. Co.; 1 thru Jan. Mechanicville; 3 Feb. 21 R.L. Cooper's: 1 cc; thru Jan. and Feb. Col. Co.; Red-tailed: 1 Dec. 21, Feb. 15 EG; 4-5 all Dec. and 4-9 in Jan. Col. Co.; 56 ccs. Rough-legged: 2-3 all Dec. and early Feb. Col. Co.; 7 ccs. Marsh: Dec. 1-10 Col. Co. Am. Kestrel: thru Col. Co.; 38 ccs. Ruffed Grouse: Dec., Jan. Col. Co.; 7 ccs. Ring-necked Pheasant: thru Col. Co.; 2 Dec. 20 EG; 36 ccs. Am. Coot: Dec. 4, 17, 20 Col. Co. Killdeer: 15 Dec. 5 Col. Co.; many reports Feb. 20-29. Am. Woodcock: Feb. 21 Washington Co.; Feb. 23 NB. Herring Gull: 85 ccs; thru Col. Co. Ring-billed Gull: 23 ccs; Dec. and Feb. Col. Co.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: 1667 ccs. Mourning Dove; thru (mob); 1719 ccs. Owls: Screech: 4 ccs; 1 Jan. 12 EG; several late Feb. Burnt Hills (D-A-B). Great Horned: intermittent thru Col. Co.; 7 ccs. Barred: 1 Dec. 2 Col. Co.; 1 in Feb. Burnt Hills (D-A-B). Saw-whet: 1 Jan. 21 NB (D-A-B). Belted Kingfisher: thru Col. Co.; 10 ccs. Com. Flicker: thru Col. Co.; 10 ccs; Pileated Woodpecker: Dec. 9 and 17 EG; thru Col. Co.; ccs 6. **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:** 1 at feeder mid Dec. thru Feb. Voorheesville; 1 Sc. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Tcc. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: thru (mob).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. **PHOEBE:** 1 Col. Co. cc; Jan. 12, 13 FR. Horned Lark: thru (mob); 670 ccs. Blue Jay: thru (mob); 1004 ccs. Crow: flocks of up to 500 thru Col. Co.; 1271 ccs. Black-capped Chickadee: thru; 1708 ccs. **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** 1 Dec.-Feb. 12 Col. Co.; 3 feeder reports: Wilton, Averill Park, and Catskill (D-A-B), appears to be more common this year. Tufted Titmouse: thru; 164 ccs. White-breasted Nuthatch: thru; 279 ccs. Red-breasted Nuthatch: thru; 22 ccs. Brown Creeper: 1 Dec. 16 EG; 18 ccs; Jan., Feb. Col. Co. **WINTER WREN:** 5 ccs. **CAROLINA WREN:** 1 SRcc; Jan. 12 Slingerlands; Jan. 30 Old Chatham. Mockingbird: 51 ccs; thru SUNYA campus; 1 at feeder Schenectady. Brown Thrasher: 2 ccs. Am. Robin: intermittent thru; 42 ccs. Hermit Thrush: SRcc. E. Bluebird: thru Wildlife Research Center, Delmar; Dec. thru Jan. 26 Col. Co.; 6 Sc; 5 Feb. 11, 12 FR. Golden-crowned Kinglet: thru Dec. Col. Co.; 3 ccs. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: thru Dec. Col. Co. Cedar Waxwing: Dec. 20-Jan. Col. Co.; 1 Dec. 20 EG; flock of 10-12 Dec. 22 Delmar; 27 ccs. N. Shrike: 3 Dec. 1, 5, 7, 20 and 19 Feb. 1 Col. Co.; 1 immature Feb. 24 Amsterdam; 5 ccs. Starling: thru; 16308 ccs.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: thru; 2692 ccs. E. Meadowlark: small flock Dec. 1-31, up to 8 in Jan., to 6 in Feb. Col. Co.; 91 ccs; 40 Jan. 1 S. E. Montgomery Co. Red-winged Blackbird and Com. Grackle: mild weather in late Feb. brought these back to us earlier than normal (Feb. 20-25, normally they arrive in early March), although a few were with us thru. Brown-headed Cowbird: flocks up to 500 in Dec. many in Jan., and huge flocks in Feb. Col. Co.; 1139 ccs; thru (mob). Cardinal: thru; 586 ccs. Evening Grosbeak: thru; 995 ccs. Purple Finch: scattered few at feeders thru; 71 ccs. House Finch: thru (mob); 121 ccs. Pine Grosbeak: more reports than usual Jan. and Feb.; 92 SRcc. Com. Redpoll: many more reports than usual; 663 ccs. Pine Siskin: arrived earlier than usual in Nov. and in large numbers; 398 ccs. Am. Goldfinch: thru (mob). Red Crossbill: 6 SRcc. White-winged Crossbill: 10 Feb. 6 Mechanicville. Sparrows: Savannah: thru Jan. and Feb. 2-13 Col. Co.; 2 Tcc. Vesper: Dec. 1-3 Col. Co. Dark-eyed Junco: thru (mob); 978 ccs. Tree: a few intermittent at feeders; 1300 ccs. Field: few thru; 8 ccs. **HARRIS':** Dec. 25-Feb. 23 Chatham 1 imm. (W. Trimn, mob). White-crowned: Dec. 21-29 Spencertown; Jan. 16-20 Chatham;

5 ccs. White-throated: thru (mob); 311 ccs. Swamp: 4 ccs. Song: thru Col. Co.; 1 Feb. 29 Schenectady feeder; 107 ccs. 3 Lapland Longspur: Acc. Snow Bunting: flocks of 30-500 thru Jan. and Feb. (mob); 136 ccs.

151 North Toll St., Scotia, N.Y. 12302. Telephone 518-372-3728.

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The season was very cold thru mid-February, when record high temperatures arrived. From mid-December thru the end of January, there was at least one major snowfall each week. The ground was continuously snow covered. Lakes were frozen by January, and remained so until the warm mid-February temperatures melted them. They remained open for the rest of the period. The Hudson froze quickly in December, but was also open by mid-February. Temperatures in Jan. were occasionally below 0° F (-17.8° C).

The season was characterized by an excellent incursion of northern finches, not as good as some years, but definitely better than most. The Federation Waterfowl Count fared well considering the amount of ice. The 19 species recorded was one less than last year, and only two less than the all time high of 21 in 1965. Most area Christmas counts did well, with more than the usual numbers of species and individuals recorded. No reports were received on the Rockland Christmas Count, and no reports were received at all in any way from Westchester. We need reporters badly from that county.

Contributors cited: Martin Borko, Robert F. Deed, Fred Hough, John C. Orth, Peter Polshek, Ken McDermott, John Tramontano, Eleanor Pink.

Observers cited: J,MK—Jim and Mary Key, Dan Smiley, Marion VanWagner, Helen Manson, Mary Yegella.

Abbreviations used: FDC—Federation Duck Count, Jan. 10-18; MCC—Mearns Bird Club Christmas Count, Dec. 27; WCC—Waterman Bird Club Christmas Count, Dec. 27.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: 1 Ashokan Res. Nov. 29 (PP). Horned Grebe: high count of 56 on Ashokan Res. Dec. 27 was impressive. Single birds returned to area with thaw of mid-Feb. Pied-billed Grebe: a few wintered on open water. **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT**: 1 MCC on Hudson at Highland Falls. Great Blue Heron: a few in open water. Canada Goose: a few very large flocks reported in late Feb. Numbers good thru end of period, with residents generally on location. Pintail: more wintering than usual. None on FDC. Green-winged Teal: 2 on FDC. Am. Wigeon: 2 on FDC. Wood Duck: 1 on FDC. Red-head: 2 on FDC, 2 at Cornwall Bay thru March. 50-60 Dec. 2 Rudd Pd. Dutch. (MY). Ring-necked Duck: good number of 121 on FDC. Scattered reports thru region for whole period. Canvasback: good numbers on Hudson thru period. 336 on FDC was half of last year's count but still good. 215 were on WCC. **TUFTED DUCK**: 1 Rockland L. from Feb. 29-Mar. 4 (Gene Brown, mob). Bufflehead: 27 was almost twice last year's FDC. Oldsquaw: single birds reported from several locations thru period. 1 on FDC, and another on Wappingers L. at end of period. White-winged Scoter: 3 Dec. 1 at Chelsea (JMK). Ruddy Duck: only 1 on FDC compared to max. of 394 last year. Hooded Merganser: 11 on FDC and several others on open water thru period. Common Merganser: 192 on FDC compared to 32 last year.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: a few scattered reports in January would indicate possible wintering. 1 at Middletown on Feb. 19 was probably an early return. Most areas reported them by the end of season. Goshawk: a few reports thru season; 1 on MCC, 2 in