

Grosbeak: Ruth Meier's max of 30 all season was more than most people had. They were scarce. Purple Finch: absent. They are erratic. House Finch: PW still has 7 at Platts. Pine Grosbeak: everywhere. PW found 206 Jan. 15 in Clinton and Essex Counties. **HOARY RED-POLL**: PW at Platts on Jan. 29 saw a male redpoll with almost no streaks on flanks, a plain rump tinged with pink, and bird was so chunky that wings did not cross over the back as in the companion Common Redpolls. Common Redpolls increased dramatically in the interior during late Feb. Crossbills were very scarce. White-crowned Sparrow: 1 very late bird Platts Dec. 21 and 22 (William Kreuger). Tree Sparrow: scarce. Lapland Longspur: 1 Westport Dec. 17 (FCBC); 4 Malone Dec. 22 (RH); 1 Wadhams Dec. 31 (GC).

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## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

The winter of '77-'78 set in with more than 15 inches (39 cm) of snow falling the first two weeks of December and a record low temperature of  $-6^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-21^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) on the 12th. Although the temperatures moderated somewhat, the snowfall continued its preponderous way through the season with an excess of 33.2 in. (84.3 cm) over the normal of 43.2 in. (109.7 cm). An absence of a real thaw and regular snowfall kept the ground covered through the period.

Reports received were thin, as might be expected from a rather routine winter. This however gives us an opportunity to recapitulate the status of winter residents. The most comprehensive mechanism for this review is the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, six of which were conducted in this region as follows:

| Date  | Count Name       | County        | No. Species |
|-------|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 12/17 | Schenectady      | Schen.-Albany | 58          |
| 12/17 | Chatham          | Columbia      | 53          |
| 12/26 | So. Rensselaer   | Rensselaer    | 51          |
| 12/28 | Coxsackie-Athens | Greene        | 58          |
| 12/29 | Ft. Plain        | Montgomery    | 35          |
| 12/31 | Troy             | Rensselaer    | 57          |

Evident from a review of the Count tallies are a few revelations of interest (which we may have been supposing all along). To begin with, the recent colonists from the south, *i.e.* Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, and Mockingbird, are firmly entrenched. The House Finch, another recent immigrant, has also successfully established itself in the area. Others such as the Carolina Wren have survived the recent harsh winters only in a few sheltered areas. Other attempts at northward movement such as that of the Red-bellied Woodpecker, have not been successful yet. Finally, this winter proved to be a bit too severe for the half-hardies, most of which were poorly represented on the counts; the majority disappeared as the season progressed.

Of particular interest to many is the continued good showing of most raptors, and especially Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks. The Coxsackie Flats, an area about 2 miles (3.2 km) wide by 10 miles (16 km) long, once again supported

a truly impressive raptor population through the season. Four (at least) species of owls and seven species of hawks were sustained through the winter, indicating a high rodent supply there again this year. Locally, this has not been a particularly impressive winter finch year. In fact, some say had it not been for the redpolls, late as they were in getting here, this might have been a very dull year. Of course there were the Pine Grosbeaks and crossbills, here and there, but there just weren't enough to go around. The redpolls, however, were everywhere by the middle of January. Hundreds visited feeders throughout the area, delighting all and setting the stage for the inevitable quest for (and rumors of) a Hoary or two. None emerged, alas. Once again, the Region had a Varied Thrush, this one spent most of the winter at a feeder in Glens Falls, visiting daily and being photographed almost as often. It is intriguing to speculate upon whether the Varied Thrush, based on its repeat performance over the last ten years or so, may be expected to become established somewhere in the northeast somewhat as the Evening Grosbeak did a few decades ago.

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**LOONS-DUCKS: BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** 1 imm Ft. Plain CC (D. Ayres). Canada Goose: 65 Cox CC. **BRANT:** 2 Cohoes Jan. 22 (V. Bingman). Mallard: total of 5 CC's 270. Black Duck: total of 5 CC's 386. **GREEN-WINGED TEAL:** 1 Troy CC. **NO. SHOVELER:** 1 Cox. Jan. 22 (VB). Wood Duck: 2 Schen. CC; 1 Troy CC. Common Goldeneye: 5 Cox. CC. Common Merganser: 20 Cox. CC.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS: TURKEY VULTURE:** 1 Schen. CC (new for count). Goshawk: 1 Schen. CC; 1 So. Rens. CC; scattered reports thru period. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 10 total of 4 CC's; 4 other reports Jan. & Feb. Cooper's Hawk: 5 total of 3 CC's (incl. 3 Schen CC). Red-tailed Hawk: 324 total of 6 CC's (incl. 67 Cox. CC). Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Chatham CC. Rough-legged Hawk: 84 total of 6 CC's max 29 Cox. Flats Jan. 28. Bald Eagle: 2 (1 ad, 1 imm) Saratoga Co. Dec. & Jan. (Les Thomas); 1 ad Dec. 18 Hoosic River at Eagle Bridge (J. Davis); 1 ad Dec. 29 Blenheim, Schoharie Co. (K. McDermott). Marsh Hawk: 5 on 2 CC's; max 8 Cox. Flats Dec. 3. **OSPREY:** 1 Chatham CC (KD & EG). **PEREGRINE FALCON:** 1 Cobleskill, Schoharie Co. Feb. 24 (D. Crumb). American Kestrel: 96 total of 6 CC's. Ruffed Grouse: 32 total of 4 CC's. Ring-necked Pheasant: continuing decline—10 total 4 CC's. Turkey: increasing nicely; 1 Chatham CC (new for count); 5 Watonville, Schoharie Co. Jan. 1; 53 in 1 flock Ghent, Col. Co. Feb. 26 (RLaF). Killdeer: 1 Troy CC. Common Snipe: 1 Schen. CC. Glaucous Gull: 1 Troy CC (at Colonie Dump at Crescent). Iceland Gull: 2 Troy CC (also at Colonie Dump). Great Black-backed Gull: 3 Cox. CC; 1 So. Rens. CC; 14 Troy CC. Herring Gull: 215 total of 5 CC's (incl 141 So. Rens. CC). Ring-billed Gull: 159 on 3 CC's.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Mourning Dove: most reports suggest a banner year; 1,327 total of 6 CC's, also good numbers at many feeders. **BARN OWL:** 2 Cox. CC (RPG). Screech Owl: 4 Cox. CC & 3 two other counts. Great Horned Owl: 5 total 3 CC's. Barred Owl: unusually high number of reports; 1 each Cox. & Ft. Plain CC's. 4 other reports Jan. & Feb. incl 1 found dead Washington Co. (JD). Short-eared Owl: 2 Cox. CC & thereafter; 1 Albany Dec. 22 (TP). Belted Kingfisher: 9 total of 5 CC's; also 8 Kinderhook Jan. 8 (E. Reilly). Common Flicker: 31 on 3 CC's; also 1 West Berne late Jan.-early Feb. Pileated Woodpecker: total 10 on 5 CC's. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Hudson Falls Feb. 9 (A&TB). Hairy Woodpecker: 181 total of 6 CC's. Downy Woodpecker: 356 on 6 CC's.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Horned Lark: 778 on 5 counts (none on Ft. Plain)

also 34 banded Cox. Flats (RPG). **GRAY JAY:** 1 imm. Dec. 23 Lk. Luzerne, hit window, stunned and recovered (Les Thomas). Blue Jay: 1,810 on 6 CC's (max So. Rens. 526—what luck). Com. Crow: 2,177 six CC total. Black-capped Chickadee: 1,927 the total of the six CC's (max 533 So. Rens.). Tufted Titmouse: 175 total of 5 CC's; not reported on Ft. Plain CC. White-breasted Nuthatch: 334 from 6 CC's. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 78 on 5 CC's incl. 41 on Schen. CC; "modest influx at Jenny Lake" (RPY). Brown Creeper: 27 total of 4 CC's; max Schen. with 18. Carolina Wren: a few still persist with 2 on Schen. CC & 2 Cox CC. Mockingbird: total 89 from all 6 CC's incl 1 from Ft. Plain and they're right proud of it, too. Gray Catbird: 1 each Schen. CC and Cox. CC. American Robin: ranged from 100 Schen. CC to only 1 Troy CC and none for Ft. Plain and So. Rens. CC. **VARIED THRUSH:** 1 male seen almost daily Dec. 3 thru Feb. 6. Glens Falls (R&HG). Eastern Bluebird: only reports are 7 Chatham CC and 4 New Scotland Jan. 24 (RP). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1 each Schen. and So. Rens. CC. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 Schen. CC. Cedar Waxwing: 24 Schen. CC, 10 So. Rens. CC, and 20 Catskill Jan. 2. Northern Shrike: a very good year with each CC reporting at least one and Ft. Plain three and numerous scattered reports throughout the period. Starling: nearly 43,000 reported on 6 CC's with So. Rens. tallying more than 32,706 of them.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-rumped Warbler: 2 Cox. CC (EG & KD); 1 Ft. Plain CC.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** House Sparrow: 3,229 total 6 CC's. Eastern Meadowlark: 20 Chatham CC, 3 Cox. CC and 1 Troy CC. Redwinged Blackbird: scarce with only report of 14 at Cox. CC. Com. Grackle: unusually high with nine reported on the 6 CC's. Cardinal: 518 total of 6 CC's. Evening Grosbeak: relatively mild with 1,977 from the 6 CC's. Purple Finch: even milder with only 67 from the counts. House Finch: a total of 268 from the 6 CC's (incl 27 from Ft. Plain) reflect the skyrocketing population explosion this species is undergoing. Pine Grosbeak: unevenly distributed but more numerous on the later CC's with a total of 138 on 5 of the 6 counts (none on Ft. Plain). Com. Redpoll: definitely an invasion year however late in arriving; a few scattered reports until mid-Jan. (74 on 4 CC's), then very numerous and widely reported. Pine Siskin: a reverse of the latter; numerous early, then scarcer after late Dec.; 106 on 5 CC's (absent on Cox. CC). Am. Goldfinch: reported somewhat scarce by some observers, however a respectable total of 1,197 on 6 CC's. Red Crossbill: 14 Schen. CC; also 12 at Albany—mid-Feb. White-winged Crossbill: 10 Schen. and 20 Chatham CC's. Savannah Sparrow: 1 Lk. Luzerne Feb. 1 (LT) unusual for inland locale. Dark-eyed Junco: 762 from 6 CC's. Tree Sparrow: 1,356 total of 6 CC's. **CHIPPING SPARROW:** 4 Ft. Plain CC (D. Ayres). Field Sparrow: 6 reported on 5 CC's. White-crowned Sparrow: 1 mid-Feb. report. White-throated Sparrow: 330 total of 6 CC's incl. 80 Schen. and 85 Cox. CC. Fox Sparrow: 3 reported Jan.-Feb.; 1 Chatham CC. **LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** 3rd consec. year on Chatham CC at Ghent (BHG). Swamp Sparrow: only reports: 7 So. Rens. CC and Dec. 24 Tibley Lk. (TP). Song Sparrow: 91 total of 6 CC's (max 38 Schen. and 20 Cox.). Lapland Longspur: 2 each Cox. and Troy CC's also 3 banded Cox Flats (RPG). Snow Bunting: 200 So. Rens. CC; also 200+ late Jan.; 1 banded. Remember Dial-a-Bird (518) 377-9600.

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## REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Most authorities agree that the winter of 77-78 has been one of the worst on record. Although there were few extremely low temperatures, the thermometer was well below freezing for most of the period. The Mohonk Weather Station