

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

showed an average temperature for December to be about 3° F below the 80-year normal; January 4.2° F below, and February 5.9° F below. The first snows of December remained thru the period to be superimposed by excessive snows in January and February. There were three major storms within nine days in January, and several smaller flurries brought the total for that month to 34.6 inches, the fourth highest over the past 80 years. February added another 17 inches. Lakes were largely open for the Christmas counts but were iced over for the Federation Waterfowl Count January 8. Some of the higher ponds had almost 2 feet of ice by the end of the period. The intense cold of last year was moderated in February with a complete thaw by the end of that month. Not so this year. At this writing in late March, lakes are still heavily iced.

In spite of the weather, it was a birder's paradise. That long hoped-for phenomenon occurred—a "winter finch year." Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Common Redpolls, both Red and White-winged Crossbills and even Northern Shrikes came south; some in unprecedented numbers. Accipiters haunted and hunted at many local feeders, and Cooper's Hawks were reported in unbelievable numbers considering their scarcity on migration. Goshawks are now regular in much of the region. Christmas counts were reporting record numbers of species and individuals. Most of the good finds were species that could be expected. Rarities and accidentals went almost unreported. A record number of reports were received and processed; 17 in all, and 5 Christmas counts.

Contributors and observers cited: Martin Borko, Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Stan DeOrsey, Florence Germond, Thelma Haight, Fred Hough, Mary and Jim Key, Mabel Little, Helen Manson, Ken McDermott, Al Merritt, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Forrest and Aline Romero, Benton Seguin, Selden Spencer, William and Trixie Strauss, Otis Waterman, Hans Weber, Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: BX—Burroughs Xmas Count, Ulster Co. Dec. 17; PX—Peekskill Xmas Count, N. Westchester, Dec. 17; PCX—Putnam Co. Xmas Count Dec. 31; RX—Rockland Xmas Count Dec. 18; WX—Waterman Xmas Count, Dutchess Co., Dec. 30; FWC—Federation Waterfowl Count, Jan. 7-15; PL—Playland, Rye; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Scattered reports of 4 birds in Dutch and Sull thru Jan. Red-throated Loon: 1 Dec. 24 Cornwall Bay (BS). 2 off Rye Dec. 26. Horned Grebe: 5 on FWC was highest ever. An unusually high 50 on BX at Ashokan (AB). Great Blue Heron: 12 at PL thru Dec. SNOWY EGRET: 1 at PL thru Dec. 26, their first Dec. record. Mute Swan: max 84 on FWC. 79 of them on Croton R. below Croton Falls (ML). WHISTLING SWAN: 1 Sylvan L. Dutch Dec. 14 (HM, FAR). Canada Goose: Dec. numbers unprecedented. 5000 in the Millbrook-Amenia area of Dutch. 1354 on RX was record high that count. Snow Goose: more than usual, 1 on WX and scattered individuals on 6 reports thru period. Mallard: 1442, a record on RX. 100-200 at Verbank in manured fields thru period. Gadwall: 1 on RX was fourth time in 30 counts. Pintail: 1 Rockland L. into Jan. Green-winged Teal: 1 on RX, second time that count. 1 Iona I. Dec. 26 (BS). Blue-winged Teal: 1, RX, third time that count. Am. Wigeon: 14, Iona I. Dec. 3 (BS). N. Shoveler: 2 on RX, fifth time that count. Wood Duck: 2 Feb. 11, Fishkill (MJK). Redhead: 5 Rudd Pd. Nov. 14-20, and 7 Abels Nov. 13. Ring-necked Duck: 35 Dec. 4 and 1 Dec. 27 Amenias (WTS). 216 West Branch Res., Putn on FWC (ML). Canvasback: max 300 Dec. 9 Cornwall Bay. Greater Scaup: max 17 Kiamasha L. Dec. 4. Lesser Scaup: 4 on Bronx-Westch. Christmas Count Dec. 26 at Irvington; 3 Rock L. Jan. 5. Common Goldeneye: 1 on RX was very low. 30 Mongaup-Rio Dec. 17. Oldsquaw: 1 Abels near Moor's Mills Nov. 13 (HM). White-winged Scoter: 1 Dec. 17 Newburgh (BS). Black Scoter: 15 at Newburgh Dec. 17 (BS). Ruddy Duck: very low on RX, only 2. Hooded Merganser: none on FWC where they have

been reported 22 out of 24 years. Decreased at PL from 30 on Dec. 4 to 6 on Dec. 26. Common Merganser: 140 at Rondout R. Jan. 3. Red-breasted Merganser: 1 male Feb. 13 Wappingers Cr. (MJK), 2 Cornwall Bay Dec. 4 (BS).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: wintered in good numbers. 53 at Quaker Hill roost Dutch Dec. 18 (JMK). A few persisted thru end of period. Obs in small number elsewhere. Accipiters: all three species wintered in unprecedented numbers. Goshawk: appeared on 9 reports thru period. Sharp-shinned Hawk: too many to report. Almost every report had one or more. Several remained for long periods near feeders where they fed on small birds. Cooper's Hawk: appeared on 6 reports including PCX. 1 remained at Cornwall at Al Merritt's feeder where it was observed taking Cardinals, siskins, 1 catbird and House Sparrows from Jan. 16 to Feb. 19. Another was at the Haight feeder at Stissing taking birds daily. Observed "crawling through bushes" in search of prey (TH). Most birds observed by competent birders for long periods of time, often at very close range. Red-tailed Hawk: 70 on WX doubled the previous high in 1974. An albino at Verbank seen regularly again this year. Rough-legged Hawk: numbers good. 5 in Dutch dur Dec. and at least a dozen there in Feb. 2 black-phased birds at Galeville Airport, Wallkill. **GOLDEN EAGLE:** 1 near L. Sebago Jan. 11 (Walter Lehnies). Absent from the Stissing Mt. area for second year, but 2 were in residence in Clove Valley Dutch, from late Jan. thru Feb. One obs dropping stick from on high and retrieving it before it hit the ground. 2 at MC Nov. 13 about 1/2 hr. apart (TB, *et al.*). Bald Eagle: a study group believes that about 30 wintered in the Rio-Mongaup area. Max obs there was 10 (6 ad and 4 imm) Jan. 7 (ET). Merlin: 1 obs at 10 ft. at Wappinger's Falls Dec. 11, eating a Starling (Tom Storey). Another at Accord Dec. 30 (FH). Ruffed Grouse: wintered in good numbers esp in Palisades Interstate Park. Bobwhite: only reports in recent years from Dutch. 11 there Dec. 14 (FAR). Turkey: 14 at Allgerville, Ulst Dec. 31. 20 near Fowlerville, Sull thru Jan. Sull Audubon had 59 on Christmas Count Dec. 17. Clapper Rail: 2 MC Dec. 26. Virginia Rail: 6 on PCX, unprecedented number for region in winter. Am. Coot: very low numbers everywhere. Only 3 on FWC compared with 105 last year, and 163 the year before. Killdeer: 120 in one pasture at Wallkill Nov. 23 (HW). Ruddy Turnstone: 3 on rocks off Rye Dec. 26. Am. Woodcock: 1 for fifth time on RX. Common Snipe: more than usual, 5 on RX and several others reported. Greater Yellowlegs: 4 at PL on Dec. 4. Purple Sandpiper: 30 PL Dec. 26. Dunlin: 66 at MC Dec. 26. Glaucous Gull: 1 for second time on RX. 2 imm and 1 ad at Croton Pt. Dec. 28 (Bill Howe). Iceland Gull: 1 second year bird Croton Pt. Jan. 9 (BW). 1 Rondout R. Feb. 22 was first Sull. record (MB). Laughing Gull: 200 on RX was unprecedented for that date and location. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Yonkers Dec. 26 was only report.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Ringed Turtle Dove: 2 at New Paltz feeder Feb. 26 (AB). Screech Owl: 25 on PX and 21 on PCX were unusually high. No other count comes close. They must have a special technique. Barred Owl: 2 dur Dec. and Jan. in Palisades Park. 2 more from Dutch and 1 from Oran. Long-eared Owl: 3 on WX at Vassar Farms. Remained thru Jan. Short-eared Owl: max of 6 at Galeville Airport, Wallkill in Dec. Reduced to 2-3 in Jan. and none after heavy snows. Saw-whet Owl: 1 near Island Pd. Dec. 16 had a dead Chipmunk propped nearby (Robert Speiser). Pileated Woodpecker: generally scarce, but an unusually high count on PCX of 8. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues to increase—on at least 6 reports and 2 Christmas counts. Coming regularly to feeders in Dutch thru period. Red-headed Woodpecker: only 1 reported, eating from suet bag Town of Crawford, Oran Jan. 29. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: a few. Of 2 at Accord, 1 was killed striking a window. Downy Woodpecker: 105 on WX, usual avg. 75. Numbers good all over. **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** 1 Vassar Campus Nov. 15 (A. Scott Warthin).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Phoebe: a late bird from Dec. 4-6. Horned Lark: 300 Jan. 15-22 Pine Plains (FG). Blue Jay: appeared normal, but WX had 341 when avg is 230. **COMMON RAVEN:** 2 at very close range seen and heard over Doubletop Mt. in the Catskills Dec. 28 (Brad Snyder). Com. Crow: more than 3000 in Hudson St. Hospital roost. Fish Crow: in addition to the usual few wintering at Poughkeepsie, others were found at Newburgh and Highland Falls. Obs on RX, PX and PCX. Black-capped Chickadee: 404

on WX which usually avg 300. Numbers normal elsewhere. Red-breasted Nuthatch: unusual numbers of last fall at Vassar persisted with 26 there on WX. Usually averages 1 or none. An unusual 17 on PX; FH had as many as 6 at his feeder at Accord at one time. Brown Creeper: numbers down. Carolina Wren: presumed kill of last year did not materialize. Numbers good thru region and period. At least 5 reports from Dutch in Feb. Gray Catbird: 5 on PCX and 5 in Rye Dec. 26. Brown Thrasher: 1 near Wappingers in Feb. and 2 at Rye Dec. 26. Another at Wurtsboro Dec. 17. Am. Robin: excellent. Flocks up to 100 in Dutch thru Jan. Flocks of 40-50 Dec. and Jan. in E. Ulst. **WOOD THRUSH**: 1 on RX well described by P. French, a very experienced birder. Hermit Thrush: 5 on PX, 1 Eldred Dec. 2 (Alice Jones), 1 Feb. 10-20 near P'kpsie (MJK). Eastern Bluebird: 12 wintered in Dutch and 8 were at Sleepy Hollow Cem. N. Tarrytown Jan. 30. Numbers inc by end of period. Kinglets: both species very scarce everywhere. N. Shrike: missed on RX but most other counts had at least one. Many reports from entire region thru period. Best numbers in memory. Starling: thousands roosting on Mid-Hudson Bridge, P'kpsie, and on the west end of Tappan Zee Bridge.

VIREOS-SPARROWS: ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: 2 omitted from fall report. 1 MC Nov. 5 and another there Nov. 25 (TB). **COM. YELLOWTHROAT**: 1 on PX. E. Meadowlark: numbers very low. Only 1 on WX, absent from most other counts. Max 38 Depot Hill, Dutch (HM). Redwinged Blackbird: a few winter reports but no flocks thru end of period. Late returning. Rusty Blackbird: a few wintered near Stissing. Common Grackle: very late return. No Feb. flocks. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 Wurtsboro Dec. 17-18 (MB). Evening Grosbeak: large flocks of fall gave way to few winter residents. Max 45 thru Feb. at Mohonk feeder (Don Theis). Purple Finch: numbers down, max 30 near Washingtonville Dec. 21 (BS). House Finch: a veritable explosion, record numbers everywhere. 324 on WX which had its first in 1965. Only 209 that count last year. 250 in one field at Wallkill Dec. 3. We must look for ecological effect of this marked increase. Pine Grosbeak: many reports of small flocks thru entire region for period. Max 47 near Rondout R. Feb. 4 (AB). Common Redpoll: many reports after mid-January. First Dec. 17 in Oran (BS). Max 100 Jan. 1 Goshen (BS). **HOARY REDPOLL**: 2 at feeder of John Gee at Rye. Arr Feb. 24 and remained into Mar. (mob). Pine Siskin: similar to C. Redpoll, most feeders have 40 or more thru end of period. Am. Goldfinch: numbers excellent. RX had a high of 486. Crossbills: both species on most Christmas counts, small numbers but widespread and continuous thru period. Rufous-sided Towhee: at least 5 reports of wintering birds across north part of region. Vesper Sparrow: app on RX for 4th time. White-crowned Sparrow: up to 3 wintering at Amenia again this year (WTS). 4 on WCC and 1 at Newburgh Dec. 17. White-throated Sparrow: a record high on RX of 485, numbers high everywhere thru period. Fox Sparrow: 3 Jan. reports in Dutch. Song Sparrow: PX had an unusual high of 163. Lapland Longspur: 2 near Millerton and 3 at Verbank from Feb. 11-20. Single birds reported at Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill, in late Jan. Snow Bunting: usual scattered reports of a few birds. Max 500 daily at Amenia thru Feb. More than 350 near Wallkill Jan. 29.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

After a benign December which permitted most Christmas counts to proceed without too much discomfort on the part of observers, the weather was the news during January and February. January 13th, freezing rain coated trees and wires producing extensive damage. On the 20th, 17 inches of snow dropped on