

firmed near Schaghticoke 1 Feb. Savannah Sparrow: one FPCBC. Dark-eyed Junco: 171 SNCBC; 445 ADCBC; 73 COCBC; 125 CXCBC; 252 SRCBC; 22 FPCBC; 166 TRCBC; one "Oregon" subspecies Schenectady 23-30 Jan (PW). Tree Sparrow: 256 SNCBC; 345 ADCBC; 165 COCBC; 123 CXCBC; 359 SRCBC; 137 FPCBC; 357 TRCBC; a male banded at New Baltimore 24 Nov '78 was recaptured 23 Jan '82. Field Sparrow: one SNCBC; one CXCBC; one SRCBC; after six years Bill Gorman's winter visitor did not return. White-crowned Sparrow: one FPCBC; Chatham Center 1-13 Feb (M & AG). White-throated Sparrow: 67 SNCBC; 102 ADCBC; 24 COCBC; 308 CXCBC; 44 SRCBC; 20 FPCBC; 35 TRCBC. Swamp Sparrow: one ADCBC; four CXCBC; one TRCBC; Ghent thru Jan (B & HG). Song Sparrow: 30 SNCBC; 17 ADCBC; nine COCBC; 14 CXCBC; 23 SRCBC; three FPCBC; 17 TRCBC. Lapland Longspur: two ADCBC; two CXCBC; one Cocksackie 17 Jan; three there 13 Feb (RPG). Snow Bunting: 100 SNCBC; 105 ADCBC; 47 COCBC; 61 CXCBC; 15 SRCBC; 479 FPCBC; 14 other reports with max of 2000 Cocksackie 28 Feb.

Remember Dial-A-Bird for Hudson-Mohawk area bird news at 518-377-9600.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

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December was cold, and January was impossible. Together they produced one of the coldest winters of the century. Temperatures in January rarely went above the freezing mark, and the northern portions of the region and higher elevations remained below zero for extended periods of time. Three snowstorms during the third week of December dropped at least two feet in the Catskills, and subsequent storms almost every other day in mid-January added one or two more feet to that already on the ground. February brought a warming trend, and by late in that month the ice on the Hudson had broken. Lakes, however, were still frozen, and would probably remain so until April.

Bird populations in the areas hit by the Gypsy Moth last summer were predictably low, largely due to the paucity of fruit and seed. Birders on the Bear Mountain-Harriman Park Christmas Count hiked something like eight miles over a period of eight hours and found only 18 individuals of five species. Another count in similar circumstances found only 14 individuals of four species. Elsewhere conditions were better. The northern finch invasion, observed last fall, continued into the winter, and although all species were well-represented, they were not in numbers. Had the Federation Waterfowl Count been done in December the numbers would have been much larger. By the time of the target date January 10, most of the lakes and streams were closed by ice. The count was good, but not even close to the highs of two years ago. Mute Swans continue their phenomenal increase, and the numbers of wintering Canvasbacks are nothing short of extraordinary. The 5,103 individual ducks counted was the second highest count in more than twenty-five years, and the 20 species realized was the third highest (the usual average is sixteen).

Rarities included in this report are: White-fronted Goose, Osprey, King Rail,

Sora, California Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Boreal Chickadee, several warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, European Goldfinch, Dickcissel, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, and Harris' Sparrow.

Corrigendum: The reference to breeding Gadwall in the Region 9 report of the Fall 1981 edition (Vol. XXXI, No. 4, p. 261) was reported inaccurately. The statement should read: "Gadwall: Rockland had its second breeding record when a pair with three grown young were discovered at Piermont Pier on 29-30 July by Robert F. Deed. The first record was made by Donald S. Deed on 19 July 1971."

Contributors and observers cited: Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Stan DeOrsey, Valerie Freer, John Guarnaccia, Jim and Mary Key, Ken and Joan McDermott, Vaughn Morrison, Frank Murphy, Jack Orth, Eleanor Pink, Brian Schiefer (BSe), Benton Seguin (BSe), Selden Spencer, John Tramontano, Edward D. Treacy.

Abbreviations used: The first four or five letters of each county; BWCC—Bronx-Westchester Christmas Count 27 Dec; FWC—Federation Waterfowl Count 10 Jan; GSCC—Greenwich-Stamford Christmas Count (includes parts of Westchester) 20 Dec; JBCC—John Burroughs Christmas Count of Ulster 19 Dec; MCC—Mearns Christmas Count (Orange) 19 Dec; RCC—Rockland Christmas Count 20 Dec; SCC—Sullivan Christmas Count 19 Dec; WCC—Waterman Christmas Count (Dutchess) 29 Dec; CB—Cornwall Bay; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; USMA—U.S. Military Academy, West Point.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: JBCC had a phenomenal count of 20 (no details). Only a few singles reported elsewhere. Red-throated Loon: the BWCC had two; one in the harbor at MC continued there thru 2 Jan. Horned Grebe: RCC has had one on the last three counts after a seven year absence. Great Blue Heron: peaked in the PL area with 20 on 9 Jan; withdrew from the region almost completely after that date. Black-crowned Night Heron: last at PL 27 Dec. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: two adults of the Greenland race carefully studied on the Maple Moore Golf Course in Harrison 26 Dec (TB, JG). Mute Swan: continues its extraordinary increase. FWC had 225, up from 36 of last year. 65-70 were at Stony Pt. Cove on 1 Feb as soon as the ice broke. More than 100 wintered just below the Dutch Co. line on the east side of the Hudson—an unusual concentration so far north. Canada Goose: continues its increase. More than 1,200 on MCC and the 895 on the RCC was their second highest count in 35 years. Snow Goose: 11 on MCC was their first winter record. 100 over Hudson R near IBM, P'kpsie 19 Dec; and five more flying up river 27-28 Feb. Single birds reported from West and Sull during Dec. Gadwall: unreported on FWC before 1979; as many as 12 this year. Pintail: four at Stony Pt on RCC was the third time for that count. The last time was in 1954. A single male was obs regularly on Rio Res in Sull thru Jan and Feb. Am. Wigeon: a good number of 162 were at Rye for the BWCC. Ring-necked Duck: 53 were on Kensico Res on the GSCC. Canvasback: excellent numbers of last fall were driven out by ice but returned with the thaw. RCC had a record high of 723. This was down from the more than 2,000 reported from the area 18 Dec, and the increase to more than 4,700 on 31 Dec. 3,100 were on the Hudson at Newburgh for the MCC, and although excellent, was far below the more than 7,500 there in early Dec (BSe). Greater Scaup: more than 4,000 off PL on 13 Dec. Com. Goldeneye: continues to improve from lows of several years ago—203 off Rye on 27 Dec. Bufflehead: MCC had 52, up from the 12 of last year. Ruddy Duck: another poor season on the lower Hudson. The best count was 81 there 29 Dec. Hooded Merganser: MCC had 17, up from three last year. Com. Merganser: the 838 on MCC was four times their average but down from the 1,041 of last year. Red-breasted Merganser: 26 on the RCC at Stony Pt was only the twelfth time in 35 counts.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: a nightly roost of about 15 birds discovered in Dec at Pound Ridge probably accounted for the scattered reports for the season. Migrants were

observed returning in early Mar. Goshawk: more reports than usual and well scattered thru the region. Several were reported working bird feeders. A pair of imm Goshawks attempted to catch a Gray Squirrel at Pamela Bruns' feeder near Saugerties 12 Feb. At least seven others were reported. One caught a Cottontail at Jack Orth's home in Wawarsing and after leaving the kill, was replaced by a Red-tailed Hawk that finished it. Sharp-shinned Hawk: the usual two or three from central Dutch working bird feeders. Two late Dec reports from the Rye area, and at least seven or eight other reports thru the region. Cooper's Hawk: one took a Mourning Dove at Florence Germond's feeder on 22 Dec in Clinton Corners, and at least three others were reported from Dutch. Red-tailed Hawk: 37 on RCC was an excellent count, as were the counts in the northern part of the region. Red-shouldered Hawk: two reports: one 13 Dec at MC and another on MCC. Rough-legged Hawk: another good year. Most counts produced one or two. Bald Eagle: several reports of wintering birds in the mid-Hudson region. An adult was at Stony Pt 19 Dec, and two imm at Iona 15 Jan. The DEC winter survey totaled a max of 17 in the Sull Co reservoirs area. Only a few of these were observed at any one time by most birders. Marsh Hawk: more than usual—reported by at least five correspondents. Four on MCC were unusual, and five were at Piermont Marsh on the RCC. OSPREY: one at RCC at West Nyack Dump, and one at Mongaup Res 2 Jan; undoubtedly due to open water. Merlin: most unusual in winter—one at Red Oaks Mill 1 Jan (JMK); another seen several times at Purchase in Dec (Jim Utter, Brad Hurley). Am. Kestrel: numbers down. RCC had only five as did the GSCC. Ruffed Grouse: numbers continue up 15 on RCC; eight were observed "budding" high in the trees at Pound Ridge Res 16 Jan. Good numbers elsewhere in appropriate habitat. Turkey: continues to increase. Several reports of birds at the USMA reservation where they have not been previously reported, including reports from West and Dutch, and a huge flock of 40 in the Cooper Lake area of Woodstock dur Dec. KING RAIL: one well observed and described by Al Brayton 25 Dec, at Kingston Pt. SORA: one observed at Kingston Pt 30 Dec by AB while looking for the previous King Rail. Am. Coot: a flock of 80 at Rockland L 27 Dec was soon frozen out and only a few remained feeding on handouts from people in the park. Am. Golden Plover: last report two at Stewart Airport 2 Dec. Ruddy Turnstone: at least five seen regularly at Milton Pt Rye during Jan; peaked to nine on 6 Feb. Am. Woodcock: singles reported at Mamaroneck's Taylor Pond on the BWCC and at MC 17 Jan. The latter was displaying on 15 Feb, the earliest date recorded for this behavior. Com. Snipe: one Rockland L 10 Jan and another at Kingston 14 Jan were unusual in the sub-freezing cold. Purple Sandpiper: at least 100 were feeding on the rocks off Milton Pt Rye thru Dec and Jan. They were in the company of a dozen Dunlins and several Ruddy Turnstones. Glaucous Gull: a second-year bird at Rockland L 26 Dec, and another at the Haverstraw dump 1 Feb and again 14 Feb. Iceland Gull: two Haverstraw dump, 31 Dec—one was of the *kumlieni* subspecies. Another of this race was at MC 7 Feb. A first-year bird was at the IBM plant in the Town of Ulster 7 Dec. Great Black-backed Gull: the 115 on RCC was down from the peak of 458 in 1977. This is true of numbers throughout the region, but the population is still excellent. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: one at Grassy Pt Marina 28 Dec was the fourth record for Rock. The Harbor L Park bird in Mamaroneck disappeared in mid-Dec, but returned for the BWCC. It left again when the area froze, but returned again when the ice left on 21 Feb. CALIFORNIA GULL: again at Rockland L for RCC—last there 12 Feb for the fourth winter. Bonaparte's Gull: 35 at the sewer outlet south of Piermont Pier on 10 Dec, increased to 30 by 27 Dec and 50 by 29 Dec. Only others were four at MC 9 Dec and a single at PL on BWCC. BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: an imm at Cornwall Bay 6 Dec was well-observed and described by KJM and seen independently by BSe and JT. This is a first for Orange Co. and the fourth record for the mid-Hudson region.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: a phenomenal 1,388 on MCC and 586 on JBCC. Screech Owl: tape recorders are playing havoc with the records for this species. RCC had 15; ten of them responding to tapes. A few years ago three or four on a count was to be expected. Great Horned Owl: the 17 on GSCC probably made their presence known

in response to tapes. A pair at MC 27 Dec were quite vocal for the BWCC counters. Barred Owl: fewer each year. One was at MC 6 Dec and again 3 and 10 Jan. Most counts had one or none. Long-eared Owl: Rockland had its eighth record in this century when one was obs 16 Jan at Tallman Mt. Short-eared Owl: one at MC 25 Dec and a max of eight at Galeville Airport 12 Feb. Saw-whet Owl: one MC 15 Feb—another found dead in Rye 17 Feb. An injured one found near CB 5 Feb is being rehabilitated at the Nature Museum in Cornwall. One found dead along Rt 9G in Dutch 24 Feb was an adult in good plumage and flesh. SCC had its first ever when one was spotted by seven-year old Dan Pugliani along Cold Spring Rd. in Hartwood. Pileated Woodpecker: the downtown Nyack bird of last fall was present thru the winter. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues its slow increase. Most Christmas counts reported one or more. RCC had six and GSCC had 26. MCC had five and at least four others were at feeders outside the count area in Orange.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: last report one at Eldred 1 Dec. Horned Lark: exc. numbers thru period in farmland, especially on recently manured fields. Flocks of up to 200 were not uncommon, and several Christmas Counts reported numbers above 300. Fish Crow: continues its slow increase. One can expect it now at several locations along the Hudson. Black-capped Chickadee: excellent numbers. Most feeders had a dozen or more, and some have many more. Tom Mutchler of Forestburg counted 26 at one time in Feb and 40 at one time in early Mar. **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** the last of a string of sightings in Rye that began in Oct was at Greenwood Union Cem on 12 Dec. One was at Wanasink L in Sull 21 Feb, and three or four were photographed on the summit of Slide Mt. on 6 Feb (Jan Maas). White-breasted Nuthatch: 503 on WCC was extraordinary. Numbers excellent everywhere. Carolina Wren: good reports in Dec, but very few since the extreme low temperatures of Jan. Most reports along the Hudson as were the eight on RCC. Mockingbird: RCC reported 147 and GSCC had a record 267. Fantastic numbers when you consider the bird was absent before the late fifties. Gray Catbird: RCC had a fine count of five—no word on their survival. Am. Robin: wintered in good numbers. Maximums were 37 at Rockland L 31 Dec, and several Dutch flocks of more than 50 in Jan and Feb. Hermit Thrush: only report one at Suffern 26 Dec. E. Bluebird: the GSCC produced 91, and WCC had 19. Many scattered reports of one, two or three birds through the period. These numbers reflect the efforts of the Bluebird Trail builders in the area. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: the 15 on RCC was a record high for that count. Water Pipit: only report 20 at Stewart Airport 2 Dec. Cedar Waxwing: JBCC reported the high of 269; not many reported elsewhere. No. Shrike: numbers down from the highs of the last few seasons. At least five reports, mostly in Dec. Loggerhead Shrike: one at Wanasink L, Sull 6 Mar. Starling: Rock continues to hoard this species with an RCC count of 12,640, a record high. At least 10,000 were roosting under the Tappan Zee Bridge and in the nearby Grand View and Piermont Marsh area.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:** Peter & Ellen Derven had a long close look at one on the Iona I Causeway on 28 Dec. The only other winter Rock record was near Suffern a year ago. **TENNESSEE WARBLER:** one at MC on the BWCC might have been mistaken for an Orange-crowned but that it sang several times (John Guarnaccia *et al.*). **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:** one at Kingston Pt 2 Jan and two on the JBCC. Both records were at the northern limit of the region. **BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER:** an adult male was at PL 5 Dec with an injured left wing. **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** one was at Taylor Pond, Mamaroneck on the BWCC. Another was at the Cornwall Bay area on the MCC (VM).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: numbers down from years ago, but seems to be stable. JBCC had an actual count of 1,000 which was exceptionally high and more than twice the average of other counts. E. Meadowlark: continues to decrease as in recent years. An unusual count of 18 at Millerton and 17 at Amenia on the Housatonic Christmas Count 20 Dec. Only a few elsewhere. Blackbirds: red-wings and grackles arrived right on time during the third week of Feb. Rusty Blackbird: one at Iona I. 9 Jan and four at Armonk's Nichol's Preserve on the GSCC. Another visited the Rye Nature Center feeders on 27 Dec.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: one was on the RCC and studied by five observers. **DICKCISSEL:** only report was one visiting a Larchmont feeder from 7 Dec-26 Jan. Evening Grosbeak: reported in small flocks everywhere. Max was more than 200 around a feeder next door to the Forestburg Town Hall 30 Jan—a fantastic sight (EDT). Purple Finch: continues to decline, only a few reports, and then only a few each time. House Finch: continues to increase. WCC reported 216 compared to only one Purple Finch. JBCC reported 367 to only 15 Purple Finches. Pine Grosbeak: an excellent season. Most counts had a few. Max 26 on the Ramsey Christmas Count at Suffern 26 Dec. Twenty-three were at Pound Ridge 10 Jan—inc to 29 by Feb. Forty were at Pawling 11 Feb. and 22 at Millbrook 28 Feb. Com. Redpoll: small flocks regularly reported along roadsides. Maximum 100 at Galeville 20 Feb and two flocks each with about 40 near Rio Res 30 Jan. 100-150 were at Monticello Airport 9 Jan. **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH:** an adult was visiting a feeder in Mamaroneck from 11-23 Feb (Claudia Neff). Tom Burke saw it 13 Feb. Crossbills: both species represented, but many more White-wings than Red. At least four reports of Red in flocks of less than ten. Five reports of White-wings in flocks of more than 20. **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** two were still hanging on at MC as late as 25 Dec. One was there for the BWCC. Dark-eyed Junco: numbers good thru period. One of the *oreganus* subspecies was well-studied at Blauvelt for the first time on the RCC. **CHIPPING SPARROW:** one was visiting a Rye feeder on 13 Dec, and another appeared at Vaughn Morrison's feeder in Wappinger's Falls 15 Dec and stayed thru the rest of the period. White-crowned Sparrow: one on RCC in north Rock for several weeks in Dec was the tenth time for that count. Another wintered at a Blooming Grove feeder in Orange. **HARRIS' SPARROW:** an imm appeared on 16 Dec at Trixie Strauss' feeder in Amenia and remained thru the period. Lapland Longspur: as many as ten were wintering at the Warren Sod Farm near Pine I. Snow Bunting: at least five reports. Max about 150 in each of two flocks in Dutch during mid-Feb. Several hundred at Warren Sod Farm 26 Feb.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

The winter started slowly with much of December warmer than normal, but it turned cold in time for the first Christmas Bird Counts. The first two days of the period, 19-20 December, were the coldest days of the month (all temperatures from New York City). Counts after this first weekend experienced milder weather. From 21 December thru 7 January, the daily mean slipped below normal only once, on 3 January, and then only by one degree. On 8 January the big freeze began. For the next three weeks the mean temperature climbed to normal only once, on 20 January. On 11 January the temperature dropped to a mean of 11, twenty-one degrees below normal. Over the next few days it warmed slightly, but in exchange we received over nine inches of snow. From then until 29 January, there were a series of cold waves at roughly four-day intervals: 24 below normal on 18 January, 19 below normal on 22 January and 15 below normal on 27 January. On the nights of 17 and 18 January the temperature plummeted to zero in the city. In late January the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge looked like arctic tundra. After this, the weather turned mild for the rest of the season with February averaging nearly two degrees above normal.