

nac L. 20-28 Feb, where there was a Brown Thrasher 7 Feb (both TD). Cedar Waxwings were widespread: 10 ECBC; 26 FCBC; max 106 PCBC typical numbers. N. Shrike: singles at Ausable Pt., Averyville, Cadyville, New Russia, Tupper L., and Whallonsburg.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: max 36 PCBC. Tree Sparrow: max 101 PCBC. Fox Sparrow: one Crown Point Jan (GF). Song Sparrow: a few reported from Crown Pt., Plattsburgh, Schroon L., Westport. White-throated Sparrow: two Crown Pt.; one Tupper L. Dark-eyed Junco: reports from all four counties; max 20 Halfway Brook 6 Dec (TD). Snow Buntings were scarce, with only three reports in Dec-Jan, totalling about 30 birds. Wintering Red-winged Blackbirds were at Essex, Rainbow, L. Tupper L.; max 17 PCBC; first migrant arr Crown Pt. 28 Feb. Single Com. Grackles were at Saranac L. and Tupper L. Pine Grosbeak: scarce all winter; max 22 PCBC. Purple Finch: widely scattered; max 125 Crown Pt. from 7 Feb. House Finch: a few Crown Pt., Essex, Ticonderoga, Wadhams; max 267 PCBC. Red Crossbill: a few Paul Smiths and Tupper L. White-winged Crossbill: two SLCBC the only report. Com. Redpoll: a few Elizabethtown, Wadhams, Westport, Saranac L. Pine Siskin: virtually absent, max seven SLCBC. Am. Goldfinch: widespread and abundant; max 208 FCBC. Evening Grosbeak: the most abundant winter finch; max 2,801 tallied in Bloomingdale, L. Placid, Ray Brook, and Saranac L. during the SLCBC! House Sparrow: max 464 PCBC.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

This was the winter that wasn't. 1982-83 was the warmest winter in thirty years. NYS meteorologists claim that the average temperature was six Fahrenheit degrees warmer than usual and that one has to go back to 1954 to find a warmer winter. Three snowfalls, which scarcely covered the ground for a week each, comprised the entire winter accumulation. The first snow did not arrive until 15 January and was well gone after the rains of the 23rd. The other two storms both occurred within the second week of February. Even then the second February storm, which hit areas south of Region 8 heavily, barely affected Albany and left the Adirondack forest floor with no snow cover. With plenty of wild food available there wasn't any major invasion from the north and feeder activities were minimal. Yet for those of you that did have lemmings lashed to your suet there was hope because one Snowy Owl was reported in the Region.

Still, most northern species were scarce or absent. Few Rough-legged Hawks and few raptors in general characterized the Christmas counts. There was only one report of Pine Siskins and only two reports of Pine Grosbeaks. Crossbills and redpolls were not reported at all. Observers speculated that low counts of finches may have been due to their dispersal throughout fields and forests rather than being congregated at feeding stations. On the other hand, lingering "half-hardies" littered the locale. Several Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and a Northern Oriole were found through the winter. High numbers of Brown Creepers, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Swamp Sparrows were counted. A phoebe, a towhee and a Vesper Sparrow seem to offer fitting symbols of the season.

Open water was available nearly all winter so waterfowl and gulls were present in large rafts. A Northern Shoveler in Coxsackie for the Christmas count was a good find since this bird is uncommon though probably an annual visitor to Region 8. The Thayer's Gulls found by Ken Able and Scott Terrill at the Colonie Landfill perhaps represent a southeastward expansion of their winter range since the first documented observation of this species in New York away from the Great Lakes was 7 December 1980 (*The Kingbird* Vol. 31, No. 4; 1981, pg. 207).

Three and a half Christmas counts were submitted for this report which again helped to boost the total tally for the season over the one hundred mark to 104. Another Black-hooded Parakeet was recorded on a count list, this time in East Greenbush. The count compiler documented research that indicates that "... this bird was not tame and may have been in the wild for some time."

SUMMARY OF AREA CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Date	Count	Abbreviation	Total Species	Approx. Numbers	Observers
18 Dec 82	Alan DeVoe (in part)	ADCBC	39	792	3
26 Dec 82	So. Rensselaer	SRCBC	54	30,907	34
29 Dec 82	Coxsackie	CXCBC	62	11,542	
2 Jan 83	Troy	TRCBC	56	15,549	24

The first Long-eared Owl reported in over two-and-a-half years was unfortunately a road kill in New Baltimore. The specimen was added to the Columbia-Greene Collection which has grown to 250 specimens representing 126 species. An immature Northern Saw-whet Owl was banded in Schenectady two weeks after it answered a Great Horned Owl recording for the local Christmas count.

The most misplaced bird for the season was an adult male Varied Thrush reported by Burrell Buffington. The bird visited Burrell's feeder in West Taghkanic for six days in January. Eight Graylag Geese found in Coxsackie on 19 January were eventually demonstrated to be of the domestic variety based on their red legs. We also have the first Merlin report since May 1982 and the first Peregrine Falcon report since April 1981.

Following this report I will be turning over the duties of regional editor for Region 8 to Ed Reilly, Box 21, Old Chatham, New York 12136.

Good Birding and may you all get breeding confirmation for Sora and Sedge Wren in your swamps this summer.

Contributors: Ken Able, Jane Barry, Burrell Buffington, William Cleveland, Bill Cook, Harold Ettelt, Peter Feinberg, Richard Guthrie, Ronald & Carolyn LaForce, Robert Marx, Tom Palmer, Jon Powell, Shirley & Alfred Schadow, William Shuster and Robert Yunick.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: one CXCBC. Red-necked Grebe: one Saratoga L 5 Dec. Great Blue Heron: one West Taghkanic 17 Jan. Mute Swan: two ADCBC; two CXCBC. Canada Goose: ten reports thru max 500 Embough Bay Catskill 22 Jan; 56 SRCBC; 57 CXCBC; 597 TRCBC. Green-winged Teal: one with blacks and Mallards on river ice at Hudson 22 Jan. Am. Black Duck: nine reports; 28 SRCBC; 1,335 CXCBC; 271 TRCBC. Mallard: 12 reports; two ADCBC; 218 SRCBC; 1,057 CXCBC; 1,309 TRCBC. N. Pintail: four reports thru: 14 CXCBC. N. Shoveler: one CXCBC. Gadwall: six CXCBC. Am. Wigeon: one Hudson 22 Jan; one TRCBC. Canvasback: 100 Embough Bay 11 Dec; 3,000 Clermont all winter. Ring-necked Duck: nine CXCBC. Greater Scaup: two CXCBC. Oldsquaw: one TRCBC. White-winged Scoter: one CXCBC. Com. Goldeneye: five reports thru; five CXCBC; 17

TRCBC. Hooded Merganser: one Hudson R 27 Feb; one SRCBC; two TRCBC. Com. Merganser: nine reports thru; seven ADCBC; 56 CXCBC; 92 TRCBC. Red-breasted Merganser: one TRCBC.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: one adult Saratoga L 21 Dec (RM). N. Harrier: male Livingston thru; two SRCBC; eight CXCBC. Sharp-shinned Hawk: nine reports; three SRCBC; one CXCBC; one TRCBC. Cooper's Hawk: five reports; one SRCBC; one CXCBC; two TRCBC. N. Goshawk: two SRCBC; one TRCBC. Red-tailed Hawk: 22 reports; five ADCBC; 43 SRCBC; 48 CXCBC; 43 TRCBC. Rough-legged Hawk: five reports max five Cossackie 29 Jan; one SRCBC; two CXCBC. Am. Kestrel: 13 reports; one ADCBC; 13 SRCBC; 11 CXCBC; one TRCBC. Merlin: observed eating a female Red-winged Blackbird on a perch during a 29 Jan field trip on the Cossackie Flats (RG). **PEREGRINE FALCON:** one Johnstown, Fulton Co. 11-13 Feb (RM). Ring-necked Pheasant: one SRCBC; two TRCBC. Ruffed Grouse: six reports; nine SRCBC; 14 CXCBC; 14 TRCBC. Wild Turkey: five males and 30 females in Ghent 25 Feb; three SRCBC. Killdeer: two Mohawk R 23 Feb. Com. Snipe: two TRCBC. Ring-billed Gull: ten reports in Dec; 11 ADCBC; 1,061 SRCBC; 451 CXCBC; 634 TRCBC. Herring Gull: 12 reports; 23 ADCBC; 15,387 SRCBC; 451 CXCBC; 2,210 TRCBC. **THAYER'S GULL:** two Colonie 13 Dec-2 Jan (KA); one TRCBC. Iceland Gull: three Colonie 11 Dec; second year bird there 26 Dec; one SRCBC; three TRCBC. Glaucous Gull: one Colonie 11 Dec (RG & PF); one TRCBC. Great Black-backed Gull: eight reports; one ADCBC; 758 SRCBC; 46 CXCBC; 145 TRCBC.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: eight reports: 14 ADCBC; 1,993 SRCBC; 856 CXCBC; 2,773 TRCBC. Mourning Dove: Jenny L contingent in Adirondack habitat lingered until 4 Dec; paired by 21 Feb, 19 ADCBC; 380 SRCBC; 239 CXCBC; 308 TRCBC. Black-hooded Parakeet: one SRCBC. E. Screech-Owl: seven reports; red phase in Vosberg's Wood Duck Box Cossackie 29 Jan; gray phase Clifton Park basement; one ADCBC; six SRCBC; one CXCBC; three TRCBC. Great Horned Owl: 15 individuals reported; one ADCBC; two SRCBC; two CXCBC; four TRCBC. Snowy Owl: one Livingston 1 Feb (HE). Long-eared Owl: road kill male New Baltimore 20 Jan (RG). Short-eared Owl: two Livingston 1-20 Feb; two Cossackie 29 Jan. N. Saw-whet Owl: road kill New Baltimore 5 Dec; an imm heard on the Schenectady Christmas Count 18 Dec added this species to their list for the first time. The bird was seen on 31 Dec and banded 1 Jan. Belted Kingfisher: one West Taghkanic 21 Jan; two Altamont 29 Jan; three SRCBC; two CXCBC; one TRCBC. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Cossackie 29 Jan. Red-bellied Woodpecker: male Wellsville early Jan thru; male and imm Livingston 11 Feb; one Millpoint feeder 22 Jan-5 Feb. Downy Woodpecker: ten reports; 34 ADCBC; 42 SRCBC; 94 CXCBC; 84 TRCBC. Hairy Woodpecker: eight reports; a recapture in Schenectady was at least six-and-a-half years old 19 Feb; three ADCBC; 18 SRCBC; 20 CXCBC; 13 TRCBC. N. Flicker: eight reports; two SRCBC; 31 CXCBC; seven TRCBC. Pileated Woodpecker: eight reports; one ADCBC; three SRCBC; three CXCBC; three TRCBC.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. PHOEBE: two CXCBC. Horned Lark: five reports; 75 ADCBC; 158 SRCBC; 425 CXCBC. Blue Jay: 17 ADCBC; 89 SRCBC; 114 CXCBC; 250 TRCBC. Am. Crow: 12 ADCBC; 522 SRCBC; 703 CXCBC; 535 TRCBC. Black-capped Chickadee: more birds than usual in a non-invasion year with a higher rate of return (RY); 69 ADCBC; 353 SRCBC; 528 CXCBC; 348 TRCBC. Tufted Titmouse: ten ADCBC; 50 SRCBC; 79 CXCBC; 35 TRCBC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: no invasion; one ADCBC; 11 TRCBC. White-breasted Nuthatch: 13 ADCBC; 67 SRCBC; 107 CXCBC; 72 TRCBC. Brown Creeper: two singing Palmer's Ravine 27 Feb; one SRCBC; 12 CXCBC; six TRCBC. Carolina Wren: Niskayuna RR station 18 Dec. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Palmer's Ravine thru, max four; one ADCBC; four SRCBC; 20 CXCBC; one TRCBC. **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET:** two Middleberg 5 Dec; one Delmar 31 Jan-7 Feb; one Guilderland 20 Feb; one CXCBC. E. Bluebird: seven reports thru, max eight with one banded New Baltimore 5 Dec; five CXCBC. Hermit Thrush: one Altamont 9 Dec; one Glenville 22 Jan; another in Glenville 13 Feb. Am. Robin: more abundant this year; 12 ADCBC; eight SRCBC; 1,282 CXCBC; 19 TRCBC. **VARIED THRUSH:** male West Taghkanic 17-23 Jan (BB). Gray Catbird: one Glen-

mont (RM). N. Mockingbird: 17 reports; three ADCBC; ten SRCBC; 27 CXCBC; 13 TRCBC. Cedar Waxwing: 15 ADCBC; 30 SRCBC; 308 CXCBC; 141 TRCBC. N. Shrike: one SRCBC; one TRCBC. European Starling: 260 ADCBC; 7,750 SRCBC; 1,227 CXCBC; 3,117 TRCBC.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: four reports from early Dec; 16 CXCBC.

TANAGERS—WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: greater numbers this year; male singing in Schenectady 6 Feb 5° F; five ADCBC; 41 SRCBC; 88 CXCBC; 55 TRCBC. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBK: male N Troy 19 Feb; Glenville 19 Feb. Rufous-sided Towhee: one Niskayuna 18 Dec. Am. Tree Sparrow: singing Palmer's Ravine 4 Dec; 39 ADCBC; 95 SRCBC; 133 CXCBC; 286 TRCBC. VESPER SPARROW: one CXCBC (KA). Savannah Sparrow: one Melrose 17 Jan; one Coxsackie 29 Jan. Song Sparrow: one ADCBC; ten SRCBC; 34 CXCBC; 32 TRCBC. Swamp Sparrow: 18 CXCBC. White-throated Sparrow: fewer at Schenectady feeder this year; three ADCBC; four SRCBC; 84 CXCBC; 40 TRCBC. Dark-eyed Junco: 15 ADCBC; 143 SRCBC; 249 CXCBC; 101 TRCBC. Lapland Longspur: found on Coxsackie Flats during count period. Snow Bunting: six reports max 30 Ballston 22 Jan; three ADCBC; 15 CXCBC. Red-winged Blackbird: one ADCBC; two SRCBC; one Emborough Bay 16 Jan; male singing near Hudson 21 Feb heralded spring influx. E. Meadowlark: five Coxsackie 29 Jan. Rusty Blackbird: heard in Coeymans 5 Dec (RG). Com. Grackle: one Troy feeder 15 Jan; one Emborough Bay 16 Jan. Brown-headed Cowbird: ten reports thru max 200 Coxsackie 5 Dec; 102 SRCBC; one CXCBC low; 20 TRCBC. N. Oriole: Sand Lake feeder 9 Dec. Pine Grosbeak: two Rotterdam 21 Jan; 20 Glenville 9 Feb. Purple Finch: two males stayed at Jenny L until 8 Jan; 31 ADCBC; 24 SRCBC; 263 CXCBC; 112 TRCBC. House Finch: 50 in the wild, Coxsackie 5 Dec; 25 ADCBC; 303 SRCBC; 397 CXCBC; 277 TRCBC. Pine Siskin: ten SRCBC; no other reports. Am. Goldfinch: 16 ADCBC; 134 SRCBC; 235 CXCBC; 206 TRCBC. Evening Grosbeak: arrived Jenny L 4 Dec. New Baltimore 5 Dec and Amsterdam 6 Dec; most numerous in Jan; 15 ADCBC; 381 SRCBC; 222 CXCBC; 448 TRCBC. House Sparrow: 25 ADCBC; 577 SRCBC; 483 CXCBC; 876 TRCBC.

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

What with sunspot activity and the eruption of several volcanoes around the world throwing millions of tons of ash into the atmosphere last year, weathermen were predicting one of the coldest winters of the age. Nothing could have been farther from the truth. In fact, the New York Weather Bureau labeled it the mildest winter since 1951, and the fifth mildest since record keeping was started. Temperatures were well above normal for all three months. Larger lakes and the upper Hudson did not freeze until the week of 22 January and were opening by the last of February. The unusual warmth enticed many "half-hardy" species to remain, and some such as Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, and Rufous-sided Towhee were observed in unprecedented numbers. What with open water, ducks and geese were not concentrated, and the number of species and individuals present for the Waterfowl Count in January was on the low side. Several Christmas Counts achieved new record highs for numbers of species, and all the others came close. Spring Peepers were calling in South Rockland, Dutchess