

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 GROSBEAK: 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

and Sullivan Counties on 2, 4 December and 11 January respectively; and earthworms, ants and honey bees were out and about on 3 February.

Precipitation for December amounted to about two inches of snow on the 20th and only a small amount of rain before and after that date. Similarly 15-16 January gave us about four inches of snow with very little rain for the rest of the month. Real snow came in February with more than six inches on the 7th and 15-20 on the 12th. Warm temperatures in the 40^o-50^o range immediately thereafter melted it quickly. The ground was largely exposed for most of the period and the available food supply was excellent. It was so good in fact that feeder populations were unusually low. With the exception of Purple Finches, northern finches failed to show. Very few Evening Grosbeaks arrived, and only a few siskins and redpolls were reported. Most birders are still waiting to add them to their year lists. Crossbills went completely unreported.

The period was not without its rarities. Among them: Double-crested Cormorant, Greater White-fronted Goose, Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Broad-winged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Merlin, Spotted Sandpiper, both white-winged gulls, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Snowy Owl, Common Raven, Marsh Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Dickcissel.

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Abbreviations: Ashokan—Ashokan Reservoir; CB—Cornwall Bay; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; USMA—U.S. Military Academy; BMCC—Bear Mt. Christmas Count, 5 Jan; BWCC—Bronx-Westchester Christmas Count, 26 Dec; FWC—Federation Waterfowl Count, 15-23 Jan; GSCC—Greenwich-Stamford Christmas Count (inc SE Westchester) 19 Dec; JBCC—John Burroughs Christmas Count 18 Dec; MCC—Mearns Christmas Count (E Orange Co) 18 Dec; RCC—Rockland Christmas Count 19 Dec; SCC—Sullivan Christmas Count 18 Dec; WCC—Waterman Christmas Count (Dutchess Co) 27 Dec.

Addendum: One Wilson's Phalarope at Croton Point 31 Oct was very late, and may well be the first record for Westchester Co.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one off Milton Pt. 29 Jan was to be expected, but the one in CB 9 Jan was a surprise (KM). Com. Loon: last inland report was five at Ashokan 5 Dec. Horned Grebe: only inland report one at CB 5 Jan. **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** unexpected in winter, especially after the low numbers of last summer. One was in Rye on the BWCC, and a flock of 25 over the Hudson on RCC was the first time for that count. Previous late date for Rock was 12 Nov. Another was on CB 19 Dec. Great Blue Heron: between 20 and 30 roosting at PL during Dec. Varied from 14-25 during Jan. Black-crowned Night-Heron: only report three in Rye on BWCC. Mute Swan: WCC had 31, up from last year's 20 and a good increase for the northern part of the Region where they are not common. Warm weather had one pair copulating near Crugers as early as 18 Feb. Bar-headed Goose: although it was undoubtedly an escape, the single bird that spent much of Nov with the domestic geese at Ring's Pond at Cornwall Town Hall moved to Orange Lake where it was observed for three weeks in Jan, was too beautiful to go unmentioned. **GREAT-ER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** one first found by MY and Dorothy Fleury 4 Jan near Wappingers L stayed thru FWC on 18 Jan and was the first for that count. Brant: occurred regularly off Rye for most of the period. BWCC had 34 between PL and Milton Pt. Canada Goose: continues to increase if that is possible. On 20 Jan more than 2,000 were gathered about two small openings in Rockland Lake. The 1,562 on RCC was up by 200 from the previous high in 1977. 1,726 were on the WCC, and the FWC produced 5,796 which was

three times last year's count. Wood Duck: one in Rock and three in Ulst was twice the average for FWC. The usual Dutch bird did not show this year. Blue-winged Teal: always rare in winter. Seven at Pound Ridge on GSCC. N. Shoveler: one at MC from 4 Dec thru end of month. Gadwall: more wintering than ever before. Unreported until 1978 on FWC. The 22 on this year's count was double that of last year. Good numbers in Orange, Ulst, West and Rock thru period. Am. Wigeon: as many as 30 wintered at PL and MC, and four spent the third week of Jan at Purdy's Sta in West. Canvasback: FWC had 470 belying the several thousand found along the Hudson before and after that count. Ring-necked Duck: peaked in Dec with 94 on Kensico Res. and more than 400 at Croton Dam 13 Feb. Scaup: both species completely missed on FWC. **HARLEQUIN DUCK**: one at PL 20 Feb was gone next day. Oldsquaw: a pair were at Ashokan 15 Dec. Com. Goldeneye: the 11 on FWC was half the usual average and only one-fifth last year's count. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**: a female found at CB 5 Jan by BSe was well observed by mob and remained thru 14 Jan. Bufflehead: five on FWC was one-tenth last year's count and well below average. Com. Merganser: excellent numbers. The 1,194 on FWC was almost four times average. 436 on Kiamesha L 8 Dec was excellent so far from the Hudson where the largest concentrations were found. The same goes for the 907 on West Branch Res in West 30 Dec. Red-breasted Merganser: no inland reports. 275 on PL 7 Dec. Ruddy Duck: 201 on FWC would mean a return to the numbers of ten years ago. Well up from the three birds of last year's count.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: more winter reports than usual. Three during Jan in Rock and few from central West. Migrants were returning in early Feb and were reported as far north as Mohonk 19-20 Feb. Osprey: one on RCC at Stony Pt was the fifth winter record for Rock. Bald Eagle: making a good recovery. Several reports from the mid-Hudson region. Could be the two imm and one adult that wintered near Iona I. The regular winter census totaled 42 in the Sull-Ulst area, with about half of these in the vicinity of Rio and Mongaup Res. Of the 42, 25 were adults and 17 imm. Sharp-shinned Hawk: usual few feeding on the feeders at the feeders. Cooper's Hawk: one regularly feeding on House Sparrows at Millbrook School feeder thru Jan. Another at Monticello 20 Dec was feeding on a starling. N. Goshawk: one on BWCC at PL. Another coming to a feeder occasionally thru Feb at Stissing. Another along Rt. 293 at USMA 10 Feb. Red-shouldered Hawk: one at MC on 24 Dec. One on RCC was the first since the 1976 count. Another was at the east end of Ashokan 12 Feb. Broad-winged Hawk: winter reports are always suspect, but Donald S. Deed, an accomplished birder, found an imm at Naruet only a half mile from last summer's active nest site. Red-tailed Hawk: one might have thought them completely removed from the Region after last fall's excellent movement, but the winter numbers were excellent. More than 30 along Rt. 84 in Oran one day in Feb. An albino was observed in Dutch on New Year's Day. Rough-legged Hawk: around in good numbers although not an invasion. Reported from all areas. **GOLDEN EAGLE**: two observed at Stissing on 2 Feb where they wintered several years ago (RT). Two others were reported wintering in n. Sull and were still present on 1 Mar. One of these could have been observed over Rondout Res on 5 Feb, when an imm bird was seen by a Waterman Field Trip. Am. Kestrel: winter numbers unusually low. Only nine on RCC and two on GSCC. One on BMCC. Merlin: one in downtown P'kpsie observed thru scope while searching for a Snowy Owl (MY, EP). Ring-necked Pheasant: rep in good numbers in Dutch during Jan, 16 there. Wild Turkey: one seen during Dec at Pound Ridge Res. N. Bobwhite: two on 15 Dec near Pawling were the only report. Clapper Rail: single birds at PL and MC on the BWCC. Spotted Sandpiper: one on BMCC at Iona I was almost a month later than the previous late date of 10 Dec 1980 (EDT). Dunlin: one at Baird Pk Dutch 1 Dec by a Waterman Field Trip was a new late record for the Co.Com. Snipe: one at MC 22 Jan. Am. Woodcock: one in Rye 23 Dec. Laughing Gull: last four at Rye 4 Dec. Bonaparte's Gull: unusual inland; one Morgan L Dutch 22 Dec. Ring-billed Gull: this species along with Herring and Great Black-backed are overwintering in ever increasing numbers about the landfill areas of Orange, Rock, West and Dutch. Iceland Gull: Observed regularly along the Newburgh waterfront from 17 Jan. Another at West Harerstraw dump from 5 Feb. An unusual inland occurrence was a first year bird at Orange L 30 Jan, and a second year bird there 6 Mar. Another was at Croton Pt from 28 Dec thru 15 Jan.

One was at the Town of Ulster dump 21 Feb and again 23 Feb. Another at the P'kpsie dump 7 Jan. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: one at Harbor 1 Pk, Mamaroneck was recorded for the third year on the BWCC. Another was at PL 5 Dec and again 19 Jan. One was at Croton Pt in early Dec and again 5 Jan. **Glaucous Gull**: a few more than usual along the Hudson and at landfills. A second year bird was at Annsville, near Peekskill 27 Feb. Another at Newburgh 17 Jan, one at Stony Pt dump 2 Feb and another P'kpsie dump thru period.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: numbers down from last winter, but still widespread in sizeable flocks. 588 on MCC and 706 on WCC. Maroon-bellied Conure: five observed but not counted on RCC in South Grandview. Obviously escaped or released, and seen again on other days. Seem to be succeeding in an area where Monk Parakeets have been observed in previous years. **E. Screech-Owl**: MVW was observing at least five regularly thru period in Dutch. **SNOWY OWL**: one on a barge at the end of Piermont Pier 8 Jan. Another was observed on buildings in downtown P'kpsie 16-29 Dec. Even had his picture in the local newspaper. **Barred Owl**: one E. Walden 15 Dec appeared about the time a resident Barn Owl disappeared. **Long-eared Owl**: one on GSCC in Bedford. Responded to a screech owl tape. **Short-eared Owl**: at least four wintered again on the former Buttonwood Tree Farm property along Purgatory Rd. in Hamptonburgh. Wintering birds at Galeville Airport near Wallkill increased to 12 by 13 Feb. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one returned to MC 5 Dec and remained thru Jan. Another was heard calling near Newburgh for about 20 minutes on the night of 25 Jan. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: more frequently reported now than Pileateds, and most Christmas Counts reported more of them than Pileateds. Many coming to suet feeders. 18 on GSCC was extraordinary. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: unusual in winter. One at New Paltz 13 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **E. Phoebe**: two reports from Dutch, one 15 Dec and another 23 Dec. **Blue Jay**: exodus last fall must have removed most of the winter residents. **Am. Crow**: in the largest numbers ever on most Christmas Counts. Middletown roost with more than 8,000 birds by mid Jan. An albino was observed 1 Dec at Baird Pk, Dutch by a Waterman Field Trip. **Fish Crow**: regularly reported along the Hudson where they are usually rare in winter. Two were reported about 30 miles from the river at the Middletown roost. **COMMON RAVEN**: two near the summit of Slide Mt 7 Dec (AB). **Tufted Titmouse**: still in good numbers, but the 146 on RCC was lower than the last two years. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: almost none for the entire Region with the exception of Ulst where a few wintered around the aeration basin at Ashokan. **Brown Creeper**: the 11 on RCC was their highest count since 1973. About in good numbers thru the rest of the Region as well. **Carolina Wren**: most Christmas Counts were well down from the totals of last year—perhaps the result of last April's blizzard. **Winter Wren**: one at Rye Nature Center from 24 Dec. Five were on RCC. **Marsh Wren**: one was at PL 25, 26 Dec for the BWCC. Another was at 6½ Station Sanctuary in Goshen 9 Jan. Might well be the first local record for Oran. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: one still at PL 31 Dec. **E. Bluebird**: missed entirely on RCC, but excellent numbers elsewhere. 98 on GSCC and 35 on WCC. **Swainson's Thrush**: one was a surprise at PL on 26 Dec. Another appeared on the RCC for the second time in 35 years. **Hermit Thrush**: as many as four on the BWCC in Rye. **Am. Robin**: many reports. Flocks of 100-300 reported in Dutch thru Jan. **Gray Catbird**: at least three at PL thru 1 Jan, and five on RCC, two on WCC. **N. Mockingbird**: the 90 on RCC was surprisingly low, down at least one-third from the last two counts. **Brown Thrasher**: more wintering than ever before. Two were at Rye 26 Dec with one remaining thru Jan. Two were on RCC and another at Kingston Point 3 Dec. One was at CB 16 Feb. **Cedar Waxwing**: excellent numbers in Feb. More than 130 at Wawarsing 23 Feb. Earlier a flock of 125 were at Woodstock 10 Dec. **N. Shrike**: a surprising report of one at Montgomery 15 Dec; the only report.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one at MC 26 Dec (*vide* John Askliden, Julio de la Torre). **Cape May Warbler**: one on JBCC 18 Dec was at a feeder on the Administration Bldg. at Ashokan. It was still present 21 Dec. (AB, RT). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: 27 near Carmel 30 Dec, 89 on RCC was the highest number since 1956, and well distributed over four of their nine regions. 15 on MCC with 12 of them feeding on berries

near the Tomahawk L. spillway. 22 on WCC was a record high for that count. Usually averages one or none. Ovenbird: one 10 Dec on Main St in Congers (Chas Holbrook). Previous late date for Rock was 22 Nov. Com. Yellowthroat: a male was present at MC from 4 Dec-22 Jan. Yellow-breasted Chat: one at Mamaroneck's Taylor Park 25 Dec (TB). Dickcissel: one at Millbrook School 15 Dec-25 Jan. Rufous-sided Towhee: two thru period in Dutch, one at Pleasant Valley and the other at Salt Point. One spent Jan at Rye Nature Center, and two wintered at Montgomery. Am. Tree Sparrow: 75 on RCC was poor compared to 156 last year, and the counts of 400-500 on the 1950's and 60's. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: three at MC 31 Dec. Swamp Sparrow: one Bashakill 22 Dec. White-throated Sparrow: numbers quite low for a regular winter visitor. White-crowned Sparrow: an imm at Clinton Corners after the snow of 12 Feb. Dark-eyed Junco: 436 on RCC was only half of last year's count, but still better than most recent years. Snow Bunting: unreported from most areas. Observed several times at Warren Sod Farms near Pine I 1 Jan. Flocks of 10 or 12 reported several times along the roadsides near DeBruce. 56 were at Red Hook 18 Jan. Red-winged Blackbird: first migrants were in Nyack by 26 Jan, early. Reported in excellent numbers at feeders in the northern part where they usually do not winter. E. Meadowlark: only one report of a bird wintering in Orange on MCC. Rusty Blackbird: four reports: one from Stony Pt. 8 Jan, 15 near Millbrook School 9 Feb, two at Salt Point 28 Feb, and three at Kingston 18 Feb. Com. Grackle: wintered in good numbers in the southern part. First migrants were on time 15 Feb. Pine Grosbeak: eight were at John Jay High School at Cross River 6 Jan; and 15 visited a feeder at South Salem thru much of Jan. Purple Finch: the only northern finch reported in good numbers. Found at most feeders often to flocks of 50 or more. 100 on RCC was the second highest in 35 counts. The highest was in 1949. House Finch: 246 on RCC was their second high count. MCC had a "whopping" 818. Crossbills: none anywhere of either species. Com. Redpoll: two flocks totaling 87 were on RCC. BMCC produced 38. 20 were at Bashakill and 17 were at Monticello 23 Dec. 30 were on the SCC. Pine Siskin: almost unreported. A flock of 60 at Coldenham 20 Dec and a flock of ten on SCC.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 -- MARINE

JOSEPH A. Di COSTANZO

There was almost no winter in the Region this year; and very little in the way of birds either. December was very warm—7.3° F. above normal; and dry—only 1.47 inches of rain, 42% of normal. Highs in early December were regularly close to 60° F. or above. It began to look as if the fall would never end, until three inches of snow fell on 12 December. It was the earliest significant snowfall in the Region in years. Temperatures then rose again to a high of 58 on 16 December, promising balmy weather for the first weekend of Christmas Counts, 18-19 December. Alas, it was not to be. Temperatures were below freezing all day on the 18th and only a bit warmer under blustery, overcast skies the 19th. Counts held after this weekend fared much better weatherwise. Temperatures did not drop below freezing again until 4 January. January continued warm with the month's average 2.7° F. above normal. The total rainfall of 5.01 inches was 1.8 above normal. The only snowfall was 1.9 inches on 15-16 January. The weather continued in much the same pattern into February till the 11th when the blizzard of '83 arrived. Snow started falling in New York City at about 2 p.m. By the time it stopped that night there were 16.5 inches on the ground in Central Park. In