

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Columbia Co 3 Dec; and two GCCBC. Com. Yellowthroat: one GCCBC.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: No. Cardinal: reports thru; 127 max SRCBC. Rufous-sided Towhee: eight Old Chatham 2-19 Jan; and one Clarksville 22, 23 Feb. Field Sparrow: one Columbia Co 8 Dec; one Ghent 1-30 Jan; and one Five Rivers 16 Jan. **VESPER SPARROW:** one SCCBC. Savannah Sparrow: one SRCBC; and one FPCBC. Fox Sparrow: three CCBC. Song Sparrow: reports thru; 17 max SRCBC. White-throated Sparrow: reports thru, 24 max SRCBC. White-crowned Sparrow: two FPCBC; one Ghent 26, 28-31 Jan and 5 Feb. Lapland Longspur: only one report Amsterdam 18 Jan. Snow Bunting: reports thru; 300 max Cocksackie Flats 11 Feb. Red-winged Blackbird: reports thru; flock Cocksackie Flats 12 Feb, first spring arrivals. E. Meadowlark: one CCBC; 20 GCCBC; two FPCBC; one Old Chatham 8 Jan; one Castleton 25, 27 Jan; and one Castleton 7 Feb. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** one male Fonda 28 Feb (FG). Rusty Blackbird: one Ghent 29 Dec and 3, 8 Jan. Com. Grackle: reports thru. Brown-headed Cowbird: reports thru; 103 max SRCBC. Pine Grosbeak: seven CCBC; Old Chatham 8 Jan; 10-15 Partridge Run 22 Jan; and ten Malden Bridge 23 Jan. Purple Finch: reports thru; 93 max FPCBC. Red Crossbill: one SCCBC; and two Stillwater 25 Feb (AR). Com. Redpoll: one Altamont 12, 31 Dec; and seven CCBC. Pine Siskin: reports thru; 20 max Altamont 20 Jan thru 9 Feb. Am. Goldfinch: reports thru. Evening Grosbeak: reports thru; 492 max SRCBC.

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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The general consensus was "a lousy season in almost every way." The weather, although not too cold for too long, was generally raw and damp with too many dark and cloudy days. And, to add insult to injury, many of the species to be expected failed to appear. Rarities which are needed to quicken the pulse during the dismal winter days failed to show, and with the exception of one or two individuals, the longed for winter finches did not come south. After a season like this we deserve a decent spring.

The year 1983 ended one of the wettest on record with more than 80 inches of precipitation (45 being average). December helped this record with at least one good rain each week for a total of nine inches (three inches is average). About one inch of snow fell on 2, 3 December and 23 December saw two inches more. Each week of January had some snow, and four inches on 5 February was the only snow for that month. It did rain at least once in each of the remaining weeks of February. Mid-December temperatures dropped to the mid-20's F., and lakes and streams which were open for most Christmas Counts were frozen by the Waterfowl Count 15 January. Moderating temperatures in February had the lower Hudson open by 5 February, and the upper river open by 20 February.

As happened last year an open river meant the passage of waterfowl; they left early. By March the greater number had moved thru, and local breeders were already paired and looking for nest sites. Hawks were about in good numbers, with record quantities of Red-tails observed in the trees along the super highways. Once again, accipiters were stalking many of the feeders in the area, and the wintering Bald Eagles were well observed along the Hudson and around the Sullivan reservoirs. The late freeze and early thaw had some Killdeer, snipe and woodcock remaining thru the period, and migrants returning before the end of February. Landfill areas had thousands of gulls; but white-wings were few and far between, especially the Glaucous. Owls were well reported, and Rockland still has some of its parrots. Red-bellied Woodpeckers are now reported more frequently than Pileateds. January snows tended to concentrate at the ground feeders, but with the warming trend in February they dispersed and were hard to find. As mentioned, northern finches failed to show; and with the appearance of one or two here or there, weary birders hoped for a late showing before the season's end. It was a showing that never came. Oh well, better luck next year.

Rarities were few, but included Greater White-fronted Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, Peregrine Falcon, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Chipping Sparrow.

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Abbreviations: Ashokan-Ashokan Res; CB-Cornwall Bay; CP-Croton Point; MC-Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL-Playland, Rye; FWC-Federation Waterfowl Count 14-22 Jan. Christmas Counts cited: BCC-John Burroughs Count, Ulster, 17 Dec; BMCC-Bear Mountain, 4 Jan; BWCC-Bronx-Westchester, 26 Dec; GSCC-Greenwich-Stamford, 18 Dec (incl. E. Westchester); MCC-Mearns Count, 17 Dec (E. Orange); PeCC-Peekskill Count, 17 Dec; PuCC-Putnam Count, 30 Dec; RCC-Rockland Count, 18 Dec; SCC-Sullivan Count, 31 Dec; WCC-Waterman Count, 30 Dec (Dutchess Co). The first four or five letters of each county.

LOONS DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: only reported at Rye, four at PL 3 Dec, and one at MC 10 Dec. Com. Loon: many more than usual, probably due to late freeze and early thaw. Two on PeCC at CP; another at Ashokan 8 Jan; one at Rye BWCC. RCC had two on L DeForest, the third time for that count in 36 years. Pied-billed Grebe: also more than usual, one Ashokan 14 Jan and another CB 25 Feb. An extraordinary 15 on PeCC. Horned Grebe: one Ashokan 7 Jan. Two reports of birds stranded on dry ground, one at Wurtsboro 27 Dec and the other at Pine Plains 23 Jan. The former was successfully released, the latter's fate is unknown. Three on MCC were the first in five years, nine were at Ashokan on JBCC. Double-crested Cormorant: last at Rye's Milton Pt 4 Dec. Great Blue Heron: singles each month in Dutch. One on WCC was new to that count. PL was a haven for them thru Dec with 45 on 26 Dec. Mute Swan: continues to increase, 49 near Cold Spring 30 Dec, inc to 72 by 22 Jan. The latter brought the FWC total to 110, up from last year's high of 78. RCC had its lowest count of eight since 1971. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** the twosome of Dot Fleury and Mary Yegella struck again 26 Jan with the second bird in as many years on the same pond in Amenia as last year's record. Snow Goose: an imm blue morph at Dobb's Ferry, 7, 8 Dec, six on Tamarack L, Dutch 2 Dec, two adults and eight imm on Ryder Pd, Dutch 10 Dec. Three Millbrook School 1 Jan, and one imm at Millerton 24 Feb. Brant: two flew over Piermont Pier on RCC and were new to that list,

now at 143. Canada Goose: the 2,123 on FWC was less than half last year's total, but still high. The 2,885 on RCC was a new high for that count. Migrants returning from 11 Feb on. Wood Duck: missed on FWC for the first time in 13 years. PeCC had a count of six. Green-winged Teal: a female at Rockland from 28 Jan thru period, two others in Dutch during Jan and Feb. Am. Black Duck: wintered in better than usual numbers thru region, max 250 at Rondout Res. 30 Dec. Mallard: also excellent numbers, max 50 Rondout 4 Jan. No. Pintail: more than usual, one on FWC was the first in four years, one Rockland L 28 Jan thru period. Two apparently mated pairs were at 6½ Station Sanct., Goshen 29 Feb, another male at Rondout Res from 23 Dec-8 Jan. A pair at Vanderburgh Cove 22 Feb and from six to eight were at L Walton, Dutch 29 Feb. A male was on Mongaup - Rio Res from 23 Dec-8 Jan. No. Shoveler: RCC had a high of nine. Previous high was three in 1978. Gadwall: many reports. The two on FWC was down to normal from the high of 22 last year, PeCC reported 14; and RCC had 19, a new high for that count. Am. Wigeon: two apparently mated pairs were at 6½ Station Sanct., Goshen 29 Feb. Canvasback: once again excellent numbers on Hudson. Numbers moved north with the thaw of early Feb. RFD had a max of about 1,000 south of Stony Pt Pk on 10 Feb. FM had about 2,000 on the east side of the Hudson from Kingston on 10 Dec. At least this many were at Esopus Pt on 18, 19 Feb. Redhead: FWC had a new high with seven at CP, previous high was three in 1980. RCC had six for the seventh time on that count. Not reported since 1956. A single male was with 300 Canvasbacks at Kingston Pt on 11 Dec. Scaup: only three on FWC. Missed some years, but numbers usually better. Ring-necked Duck: only 17 on FWC, much better than the one of last year, but still low. Oldsquaw: only inland report of one female Rondout Res 30 Dec and again 4 Jan. White-winged Scoter: one male at CP 17 Dec. Com. Goldeneye: the 209 on FWC was about five times the average. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** a single female at Esopus Pt 19 Feb was well observed at close range, and all field marks noted (FM, RT). Bufflehead: 36 on FWC was better than average. Hooded Merganser: FWC had only one this year after 11 last year. 20 were at Deans Bridge, Muscote Res 27 Dec, nine on PeCC and eight on PuCC. Westchester has always been good for this species in winter. Com. Merganser: 1,700 on BMCC; almost all of them on the Hudson off Con Ed's Indian Pt plant. Numbers continued there thru FWC when more than 6,778 were counted. Red-breasted Merganser: unreported for four years on FWC. Ruddy Duck: after last year's "feast" of 201 on FWC came this year's "famine" of only two; RCC had 328.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: more winter reports than usual, found in all the southern counties thru period; migrants returning by mid-Feb. Two on WCC were the first for that count in 26 years. Bald Eagle: continues to winter in good numbers especially in the Sullivan Co. reservoirs where the DEC found 19 adults and 12 imms. Two adults and four imms were found regularly in the vicinity of Iona I on the Hudson. On Sullivan Audubon's eagle count of 27 Jan a total of 25 were observed at the reservoirs and along the Delaware. No. Harrier: three obs at Galeville Airport 10 Dec. Sharp-shinned Hawk: too many to mention, most working feeders in the eastern part of the region. Cooper's Hawk: also in good numbers and working feeders. RCC had one, their first in 20 years. No. Goshawk: one at Bedford took a grouse on 6 Dec. One near Newburgh on MCC and another near Middletown 17 Jan. Dutch had one Dec record and two in Jan. Red-shouldered Hawk: one wintered in the Saugerties area; another was at the Rye Nature Center 10 Dec. Red-tailed Hawk: up to ten frequented CP with five being obs in the same tree on PeCC. MCC had 57, WCC had 65. Rough-legged Hawk: usual few wintered, four at Galeville Airport 18 Feb. Am. Kestrel: numbers good in Oran with 32 on MCC. Rockland numbers report poor with only seven on RCC. That count had 11 in 1980 and 23 in 1976. All other Christmas Counts were equally low. Merlin: one unexpectedly flashed by MC on 26 Dec. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** one CP 8 Dec, still there 7 Jan. Another obs taking one of the thousands of starlings that roost under the east end of the Tappan Zee Bridge on 4 Feb (Harry Darrow). Ring-necked Pheasant: almost gone from Rock, RCC had only one. Num-

bers better in Dutch where seven were obs at Clinton Corners 17 Jan, and 11 others reported from various locations in the Co. Wild Turkey: 41 at Narrowsburgh 3 Jan; four at Bogg Hollow, Dutch 30 Dec; and up to 27 obs along Rt. 83 in Dutch from 20-28 Jan. At least nine reports from Dutch dur Feb. Clapper Rail: one at MC 5 Feb. Virginia Rail: one and possibly two were at MC 10 Dec. No details on a Sora found there the same date. A Virginia Rail was also reported on the PeCC. Am. Coot: 78 on FWC was a continuation of high numbers for the past five of those counts. Killdeer: many reports of wintering birds; 25 on MCC was very high. Several reports of birds returning to breeding territories by third week of Feb. Greater Yellowlegs: one remained at PL until 26 Dec. Purple Sandpiper: max 130 Milton Pt 19 Feb. Com. Snipe: one at Rye 26 Dec and three near Stanfordville, Dutch in early Feb. Am. Woodcock: more reports than usual; one remained at MC until 31 Dec. Courtship display was well under way thru much of the region by last week of Feb. **LAUGHING GULL**: a single bird lingered at PL thru mid-Dec. Another was at Danskammer on 10 Dec. Bonaparte's Gull: one at Newburgh on MCC. Ring-billed Gull: 1,428 on MCC was double their previous high. Herring Gull: more than 7,000 were at CP on PeCC; attracted to the landfill. **ICELAND GULL**: six in sight at one time at CP on 14 Dec and four were there 18 Feb, all subadults. Two at Town of Montgomery landfill 18 Feb were well away from the Hudson. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: for the fourth consecutive winter a single bird was at Mamaroneck's Harbor I. Pk thru the period. An adult and one second winter bird were at CP 14 Dec. RT describes what could only be an adult Lesser Black-back at Ashokan 20 Feb. Record was not confirmed.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: obs gathering nesting material at Dobb's Ferry 8 Feb; incubating there by 24 Feb. Numbers high on almost all Christmas Counts. JBCC had 407; MCC 532; PeCC 335; PuCC 186; WCC 399. RCC had the only low count with 177 compared with 418 in 1980. Maroon-bellied Conure: four on RCC were on the same Piermont hillside where five were found last year. E. Screech-Owl: an excellent count of 24 on PeCC, 16 of which were found in the Bedford/Katonah/Chappaqua area. Great Horned Owl: good numbers in Dutch with nine in Jan; 12 were on the PeCC, and another 12 on the PuCC. Barred Owl: seems to be decreasing as Great Horned increases. Most Christmas Counts had none or one or two at the most. A very active pair obs thru Feb in the S P'kpsie area. Long-eared Owl: one on GSCC in the Bedford area of West, no other reports. Short-eared Owl: at least four found regularly at Galeville Airport thru period. No. Saw-Whet Owl: one road kill found in the Town of Saugerties 10 Feb; one in Putnam Valley during late Jan was very much alive. Belted Kingfisher: open water provided a very good year; seven on MCC and 17 on PeCC. RCC had a record high of 19. Red-headed Woodpecker: one at a feeder in Frost Valley, Sull during mid-Feb. An adult and imm spent the winter at Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill. Red-bellied Woodpecker: reports outnumber those of the Pileated by two to one. GSCC had 31 (16 at feeders) compared to 13 Pileateds. Although many were in Conn, a good number were in West. RCC had nine compared to four Pileateds (topped their previous high of seven in 1977). MCC had six compared to three Pileateds. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one spent Jan at Verbank, and another Jan-15 Feb at Rhinebeck. One was at Cold Spring on 30 Dec. Downy Woodpecker: high on all Christmas Counts. 113 on MCC; 137 on PuCC; 116 on RCC. No. Flicker: 14 on MCC was high, numbers reported low in Dutch during Feb.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: EASTERN PHOEBE: one on PuCC in Cold Spring. Horned Lark: low in most areas except Dutch where flocks of 100-500 were reported during Jan in Verbank and Red Hook. Numbers dispersed after snow cover left in early Feb. Blue Jay: wintering numbers good with 457 on MCC; 339 on PeCC. Am. Crow: Middletown roost had slightly above average count of 10,000 by mid-Jan. More than 5,000 were found on and off during Jan on the Hudson ice off Marist College, P'kpsie. Fish Crow: obs regularly now thru length of Hudson in the region. Added to the BMCC this year; 35 on RCC; started with seven in 1979, and inc to 17 in 1982. Seems to be spreading inland in

Rock where a number were reported from Nanuet. Black-capped Chickadee: numbers good; 101 were banded at Forestburgh, Sull on 7 Jan. GSCC had a record 2,589 many of which had to be in West. PeCC had 541 and PuCC had 588. Red-breasted Nuthatch: many reports of one or two at feeders. Max seven banded 7 Jan at Forestburgh, with three more untrapped. A pair obs daily at Stissing, Dutch during Jan. Brown Creeper: 10 on MCC was well above average. Obs singing at Ashokan 25 Feb, and the same near New Hamburg in Dutch. Carolina Wren: numbers up especially in the Hudson Valley. 14 on GSCC was a new record for that count. Winter Wren: very few; one Orr's Mills 16 Jan, and another at Lock Ada, Sull 1 Jan. Two in Rye 26 Dec, four on PECC and three on PuCC were exc. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 19 on RCC was the highest since 41 in 1973; 36 on BMCC. E. Bluebird: numbers exc. east of the Hudson where nest box programs aid them. 84 on the GSCC, none of which was on the coast; 42 on PeCC and 16 on PuCC. Six were obs huddled on top of each other at a Mt. Kisco feeder in an apparent attempt to conserve heat. Hermit Thrush: good numbers. 20 on GSCC and seven more in Rye on BWCC. Many reports of individuals thru period. Am. Robin: 419 on MCC was high. Most other counts only had a few to a few dozen. Gray Catbird: the usual few scattered reports, max were 11 on GSCC. No. Mockingbird: numbers good but less than usual. RCC had 88, back to the level of ten years ago. They had 170 in 1976. GSCC had 215. Water Pipit: ten landed in Purchase on 3 Dec, another was at MC 26 Dec. No. Shrike: more than usual, but still not a shrike winter. One at Bedford from 18 Nov was last seen on PeCC. One nailed a House Finch at Middletown on 3 Dec. Another was in Dutch 27 Dec and again 24 Feb. Loggerhead Shrike: one in Purchase 1 Dec was believed to be the same bird obs there 10 Nov. One wintered at Galeville Airport thru 4 Mar.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: three on MCC were the only report for Oran, eight on PuCC and two on PeCC. 31 on RCC was excellent but far less than the 89 of 1982. **PINE WARBLER:** one at an Orr's Mills feeder from 17 Dec thru period. Another was at a Mahopac feeder from 23 Nov thru 5 Dec. **PRAIRIE WARBLER:** FM found what appeared to be an adult female at Kingston Pt 10 Dec. **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** one at PL 25 Dec could not be found the following day for the BWCC.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: No. Cardinal: max a total of 19 birds at a Wurtsboro feeder in Jan. Rufous-sided Towhee: at least four birds reported at various locations in Dutch thru period; four were on PeCC and one on PuCC. Three others were at a Chappaqua feeder. Am. Tree Sparrow: 34 on RCC was a record low; previous low was 40 in 1978. Other counts seemed normal. **CHIPPING SPARROW:** two on PeCC and one was at Chappaqua 4, 5 Dec. Three on RCC where they appeared once before in 1974. Field Sparrow: better than usual. One along the Mine Rd, USMA 26 Jan; from four to six spent the month of Jan at Millbrook School; one was at Red Hook 17 Jan; 43 were on the GSCC, and 33 on the PeCC. Five more on the PuCC. Vesper Sparrow: three on RCC was the sixth time for that count. Fox Sparrow: many reports of one or two esp around feeders. Migrants appeared 27 Feb thru much of the region. GSCC had a remarkable 42; 34 of which were at feeders. Four were on PeCC and two on the PuCC. Song Sparrow: PeCC had a whopping 223 with 60 on PuCC; GSCC had 484; RCC had 75 which was their lowest since 1954. Swamp Sparrow: three at CP on PeCC. 18 on GSCC and eight more were in the Rye area on 26 Dec. White-crowned Sparrow: six on MCC. Three others wintered at a feeder in Amenia. Dark-eyed Junco: numbers normal. One "Oregon" was at a Chappaqua feeder thru late Jan. Lapland Longspur: seven at Red Hook from 17-26 Jan. Snow Bunting: many reports of a few birds. Max 1,000 on McGhee Hill and 500 on Fraleigh Hill in Dutch during Jan. Smaller numbers scattered thru that Co. thru Feb. Red-winged Blackbird: usually in good numbers in the southern part only. This year in good numbers thruout. Migrants were on schedule during President's Weekend. E. Meadowlark: manure piles at Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill supported about a dozen. Dutch reported its best year recently with 10-20 at Pleasant Valley and several others scattered thru the Co. Rusty Blackbird: 16 on PeCC; 3-6 regularly at Pleasant Valley thru Dec; 20-25 at Dutchess Airport in Feb. Several reports

of single birds elsewhere. Brown-headed Cowbird: 20 at CP 17 Dec inc to 60 by 21 Feb. Dutch had the most they've had in recent years with 60 thru Jan at Millbrook School and 10-15 all month at Hyde Park. Pine Grosbeak: one at Ashokan 14 Jan, and an amazing 12 in a yard at South Salem 29 Nov. One on PuCC; two at a Mahopac feeder and one at Carmel 22 Jan. Purple Finch: numbers very low. 42 on MCC was the highest count. Mary Yegella had 16 during Feb in Dutch. Nine were on the PuCC, and two on the PeCC. Ten frequented a Chappaqua feeder thru the season. Eight on RCC was considered very low for there. House Finch: remarkably several feeders reported none. Numbers were reported down in Ulst, but in Sull a Monticello feeder was supporting more than 70 and a Liberty feeder had more than 81 in Jan. Numbers were well up in West, but the 135 on RCC was considered low. White-winged Crossbill: what appears to be the only report was a single male at Peter Derven's feeder in Nyack 22 Jan. Com. Redpoll: only reports were Dutch with six at Rockefeller Flats 15 Jan, and a single bird at a Pleasant Valley feeder on 15 Feb. Pine Siskin: exc numbers of last fall did not persist. About 50 at one feeder in Cold Spring 30 Dec and again 22 Jan. Dutch had the most with from 15-30 birds thru Jan at a Clinton Corners feeder. About the same numbers were at Moore's Mills and Stissing. Several other reports told of one or two birds on and off thru the period. Am. Goldfinch: at least six feeders in Dutch had 10 or more; 20 were at Clinton Corners and another 30 at Pleasant Valley during Jan. 95 on RCC was considered low. Evening Grosbeak: fall migrants failed to stay. Few reports and most of few birds; max was 70 at Hankins, Sull 1-7 Dec and 65 at Monticello 6 Jan.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 - MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

The season started mildly with the first half of December having mostly above normal temperatures. The first weekend of the Christmas Bird Count season found temperatures within a couple of degrees of normal, but on the 19th they started to fall. The 20th averaged 14° F below normal. It warmed up briefly on the 22nd, but then dropped sharply to a low of 4° F on Christmas Day, 25° below normal. The late December cold spell brought the month's average to 1.0° below normal. The total rainfall of 9.77 inches was 5.96 in. above normal. January also was cool with the average for the month 1.6° below normal, but was drier than December with only 1.67 in. of rain, 1.54 in. below normal. February, however, particularly after the 10th, was much warmer than normal with the month's average 7.2° above normal. February's rainfall of 4.86 in. was 1.73 in. above normal. (All weather data for New York City.)

The winter season did produce some interesting birds, although many of the best birds, i.e. the Black Rails and the Great Gray Owls, were seen by only a handful of people. Others were seen by many, such as the wintering Harlequin Ducks and Razorbills and the biggest invasion of Red-necked Grebes in half a century. Most Christmas Bird Counts reported above normal species totals, with Montauk finally breaking its record of 130 that it had tied several times. Montauk-