

Millar, Edith Mitchell, John Parke, John Peterson, Edward Richardson, Jan Trzeciak, and all the Christmas counters.

LOONS-DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: *intro*. Canada Goose: *intro*. N. Pintail: 1 SLCBC, 2 NYSWC unusual. Ruddy Shelduck: *intro*.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: 1 Tupper L 2 Dec-6 Jan, 20 Feb (CD), ad SLCBC 27 Dec, imm Willsboro Bay 16 Jan (TM,JP), ad Wickham Marsh 26 Jan (GM,JP), subad Willsboro Bay 6 Feb, ad there 7 Feb (ER), ad Whallon's Bay 23 Feb (JPa) suggests at least five different birds, a good showing. N. Harrier: 2 Tupper L 1 Dec (CD), late. N. Goshawk: widely reported. Rough-legged Hawk: Tupper L 29 Dec an unusual location. Wild Turkey: one Cedar River Rd. in area of summer nest, *intro*. Am. Coot: Port Douglas 16 Jan (TM,JP), late. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*. Herring Gull: *intro*. Great Black-backed Gull: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: 505 SLCBC perhaps a legacy of opening ceremonies of the XIII Winter Olympics of 1980. Belted Kingfisher: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Gray Jay: *intro*. Blue Jay: *intro*. Bohemian Waxwing: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: 15 SLCBC a new count record and suggests a viable population in the Sara-Placid region. Snow Bunting: *intro*. Pine Grosbeak: *intro*. Purple Finch: virtually absent, max 9 SLCBC. House Finch: max 53 SLCBC, a new count record and reflects populations established in some Adirondack villages. Red Crossbill: 14 ECBC, only report. White-winged Crossbill: reported from only 5 locations in flocks of no more than 10 birds. Com. Redpoll: arr Elizabethtown 26 Dec, a few among siskin flocks at feeders in Jan-Feb. Pine Siskin: *intro*. Am. Goldfinch: small numbers wintered. Evening Grosbeak: moderate numbers wintered, *intro*.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

LINDA ARMSTRONG

This winter season Region 8 was a picture postcard place. Snow covered the ground, lakes and reservoirs were frozen solidly as usual, and open water existed at only a few river locations. December was warmer than normal and the Northeast Regional Climate Center reported below normal snowfall. January was a mixture of numerous snowstorms and two brief thaws. Although overall precipitation was below normal, there were enough storms to keep us from noticing. Temperatures averaged on the cooler side even with the thaws, for there were nasty periods when frigid arctic air poured into the Region. With or without the groundhog, winter kept us company all of February with cold temperatures and many days of snow.

Bird feeders were occupied by the normal wintering species. Black-capped Chickadees cheered up even the coldest days and Northern Cardinals provided splashes of gorgeous color against the snowy backdrop. Tufted Titmice, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers kept our eyes watching as busy birds flitted about backyards. American Goldfinches and House

finches consumed their normal amounts of thistle seeds. Searching the ground underneath feeders were numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos, American Tree Sparrows and Mourning Doves. The only surprises this winter were the small numbers of Common Redpolls and the tremendously large number of flocks of Pine Siskins. Virtually every observer commented on the unusually high number of siskins and these numbers remained consistent throughout the season. the Region reported Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged and Red Crossbills, and Common Redpolls. And of course the Region hosted those species that visit New York State for their "fun in the sun" vacation. Flocks of Snow Buntings frequented farm areas and were joined by a few Lapland Longspurs. Snowy Owls and Rough-legged Hawks helped thin out the rodent population.

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Abbreviations: CCCBC-Catskill Cocksackie 17 Dec, ChCBC-Chatham CBC19 Dec, FPCBC-Fort Plains CBC 31 Dec, HFCBC-Hudson Falls CBC 2 Jan, JGCBC-Johnstown Gloversville CBC 2 Jan, SSCBC-Saratoga Spa State Park CBC 18 Dec, SRCBC-Southern Rensselaer County CBC 26 Dec, TrCBC-Troy CBC 2 Jan.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: single report L George 15 Dec. Horned Grebe: three L George 18 Dec sole report. Great Blue Heron: one JGCBC, two ChCBC, one Five Rivers 31 Dec. Mute Swan: max 19 CCCBC. Wood Duck: two TrCBC, one SRCBC, only reports. Green-Winged Teal: max five Galway L 6 Dec. Black Duck: numerous reports, max 604 TrCBC. Mallard: max 1130 TrCBC. N. Pintail: two reports, one Galway L 6 Dec, four CCCBC. Gadwall: sole report one TrCBC. Am. Wigeon: single report one SRCBC. Canvasback: max 1500 CCCBC. Ring-necked Duck: only report three Hudson R at Cocksackie 28 Feb. Greater Scaup: single bird Federal Dam in Troy 17 Feb. Lesser Scaup: single report one TrCBC. Com. Goldeneye: max 67 TrCBC. Bufflehead: max 37 Hague Bay 10 Jan. Hooded Merganser: max ten Hague Bay 10 Jan. Com. Merganser: max 406 Tr CBC. Red-breasted Merganser: sole report two TrCBC.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: numerous sightings of three to five birds at Sacandaga Res during Jan, ad L George 8 Dec, ad and imm L George 7 Jan, one L George 17 Jan, imm ChCBC, two ad Battenkill near Cambridge during mid Feb. N. Harrier: reported in small numbers from many parts of the Region. Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles seen in many parts of the Region, often at feeders. Cooper's Hawk: singles seen Amsterdam during Jan, ChCBC, TrCBC, Greenport 9 and 17 Feb, Cambridge 4 Feb, Five Rivers 27 and 29 Feb. N. Goshawk: five singles reported, ChCBC, Livingston 26 Jan, JGCBC, TrCBC, SSCBC, latter seen taking a crow. Red-tailed Hawk: commonly seen throughout Region. Rough-legged Hawk: reported from many areas, max 20 Cocksackie Flats 28 Feb. Am. Kestrel: small numbers seen Greenport, Clarksville, Cocksackie, Fort Plain, Five Rivers, Troy, Battenville. Ruffed Grouse: reported from all CBCs. Wild Turkey: max 30 ChCBC in Stuyvesant. Am. Coot: single report two SRCBC, new to count. Killdeer: max five CCCBC. Com. Snipe: single report Palmer farm 1 Jan. Am. Woodcock: single report one TrCBC. Ring-billed Gull: seen along both Hudson and Mohawk R during entire reporting period. Herring Gull: also reported from both rivers. Iceland Gull: 2nd year bird Mohawk R in Cohoes 17 Feb (AM). Great Black-backed Gull: max 146 TrCBC.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 138 on TrCBC. E. Screech-Owl: single individuals or small numbers reported on CCCBC, ChCBC, TrCBC, FPCBC, JGCBC and also Greenport, Clarksville, Five Rivers. Great Horned Owl: reports similar to preceding. Snowy Owl: max two JGCBC, also one Tongue Mt Rd 11 Feb. Barred Owl: five singles, JGCBC, FPCBC, Hague 24 Feb, Charleston 15 Feb, Cambridge several dates. Short-eared Owl: single report of four individuals FPCBC. N. Saw-Whet Owl: sole report one Hague 21 Jan. Belted Kingfisher: single numbers reported from CCCBC, TrCBC, JGCBC. Red-bellied Woodpecker: have become winter feeder birds! pair wintered Mill Pt, T Florida; male Langley Rd, T Florida; one Ghent; male Malta. N. Flicker: max seven ChCBC, none Five Rivers is unusual. Pileated Woodpecker: few reports, two ChCBC, three FPCBC, T Florida 2 Dec and 22 Feb, Clarksville 6 Jan and Feb, Cambridge 26 Dec, Five Rivers during Feb.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: widespread but scattered throughout the period, max 100 Cocksackie 21 Feb. Blue Jay: higher numbers in T Florida (TP) but none at LA's feeders in Clarksville for first time, smaller numbers in Schenectady (RY), low numbers at Glens Falls feeders. Com. Raven: small numbers at n parts of Region. Carolina Wren: two reports, two CCCBC, one daily at feeder Clarksville. Winter Wren: two CCCBC. Golden-crowned Kinglet: most reports from s part of Region with BC reporting higher numbers than usual. E. Bluebird: reported on CBC and from some observers but fewer birds spent the winter than did last year, max wintering at one locale four T Florida; both Clarksville and Five Rivers reported particularly infrequent sightings. Am. Robin: few in number, single birds reported from ChCBC, TrCBC, three JGCBC. N. Mockingbird: to four per day. Cedar Waxwing: max 22 JGCBC. N. Shrike: singles JGCBC, Five Rivers during Jan, Hague 12 Feb.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-rumped Warbler: single report one FPCBC.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: max 168 FPCBC. Song Sparrow: few reports, low numbers, first singing Five Rivers 24 Feb. Swamp Sparrow: two singles ChCBC, Five Rivers 1 Jan. White-throated Sparrow: max 16 TrCBC. White-crowned Sparrow: single report two FPCBC. Lapland Longspur: single report two Cocksackie 21 Feb. Red-winged Blackbird: max five FPCBC, three males thought to be migrants Bell's Pond 28 Feb. E. Meadowlark: two reports five JGCBC, 12 ChCBC. Com. Grackle: two reports one TrCBC, five Five Rivers 26 Feb. Pine Grosbeak: two reports, 67 TrCBC, one Cambridge 6 Feb. Purple Finch: few reports mostly numbering one to three birds. House Finch: most unusual report comes from Poestenskill where seldom seen. Red Crossbill: largest flock 30 Saratoga State Park 29 Feb (RH). White-winged Crossbill: few reports, only one bird heard at Jenny L. Com. Redpoll: max six JGCBC.

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