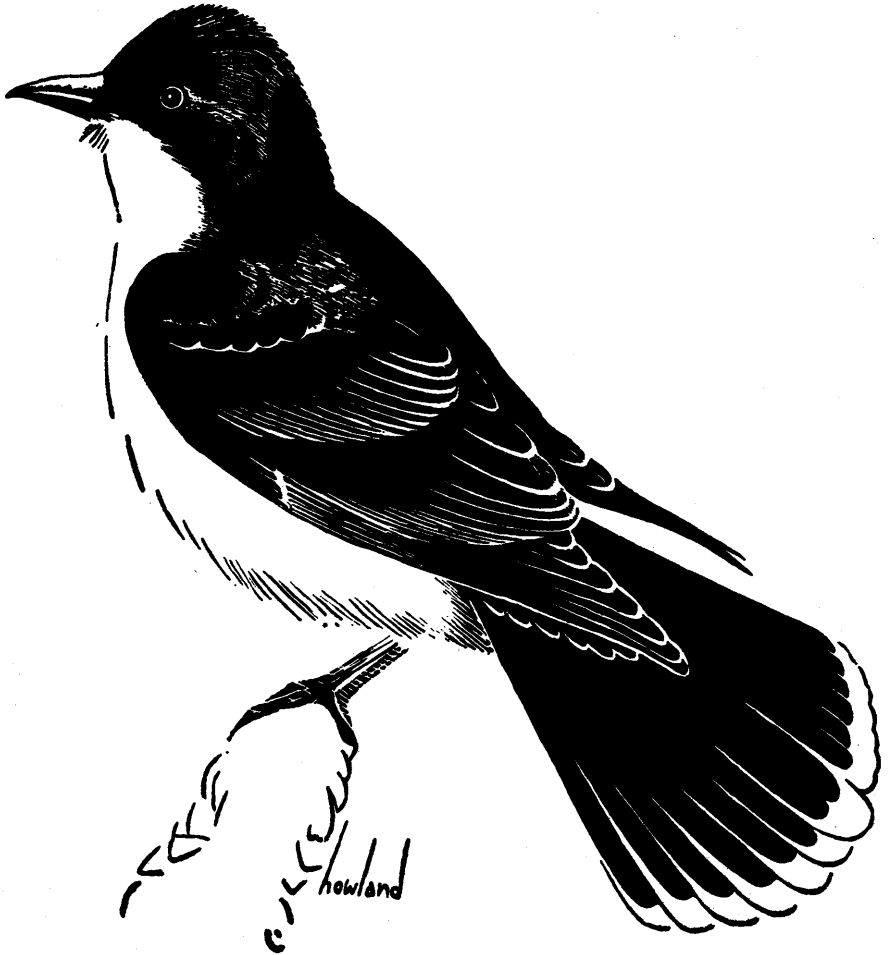


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Circulation Manager - Berna B. Lincoln



Burrowing Owl near Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk Co., New York,
24 October 1985. Photograph by Bertel Bruun.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES 54: BURROWING OWL ON LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK.

BERTEL BRUUN

Two widely separated subspecies of the Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) occur in the United States, each normally found about one thousand miles from Long Island. The western race, *S. c. hypugaea*, breeds east to Minnesota. The northern populations of this subspecies are migratory, leaving their breeding grounds in October and November, to winter as far north as Oklahoma and as far east as Louisiana. The southern race, *S. c. floridana*, occurs in the Florida prairies, and on the Bahamas, Cuba and Hispaniola. It is resident in these areas, although some dispersal does occur after the breeding season. *S. c. floridana* is distinguished from *S. c. hypugaea* by its relatively smaller size, darker brown upper parts with whitish, not buffy spots, whitish underparts and, especially and diagnostically, by its spotted, pale buff or whitish underwing coverts. The legs also are less heavily feathered than in the western subspecies.

The Burrowing Owl has been recorded four times in New York State, three of these being on Long Island. The earliest record is of one caught in New York City (Manhattan) on 8 Aug 1875 (Bull, 1974). This individual was suspected to be an escaped caged bird. The subspecies was not determined and the fate of the specimen is unknown. On 27 Oct 1950, a specimen was collected at Westhampton, Long Island, near the barrier beach (Bull, 1974). The specimen, which was in the collection of LeRoy Wilcox, has since disappeared. It was identified as belonging to the western subspecies, *S. c. hypugaea*. On 27 Oct 1976 a Burrowing Owl was seen at Cedar Beach, Nassau County, about seven miles east of Jones Beach (Davis, 1977). It was not seen again until 27 Dec. As the bird was clearly ailing at this time, it was captured on the following day and brought back to health by the ministrations of Art and Hannah Richards. It was identified as belonging to the southern subspecies, *S. c. floridana*, and on 6 Jan 1977 flown to Florida and released in its natural habitat. On 24 Oct 1985 I, in the company of a Danish birdwatcher Philippe Grandjean, discovered a Burrowing Owl near Dune Road on the barrier beach one mile west of Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk County. The bird was quite tame and stayed at the location while I returned to my home in Westhampton to collect my camera. Several photographs were obtained, but the underwing coverts were never clearly seen and the bird not captured. A

local duck hunter informed us the bird had been present at the same location for five or six days. The bird was not seen by us after that date. Hurricane "Gloria" had passed over the area on 27 Sep and had brought many subtropical species with it. Unfortunately even a close study of the photographs failed to establish the subspecific identity of this bird and its origin remains unknown.

It is of interest to note that all four New York State records of this species, spread over a period of one hundred and ten years, all stem from an eighty-five mile stretch of coast. Long Islanders, keep your eyes peeled!

P.O. Box 400, 59 Shore Road, Westhampton, New York 11977

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ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS OF THE SUBARCTIC GREAT HORNED OWL FROM NEW YORK

ROBERT W. DICKERMAN

Recently (Dickerman 1991a) I verified the record of a winter specimen of the subarctic nesting population of the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus subarcticus*) in New York State. I here report three more specimens.

In fortuitous sequence, during August 1991, I visited the National Museum of Canada in Ottawa, and then Cornell University. In Ottawa, in a single day, I was able to examine a series of over 60 nesting season specimens of *subarcticus*. I laid out in one continuous series 25 specimens ranging from western Ontario to Alberta. These were selected for comparability of plumage. This was an amazingly uniform series; the westernmost specimen fit into the easternmost end of the series and vice versa! The very few specimens that did not fit were all paler, even when allowances were made for freshness of the plumage. I believe that those few represented late spring or early fall migrants of the pale extreme from the northernmost nesting areas, which become suitable for nesting later in the spring or are subject to the early onset of severe conditions in some years. Some ornithologists, who have a distorted concept of the taxon, apparently consider these extremely pale birds as being typical of *subarcticus*. Unfortunately, the type specimen of *subarcticus* is a winter migrant from Racine, Wisconsin, and, thus, cannot be associated with a known nesting area from within the subboreal nesting range of this taxon.

Thus, when I visited the collection at Cornell University two weeks later, I had a good concept of the variation within *subarcticus*. As I went through the collection of Great Horned Owl from New York, I encountered three birds with white feet. The feet of these three birds lacked barring. The eastern, or nominate, subspecies, *B. v. virginianus*, only occasionally has white feet. They may be buffy, but more commonly they are deep ochraceous, and usually are moderately to heavily barred with black. Next I compared these three birds with nesting season specimens from New York. The latter, taken later in the year, should have been more worn and faded, but were in fact much, much darker, and had heavily barred feet.

Then I turned to the tray labeled *occidentalis*. As I have explained earlier (1991b), that name was based on a migrant *subarcticus*. As expected, all specimens of "*occidentalis*" from Minnesota were good *subarcticus* (see Houston 1978), and the three New York specimens were inseparable from

them. Indeed, a nesting specimen from Churchill, Manitoba, was slightly darker than the three New York specimens. These Tompkins County specimens are:

CU 3561	Trumbull Corners	28 November 1933
3562	Trumbull Corners	5 December 1933
22226	Waterburg	26 October 1949

A fourth specimen (37139) from 14 kilometers WNW of Utica, 3 November 1950, is paler than nesting season *virginianus*, but far too ochraceous for *subarcticus*. I believe it migrated from an area of intergradation, for example from central Ontario.

DISCUSSION

During the course of writing this note, I prepared a specimen of an eastern bird with medium buffy, lightly barred feet. I believe it is a bird of the year. However, at the moment I know of no plumage character that will separate first year from older birds after they have completed the fall molt, and to date no one has suggested that second year and older birds may have more pigmented or more heavily barred feet. However, I think it a very good possibility. Thus, it might be important to segregate first year birds in making comparisons, especially among the western and northern pale populations.

Now that it is recognized that at least some individuals (and probably some populations) of Great Horned Owl are partly migratory, occasionally over long distances (Houston 1978, Dickerman unpubl. ms.), specimens that do not match known locally nesting birds should be reevaluated. I expect many more northern migrants will be found in series that have been complacently recognized until now as nominate *virginianus*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Henri Ouellet of the National Museum of Canada for allowing me the freedom to examine the superb series of the subboreal nesting population under his care. Dr. Kevin McGowan gave me access to the Cornell University collection.

American Museum of Natural History, 79th Street at Central Park West, New York, New York, 10024.

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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
ANNUAL MEETING
Syracuse, New York
20-22 September 1991

President Chad Covey called the 44th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. to order at the Quality Inn North in North Syracuse at 2:10 PM on Friday, 20 September 1991. The roll call eventually totaled 24 member clubs, including the host club, the Onondaga Audubon Society. The minutes of the 43rd Annual Meeting were read by Don Windsor as published in *The Kingbird* 41(2):89-92; 1991) and were accepted as such. Dick Sloss and Barbara Butler were appointed to the Committee on Resolutions.

Myrna Hemmerick, Membership Chair, reported that the Federation now has 716 members, 128 of whom are new. We also have a new member club, the Schuyler County Bird Club, bringing the membership to 42 clubs.

Stan Lincoln, Membership Promotion Chair, reported that of the 2300 solicitations sent out, there were 92 responses. Stan expressed his concern over the membership drop off after a promotion. He will be trying to get some help from our member clubs, who represent some 20,000 birders.

Chad announced that the 1992 Annual Meeting will be held on 25-27 September at the SUNY Oneonta campus. Roger Tory Peterson is expected to be the banquet speaker.

In a departure from a more normal agenda, the situation at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge was addressed. Some strong, very well organized opposition to its expansion plans has been launched by the New York State Farm Bureau. Barry Christenson, Assistant Manager at the Refuge, implored us to express our support for the proposed expansion to Congressman Frank Horton. A formal resolution was drafted to be sent to Mr. Horton. As part of an individual "grass roots" response, Shirley Cameron, from the Genesee Ornithological Society, organized a petition which was sent out that very evening.

Barry also announced that the Eaton Birding Society was planning a memorial to Gordon Meade. Polly Keating is the contact for the project.

Ray Perry reported on the recent activities of New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Commissioner's Bird Life Advisory Committee has expanded to include habitat and education as related to birds. Bob Connor noted that the original name of this committee

was "Birding", not "Bird Life", corresponding to activities such as biking and hiking. Checklists are now available for Jones Beach, Clay Pit Ponds, Hamlin Beach, and Bear Mountain State Parks. Allegany and Letchworth are next. A landfill is being closed in Saratoga Spa State Park with native vegetation being utilized. An expansion of a boat landing site at Selkirk Shores State Park and its impact on birds was discussed. The all-terrain vehicle situation at Castleton Island was described. At the Allan Treman Marina in Ithaca, a road originally destined to cut through a grassland will now go around it. Ray emphasized that bird clubs can act as the "eyes and ears" of The Parks Department and can assist in achieving some balance between recreation and birding.

Berna Lincoln, Treasurer, made her Treasurer's Report available so that it could be read before her formal report the next day. She also provided an updated list of member clubs. Chad announced that copies of the Federation Executive Committee meeting minutes for 1990-1991 were also available for inspection.

Charlie Smith, Research Committee Chair, presented a draft of a resolution of support for the Neotropical Migratory Birds project. Nine government agencies are cooperating on this important undertaking.

Bob Connor announced that a Federal Bill (HR2541 - S1218) now under consideration would preempt New York State's Wild (exotic) Bird Act. New Jersey, whose law is patterned after New York's, is the only other state to have such a law, so Federal legislation is certainly needed. Two Federal bills are up; HR2540 - S1219 is the one we should support. This bill would prohibit the importation of captive wild birds into the United States. A resolution will be drafted and sent to our Senators and Representatives.

Harriet Marsi, Nominating Committee Chair, announced the slate of officer candidates running for election. Chad reported that no other nominations had been submitted. The election was held and all candidates were elected.

President: Stanley Lincoln

Vice-President: William Lee

Recording Secretary: Valerie Freer

Corresponding Secretary: Mary Ann Sunderlin

Treasurer: Berna Lincoln

Stan Lincoln expressed how honored he was to serve in this capacity and to carry on this tradition. He had the rest of the newly elected officers stand up and be recognized.

Stan then adjourned the meeting at 4:20 PM.

That Friday evening, four workshops were held. They were chaired by Gerald Smith, who also presented one on "Buteos and Large Birds of Prey". Paul DeBenedictis demonstrated the difficulties associated with "Fall Warbler Identification". Cynthia Page conducted a session on "Wildlife Art" and Phil Clarke reviewed ideas on "Natural Plantings to Attract Wildlife".

The following morning, President Stan Lincoln reconvened the Delegates' meeting at 9:35 AM.

Don Windsor called the roll of member clubs; eventually, 28 were present. Most clubs (23) were represented on both Friday afternoon and on Saturday morning. Just one was present only on Friday and four were present only on Saturday.

Paul DeBenedictis, Editor of *The Kingbird*, announced that Region 1 Editor, Steve Eaton, was retiring and Gerald Rising would be replacing him. Region 9 Editor, Helen Manson, was also retiring and John Askildsen would be replacing her. Paul expressed his thanks to the outgoing editors.

Maxwell Wheat, Editor of *New York Birders*, reported on the status of his publication.

Paul DeBenedictis reported that the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC), as per Bob Andrie, Chair, had 15 reports for 1989 and the 1990 reports are in their final stages. Paul encourages the reporting of rare bird sightings to NYSARC even if they might not be accepted. He stressed that the most common cause of rejection was insufficient evidence. But, even the rejections serve a valuable purpose in that they document a possible sighting and may provide background support for additional possible sightings. These measures of activity might eventually contribute to mounting evidence for a rare species. Stan asked for some instructions on the best way to report. Paul agreed to look into this. John Ruscica (Moriches Bay Audubon Society) suggested compiling a list of those species which birders should report.

Berna Lincoln, Treasurer, gave her formal report. Essentially, in 1990 our General Operating Fund had an income of \$15,319.71 and an outgo of \$13,570.42, for a net gain of \$1749.29. The report detailed the activities of each of the funds (Elliott, Stoner, Memorial, Atlas 2000, and Life Member), the publications (*The Kingbird*, *New York Birders*), book promotions, and our assets. Berna reported that we received the second half of the Clement's estate in 1991 and she placed it in the Memorial Fund. She reckoned we could hold at the current dues for one more year. She illustrated how an

increase in membership meant an increase in income. She acknowledged receipt of a bequest of \$1000.00 from the estate of the late Dr. Gordon M. Meade. The report was approved by the Delegates.

The Audit Committee, Dick Sloss and Irv Cantor, met with Berna on 16 September, examined her records, and issued a formal approval.

Stan then presided over the election of a new Auditing Committee. Dick Sloss, Irv Cantor, and Norm Stotz (New York City Audubon Society) were elected.

Stan next presided over the election of a new Nominating Committee. Chad Covey, Harriet Marsi, and Charlie Smith were elected. Chad will be the Chair.

Stan then introduced the awarding of grants to member clubs, crediting the idea to Dick Sloss, years ago. Charlie Smith, Chair of the Research Committee, announced the awards. Both were for bird banding projects, going to the Genesee Ornithological Society and to the High Peaks Audubon Society, \$100.00 each. Berna explained that the awards are derived from interest (7-8%) on the fund principle of \$5000.00. Ellie Long inquired whether money could be added to this Grant Fund. Stan affirmed. Berna explained that this Club Awards Fund was established in January 1991 and, consequently, does not appear on her Treasurer's Report for 1990.

Mary Ann Sunderlin inquired as to how we stand in 1991 to date. Berna replied that we are not substantially different from last year.

Jeff Gerencser and Suzanne Crandall received the Lillian C. Stoner Awards from John Confer, Chair of the Stoner Committee. Both Jeff and Suzanne were submitted as candidates by the Onondaga Audubon Society. Each is a Bachelor in Zoology and will be working in the newly established Wildlife Division of the Peace Corps. Both have worked as preserve site interns with The Nature Conservancy. John Confer made a plea for more submissions from member clubs. Dorothy Crumb, organizer of this Annual Meeting, requested that the names of the winners be announced earlier. Some discussion followed. In response to a question as to where to send donations, John said to send them to the Treasurer. Steve Eaton asked whether a list of former Stoner Award recipients could be compiled to see what happened to them in later life. In the ensuing discussion, John revealed that only a few clubs have produced recipients and reiterated his plea for more clubs to submit candidates. Charlie Smith recalled that Peter Hunt went on to Dartmouth and Donald Smith was working with goshawks. Chad suggested a "where are they now?" article. John recalled that the

famous Duck Stamp artist Wilhelm Goebel (of the Frame House Gallery) received the Award the last time the Federation met in Syracuse in 1981. Adam Byrne, last year's awardee, is now studying Bobolinks.

The John J. Elliott Award, for the best paper published in *The Kingbird* the previous year, was not awarded. Paul DeBenedictis, Chair of the Elliott Award Committee, disclosed that the 1990 articles were all of such uniformly high quality that no single paper stood out among them. The Committee decided not to present an Elliott Award under this circumstance.

The Saint Lawrence Adirondack Audubon Society, with 60 members, was approved for membership in the Federation, bringing the number of member clubs to 43.

Stan reviewed the work of the Resolutions Committee at this meeting. Four resolutions were considered: Montezuma, Host Club, Wild (exotic) Bird, and Neotropical Migratory.

Charlie Smith passed out drafts of two resolutions: Support for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program and the Northern Montezuma Wetlands.

Harriet Marsi, Chair of the Conservation Committee, began her report by naming her Committee: Bob Connor (Rockland Audubon Society), Chad Covey (Chenango Bird Club), Andy Mason (Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society), and Mike Peterson (High Peaks Audubon Society). She sent a letter urging the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to exert a greater effort to extend environmental education to minorities and to the underprivileged. She sent a letter to Governor Cuomo stating that his Committee on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century was a good first step in an ongoing process. Norm Stotz brought up the informational network that Eric Siy is trying to set up on Adirondack issues. He warned that legislative action will occur next year and that letters favoring the preservation of the Adirondacks are needed. Harriet stressed that Adirondack people do indeed have some very real concerns and that this is not just a one-sided issue. How to reimburse for land taken for conservation is a concern.

Harriet then explained the Castleton Island situation. The New York State Parks Department, with the very helpful efforts of Ray Perry, took action on every one of our recommendations.

Andy Mason reported on the Quebec Hydropower situation at James Bay. Last year the Federation wrote a resolution calling for an environmental impact statement. No action has been taken by New York State or by Quebec. However, public awareness is growing. In fact, Andy

appeared on Syracuse television just two nights before. Andy solicited support from the individual bird clubs, but concluded that no formal action by the Federation was needed at this time. Harriet revealed that Andy had written ten letters to various government officials.

Next, Harriet reported that the Jay Coalition wants to acquire all of the land of the John Jay homestead. Westchester County condemned the land. Out interest is a salt marsh impacted by the property - the one which accommodated a Wood Sandpiper the previous Fall.

Gap analysis (a process of identifying unprotected species by superimposing maps of vegetation types, animal distributions, and protected areas and then looking for gaps) was another project we supported. A proposed \$3 million add-on to grants provided by the Department of the Interior Fish & Wildlife Service would go toward correlating various environmental measurements with species distributions. Harriet sent letters to Senators D'Amato and Moynihan and Congressman Matt McHugh.

The Montezuma Refuge expansion was supported earlier this year, before the current crisis. Last year we favored "Option 4" (return to the original contours and buy land in the headwaters of the feeding streams). However, "Option 2" (just return to the original contours) was finally accepted. Since we also agreed with this option, it being our second choice, Harriet sent a letter supporting it.

The DEC had proposed a management plan for the Long Pond Forest in Chenango County. Chad Covey, in his role as a Forester with the DEC, conducted a public meeting in April which Harriet and Don Windsor attended. The value of our attendance at such meetings was explained and encouraged by Harriet.

Harriet then announced that John Confer resigned from the Forest Management Plan subcommittee and that Andy Mason will take over.

Mongaup Valley in Sullivan County was originally selected by the DEC because of its habitat for the wintering of Bald Eagles. Some of these birds are now staying there all year. An open house was held by Glenn Cole, the Regional Wildlife Manager. Valerie Freer attended and offered our support.

Plans are being hatched for conserving open space in New York State. "Open space" is the latest euphemism for land acquisition and management. The State is divided into Regions and each Region has a Citizen's Committee. Harriet noted that our member clubs are not represented on these Committees, but hoped they would try to be.

The proposed Saint Lawrence Valley National Wildlife Refuge, consisting of 49,000 acres of wetlands, was reported and briefly discussed. Hope remained that it was not completely dead, but would have a chance to be reworked.

Harriet mentioned the Great Blue Heron massacre in Chenango County last Spring. Changes in the New York State laws to make the illegal killing of all protected species a misdemeanor rather than a violation and a raising of the fine from \$250 to \$2000, where it is for game animals, will be taken up by the Executive Committee in the near future. The possibility of offering cash rewards was also discussed.

Harriet concluded that the Conservation Committee had a busy and purposeful year. She expressed her appreciation to Ray Perry of the Parks Department and to Bob Miller of DEC for their cooperation and help.

Bob Miller, DEC Wildlife Resources Center, reported that the DEC had a frustrating year, due to the budget situation. He talked about the license fee increase and lamented that the Gift to Wildlife donations have decreased, probably due to the economy. On a brighter side, Bob reported that 13 breeding pairs of Bald Eagle produced 16 young and 14 breeding pairs of Peregrine Falcon produced 28 young. However, the Essential Habitats legislation is not going anywhere so DEC is taking another tack; it will use the Endangered Species Act to protect habitat. Bob announced that there will be a review of the endangered species list and working groups are now being formed. He invited the Federation to name someone to represent it.

Norm Stotz, on behalf of David Miller, Executive Director of the Northeast Region of the National Audubon Society, reported that a full time wetlands person was hired, Elsie Bumsted. She will be conducting a series of workshops. Norm then detailed National Audubon's four high priority campaigns: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Northwestern Ancient forests, Platte River, and wetlands. He stressed that, contrary to some rumors, National Audubon has NOT turned away from wildlife. Rather, protecting habitat will protect wildlife.

President Stan Lincoln presided over the approval of the resolution for the host club and adjourned the meeting a 12:12 pm.

Field trips throughout this meeting period were held for both delegates and non-delegates. Various local habitats were selected by Field Trip Chair Marge Rusk. Two of the best birds found were a Franklin's Gull and a Forster's Tern at Sylvan Beach. All field trips on Sunday were along Lake Ontario so that participants could attend the dedication of a new trail at

Derby Hill Bird Observatory, in memory of Dr. Fritz Scheider, long-time member of the Federation.

In the Saturday afternoon session, chaired by Mary Alice Koeneké, the following papers were presented:

Elizabeth Brooks, Allegany County Bird Club, *Movement of Black-capped Chickadees in New York State analyzed through banding reencounters.*

Michael Armstrong, Ithaca College Biology Department, *Observation of Downy Woodpecker survivorship and behavior.*

Chris Nadareski, DEC Endangered Species Unit, *Peregrine Falcons in the Big Apple.*

John Bull, American Museum of Natural History, *Dynamics in some breeding birds in New York; declining and explosive species.*

Charles Smith, Laboratory of Ornithology and Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, *Assessing relationships of birds to land use and land cover using remotely sensed satellite imagery.*

Kevin McGowan, Section of Ecology and Systematics, Cornell University, *The complex life of the American Crow.*

To wrap up the session, as has become our tradition, Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., Baldwin Bird Club, read poems about birds.

At the banquet Saturday evening, the 110 attendees congratulated Dick Sloss upon his receipt of the Gordon Meade Award for Distinguished Service and Chad Covey upon his receipt of the Past President's Award. Barbara Butler read the resolution thanking the host club, the Onondaga Audubon Society, for their splendid hospitality. Dorothy Crumb was recognized for her leadership in organizing this meeting, which attracted 135 registrants. The audience was then treated to a presentation entitled "Do Chickadees Come From China?" by Dr. Frank Gill, ornithologist at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. With that, another successful Annual Meeting had come to a close.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald A. Windsor
Recording Secretary
23 February 1992

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Barred Owl feeds on frog in November: While traveling to see a Northern Hawk Owl at Fort Edward on 23 November 1991, Peter Feinberg retrieved a dead Barred Owl from 12 feet up in a tree along the side of Route 197 west of Fort Edward. The bird was presented to the author, to be added to the Columbia-Greene Community College study skin collection. The owl was an adult female with no physical injuries noted; its cause of death is therefore unknown. While preparing the specimen I discovered that the the bird was well fed, had heavy deposits of fat, and the stomach contents included a frog. Although the species of the frog was not determined, it had the appearance of one of the mid-sized (3 inch) members of the genus *Rana*; most likely it was a Green Frog (*R. clamitans*), a Pickerel Frog (*R. palustris*) or perhaps a Northern Leopard Frog (*R. pipiens*). This is rather a late date for an amphibian to be active. It is well known that many birds include amphibians in their diets (D.A. Ross. 1989. Amphibians and reptiles in the diets of North American Raptors. *Wisconsin Endangered Resources Report* 59. Wis. Dept. Nat. Res., Madison, WI.; and W. E. Cook 1987. Amphibians and birds. pp 1-15 in *Amphibians and reptiles: predators and prey*. Smithsonian Herpetological Informational Service No. 73. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.) but in our area frogs are generally not out after mid October. The warm fall of 1991 was indeed unusual, however, and other amphibians were noted as late as the local Christmas bird counts. For a delightful commentary on amphibian-bird predator-prey relationships, see T. Rich (1992. Ribbiting drama. *Birder's World* 6(1):40-43).

William E. Cook, Columbia-Greene Community College, P.O. Box 1000, Hudson, New York 12534.

Merlin wintering in a Syracuse park: On 8 March 1991, Mairead Connor was walking in Onondaga Park, on the west side of Syracuse, New York. She discovered a Merlin sitting on the tip of a spruce tree on the south edge of the park. It appeared to be a large, brown female. Later, a second, smaller and grayer bird flew in and the pair went to roost in a nearby grove of spruce trees. Connor and several other birders followed the pair until 12 April. They were not found after that date. On 5 September 1992, Connor saw a small male falcon fly into the park and land on the same spruce. Connor saw the bird daily until she moved from the vicinity 13 September.

No one followed the bird until 14 February, when Andrew Leahy checked and found the pair in the same area. They were still present on 3 March. The female came to the park from the direction of the city center just before dusk and perched at the tip of the spruce, which has several dead branches. The male usually circled the female when he appeared and sometimes was able to gain that preferred perch. If not, he perched on a telephone pole a few feet away. They sometimes were still present when it became too dark to see, but occasionally they have been seen going into the grove of spruce for the night. Onondaga Park is an active city park with joggers, dog-walkers, baseball games and various other activities. Nothing seemed to bother this pair of falcons.

Merlin is rarely seen in New York in the winter, and a pair roosting in a city park for two successive years has not been documented previously.

Dorothy Crumb, 3983 Gates Road, Jamesville, New York, 13078

[Color slides of the female Merlin which substantiate this record were submitted with this note, but they proved unsuitable for publication. — The Editor.]

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINTER SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

The winter 1991-92 was another mild, open one across the state, this time with birding records much as might be expected. Most Regions experienced generally warm temperatures with a few cold spells. Precipitation and snow cover were low, and precipitation often came as rain, especially in the southeast and even in the northern Regions. Wild food crops, except for cones, were noted as very good. With open water in most Regions much of the season, there were many good waterfowl records and unusual patterns of water bird distribution this season. Half-hardy species were plentiful, often through the whole season, yet feeder watchers bemoaned their few visitors, perhaps because good wild food crops and little snow gave little reason for birds to concentrate at feeders. The hoped for winter finch invasion faded to a few isolated reports scattered across Regions and the season. Fortunately, visiting raptors stirred excitement in several Regions, and the half-hardy lingerers kept the listers hopping and building record high January and February month lists in most Regions. Several Regions noted excellent species counts and total numbers for both their Christmas Bird Counts and the waterfowl count.

With much open water this winter, it certainly was not surprising that most Regions produced good records and perturbations of normal winter patterns of distribution. Only Region 7 noted the impact of significant cold during the waterfowl count period. Loons were typical for a good winter, with a bonus of **Pacific Loon** in Region 10. Grebe reports were up a bit, but overall counts were still low. Eared Grebe in Regions 1 and 8 were noteworthy. Great Cormorant numbers were high in Regions 9 and 10, with 100+ in Region 9 a record high for the lower Hudson. Double-crested Cormorant was noted in eight Regions, at record high counts for winter in several. There was a good collection of wintering herons, mostly on the coast as usual. A February American Bittern in Region 2 and Green-backed Heron in Region 10 were the most unusual reports. Among the waterfowl, interesting reports included Snow Goose from eight, Wood Duck from nine, and both Northern Pintail and Northern Shoveler from six Regions; many more Eurasian Wigeon than usual in Region 10; better scaup numbers; Tufted Duck in Regions 8, 9 and 10; good eider counts off Montauk Point in Region 10; Common Goldeneye numbers good in all but Region 9; Barrow's

Goldeneye in Regions 6, 7, 8 and 10 and putative hybrids with Common Goldeneye were noted in Regions 6 and 9; and merganser numbers generally were good. Only Redhead numbers were negative everywhere except Region 3. From Region 10 we have note of good Northern Gannet and alcid counts from shore. Finally, in Region 2, a wintering Sora was unusual.

Wintering raptor numbers were good over most of the state. Only Region 6 specifically noted low vole populations and corresponding low raptor totals. Turkey Vulture appeared in six Regions; Osprey, rare in winter, was in Region 9; Bald Eagle counts were very high, with a record high estimate of 175+ and 98 totaled on a Jan aerial survey in Region 9; Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were well reported; Red-shouldered Hawk numbers were up a bit, with records from six Regions; especially good Rough-legged Hawk concentrations were found in Regions 3, 4 and 8; Golden Eagle was found in Regions 3, 4, 5 and 9; and both Merlin and Peregrine Falcon from Regions 2, 9 and 10 plus additional Merlin from Region 3 and 5. All "regular" owl species were up in numbers from normal winter totals. Barn Owl was noted in Regions 3, 8 and 10 and Northern Saw-whet Owl in eight Regions. Rare visitors from the North included **Great Gray Owl** in Regions 1 and 6; **Northern Hawk Owl** in Regions 5, 6 and 8; and **Boreal Owl** in Region 2. The Snowy Owl invasion was one of the best in many years and touched all but Region 4, with good counts in all but Region 9. A banding effort from Region 2 trapped over 80 individuals along the whole New York shore of Lake Ontario. Useful information included weight loss in nearly all individuals retrapped through the season and the finding that what seemed like a stable 3-4 birds at several locations included frequent new arrivals, with only the total at a site remaining constant. Special raptor notes of interest include a one day circuit of Cayuga Lake turning up 56 birds of prey and a count of 81 Short-eared Owl plus 56 Rough-legged Hawk and 49 N. Harrier and other assorted raptors, both from Region 3; a Cooper's Hawk crashing through a 10 x 14 inch window into a Region 5 home, after which it was subdued and released; and notes from Region 10 that Floyd Bennett Field is a prime winter raptor spot.

Open water areas also contributed a number of interesting gull and tern records. White-winged gulls, in particular, were up a bit in many regions, with record high counts of Iceland and Glaucous Gulls in Region 6 and even one Iceland Gull in Region 7; up to 55 Little Gull were in Region 2 plus others in Regions 5 and 10; Lesser Black-backed Gull in seven Regions; and Laughing Gull was unexpected in Region 5 and Franklin's Gull in Region 10.

In Region 3, an individual effort to check several landfills regularly produced several white-winged gulls and Thayer's Gull on three dates. Common Tern tarried into winter in Regions 1 and 10, Forster's Tern in Regions 9 and 10, and a Black Tern set a state record late date in Region 1.

We usually don't think of shorebirds in winter away from the coast, but this year very late to record late reports inland included Piping Plover in Region 2 and Dunlin in Regions 2 and 5. On Long Island Sound late Ruddy Turnstone and a record late Spotted Sandpiper were in Region 9. The Region 10 report specifically notes seven shorebird species, one less than Region 9, but there surely were others which occur so regularly that they were not mentioned. Of the species noted, American Oystercatcher both remaining late and arriving early relative to dates in Bull's *Birds of New York State* the most noteworthy.

Half-hardy passerines produced so many interesting reports that it is hard to summarize them. Start with **flycatchers** in winter!! — Eastern Phoebe in Regions 3, 4, 9 and 10; Least Flycatcher in Region 10; and Western Kingbird in Regions 9 and 10. Tree Swallow lingered in Region 10; Fish Crow was sighted in Regions 3, 8 and 9; Carolina Wren appeared in high numbers all over the state; House Wren was noted in Regions 9 and 10; and Marsh Wren was located in Regions 2, 8, 9 and 10. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher set a record late date in Region 10. Hermit Thrush was surprisingly scarce, given all the other half-hardy species present. However, both Eastern Bluebird and American Robin kept the thrush numbers high. Gray Catbird was found in three Regions, Brown Thrasher in four and American Pipit in three. Even **Loggerhead Shrike** was recorded, a single in Region 9. There was a good selection of warblers, most in Regions 9 and 10. The most unusual were **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in Region 10, American Redstart in Region 1, and Ovenbird in Regions 1 and 10. Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found in Region 1 and a **Black-headed Grosbeak** in Region 10. Rufous-sided Towhee was found in six Regions, Chipping Sparrow in three, Field Sparrow in five, Savannah Sparrow in five, Vesper Sparrow in Regions 8 and 10, Fox Sparrow in Regions 1, 8 and 10, and Lincoln's Sparrow in Region 9. Song, Swamp, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were located in low to average numbers, and Dark-eyed Junco was scarce except in Region 9. Finally, a very rare-for-winter **Bobolink** was sighted twice in Region 5; Eastern Meadowlark reports were up a bit; lingering Rusty Blackbird was numerous; and Northern Oriole was represented by a **Bullock's** race individual in Region 10.

Irruptive and winter-flocking species were mixed. There was no sign of a Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion. Bohemian Waxwing was scarce, though noted in Regions 1, 2, 6 and 7. Northern Shrike reports were good in all Regions. American Tree Sparrow numbers were generally low, except in Region 9. Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting numbers were modest to poor everywhere, as were all cardueline finches except House Finch and American Goldfinch.

Wild Turkey counts exceeded Ring-necked Pheasant + Ruffed Grouse totals on some Region 1 CBCs; rescues of Common Loon and Sharp-shinned Hawk are detailed in Region 4; and 20 American Woodcock on a porch plus others at suet feeders in Region 9 after a March blizzard are astounding.

Nearly all of the rarities of the season have been mentioned above, and most were rare with respect to season or date rather than for the state as a whole. Selecting a BOTS for this season was very difficult. After much thought, the award goes to the two wildest out-of-date-range records for the season, the Bobolink in Region 5 and the Least Flycatcher in Region 10, both hopefully well documented to NYSARC.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

GERALD R. RISING

Once again the winter was generally mild. According to the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Buffalo, all three months enjoyed above normal average temperatures: December +2.5° at 31°F, January +3.6° at 27°F, and February +3.0° at 28°F. Precipitation continued at or below normal and much of it fell as rain during warm spells. As a result snowfall for the period in Buffalo was 20 inches below average. Despite November's 18 inches, at the end of this season the total winter snowfall was a foot less than normal. Open ground was the rule, with snow depth over two inches on only eight days in December, eight in January and none in February. There were periods of especially mild weather: 7-14 Dec, 2-14 Jan (a good period for listers), and 15-28 Feb. There were cold periods as well: 15-20 Dec, 15-20 Jan, and 9-13 Feb. On 13 of those 17 days the temperature dropped below 10°, falling below 0°F only on 10 Feb and 12 Feb. The heaviest snow fell on 4-5 Dec, 20 inches in bands across the Southern Tier; 7-12 inches fell on 15 Dec, and 16 inches fell 14-20 Jan. It snowed on 22 of the 29 days in February, but never as much as two inches. As Vivian Pitzrick remarked that month, "My snow plow had a good rest."

Mrs. Pitzrick went on to say, "Wild food was still so abundant (even crab apples) that birds didn't need feeders." My own February observations made while hiking in the Southern Tier support this. What appeared in November to be an encouraging year for winter finches fell flat, with continuing low numbers of all expected species except American Goldfinch.

Over 200 observers took part in nine Christmas Bird Counts across the Region, providing another good snapshot of bird populations. Among the 115 species recorded were Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, Snow Goose, Turkey Vulture, Black-legged Kittiwake, Common Tern, Common Raven, Gray Catbird, American Pipit, Bohemian Waxwing, Rufous-sided Towhee, Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, and Common Redpoll. An interesting contrast occurred on 15 Dec. On that day the Buffalo Christmas Count reported fair weather, whereas the Jamestown Count had a driveway clogging, foot deep, early morning snowfall.

Winter Black-crowned Night-Heron is recorded only sporadically in this Region, but last and this year some roosted in evergreens in Bob Brock's Buffalo yard. In his report he says: "Unlike last season's visits, which were

daily from October through January, this season the birds were here only five days during that period." He then adds counts of one to nine birds from 14-19 and 27-29 Feb. The 15 Dec Jamestown CBC Turkey Vulture found by Anita Seaberg (verification details supplied to National Audubon Society *vide* R. Sundell) is the second winter record or month late straggler for this Region; however, since this species winters in Letchworth State Park within a few miles of the eastern Region boundary (*Kingbird* 39(2): 74-79), such a record is to be expected. The first Region 1 winter record was 8 Feb 1990 in the Town of Sheridan.

Evidence of the success of Wild Turkey restocking continues to mount. On recent Regional counts, turkey populations have equaled the sum of pheasant and grouse numbers. This year's combined Christmas Counts incremented that proportion to over 3.7:1. with 42 Ruffed Grouse, 37 Ring-necked Pheasants, and 293 Wild Turkeys.

The most exciting bird of the season was the **Great Gray Owl**, found by Charles Hodges near the Jamestown Airport, reported by Bob Sundell, seen and photographed by hundreds of observers. Remarkably, another of these extremely rare visitors was first spotted within about ten miles of this bird a few days earlier in Warren, Pennsylvania. Notable, too, were the ten, and quite likely far more, Snowy Owl distributed along the Buffalo waterfront.

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Abbreviations: BCBC - Buffalo CBC, 15 Dec; BISP - Beaver Island State Park; BMCBC - Beaver Meadow CBC, 28 Dec; BOS - Buffalo Ornithological Society; BWS - Burgeson Wildlife Sanctuary; DH - Dunkirk Harbor; JCBC - Jamestown CBC, 15 Dec; NF - Niagara Falls; NFCBC - Niagara Falls CBC, 22 Dec; NR - Niagara River; OOCBC - Oak Orchard Swamp CBC, 27 Dec; SPt - Sturgeon Point; WTSP - Wilson Tuscarora State Park.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: last three WC 12 Jan. Pied-billed Grebe: CBC total 21. Horned Grebe: max 54 Sturgeon Pt-DH 1 Jan (WD). Red-necked Grebe: one DH 7

Dec (FR, mob); one Fort Niagara SP 21, 23 Dec (WD, WW); one T Hanover 1 Jan (WD), only observations. Eared Grebe: one DH 7-8 Dec (mob); one NR 15 Dec, only observations. Double-crested Cormorant: max seven NR 19 Jan (RA, JT). Great Blue Heron: CBC total 69; 43 on Motor I NR 27 Feb (WW), high. Black-crowned Night-Heron: max seven ad, two imm Buffalo 16 Feb, *intro*. Tundra Swan: CBC total 53; five on waterfowl count 12 Jan; arr 34 T Amherst 22 Feb (D&DS), 30 WTSP (BP). Mute Swan: one continues to winter in Buffalo Harbor. Greater White-fronted Goose: one BWS 12 Dec (RS), only record. Snow Goose: one DH 7,8 Dec (mob), unusual so late; three Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge 13,14 Dec, 11 Jan (OOCBC, WW); one to two DH 7 Dec to 2 Feb (mob); one BISP 7 Feb (WW); two T Stockton 29 Feb (AB, FR). Brant: six NR 1 Jan (WC, MG, GR, WW). Canada Goose: wintering numbers continue to increase, CBC total 4226, 2229 on waterfowl count 12 Jan. Wood Duck: CBC total 32, high, two on waterfowl census 12 Jan. Green-winged Teal: CBC total two, none on waterfowl census; six BWS 12 Dec (RS); one DH 1, 22 Jan (mob). N. Pintail: one DH 22 Dec (JF), 18-25 Jan (mob), 5 Feb (LH); one T Amity 19 Jan, two there 2 Feb (VP); arr 19 T Porter 22 Feb (WD), 58 T Stockton 29 Feb (AB, FR), one Goat Island NR 29 Feb (TB). N. Shoveler: only report 12 JCBC. Gadwall: CBC total 156, 14 on waterfowl count 12 Jan. Am. Wigeon: 60 T Mayville 1 Dec (JF), late migrants; 40 BCBC, only CBC report; 29 on waterfowl count 12 Jan. Canvasback: CBC total 8466, 3273 on waterfowl count 12 Jan. Redhead: CBC total 107, 15 on waterfowl count 12 Jan. Ring-necked Duck: 16 BCBC, seven JCBC; 65 on waterfowl count 12 Jan; arr four T Celeron 23 Feb (RS), six DH 23 Feb (AB, FR). Greater Scaup: CBC total 2391, 127 on waterfowl count 12 Jan. Lesser Scaup: CBC total 131, 38 on waterfowl count 12 Jan. Oldsquaw: 250 NFCBC; 2555 on waterfowl count 12 Jan. Black Scoter: one T Evans 1 Jan (WD), only record. White-winged Scoter: 242 NFCBC 22 Dec, 15 on waterfowl count 12 Jan. Com. Goldeneye: CBC total 2154, 2401 on waterfowl count 12 Jan. Bufflehead: CBC total 514, 209 on waterfowl count 12 Jan. Hooded Merganser: CBC total 324, 25 on waterfowl count 12 Jan. Com. Merganser: max 4200 NR 14 Dec (WD); CBC total 1796, 2458 on waterfowl count 12 Jan. Red-breasted Merganser: CBC total 78, 11 on waterfowl count 12 Jan. Ruddy Duck: 15 T Mayville 1 Dec (JF), CBC total 11, none on waterfowl count; one DH 23 Feb (AB, FR).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: *intro*. Bald Eagle: imm T Cold Spring 13 Dec (SE), imm T Lyndonville 25-31 Jan (PS), ad T Irving 3 Feb; possible arr imm T Lackawanna 27 Feb (DD). N. Harrier: CBC total 12. Sharp-shinned Hawk: CBC total 29. Cooper's Hawk: CBC total 30. N. Goshawk: CBC total . four. Red-shouldered Hawk: only reports one T East Aurora 6 Dec (LH), one T Amity 5 Jan-16 Feb (VP); three T Stockton 18 Jan (DK), "unprecedented"—RS; arr one 22 Feb T Sheridan (C&RB), one 23 Feb Evangola SP (DD). Rough-legged Hawk: CBC total 15. Merlin: probable return to last winter's territory one ne Buffalo 16 Dec-12 Feb (D&DS, ES). Virginia Rail: one T East Aurora 5-12 Feb (LH), very rare winter visitor. Purple Sandpiper: last four NF 9 Dec (GB); arr seven NF 22 Feb (MG, WW, GR). Dunlin: last NF 23 Dec (WW). Com. Snipe: three JCBC; three T. Amity 19 Jan (M&VP), unusual in winter. Little Gull: low CBC total five. Bonaparte's Gull: max 40,000 NR

8 Dec (GB); CBC total 12,849. Ring-billed Gull: CBC total 12,179. Herring Gull: CBC total 16,165. Iceland Gull: max three NR Dec (mob). Lesser Black-backed Gull: max three NR 11 Dec (LH). Glaucous Gull: max four NR 2 Jan (RA), 29 Feb (WD). Black-legged Kittiwake: arr NF 8 Dec (RA); two BCBC. Com. Tern: one NR 1,8 Dec, BCBC, late. Black Tern: one NR 1 Dec (FR), late.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: max 10 NR 4 Jan (RC, KC). Barred Owl: unusually high CBC total ten. **Great Gray Owl:** *intro* Long-eared Owl: max two T of Porter 22 Dec (WD); two on CBCs. Short-eared Owl: CBC total 19. N. Saw-whet Owl: max two WTSP 23 Feb (BP, WD). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one LESP 1 Jan (JF), unusual in winter.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: CBC total 592, rebounding from low numbers last spring. Com. Raven: one St. Bonaventure CBC 14 Dec; one T Carrollton 24 Feb (SE), only reports. Carolina Wren: CBC total 14. Winter Wren: two T Ward 27 Dec (EB). E. Bluebird: CBC total 37. Am. Robin: CBC total 325, widespread; 350 Ontario Lake plains 20 Jan (WD). Gray Catbird: one T East Aurora 31 Dec-25 Jan (LH); one Four Mile Creek SP 20 Jan (WD), unusual in winter. Brown Thrasher: one Joseph Davis SP 2 Feb (BBr), unusual in winter. Am. Pipit: one JCBC, only one previous Dec record. Bohemian Waxwing: only one NFCBC. N. Shrike: unexpectedly high CBC total 34.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: only records one LESP 25 Dec (JF), six LESP 17 Feb (D&DS). Pine Warbler: one T Somerset 17 Feb (WD), unexpected. Am. Redstart: one BISP 1 Dec (PB), over a month late. Ovenbird: one T Cheektowaga 15,16 Jan (WB), first Regional winter record.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one T Boston through mid-Jan (GR, MG, WW), unusual in winter. Rufous-sided Towhee: one Hamburg-East Aurora CBC 21 Dec (unconfirmed); one T Elma 26 Jan (JD), unusual in winter. Chipping Sparrow: 12 JCBC (unconfirmed!), unusual in winter. Field Sparrow: one BMCBC (MG, GR, mob). Fox Sparrow: one JCBC 15 Dec (unconfirmed), late. Lapland Longspur: CBC total 11. Snow Bunting: CBC total 520. Pine Grosbeak: one T Porter on NFCBC (WD, BP); one T Porter 26 Feb (DD, WD). Red Crossbill: only one Fredonia 16 Jan (DK), with House Sparrows at a feeder. White-winged Crossbill: only four BMCBC (unconfirmed). Com. Redpoll: only record 30 OOCBC (unconfirmed). Pine Siskin: CBC total 24. Evening Grosbeak: CBC total 183, continuing low numbers.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

December began with an arctic air mass which many thought would set the tone for the season. By the time the month ended the average temperature was only 1.5° below normal and the 23.9 inches of precipitation was a third inch above normal. January was a month of contrast. Temperatures during the first half of the month were consistently above average, while the second half saw below average temperatures until the last few days. The overall average of 26.2°F was 2.8° above normal. Precipitation was below average at 18.3 inches. February was generally warmer than normal at 27.2°F and precipitation was below the norm at 1.87 inches. These periods of warm and cold contributed to the variety of wintering species. Many species had no difficulty surviving the winter months. Food was plentiful, and the generally meager snowfall left much feeding area open. Open water was present in most areas and contributed to the good numbers of water birds throughout the season. January and February totals were excellent. The species total for February may very well have been our highest ever.

The Christmas Bird Counts were carried on under less than ideal conditions. Despite this, total numbers of species were good. The Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC totaled 72 species, the third highest ever. This was remarkable given the conditions. The day was characterized by almost constant drizzle and some patches of heavy fog. Waterfowl set new highs for Am. Black Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, and Ruddy Duck. The Rochester CBC totaled 95 species, the most in 88 years. The total of 45,379 individuals was the highest in the last ten years. The highlight of this count was the **Piping Plover** that lingered at Braddock Bay for the count. The Little Lakes CBC reached 83 species, the third highest ever. Water birds were present in good numbers. Both loons were reported as well as two grebe species and Double-crested Cormorant. Highlights included Snow Goose for only the second time and Merlin for the sixth time.

A February record of American Bittern was a surprise. Great Blue Heron took advantage of the open water and lingered through the season. No reports of Black-crowned Night-Heron were received this year, ending a recent trend. It was a good waterfowl winter. The open waters attracted good numbers of individuals as well as some unusual species like Northern

Shoveler, Hooded Merganser and Ruddy Duck. Both Mute and Tundra Swan were also reported. Good rafts of scaup were present, and Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter and Common Goldeneye were well represented on Lake Ontario. Both Sora and Virginia Rail were sighted during the winter. The mild conditions most likely contributed to those sightings. Seldom do we record both rails in winter.

This winter was almost a shorebird winter. The **Piping Plover** discovered at Braddock Bay in November was reported again in December. White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin and Purple Sandpiper extended the list of shorebirds beyond the more usual Common Snipe and Killdeer. A Pomarine Jaeger at Braddock Bay on 1 Jan was a good way to start the season. Little Gull was found in good numbers this winter. Lesser Black-backed Gull was sighted in the area, continuing trend of recent years. White-winged gulls were scarce until late in the season.

Raptors were relatively easy to find. Peregrine Falcon continued its presence in the area with many sightings. Turkey Vulture once again was noted. Cooper's Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk were evident, as were wintering Rough-legged Hawk. It was a fantastic Snowy Owl winter, with more reports than most people could track. Good numbers of Short-eared Owl also were present throughout the period. A **Boreal Owl** in February was exceptional although almost anticipated based on reports from the Northeast. Northern Saw-whet and Long-eared Owls arrived somewhat early.

While it was not a particularly good winter for passerines, there were some highlights. The Varied Thrush in Durand-Eastman Park was fairly cooperative and was noted by many observers. Other highlights included Bohemian Waxwing and Dickcissel. Half-hardy species were not numerous this winter, but reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Carolina Wren, Hermit Thrush, Pine Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and Rusty Blackbird were noteworthy. Sparrows seemed to linger longer than usual at Beatty Point, where White-crowned Sparrow remained into February. A Savannah Sparrow in February was a major surprise.

All in all it turned out to be a very productive winter season.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; BPt - Beatty Point; DEP - Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester; HB- Hamlin Beach; IB - Irondequoit Bay; LSP - Letchworth State Park; MPd - Mendon Ponds; PtB - Point Breeze; RCBC - Rochester CBC, 15 Dec; WL - west lake shore (i.e., Lake Ontario west of Rochester).

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: max three RCBC. Com. Loon: max five RCBC. Pied-billed Grebe: max three RCBC. Horned Grebe: max nine WL Jan. Double-crested Cormorant: one DEP 15 Dec, one PtB 27 Dec. Am. Bittern: one MPd 15 Feb (MD), first Regional record for February. Tundra Swan: max 90 Conesus 15 Dec. Snow Goose: max five Conesus 21 Dec, late. Brant: two Greece 13 Dec, late. Wood Duck: max 38 Penfield 19 Jan. Green-winged Teal: max 48 Greece 1 Dec. N. Pintail: arr BB 20 Feb. Greater Scaup: max 3000 PtB 25 Dec. Black Scoter: max five Greece 11 Jan. Surf Scoter: several singles. Hooded Merganser: max 189 Conesus 18 Dec (JS).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one Greece 15 Dec, one Manchester 19 Dec, max ten LSP 29 Jan (CC, AC); eight LSP 21 Feb (CC, RMc, ROH, PS). Bald Eagle: ad IB 12 Jan (CC) and 19 Jan (MD), imm WL 21 Feb (RO'H, FD), imm BB 28 Feb (BE). N. Goshawk: max two several dates and locations. Merlin: singles several dates and locations. Peregrine Falcon: one Rochester 15 Dec (BM, SS), one BB 28 Dec (MD), one Greece 3 Jan (KG), one WL 5 Feb (MD, CC). Virginia Rail: two Brighton 10-30 Jan (CC, AC, MD); one Brighton 15 Feb (CC, MD), unusual in winter. Sora: one MPd 22-27 Jan (AC), unusual in winter. **Piping Plover**: one BB 1-2 Dec (mob) and 15 Dec RCBC (JBou). Killdeer: max four Conesus 31 Dec (MD). White-rumped Sandpiper: two BB 1 Dec (mob), late. Purple Sandpiper: one Charlotte 29 Dec (MD, CC), one IB 3,12 Jan (mob). Dunlin: one BB 2 Dec (SH); one IB 12 Jan (DS, JL), late. Com. Snipe: one HB 22 Dec, one Brighton 30 Jan, one Brockport 6 Feb, unusual in winter. Pomarine Jaeger: one BB 1 Jan (CC, PM), unusual in winter. Little Gull: max 50 DEP 1 Jan, excellent total. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: first winter bird IB 3 Jan (MD). Iceland Gull: imm IB 29 Feb (MD, CC, RS). Glaucous Gull: ad Rochester 6 Jan; one IB 26 Jan, scarce.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Long-eared Owl: arr BB 7 Feb. **Boreal Owl**: one BB 6 Feb (JD). N. Saw-whet Owl: arr two Manitou 7 Feb. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Webster Jan, new location. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Irondequoit 5 Dec-18 Feb (GL); one Greece 9 Feb (MD), unusual in winter.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Winter Wren: one DEP 3-4 Jan (MD), one DEP Feb (MD), unusual in winter. Marsh Wren: one DEP 11 Jan (R&SS), uncommon in winter. Hermit Thrush: max two DEP Jan. **Varied Thrush**: one DEP 31 Dec-13 Jan (CC, mob). Bohemian Waxwing: one DEP 19 Dec (SH) and 1 Jan (CC), only reports this winter.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Sodus 1 Jan (RMC). Pine Warbler: one Pultneyville throughout much of the season (RMC, RO'H), very unusual in winter, especially for that length of time. Com. Yellowthroat: one DEP 22 Dec, one DEP 3-4 Jan, uncommon but somewhat regular.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Dickcissel**: one Hamlin 12 Jan (MD,CC). **Savannah Sparrow**: one LSP 19 Feb (MD), either very early or very hardy. White-crowned Sparrow: max 15 Greece 15 Dec, good total so late in the Year; three PtB 1 Jan, five Greece 12 Jan, one PtB all Feb, one WL 5 Feb, one Greece 23 Feb, very unusual total for winter. Lapland Longspur: max 25 Byron 6 Feb. Snow Bunting: max 500 Byron 6 Feb. Red-winged Blackbird: max 40 Penfield 19 Jan, good winter total. Eastern Meadowlark: max three Carlton 5 Feb, good winter total. Rusty Blackbird: max 30 MPd 1 Jan, have wintered in recent years. Pine Grosbeak: one Warsaw 14 Dec, only report. White-winged Crossbill: two Webster 15 Dec (SC), one Hamlin 6 Feb (FS), scarce once again.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN AND C. R. SMITH

In general, the winter season for Region 3 was mild, with warmer temperatures than average, less than average snowfall, and overall precipitation 1 to 3 inches less than usual. Temperatures for December, January, and February consistently were 3-4° above average for the Region, with seasonal snowfall amounts averaging 10 inches less than normal.

Overall, it was an interesting winter, characterized by high numbers and good varieties of waterfowl, raptors, and gulls, while winter finches, including Evening Grosbeak, remained relatively scarce. On a trip around Cayuga Lake on 31 Dec, David Russell counted 56 individual birds of prey, including Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and American Kestrel. On 22 Feb, members of the Cayuga Bird Club, led by Ned Brinkley, conducted the first Finger Lakes Region Short-eared Owl census. A total of 81 Short-eared Owl was counted, along with 56 Rough-legged Hawk, 49 Northern Harrier, 15 American Kestrel, "many" Red-tailed Hawk, and one each of Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Northern Shrike. Sixty-eight of the Short-eared Owl were found in the farmlands north and south of the Seneca Army Depot, between Seneca and

Cayuga Lakes. This is an excellent example of the kind of project that can contribute to a better understanding of the distributions and abundances of birds in winter. Hopefully, this survey will be repeated in future years and possibly even expanded to a general survey of winter raptors. Other bird clubs around the state might consider a similar winter project.

Ned Brinkley also led an effort to identify and count gulls at landfills and lakeshore sites in the Cayuga Lake Basin during the winter. As a result of more than thirty visits to the Seneca Meadows and North Spencer landfills and to Stewart Park at the south end of Cayuga Lake, seven species of gulls were identified, along with possible Glaucous X Herring and Lesser Black-backed X Herring hybrids. Consistent checks of local landfills in the future may reveal that "white-winged" gulls occur in winter in the Region more frequently than previously thought.

The relatively mild winter no doubt contributed to observations of Red-shouldered Hawk, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, numerous Carolina Wrens, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, numerous Eastern Bluebirds, Hermit Thrush, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird. Once again, there were several reports of Common Raven from the Region, with sightings of this species at any time of year becoming increasingly likely for the alert observer. Particularly noteworthy observations for the period include **Common Crane** (probably an escape from captivity), **Golden Eagle**, **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, **Iceland Gull**, **Glaucous Gull**, **Thayer's Gull**, **Barn Owl** and **Common Yellowthroat**.

Contributors: Ned Brinkley, Jack Brubaker, Adam Byrne, Dan Christian, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Dick Clements, Karl David, Eaton Birding Society, Ed Gates, Bernice Hilfiker, Robert G. McKinney, Bill Purcell, Marie Read, David Russell, Schuyler County Bird Club.

Abbreviations: CHWMA - Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area; CL - Cayuga Lake; DL - Dryden Lake; EBSWC - Eaton Birding Society Waterfowl Count, 12 and 19 Jan; ECBC - Eaton Birding Society CBC, 29 Dec; ICBC - Ithaca CBC, 1 Jan; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MtP - Mt. Pleasant, Ithaca; QCM - Queen Catharine Marsh, Watkins Glen; SL - Seneca Lake; SML - Seneca Meadows Landfill, ^{SENE}; NSL - North Spencer Landfill, ^{TOMP}; SSW - Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; StP - Stewart Park, Ithaca; WG - Watkins Glen; WGCBC - Watkins Glen CBC, 28 Dec.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one found stranded on land near Elmira 6 Dec, released same day. Com. Loon: CL and SL throughout period. Pied-billed Grebe: max 22 EBSWC. Horned Grebe: max 21 EBSWC. Red-necked Grebe: one s end SL 28 Dec. Great Blue Heron: one-three throughout the period. Tundra Swan:

max 15 CL 11 Jan. Mute Swan: ad with imm Shelldrake CL 25-26 Jan. Snow Goose: one CL 3 Feb, 6 CL 25 Feb. Canada Goose: max 54267 EBSWC; first noticeable spring migration WG 21 Feb and Elmira 22 Feb, coincident with a period of warm, southerly winds and warming temperatures. Wood Duck: max 28 QCM 23 Feb. Green-winged Teal: one SL 4 Dec and 19 Jan, one near Horseheads until mid Jan. Am. Black Duck: max 3515 EBSWC. Mallard: max 19,121 EBSWC. N. Pintail: one-five StP Jan and Feb. N. Shoveler: one Shelldrake CL 15 Dec. Gadwall: max 110 CL 11 Jan. Am. Wigeon: one-three CL and SL throughout period. Canvasback: max 690 EBSWC, most on Canandaigua L. Redhead: max 6811 EBSWC, most on Canandaigua L. Greater Scaup: max 80 CL 19 Feb. Lesser Scaup: max 8 CL 3 Feb. Oldsquaw: one Shelldrake CL 3 Feb, only report. White-winged Scoter: one Reeder's Creek SL 29 Dec, only report. Com. Goldeneye: max 311 EBSWC. Bufflehead: max 269 EBSWC. Hooded Merganser: max 44 EBSWC. Com. Merganser: max 52 EBSWC. Red-breasted Merganser: max 13 EBSWC. Ruddy Duck: one WG 7 Dec, only report.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one near Ithaca 28 Feb (AB). Bald Eagle: two ad MNWR throughout period. **Golden Eagle**: imm DL 23 Feb (MR). N. Harrier: *intro*. Merlin: one Elmira 10 Dec and 11 Jan, two ICBC, ad near Ludlowville 15 Jan, ad near Ithaca 22 and 26 Jan. Sharp-shinned Hawk: numerous reports at feeders throughout Region all winter. Cooper's Hawk: numerous reports at feeders throughout Region all winter. N. Goshawk: several reports throughout Region all winter, including imm eating a Rock Dove downtown Ithaca 30 Jan. Red-shouldered Hawk: two ICBC. Red-tailed Hawk: record max 87 ICBC. Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*. Wild Turkey: max 37 WGCB, additional reports of flocks of 30-35 birds throughout Region. Am. Coot: max 468 EBSWC. Killdeer: one Trumansburg 18 Dec, one Elmira 22 Feb, 16 migrating WG 23 Feb. Com. Snipe: one ECBC, only report. Bonaparte's Gull: one SL at WG 1 Dec (JB). Ring-billed Gull: max 1000+ StP 28 Feb. Herring Gull: max 2700 NSL 10 Jan and 2700 SML 30 Jan. **Thayer's Gull**: one first-winter NSL 10 Jan (AB, NB) and one first-winter (possibly same bird) StP 11 Jan (AB, NB, mob); one first-winter SML 30-31 Jan (AB, NB, ph, NYSARC); first Regional observations. **Iceland Gull**: max six *kumlieni* SML 30 Jan, one-two StP throughout Feb (AB). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one first-winter StP 10-11 Dec (NB), two ad StP 17 Dec (AB), one ad StP 20 Jan (AB), one first-winter SML 30 Jan (NB). **Glaucous Gull**: one SL at WG 18 Jan (JB); singles SML 10 and 17 Jan, and two on 30 Jan (NB); one StP 11-14 Jan (mob). Great Black-backed Gull: max 375 SML 30 Jan.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Barn Owl**: one (possibly more) Armstrong Road e Keuka L throughout period (BH). E. Screech-Owl: several reports of one-two birds throughout Region all winter. Great Horned Owl: max 20 ICBC. Snowy Owl: several singles throughout Region all winter. Long-eared Owl: two at Red Jacket Yacht Club CL 11 Jan, one Cornell Campus 30 Jan. Short-eared Owl: *intro*. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Sutton Rd. west of Geneva 24 Feb. Red-headed Woodpecker: ad at feeder Southport 7 Dec, one near Phelps throughout Jan. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Aurora 16 Dec, one ECBC, one near Ithaca 14 Feb.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: E. Phoebe: one Keuka Outlet Trail 22 Jan (RM), one ICBC, late. Com. Raven: one Elmira 14 and 18 Dec (DC), one Elmira 5 Feb (DR), two downtown Elmira 28 Feb (DC), one CHWMA 12 Dec, two CHWMA 15 Dec, two NSL 10 Jan, one NSL 17 Jan. Fish Crow: one-two StP throughout the period. Carolina Wren: record max 31 ICBC, with most observers commenting on their being relatively common. Winter Wren: one at Larch Meadows near Ithaca Jan and Feb. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: three ICBC. E. Bluebird: record max 29 ICBC, with most observers commenting on their being relatively common. Hermit Thrush: one Elmira 30 Dec. Am. Robin: max 108 WGCBC, with several flocks reported throughout the Region all winter. N. Mockingbird: max 41 ICBC. Cedar Waxwing: max 251 Ithaca CBC, with several flocks reported throughout Region all winter. N. Shrike: several singles throughout Region all winter.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: singles QCM 27 Dec, ICBC, and Aurora 22 Jan, scarce given the mild winter. Com. Yellowthroat: one near Ithaca 26 Jan (DC).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Com. Grackle: first migratory flocks 22 and 23 Feb, coincident with a period of warm, southerly winds. Rusty Blackbird: five ICBC. Field Sparrow: two Elmira CBC 28 Dec, one ECBC, one Montezuma CBC 1 Jan (BP). Savannah Sparrow: one-two near Burdett 28 and 29 Dec (JB, EG), late. Swamp Sparrow: singles QCM 28 Dec and 1 Jan. Snow Bunting: max 140+ MtP 26 Jan, scarce. Purple Finch: scattered singles throughout Region all winter, max 21 ICBC. Pine Grosbeak: six at feeder Horseheads 5 Dec (DC), only report. Com. Redpoll: one near Ithaca 12 Feb, only report. Pine Siskin: max 37 WGCBC. Evening Grosbeak: max 66 ICBC.

EXOTICS: Com. Crane: ad Watts Road s Seneca Falls 22-25 Feb (AB, NB, mob), assumed to be the same bird that spent the Fall on Otisco Lake and pictured in *American Birds* (Summer 1991), an escapee from a collection in the Catskills.

449 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville, New York 13068.

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

This, the fourth mild, open winter in a row for Region 4, while no standout, was different. This was the only year when each of the three winter months was both warmer and drier than normal. Temperatures for each month were about four degrees above average. Yet the winter "didn't come close" to being the warmest on record, according to Harold Hollis, National Weather observer at Cooperstown, where village records date back to 1854. Nor were there any record daily highs or lows. At Binghamton, temperatures dropped below zero (-2°F) for the first night in the season on 16 Jan. Another sub-zero night struck 13 Feb. After that, warmer nights and daytime highs near or above 40°F persisted through the rest of the period. Total rainfall for the winter was only 6.37 inches, about 1.5 inches below normal. The season's snowfall totaled only 41.2 inches, down more than 30% from the 63.3 inch average. The heaviest single day fall was 3.88 inches on 4 Feb at Oneonta. Rivers remained more or less open all season, tempting water birds to stay in the Region. At lower elevations, there was little if any snow cover most of the winter, creating excellent hunting conditions for predators. An almost nonexistent cone crop was the big negative of the wild food supply and a definite turnoff to the finches. Box alder and ash seeds, a normal second choice for grosbeaks especially, hung from the trees all winter.

Birds responded to these conditions in their usual unpredictable ways. Mild temperatures and open water notwithstanding, no grebes were spotted for the second year since 1981. The Region's first winter appearance of a Double-crested Cormorant was at a Bainbridge backyard creek on 28 Jan. It remained several days, according to Ron Jones. For ducks, the species count of nine was disappointing, but Mallard numbers were outstanding all period. Winter sightings of Snow Goose were the first since 1984. Most unusual were several reports of a single white goose in a flock of up to 150 Canada Goose that overwintered in the Owego area. Jeannette Baldwin, who saw it many times near her home, said it was small and slender like a Snow Goose but she never saw black wing tips. Did other observers note this identifying mark or was it a Snow X Canada hybrid?

A rare Golden Eagle was spotted 25 Jan by an Otsego-Delaware Audubon party at Cannonsville Res. They also counted eight Bald Eagle in the area. Good numbers of hawks were active but only the three more common owl species were reported.

It is often difficult to distinguish between birds that lingered late, those that arrived early and those that never left. But in the latter group, species represented in unusually high winter numbers included Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, N. Harrier, Ring-billed Gull, N. Flicker, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, E. Bluebird, Am. Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Chipping Sparrow and Purple Finch. Conversely, birds often seen in winter but missed this year included Killdeer, Com. Snipe, Hermit Thrush, Swamp Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Pine Grosbeak and White-winged Crossbill.

Two rescue missions lent excitement to the season. A Common Loon, according to a *Binghamton Press* story, had mistaken a rain-slicked highway for a waterway and ended in a ditch on 3 Dec. From there it was rescued by a passing motorist, a Broome Community College biology professor, who taxied it to the Chenango River and released it. Steve Rice witnessed the second incident 28 Feb. "Two Wildlife Rehabilitators captured a female Sharp-shinned Hawk, trapped in the Binghamton Post Office," he wrote. "She had chased a starling across the loading ramp, caught the bird but then couldn't get out of the building."

Observers: Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Don & Judy Bell, Reynolds Bennett, Les Bemont, Bruce Bozdos, Marilyn Davis, Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Polly & Earl Getlein, Spencer Hunt, Hugh Kingery, Gail Kirch, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Andy Mason, Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi, Ron Milliken, Susan Moran, Marie Petuh, Mike Porter, Steve Rice, Joe Sedlacek, Bill Toner, Eugene Tuch, Don Windsor, Anne Whitaker, Irene Wright, Jane Young.

Abbreviations: BCBC - Binghamton Christmas Bird Count, 29 Dec; CRes - Cannonsville Reservoir; ChCBC - Chenango Christmas Bird Count, 14 Dec; CoCBC - Cortland Christmas Bird Count; JC - Johnson City; TCBC - Tioga Christmas Bird Count 30 Dec; WFC - Waterfowl Count.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: *intro*. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*. Great Blue Heron: record 24 on 5 CBCs; one to three TIOG through period. Snow Goose: one flock TCBC week; arr flock there 20 Feb; three BROO WFC (B&JS). Canada Goose: max 1454 ChCBC. Wood Duck: singles TCBC and BROO 14 Feb (MDv), uncommon. Am. Black Duck: max 197 CRes 3 Jan (SD); 50 BROO 2 Dec, one of six Dec reports; four OTSE 6 Feb, good numbers. Canvasback: only one BROO 2 Dec (HM, BB, GK). Greater Scaup: 25 CoCBC, third report in 16 years. Com. Goldeneye: 30 total TCBC and CCBC; two other Dec reports; 41 at two Susquehanna R sites early Jan; two Feb, good numbers. Bufflehead: one BROO 2 Dec (HM mob); 17 CoCBC; one TIOG Jan (RB), high. Hooded Merganser: eight CoCBC, max of three Dec reports; last BROO early Jan. Com. Merganser: 30 Goodyear L 5 Dec (IW); 175 at four sites early Jan; occasional BROO and TIOG Feb, high.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: *intro*. N. Harrier: nine on four CBCs; three others BROO Dec; one OTSE and two DELA Jan, high. Sharp-shinned Hawk: ten on 5 CBCs;

five BROO, OTSE and TIOG Jan; three CHEN and BROO Feb. Cooper's Hawk: regular at two BROO feeders (MP, SR) and one CHEN (SM); a House Finch was known victim; one to four other reports/month. N. Goshawk: only one BROO 26 Dec "beautiful view, fairly low, flying back and forth over the field" (HM). Red-tailed Hawk: mid winter max 11 BROO 29 Jan, while checking previous nest sites (MP, JY). Rough-legged Hawk: 16 on four CBCs; one dark morph BROO 3 Dec; five to seven/month many sites Jan-Feb, high. Golden Eagle: *intro*. Am. Kestrel: five to six/month; male on nest box Binghamton 19 Feb, "pair there last year didn't nest" (SR). Ring-necked Pheasant: four on three CBCs; one CHEN 1 Dec (DW); one at TIOG feeder (AW) through period; encouraging. Ruffed Grouse: "sev" BROO early Dec (JS); 24 on five CBCs; scarce Jan and Feb. Wild Turkey: 275 on four CBCs; midwinter max 120 DELA 27 Jan (AM), still increasing. Am. Coot: two Otsego L 26 Dec (MD); one TIOG Jan (D&JB), fifth year in last 12. Great Black-backed Gull: two CoCBC, only report. Ring-billed Gull: max 73 Delaware-Otsego CBC 14 Dec; "many" CanR Jan, (SD).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: record high 1433 on five CBCs. E. Screech-Owl: eight on TCB C and BCBC; one CHEN mid Dec, only reports. Great Horned Owl: six on three CBCs; two BROO on old nest 9 Feb (JS). Barred Owl: two BROO 7 Dec (JS); one BROO late Feb (HM), only reports. Belted Kingfisher: 24 on four CBCs. Red-bellied Woodpecker: max six TCBC; two ChCBC; one Chenango Forks 20 Dec through period (MDv); one Apalachin after 30 Jan (P&EG); two other reports, good numbers. Hairy Woodpecker: 44 on five CBCs, dwindled to three Feb. N. Flicker: ten on three CBCs; three BROO and TIOG Jan, high; none Feb. Pileated Woodpecker: max four CoCBC; two Owego Jan and Feb, low.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: record early arr Owego 23 Feb (SH). Horned Lark: 53 ChCBC max; none Jan; 25 Cornell Farm, CORT 17 Feb (MP); two reports BROO 14 and 26 Feb (MDv), scarce. Am. Crow: widespread comments on high numbers. Tufted Titmouse: 140 on five CBCs; widespread but not as many as last winter. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 22 on five CBCs; regular at up to 10 feeders Dec/Jan, not an irruptive year. Brown Creeper: 19 on four CBCs; up to five/month, low. Carolina Wren: record high 15 BCBC; six TCBC; regular at 20 feeders, six in Binghamton area alone; "spent days at my feeders and nights in my garage" (DW). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 29 on five CBCs; three to four sites/month Jan and Feb. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: three TCBC, only report. E. Bluebird: four TCBC; two sites Jan; many TIOG sightings Feb, one BROO, very early arrivals. Am. Robin: record 112 BCBC; 10 perched JC tree 21 Jan (MP); flocks of up to 24 birds from 11 Feb. N. Mockingbird: 13 on BCBC and TCBC; six sites BROO and TIOG Jan; none Feb; none in n Region, scarce. Cedar Waxwing: 201 on three CBCs; up to 80 birds six to seven sites Jan and Feb; an OTSE flock feasting on crab apples; DELA flock "at summit of Balsam Lake Mt. feeding on Mt. Ash berries" (MPo), good count. N. Shrike: one TCBC; one OTSE 28 Jan and 23 Feb; one BROO late Feb, low.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: none.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: 235 on five CBCs, second only to last year's record high. Am. Tree Sparrow: 327 on five CBCs, not even half of the 750

counted 10 years ago on the Region's 1981 CBCs, when the editor complained then of the decline from years past! Chipping Sparrow: a record 10 loiterers CoCBC; one Margaretville feeder 2 Jan (MPo). Field Sparrow: one BCBC; one Owego feeder Jan-Feb (C&JB). Song Sparrow: 12 on three CBCs; one banded Binghamton 25 Jan (SR); only two to four/month, scarce. White-throated Sparrow: to 12 a day JC feeder (MP); two other BROO reports; four Norwich Jan-Feb (JL). Dark-eyed Junco: 520 on five CBCs. Snow Bunting: 50 TCBC; five ChCBC; midwinter max 200 Harpersfield DELA 23 Jan (AM); 150 Cherry Valley OTSE 1 Jan (HK); good numbers but few reports. Red-winged Blackbird: gone Dec; arr Binghamton 21 Feb. Rusty Blackbird: arr Milford OTSE 23 Feb, only one. Com. Grackle: four on two CBCs; three sites Jan; arr CHEN 22 Feb. Brown-headed Cowbird: 26 ChCBC; two to three Jan and Feb. Purple Finch: 32 TCBC; one ChCBC: midwinter max 22 Norwich 26 Jan & 29 Feb (JL); one BROO; three OTSE, good. House Finch: 1500 on five CBCs; most abundant feeder visitor. Red Crossbill: only one ChCBC. Com. Redpoll: 40 TCBC; 10 on three other CBCs; no other reports. Pine Siskin: 91 on four CBCs; 10 other Dec reports; up to eight birds on seven Jan reports, mostly CHEN; max 20 Norwich 29 Feb, sparse. Am. Goldfinch: 788 on five CBCs; up to 60/day widespread Jan and Feb. Evening Grosbeak: 375 total on Delaware-Otsego CBC and ChCBC in mid Dec, dropping to only 36 BCBC and TCBCs late Dec; up to 22 birds on scattered reports Jan and Feb, scarce.

7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta, New York, 13820

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

Once again the winter in central New York was relatively mild. The average temperature for the three month period was 2.2° above the norm of 25°F. Temperature extremes ranged from a balmy 60°F near Syracuse on 9 Dec to a bone-chilling -26°F at Old Forge on 12 Feb. On 29 Feb, conditions were very cold, with a wind chill factor of at least -30°F in the southern Adirondacks. Precipitation in the form of rainfall for the three months was almost a tenth inch below the norm of 2.8 inches. In contrast, snowfall accumulation averaged out to be 11.8 inches above the average of 26.9 inches normally recorded for the same time period. A minor winter storm occurred during the first week of December, but melted entirely away by the following week. It was not until mid January that the area began to take on its familiar winter look with 38.6 inches of snow from 14 to 21 Jan. The highest snowfall for February was 7.51 inches on 4 Feb, with later snowfalls seldom exceeding an inch. Noteworthy was the lack of sunshine (less than 23% of the possible), which made February the gloomiest on record.

A good variety of waterfowl was reported. Nine species had above normal populations for the period. Lake Ontario littoral produced a record high seasonal count of Common Loon in early December along with another record high number of 13 on the waterfowl survey, 11-19 Jan. Other important observations include record high seasonal day counts for Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, N. Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck and Common Goldeneye. Reports of thirteen Tundra Swan marked a seasonal high total for the Region. Large concentrations of both Greater Scaup and Common Goldeneye were found at the east end of Lake Ontario. The two species were easier to count than usual because of the lack of onshore ice buildup. Over 3000 Greater Scaup and Com. Goldeneye were observed on the waterfowl survey. The scaup total of 3856 was the best since 1974, and the total of 4301 Common Goldeneye was a record maximum for the survey. The 140 Red-breasted Merganser seen in early December was the same number observed on the waterfowl survey, the best count since 1961.

Irruptive raptors were scarce. Northern Goshawk was scarce and no more than six Rough-legged Hawk were seen at any one time. Among the seventeen Rough-legged Hawk observed as to color morph, nine were light morph and eight were dark morph birds. Unusual was the Region's second

winter record for Golden Eagle. An increase to 49 Am. Kestrel sightings was encouraging, compared to the previous winter when 29 were observed. For the second consecutive year two **Merlin** appeared in the same Syracuse city park, where they were seen and photographed from 14 to 17 Feb February and apparently present the entire winter. It was unquestionably a winter for owls and every birder including a wide TV audience had the unique opportunity to see the Region's seventh record of a **Northern Hawk Owl**. The owl remained adjacent to Route 5 halfway between Chittenango and Canastota from 1 to 29 Feb (S. McCombie, mob; ph, NYSARC). Short-eared Owl was again fairly common at localities south and east of Oneida Lake and the western edge of Peter Scott Swamp in the Town of Schroepfel.

It was an exceptional season for gulls. A **Laughing Gull** and a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were noteworthy records from Oneida Lake and the Oswego River, respectively. Among the 12 Iceland Gull reported, three were adult *kumlieni*. In addition, Glaucous Gull were found in above average numbers, affording observers an opportunity to compare field marks with the smaller Iceland Gulls.

Half-hardy species such as American Robin were found in sizable flocks in the western and southern portions of Onondaga County. For the first time in three years, a Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen in the Town of Pompey on two separate dates. An increased number of Song Sparrows was evident with 49 reported, compared to last year's total of 21 reports. Mild, open winters with a lack of substantial snow cover and freezing temperatures have in all probability been factors in the upward trend of overwintering Song Sparrows. A **Bobolink** was observed at a feeder in the Town of Dewitt on 9 Jan and 2 Feb (K. Radway; ph, NYSARC). Equally amazing, this Bobolink was the second winter report for the Region, the first found in the winter 1971-72.

Negatives for the season include a poor winter for American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco, with counts averaging no more than 20 per day. Despite the heralded appearance of hundreds of redpoll at the end of November only a few remained at scattered locations. Other members of the finch family were reported, but none in any substantial numbers.

One of the more interesting accounts this season comes from a gentleman who lives near Erieville. He came home one day to find a 10x14 inch window pane shattered, with glass all over his kitchen floor. When he walked into an adjoining room, a Cooper's Hawk suddenly flew in front

of him. After a calming of the nerves, the individual was able to drape a sheet over the bird and release it out the front door.

Observers in the Region reported 124 species during the winter. The most unusual of these were **Merlin, Laughing Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Northern Hawk Owl** and **Bobolink**. Other notable species reported were Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Tundra Swan, Snow Goose, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Purple Sandpiper, Dunlin, N. Saw-whet Owl, Com. Raven, Boreal Chickadee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow, Red Crossbill and White-winged Crossbill.

A special thanks to Gary Lee and Marge Rusk for their contributions to the introduction of this report.

Contributors: Sue Adair, Sue Boettger, Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, William T. Gruenbaum, Elva Hawken, Gene Huggins, Gary Lee, Sheila Mc Combie, Ferne Merrill, David Nash, Belle Peebles, Bill Purcell, Kate Radway, Margaret S. Rusk, Ginny Skoglund, Maureen Staloff, Glenn Wolford, Judy Wright.

Abbreviations: Adk - Adirondacks; DH - Derby Hill, OSWE; LSB - Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, CAYU; LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral, OSWE; NPT - northern Pompey Township, ONON; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park, OSWE.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: two Oswego H 1 Jan, singles LSB 8 Dec, Oswego H 4-5 Jan. Com. Loon: max 33 LOL 8 Dec, present all winter Oswego H; *intro*. Pied-billed Grebe: two LOL 8 Dec; seven reports. Horned Grebe: max 24 LOL 8 Dec, last ten there 12 Jan. Red-necked Grebe: two Onondaga L 14 Dec, two LSB 1 Jan. Double-crested Cormorant: ten Oswego H 9 Dec to 12 Jan, where at least eight overwintered; one T Brutus CAYU 25 Dec. Great Blue Heron: 43 reports, max 24 Oswego R 26 Jan. Tundra Swan: three LSB 1-12 Dec, nine Oneida L 14 Dec, last Oswego H 21 Dec and 1 Jan. Snow Goose: max 19 Earlville 29 Jan; two, one blue morph, LSB 8 Dec; five NPT 23 Feb. Canada Goose: max 1731 LOL 12 Jan. Wood Duck: four feeder canal Dewitt 2 Jan, nine reports. Green-winged Teal: max 20 Hookway Tract Syracuse 14 Dec, about eight overwintered. Am. Black Duck: max 180 Onondaga L, Phoenix 11 Jan; six Big Moose L all winter, exceptional for Adk. Mallard: max 1200 Oswego R 26 Jan. N. Pintail: four LSB 8-12 Dec, 15 reports. N. Shoveler: max 11 LSB 12 Dec. Gadwall: max 48 LSB 12 Dec. Am. Wigeon: eight LSB 12 Dec, three Brewerton 23 Feb, singles Onondaga L 18 Dec, Oswego H 23 Feb. Canvasback: max 35 Oneida L 14 Dec, 52 reported. Redhead: max 70 Skaneateles L 18 Jan. Ring-necked Duck: max 30 LSB 12 Dec. Greater Scaup: *intro*. Lesser Scaup: four Oswego H 21 Dec, one Onondaga L 11 Jan. Oldsquaw: max 78 Oswego H 4 Jan. White-winged Scoter: max 59 LOL 1 Dec, last Oswego H 5 Feb. Com. Goldeneye: *intro*. Bufflehead: max 73 Oswego R 19 Jan. Hooded Merganser: max 60 Oneida L 14 Dec. Common Merganser: max 2479 Onondaga L 11 Jan. Red-breasted Merganser: *intro*. Ruddy Duck: one LSB 8 Dec.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr T Verona ONEI 28 Feb. Bald Eagle: ad LOL 11 Jan-23 Feb; ad Dart's L, Big Moose L to end of period; imm Nine Mile Pt 23 Feb; singles Caughdenoy 1 Jan, LSB 12 Jan. N. Harrier: max three Oneida 21 Dec, 11 reports. N. Goshawk: five reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: ad Oneida 11 Feb. Rough-legged Hawk: max six and ONEI 19 Feb, *intro*. Golden Eagle: imm Larkin Road T Brookfield 2-3 Jan. Am. Kestrel: max three per day. **Merlin**: *intro*. Ring-necked Pheasant: 24 reported for the period. Wild Turkey: max 100+ Erieville 17 Jan. Am. Coot: max ten LSB 12 Dec, 21 reports. Killdeer: one Herkimer 14 Dec. Purple Sandpiper: one LSB 11-12 Dec, very late. Dunlin: one Elbridge 4 Jan, Regional record late. Com. Snipe: four reports. **Laughing Gull**: imm Oswego H 7-8 Dec, first Regional winter record. Bonaparte's Gull: max 31 Onondaga L 14 Dec, last Oswego R 21 Dec. Iceland Gull: arr Oswego R 21 Dec, max 12 there 16 Feb. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: singles Oneida L 14 Dec (SA), Oswego R at Phoenix 6-9 Feb (mob). Glaucous Gull: arr Oswego R 21 Dec, max ten there 19 Jan. Great Black-backed Gull: max 1379 Oswego R 21 Dec.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 41 Clay Marsh 24 Dec. E. Screech-Owl: 13 reports. Snowy Owl: max three LOL 5 Jan, ten reports. **N. Hawk Owl**: *intro*. Barred Owl: singles Howland I CAYU 1 Jan, Delta L area 10 Feb. Short-eared Owl: six T Verona ONEI 19, 25 Jan, two there 29 Feb; five T Schroepel OSWE 28 Jan-17 Feb; two T Vernon ONEI 7 Jan, one Howland I 2 Jan. N. Saw-whet Owl: singles Erieville 17 Jan, Baldwinsville 10 Feb. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: singles Holland Patent 6 Dec, Baldwinsville 2 Feb. N. Flicker: max four Clark Reservation ONON 7 Dec, Howland's I 1 Jan, 50 reports.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Horned Lark: max 53 Mexico 9 Feb. Gray Jay: two N Branch Moose R 15 Dec. Am. Crow: max 292, ONEI, ONON 2 Jan. Com. Raven: four T Webb 1 Dec. Black-capped Chickadee: max 111 T Webb 18 Dec. Boreal Chickadee: two Limekiln Swamp 26 Feb. Tufted Titmouse: max five Howland's I 1 Jan. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 28 T Webb 1 Dec. Carolina Wren: one Deansboro 2 Jan, new location; 20 reports, some survived coldest part of winter. Winter Wren: singles Clay Marsh 11 Dec, Deansboro 27 Dec. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max five Shackleton Pt 2 Feb. E. Bluebird: max three Chittenango 10 Jan, 11 reports. Am. Robin: max 128 Baldwinsville, Elbridge 11 Jan. N. Mockingbird: max four in Jan and Feb. Cedar Waxwing: max 155 Baldwinsville, Elbridge 11 Jan. N. Shrike: 18 reports for the period.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-rumped Warbler: one NPT 8 Jan and 18 Feb.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rufous-sided Towhee: one Eaton Feb. Am. Tree Sparrow: max 27 Clay Marsh 4 Dec. Field Sparrow: one Syracuse 14 Dec. Song Sparrow: *intro*. Swamp Sparrow: two Carpenter's Brook 2 Jan. White-throated Sparrow: max seven Oakwood Cemetery Syracuse 15 Feb, scarce. White-crowned Sparrow: one or two Dewitt 14 Dec-15 Jan, late. Dark-eyed Junco: max 30 Baldwinsville 1 Jan, scarce. Lapland Longspur: two Oneida 21 Dec, singles LOL 8 Dec, Mexico 9 Feb, Erieville 17 Feb. Snow Bunting: max 200 DH 2 Feb. **Bobolink**: *intro*. Red-winged Blackbird: arr Sangerfield 19 Feb, max 18 Cicero 28 Feb. E.

arr Clay Marsh 17 Feb, 14 reports. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 120 Pennellville 22 Feb. Pine Grosbeak: singles SSSP 22 Jan, Holland Patent 23 Jan. Purple Finch: max 28 Oneida 24 Feb. Red Crossbill: one T Webb Adk 1 Dec. White-winged Crossbill: ten Old Forge 17 Jan. Com. Redpoll: one-three per day to 23 Feb. Pine Siskin: max 62 Oriskany Falls 2 Jan. Am. Goldfinch: max 14 LOL 1 Dec. Evening Grosbeak: max 67 Erieville 21 Dec.

CORRIGENDUM: Vol. 41(3):198. Black Vulture: one DH 3 Apr was actually the fourth Regional record.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

December was slightly warmer and drier than normal, while January and February had average temperatures and precipitation with steady, but not extreme, cold and snow. The heaviest snowfall was 22 inches at Highmarket on 25 Jan. Snow accumulations at the end of February were 5-10 inches in the lowlands and 10-20 inches in uplands. Food crops were generally good, but vole populations seemed down. Large bodies of water remained open in the early winter. Combined with the generally open conditions, this allowed many species to linger. For example, the Massena CBC included new records for Rufous-sided Towhee and Eastern Meadowlark; second records for Ring-necked Duck, Green-winged Teal, Red-bellied Woodpecker and Northern Mockingbird; and a new high for Northern Cardinal.

At Moses-Saunders Dam, Bruce Di Labio reported a second record of **Common X Barrow's Goldeneye** hybrid 26 Jan, the first found there on 27 Nov 1988. Several Barrow's Goldeneye were there as well. Overwintering individuals of several waterfowl species at Moses-Saunders Dam included Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Redhead, Oldsquaw, and Bufflehead. Other notable water bird sightings were of Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Tundra Swan, and Mute Swan. Wintering gull numbers were high, especially for Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, and Great Black-backed Gull.

Hawks were well represented, but numbers of buteos and harriers were way down. Wintering Bald Eagle continue to increase in southern St

Lawrence County, where they feed on coyote-killed and road-killed deer. Up to four have fed regularly near Cranberry Lake, where the Game Warden places deer carcasses. According to Peter O'Shea, Common Raven alert the eagles to the presence of food but also harass them when the latter arrive on the scene. With the exception of the CBCs, no one found more than three Rough-legged Hawk per day. For accipiters, four of eleven observers reported Sharp-shinned Hawk, five reported Cooper's Hawk, and three reported Northern Goshawk. Cooper's Hawk was reported preying on Rock Dove, Dark-eyed Junco, and twice on European Starling. There was a Northern Goshawk at the Ogdensburg Psychiatric Institution almost daily 4 Dec to 19 Jan; others were reported from Canton and Massena.

It was a good winter for owls, with reports for all species except Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet. There were many Snowy Owl reports, but Short-eared Owl was scarce with only five reports. Two **Northern Hawk Owl** were repeatedly observed and photographed 2-3 miles apart in Depeyster between 20 Dec and 22 Mar. Don Morley is to be commended for his hospitality to visiting birders as well as the birds. Two more Northern Hawk Owl were reported from Brasher State Forest by Wayne LaBaffe of the NYDEC. A **Great Gray Owl** was present on Route 11 in Town of Pamela from 30 Jan to 5 Feb, when it was fatally struck by a vehicle.

Resident birds were well represented. Lee Chamberlaine reports Downy and Hairy Woodpecker numbers up as a result of the damage done by the March 1991 ice storm; both nuthatch species and Brown Creeper also were abundant, and Black-capped Chickadee numbers were up.

Northern Shrike was widespread. There were several reports of Bohemian Waxwing throughout the period. Northern finches were again scarce. There were no crossbills and only two reports of Pine Grosbeak. Only four observers reported Common Redpoll. Small numbers of Pine Siskin were reported, increasing through February. Evening Grosbeak continued to be sparse.

Reports of half-hardy species and of species at the northern fringe of their range in this Region included Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, **Carolina Wren**, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Bluebird, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Eastern Meadowlark, along with a few Brown-headed Cowbird, White-throated Sparrow and Song Sparrow. An early Killdeer was in Ogdensburg 24-26 Feb, and was possibly heard 17 Feb; other early arrivals were three American Robin at Watertown on 24 Feb and a Red-winged Blackbird at Pierpont Center JEFF on 19 Feb.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Richard Brouse, Sheila & Bob Cerwonka, Lee B. Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Bruce M. Di Labio, John Green, Paul Kelly, Steve & Debbie Litwiler, Peter O'Shea, Bob & June Walker, Brian Watson, Mary Beth Wood.

Abbreviations: MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; Pt Penn - Point Penninsula, T Lyme; RMSF - Robert Moses State Pk, T Massena; SLR - St. Lawrence River; TI - Thousand Islands; WCBC - Watertown Christmas Bird Count.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: three MSD 10 Dec, late. Horned Grebe: four WCBC. Double-crested Cormorant: last Henderson 15 Dec. Tundra Swan: 11 Sackett's Harbor 8 Dec; six Pt Penn 1 Jan. Mute Swan: four WCBC. Green-winged Teal: male MSD 22 Dec, late. Gadwall: 20 SLR near TI Bridge, T Alexander Bay 12 Jan. Ring-necked Duck: male MSD 22 Dec-24 Feb. Redhead: male MSD 5 Jan. Greater Scaup: max 20 Henderson H 13 Dec; male MSD 22 Dec; two MSD 3 Feb. Oldsquaw: female MSD 22 Dec-26 Jan, two males, one female 5 Jan. **Com. X Barrow's Goldeneye:** *intro.* Barrow's Goldeneye: max two males, two females MSD 3 Feb. Bufflehead: male MSD 22 Dec to 26 Jan, max 80 Pt Penn 11 Jan. Hooded Merganser: seven Henderson Harbor 13 Dec. Com. Merganser: max 8500 MSD 22 Dec, 173 Wellesley I 13 Jan. Red-breasted Merganser: max 18 MSD 22 Dec.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: *intro.* Cooper's Hawk: *intro.* N. Goshawk: *intro.* Red-tailed Hawk: one wintering near Aldrich Pd in Star Lake, unusual locality. Killdeer: *intro.* Iceland Gull: arr four Bas I MSD 10 Dec; max 27 on Feb. 3. Glaucous Gull: arr one Basic I MSD 10 Dec; max 54 on 3 Feb. Great Black-backed Gull: max 1450 MSD 10 Dec.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: one found dead near Massena Pt 5 Jan; two calling Cape Vincent 22 Feb. Snowy Owl: at least two LEWI, at least five each in StLA and JEFF. Barred Owl: one RMSF 27 Dec. **Great Gray Owl:** *intro.* N. Hawk Owl: *intro.* Short-eared Owl: max two Hounsfeld JEFF 20 Jan and two Lyme JEFF 31 Dec. Red-bellied Woodpecker: singles Watertown and Massena CBCs; one CV entire period, one Three-mile Pt, T Lyme, three Henderson 8 Feb. N. Flicker: max six MSD 5 Jan.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Am. Crow: 60 at roost near Watertown Airport, T Hounsfeld 15 Jan; numbers up, max 80 Henderson 22 Jan (LBC). Com. Raven: frequent in s StLA; one on TI CBC is unusual. Tufted Titmouse: none. **Carolina Wren:** one to two at Watertown feeder 6 Dec-23 Feb (RB); possibly another in Adams. E. Bluebird: five Canton. Am. Robin: *intro.* Brown Thrasher: one Hanawa Falls, T Pierrepont, last week of Dec. Cedar Waxwing: max 155 RMSF 24 Feb. Bohemian Waxing: max 100 Canton 22 Feb. N. Shrike: 23 reports from eight observers.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: none.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rufous-sided Towhee: male Louisville. Am. Tree Sparrow: numbers up. Dark-eyed Junco: small numbers at several feeders. Red-winged Blackbird: *intro.* E. Meadowlark: two Massena; two Henderson Harbor. Pine Grosbeak: max three Louisville 25 Feb. Com. Redpoll: early max 62 RMSF 10 Dec. Pine Siskin: *intro.* Evening Grosbeak: 50 Pope's Mills 4 Jan, only large flock.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

An influx of northern raptors, a record number of species for several Christmas Bird Counts, and a paucity of passerines, especially winter finches, marked the winter of 1991-92. The season began clear and cold with Saranac Lake -4°F on 5 Dec. One of the biggest storms of the season managed to drop only 3-8 inches of snow on 18 Dec, and weather for the Christmas Bird Counts was good, with only about 2-5 inches of snow cover. The 15 Dec Plattsburgh CBC found a record 63 species, plus four species during count week. The 18 Dec Old Forge CBC found 33 species, plus two in the count period, up dramatically from only 22 last year. The Saranac Lake CBC on 28 Dec also set a record of 44 species, plus three in the count week.

Gary Lee recorded the lowest barometric reading ever, 28.45 inches, at Limekiln on 14 Jan, a day of heavy rain and 40°F temperatures that returned bare ground to much of the Region. But this respite was followed by a week-long frigid spell in time for that nadir of the birding year, the NYS Waterfowl Count. On 16 Jan, Plattsburgh was only -6°F at noon, while Saranac Lake enjoyed a wind chill of -32°F. February remained generally cold and snowless, with only patchy ground cover over much of the Region. Avian variety stood at a healthy 90 species, but short of the 96 species found in 1983-84.

An adult drake **Barrow's Goldeneye** was reported from Plattsburgh by Bill Krueger on 6 Jan, just prior to the 11-18 Jan NYS Waterfowl Count, which turned up a healthy 2,417 Common Goldeneye. Northern raptors put in an especially strong showing. Tom Barber and Mike Peterson found a gray **Gyr Falcon** near the intersection of the Cutting and Denton Roads, Lewis, just north of Elizabethtown during the 21 Dec Elizabethtown CBC. Between 3 Jan-3 Feb, a total of at least eight Snowy Owl were reported, all from Clinton County. Although not large compared to the numbers reported in neighboring Vermont (30+ sightings statewide) or Quebec (30 alone taken to rehabilitators in just the Montreal area by early Dec), this was the largest Regional invasion of which we are aware. Given the expanse of open habitat, with no observers, along the Clinton-Franklin border with Canada, it seems likely that many more may have been present. Certainly present in good numbers were 14 Northern Shrike scattered over all four counties.

Winter finch counts were generally low. Pine Grosbeak failed to appear. Purple Finch spent most of the winter at higher elevations. Red Crossbill was reported just four times, White-winged Crossbill only twice. There were scattered reports of Common Redpoll, and Hoary Redpoll was not reported. Jan Trzeciak found 175+ Pine Siskin along a two-mile stretch of road near Owls Head FRAN after an 8 Dec snowstorm, and the Saranac Lake CBC tallied an impressive 783. On 13 Jan, Gary Lee spotted a flock of 1,000+ Pine Siskin in Hamilton County, "like a cloud moving in the sky." But they remained scarce at lower elevations until the end of the season when there was a major influx. "Moby Siskin" at the Furness Feeder in Mineville in late Feb was almost completely white with a pale brown-red blush on the sides of the head, tail and most of the wings almost a canary yellow, beak pink and eyes dark, so it was not a true albino. American Goldfinch was abundant until mid January, when numbers began to decline. Evening Grosbeak also peaked in December.

On 9 Jan, a crew from Niagara-Mohawk erected an Osprey nest platform at the Crown Point State Historic Site. Initiated by High Peaks Audubon, this was a joint project with the NYS OPRHP, DEC, and NiMo. On 31 Jan, a crew of volunteers cleaning Wood Duck boxes along Bulwagga Bay noticed a Bald Eagle sitting in a dead tree by Sheephead Rock, quite close to the newly erected Osprey (or eagle?) platform.

Contributors: Merry Baker, Ron Bruno, Dewey & Joan Clark, Shirley Cook, Charlcie Delehanty, Greg Furness, Candy & John Hess, Tom Hicks, Mary Humiston, Judy & Roger Huntz, Hal Klein, William Krueger, Gary Lee, Steve Mahoney, Larry Master, Robert McKinney, John Parke, John & Susan Peterson, Tom Rodriguez, Jan Trzeciak.

Abbreviations: ECBC - Elizabethtown CBC; FCBC - Ferrisburg CBC; WFC - Waterfowl Count; OFCBC - Old Forge CBC, 18 Dec; PCBC - Plattsburgh CBC, 15 Dec; SLCBC - Saranac Lake CBC, 28 Dec.

LOONS-DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: one FCBC, two PCBC, one ECBC reflective of the mild early winter. Snow Goose: five PCBC only report; down dramatically from last winter's influx. Gadwall: one PCBC, two WFC uncommon in winter. Com. Goldeneye: *intro*. **Barrow's Goldeneye**: *intro*.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*; ad Coll Bay, subad Tupper L 6 Dec, ad and subad there 11 Dec; one FCBC; one PCBC; 5 WFC; subad Tupper L 28 Jan; ad Valcour 10 Feb; ad Wickham Marsh 20 Feb. N. Harrier: one PCBC a good find. Rough-legged Hawk: max five ECBC; relatively common at lower elevations. **Gyr Falcon**: *intro*. Wild Turkey: max eight Lewis exit I-87 19 Feb; three overwintered at deer feeders Seventh L HAMI (GL), also seen Chateaugay. Iceland Gull: Bas I imm at

mouth of Saranac R 20 Dec (HK). Great Black-backed Gull: max 142 PCBC, strong showing.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: two PCBC; roosting in Wood Duck nest box Crown Pt peninsula 29 Jan (TR), scarce in Champlain lowlands. Snowy Owl: *intro*. N. Saw-whet Owl: Brown's Tract stream 29 Jan; Wheeler's Creek 16 Feb, scarce in interior Adirondacks in winter. Belted Kingfisher: one PCBC, one SLCBC reflect mild early winter. Black-backed Woodpecker: two SLCBC, Eighth L. carry 29 Jan. N. Flicker: one PCBC, returned to the Spaulding feeder in Wadhams for second straight winter, subsisting on sunflower seeds. Pileated Woodpecker: total of 25 on five CBCs, a good showing.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Gray Jay: max seven SLCBC; three Ferd's Bog 15 Feb. Blue Jay: more numerous at higher elevations. Com. Raven: max 21 SLCBC. Boreal Chickadee: three ECBC, seven SLCBC; also Ferd's Bog and No Luck Creek 12 Feb. Tufted Titmouse: two ECBC only report. Carolina Wren: two near Grog Harbor ESSE on the FCBC; another at Sutter suet feeder in Tupper L during Feb. E. Bluebird: one FCBC; two PCBC. Am. Robin: max 23 FCBC. N. Mockingbird: four PCBC; one Chateaugay all winter. Bohemian Waxwing: 50 Terry Mt CLIN 31 Jan (C&JH); 15 w Plattsburgh 13 Feb (C&JH); 15 Chateaugay 21-29 Feb (MH), reported Regionally in 11 of the past 13 winters. Cedar Waxwing: max 217 FCBC, plus 21 PCBC and 59 ECBC, slightly more common than Bohemians this winter. N. Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: None.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: max 54 PCBC and total of 95 on CBCs down only slightly from last year. Lapland Longspur: max six Route 9 CLIN 23-24 Feb. Snow Bunting: max 80 SLCBC. Red-winged Blackbird: two ECBC; arr Inlet feeder 27 Feb, early. Com. Grackle: injured bird Owls Head feeder to 7 Dec (SC); max six PCBC, one SLCBC unusual; Peru feeder 17 Dec more expected. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 22 PCBC, one SLCBC, only reports. Purple Finch: max 292 SLCBC. House Finch: max 116 PCBC; 14 arr Tupper L 28 Dec-29 Feb, first ever in winter (CD). Com. Redpoll: max 12 SLCBC. Pine Siskin: *intro*. Am. Goldfinch: max 243 PCBC; *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: max 907 SLCBC.

ADDENDUM: **Gyr Falcon**: dark bird Cumberland Head 20 Nov (WK!).

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

ALAN A. MAPES

Another warm winter season gave us little snow cover and an abundance of open water. There were over 40 reports of Bald Eagle, with increased sightings on the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers and on reservoirs, birds being more widely distributed due to open water. Well above average numbers of Red-tailed Hawk wintered, and wintering numbers of American Kestrel were average. It was not an invasion year for Black-capped Chickadee or Red-breasted Nuthatch. Carolina Wren was found in increasing numbers scattered through the Region, the least in the northern area. Eastern Bluebird is wintering in increasing numbers throughout most of the Region, including Lake George WARR. American Robin wintered throughout the Region in much higher numbers than usual, widespread and not limited to usual wintering areas but appeared on lawns periodically all winter. Modest numbers of American Pipit were noted. European Starling was down in numbers on CBCs in the Region. The usual numbers of Swamp Sparrow wintering in marshes along the Hudson River were reported. Winter finches were absent or in low numbers.

There were several notable rarities this season. An **Eared Grebe** was discovered on Saratoga Lake on 12 Dec, but its Basic plumage raised questions as to its identification. However, the owner of a camp overlooking the grebe's feeding area had seen the bird throughout the summer and her detailed description of the bird in breeding plumage confirmed it as an Eared Grebe. A **Tufted Duck** was a Regional first. A **Northern Hawk Owl** was found along Town Line Road just east of Fort Edward on 16 Nov and remained in that area throughout this reporting period. The bird was quite unafraid and was enjoyed at close range by many birders. Also observed in the same general area were up to six Snowy Owl and as many as 20 Short-eared Owl, along with Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier and a Northern Shrike. This area of farm fields is proving to be the premier wintering area for raptors in the region. The previously good wintering area on farm land near the village of Coxsackie, Greene County has held declining numbers of raptors for the last several years.

Contributors: K. Able, K. Beale, B. Boehm, P. Connor, B. Cook, K. & G. Hanson, R. Holburton, B. Lee, A. Mapes, A. Mason, L. Meade, B. Putnam, A. Ross, J. Sotis, R. Yunick, S. Zink.

Abbreviations: ACBC - Albany CBC, 15 Dec; CCCBC - Catskill-Coxsackie CBC, 17 Dec; ChCBC - Chatham CBC, 14 Dec; FREETC - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar; HFCBC - Hudson Falls CBC, 21 Dec; SaraL - Saratoga Lake; ScCBC - Schenectady CBC, 14 Dec; SSCBC - Saratoga Spa CBC, 14 Dec.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: last Alcove Res 14 Dec (KA), L George 16 Dec (LM), SaraL 22 Dec (BC). Pied-billed Grebe: SaraL 14 Dec (BP). Eared Grebe: *intro*. Red-necked Grebe: five SaraL 14 Dec (BP), one SaraL 22 Dec (BC). Double-crested Cormorant: ad Lock 7 Mohawk R 28 Dec (RY), imm Mohawk R at Cohoes 28 Dec, late. Great Blue Heron: one Cambridge 17 Dec (JS), 13 ScCBC, one Mohawk R 21 Dec (RY), three Hudson Falls 21 Dec (BP), two Schodack RENS 21 Dec (PC), one 10 Feb SCHO (BL). Mute Swan: 12 ChCBC, one Mohawk R 17 Dec (RY), 52 Hudson R at Catskill 3 Jan (KA), one Hudson R at Schuylerville 16 Feb (JS). Snow Goose: one Mohawk R through 14 Dec (RY), one CCCBC, imm L George WARR 13 Jan (BP), one SARA 26 Jan (BP), five WASH 5 Jan (JS), 30 (one white morph) Hudson R at Ft Miller 27 Feb (JS). Canada Goose: large numbers on rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Wood Duck: three Hudson R WASH 16 Feb (JS). Green-winged Teal: ten Alcove Res 15 Dec (KA), two Cohoes 28 Dec (KA). Am. Black Duck: 530 CCCBC. N. Pintail: one Alcove Res 15 Dec (KA), one Cohoes 28 Dec (KA), two Hudson R at Coxsackie 23 Feb (BC), two Hudson R WASH 27 Feb (JS). N. Shoveler: one Cohoes 28 Dec (KA). Gadwall: one SaraL 14 Dec (BP), 12 Alcove Res 15 Dec (KA). Am. Wigeon: three Alcove Res 15 Dec (KA), one Hudson R WASH 27 Feb (JS). Canvasback: eight SaraL 15 Dec (BP), two Hudson R at Coxsackie 23 Feb (BC). Redhead: one Hudson R at Coxsackie 23 Feb (BC). **Tufted Duck**: male SaraL 7-15 Dec (KA). Ring-necked Duck: 330 Alcove Res 15 Dec (KA), two Hudson R WASH 7 Feb (JS). Greater Scaup: six SaraL 14 Dec (BP). Lesser Scaup: Hudson R WASH 28 Feb (JS). Oldsquaw: one Mohawk R Schenectady 8 Dec (RY), one L George 9 Dec (BP). White-winged Scoter: four ChCBC. **Barrow's Goldeneye** Hudson R WASH 22 Feb (BP!). Bufflehead: five Nassau L RENS 5 Dec (PC), one Mohawk R Schenectady 14 Dec (RY), five SaraL 22 Dec (BC), two Lake George 21 Jan (LM). Hooded Merganser: one ScCBC 14 Dec, 14 Alcove Res 15 Dec (KA), two Hudson R WASH 27 Dec (BP), three Hudson R GREE 23 Feb, six Hudson R WASH 27 Feb (JS). Red-breasted Merganser: one Mohawk R Schenectady 14 Dec (RY), two Hudson R WASH 22 Feb. Ruddy Duck: one Alcove Res 15 Dec (KA).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: *intro*. N. Harrier: good numbers wintering, 16 Ft Edward 1 Feb (BP). Cooper's Hawk: six reports. N. Goshawk: one SCHO 24 Dec (BB), one WARR 7 Feb. Red-shouldered Hawk: one near Saratoga Spa SP all winter (SZ). Rough-legged Hawk: above average numbers in WASH, max 20 near Ft Edward 13 Dec (KA); below average numbers in GREE. Ring-necked Pheasant: three reports. Am. Coot: two SSCBC. Killdeer: one SSCBC, three COLU 17 Dec, one Coxsackie 22 Feb (BL). Bonaparte's Gull: two SaraL 13 Dec (KA), one Coxsackie 23 Feb (BC). Iceland Gull: one Bas I Mohawk R Schenectady 1 Jan (RY), two Mohawk

R Colonie 13 & 17 Feb, two RENS 24 Feb. Lesser Black-backed Gull: Mohawk R Colonie 13 & 17 Feb. Glaucous Gull: one Mohawk R Schenectadt-Albany 28 Dec, two there 1 Jan, one 25 Jan, and one 17 Feb (RY).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Barn Owl: one Shamrock Hill WARR 3 Feb (GL). Snowy Owl: up to six near Ft Edward all winter (BP); six scattered reports of single birds. N. Hawk Owl: *intro*; one Hague 20 Jan (LM). Short-eared Owl: three Ft Edward 7 Dec (BP), max 20 there 12 Jan and remaining through period. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Saratoga 1 Dec (G&KH), one WASH 9 Feb (BP), one calling Petersburg 22 Feb (AR). Belted Kingfisher: six ScCBC, three other reports. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one COLU throughout period, one FREEC 8 Dec, three ChCBC, two CCCBC, four Livingston-Greenport 16 Feb. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one CCCBC, one New Scotland 19 Jan.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: 35 CCCBC, 214 HFCBC, scarce. Fish Crow: three ScCBC. Com. Raven: 15 at deer carcass T Berlin RENS 25 Jan (PC); two Jenny L SARA 27 Dec, one each 11 Jan and 22 Feb (RY), increasing there. Black-capped Chickadee: low numbers Jenny L (RY). Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce at Jenny L and FREEC, one ChCBC. Carolina Wren: two at Lake George Village 2 Dec (BP), one Gallupville 31 Dec (BB). Winter Wren: two CCCBC, four sightings Niskayuna 8 Dec-1 Jan. Marsh Wren: four CCCBC. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: three CCCBC. Hermit Thrush: one ACBC (KA). Gray Catbird: one Gallupville 1 Dec (BB), one ScCBC 14 Dec. Brown Thrasher: one Niskayuna 31 Dec (RY). Am. Pipit: one ACBC. Cedar Waxwing: 150 Knox 19 Jan (KA), 62 HFCBC. N. Shrike: reported from 11 locations SARA, WASH, ALBA, COLU after 7 Dec; one FREEC, where present five of last six winters.

VIREOS-WARBBLERS: Com. Yellowthroat: one ChCBC, one CCCBC.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rufous-sided Towhee: one SARA 1 Jan (BL). Vesper Sparrow: two near Ft Edward 22 Dec (RG). Savannah Sparrow: two near Ft Edward 22 Dec (RG). Fox Sparrow: two CCCBC. Snow Bunting: numbers very low, 20 WASH 8 Feb (BP), 35 Ft Edward 28 Dec (JS), 60 Jefferson COLU 3 Feb (A. Mason). Red-winged Blackbird: arr FREEC two days earlier than average, one Gansevoort SARA 19 Feb (BP). E. Meadowlark: seven HFCBC (BP). Rusty Blackbird: one Gallupville 22 Dec (BB), one Saratoga 1 Jan (SZ). Com. Grackle: one ACBC. Purple Finch: scarce early in period, increasing later. Com. Redpoll: one Gansevoort 23 Dec (BP), 14 Schodack RENS 30 Dec (PC). Pine Siskin: scarce for most of period, increasing later in period but generally low in numbers except at Petersburg, where they appeared 26 Dec and built up to 100 daily, decreasing to 30 by end of period (AR); one SCHO 9 Dec (RY), one SARA 31 Dec (BP). Evening Grosbeak: scarce, three SCHO 9 Dec (RY), three ScCBC, 20 E Berne through the period (KA), 40 L George WARR 16 Feb (LM), 100 E Poestenkill through Dec and Jan, diminishing in numbers during Feb (AR); one white (albinistic) Hague 17 Feb (LM).

Five Rivers Center, Game Farm Road, Delmar, New York 12054

REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

JOHN P. ASKILDSEN

The weather this winter in Region 9 was fairly typical of recent previous years — long stretches of warm temperatures, sunshine, with little or no precipitation. What precipitation did occur was generally in the form of rain, with only a few periods with trace amounts of snow. December was downright balmy until 15 Dec, when a massive northwestern front pushed through the Region and sent the mercury into a nose dive. The rest of December was characterized by cold temperatures, with decreasing amounts of open water on lakes and reservoirs. By late January, those bodies of water that had frozen began to thaw. February was, for the most part, unseasonably warm. The lack of precipitation took its toll on area reservoirs such as the Rondout and Neversink, which were virtually empty in early February. If there is no change in reservoir levels by the time you read this, we Downstaters will be in very deep trouble!

Effects of the mild winter are evident in reports of ducks (or rather the lack thereof), raptors, and half-hardy species. No ice meant no waterfowl concentrations this winter. Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Northern Flicker were reported in excellent numbers across the Region. Downy, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers also were reported in increased numbers. Will the Ash-Yellow and Woolly Agelid diseases be a boon to woodpeckers? Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse and White-breasted Nuthatch were all present in high numbers this season, as exemplified by the Putnam CBC total of 765 Black-capped Chickadee, 305 Tufted Titmouse and 192 White-breasted Nuthatch. Red-breasted Nuthatch was very scarce in contrast to last winter, when they were abundant. Carolina Wren was extremely abundant. Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush and American Robin were all reported in impressive numbers even in northern sections of the Region. There was a high number of reports of N. Mockingbird, Gray Catbird and Brown Thrasher. Northern Cardinal and Rufous-sided Towhee were abundant and common, respectively. American Tree Sparrow was abundant while Field Sparrow numbers were only average. More Fox Sparrow than usual were noted, but Song and Swamp Sparrows were reported in average numbers. White-throated Sparrow was found in high numbers across the Region this winter, and Dark-eyed Junco was present in good numbers. However, numbers of birds at feeders throughout the Region were low.

An amazing occurrence of 20 American Woodcock, which landed on a second-story porch and fed on suet feeders in Callicoon Center after the 26 Feb snowstorm, was related by Lois Burrill. Some woodcock overwintered in the more temperate areas in the southern part of the Region, and spring arrivals were in by 20 Feb at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye.

Turkey Vulture was well reported throughout the Region, and Bald Eagle numbers were almost spectacular. Although Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were too numerous to list, the general feeling was that they were less conspicuous at feeders due to the lack of concentrations of feeder species. Northern Harrier produced many singles throughout the Region, probably a reflection of the general lack of snow. Higher than normal numbers of Red-shouldered Hawk were reported from all counties and many CBCs. Red-tailed Hawk were "more than abundant" this winter in most counties. CBC's showed high numbers because of the mild late fall weather and their failure to migrate earlier. Their migration was obvious during mid December, and a definite migration took place on 22 Dec, when 45 were reported from the WEST section of the Bronx-Westchester CBC. American Kestrel also was reported in good numbers. Eastern Screech and Great Horned Owl well reported. A Snowy Owl reported from downtown Kingston in mid February was the only report for the Region this season (SJS). Considering the numbers of Snowy Owl reported from other Regions, one seems surprisingly low. Many reports of Barred Owl came from the northern section of the Region. Short-eared Owl was scarce.

There was an "invasion" of Great Cormorant into freshwater areas such as the Hudson River and reservoirs. It is seen quite regularly on the shore on Long Island Sound. For example, 100 were censused on the mid Jan waterfowl count along the WEST shore. Although Great Cormorant was first noted away from Long Island Sound in this Region in 1987, they had not been found in large numbers until this winter. By conservative estimates no less than 30 individuals wintered on the Hudson between Croton Point and Bannerman's Island. In addition, this species has been appearing on reservoirs in WEST, although no sightings were obtained this winter. We simply do not know why the recent incursion to freshwater has taken place.

Joining the cormorants on the Hudson River this fall and winter was Bonaparte's Gull. Both the Peekskill CBC and the Rockland CBC recorded this species, four on the former count and 40 on the later. Both counts were done on the same day, which was windy, foggy and rainy. Did these "pseudo"-hurricane conditions drive the birds up the river? Perhaps. But how does one explain the sighting on the Hudson in DUTC in November?

Many of the season's Highlights are leftovers from the fall season that weren't pushed out owing to the mild winter. Two Eurasian Wigeon were reported. A first year male **Tufted Duck** was certainly quite a Christmas gift for a birder who saw it at the Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Rye (TWB) on Christmas day. This bird was very cooperative, seen by many and stayed through the entire period. It may be the first Region 9 record and is a first for WEST. **Black Vulture** once again appeared at the West Haverstraw dump. A Forster's Tern was noted off Rye on 9 Dec (LB), but was not seen thereafter. Unexpected in fall, the **Western Kingbird** found at Disbrow Park, Rye, on the day of the Bronx-Westchester CBC, 22 Dec (AG, LB, TWB), is almost unthinkable in Region 9 in winter. The bird, surviving on insects that were living in discarded bottles at the dump, was not found again after 23 Dec, and was a first record for the CBC in its 68 years. A **Loggerhead Shrike** was found in the town of Wanasink SULL on 5 Dec (ES). Curiously, the bird was found looking in the observers' window! A Palm Warbler noted on the Dutchess CBC on 17 Dec (ROM) was the first observed on a CBC there in 25 years. A Dickcissel was found on the previously mentioned Bronx-Westchester CBC in Yonkers at the Catskill Aqueduct on 22 Dec (RF). Two **Lark Sparrow** were reported from the Region. Other rarities included in this report are Red-necked Grebe, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, hybrid **Common X Barrow's Goldeneye**, Osprey, Golden Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, **Spotted Sandpiper**, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Long-eared Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Raven, Northern Shrike, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Chipping Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow and Pine Grosbeak.

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Abbreviations: BBUA - Bog Brook Unique Area, DUTC; BWCBC - Bronx-Westchester CBC, 22 Dec; CIMS - Constitution Island Marsh Sanctuary; CPT - Croton

Point; GSCBC - Greenwich-Stamford CBC, 15 Dec; LIS - Long Island Sound; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; MPt - Milton Point, Rye; OCBC - Orange County CBC, 14 Dec; PeCBC - Peekskill CBC, 15 Dec; Pld - Playland, Rye; PuCBC - Putnam County CBC, 28 Dec; RCBC - Rockland County CBC, 14 Dec; RLSP - Rockland Lake State Park; SCBC - Sullivan County CBC 28 Dec; UCBC - Ulster County CBC, 28 Dec; WCBC - Waterman CBC, 17 Dec.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: seven BWCBC. Com. Loon: ten BWCBC, three PeCBC, one PuCBC. Pied-billed Grebe: many reports from all areas; 12 PeCBC. Horned Grebe: 16 BWCBC, same number just at Pld Beach 31 Jan; one Tomahawk L on OCBC, inland. Red-necked Grebe: one Sylvan L DUTC after 8 Feb (ROM, Linda Gette ,mob), one MPt 22 Dec joined by another 1 Jan (TWB, JPA). Great Cormorant: *intro*. Double-crested Cormorant: too many reports to list. Great Blue Heron: 75 BWCBC, eight WCBC, 13 RCBC. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one Yonkers 22 Dec, five Pld L 28 Dec; one, species uncertain, PeCBC 15 Dec. Mute Swan: max 165 Purdy's WEST early Jan; 62 PeCBC, 66 WCBC, 58 RCBC, 62 PuCBC. Snow Goose: 150-200, including 25 blue morph, Salt Pt 5 Dec (MVW); two Katonah on PeCBC, two Rye 22 Dec, two (one imm blue morph) Pld 4 Jan, eight there 10 Feb. Brant: 147 MPt 7 Dec, down to ten by 17 Feb. Canada Goose: 7500 reported from all WEST CBC's combined; 7500 OCBC, 6700 WCBC, 3338 RCBC. Wood Duck: small numbers reported from many locations throughout Region. Green-winged Teal: two RLSP 12 Jan (PD), nine MC 8 Dec, 19 BWCBC, one L Walton DUTC 21 Feb. N. Pintail: one DuCBC, five PuCBC, three PeCBC and eight BWCBC. Blue-winged Teal: four at the Muscoot Res in Katonah on PeCBC, one at nearby Cross River outlet Jan 3 remained there through mid Feb. N. Shoveler: 50 RLSP 14 Dec (FD, FB), 64 Scarsdale 22 Dec (JM). Gadwall: 149 RLSP 15 Dec (FD), 174 total for RCBC!; 165 RLSP 12 Jan (PD). Eurasian Wigeon: drake RLSP to 6 Dec (EDT); drake BWCBC (TWB, mob). Am. Wigeon: 162 BWCBC, 31 PeCBC. Canvasback: 500 in the Bear Mt Bridge area on 30 Dec (EDT); 135 RCBC, 120 PuCBC, 124 PeCBC, 500 Mills Estate DUTC 24 Dec, 500 Beacon Bridge 7 Feb (JMK). Redhead: one RLSP 15 Dec-12 Jan (PD, EDT). Ring-necked Duck: very low numbers reported on many counts, max 142 PuCBC, 62 WCBC; two RCBC and none on the BWCBC. **Tufted Duck:** *intro*. Greater Scaup: one's and two's reported from some inland counts; 4000 BWCBC, 3600 on Pld L. Lesser Scaup: virtually absent from almost all CBC's away from coast; 304 BWCBC at Pld L, one PeCBC, flock of 30 Kensico Res in Armonk all season, 474 LIS shore on mid Jan waterfowl count. Oldsquaw: 85 off Pld Beach 31 Jan; one Sylvan L 7-16 Dec (CP, BM). Surf Scoter: two MPt after 8 Feb. White-winged Scoter: seven Rye 22 Dec. Com. Goldeneye: 244 LIS shore on waterfowl count; 167 BWCBC, otherwise scarce inland. **Com. X Barrow's Goldeneye:** one observed well off Larchmont 11 Jan (TWB, full details sent to waterfowl census compiler). Bufflehead: low numbers inland away from LIS and Hudson River; 21 RCBC, 79 PeCBC, 550 BWCBC. Hooded Merganser: very high numbers on inland lakes and reservoirs; 90 RCBC, 103 BWCBC, 59 PuCBC, 130 PeCBC. Com. Merganser: 2000+ RLSP 5 Jan (FB, CH), 1500+ Muscoot Res in Katonah, 1450 BBUA Res 30 Dec (both FN); many smaller flocks of 25 to 300 reported

as well. Red-breasted Merganser: 233 BWCBC, one at Tivoli Bay DUTC 16 Feb (SJ). Ruddy Duck: 55 RCBC, 109 Yonkers 22 Dec, one Larchmont 11 Jan.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture**: six W Haverstraw dump, with two Turkey Vulture, 1 Jan (EDT, R. Senerchia); one Tuxedo Park 19 Feb (Joan & Dewey Clark). Turkey Vulture: 31 RCBC, 10 PeCBC, three PuCBC, one BWCBC, where rare, 14 over Bedford Village 15 Dec (FN). Osprey: singles L Tappan and Piermont Pier 14 Dec (both PD), late. Bald Eagle: conservative estimate of about 175 in upper Delaware watershed (Peter Nye); 55 ad, 43 imm on aerial survey 13 Jan; six Iona I on the Hudson sporadically; three CPT infrequently all winter; about five along Hudson R DUTC all winter and even one or two over Hudson R in Yonkers; imm BWCBC (FN, TWB, JPA, mob) first in 40 years; several at reservoirs in Bedford and North Salem. N. Harrier: max 15 hunting at dusk over the "black dirt area" on Mission Lands Rd in Pine Plains on 30 Dec (EDT). N. Goshawk: one Harmony Road DUTC 30 Dec (FN), one Verbank DUTC 15 Jan, imm Yonkers 24 Feb (MB), one Bedford Village 20 Jan (JPA), one OCBC. Red-shouldered Hawk: two reports Rye in Dec; two DuCBC; one BBUA in Jan and five reported various locations DUTC in Feb; three PuCBC; one Bedford Village 22 Feb. Red-tailed Hawk: *intro*; 34 WCBC, 32 RCBC, 26 PuCBC, 69 OCBC Rough-legged Hawk: four in fields along Mission Lands Rd ORAN all season (EDT), three SULL, six DUTC, two WEST reports this winter. **Golden Eagle**: pair remained Stissing Mt through the period, one near the Hudson R in New Hamburg 7 Feb (JMK); ad flying over and hunting along Interstate 684 Bedford 28 Dec (JPA), one near Mt Peter 5 Jan (OCAS). Am. Kestrel: seven DuCBC, one RCBC, one BWCBC, four PeCBC, 18 OCBC; nine DUTC in Dec, 12+ in Jan and 13 in Feb. Merlin: one Rye 22 Dec (AF); one Blauvel ROCK several times after 24 Dec (CH); one Montgomery 14 Dec (EMBC); one Grieg's Farm DUTC 5 Dec (FG, MVW, EP). Peregrine Falcon: ad Pld L on 21 Dec (JPA), probably same bird frequenting downtown Stamford, CT; one Goshen Landfill ORAN 25 Dec (JPT). Ring-necked Pheasant: reported in low numbers. Ruffed Grouse: five DuCBC, 19 PuCBC. Wild Turkey: many reports, 60 Milan DUTC, 62 Bethel SULL and 12+ Ward Pound Ridge Reservation WEST 17 Feb (Gail Benson) all high numbers for the respective localities. Clapper Rail: two MC 22 Dec. Virginia Rail: three MC 22 Dec, one Thompson Pd DUTC early Jan (CV, EDT, JPA), one BBUA 1 Jan (FN). Am. Coot: present in very good numbers, 88 DuCBC, 60+ RLSP through the period, 70 Sylvan L all Jan, 35 Kensico Res all season (JPA, DQ). Killdeer: absent in many areas, especially inland; eight RCBC, seven OCBC; seven Pld L 29 Feb. **Spotted Sandpiper**: one Pld L 11-18 Jan, very late. Ruddy Turnstone: four Rye on 22 Dec. Sanderling: three Rye 22 Dec. Purple Sandpiper: 12 each in Rye and Larchmont 22 Dec, 42 Pld 4 Jan. Dunlin: 22 Rye 22 Dec. Com. Snipe: good numbers present at many locations through the end of Dec; up to four were present at CIMS until late Jan (JR), one MC 22 Dec, one Yonkers 22 Dec. Am. Woodcock: *intro*. Bonaparte's Gull: up to 12 off Port Chester 15 Dec, 16 off Rye 22 Dec. Ring-billed Gull: 5000 OCBC, a dramatic increase from previous years. Iceland Gull: one Pawling 1 Jan (SG), imm on ice at W Haverstraw Marina 10 Feb, another at Minnisceongo Creek, Grassy Pt 14 Feb (EDT). Lesser

Black-backed Gull: one at MPt, another Pld L (TWB, mob); one at Piermont Pier 12 Jan (CW). Glaucous Gull: 2nd year bird Minnisceongo Creek 27 Jan; ad at W Haverstraw Marina 28 Feb (EDT). Forster's Tern: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: *intro*. Barred Owl: one Bedford Hills 15 Dec (THM) and a pair continues at the Mianus River Gorge in North Castle. Long-eared Owl: one MC 7 Dec (TWB), one found dead in yard of Edna Hommel DUTC (fide MVW). Short-eared Owl: three-seven at Mission Lands Rd Pine Island all season (EDT), two Galeville Airport T Shawangunk all season (SJS, JPT), one Piermont Pier on RCBC (ED, PD, CH). N. Saw-whet Owl: one Yonkers 22 Dec, one Bedford Village 18 Feb; one Thompson Pd 30 Jan-20 Feb (JMK). Belted Kingfisher: quite numerous, ten DuCBC, 12 PuCBC. Red-headed Woodpecker: four at NPSP DUTC all season; imm at Rhinebeck feeder 19-21 Dec (fide HM), another at a different Rhinebeck feeder daily during Feb, same bird? Pileated Woodpecker: 23 PuCBC.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: one DuCBC (CV). **W. Kingbird:** *intro*. Horned Lark: 50 UCBC (SJS); 800 Grieg's Farm in Red Hook 5 Dec (EP, MVW, FG), 300 there on 31 Dec (HM); 300 Dover Plains 15 Dec (MVW). Am. Crow: 900 Middletown roost. Fish Crow: 12 RCBC, one Yonkers 22 Dec. Com. Raven: reported daily at Claryville SULL (JW), seven Debruce early Feb, first there (FC); one near Pawling 1 Jan (PCBC). Carolina Wren: 34 DuCBC, 75 PeCBC, 139 BWCBC and 56 OCBC. House Wren: one UCBC. Winter Wren: five PuCBC. Marsh Wren: one PuCBC, three MC 8 Dec. Golden-crowned Kinglet: seven WCBC, ten SCBC, 15 PeCBC, 14 BWCBC. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one UCBC, three PeCBC, five BWCBC. Brown Thrasher: one PuCBC, three BWCBC, one Carmel 16 Jan. Am. Pipit: one Piermont Pier 8 Jan (CH), one MC 8 Dec (TWB), 33 OCBC. Cedar Waxwing: flocks of 100s commonly reported. N. Shrike: eight singles, Kripplebush, Woodstock and New Paltz ULST and Galeville Airport Shawangunk (all *fide* SJS), PuCBC, Larchmont B-W late Dec, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation 16 Dec-late Feb (DP, TB, JPA, TWB, mob). **Loggerhead Shrike:** *intro*. Shrike, species: singles Callicoon SULL 22-26 Dec and OCBC (EMBC). European Starling: 13548 RCBC, 3950 BWCBC, 3945 DuCBC.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: too many to list-reported from all areas. Palm Warbler: *intro*. Com. Yellowthroat: one BMSP 6 Jan (EDT, Jack Focht), one Bashakill 28 Dec, one PeCBC. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Harrison 22 Dec, another at Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Rye 1 Mar (Ken Soltesz, TWB).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Dickcissel: *intro*. Chipping Sparrow: one Armonk on GSCBC (B & SL); a phenomenal six BWCBC, all from Scarsdale area. **Lark Sparrow:** one SUNY Purchase campus 15 Feb through the end of the period (Kevin Fung & Stefan Woltman, mob), found by two natural sciences students, first record for WEST; one at a DUTC feeder 29 Feb (*fide* MVW), first DUTC since May 1966. Savannah Sparrow: one Haight Hill 5 Feb (FT), two Pawling 1 Jan (SG), six PeCBC, two Yonkers 22 Dec. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: one MC 22 Dec. Lincoln's Sparrow: two Pawling 1 Jan (SG). White-throated Sparrow: 484 PeCBC, 358 DuCBC, 1400 BWCBC, 342 PuCBC. White-crowned Sparrow: two OCBC. Dark-eyed Junco: 342 PeCBC, 840 WCBC, 352 RCBC, 800 BWCBC, 765 PuCBC. Snow Bunting: one Pld L BWCBC, one MC 8 Dec,

one PeCBC; two Grieg's Farm DUTC 5 Dec, five there 31 Dec. Red-winged Blackbird: some overwintered, most arr in Region on 20 Feb. E. Meadowlark: one RCBC in Ramapo. Rusty Blackbird: one Stissing 6 Jan (TH), 12 PeCBC, 58 roosted in Patterson swamp on evening of 1 Jan (FN); most arr by late Feb. Com. Grackle: few overwintered; arr 23 Feb. Brown-headed Cowbird: present in lesser numbers, 127 DuCBC, 140 Poughquag 22 Dec (CP). Pine Grosbeak: ten feeding on Mountain Ash fruit Millbrook 7 Jan (*vide* FG). Purple Finch: almost absent in coastal part of Region, better numbers reported in northern areas. Com. Redpoll: three PuCBC. Pine Siskin: four PuCBC, five BWCBC, "dozens" reported from Claryville in early Dec (JW). Am. Goldfinch: quite abundant, 110 WCBC, 178 RCBC, 284 PuCBC, 460 BWCBC, 204 PeCBC. Evening Grosbeak: many reports of scattered flocks numbering from 10 to 30 birds across the n tier of Region, absent from PUTN, WEST and ROCK; 50 at DeBruce in early Jan and 29 in Monticello same time period. House Sparrow: 316 DuCBC, 186 PeCBC, 460 PuCBC, 1100 BWCBC.

202 Millertown Road, Bedford Village, New York 10506

REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

It's now official. As we reach the end of 1991, we find that both the year and the winter were the warmest on record. This does not mean that there were neither cold days nor extended periods of frozen ponds. It's just that the days, for the most part, were passable although the birding was only fair. The winter also was rather dry compared to normal, with December's rain a half inch short, January two-thirds of an inch short, and February a quarter inch short. The 7.36 inches which did fall in the three months came mostly as rain.

The most evident effect of the warm weather was the large number of lingering migrants seen on the various Christmas Bird Counts. In addition, there were a number of unusual wintering birds and some very early migrants, of which some possibly were just overlooked as wintering birds.

In spite of the warm weather, the new year brought us what was possible the best Snowy Owl season in years. This was definitely a flight year for Long Island. Reports started on 1 Dec and continued as late as 19 Feb. Early to mid February reports included, from west to east, two at Floyd Bennett Field/Breezy Point, four at Jones Beach, two at Cedar Beach, two at

Shinnecock, and one at Orient Point. That's eleven widely spaced birds, all at about the same time. Other earlier reports came from Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge to the west and Montauk Point to the east. It's hard to decide exactly how many owls were actually seen in the Region this winter, since a bird to the east could have been a bird to the west at a later date and vice versa. As a guess, a minimum of a eighteen to two dozen Snowy Owl passed through the Region this season. In many cases, the owls were clearly visible by scope from the parking lots which saved a lot of wear and tear on birders, if not on the owls themselves. Most of the Snowy Owl seen by your Regional Editors appeared much whiter than those we have seen in recent years and were probably older birds. This is another indication of a flight year. We were not just seeing a few wandering immature birds. At dusk on 10 Feb, Peter Martin watched a Snowy Owl catch and eat a Bonaparte's Gull on the dunes at Jones Beach.

Floyd Bennett Field has become the place to see raptors in the Winter. Jean and Ronald Bourque's report to us for the season lists Northern Harrier (decreased numbers), Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel (numbers down), Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Barn Owl, Snowy Owl (noted above), Long-eared Owl (in February), Short-eared Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl (in January). Red-tailed Hawk was by far the most common and conspicuous of the raptors during the winter across the Region.

Northern Gannets were seen for the first time on a Staten Island Christmas Bird Count; in recent years this species has been seen with increasing frequency in inshore waters, such as Jones Inlet, western Long Island Sound and New York harbor off Staten Island, as opposed to more open oceanic waters.

There were unusual patterns of waterfowl distribution this Winter. We can separate the phenomenon into two groups, domestic and foreign. Under the former, there were numerous winter reports of Wood Duck. In the aggregate, we have seen a winter season high count for the region. Incomplete records from only some of the Christmas Bird Counts totaled 45, including 17 on the Queens CBC. This number may be higher when all the reports are in. For the foreign species there are a number of items. First, there was a report of a Eurasian Green-winged Teal at Speonk River 13-23 Feb, first reported by James Clinton. Second there were 14 Eurasian Wigeon reported from Brooklyn to Mattituck, about 8-10 more than usual. Third, there were five distinct location sightings of Tufted Duck along the SUFF shore from Robert

Moses State Park to Mastic (20 Jan to 17 Feb); while this may represent only one duck moving around; John Ruscica and James Clinton, who made more than one sighting, believe there were at least two different birds and provided separate details for each.

Very few Purple Sandpiper were seen at the usual jetties after December, compared to prior periods. Most reports were for fewer than a half dozen as against the several dozen or more usually seen after December. This was the second winter we saw numbers of alcids, with most reports coming from Montauk. This year, we also saw more records of Northern Shrike than in recent years, but not one for Loggerhead Shrike. Except for a very few spotty records, there were no reports of winter finches.

We did have our usual spate of unusual birds. The most notable was a report of a **Pacific Loon** seen by Starr Saphir and Robert Machover in mid December. A report was submitted to NYSARC. A single sighting of a gray **Gyr Falcon** was reported at Floyd Bennett Field on 17 Jan by an experienced birder, but the report comes via the NYRBA without details. Meanwhile, a very dark, exceptionally large Peregrine Falcon wintered to the east on the south shore. This bird perched on the Jones Beach water tower with a very much smaller pale Peregrine during the season. If this pair nests, this would be a new site. A **Franklin's Gull** was discovered by Paul Gillen, Jr. on 12 Dec at the McDonald's Restaurant on Route 24 near Riverhead. It was reasonably tame, but appeared to wander. When it could be found, it allowed good views. The bird remained till 10 Jan. Mr. Gillen also reported an albino Ring-billed Gull during January and February at the head of Town Creek on Young's Avenue, Southold. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, the second of the year, was found on the Queens Christmas Count but no written details were submitted. A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was reported at a feeder on W. 77th St, Manhattan, on 2 Jan by Sarah Plimpton (*vide* NYRBA).

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Abbreviations: APP - Alley Pond Park; BNL - Brookhaven National Laboratory; BCBC - Brooklyn Christmas Bird Count, 14 Dec; CCBC - Captree Christmas Bird Count, 15 Dec; CP - Central Park, Manhattan; FBF - Floyd Bennett Field; FP - Forest Park; HSP - Hecksher State Park; HLSP - Hempstead Lake State Park; IPD - Island Park Dump; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFKWS - John F. Kennedy Wildlife

Sanctuary (Tobay); JBCh - Jones Beach; JBWE - Jones Beach West End; LI - Long Island; MCBC - Montauk Christmas Bird Count, 14 Dec; MPt - Montauk Point; MutP - Muttontown Preserve; NCBC - Northern Nassau Christmas Bird Count, 21 Dec; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PBP - Pelham Bay Park; PtL - Point Lookout; QCBC - Queens Christmas Bird Count, 14 Dec; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SI - Staten Island; SCBC - Southern Nassau Christmas Bird Count, 29 Dec.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Pacific Loon:** *intro*. Red-necked Grebe: two MPt 14 Dec, two Brooklyn 12 Jan, one E Moriches 26 Jan to 3 Feb (JF, mob), one PtL first two weeks Feb (mob), one MPt 23 Feb (NYRBA). Shearwater species: a small shearwater seen from shore MPt 5 Dec (EL, AWI). N. Gannet: *intro*, 4000+ MPt 5 Dec (Jeanette Doran, Art Gruebel, HR), 5000 BCBC. Great Cormorant: becoming common enough on the south shore to be mentioned only casually by contributors. Great Egret: max 32 SCBC, very high total; other singles. Snowy Egret: one SCBC. Little Blue Heron: singles QCBC, SCBC, and IPD 19 Dec (EL, AWI). Green-backed Heron: one Bronx-Weschester CBC 22 Dec. Tundra Swan: 500-700 Hook Pd, Montauk (mob). Greater White-fronted Goose: one Hook Pd 12 Jan (A. Morris). Snow Goose: blue morph JBWR 8 Dec (AK). Wood Duck: *intro*. Green-winged Teal: *intro*. Eurasian Wigeon: *intro*. Tufted Duck: *intro*. Com. Eider: 30 MPt 5 Dec building to 200+ on 25 Jan, 70 on 9 Feb (NYRBA), one JBWE 7-29 Dec. King Eider: 15 MPt 5 Dec, building to 28 on 14 Dec, some to mid Feb; nine PtL 7 Dec, 11 there 19 Jan, some lingered to end of period. Harlequin Duck: seven PtL 7 Dec, up to 11 overwintered. Barrow's Goldeneye: one wintered Three Mile Harbor (mob) and another at the Bronx end of the Whitestone bridge (SW).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one Glen Cove 21 Feb (David Allen). Bald Eagle: one Riverhead 28 Dec, Three Mile Harbor 25 Jan, probably wintered on e LI; one PBP 8 Feb (NYRBA). Cooper's Hawk: numerous, widespread reports, definitely more this winter. N. Goshawk: one wintered at JFKWS, others reported. Red-shouldered Hawk: one IPD 19 Dec (EL, AWI), one HLSP SCBC, one MPt 17 Feb (SW). Broad-winged Hawk: one MCBC; one IPD 19 Dec (EL, AWI), one JBCh 2 Feb (SS, AWI). Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*, others reported. Am. Kestrel: few birds at many sites. Merlin: *intro*, others reported. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*, others reported. Clapper Rail: one Dune Road 7 Feb (JR). Virginia Rail: several seen on CBCs. Com. Moorhen: one CCBC. Semipalmated Plover: one NCBC and 23 Dec. Am. Oystercatcher: BCBC, SCBC; arrived on territory 23 Feb (NYRBA). Greater Yellowlegs: usual numbers. Lesser Yellowlegs: two Orient CBC 28 Dec. Whimbrel: one CCBC. Sanderling: much fewer than usual along the beaches in NASS. Purple Sandpiper: *intro*. Am. Woodcock: one in display flight along the Wantagh Parkway 28 Jan (PM), other flight displays latter in season. **Franklin's Gull:** *intro*. Little Gull: one ShIn 7 Dec, Easthampton 19 Feb, Hook Pd 29 Feb (NYRBA). Com. Black-headed Gull: one or more JBCh and PtL all winter (mob); one ShIn all winter (mob); one Sheepshead Bay BCBC; one Manhattan 27 Jan-9 Feb (NYRBA). Iceland Gull: one JBCh 8 Dec, one MPt 5 Jan, two imm, ad ShIn Jan and Feb (PG), one CP reservoir, one Fort Pd, Montauk 16-29 Feb. Lesser Black-backed Gull: two BCBC, three NCBC. Glaucous Gull: one Great Kills P SI 8 Jan (HF), one MPt 5 Jan, imm ShIn 14 Jan (PG), one Hook Pd 23 Feb.

Black-legged Kittiwake: four SCBC, one JBWE Feb 2 (SS, AWI), two JBWE 20 Feb (PM), others. Com. Tern: one MPt 8 Dec (JF). Forster's Tern: one PtL 6 Dec (JF), one ShIn 7 Dec, one PtL 7 Dec. Dovekie: three MPt 5 Dec (EL). **Thick-billed Murre**: one MPt 29 Feb (AB). Razorbill: nine MCBC, seen regularly there through the period, max 28 on 5 Jan (NYRBA).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: female on nest PBP 21 Feb (DT). Snowy Owl: *intro*. Long-eared Owl: *intro*, fewer than last winter. Short-eared Owl: *intro*. N. Saw-whet Owl: four SCBC, two PBP 21 Feb (DT), others. Red-headed Woodpecker: imm MutP NCBC, one CP late Dec (NYRBA).

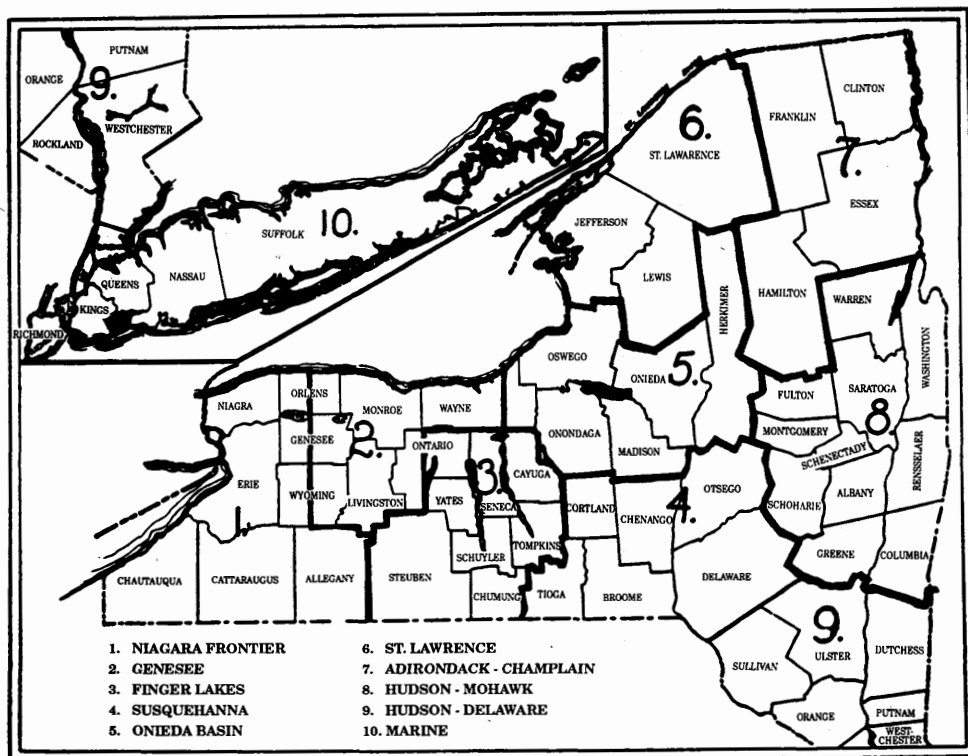
FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **Least Flycatcher**: one Acabonack from Nov to MCBC (Hugh Mc Guinness). E. Phoebe: one MCBC, one BNL 10 Feb (JC), two APP 14 Feb (AWg, SY), one APP 21 Feb (DT). W. Kingbird: one Gardner's P, W Babylon 8-22 Dec; one Ft Tilden 11-14 Dec; one MCBC; one QCBC; one Shinnecock 1 Jan. (NYRBA). Tree Swallow: last 13 JBWR 12 Jan (NYRBA). House Wren: on a few CBCs. Marsh Wren: on a few CBCs. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one MCBC. E. Bluebird: some wintered in central SUFF. Am. Robin: partial albino in a flock of 75 robins MutP 7 Jan (Allan Lindberg). N. Shrike: singles JFKWS 2-26 Jan, Caumsett 12 Jan (Tim O'Conner), HSP 23-24 Feb, N Pt 26 Feb, Big Reed Pd, MPt (NYRBA).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Orange-crowned Warbler: one MCBC, one SCBC. **Black-throated Gray Warbler**: *intro*. Pine Warbler: at suet and thistle feeder Roslyn Heights 17 Feb (HR). Palm Warbler: max three SCBC; one MPt 5 Jan (JF). Ovenbird: one SCBC. Com. Yellowthroat: last SCBC. Yellow-breasted Chat: a half dozen reports scattered from Brooklyn to Montauk in Dec and early Jan.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Black-headed Grosbeak**: *intro*. Dickcissel: one PtL Nov to 11 Jan (mob). **Clay-colored Sparrow**: one Ditch Plains 14 Dec (TB, G.Tudor, mob). Vesper Sparrow: one MCBC. Savannah Sparrow: 31 Ipswich race SCBC; we are seeing very many more of these birds. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: a few. Seaside Sparrow: a few. Lapland Longspur: one CCBC, two Smith Pt Co P 16-23 Feb, one to end of period (NYRBA). Snow Bunting: flocks SI, JBWE, CB (mob). E. Meadowlark: two dozen wintered FBF (J&RB), others noted. Yellow-headed Blackbird: one BCBC (no details or observer *vide* NYRBA). Rusty Blackbird: 30 wintered at Shu Swamp, Mill Neck. Boat-tailed Grackle: a group wintered in Jamaica Bay area. Com. Grackle: 1000 Baiting Hollow 1 Dec, 250 1 Jan (JC). Brown-headed Cowbird: a flock of 100+ wintered in PtL. N. Oriole: one PtL 1 Jan (TB, SS, mob), one Riverdale 22 Jan, one CP 30 Dec; **Bullock's race** JBWR 8 Jan (AK). Purple Finch: L Success 20 Jan (AWg, SY). Red Crossbill: L Success 20 Jan (AWg, SY). Com. Redpoll: two Napaque 14 Dec (JF). Evening Grosbeak: six BNL 3 Feb (Henry Halama *vide* JR).

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REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. XXXVII No. 1, p. 9-10.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February
Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May
Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August
Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November
Deadline is December 7

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