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CAVE SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon fulva*), SECOND NEW YORK STATE RECORD

Andrew Guthrie¹ and Angus Wilson²

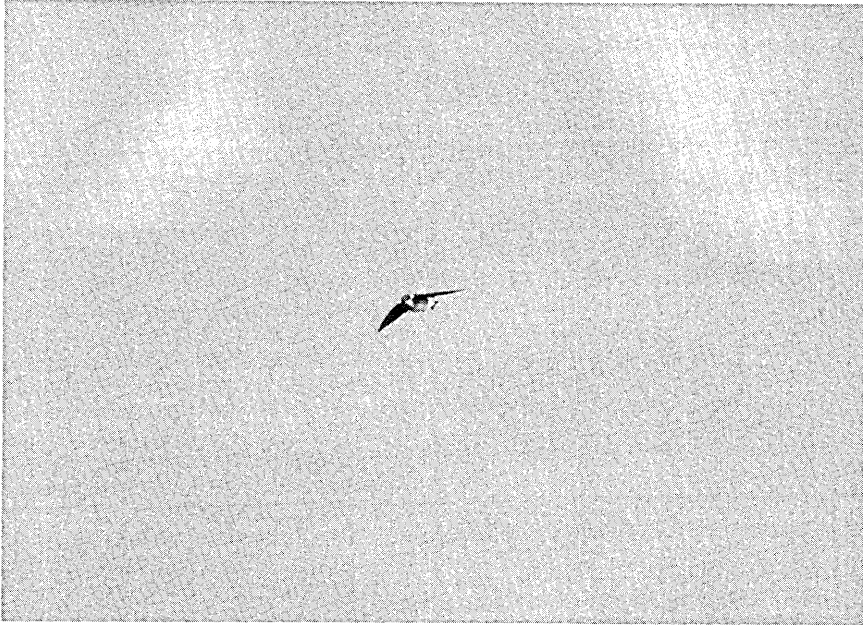
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ABSTRACT

The Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) is a polytypic species with a disjunct breeding range with populations restricted to southern North America and Mexico, the Greater Antilles, and Ecuador and Peru. In recent years, Cave Swallows have been recorded with increasing regularity in the northeastern United States, principally Cape May, New Jersey, where the species is now annual in late fall. On Saturday, 28 Nov 1998, the authors observed and photographed two Cave Swallows at Riis Park, Queens Co., New York. At least one bird of this species, and possibly one of these individuals, is likely to have been present at this location on the previous day. The Riis Park birds represent the second record for New York State, and represent the first record supported by physical documentation. The first record for the state was a single bird seen at Jamaica Bay on 23 May 1990. In this article, we discuss the circumstances of our sighting and our identification of the birds as belonging to the southwestern subspecies *P. f. pallida*. Recent analysis of the taxonomic nomenclature of the species indicates that the subspecific designation *pallida* has precedence over *pelodoma* (Gosselin, 2000), and therefore the authors use *pallida* throughout.

EVENTS OF THE SIGHTING

On Saturday, 28 Nov 1998, as part of our regular circuit covering Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Riis Park, Fort Tilden and Floyd Bennett Field, we stopped to check a traditionally productive area of scrub separating the Riis Park golf course and the beach front. As we walked along the perimeter fence, through some disused handball courts, Wilson sighted a swallow flying over the golf course. We both located the bird in our binoculars and realized immediately, based on the dark bluish upperparts and obviously contrasting reddish rump, that it was not the swallow expected in late November in New York, the Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*). Knowing that there had been recent reports of Cave Swallows in New Jersey, we suspected (and hoped!) we might be looking



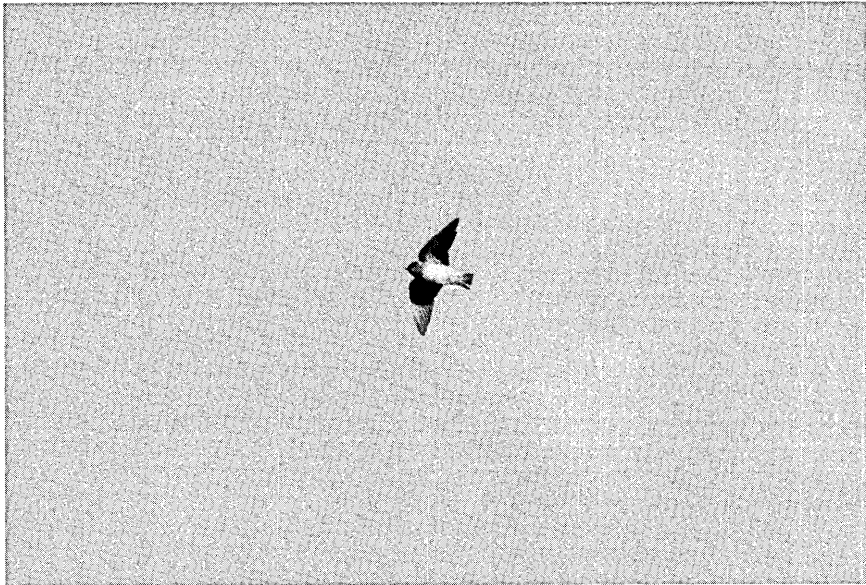
Head on view showing the pale (cinnamon in original color slide) throat extending across lower nape as a collar. The dark (red) forehead is clearly darker than the throat. These two features are important in eliminating Cliff Swallow. Photo by Angus Wilson

at one which had made its way further north. As the bird banked we could see that the underparts were pale, including a pale throat offset by a weak reddish breast band. The combination of the pale throat and relatively dark forehead eliminated the other pale-rumped possibility, the Cliff Swallow (*P. pyrrhonota*). We knew at this point we were indeed looking at a Cave Swallow!

We raced back to the car to get our photographic equipment with hopes of fully documenting the record. Returning to the spot, we soon relocated the swallow as it coursed over the small stands of pines dotted around the center of the golf course. The swallow spent most of this time foraging fifteen to fifty feet above the western end of the golf course. Since the course is surrounded by a chain link fence that prevents access, we stationed ourselves near the southwest corner where we were able to get good views of the swallow as it flew along the southern edge of the course and once or twice over our heads. For the next hour we studied the bird, taking notes and a number of photographs. Several attempts to video the bird proved futile.

Eventually the swallow flew to the northwestern corner of the course, about one-quarter of a mile away, where we lost sight of it. At this point we got brief glimpses of another swallow, flying over the firehouse near the northwest corner, which could not be identified to species because of the distance. We assumed that the second bird was most likely a Tree Swallow. After waiting a short while for the reappearance of the swallows, we walked west toward the Fort Tilden park headquarters, where there is a public telephone, in order to try and contact other birders. On our way there, we ran into Dorothy Poole and Gaye Fugate and told them about the Cave Swallow. They informed us that they had just seen an entry by Isaac Grant and Gene Herskovics in the Fort Tilden log book reporting a single Cave Swallow seen the day before, Friday, 27 Nov 1998. Like us, Poole and Fugate had not otherwise been aware of this previous sighting.

At Fort Tilden, Guthrie stationed himself at the pay phone near the headquarters building and proceeded to call various local birders. Unfortunately, most of our regular contacts had made an out-of-state Thanksgiving weekend birding trip! Reached via cellular phone, they could only share the experience vicariously. At around 11 a.m., during



Ventral view showing the rather square tail. Note the missing or displaced primary, a feature noted on one of the two Cave Swallows seen earlier the same week at Cape May, NJ. Photo by Angus Wilson.

the course of placing the calls, Guthrie spotted a Cave Swallow flying over the open areas between Beach Channel Drive to the north and the administration building. At one point, two swallows were visible about one-quarter mile to the west, too far away to be identified. When the birds eventually flew closer, both were seen to be Cave Swallows. We observed the two birds sporadically for the next 45 minutes as they circled high over the large area of lawns at Fort Tilden. The birds were often visible at the same time but were in close proximity on only two or three occasions, preventing documentation of the two together in a single photograph. The very mobile behavior and wide separation of the two conspecifics suggested there were few aerial insects available for them to feed on. We speculated that it paid for the two birds to stay well apart to minimize competition. At no time during our observations did we hear the birds call. During this period the swallows began to forage much higher than the initial observations and by the time we left they were flying at a height of about 100 yards.

Just as we were preparing to leave, John Bull and party pulled into the Fort Tilden parking lot. We alerted them to our exciting finds which were still circling very high overhead. We left around noon, but later learned that other observers, including Robert Kurtz, Max and Nellie Larsen, saw the birds during the afternoon. The following day, Sun 29 Nov, scores of birders assembled on the Riis Park boardwalk, near the location of our initial sighting the previous day. Unfortunately, patient waiting here and at Fort Tilden did not result in either of the swallows being relocated.

IDENTIFICATION; WHICH SUBSPECIES IS INVOLVED?

The short, squared off tail and pale brick-red rump patch eliminate all other hirundines except for the closely related Cliff Swallow (*P. pyrrhonota*). That species could be positively ruled out by virtue of the pale throat, relatively light rump patch and the dark forehead noted on the Riis Park birds.

Perhaps the more interesting identification problem with Cave Swallows in northeastern North America is at a subspecific level. Up to eight forms have been proposed, although Garrido, et al. (1999) are the only authors to recognize more than five subspecies in a single treatment (Kirchman, et al., 2000). The most likely sources of vagrant birds to the Northeast appear to be nominate *P. f. fulva*, which breeds in the Caribbean, and in Florida in small numbers, or *P. f. pallida* which breeds

in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Review of the literature and discussion with others who have wrestled with the problem revealed widespread uncertainty about the subspecific identity of vagrant Cave Swallows and the validity of the accepted criteria for separation. As David Sibley (Frontiers of Identification) has put it, "the differences are matters of degree".

The most commonly discussed differences between *fulva* and *pallida* are the rump and forehead colors, the color of the underparts, and size. *P. f. pallida* is described as having a relatively pale cinnamon-rufous rump, as opposed to chestnut or cinnamon-rufous in *fulva*; paler undertail coverts than *fulva*; and pale gray-brown sides and flanks (Turner and Rose, 1989).

Unfortunately this may be an oversimplification as an examination by the authors of specimens in the American Museum of Natural History revealed a troubling degree of overlap in the rump and forehead colors of specimens collected in the Caribbean (presumed to be nominate *fulva*) and those from northeastern Mexico (presumed to be *pallida*). While it is clear that the Riis Park birds fall comfortably within the range of the specimens from northeastern Mexico, a sizable fraction (perhaps a quarter) of Caribbean specimens showed similarly pale foreheads and rumps, to a degree that we feel field separation would be difficult. In accordance with published measurements, we noted a consistent size difference between the two subspecies, *pallida* being uniformly larger than *fulva*. Although no other swallow species were available for direct comparison, we did not get the impression that the Riis Park birds were particularly small.

Although the true color of the forehead can be difficult to see in the field (G. Lasley, pers. comm.), the contrast between the paler forehead of *pallida* and the dark crown shows up well in the photographs, and also contributes to the 'raccoon-mask' appearance of southwestern Cave Swallows, which we had noted at the time of our observations. This fact, plus additional plumage details such as the apparent grayish color of the flanks, without any obvious warm buffy tones, as well as our impressions of the size of the birds, lead us to believe that the Cave Swallows at Riis Park were most likely *pallida*.

OCCURRENCE IN NORTHEASTERN NORTH AMERICA

This identification corresponds with the current understanding of Cave Swallow occurrences in northeastern North America. Once an extreme vagrant to the northeastern North America, Cave Swallow has become an annual late fall occurrence at Cape May Point, New Jersey

(Mlodinow and O'Brien, 1996). There were records from the seven seasons prior to 1999, with a maximum during this period of five there between the 7 and 16 November 1997 (Paxton et al., 1998). Prior to 1999, there were four records from Canada - two spring records from Nova Scotia and two from Point Pelee in Ontario (Wormington, 1992). This species was recorded several times from Cape May during the 1998 fall season, with two birds over the Cape May National Golf Course on 23 Nov 1998 (Cape May RBA). Given the similarity in timing, we speculate that the same mechanism is responsible for these now regular New Jersey occurrences and the two Riis Park birds. It is even possible that sightings in the two locations in November, 1998 involved the same individuals. There is only one previous record of Cave Swallow from New York State, a one-day bird observed at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge on 23 May 1990 by Kenn Kaufman, Geoff LeBaron and Susan Drennan (Levine, 1998). Although no photographs were obtained, the description is consistent with *fulva*, and the observers believed the bird was this subspecies. Previous spring records in the northeast (e.g., the Nova Scotia sightings) were also believed to be *fulva*.

Prior to the Riis Park sightings, two Cave Swallows were present at Cape May, New Jersey and it is possible that the same individuals are involved. Although not noted in the field, photographs of one of the Riis Park birds showed an apparent missing or misplaced primary - a feature which had been described on one of the individuals seen earlier in Cape May. Interestingly, on 13 Dec 1998, a Cave Swallow seen at Cape May struck a window. Although momentarily stunned, the bird could not be captured, thus perhaps missing a unique opportunity to answer the subspecies question (P. Lehman, pers. com.).

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE 1999 CAVE SWALLOW INVASION

Early November of the following year (1999), saw an unprecedented push of Cave Swallows into central and northeastern North America. Cave Swallows were recorded in multiple states and provinces including Quebec, Ontario, Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Connecticut and New York. At least 80 birds were recorded in southern Ontario and as many as 35 Cave Swallows were reported from Cape May, New Jersey. This broad movement was associated with two low pressure systems, one centered over Texas and the other northern Ontario. A cold front, with associated southerly winds, connected the two systems driving birds from the southern United State northwards. Detailed descriptions and photographs of Cave Swallows

from Melocheville, Quebec and from Point Pelee, Ontario argue that this major influx involves the expected southwestern form, *P. f. pallida*. Importantly, at least two specimens were obtained, one from North Carolina (John Gerwin *vide* Harry LeGrand, pers.comm.) and one from Ontario (*vide* Michael Patten and Paul Lehman). Both have been identified by museum experts as belonging to the southwestern race *pallida*.

THE COMPLEX SYSTEMATICS OF CAVE SWALLOWS

Cave Swallow taxonomy at both the species and subspecies level has been subject to a number of revisions (discussed in Garrido et al., 1999; Kirchman et al., 2000). Indeed, there are more Cave Swallow races than any other group of New World swallows. One source of difficulty is the extensive geographical variation in size and plumage between populations, and in the case of West Indian forms, even within populations. While there is an emerging consensus that the Ecuadorian form (*P. f. rufocollaris*) should be treated as a separate species ('Chestnut-collared Swallow'), splitting of other populations remains controversial. Although the Texas and West Indian forms differ in a number of characters, recent microsatellite analysis suggests high levels of gene flow still occur (Kirchman et al., 2000). More definitive research will be needed before the AOU is likely to consider splitting *pallida* and *fulva*. However, it remains critical that observers try to document all future sightings of Cave Swallows in New York carefully. After all, both forms may already have occurred in the state.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to Paul Sweet and Emanuel Levine for arranging access the AMNH collection and to Jim Lowe for providing specific details of the previous New York record. Thanks also to Greg Lasley, David Sibley, Noel Wamer, Harry LeGrand, Julian Hough and Paul Lehman for discussion of subspecific identification and thoughts on the occurrence of Cave Swallows in the Northeast.



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THE WILD TURKEY IN THE BRONX AND LOWER WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK

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ABSTRACT

The Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), once extirpated from New York, has returned to most of the state with help from man. The recolonization by the first birds in New York City since the early 1800s demonstrates the effectiveness of restocking, presence of adequate habitat for marginal breeding populations in Bronx County and the ability of the species to largely avoid harm in heavily used urban parks. Minimal habitat quantity and quality is needed for long dispersal corridors, in this case from Westchester County to and within the city. Dispersal to small and isolated sites occurs regularly and may be human assisted. In this case, a habitat's minimum size for a resident population is 744 acres. Population estimates are made for two major Bronx parks.

INTRODUCTION

There has been little work done on the Wild Turkey in urban areas. However, there have been numerous sightings of turkeys since 1986 in southern Westchester County and in northern and central Bronx County. There are now small breeding populations in Pelham Bay and Van Cortlandt parks in The Bronx. How they may have traveled there and whether there is enough habitat in The Bronx to support a sustainable population will be examined.

STUDY AREA

The study area lies in the Manhattan Hills Ecozone. The Manhattan Hills covers virtually all of Westchester County and all of Bronx and New York (Manhattan) counties. Long Island lies in the Coastal Lowlands Ecozone (Dickinson 1979).

Bronx County has the following characteristics: Size: 28,165 acres; population: 1,203,789 (1990); density: 27,354/mi²; parkland: 6,780 acres

(1995); natural areas: 2,467 acres (1995). Westchester County has the following: Size: 288,200 acres; population: 893,412 (1996); density: 1984/mi².

Pelham Bay Park, at 2,764 acres contains about 968 acres of forest, 51 acres of scrub (City of New York/Parks & Recreation 1988) and old field, including a field of 20 acres in the main section of the park. More of these habitats are found in the isolated southern section, and both contain substantial areas of lawn. There are also 4.3 mi of roads and highways in the park and 1.1 mi of railroad.

Van Cortlandt Park, totaling 1,146 acres, consists of approximately 681 acres of forest, 14 acres of scrub, 41 acres of vineland and 308 acres of herbaceous habitats, including lawns, athletic fields and an 8-acre old field (City of New York/Parks & Recreation 1990a). These natural areas are fragmented by 2.8 mi of highways running through the park.

METHODS

Records of sightings were sought for lower Westchester and Bronx counties and elsewhere.

HISTORY AND RESTOCKING

In precolonial America, the Wild Turkey was common throughout the oak-hickory forest and much of the northern hardwood ecosystems and beyond (Wunz and Pack 1992). Daniel Denton (1845), writing of Long Island in 1670, noted that "Wild Fowl there is great store of, as Turkeys..." De Vries (1655) reported, "Land birds are also very numerous, such as wild turkeys..." referring to the vicinity of Newark Bay, New Jersey. Turkeys probably became extirpated in the New York City region from lumbering and hunting by the early nineteenth century (Bull 1964). The last birds disappeared from New York State soon after 1844 (Eaton 1910) and the last turkey in New England was collected on Mt. Tom, MA in 1847 (Yale Peabody Museum 97253). However, in recent times restocking has brought them back across much of southern New York (Eaton 1988). In New York, none was thought to exist in 1940 (Mosby 1949), 2,500 were estimated in 1958 (Mosby 1959) and 200,000-300,000 (probably closer to the former) in 1999 [Robert Sanford, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), pers. comm.]. Although Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park in northern Putnam County was stocked in 1959 (Bull 1985) and "several localities in northern Westchester" (Bull 1964), these were game farm-raised Wild Turkeys that did not survive in the wild.

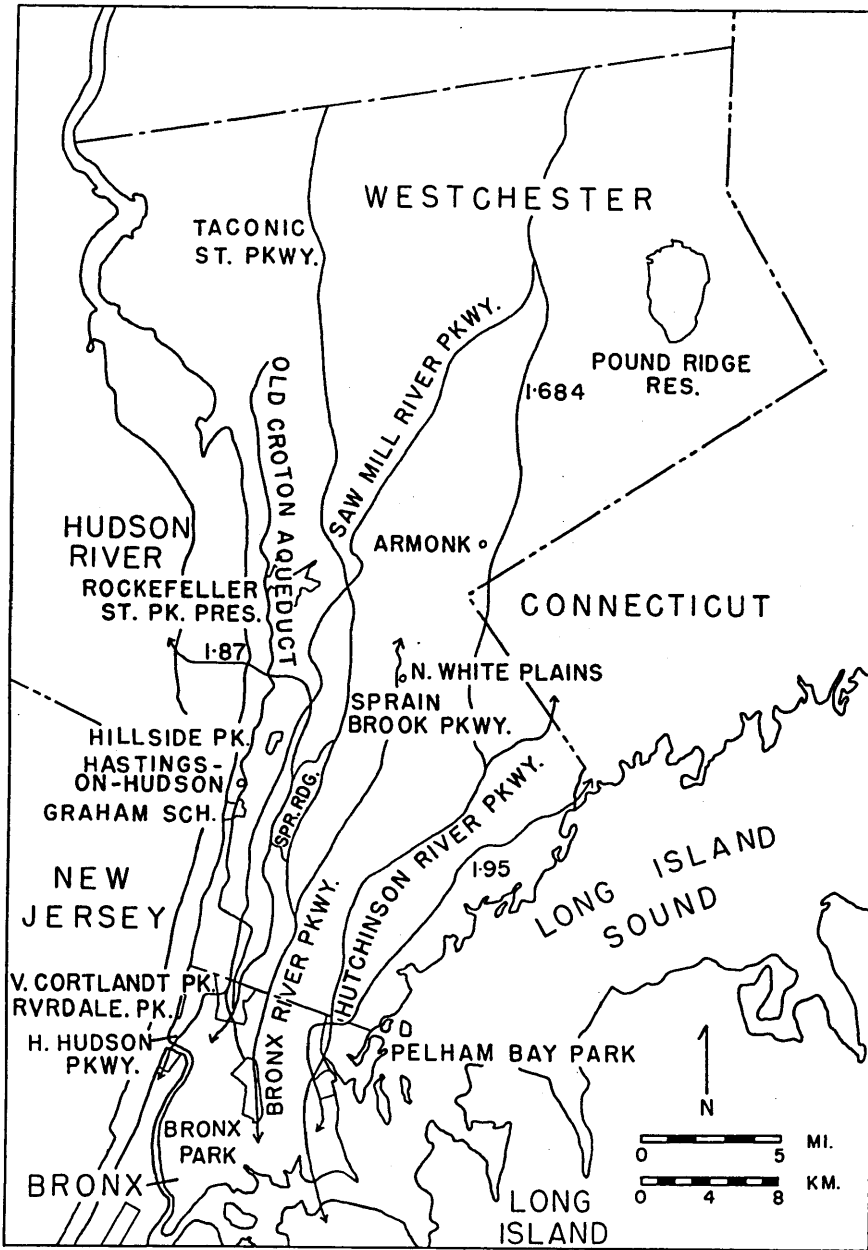


Fig. 1

In New York, restocking has been carried out by the NYSDEC, translocating wild birds in 1960, instead of farm-raised, and the results were much more successful. Only two birds were released in Ward Pound Ridge Reservation (Figure 1) in northeast Westchester County in 1981 (Glenn Cole and Robert Sanford, NYSDEC, pers. comm.) However, 17 wild birds were seen subsequently, indicating that the descendants of 10-11 birds released in 1974 near Dover Plains in eastern Dutchess County, 33 mi to the north, were moving south into Westchester (G. Cole, NYSDEC, pers. comm.). The restocking was thus terminated. In Fahnestock, 10 hens and 4 gobblers were released in 1979 and 1980 respectively, which probably did not give the birds enough time to spread to the Pound Ridge Reservation, 18.7 mi to the south. The Dover Plains translocation was likely the source of most of the earlier Westchester birds. The "Eastern" Wild Turkey (*M. g. sylvestris*), the native subspecies, was used in all translocations and was taken from New York populations.

SIGHTINGS FROM THE BRONX AND ELSEWHERE IN NEW YORK CITY

Helen Forgione (City of New York Department of Environmental Protection, pers. comm.) and Wayne Cahilly [New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), pers. comm.] probably reported the first recent Wild Turkey in New York City, a likely female, in the NYBG Forest in Bronx Park, in central Bronx (Figure 1), from the summer of 1986 into 1987. A bird was reported there (though not officially counted) on the 26 December 1988 Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count. Paul and Julie Mankiewicz (pers. comm.) also saw a Wild Turkey hen in the NYBG about 1989. Two females have been in Bronx Park, including the Bronx Zoo, from ca. 1998 into 1999, and for some time before that, there was one (Eric Edler, pers. comm.). Two nests with eggs discovered on 24 April 1999 were reported by Ron Davis (pers. comm.) in the Wild Asia exhibit of the zoo. But only one hen and no toms were seen in the vicinity about that time. Some young game farm-raised turkeys were released by the zoo ca. 1995 (Davis, pers. comm.), but were recaptured when they displayed no fear of humans. Edler (pers. comm.) stated that none of this species had escaped from the zoo in recent years.

Gary Kieffer (pers. comm.) reported a turkey in April or early May, 1992, next to his yard at present day Givans Creek Woods, a park west of Pelham Bay Park and close to heavily developed areas, such as Co-op City and I-95. It remained about a week.

On 18 June 1993, a Wild Turkey hen was sighted by the author on Hunter Island, Pelham Bay Park, (Figure 1). Probably the same bird was later reported in other sections of the park. Many more sightings followed.

There were three recorded sightings of individual birds in Pelham Bay Park in 1993, eight in 1994, one in 1995, 20 in 1996, 30 in 1997, eight in 1998, 35 in 1999 and 12 in the first couple of weeks of 2000. This may indicate a substantial buildup of population, as would be expected, but there were few sightings in 1998. A total of only eleven known sightings were of males and 63 of females, a male to female ratio of about 1:5.7.

Of 121 sightings of individual birds from 1993 into just the beginning of 2000, most seem to be in the northwestern to central parts of the park with few sightings in the eastern areas. A surprising five were in the southern section, which is isolated by the Hutchinson River and Eastchester Bay from the rest of the park. It might be expected that sightings would be concentrated in areas of heavy human use. Indeed, the most sightings (68) have been in or near a focal point of park traffic at the Bartow Traffic Circle. The Split Rock Golf Course is heavily used and many people have seen turkeys there but only seven sightings have been recorded. However, the Central Woodland, the interior of which is lightly traveled, has had as many as six birds at once. But, a heavily traveled area, mature forest on Hunter Island along with the other eastern sections, has had few sightings. Finally, Gary Cullen [City of New York/Parks & Recreation (NYCDPR) pers. comm.] sighted an adult Wild Turkey with about three young on the Split Rock Golf Course at Pelham Bay Park during the summer of 1994.

On 3 April 1994, Rudolph M. Schutz (pers. comm.) sighted a gobbler flying over his car on the Major Deegan Expressway in Van Cortlandt Park (Figure 1). Well over 15 sightings in Van Cortlandt included two females in the southern section of the park, and at least one female and a male in the northeastern part. There have been no records from the relatively large, well visited and wooded northwestern section.

Additionally, about July 1994, Phillip Siefert and Paul Burfeind (formerly of the Urban Forest Ecology Program, pers. comm.) found an adult turkey with about six young "two-thirds grown" in the Croton Woods of Van Cortlandt Park.

A turkey reported 31 August 1998 on the Mosholu Parkway (Figure 1, unlabeled) 0.6 mi south of Van Cortlandt Park had a broken leg (William Hankammer, pers. comm.), was not found the next day.

A hen was recorded by David Roche and P. A. Buckley (pers. comm.) in Riverdale Park/Wave Hill (Figure 2) on 26 December 1993, and were

told by a passerby that a male and a few females had been present since May. Stephen Ely (pers. comm.) walked to within 10 ft of a bird in Riverdale Park 9 April 1994.

Sightings from Manhattan deserve mention: There was a Wild Turkey at Inwood Hill Park (Figure 1, unlabeled) 21 April 1994 (Schiff and Wollin 1994) and two hens and a tom summered in Inwood Hill in 1998, although only a hen had been present the previous winter (Timothy Wenskus, NYCDPR, pers. comm.). A bird was also in Central Park 10 May 1998 (Schiff and Wollin 1998). Two days later, a female, undoubtedly the same bird, appeared on 82nd Street between Columbus and Amsterdam avenues (Flitton, p. 20).

Another observation was that of a male heard by Timothy Wenskus (pers. comm.) in Alley Pond Park, Queens County, Long Island, 12 January 1999.

There have been unconfirmed sightings of a male and female Wild Turkey for the last two to four years in Dyker Beach Park in Brooklyn (Cerrutti and others, pers. comm.)

Of a number of sightings by the author in Pelham Bay and Van Cortlandt parks, all birds were identifiable as the "Eastern" Wild Turkey.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY SIGHTINGS

The *Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York State* (Andrle and Carroll 1988), compiled 1980 through 1985, showed regular occurrence and breeding east of the Hudson River and south through Putnam County. Only two "confirmed breeding" 3.1-mi blocks are shown in Westchester County, one in the northern Town of Somers in the north central part of the county and in the Pound Ridge Reservation area. "Possible breeding" occurred in five blocks across central Westchester from the Briarcliff Manor area east to south of the Pound Ridge Reservation. The Somers record was of a female on 17 infertile eggs 19 April 1980 (Burke 1980; Stanley Lincoln, pers. comm.) and may have been the first recent sighting in Westchester.

Turkeys had been spreading south through Westchester County (Askildsen 1992) and early sightings included a female 22 April 1992, near the dam of Tarrytown Lakes, Tarrytown (Judy Huf, pers. comm.); a female just south of Hillside Park in northern Hastings-on-Hudson, Town of Greenburgh, 8 April 1993, by J. Huf (pers. comm.); a female in a backyard near the Graham School in western Hastings-on-Hudson on 30 April 1992, by Timothy K. Barton (formerly Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, pers. comm.); and a

male in Sprain Ridge Park in the towns of Yonkers and Greenburgh in May 1992, by Roger Frost (*vide* Michael Bochnik, pers. comm.). The Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count first recorded turkeys (five) around Rye 26 December 1994.

DISCUSSION

DISPERSAL

They must hesitate little crossing roads. At the time Wild Turkeys were first seen in the north Bronx, they were regular throughout Westchester south to Armonk, North White Plains and Rockefeller State Park Preserve (John Askildsen, pers. comm.) Dispersal of turkeys from upper to lower Westchester County and Bronx County does not appear impossible when one examines a map of the area in regard to potential natural corridors. Turkeys have been known to move as far as 100 mi (Wunz 1971), but Powell (1967) found that average dispersal was 1.9 to 3.1 mi and Brown (1980), reviewing the work of others, found most dispersal to be 0.9 to 5.3 mi. In the case of Pelham Bay Park, there are the narrow corridors of the Sprain Brook Parkway from Sprain Ridge Park that connect to the Cross County Parkway via Hunt Woods Park, and finally to the Hutchinson River Parkway directly connecting with Pelham Bay. This is a total corridor distance of 7.4 mi. They seem to hesitate little crossing roads and obviously some birds move beyond the average distances.

The bird at Givans Creek Woods probably came south to Pelham Bay Park and flew west across to a narrow, weedy margin of the Hutchinson River, then through a 6 six acre highly impacted, vegetated lot and thence to the Givans Creek Woods area, 0.4 mi from the river.

The Graham School bird was also in the immediate vicinity of the Old Croton Aqueduct which is a narrow, but "natural" north-south corridor that stretches between New Croton Reservoir in the Town of Cortlandt to the north and Van Cortlandt Park to the south, the latter only 6.5 corridor miles south of the sighting. It crosses many streets but they are mostly small. The likeliest route from Sprain Ridge Park would be 5.9 mi down the Sprain Brook and Bronx River parkways to Woodlawn Cemetery, adjacent to Van Cortlandt. The Greenburgh Nature Center is less than 0.2 mi from the Bronx River Parkway and 8.3 mi from Woodlawn Cemetery. Turkeys are also known to fly some distance, such as across the Delaware River "in various places" (Bull 1964) and one mi across a valley, (Pough 1951; Pelham and Dickson 1992). Furthermore, turkeys should disperse more easily to The Bronx than White-tailed Deer

(*Odocoileus virginianus*), which sometimes wander down to Van Cortlandt Park and especially Pelham Bay Park from Westchester County (mob, pers. obs.).

Riverdale Park/Wave Hill is 0.5 mi through a neighborhood with many large trees and yards to a 0.4 mi corridor of the Henry Hudson Parkway which leads to western Van Cortlandt Park. The Bronx Park birds could have come down from Sprain Ridge Park by way of the Sprain Brook Parkway and the Bronx River, 6.4 mi to the NYBG. As the Mosholu Parkway bird shows, they might at least attempt to traverse the 1.3 mi of the Mosholu from Van Cortlandt to Bronx Park.

The Wild Turkeys in Inwood Hill and Central parks in Manhattan may have been able to survive there for some time, but these parks seem unlikely final destinations for any Wild Turkey. Inwood Hill is just across the Harlem River from Riverdale and nearby Riverdale Park, which some birds already demonstrated they could reach. But Central Park is more isolated by urban areas than almost any other place in New York State. However, if the birds did find Inwood Hill and Central parks on their own, then turkeys must be capable of colonizing almost any isolated open land even without natural corridors. The bird on 82nd Street (Flitton, p. 20) was only a block and a half from Central Park and may have been attempting to leave it, since the same bird was probably seen in the park two days before.

The bird in Alley Pond Park may have come south down the Hutchinson River Parkway corridor from Pelham Bay Park about 1.4 mi to St. Raymond's Cemetery and adjoining Ferry Point Park, 2.0 mi through this fragmented green space, 0.7 mi across the narrowest part of the East River, near the Whitestone Bridge, to Queens, then 8.0 mi south along an often narrow corridor of the Cross Island Parkway to Alley Pond Park for a total distance of 12.1 mi .

Dyker Beach Park is over 18 miles from Pelham Bay Park with almost no green corridors. This is about as far from typical habitat as one could get.

In the case of Central, Alley Pond and Dyker Beach parks, the isolated nature of these sites raises the possibility, in fact the probability, of released game farm birds. But, the timing of the sightings, which occurred after wild birds reached the general area, gives credence to these birds being truly wild. However, some odd behavior occurred on the Pelham Golf Course, Pelham Bay Park, in early April 1999. A turkey was picked up and stroked by Roberto Santana (fide Robert Musliwala and Frank Juliano, pers. comm.) and then followed him for a while, a good indication that it was game farm bred and then released in the park.

HABITAT REQUIREMENTS AND THE BRONX

Much of both Pelham Bay and Van Cortlandt parks provide turkey habitat. Optimal habitat for the "Eastern" Wild Turkey may contain roughly 90% forest and 10% grassland (Wunz and Pack 1992). Much of both Pelham Bay and Van Cortlandt parks, but not all, provide turkey habitat. Pelham Bay totals more than 1,039 acres of potentially suitable upland habitats. Sightings suggest at least a male and female in the relatively small and isolated southern section of the park, but they were probably only visiting from the main section, as may also be the case for a few other sightings. Fifteen birds were seen together in Oct 1999 (Robert Savino, pers. comm), possibly all the birds in the park at the time. Density would be moderate at 9.2 birds/mi²

Van Cortlandt Park includes about 744 acres of potentially suitable natural habitats. Two females have recently been in the southern section of Van Cortlandt Park and a female has bred in the north central part of the park. One male has been present, making a total of four birds. This would be a density of 3.4/mi². Like Pelham Bay Park, this density is very low and indicative of habitat that is not of high quality.

The Wild Turkey was formerly considered a bird of truly extensive forested areas. However, it has since made use of a wide range of ecological conditions, including lawns, preferring those near forest. Not only have they been regularly seen on Pelham Bay lawns, but they may even frequent small backyards, such as in Hastings-on-Hudson, though the latter may have been a game farm-raised bird. The turkey feeds on a great number of plant and invertebrate foods and needs a fairly large home range. Thus, it could be considered an area sensitive and edge species in our area. It may use separate 100-200-acre nesting and wintering ranges (DeGraaf and Rudis 1987) and 346-1,366 acres on an annual basis (Brown 1980). According to Wunz (1971), turkeys need more than 200 acres of habitat, perhaps less than 500 acres being sufficient to maintain a population. Schroeder (1985) determined from the literature that 2250 acres is the minimum inhabitable area.

Wunz (1971) found birds restricting themselves to an area of heavy understory where there was a great deal of human visitation along trails (as high as two parties per hour during weekends). The forests of Van Cortlandt and Pelham Bay parks often contain a dense understory and perhaps a similar amount of human disturbance.

The seeming lack of use of the Hunter Island area in Pelham Bay by Wild Turkeys may be in response to its relative isolation. Its 125 acre contiguous forest is separated by 0.1 to 0.2 miles of water and 0.6 miles of

asphalt from the rest of the park. Birds seem to disperse readily along narrow corridors containing segments of surprisingly poor habitat, but may not stop until they find relatively extensive, suitable habitat and perhaps other birds as well. The turkey on Mosholu Parkway demonstrated the heavily impacted quality of some habitat – extensive lawns in the large median and along the roadway through a densely populated area. It should be noted again, however, that the bird was reported to have a broken leg.

It appears that Wild Turkeys can disperse long distances, even in a densely populated urban area with little more than heavily impacted narrow strips of vegetation along parkways, at times not even that much. They can travel up to 12 mi or more through major portions of our largest city. This leaves almost any suitable habitat accessible and open to colonization.

Central Park is 840 acres; Bronx Park is 721 acres; Alley Pond Park is 624 acres ; Inwood Hill Park is 196 acres); Riverdale/Wave Hill, with an upland of only 106 acres (City of New York/Parks & Recreation 1990b); and the Givens Creek Woods area was 14.6-acre at the time of the sighting. Most of these parks were not easily reached by enough birds to make nesting possible due to isolation, distance from source populations and lack of time. The evidence so far indicates that the second largest park south of Westchester County, Van Cortlandt, may support a minimally self-supporting population of turkeys that would, however, require periodic migration. Pelham Bay Park, the largest park, has more turkeys and would not need often need an influx of new birds.

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Wild Turkeys have recolonized two of New York City's largest parks in the north Bronx. Pelham Bay Park, at 1039 acres of relatively contiguous habitat contained at least 14 birds. Natural areas of 744 acres as in Van Cortlandt Park, may be able to support marginally self-sustaining populations. However, occasional immigration of Wild Turkeys from elsewhere will insure against inbreeding and extirpation from random weather and other events. Natural corridors, even of poor quality, will make this possible. They are probably important in facilitating travel for Wild Turkeys to new natural areas miles away, even in the heart of large urban areas. Vegetated highway corridors receive little or no attention from conservationists and natural resource managers. In light of their importance to the Wild Turkey and other wildlife, transportation departments should be encouraged to manage these strips for the benefit of native plants ,wildlife and maximum vegetative cover. However, one should be alert for the release of birds of dubious origins at unlikely sites.

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A NOTE ON MARSH SPARROW SONGS WITH COMMENTS BY JON GREENLAW

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The marshes on the south side of Shinnecock Bay between Southampton and Quogue, Suffolk, are notable for dense, interspersed populations of two marsh sparrows, Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*) and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*), which sometimes nest within a few feet of each other. According to written descriptions, sonoagrams, and recordings, the advertising songs of these two species are very much alike: short, buzzy, unmusical announcements with similar tonal qualities. This would seem to offer a natural opportunity for field comparison of the vocalizations of these closely related birds. However, in thirty years of observations, I have never been able to hear individuals of the two species singing together. Perched, singing sparrows in the Shinnecock marshes have, in my experience, always turned out to be Seaside. This is decidedly not the case in nearby Peconic and Gardiner's bay marshes where I have, on a number of occasions, heard sharp-tails in longer, less well-defined, buzzy songs. The contradictions between available information and field experience have begun to clarify themselves only relatively recently with new information on the relationships among *Ammodramus* species.

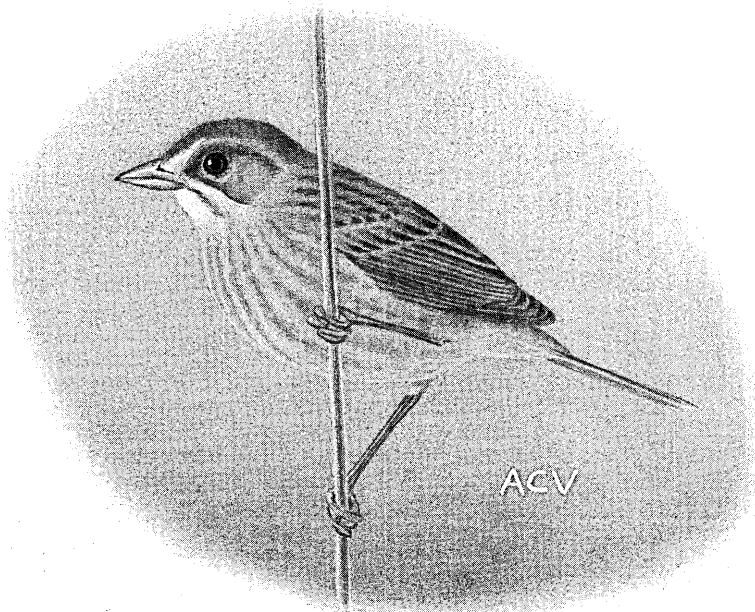
Sharp-tailed sparrows, collectively, are "nonterritorial and promiscuous" (Greenlaw and Rising 1994). Their sexual system has been described as a form of "scramble competition polygyny" (Post and Greenlaw 1982) in which males roam the marshes looking for available females. Greenlaw and Rising note that the males of what they call "southern populations" (i.e. Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed) sing much less than their northern counterparts, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, (*Ammodramus nelsoni*), and they also remark that southern male sharp-tails sing only 'Complex Whisper Songs' and "do not perform a short, loud, ritualized Primary Song during a discrete bout of singing". This difference in vocalization was one of the principal reasons that the sharp-tailed sparrows were split.

It now seems plausible to me that all or most of the short, repeated vocalizations given as sharp-tail song in the literature and heard on almost all recordings (the sources of which are often unidentified) belong to Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows. Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows sing only the very different 'Complex Whisper Song.' Thus, the oft-noted sim-

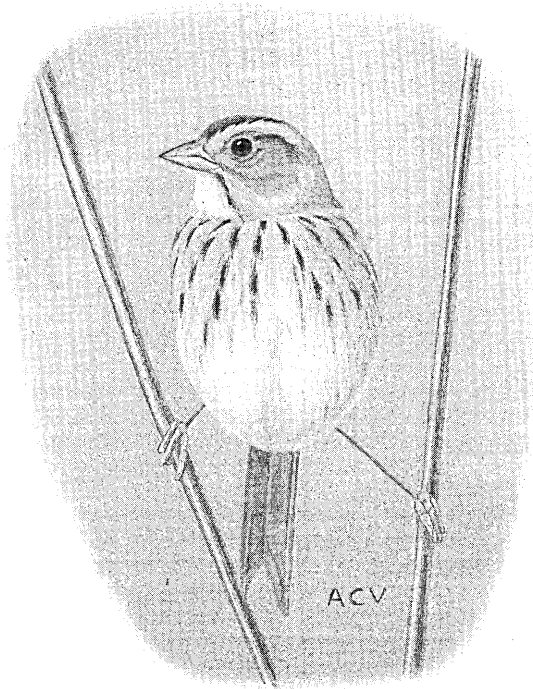
ilarity between Seaside and sharp-tailed sparrow songs must refer to Nelson's Sharp-tailed only, and on-the-spot field comparison between the songs of these two would be difficult if not impossible as their breeding ranges do not overlap!

Again according to Greenlaw and Rising, 'Primary Song' in what is now known as Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow "evidently has sexual and advertising (?dominance) functions even in the absence of territorial behavior" but the 'Complex Whisper Song' in the southern or Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow "evidently has a sexual (nonadvertising) function only." In the Shinnecock marshes, male Seaside Sparrows adopt prominent perches on saltmarsh bushes or reeds to sing their short but far-carrying advertising songs, and they do so persistently throughout the breeding season. Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed males also commonly adopt perches, but apparently mainly as lookout posts, in their search for available females. There may be some element of visual display in this but, according to Greenlaw (pers. comm.), it is probably incidental to the lookout function.

If Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows lack an advertising song, why do they sing at all? One possibility that occurred to me is these rather restricted male vocalizations might simply serve notice to returning or



Seaside Sparrow



Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow

wandering females that male sparrows are active in a given marsh. In this case, persistent singing on the coastal marshes by the closely related Seaside Sparrows might also serve to advertise suitable territory to sharp-tailed females and the necessity for sharp-tailed males to sing at all would be much reduced. However Jon Greenlaw (pers. comm.) doubts this explanation because of (1) the seasonal pattern of singing in Saltmarsh Sharp-taileds which begin singing shortly after their arrival and continue well into August; (2) the many studies indicate that display behaviors (i.e., behaviors used in communication) arise and are maintained from intraspecific sources so that "a simple proximate explanation of singing behavior in sharp-tails begs the adaptive question"; and (3) Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, although also non-territorial, sings loud songs in bouts from conspicuous perches even though it shares its habitats with either Le Conte's Sparrow (in interior plains, James Bay; see Murray 1969), or with the Savannah Sparrow (Maritimes, JSG study). These species are territorial, aggressive, and dominant over Nelson's Sharp-tails, just as the Seaside Sparrow is dominant over Saltmarsh Sharp-taileds.

In any case, it would appear that the evolutionary loss or suppression of advertising song in Saltmarsh Sharp-taileds may be related to inter-specific interactions between the sharp-tail and Seaside Sparrow, a dominant, territorial relative using the same habitat (see Murray 1969 and 1971). This might explain why sharp-tails appear to be (at least in some areas) more likely to sing on bayside marshes where Seasides do not breed, than in habitat where they breed together. As I have already noted, there are no Seaside Sparrows at all in the range of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow which does use advertising songs, but there is a large overlap in the breeding range of the two southern species, *caudacutus* and *maritimus*. Both occupy seaside marshes from the Delmarva peninsula north to the dividing line between the two sharp-tails in Maine. However, Seaside Sparrows are almost completely restricted to salt marshes near the outer beaches while Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows will also use estuarine marshes away from the coast (there was formerly a small population of Seasides in the Piermont marshes on the Hudson River; see Bull 1974).

This social interaction between related species with very different breeding systems (hybridization is recorded but is very rare) might help explain why marshes with persistently singing, territorial Seaside males often also host dense populations of non-territorial Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows that sing very little (interior bay populations of Sharp-tailed Sparrows appear to be much lower than in coastal marshes). It might even have played a role in the divergence of the two sharp-tailed species.

Many interesting questions arise. Do sharp-tails occur on all Seaside Sparrow marshes within their joint range? Are there jointly occupied marshes where, unlike Shinnecock, both species are equally vocal? How do sharp-tail sparrow population densities in jointly occupied coastal marshes compare with those at other breeding sites where they are the only marsh sparrow but appear to be more thinly distributed? Do Saltmarsh Sharp-taileds ever use short advertising songs in seaside or estuarine marshes or are their vocalizations always confined to variations of the longish and rather ill-defined (and non-stereotyped) 'Complex Whisper Song'? At the very least, the matter deserves further investigation.

JON GREENLAW'S COMMENTS

The peculiar behavior of the sharp-tails needs to be more widely known. Many widely held assumptions (e.g., that they are territorial; that spot-census methods are suitable for censusing them; that descriptions of singing behavior observed in northern populations also applies to behavior in southern coastal populations) are simply incorrect. In particular, the vocalizations of these birds have been, until recently, little known or understood.

HISTORICAL CONFUSION ABOUT SHARP-TAILED SPARROW SONGS

Eric Salzman's (ES) conclusion that descriptions of songs of "sharp-tailed sparrows" in the older literature, often with accompanying comparisons to Seaside Sparrow songs, referred (mainly) to Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, is sound. I too had reached this conclusion, and that helped to stimulate the paper that I did on behavioral and morphological diversification in the sharp-tailed sparrow complex (Greenlaw, *Auk* 110: 286-303, 1993).

Until recently, standard bird guides described only the songs of Nelson's Sharp-taileds as representative of all populations then known under the name "Sharp-tailed Sparrow". Misidentification also has been a problem. I found a tape recording of a Seaside Sparrow song in the Cornell sound archives misidentified as that of a "Sharp-tailed Sparrow". Indeed, with a few notable exceptions, I found evidence that most previous field workers did not know the song of the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Elliott (*Kingbird* 12: 115-123, 1962), in his comparative review of Seaside and "Sharp-tailed" sparrows on Long Island, was equivocal about the song of sharp-tailed sparrows. He offered R.T. Peterson's transliteration of the song of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows as also representative of Long Island birds. But, he added that he once heard a fall male singing "the weakest song of any sparrow that I know--a rather rarely uttered intermittent mouse-like squeaking barely audible for 25 feet." He evidently regarded this song (which is the only song-like vocalization in Long Island birds) only as an unusual autumnal vocalization. Likewise, Witmer Stone (*Bird Studies at Old Cape May*, vol. 2: 906, 1937) provided a mnemonic for local sharp-tailed sparrows that probably represented a misidentified variant song sung by Seaside Sparrows. Even some recent descriptions of and remarks about songs in the sharp-tailed sparrow group are misleading or incorrect. Sibley (*Birding* 28: 196-208, 1996) asserts that "songs" (in contrast to singing performance) of Saltmarsh Sharp-taileds are so similar to those of Nelson's Sharp-taileds (he describes the general pattern as "a wheezy fading hiss with a lower pitched cluck at the end") that they are unlikely to be useful in field identification. This remark makes me wonder whether Sibley knew the song of Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows. His description aptly portrays the songs of Nelson's Sharp-taileds, but misses the mark on "songs" in Saltmarsh Sharp-taileds. He uses Donald J. Borror's (*Ohio J. Sci.* 61: 161-174, 1961) observations on songs in the sharp-tailed sparrow complex as support for his assertion but, in fact, Borror, who devoted much of his

professional lifetime to recording bird songs, may not have known the song of the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow. His sharp-tailed sparrow recordings (archived at The Ohio State University) included no examples of Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow songs, but he obtained good examples of the songs of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Seaside Sparrows. In his paper on sparrow songs, Borror (1961) described geographic variation in the songs of sharp-tailed sparrows, but he did not provide illustrative spectrograms. His mnemonic characterizations of interior, Maritime, and mid-Atlantic populations imply overall similarity in song structure among populations (which Sibley reiterates) in the different regions, with small differences in introductory or terminal syllables.

In reality, song presentation by the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow differs radically from the more typical presentation of Nelson's Sharp-taileds. Also, the songlike elements (or phrases) in the "Complex Whisper Song" of Saltmarsh Sharp-taileds are variable and bear only superficial resemblance in structure (or, to my ear, in audible sound) to the Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows songs (see spectrograms in Greenlaw and Rising 1994). I routinely use songs to monitor presence or absence of the two species of sharp-tails on marshes in Maine where both may occur. Maine birders also are using the songs to distinguish the species during the breeding season. The two species also co-occur on marshes from New Jersey north through southern New England during a brief time from mid-May into the first week of June (JSG, pers. observation). The presence of Nelson's Sharp-taileds within breeding populations of Saltmarsh Sharp-taileds at this time is readily determined by hearing their distinctive and diagnostic songs (and singing performances).

SINGING BEHAVIOR IN SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS

ES's remarks about differences in singing behavior between "bay" (Peconic Bay system) and barrier beach (South Shore) marshes are intriguing, but they are based on impressions formed during field visits that are not described. Problems of detection may arise from the muted quality and unexpected presentation of songs by Saltmarsh Sharp-taileds. Windiness on the marshes compounds the problem, making it even more difficult to hear a singing bird unless it is very close. Also, since singing is most frequent early in the morning, there is a good chance that an observer who checks a marsh in mid-morning would hear few or no songs. Our experience with marked populations farther west on Long Island (Oak Beach, West Gilgo, Tobay) is that Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows spend time singing both on and off Seaside Sparrow territories. Still, most male perchers that one sees sing only

sporadically, but if one follows a male long enough, it will nearly always sing sooner or later. Moreover, we found no marshes—either ones co-occupied by Seaside Sparrows, or ones used only by sharp-tails—on which sharp-tails failed to sing at all. I predict that close observation of individual sparrows in the Shinnecock and other East End marshes will confirm our experience. However, I would not be surprised if quantitative differences occurred in the frequency of singing by male Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows among eastern Suffolk County populations. But, this matter can only be addressed by using quantitative methods.

I have visited marshes from Virginia to Maine to study Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows. In all of these marshes, males employ the 'Complex Whisper Song'. The songs sound the same to my ears on Maine marshes, where Seaside Sparrows do not occur, as in New York or New Jersey, where both marshland sparrows co-occur. Also, although breeding Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows do not, (as ES points out,) co-occur geographically with Seaside Sparrows, they do share their habitats, at least partially, with Savannah (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) and Le Conte's (*Ammodramus leconteii*) sparrows. Both of the latter species sing loud, space-centered "advertising" songs, and both are dominant over Nelson's Sharp-taileds living in the same marshes.

William Post and I are in the process of preparing a manuscript on evolution of the social system in the sharp-tailed sparrow complex. It will address the use of space, mating, and parental care, and the nature of interspecific social interactions between marshland sparrows. Singing behavior will be examined in relation to its role in sharp-tail social organization. In an evolutionary sense, we think that Seaside Sparrows played a modifying role in influencing singing behavior in Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows. Perhaps the prolonged, quiet nature of their songs is related to consequences of dominance behavior in Seaside Sparrows. But, Saltmarsh Sharp-taileds still exhibit the same distinctive life style irrespective of their associations in different communities of marsh birds.

FUNCTION OF SINGING

Our evidence on the function of singing in Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows suggests that this behavior is mate-related. Females respond to singing males when the former are receptive. Male sharp-tails may gain advantages by "advertising" their presence, even in a quiet way (the sound is localized), to females that may be present and potentially receptive. We have observed receptive females approaching singing males and presenting a sexual "invitation" display. Thus, male Saltmarsh Sharp-

tailed Sparrows commonly practice two different "strategies" that promote their mating success: the traditional one of singing by the male and "solicitation" display by the female, and a forced-mating "free-for-all" in which males seek unsolicited matings with nearly any female that they find (Greenlaw and Post, unpubl. data).

I predict that male Saltmarsh Sharp-taileds will be found singing on the South Shore marshes of eastern Suffolk just as we found them in the western Suffolk marshes. ES presents, admittedly, a neat model system--nearby marshes, some with only sharp-tails, and others with Seaside Sparrows and sharp-tails--and perhaps there are quantitative differences in singing time-budgets. There certainly needs to be a systematic study of this issue.

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NEW RECORD OF COWBIRD EGG BURIAL IN BLUE-HEADED VIREO NEST

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ABSTRACT

Yellow Warblers (*Dendroica petechia*) sometimes bury Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) eggs laid in their nests under a new nest or rarely under only a new nest lining. Buried eggs do not hatch because they cannot be properly incubated. Thus, cowbird egg burial removes the cost of parasitism. Burial of cowbird eggs by host species other than the Yellow Warbler is uncommon and little is known about the adaptive significance of this behavior. Here we present details of the fifth observation of cowbird egg burial by Blue-headed Vireos (*Vireo solitarius*). A single cowbird egg, laid before the vireo initiated her clutch, was buried in the lining of the nest. Two additional cowbird eggs and three vireo eggs laid in the completed nest were not buried. The first cowbird egg apparently was laid prematurely and was buried when the adults continued building the nest. In this instance, cowbird egg burial likely was not an anti-parasite defense.

INTRODUCTION

Egg burial is a defense strategy used by Yellow Warblers to rid themselves of the cost of Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism (Sealy 1995). Yellow Warblers bury cowbird eggs laid in their nests by constructing a new nest (i.e., base, frame, and lining) or rarely only a new nest lining on top of the cowbird egg(s) and any of their own eggs in the original nest (Mico 1998). Buried eggs have no contact with the brood patch of an incubating bird and cannot be properly incubated, which results in hatching failure. Thus, cowbird egg burial (hereafter burial) removes the reproductive cost of raising cowbird young.



Several observational and experimental studies have examined burial behavior in Yellow Warblers (Clark and Robertson 1981, Burgham and Picman 1989, Weatherhead 1989, Sealy 1995, Mico 1998, Sealy and Lorenzana 1998). However, little is known about burial in other host species, such as Blue-headed Vireos. A literature review found 109 burial records for 45 species of passerines (Mico 1998). These records often lack details of the nesting event or the observer removed all or some of the cowbird eggs. Additional detailed records of burial in species other than Yellow Warblers may help elucidate the adaptive significance of this behavior.

Friedmann (1929, 1963) summarized three observations of cowbird egg burial by Blue-headed Vireos (Friedmann 1929) and Solitary Vireos (*V. solitarius*) (Friedmann 1963). James (1998) reports an additional record from the Ontario nest records scheme. The taxonomic status of the Blue-headed Vireo has changed several times since Friedmann's first compilation in 1929. It was considered a distinct species by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) in 1931, but subsequently was treated as a subspecies of the Solitary Vireo (*V.s. solitarius*) (AOU 1957, 1983). Recently, the Solitary Vireo was split into three species: Plumbeous Vireo (*V. plumbeus*), Cassin's Vireo (*V. cassinii*), and Blue-headed Vireo (AOU 1997). The geographic locations of existing records of egg burial from Massachusetts (Greene 1892), New York (Allen 1913), West Virginia (Dickey 1941), and Ontario (James 1998), identifies the Blue-headed Vireo as the species considered here based on its current range (AOU 1998). To our knowledge, these are the only published records of cowbird egg burial in this species. Here, we report details of a fifth observation of burial by Blue-headed Vireos in Tompkins Co., NY.

METHODS

The observations reported below were made during a large scale nest monitoring project on six 80 ha forested study sites in Tompkins Co. and Schuyler Co., NY. Sites were located in the Finger Lakes National Forest (2 sites), Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area (3 sites), and in Cornell University's Arnot Forest (1 site). From 1992 to 1997, sites were searched for nests of all species of birds breeding from May through August. Nests were monitored usually every 2 to 4 days until fledging or nest failure.

OBSERVATIONS

On 8 May 1997, Underwood found a pair of Blue-headed Vireos building a nest 4.6 m high in an Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) with-

in the Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management area. The nest cup was not yet fully formed. On 15 May, inspection of the nest revealed a cowbird egg only partly visible because it was covered by nest lining. Subsequent visits found a final clutch of 3 vireo and 2 more cowbird eggs, but the laying sequence of these eggs was not known. None of these eggs was buried. Both cowbird eggs and two vireo eggs eventually hatched between 31 May and 4 June. By 12 June, no vireo nestlings were evident, and only 2 cowbird nestlings remained in the nest. One nestling prematurely fledged when the nest contents were inspected. On the last nest check, on 16 June, the second cowbird had fledged and could be heard begging nearby. One unhatched vireo egg was left in the nest. An additional visit was made to the nest to measure vegetation parameters. The vireo nest was examined closely and a small, exposed pocket was found in the nest lining containing a small cowbird eggshell fragment, thus confirming the earlier observation of a buried cowbird egg. No other eggs were buried and the pocket appeared only big enough for one egg. This observation of burial was the only instance from 6 parasitized Blue-headed Vireo nests found on all study sites from 1992 to 1997.

DISCUSSION

Rothstein (1975) questioned whether egg burial by Yellow Warblers was a response to parasitism and suggested that host eggs must be buried along with cowbird eggs for it to function as an anti-parasite strategy. Several studies have since shown that Yellow Warbler eggs are often buried along with cowbird eggs (Sealy 1995 and references therein). In addition, burial by Yellow Warblers was found to involve the construction of an entirely new nest (base, frame, and lining) on top of the eggs in their old nest (Mico 1998). Therefore, burial by Yellow Warblers appears to function as an anti-parasite strategy, although the exact stimulus the warblers use to detect parasitism is unknown (Sealy and Lorenzana 1998).

In our observation, burial by Blue-headed Vireos did not appear to function as an anti-parasite strategy. The buried cowbird egg was laid before any vireo eggs and probably before the nest was finished. A close inspection of the vireo nest after the young fledged revealed the empty pocket where the cowbird egg was buried. This pocket appeared to be formed within the nest lining and the nest did not look extraordinarily thick or larger than other Blue-headed Vireo nests without buried eggs in them (Underwood pers. obs.). In addition, the cowbird eggs that were laid in the nest after the burial of the first cowbird egg were not buried. However, the laying sequence of these eggs was not known and the cowbird eggs could have been laid late in or after the vireo's laying stage.

Yellow Warblers have been shown to bury significantly fewer cowbird eggs that have been laid later in their own egg laying stage (Clark and Robertson 1981, Sealy 1995). In this instance of egg burial, the cowbird egg was buried as the adult most likely completed the construction of the nest after the cowbird egg was laid, and not as a reaction to the cowbird egg itself.

Burial by Blue-headed Vireos appears to be a rare event. In this study, only one burial was recorded out of 6 parasitized nests and only four other records of burial have been published in over a century. Unfortunately, there has been no intensive study of the interactions between Blue-headed Vireos and cowbirds. Further research is needed to clarify the role of egg burial and other potential anti-parasite defenses in Blue-headed Vireos.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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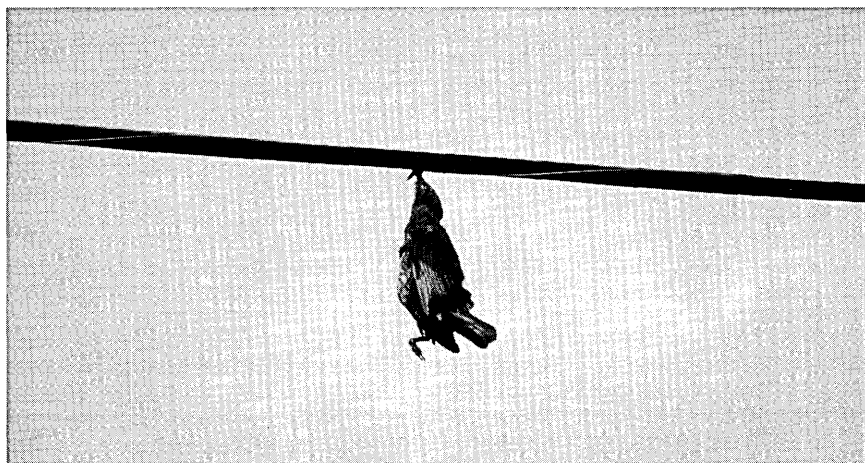
NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

UNUSUAL DEMISE OF A JUVENILE EUROPEAN STARLING.

On 1 Jun 1999 I was driving on Rte. 10 approximately 4 miles north of Sharon Springs in Montgomery County, when I noticed a dead bird dangling head skyward from a wire by the roadside. Despite being struck by how unusual the situation looked and being somewhat bewildered by it, I did not have the opportunity to pull over on that occasion. On 1 Jul 1999 I passed the location again and to my surprise saw that the bird was still in position. Through 8x42 binoculars it was obvious that the bird was a juvenile European Starling.

Its lower mandible was trapped under a thin greenish wire that looked similar to, but considerably thicker than fishing line. The greenish wire appeared to fasten a black electrical wire that wrapped along a supporting steel cable. The mandible was broken about mid way. The distal portion was pinned between the green and electrical wires while the basal portion (including the rest of the bird) swung freely from some dried, flexible membrane. The upper mandible (maxilla) was perfectly intact. I suspect that the lower mandible most likely became caught as the bird wiped its bill. It is hoped that the starling did not have to suffer for long. Having never seen the likes of this before, I took the accompanying photograph.

Gerard Phillips. 12599 Rt. 34 S, Cato, NY 13033. Gphillips@a-znet.com



1 July 99, Montgomery Co., New York Photo by Gerard Phillips

CANADA GOOSE ATTACKS OSPREY

On Tuesday 20 Apr 1999 at about 5:30 PM I stopped at the parking lot of the Tschache Pool of the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca County. I climbed up onto the viewing platform and, using the spotting scope there, searched for the Bald Eagle nest in the distance. As I looked for the eagles, I also noticed an Osprey begin to hover over the pool about 50-75 yards from me. The Osprey plunged into the pool, apparently after a fish in the shallows. Upon striking the water, the Osprey was instantly attacked by a gander Canada Goose about 10 feet distant. With its bill the gander grabbed the Osprey and held it under water. For a moment it seemed that the Osprey was in danger of being drowned. However the Osprey quickly resurfaced, freed itself from the gander's grasp and took off in flight pursued by the gander. The gander after an aerial pursuit for about 100 yards returned in a great swoop to the pool in the vicinity of a Canada Goose, certainly its mate, nesting on a muskrat "push-up" (lodge), putting on a show of loud honking and head bowing, part of the "triumph ceremony". Within 5 minutes the same Osprey was once again hovering over the pool, apparently unperturbed and fishing again.

Jean Gawalt, Biologist NYSDEC 108 Game Farm Rd. Delmar, NY 12054

RED-TAILED HAWK

Her shrill "kee-er-r-r startles the air
The raptor soars above Storm King
Her span of wings
Floats on warm uplift of thermal column
Her fanned-out tail glows from solar cauldron
The God-hawk radiates over the universe

Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr.
Courtesy *Appalachia*
Appalachian Mountain Club

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINTER SEASON 1999 - 2000

WILLIE D'ANNA

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

WEATHER EFFECTS

The first half of the season was mild with relatively little snow in most areas. Larger water bodies remained open, allowing numbers of waterfowl to linger. Half-hardies were prevalent. By mid January when winter finally set in, some of these species "chose" to stick it out. Apparently, a number of them were successful in making it through the season. Conditions were not uniform across the state. Region 10 had very little snow and the temperature never dropped below 20°F. Region 7 had some major snowstorms, an avalanche, and temperatures near -30° F in several areas. Half-hardies attempting to stay there made a mistake. February ended on a mild note with Buffalo recording its warmest February temperature ever, 71° on the 26th. As with many winter seasons, this warm weather triggered a migration spurt of Tundra Swans, hawks, Killdeers, an Eastern Phoebe in Region 2, robins and blackbirds. Impressive for late February were counts of 500 Tundra Swans in Region 3 and 23 Northern Harriers in Region 2. Under these conditions, the arrival into the state of an American Woodcock or two is not unusual. However, this season Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & even northerly Region 6 reported the species during the last few days of February. A woodcock on 22 Jan in Region 9 was considered early as well, though it could have been attempting to overwinter.

WATERFOWL

Several Regional Editors mentioned that the mild open winter permitted numbers of waterfowl to stay, particularly dabblers. American Black Ducks and Mallards provide the best illustration. Single area counts of the former were 1600 in Region 1, 1308 in Region 3, and over 2000 in Region 6. In the same Regions, Mallards were tallied at 9100, 12732, and over 5000, respectively. With smaller numbers, Region 7 set Regional records on the Federation Waterfowl Count (FWC) for the same two species. When the hard freeze finally occurred in mid January, divers became concentrated in the remaining open water. The latter event triggered counts of 8000 Redheads in Region 3 and up to 400 Ring-necked

Ducks in Region 6. The latter species were also up in Regions 1, 2, 3, 8 & 9. Other ducks that were above average in multiple Regions this winter included Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal (100 on 1 Jan in Region 3), Common Goldeneye, and Hooded Merganser. Common Merganser was highlighted in two quite different Regions. Region 7 reported a near record number on the FWC while in Region 10, where the species is less common than elsewhere in the state, "unusually large concentrations" were in several places.

RAPTORS

Rough-legged Hawks were more numerous than recent winters with the numbers in Region 10 considered of near record proportion. Migrants of this species were especially notable. Counts of 128 at Braddock Bay in Region 2, and 121 at Derby Hill in Region 5, both on 27 Feb, were outstanding. It is no longer surprising when Bald Eagles are found in every Region reporting during the winter. What is interesting and important however, is that their numbers continue to grow. The eastern half of the state, excluding Region 10, is the stronghold of the species. Regional record numbers were reported from Regions 6 & 9. The other eagle has a very different natural history. Unlike Bald Eagles, which are attracted to large open water bodies and rivers, Golden Eagles, since they feed on winter-kills, prefer areas where deer are numerous, and they may also prefer some altitudinal variation. In the hills of Cattaraugus County in Region 1, they had both this season and the birders had a wintering area for at least three Golden Eagles. These birds were seen repeatedly and occasionally at close range (Tom LeBlanc, pers.comm.).

Few northern owls were located this year with Snowy Owls again being scarce, though up from last year. A roost of 10 Long-eared Owls in Region 5 was impressive. Short-eared Owls were in moderate numbers.

After a tremendous movement of Northern Shrikes in the fall, I speculated on the possibility of record numbers on the Christmas Bird Counts this winter. While the results are not yet in, several Regional Editors commented on their high numbers. Region 2 Editor Griffith noted high numbers early in the season followed by a drop-off. This matched my perception on the Lake Ontario plain in Region 1. Since the Lake Ontario plain from where most of Region 2's records are generated, this may have just been a local phenomenon.

FROM THE FIELDS

Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were much more in evidence after the cold weather hit in mid January. Highest counts for the larks were 336 in Region 3 and 650 in Region 6. Snow Buntings had flocks of 300 or more in five Regions, topped by 2785 in Region 6 and 1000 in Region 7. Though much less common than the two former species, Lapland Longspurs put in the best showing, relatively speaking. Double-digit counts of the species were recorded in five Regions, led by 110 in Region 6 and 70 in Region 3.

WINTER FINCHES

By the standard of the last dozen years, it was an invasion year. However, numbers of these colorful northern invaders were lower than two winters ago. The most common species was Common Redpoll with counts over 100 in all but Region 10. Three "Greater" Redpolls, (*Carduelis flammea rostrata*), were reported in Region 7. Accompanying the Common Redpolls were Hoary Redpolls with some 28 reports of this NYSARC review species from Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, & 8. Red Crossbills were seen in only five Regions but that included a large group of "several dozen" in Region 10, with courtship behavior observed there in one instance. When found, usually only one or two White-winged Crossbills were seen, but they were located in seven Regions. Pine Grosbeaks were scarce but still found in six Regions. Modest numbers of Pine Siskins and Purple Finches were observed in all Regions. Evening Grosbeaks had a good season, with flocks in all Regions except Region 10.

LINGERERS AND HALF-HARDIES

It was another mild winter producing another long list of remarkable sightings. A late December Osprey in Region 8 and early January Whimbrel and Common Tern in Region 10 were the large birds of note. The tern is one of the latest ever in the state. An unidentified hummingbird and a swallow in Region 2 are noteworthy as was a remarkable 13 Hermit Thrushes in one location there on 2 Jan. A Sedge Wren was a great find in Region 9. Pine Warblers are pretty much annual in winter, but probably most sighted in winter do not stay through. This year, however, two *overwintered* at a feeding station in Region 1 and another provided the third winter record for northerly Region 7 on 15 Jan. Yellow-breasted Chats were found in Regions 2 & 9. Incredibly, two Cape May

Warblers were discovered, one inland in Region 5 and another in Region 10 establishing a state record late date of 6 Jan. A Palm Warbler lingered to 8 Jan in Region 8. A Northern Parula and a Magnolia Warbler on 12 Dec in Region 10 were two of the latest ever for those species. A 16 Jan Ovenbird in Region 2 is also one of the latest ever. Nashville Warbler and a Black-throated Blue Warbler in Region 10 have been recorded only a few times in winter before. A Tennessee Warbler 18 Dec (with details seen by Regional Editor) in Region 10, is only the second ever in winter. This bird, which can be difficult to id, certainly requires verification, but virtually all of the other sightings in this section are unusual enough to also warrant "writing up" for your Regional Editor. Unusual sparrow finds included an overwintering Fox in Region 4 and Savannahs on 23 Jan in Region 1 and 6 Feb in Region 3. A Clay-colored Sparrow on 18 Dec in Region 10 is the latest ever in the state. An Indigo Bunting overwintering in Region 10 is about the fifth ever in winter in New York. A Baltimore Oriole on 17 Jan in Region 9 was the latest sighting for that species.

MISCELLANEOUS

Erratic in number though of nearly annual occurrence in recent decades, Bohemian Waxwings staged a fine showing this season. They were found in all but Regions 3 & 9 with maximum counts of 500 in Region 6, 270 in Region 5, 150 in Region 7, and 44 in Region 8. Other notable counts were 45 Black Vultures in Region 9, perhaps a record winter count, and 3427 Black-legged Kittiwakes seen from a boat off Montauk, one of the highest counts ever in the state. Though larger winter concentrations have been found, two impressive flocks of White-crowned Sparrows, 52 from Region 3 and 27 from Region 2 were unusual. Not long ago Tufted Titmouse was a rare bird in Region 7. This season a total of 40 was reported there. Nine King Eiders in Region 2 was a good count while four Common Yellowthroats still in Region 3 on 1 Jan were very unusual. A White-rumped Sandpiper was very late in Region 2, and a Pectoral Sandpiper also in Region 2, was the earliest ever. An adult Franklin's Gull was a very rare mid-winter find in Region 1. Oddly, the Franklin's was still in its breeding plumage which had become very worn (pers. obs.).

RARITIES

Found in multiple Regions were Eared Grebes in Regions 2, 3, & 10 and Thayer's Gulls in Regions 2, 3, & 8. Two Great Cormorants returned to Region 5 and another was in Region 8. In Region 1 Black-headed and California gulls were highlights though both are practically annual. Region 2 had some stellar birds - Pacific Loon, Glossy Ibis, Ivory Gull, and Barn Owl. The rufous-morph Red-tailed Hawk returned to Region 3. Eurasian Wigeons were in Regions 4 & 9. Ross's Goose, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Dickcissel were highlights in Region 5. Region 6 found a Tufted Duck, Great Gray Owl, and a Three-toed Woodpecker. Region 10 had several great birds: another "Black" Brant, 3 to 4 Great Skuas when just one would be spectacular, a returning Mew Gull of the European race, now in its second-year, a fly-by Black Guillemot, "Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow and a "Pink-sided" Dark-eyed Junco.

The BOTS award was a simple choice. It goes to the MacGillivray's Warbler in Region 10, a first for the state. And, as with many other recent state firsts, our editor has managed to get the full story in print before the rest of the season reports. Check out Veit and Taylor's account of this find in *The Kingbird*, Vol. 50, No.1, p. 2-6.

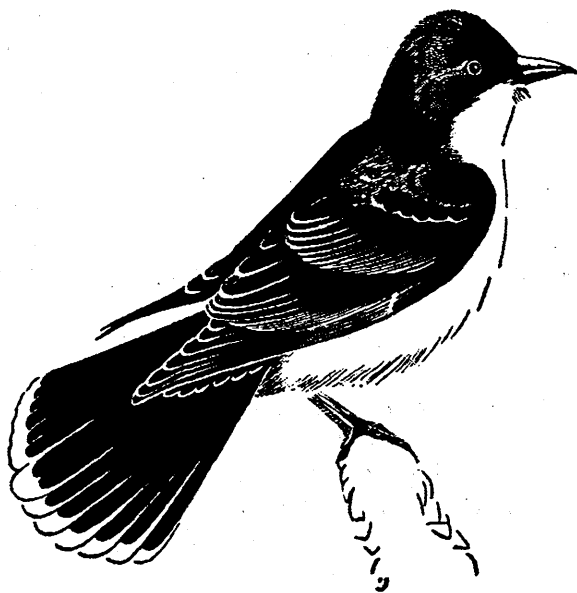
THANK YOU , LEE

Lee B. Chamberlaine, veteran Region 6 Editor has advised that he is unable to continue in that capacity. A check of the records reveals that Lee has written fifty (50) Region 6 reports, starting with his first in 1969, with his latest appearing in the March issue of 2000. It is the selfless dedication of individuals like Lee that makes it possible for the Federation and *The Kingbird* to keep the birding community of the state apprised of events and developments in New York State ornithology in a timely fashion. Thank you Lee, we wish you well, and hope that you will do more Regional Reports in the near future.

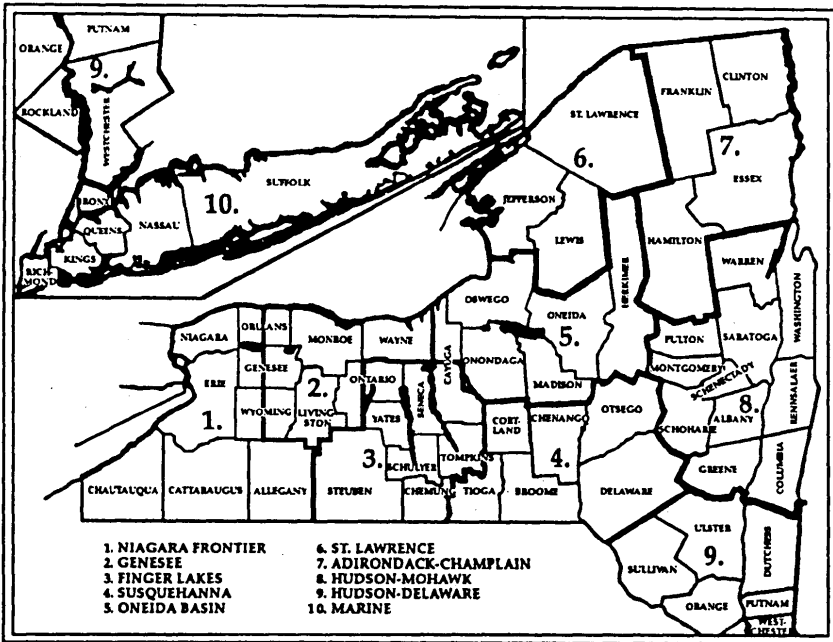
The Editor

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD UPPERCASE**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! — details seen by Regional Editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; Am. — American; arr — arrival or first of season; BBS — Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS — bird of the season; CBC — Christmas Bird Count; CO — confirmed nesting; Com. — Common; E. — Eastern; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; I — Island; imm — immature; *intro* — see introduction to report; juv — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; N. — Northern; NYSDEC — New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR — National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC — report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P — Park; Pd — Pond; ph — photographed; Pt — Point; Res — Reservoir; SP — State Park; spm — specimen; subad — subadult; T — Town of; Twn — township; W. — Western; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.



REPORTING REGIONS



Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, *except at:*

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties: the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia, NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County: the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County: the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

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

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

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

Fall Season: September, October, November

REGION 1 - NIAGARA FRONTIER

Dick Miga
38 Elm Street
Fredonia NY 14063-1937

December 1999 was another mild and dry month for the Buffalo area, with the exception of wintry conditions around the holidays, a trend which has continued for the last two years. After a mild first three weeks of the month, colder weather brought the lake-effect snowstorms from the 21st to the 28th averaging from about 8 inches in the city of Buffalo to about 20 inches in the south town areas. The average temperature for the month was 32°F, about 3 degrees above normal, with precipitation totaling just over 2 inches. The month saw only 5 sunny days. The Lake Erie temperature averaged 36°F, 1 degree above normal.

January of the New Year averaged what one might call a normal month, with normal temperatures and precipitation. This was reached through a very warm first half and a cold and snowy second half. While there were no particularly intense storms during the period, January will be most remembered for its abrupt change from lengthy unseasonable mildness to the longest stretch of rather severe cold in six years with an average temperature of 23.6° and total precipitation of 2.65 inches

February began on a wintry note and continued cold through the first three weeks. It ended with a final week that boosted average temperatures to well above normal. On 26 Feb the temperature rose to 71°F, the warmest February temperature ever recorded in Buffalo. Precipitation totaled 1.75 inches, slightly below normal. The big story of the month was the incredible warm-up of the final week. The record high temperatures during this period resulted in rapid melting, forming ice jams in many of the creeks discharging into Lake Erie and causing tremendous property damage. In summarizing the winter period, it can be stated that it was the 4th consecutive mild winter, the 16th warmest and the 8th driest in 57 years of record keeping. Meteorological data were obtained from the website of the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Data and Summary* for Buffalo, NY.

The continued mild conditions of fall extended through the winter season here in western New York resulting in some late reports such as a Pine Warbler pair that remained at a feeder in the town of Pomfret in Chautauqua Co. from 1 Jan to 22 Mar. The birds were observed feeding on suet. In addition to this report, the expected *fringillidae* invasion predicted during November materialized with good counts of Common

Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks and appearances of cross-bills (primarily White-winged). Noticeably absent during the period were Pine Grosbeaks, which probably remained further north. A **Hoary Redpoll** was observed by Jim Wojewodzki at his thistle feeder in the town of Colden in Erie county from 20 - 23 Jan. While Common Redpoll counts reached as high as 200 in this Region, the numbers were not as impressive as those obtained from internet reports indicating higher counts from nearby areas. Also of interest was a report by Mike Galas and William Watson of 3 **Bohemian Waxwings** in the town of Somerset in Niagara County on 8 Dec.

Tim Baird reports 3 **Golden Eagles** in the Allegany reservoir and the Allegany State Park during December and January. Two of the birds were immature and one was an adult. Tim provides wonderful accounts of the sightings that he and Dr. Stephen Eaton recorded.

The Niagara River continued to produce its usual display of larids, with an adult **California Gull** observed by Willie D'Anna from 4 - 12 Dec thru and again on 1 and 2 Jan. The bird(s?) was spotted near the Robert Moses Power Plant, Lewiston. In addition, a **Black-headed Gull** appeared in the river at Lewiston in Niagara County on 27 Feb, reported by D'Anna and Mike Morgante. A report of a **Black-legged Kittiwake** from the river on 9 Jan was received from Mike Galas and William Watson, also from near Lewiston. Yet another good river sighting was a **Barrow's Goldeneye** discovered by Dean DiTommaso on 30 Jan. A gull sighting from further afield was an adult **Franklin's Gull** in Dunkirk Harbor on the south shore of Lake Erie in Chautauqua County. The bird was present from 6 thru 17 Feb. Peter Yoerg first identified the gull, which puzzled observers as its full summer hood was clearly visible. A check of Jon Dunn's narrative on the video of "The Small Gulls of North America" indicates that the Franklin's Gull usually retains a partial hood during the winter

Thanks to the efforts of David Neveu, the migratory movements of Rough-legged Hawks in the westernmost section of Region 1 are better understood. They were thought to follow the typical near lakeshore fall and spring migratory paths, but David's work has determined that they are actually found to be more numerous along a path about 20 miles inland.

Lastly, the Region 1 Christmas Bird Count compiler Jim Landau, reports new 10-year-high records for the following species: Double-crested Cormorant, Snow Goose, Tundra Swan, American Wigeon, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Rock Dove, Northern Flicker, and Red-winged Blackbird. Peregrine Falcon and Common Yellowthroat were reported for the first time in the ten year period. 10-year lows were

recorded for: Canvasback, Great Horned Owl, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and White-throated Sparrow.

This report concludes my short term as Region 1 Editor for *The Kingbird*. When I took this responsibility on, I envisioned a long tenure that would enhance my retirement years. However, many times life gives us warnings that we should not overlook. Just under four years ago, I experienced a major heart attack. Upon my return from the hospital I looked forward to returning to my job of 40 years, an activity from which I could not conceive of ever retiring. I analyzed and agonized the decision, and when I made my mind up to retire I found that it was not as hard to do as I always thought it would be. Once again I find myself faced with a similar decision, and you know what, it is not hard again. Many times as we age we try too hard to hold on to things too long and too seriously. We have a lot to give to future generations, and one of the greatest gifts we can give is the respect and understanding that they too can do the job we did. That is exactly what I am doing today. Replacing me will be Mike Morgante, who is an outstanding young man with a tremendous future in birding and, most importantly, in life. I am sure that the Region 1 birders will provide Mike with the same support and assistance they gave to me.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Willie D'Anna, Dick Rosche, Mike Morgante, Joe Thill, Vivian Pitzrick, David Neveu, David Suggs, Bob Andrie, Jim Landau, Gerry Rising, Bob Spahn, and Manny Levine for their input to these reports. Finally, a tremendous vote of appreciation is given to the many birders of Region 1 for the continuous supply of bird reports that made this job enjoyable and educational. Thank you.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ASP - Allegany State Park - CATT; BISP - Beaver Island State Park - Grand Island; BWWTP - Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; BuSP - Buckhorn Island State Park - Grand Island; DH - Dunkirk Harbor, City of Dunkirk; FMSCP - Four Mile Creek State Park - NIAG;; GHSP - Golden Hills State Park - NIAG; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge - GENE/ORLE; LBSP - Lakeside Beach State Park, ORLE; MHSF - McCarty Hill State Forest; NR - Niagara River; OOWMA - Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area - GENE; SPNP - Sinking Ponds Nature Preserve, Buffalo

LOONS - DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: sev reports of 2 - 4 NIAG birds 7 - 27 Dec.
Pied-billed Grebe: 12 Mayville CHAU 11 Dec (DN).
Horned Grebe: 6 DH 5 Dec; 8 GHSP 8 Dec; 105 T Sheridan CHAU 12 Jan (DN).
Double-crested Cormorant: counts of 20 to 500 daily DH thru (DM, DN); peaks 600 DH 15 Feb and 500 DH 24 Feb are unprecedented inland winter counts.
Great Blue Heron: 35 Motor Island Niagara River 29 Feb (WW).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 ad Buffalo 12 Feb (MM).
Mute Swan: 2 DH 28, 29 Dec (FR,WW).
Tundra Swan: sev reports of 24 to 92 BUSP and OOWMA 2 - 21 Dec; 179 BISP 20 Feb (BB).
Gadwall: 84 Mayville CHAU 11 Dec (DN); 16 BWWTP 2 Jan (WW).
Am. Wigeon: 11 Olcott NIAG 26 Feb (WW).
Am. Black Duck: 1600 OOWMA 12 Dec (BK); 14 BWWTP 2 Jan.
Mallard: 9100 OOWMA 12 Dec (BK).
N. Shoveler: 165 OOWMA 12 Dec (BK); 114 BWWTP 21 Dec (WW).
N. Pintail: 1 Goat Island NR 15 Feb (AG).
Canvasback: 7416 BISP 21 Jan.
Redhead: 185 Buffalo Harbor 26 Dec.
Greater Scaup: 7100 Buffalo 24 Jan.
Surf Scoter: 1 imm ? DH 23-29 Jan; 2 DH 8-21 Feb.
White-winged Scoter: 1150 Carlton

ORLE to Porte NIAG 15 Jan (WD); 1800 Somerset NIAG 13 Feb (WD,BP).
Oldsquaw: 60 Bird Island Pier Buffalo 4 Dec; 2000 lower Niagara River 23 Jan (JS,MD); 2290 NR 15 Feb (GB).
Com. Goldeneye: 1550 Niagara Falls 9 Jan (BK).
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: 1 Buffalo 30 Jan (DD); 1 Bird Island Pier, Buffalo 4, 12, 15 Feb (PY).
Hooded Merganser: 75 Mayville CHAU 11 Dec.
Ruddy Duck: 44 BWWTP 21 Dec (WW).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 nest INWR 16 Feb (WD).
Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 INWR 16 Feb (?K).
Rough-legged Hawk: 8 South Dayton CHAU 24 Dec.
Golden Eagle: 3 (2 imm, 1 ad) ASP 26 Dec - 16 Jan (TB,SE).
Merlin: 1 - 2 birds U. Buffalo campus 15 - 21 Dec, 5 - 28 Jan, 1-17 Feb (PY,BK).
Peregrine Falcon: 1 Niagara Falls 4 - 11 Dec (WD).
Wild Turkey: 2 Buffalo 16 Jan.
Am. Coot: 98 DH 28 Feb.
Am. Woodcock: 2 Amity Lake 26 Feb (VP), early.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: 1 ad DH 6-17 Feb (PY, mob).
Little Gull: 42 NR Lewiston NIAG 26 Feb (WW).
BLACK-HEADED GULL: 1 Lewiston NIAG 27 Feb (WD,MM).

Bonaparte's Gull: 10,000 NR 1 Jan (R&DR).

CALIFORNIA GULL: 1ad Robert Moses Power Plant NIAG 4-12 Dec, 1-2 Jan (WD).

Iceland Gull: 1 DH 4 Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 5-6 Niagara Falls 11, 26 Dec (MM,KF,BK); 3 Niagara Falls 2, 4 Jan (MM,GB).

Glaucous Gull: 1 Niagara Falls 4, 30 Dec; 1 DH 18 Jan.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: 1 Lewiston NIAG 9 Jan (MG,WW).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: 1 Buffalo 4, 6 Dec (MM,BK); 1 - 2 Buffalo waterfront 9 -19 Jan (mob).

Long-eared Owl: 1 Porter NIAG 27 Dec (MM).

Short-eared Owl: many reports 1 - 10 various areas thru.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 FM CSP 27 Dec (BP).

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 LBSP 14 Dec (MG,GR).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 East Aurora ERIE 2 Feb (R&DR).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: many reports of singles throughout Region thru.

Com. Raven: 1 - 7 CATT and ALLE Jan; 3 ASP 17 Feb (MG,PY).

Carolina Wren: singles Feb throughout Region.

Hermit Thrush: 1 T Porter NIAG 27 Dec (BP,DD).

Am. Robin: 405 Somerset NIAG 13 Feb.

Gray Catbird: 1 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 29 Dec (DN); 1 Snyder ERIE 29 Feb (BK).
N. Mockingbird: 1 Amherst ERIE 15 Dec (BC).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 3 T Somerset NIAG 8 Dec (MG,WW!).

WARBLERS

Pine Warbler: pair T. Pomfret CHAU 1 Jan - 22 Mar (mob), at feeder.

Com. Yellowthroat: 1 SPNP 6 Dec (LH).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: 1 Warsaw WYOM 6 Dec (HK).

Savannah Sparrow: 1 Yates ORLE 23 Jan (PY).

Lapland Longspur: 45 T Yates ORLE 13 Feb (WD,BP)

Snow Bunting: 20 T Yates ORLE 6 Feb.

Red-winged Blackbird: 28 South Park ERIE 13 Feb.

E. Meadowlark: 1 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 24 Dec (DN).

Rusty Blackbird: 2 SPNP 26 Jan (LH).

Com. Grackle: 4 Tonawanda ERIE 24 Feb.

Purple Finch: 1 Colden ERIE 10 Feb.

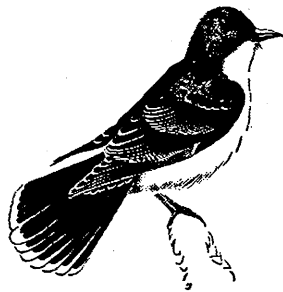
White-winged. Crossbill: 1 T Porter NIAG 12 Dec (BK).

Com. Redpoll: many reports, 1 - 200 throughout Region thru.

HOARY REDPOLL: 1 T Colden ERIE 20-23 Jan (JW).

Pine Siskin: 1-4 ERIE 1-19 Dec.

Evening Grosbeak: 12 Amity Lake ALLE 4 Dec; 40 MHSF 19 Dec; max 40 Ellery CHAU 12 Feb.



REGION 2 - GENESEE

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As in many recent years, December started things off with the first three weeks of the month very mild, changed dramatically for about a week, and then back to mild. The result was a 3°F above average temperature of 32.2°F. Precipitation was just over 2" and 0.67" below normal. Snowfall was at 19.1", but most fell on the 14th, 26th, and 27th. Still, the total was only a few inches below normal. These conditions resulted in some open water, generally bare ground, and easy travel for the Christmas Bird Counts.

One weather forecaster called January a "Jekyll and Hyde" month. The first half was for the most part mild and dry with little snowfall. The second half was cold and snowy. The first 12 days of the month averaged 13° above normal. The rest of the month was a frigid 10° below normal. Only two of the last 19 days of the month were above the freezing mark. The monthly average was 23.2°F, which was 0.4° below normal. The precipitation total of 2.98" was 0.9" above normal. The real story though was the 42" of snow. This was the 7th snowiest January in the last 100 years. The vast majority fell during the last two weeks. No one worked on big January lists this year, so reports were down, particularly for half-hardies, but the species total was about average at 111.

February's average temperature was 5.6° above normal at 30.2°F. Precipitation totaled 0.13" below the norm of 1.97". Snowfall was down from January to a modest 25.7". The first three-fourths of the month was cold, but a stretch of warm temperatures at the end of the month brought a "burst of migrants" as Bob Spahn put it. There were some record early arrivals.

Water birds were, for the most part, quite good this year. Once again the Lakewatch at Hamlin Beach provided some consistent coverage and decent totals. Canada Geese and the divers were on the plus side. A count of 100+ Horned Grebes in January was a very good total. The Federation Waterfowl Count netted above average numbers and a good variety in the Region. After the cold spell, counts of individuals dropped considerably. Pack ice formed along the shoreline which made looking for loons, grebes, and waterfowl difficult.

Rough-legged Hawk reports were on the up side early in the season but declined towards the middle. The usual accipiters were reported working the backyard feeders.

Gull numbers were only mediocre this year. Some of the usual large concentrations were lacking. As the season wore on things picked up a little bit with, Thayer's, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous being reported. It was a poor season for Little and Bonaparte's gulls.

Snowy Owl reports were few and far between with only two sightings. Short-eared Owls were found at their usual haunts.

Passerines were generally good with the Christmas Bird Counts turning up a decent variety. After the counts things tailed off a little and some traditional species were tougher to locate. Northern Shrikes were relatively easy to locate early in the season, but numbers dropped off towards the end. A surprisingly high count of 13 Hermit Thrushes was found in Webster Park on 2 January. This deviated significantly from other reports during the season. These birds were obviously moving around as they were not located on subsequent visits to the location. Carolina Wren and N. Mockingbird seemed to be holding their own despite the cold spells. The anticipated winter finch movement never really materialized, although all expected species were reported. Common Redpolls were the only consistent representative of the group. A scattering of Hoary Redpolls accompanied them.

The three local CBC's did fairly well this year. The Letchworth-Silver Lake Count reached 76 species, just 1 short of the 1984 high. Two new species, American Pipit and Chipping Sparrow, were located. Ten species set new highs, with Mourning Dove doubling its previous high at 1244. The 96th Rochester CBC totaled 92 species. No new species were added, but Red-necked Grebe, Canada Goose, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Rock Dove, and Pileated Woodpecker established new highs. The Little Lakes Count was a record breaker with 95 species. Peregrine Falcon was new for the count. Tundra Swan, Canada Goose, Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, and American Coot were recorded in "appreciably higher" numbers than usual.

Dave Tetlow's quest for 300 species came down to the last day of the year. He spent the day watching the lake from Hamlin Beach State Park. He started the day at 299 and finished at 301. Pacific Loon and Ivory Gull pushed him over the top. It was a very successful year for Dave. His persistence and hard work paid off. Dave's efforts raised money that was donated to the Nature Conservancy. Congratulations on a job well done, Dave!

The three-month species total was 149. There were many good records for the season including Eared Grebe, King Eider, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Pectoral Sandpiper, Barn Owl, and a brief appearance by an Ovenbird. True rarities included Pacific Loon, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Ivory Gull, with the latter being the bird of the season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB - Braddock Bay, CL - Crusoe Lake (Wayne Co), CO - Conesus Lake, DE - Durand-Eastman Park, G - Greece, H - Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach, HL - Honeoye Lake, HP - Hogan Point (Greece), IB - Irondequoit Bay, M - Manitou, P - Penfield, PE - Perinton, SB - Sodus Bay, SC - Salmon Creek (Greece), SP - Sodus Point, WP - Webster Park.

LOONS - DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: max 464 HB 2 Dec;
11 HB 1 Jan.

PACIFIC LOON: HB 31 Dec (DT).

Horned Grebe: max 100+ M 8 Jan.

Red-necked Grebe: max 23 HB 15 Dec;
HB 1,3,8 Jan; arr 3 HB 2 Feb.

EARED GREBE: CO 26 Dec (SSk, DD).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: IB 1,9 Jan
(CC,SSk).

Glossy Ibis: SB (South) 4 Dec (DT).

Turkey Vulture: G 8 Jan; 5 Bergen 12 Jan;
G 15 Jan; 6 BB 27 Feb, normally rare in
winter.

Snow Goose: SP 3 Feb.

Snow "Blue" Goose: CO 24 Dec; CO 1,9
Jan; H 26 Feb.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Lima 5-15
Dec (KF); CO 24 Dec (KF).

Trumpeter Swan: 1-2 IB 8-16 Jan, origin?

Tundra Swan: max 145 CO 26 Dec; arr 6
HB 22 Feb.

Wood Duck: Williamson 16 Jan, scarce;
arr 2 BB 22 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: max 6 CO 16 Jan; arr 4 HB
24 Feb.

Blue-winged Teal: last BB 2 Dec.

N. Shoveler: max 31 G, BB 19 Dec; arr 3
HB 27 Feb.

N. Pintail: max 4 G 5 Jan; arr 6 HB 23 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: Pultneyville 15 Jan;
P 16 Jan; arr 7 HB 27 Feb.

Redhead: max 4174 CO 16 Jan.

Ring-necked Duck: max 219 HL 26 Dec.

Greater Scaup: max 7089 G 19 Dec (RCBC).

Lesser Scaup: max 1491 Irondequoit 19
Dec (RCBC)

King Eider: max 9 HB 2 Dec (WS, BE);
HB 15 Dec (BE, WS), imm/female; HB 18
Dec (BE, DT), imm/female; HB 30 Dec
(BE, DT), imm/female.

COMMON EIDER: SP 23 Jan (M&JT),
imm. male

Harlequin Duck: SP 16,30 Jan

(DT,DS,GC).

White-winged Scoter: max 5523 HB 1 Dec.

Oldsquaw: max 510 DE 19 Jan.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: SB 27 Dec

(DT), imm male.

Ruddy Duck: max 30 CO 24 Dec.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: BB 10 Jan, ad; BB 15 Jan, imm; SP 23 Jan, imm.

N. Harrier: max 23 BB 27 Feb.

N. Goshawk: Charlotte 31 Dec, only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr M 27 Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 128 BB 27

Feb, very high count.

Merlin: H 9 Dec; P 17 Feb; M 27 Feb, regular in winter in recent years.

Peregrine Falcon: CO 26 Dec; 2 IB 10 Jan.

Wild Turkey: max 61 CL 12 Feb.

Killdeer: G 2 Jan; arr 5 HB 22 Feb.

Greater Yellowlegs: last SC 2 Dec, late.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last SC 2 Dec.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 M 27 Feb, (DT, DN), record early.

Dunlin: last 2 SC 2 Dec.

Com. Snipe: 2 CO 1 Jan.

Am. Woodcock: arr HL 27 Feb.

Pomarine Jaeger: 1 juv HB 1 Dec; HB 12 Dec; HB 13 Dec; 1 juv HB 24 Dec.

Parasitic Jaeger: BB 19 Dec.

jaeger species: 1 HB 10 Dec.

Little Gull: arr G 9 Feb.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 3308 HB 1 Dec.

Thayer's Gull: P 1 1st winter 1 Jan (DS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 ad IB 1 Dec, (KD); HB 4 Dec (BE, WS); HB 24 Dec

(BE); PE 8 Jan (sev), 3rd winter; 1 2nd

winter PE 15 Jan (sev); 1 1st winter PE

23 Jan (sev); 1 ad Charlotte 30 Jan (GC).

Iceland Gull: 7 individuals PE all Jan (DS).

Glaucous Gull: 1st winter PE 13-22 Jan (DS); ad PE 27 Jan (DS).

Black-legged Kittiwake: 1 imm HB 17

Dec (BE); 1 imm HB 18 Dec (WS).

IVORY GULL: HB 31 Dec (BE, DT), 3rd regional record.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Barn Owl: West Bloomfield 26 Dec (RS).

Snowy Owl: PB 30 Dec, scarce.

N. Saw-whet Owl: arr HP 17 Feb.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: E. Bloomfield 8 Jan (GC), scarce.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: arr M 27 Feb, early.

Com. Raven: 2 HL 26 Dec.

hummingbird species: W 20 Dec (LG).

swallow species: W 5 Dec (RS).

Hermit Thrush: max 13 W 2 Jan (DT, MD).

Am. Pipit: WYOM 18 Dec (HK), very late.

Bohemian Waxwing: DE 1,4 Jan (GC, R&SS); HP 3 Feb (DT).

WARBLERS

Pine Warbler: HB 4 Dec.

Ovenbird: Irondequoit 15-16 Jan

(MM, DT), very rare in winter.

Com. Yellowthroat: 2 CO 26 Dec.

Yellow-breasted Chat: G 11 Dec (DT).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: CO 26 Dec.

Field Sparrow: 2 CO 26 Dec.

Song Sparrow: arr HP 17 Feb.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 27

Avon/Retsoff 23 Jan.

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: York 18 Jan (DT), male.

Rusty Blackbird: CO 1 Jan.

Com. Grackle: Brighton 3 Jan.

Purple Finch: arr DE 13 Feb.

White-winged Crossbill: 2 HB 1 Jan; 3

HB 3 Jan; HB 19 Jan.

Com. Redpoll: 130 HB 11 Dec; max 275-325 W 3 Jan.

Hoary Redpoll: HB 7 Dec (WS, BE); 2

Gaines 10 Dec (DT); HB 1 Jan (SSk);

Parma 26 Jan (BE); P 3 Feb (R&CMc); W

26-27 Feb (D&DT).

Evening Grosbeak: arr P 3 Feb.

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REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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Winter 1999-2000 was something of a mixed bag, both in temperature and in precipitation. Overall, temperatures were well above normal. The first two weeks of January were the second warmest in the last fifty years. Nevertheless, the third and fourth weeks of January were the third coolest in the last fifty years. February averaged 4.8 degrees warmer than normal, but was still the coolest February in the last four years.

Precipitation varied with location. With the help of lake-effect snow, Ithaca had above normal precipitation in January and February, while Elmira had below normal precipitation every month. Snow covered the ground in Ithaca for 51 days, including an unbroken string of 43 days from 13 Jan through 24 Feb.

The extended period of snow cover experienced from mid January through mid February benefited birders by concentrating flocks of Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings, on manure spreads and in wind scoured fields, and by keeping Common Redpolls at feeders. Snow cover combined with severe cold was the probable cause of a few deaths of Canada Geese observed in scattered locations in the Region. As shallows froze over, Mallards again compensated by actively diving in the Chemung River, and also in the Union Springs Mill Pond.

The mild weather of the first half of the winter season may have been at least partly responsible for the wide variety and large numbers of waterfowl passing the winter in the Finger Lakes Region. This appeared to be the case last winter as well. Nevertheless, many species' numbers were up significantly over last year. For a few species-Tundra Swan, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, and Ring-necked Duck-this was the second consecutive winter in which their numbers were up significantly over the previous year. In the case of Redhead, the increase in numbers did not occur until a late January influx of the birds.

Two species whose large global populations are of public concern, the Snow Goose and Canada Goose, were both up significantly over last year.

Rare species of waterbirds in the Region included Eared Grebe, Greater White-fronted Goose, and White-winged Scoter. Barrow's Goldeneye appeared on both Seneca and Cayuga lakes.

Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and American Kestrel were all reported in higher numbers this winter. The rarest raptors were Red-

shouldered Hawk, reported from three different sites, and Peregrine Falcon, seen again in the Canandaigua area. Among upland game birds, only the Ruffed Grouse had a significant change in its numbers. Reports indicate that it is in an upward swing of its cyclic population.

Birders reported fewer Ring-billed Gulls, but more Herring Gulls. Rarer gulls included several reports of Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous gulls. Robb Brumfield, Tom Nix, Ken Rosenberg, and Matt Young collaborated on the identification of an adult Thayer's Gull at the Seneca Meadows Landfill.

All of the introduced species, Rock Dove, European Starling, House Sparrow, had significant increases in numbers reported. The House Finch seems to have begun recovery of its population from the negative effects of conjunctivitis.

Among the more sedentary native species, none of the owls demonstrated any changes in population or detectability by birders. Several woodpecker species, however, were found in significantly greater numbers. The reason for an increase in Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, N. Flicker, and Pileated Woodpecker is worthy of speculation. N. Flicker, the one migratory species in the group, may have been induced to stay in larger numbers because of the mild early winter weather. Perhaps the dry weather of the past breeding season was a factor. Might low humidity have an effect on the nesting success of cavity nesting species? Another result of the dry summer appears to have been an increase in the availability of many fruits. Perhaps the attraction of woodpeckers to wild grapes, apples, and other fruits simply drew them into areas where birders could find them more easily. Pileated Woodpeckers were very scarce last winter, but did not seem to be low in numbers during the following spring. This indicates that size of population was not a factor for the low number of reports that winter. Apparently, the birds were just harder for birders to find.

Corvids known to be expanding their ranges, surprisingly were not reported in significantly greater numbers this winter. Blue Jays, however, were up and Am. Crows were down. The latter assessment is probably because no one offered an estimate of the entire population of Am. Crows in the huge roost at Auburn this year. Woodland foragers, Black-capped Chickadee, the nuthatches, and Brown Creeper, were all reported in significantly greater numbers this winter. Golden-crowned Kinglets were quite scarce compared to last year.

Among the southern songsters, only the Carolina Wren showed a significant change, with many more reported this winter. E. Bluebirds and Cedar Waxwings both increased, probably in response to the widely

available fruit, but Am. Robins were about the same. Field foragers showed significant changes. Lapland Longspurs were up, Horned Larks and Snow Buntings were down. Several sparrow species were up significantly: Am. Tree, Song, White-throated, and White-crowned. Dark-eyed Junco, however, was the only species of bird to show a significant decrease for the second consecutive winter. The dry summers of the last two years may have had some adverse effects on the junco's nesting success. George Kloppel reported a Fox Sparrow at his feeder in December. Ben Fambrough and Matt Medler discovered a Savannah Sparrow in Covert in February.

Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, Am. Goldfinches, and Evening Grosbeaks were reported in larger numbers this winter. Common Redpolls were especially numerous in much of the Region, with several people reporting flocks in excess of one hundred at their feeders. Wes Hochachka and Ken Rosenberg turned in the only report of a Hoary Redpoll in the Region. Redpolls were virtually absent from the Chemung River Valley.

Under miscellaneous, observers reported more Mourning Doves and fewer Yellow-rumped Warblers. The four Common Yellowthroats found on the Montezuma CBC was an unusually high number for this infrequent straggler. James Manley found another in the Big Flats Bird Sanctuary.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AuB - Aurora Bay, CaL - Cayuga Lake, CCBC - Corning CBC, CLB - Cayuga Lake Basin, CLSP - Cayuga Lake State Park, CLWC - Cayuga Lake Waterfowl Count, CPF - Cornell Pheasant Farm, EBCB - Elmira CBC, EID - Elmira Dam, GCBC - Geneva CBC, ICBC - Ithaca CBC, KeuL - Keuka Lake, KH - Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory, MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, MCBC - Montezuma CBC, SML - Seneca Meadows Landfill, StP - Stewart Park TOMP, TCAH - The Center at Horseheads.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 2 Dryden 11 Dec, only report.

Com. Loon: max 13 Dryden 11 Dec; 6 StP 14 Jan.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 15 ICBC 1 Jan, six year high; 6 Village Marina SCHU 5 Feb.

Horned Grebe: max 21 CLB 29 Jan, six year high; 11 AuB 12 Feb.

EARED GREBE: 1 AuB 9-16 Jan (mob).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2 CaL 30 Jan (BF); 1 ICBC 1 Jan; 1 CLB 29 Jan; 1 Champlin Beach STEU 6 Feb.

Great Blue Heron: max 22 MCBC 1 Jan (Fide BPu).

Turkey Vulture: arr 1 Ithaca 23 Feb; 1 Pine City 26 Feb; only reports.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 1 Covert 20 Feb (GB, MH), only report.

Snow Goose: max 1793 MCBC 1 Jan, six year high; several hundred Covert 28 Dec.

Canada Goose: max 32228 MCBC 1 Jan; several thousand CLSP 15 Jan.

Mute Swan: max 7 MCBC 1 Jan, six year high.

Tundra Swan: max 501 Cayuga Lake State Wildlife Management Area 27 Feb (D&SGo).

Trumpeter Swan: 1 MNWR 12 Jan (GP), only report.(origin?)

Wood Duck: 1 Myers Point TOMP 22 Jan (BF, MMe, MWi, MY), only report.

Gadwall: max 67 CLWC, six year high; 24 GCBC 2 Jan; 1 KeuL 17 Feb.

Am. Wigeon: max 21 CLB 9 Jan (GK, PL, MY), six year high; many other reports from the CLB; 1 TCAH 8-9 Jan.

Am. Black Duck: max 1308 MCBC 1 Jan.

Mallard: max 12732 MCBC 1 Jan.

N. Shoveler: max 4 CLB 9 Jan; 2 MNWR 4 Dec; 1 Mill Street Pond CHEM 5-12 Feb.

N. Pintail: max 20 Savannah Mucklands SENE 27 Feb; 20 MCBC 1 Jan.

Green-winged Teal: max 100 MCBC 1 Jan (Fide BPu), very high; 4 Union Springs Mill Pond CAYU, 22 Jan.
Canvasback: max 1000 Hog Hole TOMP 12 Feb.
Redhead: max 8000 Hog Hole TOMP 12 Feb, six year high.
Ring-necked Duck: max 50 KeuL 17 Feb; 42 Myers Point TOMP 5 Feb.
Greater Scaup: max 159 CLB 29 Jan.
Lesser Scaup: max 501 CLWC, six year high.
White-winged Scoter: max 2 AuB, CaL 24 Jan (BF, MWi), rare in winter.
Oldsquaw: max 4 CLB 29 Jan, six year high; 1 Lodi Point Marine SP 5 Feb.
Bufflehead: max 195 CLB 29 Jan; 52 KeuL 17 Feb.
Com. Goldeneye: max 1466 CLB 29 Jan, six year high.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: max 2 CaL 11-12 Feb (BF, MWi); 1 Seneca Lake SP 25-29 Jan.
Hooded Merganser: max 125 MCBC 1 Jan, six year high; "lots" StP 15 Dec; many reports, normally scarce in winter.
Com. Merganser: max 500 StP 15 Feb; 73 Chemung River CHEM 21 Feb.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 17 CLWC; 12 Lodi Point Marine SP 12 Feb.
Ruddy Duck: max 21 MNWR 4 Dec; a few others in scattered locations.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 4 MCBC 1 Jan; 2 CLSP 15 Jan; 2 MNWR 6 Feb; sev other scattered reports.
N. Harrier: max 18 MCBC 1 Jan, six year high; 3 MNWR 4 Dec.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 7 ICBC 1 Jan, tied six year high.
Cooper's Hawk: max 10 ICBC 1 Jan; 10 ECBC 1 Jan; six year high.
N. Goshawk: 1 CCBC 18 Dec; 1 ECBC 1 Jan; 1 Dryden 30 Jan.
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: 1 Dryden 10 Dec, 22 Jan (RN); 1 Sapsucker Woods TOMP 16 Jan (WHo) & 4 Feb (RM CTH); 1 MNWR 4 Feb (SS); rare in winter.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 98 ICBC 1 Jan, six year high; 85 MCBC 1 Jan; 26 CPF, including the annual rufous morph report.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 14 MCBC 1 Jan; 4 KH 1 Jan (J&SG).
Am. Kestrel: max 29 GCBC 2 Jan, six year high.
Merlin: 14 reports of individuals scattered thru Region.
PEREGRINE FALCON: 1 Canandaigua 6 Jan (SS); 1 Hopewell 23 Feb (SS), only reports.
Ring-necked Pheasant: max 2 ECBC 1 Jan; 2 GCBC 2 Jan.
Ruffed Grouse: max 11 ICBC 1 Jan; 4 Gleason Meadows CHEM 23 Feb.
Wild Turkey: max 110 Dryden 19 Jan; 50 Varick.
Am. Coot: max 651 ICBC 1 Jan, six year high; 310 Village Marina SCHU 5 Feb.
Killdeer: 2 AuB 2 Jan; 1 GCBC 2 Jan; arr 1 Newfield 23 Feb; max several Mt. Pleasant TOMP 27 Feb.
Am. Woodcock: arr 2 Hector 25 Feb, early.
THAYER'S GULL: 1 ad SML 12 Feb (RBr TN KR MY).
Iceland Gull: max 7 SML 12 Feb, six year high; 6 CaL 12 Jan.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 4 CaL 7 Jan; 3 CLB 9 Jan; 3 CaL 12 Jan.
Glaucous Gull: arr 1 CLSP 15 Jan; 1 CaL 7, 11 Feb; last 1 SML 20, 22 Feb.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

E. Screech-Owl: max 21 ICBC 1 Jan; 3 West Elmira Riverine Forest CHEM 1 Jan.
Great Horned Owl: max 10 ECBC 1 Jan.
Snowy Owl: 1 Bath 20 & 27 Feb (JLe), only reports.
Barred Owl: max 2 Dryden 10 Dec, 16 Feb.
Long-eared Owl: 1 Ithaca 18 Dec; 1 ICBC 1 Jan.
Short-eared Owl: max 6 Ledyard 30 Jan; 3 Savannah Mucklands SENE 12 Jan.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Dryden 28 Dec; 1 Newfield 20 Feb.
Belted Kingfisher: max 6 ICBC 1 Jan.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 81 ICBC 1 Jan.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 3 ICBC 1 Jan (CaBC), six year high; sev other individuals thru Region.
N. Flicker: max 34 ICBC 1 Jan; 3 Elmira 8 Dec.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 27 ICBC 1 Jan, six year high.
N. Shrike: max 9 ICBC 1 Jan, six year high; many reports throughout Region.
Am. Crow: max 10,902 MCBC 1 Jan.
Fish Crow: max 8 ICBC 1 Jan; 4 EID 15 Feb; 4 CPF 30 Jan.
Com. Raven: max 8 ICBC 1 Jan; 6 EID 7 Dec; 5 CCBC 18 Dec.
Horned Lark: max 336 MCBC 1 Jan, six year high; >100 Dryden 18 Jan; >100 Genoa 4 Dec, 22 Jan.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 2284 ICBC 1 Jan.
Tufted Titmouse: max 55 ICBC 1 Jan, six year low.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 55 ICBC 1 Jan.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 321 ICBC 1 Jan, six year high.
Brown Creeper: max 27 ICBC 1 Jan.
Carolina Wren: max 20 ICBC 1 Jan, six year high; 12 ECBC.
Winter Wren: 1 KH 13 Jan (J&SG), only report.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 10 ICBC 1 Jan, six year low.
E. Bluebird: max 97 ICBC 1 Jan, six year high; 12 Lansing 6 Feb.
Hermit Thrush: 1 ICBC 1 Jan (CaBC), only report.
Am. Robin: max 416 ICBC 1 Jan, six year high; 400 Groton 19 Feb.
N. Mockingbird: max 16 ICBC 1 Jan; 7 TCAH 10 Dec.
Am. Pipit: arr 1 AuB, CaL 26 Feb (MY), only report.
Cedar Waxwing: max 408 ICBC 1 Jan; 60 KH 10 Dec.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 6 MCBC 1 Jan; 5 Long Point SP 24 Jan; 1 Ledyard 22 Jan; only reports.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 4 MCBC 1 Jan (fide BPU), six year high; 1 Big Flats Bird Sanctuary CHEM (JMa) 8 Jan.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Field Sparrow: 1 ICBC 1 Jan (CaBC); 1 ECBC (CVAS); 1 Fayette 29 Jan (TN MY).
SAVANNAH SPARROW: 1 Covert 6 Feb

(BF, MMe), only report.
FOX SPARROW: 1 West Danby 19 Dec (GK).
Swamp Sparrow: max 8 ICBC 1 Jan (CaBC), six year high.
White-throated Sparrow: max 34 ICBC 1 Jan; 6 TCAH 10 Dec.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 52 MNWR 6 Feb (OCV), six year high; 2 CLB (GP); rare in winter; 2 Montezuma Wetlands Complex 12 Feb (TN MY); 1 GCBC.
Lapland Longspur: max 70 Genoa 28 Dec, six year high; 2 Route 89, Ovid 13 Feb; 2 Triangle Diner CAYU 5 Feb; singles reported thru Region.
Snow Bunting: max 601 Dryden 21 Feb; 300 MNWR 5 Dec; 300 Genoa 28 Dec; 300 Southport 17 Feb.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 1000 KH 27 Feb, tied six year high; 74 ECBC 1 Jan; reports thru.
E. Meadowlark: 1 Veteran 22, 29 Jan (D&JC), only reports.
Rusty Blackbird: max 55 ECBC 1 Jan (CVAS), six year high; 1 ICBC 1 Jan.
Com. Grackle: max 40 MCBC 1 Jan; arr 1 Southport 25 Feb; 2 EID 25 Feb.
Brown-Headed Cowbird: max 223 MCBC 1 Jan, six year high; 21 CPF 30 Jan.
Purple Finch: max 8 ICBC 1 Jan; 7 Summerhill State Forest CAYU 5 Dec.
House Finch: max 909 ICBC 1 Jan; four year high; 336 ECBC 1 Jan.
White-winged Crossbill: max 2 CCBC 18 Dec, only report.
Com. Redpoll: max 713 ICBC 1 Jan; 250 Dryden 5 Dec; 230 KH 15 Dec.
HOARY REDPOLL: 1 Sapsucker Woods TOMP 6 Feb (WHo KR!).
Pine Siskin: max 22 ICBC 1 Jan; 20 Dryden 28, 30 Jan; scattered reports thru Region.
Am. Goldfinch: max 476 ICBC 1 Jan, six year high; 18 Newfield 11 Dec.
Evening Grosbeak: max 136 ICBC 1 Jan; 111 Summerhill State Forest CAYU 5 Jan.
House Sparrow: max 720 ICBC 1 Jan, five year low.
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REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

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Weather data is as recorded by the National Weather Service Station at Binghamton Regional Airport. December's average temperature was 29.6°F, 3.1° above normal. Precipitation of 1.65 inches was about half of normal. A total of 6.9 inches of snow fell by the end of the month. December was warmer than normal for the first three weeks, then from 23-28 Dec overnight lows dipped into single digits on four of these nights.

The monthly average for January temperatures was just under normal at 20.2°F. Snowfall amounted to 36.3 inches, with the greatest amount, 9.3 inches, falling on the 12-13 Jan. The new millennium entered with well above average temperatures. 1-4 Jan had temperatures above 45°F, with a high of 58° on the 4th. On three of these days, the temperatures were 23°F higher than normal! A cold spell hit and lasted from 13-30 Jan. Temperatures were in the single digits for ten days, and for six days were below 0°.

February's mild weather was welcomed, and the 26.9°F average was 4.2° higher than normal. A total of 21.4 inches of snow fell, with the greatest one-day amount of 6.8 inches on 18 Feb. There was a warming trend from 22-27 Feb. Six of these days were 11°F above average, and three days were at least 19° above average.

Waterfowl fared well overall this winter with mild temperatures and open water. Green-winged Teal and Ruddy Ducks lingered into December at Upper Lisle. Other less common winter waterbirds included Horned Grebe, an American Wigeon at Cannonsville Reservoir in January, and Canvasbacks and Redheads in Broome County. Two unusual species seen were a Eurasian Wigeon in Binghamton and a Mandarin Duck, an obvious exotic, in Vestal. The Federation Waterfowl Count tallied 12 species. The Sherburne Christmas Bird Count added several new species to their count list including Horned Grebe, Snow Goose, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, and Common Goldeneye.

Bald Eagles were reported through the season, with most reports in December. Goshawk sightings are welcomed any time of year, but this winter produced four widespread reports. Rough-legged Hawks were scarce after December. A single Merlin showed up on Chenango County's Christmas Bird Count, and a Peregrine Falcon was seen on Owego's Christmas Bird Count. Andy Mason reported 60 American Coots at Otsego Lake during the waterfowl count, with "one being devoured by a Great Black-backed Gull". A Common Snipe was early at Boland Pond, Chenango Bridge on 29 February.

Six species of owls were reported. Most notable was a possible Long-eared Owl in Apalachin, Tioga County. It was seen perched in the daytime in a backyard. Short-eared Owls were reported from southern Broome County, and a N. Saw-whet Owl was seen January and February in Owego. A Red-headed Woodpecker was counted on Oneonta's Christmas Bird Count. Red-bellied Woodpeckers had good reports from Broome, Chenango, and Tioga counties.

Not surprising. Northern Shrikes were seen by many observers throughout the Region. One was spotted in Chenango County feasting on a chickadee.

In Norwich, an American Crow roost in a residential area prompted some homeowners to call for some remedial action from the town. However Don Windsor advises "the huge roosts of a few years ago of over 1000 have dwindled to about 500, and the flock in question is about 200 birds" He goes on to point out that this is a case of the media "hyping" the story.

Unlike last winter, irruptive species such as American Tree Sparrow, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak were frequently reported throughout the season, and crowds of Common Redpolls jostled resident birds for space at Regional feeders. Marie Petuh discovered two Bohemian Waxwings in Johnson City amid a flock of about 46 Cedar Waxwings that visited her backyard in January. The Bohemians considerately perched in a tree long enough for her to set up her spotting scope and get a really good look at their field marks.

A surprising variety of migrant sparrows was reported in December, and a Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow and a White-crowned Sparrow were reported on Christmas Bird Counts. Two Fox Sparrows apparently overwintered in a Vestal backyard. A Swamp Sparrow was reported from Broome County on 4 Dec.

Occasional Horned Larks were mixed in the large flocks of Snow Buntings reported by many observers throughout the season.

The crossbills were represented by a single Red Crossbill spotted at a feeder in the town of Chenango, Broome County in December, and two Pine Grosbeaks were reported from Pharsalia, Chenango County on 30 Jan.

A single Hermit Thrush was reported on 7 Feb in Broome County. Other thrushes, such as Eastern Bluebird and American Robin were reported intermittently throughout the season.

The editors want to wish Les Bemont a speedy recovery after surgery this winter.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BUNP - Binghamton University Nature Preserve; BROO; BpD - Boland Pond, BROO; BCCC - Broome County Christmas Count, 27 Dec; BrPd - Brick Pond, TIOG; CL - Chenango Lake, CHEN; CBCCC - Chenango Bird Club Christmas Count, 18 Dec; CinL-Cincinnatus Lake, CHEN-CORT; DOAS- Delaware-Otsego Audubon Sanctuary; FWC - Federation Waterfowl Count, 15-23 Jan; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; BROO; FMHW - Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch, OTSE; HPd-Hawkins Pond, BROO; OCBC - Oneonta Christmas Bird Count, 18 Dec; REEC - Rogers Environmental Education Center, CHEN; OwCBC - Owego Christmas Count, 31 Dec; UL - Upper Lisle, BROO; Ves - Vestal, BROO; WeB - West Burlington, OTSE; WPR - Whitney Point Reservoir, BROO.

LOONS-DUCKS

Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Grippen Park, Endicott 31 Jan (JT), scarce.
Horned Grebe: 1 WPR 4 Dec (JW); 1 CCBC, first ever on count.
Great Blue Heron: 33 on 4 CBC's; good numbers thru.
Tundra Swan: 6 Susquehanna R. Sidney 29 Feb (AM); 1 OCBC.
Mute Swan: 6 BCCC; 2 BPd 7 Jan; 1 FWC.
Snow Goose: 150 UL 18 Dec (J&JW); 230 over Norwich 19 Dec (DW); 465 CCBC; 110 T Chenango BROO 27 Feb; TIOG Dec, Feb; high numbers.
Canada Goose: 4,281 FWC; 600 Sherburne 18 Dec.; 9,105 on 4 CBC's.
Wood Duck: 3 BCCC; 1 Endwell 2 Jan; 1 BROO FWC, uncommon.
Green-winged Teal: 3 UL 18 Dec (J&JW); 4 BCCC, unusual.
Am. Black Duck: 155 on 4 CBC's; 201 on FWC; few scattered reports.
Mallard: 2,129 on CBC's; 1,779 on FWC
N. Pintail: 6 on 2 CBC's.
Eurasian Wigeon: 1 Chenango R near Otsiningo Park, Binghamton (GK, MP, DWt).
Am. Wigeon: 1 Cannonsville Reservoir Deposit 16 Jan (FWC).
Canvasback: 6 Chenango R Binghamton 16 Dec (DWt); 7 OCBC Endwell 2-4 Jan; 1 Unadilla area 16 Jan (FWC).
Redhead: 1 Chenango R Binghamton 6-22 Feb (J&JW).
Ring-necked Duck: 3 CBCCC, 12 OCBC; 1 TIOG FWC.
Com. Goldeneye: 4 on 2 on CBC's; 12 FWC 15-16 Jan; TIOG Dec, Jan;
Bufflehead: Endwell BROO 16 Jan.
Hooded Merganser: 5 BCCC; 10 FWC's; 2 Norwich 16-23 Jan, "first Jan sightings here" (DW).
Com. Merganser: 240 on 4 CBC's; 159 FWC.
Ruddy Duck: 1 UL 4 Dec (J&JW).

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 BCBC; 1 OwCBC; 2 rep Binghamton Dec; TIOG thru; 1 W. Branch Delaware R 19 Jan (SD); Endwell 22 Jan (J&JW); Susq. R Owego 5 Feb (SK, GK).
N. Harrier: 2 BROO reports Dec; 1 OCBC; 4 OwCBC; BROO and TIOG 27 Feb.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 3 on 2 CBC's; few scattered reports.
Cooper's Hawk: 9 on 3 CBC's; 1 Johnson City 3 Dec; 2 DELA 16 Jan.
N. Goshawk: ad Holtmart Rd, Willet CORT 12 Dec. (MP); OCBC and OwCBC;
Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 ea OCBC and OwCBC; TIOG Dec, Feb (B&RP).
Red-tailed Hawk: 103 on CBC's.
Rough-legged Hawk: 17 on 3 CBC's; 6 other reports, last UL 27 Feb.
Am. Kestrel: 7 on 3 CBC's, missed OwCBC; T. Preston Dec, Jan; 1 Davenport 21 Dec; 2 DELA 16 Jan; BROO Dec, Jan; TIOG Jan, Feb.
Merlin: 1 SCBC, first ever on this count.
Peregrine Falcon: 1 OwCBC, near Lockheed Martin (C&JB), rare.
Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 OCBC and 2 SCBC, scarce.
Ruffed Grouse: 15 on CBC's; 1 Chenango Bridge 22 Jan.
Wild Turkey: 544 on CBC's; 75 Milford 7 Dec; 60 T Preston 22 Feb, flock thru.
Am. Coot: 1 BCCC; 60 Otsego L (FWC); 1 Endwell 2-5 Jan.
Killdeer: arr Endwell and REEC 27 Feb; Binghamton 29 Feb.
Com. Snipe: BPd 29 Feb (RG), early.
Am. Woodcock: TIOG Feb; 3 T. Binghamton 27 Feb (RG).
Ring-billed Gull: 175 on CBC's.
Herring Gull: 90 on CBC's.
Great Black-backed Gull: 5 BCBC.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: 4581 on CBC's.
Mourning Dove: 2263 on CBC's.
E. Screech-Owl: 2 on 2 CBC's; Castle Creek BROO 16 Dec (RG); Norwich 4 Feb and N. Norwich 13 Feb (DW); 1 FHNC 16 Feb (TT)
Great Horned Owl: 7 on 3 CBC's; Maryland 8 Dec; 3 reports BROO Feb; 1 TIOG report Feb.
Barred Owl: 1 CBCCC; 1 Glen Aubrey 20 Feb (J&JW).
Long-eared Owl: 1 probable Highland Ave Apalachin TIOG 19 Feb (CB, SK).
Short-eared Owl: 1 S. Binghamton 22 Dec (ND); Conklin BROO 17 Jan (EHw).
N. Saw-whet Owl: Jan and Feb TIOG.

Belted Kingfisher: 20 on CBC's.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 OCBC.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 36 CBC's;
 BROO and CHEN reports thru;
 Apalachin 29 Dec.
Downy Woodpecker: 186 on CBC's.
Hairy Woodpecker: 70 on CBC's
N. Flicker: 22 on CBC's; 3 DELA and
 OTSE 16 Jan; Vestal thru Feb; TIOG Jan,
 high count.
Pileated Woodpecker: 20 on CBC's; a
 few scattered reports thru.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS
N. Shrike: frequent reports; max 4
 OBCCC.
Blue Jay: abundant; max 174 BCCC.
Am. Crow: abundant; max 2,131 BCCC.
Fish Crow: few reports; max 2 BROO 10
 Feb.
Com. Raven: 2 T. Candor and Owego
 Dec TIOG, "in area of suspected breed-
 ing" (JS).
Horned Lark: few reports; max 42
 CBCCC.
Black-capped Chickadee: abundant;
 max 720 BCCC.
Tufted Titmouse: abundant; max 103
 BCCC.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: frequent
 reports; max 16 BCCC.
White-breasted Nuthatch: common; max
 111 OwCBC.
Brown Creeper: few reports; max 24
 BCCC.
Carolina Wren: several reports; max 2
 Jan 14 BROO.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: few reports;
 max 3 CBCCC.
Eastern Bluebird: few reports, max 37
 BCCC.
Hermit Thrush: 1 BROO 7 Feb; overwin-
 tering.
Am. Robin: few reports; max 30 19 Jan -
 4 Feb REEC.
N. Mockingbird: few reports; max 2
 BCCC.
European Starling: abundant; max 2199
 OwCBC.
Am. Pipit: 1 BROO 16 Feb; only report.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING : 2 BROO 4 Jan

(MP).
Cedar Waxwing: several reports; max
 174 BCCC.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: frequent reports; max
 158 BCCC
Chipping Sparrow: 7 OwCBC, unusual.
Field Sparrow: 2 CBCCC; 1 BCCC
Fox Sparrow: 2 Ves thru.
Song Sparrow: several reports; max 9 BCCC.
Swamp Sparrow: 1 BROO 4 Dec.
White-throated Sparrow: few reports-,
 max 9 BCCC 26 Dec.
White-crowned Sparrow: 1 OwCBC; 1
 Feb REEC.
Dark-eyed Junco: abundant; max 289
 BCCC.
Snow Bunting: several reports; max 556
 CBCCC.
N. Cardinal: max 69 Dec BCCC.
Red-winged Blackbird: few reports; max
 35 27 Feb WPR .
Rusty Blackbird: 1 Jan, Feb TIOG; sever-
 al TIOG 5 Feb.
Com. Grackle: few reports; max 3 22 Feb
 CHEN.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 2 CHEN 17
 Dec, only report.
Pine Grosbeak: 2 CHEN 30 Jan, only
 report.
Purple Finch: several reports, max 20
 CBCCC .
House Finch: frequent reports, max 453
 OwCBC.
Red Crossbill: 1 30 Dec BROO (GH),
 only report.
Com. Redpoll: abundant; max 772
 CBCCC.
Pine Siskin: several reports; max 21 BCCC.
Am. Goldfinch: max 160 CBCCC.
Evening Grosbeak: frequent reports;
 max 290 CBCCC.
House Sparrow: max 507 OwCBC.

EXOTICS

Mandarin Duck: 1 Susquehanna R Vestal
 26 Dec-2 Jan (GK, SK, HM, RM).

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REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The season was quite mild with a total snowfall of 72.4 inches, about 11 inches below normal. There was rarely more than a foot of snow on the ground. Real winter weather did not begin until 16 Jan and persisted for only 5 weeks. The average temperature for December was 30.9°F, 2.6° above normal, with only 1.35" of precipitation, which was 1.85" below normal. Daily highs were above freezing for the first 3 weeks of the month and Oneida Lake did not freeze until the 24th. The January temperature was 21.3°F, 1.1° below normal. The first half of the month was very warm, with Oneida Lake reopening until winter began in earnest with a strong cold front on the 16th. Precipitation for the month was 0.38" above normal at 2.72".

The last week of February brought a warming trend that melted most of the snow on the ground. The average temperature for the month was 28.8°F, 4.8° above normal, with 2.46 inches of precipitation, 0.31" above normal. In northern Herkimer County the snow cover peaked at 32" in early February but was down to 8" as the season ended.

Despite the drought of 1999 there was abundant food, and the lack of snow cover for a large part of the season made food readily accessible. Gene Huggins supplied his notes on food stocks in the Dewitt area; there were ample quantities of Staghorn Sumac, European Buckthorn, Frost Grape, Highbush Cranberry and Multiflora Rose. The Adirondacks were an exception and production of fruit and cones was low and most birds went elsewhere.

The food supply had no effect on most waterfowl and associated species. Loon, grebe and cormorant sightings were more or less normal, and the two Great Cormorants were not seen after the 16 Jan cold front moved through. A single Ross's Goose made a brief appearance for a rare winter record. Snow Geese were reported on 2 early CBC's, and wintering Canada Geese were up sharply. Tundra Swan moved into and through the Region during the last three days of February. Unfortunately a report of over 200 on flooded mucklands could not be confirmed. Dabbling ducks lingered well into the season and were returning as the season ended.

Raptors did well with the open winter. Snow-sensitive species such as N. Harrier and Short-eared Owl were found in Oswego County snow

belt areas well into January. Red-tailed Hawks were noted by many observers to be pairing up during the mild weather in January. Rough-legged Hawks were not found in any concentrations but were present in the open areas where they are normally found. Killdeers often return in late February, but usually only a few are found along Lake Ontario. This year they were widespread. Am. Woodcock's February arrival is the earliest on record.

A jaeger was seen on strong northwest winds in Oswego in February. The bird was some distance out over Lake Ontario and thought to be a Pomarine, although identification as to species would have been a guess. Bonaparte's Gulls remained in large numbers into December and were last seen as the 16 Jan cold front moved through. It was a good year for Iceland and Glaucous gulls along the Oswego River, and at different times all four age classes of the two gulls were found. Herring and Great Black-backed gull numbers were not very high this year.

For the third consecutive year, Snowy Owls were scarce. Only one was reported, and the bird was found dead the following day. A large winter roost of Long-eared Owls went unreported until April when most had departed but the pellet evidence remained. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers lingered into January, and a Red-headed Woodpecker wintered in Pompey. Northern Shrikes were seen in good numbers including two in the Adirondacks where they are unusual.

Three southern species at the edge of their ranges in the Region continue to do well. Tufted Titmouse numbers seem to increase every year. Carolina Wren continues to recover in lowlands of the Region roughly contiguous with the old Erie Canal. No. Mockingbird was well-reported through the winter.

The good food supply and sparse snow cover enabled large flocks of Am. Robins to winter in the Region. Record numbers of E. Bluebirds remained as well. Half-hardie species included Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Marsh Wren, E. Towhee, Chipping, Swamp and White-crowned sparrows, and Rusty Blackbird. Some of the half-hardies even made it through the winter, an uncommon occurrence in most years.

Bohemian Waxwings were slow in arriving (or being found), but they were worth waiting for, with the highest single day count ever at a site near Lake Ontario and with good numbers in Onondaga County as well. Although not always easy to find, the Bohemians persisted at the two locations for over a month.

A Cape May Warbler was a lucky find on the Oswego-Fulton CBC. A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen at two feeders and photographed at one along Skaneateles Lake in December. A Pine Warbler lingered into

January at a Vernon feeder. In contrast it seemed odd that Yellow-rumped Warblers were not reported this season. A Dickcissel spent some time at a feeder in Oneida Castle, but winter sparrows were generally reported in only low numbers. Lapland Longspurs were more widely reported than most years, while Horned Larks and Snow Buntings were most widely reported when there was snow on the ground.

The winter finches were represented almost solely by Common Redpolls, with large flocks coming to feeders and foraging extensively on wild seeds as well. Hoary Redpolls were carried along with the irruption of their congeners. There were numerous reports and at least six were submitted to NYSARC. Given the very poor cone crop, it was not surprising that there were few reports of Purple Finches and Pine Siskins, single reports of Pine Grosbeak and White-winged Crossbill, and no reports of Red Crossbills. Evening Grosbeaks were found in a few locations, but were sometimes abundant at those sites.

The season's total was very good, 127 species plus one form and one hybrid. Highlights for the season were Great Cormorant, Ross's Goose, Purple Sandpiper, Am. Woodcock, jaeger species, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Bohemian Waxwing, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Dickcissel, Hoary Redpoll, and many half-hardie species.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bville - Baldwinsville, CM - Clay Marsh, DH - Derby Hill, DL - Delta Lake, FH - Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral, OnonL - Onondaga Lake, SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, Syr - Syracuse, TRWMA - Three Rivers WMA, UM - Utica Marsh, WPd - Woodman Pond, Eaton

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 4 singles thru 13 Dec.
Com. Loon: max 10 SE Oneida L 13 Dec; last 2 LOL 23 Jan.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 7 Oswego R 30 Jan.
Horned Grebe: max 17 Oswego 12 Dec; last LOL 23 Jan.
GREAT CORMORANT: 1 ad Oswego to 16 Jan, a second-year bird also there 9 Jan.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 12 Oswego 8 Jan.
Great Blue Heron: 15 on 5 CBC's; few reports after 2 Jan, low for an open winter.
Turkey Vulture: arr 1 Van Buren 20 Feb.
Snow Goose: max 1060 Utica 18 Dec, all flying south; last 1 Oneida 31 Dec; arr 85 DH 27 Feb.
ROSS'S GOOSE: 1 Oswego 8 Jan, 4th Regional record (JB, NYSARC).
Canada Goose: max 7,000 FH 12 Dec; 11,830 regionwide on Waterfowl Census 15-23 Jan, nearly double previous high.
Mute Swan: max 3 Oswego 2 Feb; 7 others at 6 sites.
Tundra Swan: 1 Phoenix after 30 Jan; arr & max 60 Fulton 29 Feb.
Wood Duck: 3 Fulton 5 Dec; 1-2 Oswego R thru; arr & max 12 Dewitt 27 Feb.
Gadwall: max 16 Oswego R 30 Jan.
Am. Wigeon: max 12 WPd 4 Jan; last 2 WPd 22 Jan; arr 3 DH 23 Feb.
Am. Black Duck: max 75 WPd 10 Jan.
N. Shoveler: 3 FH 6 Dec, only report.
N. Pintail: max 3 WPd 8 Dec; arr 2 DH 26 Feb.
Green-winged Teal: last 2 Syr 8 Jan; arr 16 DH 27 Feb.
Canvasback: max 5 FH 23 Feb.
Redhead: max 140 LOL 31 Dec.
Ring-necked Duck: max 14 FH 9 Jan.
Greater Scaup: max 1660 LOL 16 Jan.
Lesser Scaup: max 30 FH 16 Jan; 30 Oswego 22 Feb.
Surf Scoter: 1 Mohawk R Utica 18 Dec.
White-winged Scoter: max 71 DH 11 Dec; 1-2 per day LOL Jan & Feb.
Black Scoter: last & max 2 LOL 29 Jan.

Oldsquaw: max 215 DH 11 Dec; to 50 per day Oswego thru.
Bufflehead: max 46 Oswego 16 Jan.
Com. Goldeneye: max 1400 Sandy Pd 4 Dec.
Hooded Merganser: max 48 Oswego R 30 Jan.
Com. Merganser: max 155 Oswego 19 Dec.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 75 FH 12 Dec.
Ruddy Duck: max 25 Minoa 10 Dec; last Otisco L 12 Jan.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 ad, 2 imm LOL and Oswego R most of season; 1 ad Barneveld 5 Feb.
N. Harrier: many Dec and Jan reports from Lenox, Richland and Mexico, probably only a few individuals; first migrants DH 26 Feb; max 23 DH 27 Feb.
N. Goshawk: TRWMA 27 Dec; Parish 5 Jan; FH 8 Jan; Boylston 23 Jan; 5 migrants DH after 23 Feb.
Red-tailed Hawk: many observers noted pair formations during the mild first half of Jan.
Rough-legged Hawk: widespread thru; max 3-4 per day; 121 DH 27 Feb, one of the best days ever recorded.
Merlin: 2 Syr thru.
Ring-necked Pheasant: 12 individuals for season.
Ruffed Grouse: max 5 Selkirk Shores SP 4 Dec; 5 W Winfield 19 Feb; 21 other rep.
Wild Turkey: max 285 T Western 5 Feb.
Am. Coot: max 40 WPd 20 Dec.
Killdeer: arr 7 DH 23 Feb.
Purple Sandpiper: FH 2; 12 Dec; DH 11 Dec.
Am. Woodcock: arr widespread 28 Feb, record early.
jaeger sp: 1 Oswego 7 Feb (GP), distant bird thought to be Pomarine, second winter jaeger sighting.
Bonaparte's Gull: 40 SVB 8 Dec; max 70 OnonL 18 Dec, high for winter; last 3 Oswego 16 Jan.
Ring-billed Gull: max 7000 Oswego 5 Feb.

Herring Gull: max to 1200 per day Oswego R and Harbor.
Iceland Gull: max 8 Oswego R 30 Jan.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 Oswego 8 Feb.
Glaucous Gull: max 3 Oswego 17 Jan thru.
Glaucous X Herring Gull (Nelson's Gull): 1 SVB 13 Dec (GP).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 600-700 per day Oswego R and Harbor.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 92 CM, Cicero 18 Dec
E. Screech-Owl: 12 reported at 10 sites.
Great Horned Owl: 10 at 8 sites.
Snowy Owl: 1 Oswego 28 Dec, found dead 29 Dec.
Barred Owl: only 4 reports.
Long-eared Owl: 10 in roost Chittenango late winter (fide DWC).
Short-eared Owl: max 6 T's Richland, Mexico 17 Jan; 5 Verona 30 Dec thru; singles 7 other locales including 4 in Feb.
Belted Kingfisher: 19 total; 1 OnonL thru Feb.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 imm Pompey thru (DWC).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: singles Pratt's Falls early Jan (PR); Pompey 19 Jan (DWC).
N. Flicker: max 13 Skaneateles 2 Jan; 4 Feb reports.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: at least 28 individuals including 2 Adks.
Am. Crow: 4193 Utica 18 Dec, continues increase of past 3 years.
Fish Crow: 1 OnonL 30 Jan; 3 Woodlawn Cem Syr 29 Feb.
Com. Raven: max 5 Redfield 2 Feb; 2 OF 5 Feb.
Horned Lark: max 64 Pompey 5 Dec, otherwise scarce until last half of season when flocks up to 50 were common.
Tufted Titmouse: above average numbers on 5 CBC's; wintering highlands above Delta L first time.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: ave on CBC's, mostly nonbreeding habitat; 5-6 per day along 2 miles of road in Boylston, breed locale.

Brown Creeper: max 10 Oneida CBC 31 Dec.

Carolina Wren: 11 at 7 Syr sites, also Canastota, Marcellus, & New Hartford.

Winter Wren: 1CM 12 Dec; 1 Dewitt 24 Jan.

Marsh Wren: 1 UM 3 Jan.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: scarce on CBC's, 1-2 per day where found.

E. Bluebird: max 14 E Syr 9 Jan; 9+ rep thru, record winter total.

Hermit Thrush: 2 Fayetteville 20 Jan; 1 thru (PR).

Am. Robin: max 500 Dewitt 20 Jan; many counts of 50-100 thru.

Gray Catbird: 1 Utica 18 Dec; 1 CM 8 Jan.

N. Mockingbird: 12-15 wintering Syr-Dewitt; also found in Scriba, Oswego, & Bville.

Bohemian Waxwing: max 270 Pulaski 15 Jan; 200+ still in area 24 Feb (BP), record high count; 110 TRWMA 22 Feb, record for ONON (JB).

Cedar Waxwing: max 160 Sterling 9 Jan; well reported through winter.

WARBLERS

CAPE MAY WARBLER: 1 Fulton 19 Dec, 2nd winter record (BP).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: 1 two feeders Skaneateles 13-18 and 23-27 Dec, eighth Regional record (Robin Jowaisas ph, Linda Pietroski, fide DWC, NYSARC).

Pine Warbler: 1 Vernon feeder 31 Dec - 22 Jan; 4th winter record (Dan Skinner, mob).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 1 Dewitt 18 Dec (SB, BG).

Am. Tree Sparrow: up to 200 on Dec CBC's; low numbers mid Jan - mid Feb; max 60 Paris 22 Feb.

Chipping Sparrow: 1 Cato thru 26 Jan.

Song Sparrow: max 4 FH 9 Jan; scarce after 16 Jan.

Swamp Sparrow: 2 UM 15 Dec; 2 Skaneateles 2 Jan; 1 Bvllle 14 Feb.
White-throated Sparrow: 40 on 2 CBC's 18 Dec; scarce afterwards.
White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Elbridge 2 Jan.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 32 Skan 2 Jan;
Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: 1 Pompey after Jan 17.
Lapland Longspur: max 4 DH 11 Feb; 2 Paris 17 Jan; 1 Kirkland 4 Feb; 1 New Haven 21 Feb; 1 T Marshall 22 Feb, better reported than many years.
Snow Bunting: max 300 DH 6 Feb; 200+ Lenox 3 Dec; 200 Kirkland, Paris, Bvllle, & Richland all in Feb.
DICKCISSEL: male Oneida feeder 11 Dec - 2 Jan (AJ Wood, mob), third winter record.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 10 Syr 2 Jan; last 1 Dewitt 10 Jan; arr 5 Cicero 18 Feb; arr Adks 28 Feb, early.
Rusty Blackbird: 1 Dewitt 25 Dec, 1 UM 3 Jan; 1 Bvllle 23 Jan.
Com. Grackle: 1 Dewitt 12 Dec; 5 Oneida CBC 31 Dec; arr DH 26 Feb.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 300 Lewis Pt 7 Dec; 156 N Syr 27 Jan, good midwinter count.
Pine Grosbeak: max 5 Boylston 8 Jan, only report.

Purple Finch: max 9 Utica CBC 18 Dec; 3 other singles reported.
House Finch: 1237 on 5 CBC's; few reported otherwise.
White-winged Crossbill: 1 Boylston 17 Jan, only report.
Com. Redpoll: widespread, flocks of 50-100 common and some 200+; max 400 Canastota 27 Feb.
HOARY REDPOLL: (all NYSARC) 1 Parish 8 Dec (MSc); 1-2 Otisco Dec to mid Jan (MY, DS, GP); 1 Paris 2-25 Jan; another Paris 30 Jan - 15 Feb (MP); 1 Pompey 6 Feb (Paul Radway, DWC); 1 Cato 23 Jan (GP).
Pine Siskin: 23 on 4 CBC's; only 4 other reports of 9 birds.
Am. Goldfinch: max 40 Beaver L 16 Jan.
Evening Grosbeak: up to 200 Boylston Jan-Feb; small numbers ONEI-MADI, stayed at higher elevations for most part.
Corrigenda: Vol. 49, no. 4: 356; **Hooded Merganser:** LJ is L Julia. **Killdeer:** NMP is Nine Mile Point to include Lake Road and Noyes Sanctuary. Pg 352; **Orchard Oriole:** fledged y Van Buren, not Lysander (same error Vol. 48, no. 4: 341).
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REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

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The winter of 1999-2000 began with mild conditions, much like the three previous winters. Temperatures were 3 degrees above normal for December, with open conditions until 20 Dec when a snow storm dropped six inches on Jefferson and Lewis counties. St Lawrence County was 4 degrees warmer than normal for the month and was open except for a light dusting of snow. Above average temperatures continued throughout the Region until 20 Jan when a southerly movement in the jet stream brought old-fashioned winter back to the North Country. Temperatures plunged into the teens for the next month and many areas

recorded sub zero (Fahrenheit) temperatures for runs of ten to fifteen days at a time. This cleared out lingering Great Blue Herons, Canada Geese, Tundra Swans, and many dabbling ducks which had been enjoying the open fields. As the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario began to freeze, diving ducks concentrated in traditional open areas making it easier to record their numbers. During the last week of February, south winds appeared and the first migrants arrived, American Woodcock, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle. Highlights included large numbers of Tundra Swans, Am. Black Ducks, and Ring-necked Ducks and improved counts of Greater Scaup

The number of Bald Eagles was the highest on record, with the count being in the 40-50 range (variation due to possible double counting on Wellesley Island T Orleans JEFF). Equally impressive were the reports away from the traditional St. Lawrence River locations, 4 in the Adirondacks, 2 on the St. Regis River STLA, and 4 near Black Pond on Lake Ontario. Red-tailed Hawk numbers in Jefferson County soared to a new high of 104 on the Watertown CBC. Winter finches and their allies warmed the hearts of the intrepid birders who braved the sub zero cold to watch the huge flocks of Bohemian Waxwings, Snow Buntings, and Common Redpolls throughout the period. Redpolls by the hundreds hit feeders in late February as they began to return north. Lapland Longspur counts in Cape Vincent were impressive as well.

Negatives for the period included low numbers of Rough-legged Hawks and Snowy Owls on Point Peninsula, probably due to a lack of voles. Snowy Owls did appear in small numbers far inland in eastern Lewis County. Other low counts were noted for Common Merganser, all gull species, and House Finch and Purple Finch.

Half-hardies reported included Killdeer and Eastern Towhee. Rarities included Tufted Duck, Great Grey Owl, Three-toed Woodpecker, and Hoary Redpoll.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CV - T Cape Vincent JEFF; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; Collins Landing, SLR at the Thousand Islands bridge T Orleans JEFF; FWC - Federation Waterfowl Count 15-22 Jan; Fl - Fisher's Landing T Orleans JEFF; THen - T Henderson JEFF; MCBC - Massena CBC T Mas STLA 28 Dec; MNABC - Massena National Audubon Bird Count T Mas 18-21 Feb; NBCBC - New Boston CBC LEWI 29 Dec; PtPen - Point Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; SH - Sacketts Harbor T Hounsfield JEFF; STLA - St. Lawrence Co; SLR - St. Lawrence R; TLou -T Louisville STLA; WCBC - Watertown CBC JEFF 18 Dec; WBM - Wilson Bay Marsh, TCV JEFF; WHWMA - Wilson Hill WMA TLou STLA;

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: one SH 2 Dec.
Com. Loon: 2 PtPen 12 Dec; singles CV, PtPen to 3 Jan.
Horned Grebe: 1-4 PtPen early Dec; 2 WBM 12 Dec.
Red-necked Grebe: 1 SNP JEFF 19 Dec.
Double-crested Cormorant: 3-5 Henderson Harbor area JEFF 3 Dec thru 9 Jan; 1 CV 4 Jan.
Great Blue Heron: Fl 31 Dec; Henderson Village JEFF 23 Dec; Potsdam 26 Dec; Bedford Cr T Hounsfield JEFF 10 Jan.
Snow Goose: large flocks mixed with Canada Geese flying south over Potsdam 13-18 Dec; 1 SH 8 Jan.
Canada Goose: plentiful thru late January; max 4791 FWC.
Trumpeter Swan: 4 WCBC 18 Dec (fide GS). (origin?)
Tundra Swan: groups of 10-30 from PtPen, Chaumont Bay; max 50+ Black R Bay T Hounsfield JEFF 15 Dec; last 8 FWC.
Wood Duck: 1 WCBC 18 Dec.
Gadwall: max 26 L Ontario, PtPen 3 Jan; max 10 SLR at Fl 31 Jan.
Am. Wigeon: 10 WCBC; 2 SLR Fl 31 Dec.
Am. Black Duck: large numbers until late Jan; max 2000+ THen feeding on corn.
Mallard: abundant before snow cover in

Feb; max 5000+ T Hen, with Am. Black Ducks.
N. Pintail: 1 Wellesley I SLR JEFF 2-16 Jan; 2 PtPen 3 Jan.
Green-winged Teal: 2 T Hammond STLA 29 Feb; 2 Henderson Harbor 3 Dec.
Canvasback: 2 Fl 31 Dec.
Redhead: max 300 L Ontario WCBC 18 Dec; max 165 SLR T Clayton JEFF 5 Jan.
Ring-necked Duck: raft of 250-400 SLR Fl-CI thru.
TUFTED DUCK: 1 ad male Fl 29 Jan thru (NYSARC, NL), with the raft of Ring-necked Ducks, photos.
Greater Scaup: 3800 WCBC 18 Dec; 2764 FWC.
Oldsquaw: 12 Montario Pt TEI 16 Jan; 3000 Black Pond TEI 10 Feb.
Bufflehead: max 172 WCBC 18 Dec; 132 FWC Com. Goldeneye: max 2044 FWC.
Barrow's Goldeneye: 1 ad SLR T Lou Jan 1 (LH); 1 Cl 22 Feb (NL), becoming a regular visitor to the SLR Valley in recent years most likely due to better coverage.
Hooded Merganser: 6 SLR TLou 16 Dec; max SLR 30 Fl 5 Feb; 26 Henderson Harbor 19 Dec; 6 FWC.
Com. Merganser: approx 300 PtPen thru; 205 SLR at Oak Pt T Hammond STLA, probably moved to Fisher's landing in Feb as the River began to freeze over; 31 MCBC 28 Dec; 5 WHWMA 15 Dec.
Red-breasted Merganser: 5 FWC; 3 Fly SLR 5 Feb.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 Massena 18 Feb; 1 ad T Waddington STLA 17 Jan, feeding on Canada Goose; 2 on St. Regis R near Brasher Falls T Brasher STLA 13 Feb; 2 ad, imm Fl 29 Jan; 4 ad Fl 31 Dec; 7 on ice flow CV 25 Jan; 1 imm fell in the river and expired, wings got wet and froze immediately, air temp < 10 degrees; 6 reports Watertown area; 4 ad Black Pond TEL 10 Feb; 3 Sevey's corners T Colton STLA 30 Jan; 1 T Clare STLA thru, -all feeding on deer carcasses; 14 (8 ad, 6 imm) on Thousand I International CBC (Wellesley I T Orleans, CV, Alexandria, and Clayton JEFF 2 Jan.

N. Harrier: reports from PtPen, Pillar Pt T Brownville JEFF, CV, Then; max 9 WCBC 18 Dec; 1 T Lowville LEWI 6 Jan. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** six singles Jeff; 1 T Oseola LEWI; 2 T Mas 18 Feb; max 3 WCBC 18 Dec.

Cooper's Hawk: 4 WCBC 18 Dec; 4 NBCBC 29 Dec; 1 CV 6 Jan, few reports. **N. Goshawk:** 1 NBCBC 29 Dec; 1 Village CV 25-26 Jan, after pigeons, photo (FM); 1 T Adams JEFF 21 Feb (MS); 1 Potsdam 29 Feb (CS).

Red-tailed Hawk: max 104 WCBC; 6 NBCBC; 1 T Hopkinton; 2 Tmas, rare in STLA.

Rough-legged Hawk: 1-2 CV daily; 19 WCBC 18 Dec; 11 T Clayton, CV, Lyme all JEFF; 4 NBCBC; 1 Potsdam STLA 14 Jan, low numbers.

Golden Eagle: 1 imm flying over PtPen 5 Jan (MW).

Am. Kestrel: 1-4 daily in CV; max 11 CV 16 Jan; 1-3 T Hen and vicinity; 3 PtPen 4 Feb; 1 T Mas 18 Feb; 10 WCBC 18 Dec.

Gray Partridge: 3 covies in Jan with no snow cover; max 60 CV mid Feb, on roads after snow over 10 inches.

Ring-necked Pheasant: pr CV 2 Jan; 8 T Rodman JEFF 21 Feb; 1 T Mas 16 Dec.

Ruffed Grouse: 14 MCBC 28 Dec; 6 NBCBC 29 Dec; 1 PtPen 21 Dec, hard to find.

Killdeer: 1 Gouverneur STLA 25 Feb (BW).

Am. Woodcock: 2 CV 29 Feb, early

migrants.

Wild Turkey: 256 Thousand I CBC 2 Jan; 135 T Mas 18 Feb; 100 Mannsville TEL 12 Jan; 50 T Edwards STLA 5 Jan; 61 NBCBC 29 Dec.

Am. Coot: 1 Fl 9 Jan; 2 WCBC 18 Jan.

Bonaparte's Gull: 2 WCBC 18 Dec; max 20 PtPen 12 Dec; 3 Wellesley I T Orleans JEFF 2 Jan.

Ring-billed Gull: max 50 PtPen 5 Jan.

Great-Black-backed Gull: max 100+ PtPen 5 Jan.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: max 1315 WCBC 18 Dec.

Mourning Dove: 190 WCBC 18 Dec; 60 NBCBC 29 Dec; 66 MCBC 28 Dec.

E. Screech-Owl: 1 Village CV 25 Jan.

Great Horned Owl: 1-3 village CV 18 Dec-30 Jan; 1 Kelsey Cr T Watertown 12 Dec; 2 NBCBC 29 Dec; 6 MCBC 28 Dec.

Snowy Owl: MNABC 18-21 Feb; Lowville LEWI 27 Jan; Rt 12 Near Copenhagen LEWI 27 Jan (SH); Rt 126 Namburg/Carthage LEWI 26 Feb (SH); 1 imm Pillar Pt T Brownville JEFF 15 Jan. **Barred Owl:** 2 NBCBC 29 Dec; 2 MCBC 28 Dec; 2 MNABC 18-21 Feb; 2 MCBC 28 Dec.

Great Gray Owl: 1 Thousand I Park Wellseley I T Orleans JEFF Feb, video by Bob Arnebeck.

Short-eared Owl: 2 WCBC 18 Dec; 9 CV 30 Dec, depart due to deep snow 16 Feb; 1 T Rutland JEFF 28 Jan; 3 Rt 189 T Depeyster STLA 17 Jan.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 NBCBC 29 Dec.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 T Mas 20 Dec.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 5 WCBC 18 Dec.

N. Flicker: 3 WCBC 18 Dec; 4 MCBC 29 Dec

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 TLou 7 Dec.

Three-toed Woodpecker: ad male CV 16 Jan (NYSARC, TA), at feeder.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: 8 NBCBC 29 Dec; 1-2 CV PtPen thru Dec; 1 MNABS 13 Feb.

Common Raven: 6 NBCBC 29 Dec; 2-4

along SLR JEFF thru, 12 at deer carcass Sevey's Corners T Colton STLA 18 Jan.
Horned Lark: 51 WCBC 18 Dec; max 650+ Favret Rd to McKeever CV 4 Feb.
Tufted Titmouse: 5 MCBC 28 Dec; 1 CV thru.
Brown Creeper: 3 NBCBC 29 Dec; 2 WCBC 18 Dec; 5 MCBC 28 Dec.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 9 NBCBC 29 Dec.
Eastern Bluebird: 4-8 near Lake in Then; last TThen 30 Jan.
Am. Robin: flocks of 5-30 TThen. CV, TMas, thru.
European Starling: 2554 WCBC 18 Dec; 622 NBCBC
Bohemian Waxwing: arr 15 Potsdam 16 Dec; 35 T Lorraine TH 5 Jan, flocks 400-500 PtPen 1-15 Jan; 100 in flocks mixed with Cedar Waxwings TThen, T Hounsfield 23 Jan; 60+ Stony Pt TThen 24 Jan; 160 LC 10 Feb; 22 Potsdam 22 Feb.
Cedar Waxwing: flocks smaller than Bohemian, 10-40 in TLou, Potsdam, CV; larger flocks near the Lake, 90 in 2 flocks TThen T Hounsfield 23 Jan, 10 PtPen 24 Jan, 250+ Stony Pt TThen.

WARBLERS **NONE**

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 1 imm 26-30 Dec; KelseyCr T Watertown JEFF (RB).
Am. Tree Sparrow: 173 WCBC 18 Dec; 27 MCBC 28 Dec; 46 MNABC 18 Feb; 65 NBCBC 29 Dec.
Song Sparrow: 2 WBM CV 31 Dec; 1 TThen 2 Jan; 4 WCBC 18 Dec.
Dark-eyed Junco: 23 WCBC 18 Dec; 25 Stony Pt TThen 24 Jan; 12 CV 8 Feb; 21 MCBC 28 Dec.
Lapland Longspur: 2 PtPen 4 Feb; 110+ Favret Rd to McKeever Rd CV 4 Feb.
Snow Bunting: most reports from CV, Lyme, and T Clayton; 1200 PtPen 4 Feb; 2785 Favret Rd to McKeever Rd CV 4 Feb; 1000+ Depauville T Clayton 3 Feb;

208 NBCBC 29 Dec; 130 MNABC Feb 18.
N. Cardinal: 3 pr CV; 1 THounsfield 20 Jan; pr Massey St. Watertown, very hard to find in JEFF; 40 MCBC 28 Dec; 40 MNABC 18 Feb.
Red-winged Blackbird: 1-2 CV 15 Dec-29 Feb; 5 T LeRay JEFF 28 Feb.
Com. Grackle: 2 KC T Watertown 28 Feb, early migrants; 20 MCBC 28 Dec; 6 NABC 18 Feb.
Brown-headed Cowbird: small numbers from TThen, CV, Watertown; 7 NBCBC 29 Dec.
Pine Grosbeak: 5 Diamond Rd T Worth 21 Jan; 21 T Rodman JEFF 29 Dec; 22 NBCBC 29 Dec.
Red Crossbill: 1. Barnes Corners LEWI 4 Jan, 21 Feb.
Purple Finch: 2 TThen 1 Jan; 6 WCBC 18 Dec; 15 MCBC 28 Dec; 32 MNABC 18-21 Feb.
House Finch: 15 CV 4 Dec down to 6 by 10 Feb; 8 KC Watertown thru; 3 with eye infection; max 47 TThen 2 Jan; 15 WCBC 28 Dec; 32 MNABC 18-21 Feb.
Com. Redpoll: large flocks reported from all areas thru; 145 PtPen 19 Jan; 182 NBCBC 29 Dec; 389 WCBC 18 Dec; 59 MNABC 18-21 Feb; 400 T Oswegatchie STLA, probably returning from the south.
HOARY REDPOLL: 2 CV 10 Feb; 1 Potsdam 5 Jan; 1 MIC Nature Center Wellesley 1 21 Feb (MS).
Pine Siskin: 1 TThen 15 Jan; 20 MCBC 28 Dec; 50 feeder CV 15 Dec; 1 NBCBC 29 Dec.
Am. Goldfinch: small numbers in JEFF; 40 MCBC 28 Dec; max 72 MNABC 18-21 Feb.
Evening Grosbeak: reports from all three counties; max 40+ TEL 5 Jan; 78 NBCBC 29 Dec; 28 MCBC 28 Dec; 21 MNABC 18-21 Feb.
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REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Elizabethtown NY 12932-9721

Although the season started with -6°F at Saranac Lake, a warming trend soon sent thermometers to 57°F at Plattsburgh on 6 Dec and brought a rainy 56°F on Pearl Harbor Day. Regional snowfall was well below normal, and even 6" at Tupper Lake 15 Dec melted as temperatures rebounded to 43°F the next day. All Christmas Bird Counts saw bare ground, with no more than 2 in. to 6 in. encountered at higher elevations. Average December temperature was 29°F , a full 6° above normal.

In spite of occasional dustings and flurries, mostly above 700 ft., the snow drought continued into January 2000. Lake Champlain was open from Port Henry to Rouses Point for the start of the Federation Waterfowl Count on 15 Jan. Temperatures plunged and a 2.3 Richter scale earthquake rumbled under Altona on 17 Jan, with Tupper Lake -29°F and Whiteface Mt. reporting -33°F (with a -100°F windchill). Saranac Lake saw -31°F the next day. After a brief respite around the lunar eclipse on the 20th, extreme windchills followed. Saranac Lake dropped to -28°F on 22 Jan and was still -23°F the next morning. A nor'easter brought the first major snowfall of the winter on 25 Jan, leaving a foot at Ticonderoga and 8 in. atop Spruce Hill, the height of land between Elizabethtown and Keene, by the next day.

Early February was clear and cold, with Inlet dropping to -15°F on the 3rd and Saranac Lake to -28°F by the 8th, with -20°F at Inlet and Ray Brook the same day. The biggest snowstorm of the season began the evening of 13 Feb, and by Valentine's Day there were 18 fresh inches covering Plattsburgh and South Bombay. Given the huge slides left by Hurricane Floyd in September and the frozen crust topped by fresh powder, the unprecedented became reality. At 1 p.m. on 19 Feb, a 100-yd. wide avalanche broke loose from the northeast slide on 4,580' Wright Peak, rumbled 500 yds. down the mountainside, and killed a 27-year-old Lake Placid skier, injuring 5 companions. By that weekend there had been 41 in. of winter snowfall at lower elevations, but most had fallen in the previous two weeks. Temperatures took an abrupt turn upward on Washington's Birthday, with both Plattsburgh and Saranac Lake topping out at 46°F on 23 Feb. By the 24th, a strong southerly flow pushed thermometers to almost 60°F , a near record for the month. Leap Day closed

the season with a sunny 37°F, with bare ground as high as Lake Placid, and flood warnings along the ice-jammed Great Chazy River.

With so much open water on Lake Champlain, geese (Snows, Canadas, and even Brant) lingered late and in record numbers. American Black Ducks, Mallards, and Hooded Mergansers also broke Regional records during the Federation Waterfowl Count. Easily two dozen Bald Eagles wintered here, many along Champlain, but others in the central Adirondacks, including 2 on a hunting camp offal dump and 5 on a deer carcass on the ice at Tupper Lake. The Golden Eagle perched in forest bordering the Lincoln Pond Road, Moriah, on 13 Dec was being shadowed by ravens, according to Mark Gretch. A Peregrine Falcon at the Willsboro eyrie was doing display flights as early as 26 Jan and drove off 2 Bald Eagles 17 Feb, according to Amtrak crewmen. Paul Kelly's flock of 57 Wild Turkeys in Speculator suggests the extent of the continuing Adirondack gobbler explosion.

Some 15 Northern Shrikes were sighted, with one at the Lee feeder at Inlet feeding on a deer ribcage when not dining on mouse and shrew. Even more remarkable were reports of no less than 40 Tufted Titmice, with a record 13 on the Elizabethtown CBC alone. Carolina Wrens were found at Rouses Point and Westport, while Plattsburgh hosted 2 Northern Mockingbirds. Bohemian Waxwings were relatively abundant, with the largest flock of 150 at Peru on 25 Feb. Three Song and 10 White-throated sparrows reflect the generally mild winter. Locally high numbers of the elusive Lapland Longspurs were located in the Champlain Valley, with 22 at Peru on 28 Jan and 12 at Westport 5 Feb. Snow Bunting numbers were high: 600 at Peru, 800 at Beekmantown, and 1,000 at Westport. Several visited feeders, and 5 buntings even penetrated to Wells in Hamilton County.

Among the winter finches, there was a scattering of Pine Grosbeaks, with 25 on the Saranac Lake CBC noteworthy. The only Purple Finches of the entire winter were 20 reported on the Plattsburgh CBC, where 153 unquestionable House Finches were also tallied. In a season of no cones, the only crossbills were 17 White-winged on the Saranac Lake Count. Clearly the most abundant finch was Common Redpoll, with a record 527 on the Elizabethtown CBC. Two "Greater" redpolls (*Carduelis flammea rostrata*) were seen and banded near Elizabethtown 15-17 Dec and another seen there 26 Dec. As expected with so many redpolls, there were 8 Hoary Redpolls reported, including one at the Peterson feeder near Elizabethtown believed to be the nominate *C.h. hornemanni* by Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club visitors. American Goldfinches were scarce to absent,

with 128 on the Plattsburgh CBC notable. Evening Grosbeak numbers improved, with a high of 98 on the E-town Count.

Rarities included an orange-billed Greater White-fronted Goose sighted by David Hoag at Point au Roche 1 Dec and by Candy Hess at Monty Bay 12 Jan: both sightings possibly the same goose seen at Cumberland Head on 28 Nov, although another reported in November at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Québec, was last seen there on 10 Dec. Two Mute Swans frequented Ausable Point 1-17 Jan, until moving down into Essex County waters off Wickham Marsh 3-27 Feb. An American Woodcock on the Plattsburgh CBC was a surprise. A Gray Catbird at Tupper Lake 2-7 Jan fed on highbush cranberries until the fruit was depleted; a 5th Regional winter record. Even more unexpected was the Pine Warbler in a flock of 8 Willsboro Point bluebirds on 15 Jan, only the 3rd winter record. Finally, a Chipping Sparrow was added to the Saranac Lake Count during count week for what appears to be a 5th winter record in this Region. With open water and mild conditions helping to compensate for the lack of wild foods, a total of 102 species was reported, just short of last winter's record of 104.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP - Ausable Point WMA; CH - Cumberland Head; ECBC - Elizabethtown CBC, 26 Dec; FCBC - Ferrisburg CBC, 18 Dec; FWC - Federation Waterfowl Count, 15-18 Jan; MB - Monty Bay; PARC - former Plattsburgh AFB; PCBC - Plattsburgh CBC, 19 Dec; PtR - Point au Roche S.P.; SLCBC - Saranac Lake CBC, 2 Jan; TL - Tupper Lake; WB - Whallon's Bay.

LOONS-DUCKS

Horned Grebe: max 36 FCBC.

Great Blue Heron: singles FCBC, ECBC, count wk SLCBC, all late.

Turkey Vulture: arr Pok-o-Moonshine 28 Feb (MD), record early.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:

PtR 1 Dec (DH); MB 12 Jan (CH), 1 or 2 individuals?

Snow Goose: max 8,000 CLIN 10 Dec (DH); 12 Keene 12 Dec (J&PT), where uncommon; 1,000s in waves passing over CH and down the bay 18 Dec (NO); record 4,380 (plus 2 "Blue") in south-bound waves FCBC the same day (TB,JP); 606 still present CLIN during FWC, abundant and late.

Canada Goose: "Richardson's" race PtR 2 Dec (BK,CM); record max 3,708 FWC, abundant and late.

Brant: 100 WB 20 Dec (JPa), late.

MUTE SWAN: 2 AP 1 Jan (E&HF)-17 Jan (GW), then off Wickham Marsh 3 Feb (JP)-27 Feb (NO); a dusky swan (sp.?) at Essex harbor 26 Jan-5 Feb was not satisfactorily identified.

Gadwall: Westport 27 Dec (DS); AP 9 Jan (CM); 5 WB 29 Jan (WL), all late.

Am. Wigeon: Westport 18 Dec (J&PT); Whiteface Inn, L. Placid 2-18 Jan (SLCBC & FWC), returned for 3rd winter at bubblers; PtR 8 Jan (GW), an excellent winter showing.

Am. Black Duck: record max 478 FWC.

Mallard: record max 2,774 FWC

N. Pintail: 2 drakes Westport 18 Dec (J&PT); 1 Napper Rd, Westport 12 Feb (WL).

Canvasback: 5 drakes, 2 hens AP 3 Jan (E&HF), only report.

Ring-necked Duck: max 8 AP 10 Jan (NO) and on FWC.

White-winged Scoter: 5 PtR 2 Dec (BK,CM), only scoter report.

Oldsquaw: pr Westport (FCBC), a good find.

Bufflehead: max 106 FWC, a healthy showing.

Com. Goldeneye: max 1,311 FWC, ditto.

Barrow's Goldeneye: hen AP 3 Dec (J&RH); drake WB 27 Feb (JP, J&PT),

always fun to find.

Hooded Merganser: Lincoln Pd 2-14 Dec (MG); all 4 CBCs, including 1st ECBC on Boquet R (DN); record max 47 FWC, including 24 L George (DC); 4 Essex 29 Jan (WL); AP 31 Jan (GW)-29 Feb (E&HF); arr pr Lincoln Pd 26 Feb (MG), an exceptional season.

Com. Merganser: max 1,553 FWC, virtually ties '88 record of 1,556.

Red-breasted Merganser: hen Westport 18 Dec (JP); 3 FWC; drake Port Kent 23 Feb (NO,MS), all good finds.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 8 FCBC, 6 FWC, 2-4 Port Kent (JCC, JP), 3 Essex (TB, JP), and 3 WB (TT), only suggest numbers along Champlain, while 5 TL (CD), plus sightings from Lake Pleasant, Raquette L, and 7th L show that numbers now winter in all 4 counties.

Golden Eagle: Lincoln Pond Rd, Moriah 13 Dec (MG), with shadowing ravens.

Merlin: 1 PCBC, an excellent find.

Peregrine Falcon: display flights Willboro eyrie 26 Jan (RL); Northway Exit 41, CLIN 29 Jan (GW); attacking 2 **Bald Eagle** Willboro eyrie 17 Feb (JCC), clearly PR-T in Atlas Block 6291A, thanks to observant Amtrak "Adirondack" crew.

Wild Turkey: max 57 Speculator 18 Jan (PK); 11 TL feeder (CD); 4 Inlet deer feeder (GL), all good for central Adks.; 50 Essex Jan (TT) and other lowland reports more expected.

Am. Coot: max 8 Westport 8 Jan (MG), where 2-4 could be found 29 Dec-16 Jan.

AM. WOODCOCK: 1 PCBC, rare in Dec.

Iceland Gull: 1st winter Plattsburgh 20 Feb (GW), always welcome.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: Stafford Rd, CLIN 30 Jan (JW); 2 AP 13 Feb (GW), welcome reports.

Great Horned Owl: count week ECBC; Keene 1 Jan (J&PT), only reports.

Barred Owl: 3 ECBC; 5 SLCBC; 3 Inlet feeders; Elizabethtown 26 Jan (JP);

Wadhams-Whallonsburg 26 Feb (J&PT);

struck by vehicle TL, taken to Ray Brook for rehab by DEC (NS), many daytime birds.

Short-eared Owl: Clinton Co. Airport wk 17 Jan (AA), Press-Republican photo.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Inlet Dec (GL), only report.

Belted Kingfisher: Westport 5 Dec (J&PT); 1 PCBC; 2 SLCBC, good Dec sightings.

Black-backed Woodpecker: count week SLCBC, only report.

N. Flicker: 1 FCBC; 1 Essex 5 Feb (TB,JP); max 2 Essex 26 Feb (J&PT), good find in winter.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: max 6 ECBC, with at least 15 reports from all 4 counties, an excellent winter.

Gray Jay: 4 SLCBC; 4 Bloomingdale feeder 12 Feb (WL); 2 Callaghan feeder, Upper Saranac Lake (JC), killed and ate chickadee stunned by window-strike.

Com. Raven: max 30 ECBC.

Horned Lark: 1 Heart Lake Rd 16 Jan (J&PT); 6-8 Essex 29 Jan (WL); 1 Westport 5 Feb (TB,JP); max 40 Westport 12 Feb (WL); 11 Westport 26 Feb (J&PT), fairly typical.

Black-capped Chickadee: total of 2,049 on the 4 CBCs, including the strikingly leucistic bird present at Westport since 13 Nov that turned up on the FCBC, having eluded the sharpies & shrikes.

Boreal Chickadee: 12 Shallow L 1 Dec (GL); 2 SLCBC; 1 Bigelow Rd 12 Feb (WL), typical.

Tufted Titmouse: max 13 ECBC; 8 FCBC; 8 PCBC; 2 SLCBC; 2 Jay; 2 Speculator; others Cadyville, Lake Placid, Mooers, Saranac, and TL, for a total of at least 40 titmice reported and many more undoubtedly present. Singing Elizabethtown 27-29 Feb (JP).

Brown Creeper: max 11 SLCBC; visiting suet feeders Elizabethtown & Keene.

Carolina Wren: wintered Rouses Point feeder (DP); Westport 18 Dec (J&PT).

E. Bluebird: max 12 Willsboro 15 Jan (JPRW), at Willsboro Point and

Noblewood Park.

Am. Robin: max 40 Peru 18 Feb (E&HF); 30 Ausable R 23 Feb feeding on insect larvae on snow-covered ice (NO,MS); several other reports, including 4 Lake Pleasant 8 Feb (PK).

GRAY CATBIRD: TL 2-7 Jan (IS), feeding on highbush cranberry until fruit was depleted, 5th Regional winter record.

N. Mockingbird: PARC 14 Dec (NO,MS); CH 25 Dec (NO).

European Starling: Inlet feeder 23 Feb (GL). What's the world coming to?

Bohemian Waxwing: 12 Paul Smiths 2 Dec (TM); 119 FCBC; record 95 ECBC; 12 PCBC; 11 SLCBC; 80+ Plattsburgh 25-28 Jan (CM); 16 Essex, 25 Westport 5 Feb (TB,JP); 37 Dannemora 6 Feb (NO); 30 eating wild grapes Carpenter's Flats 23 Feb (NO,MS); max 150 Peru 25 Feb (E&HF), another good winter for this striking northerner.

Cedar Waxwing: 22 FCBC; max 88 PCBC; 1 Westport 5 Feb (TB,JP), only reports.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 FCBC, occasional in winter along L Champlain.

PINE WARBLER: Willsboro Point 15 Jan (JP, RW), with flock of 8 bluebirds for 3rd Regional (2nd ESSE) winter record.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

CHIPPING SPARROW: count week SLCBC, apparently 5th Regional winter record.

Song Sparrow: 2 FCBC; 1 PCBC, an expected half-hardy.

White-throated Sparrow: 9 PCBC; Speculator 3 Dec, 18 Jan, Feb (PK), expected in CLIN, but a good winter visit ant in HAMI.

Lapland Longspur: max 22 Peru 28 Jan (GW); 12 Westport 5 Feb (TB,JP), a new ESSE maxima; 3 Westport 12 Feb (WL), a strong showing here.

Snow Bunting: 5 Wells 4 Dec (PK), with at least 10 other reports, including highs of 600 Peru 28 Jan and 800 Beekmantown

31 Jan (GW), max 1,000 Westport 5 Feb (TB, JP) to 12 Feb (WL), an excellent winter.

Red-winged Blackbird: SLCBC; Plattsburgh feeder 23 Jan (GW); arr 6 Inlet 29 Feb (GL), early.

Com. Grackle: Speculator 4 Dec (PK); 1 ECBC; count wk SLCBC, respectable.

Pine Grosbeak: 12 ECBC; max 25 SLCBC; 6 Peru 28 Jan (GW); subad male St. Armand and 6 FRAN 12 Feb (WL), at least provides records from 3 counties.

Purple Finch: 20 PCBC, only report.

House Finch: max 153 PCBC.

White-winged Crossbill: 17 SLCBC, only report.

Com. Redpoll: max 527 ECBC; 2

"Greater" Redpolls (*C.f. rostrata*)

Elizabethtown 16-17 Dec (JP), banded;

another "Greater" seen there 26 Dec (J&SP,

WP); the most abundant winter finch, with a total of 1,290 tallied on the 4 CBCs.

HOARY REDPOLL: arr 2 Elizabethtown 10 Dec (J&SP); record 2 ECBC same feeder (*C.h. exilipes*); 2 SLCBC; Keene feeder 18 & 28 Jan (J&PT); sight record nominate male (*C.h. hornemanni*) Elizabethtown feeder 29 Jan (HMBC, WL); Willsboro Point 4 Feb (GL); North Elba 5 Feb (SC); last Elizabethtown 8 Feb (JP), for a total of at least 8 individuals, all believed correct.

Am. Goldfinch: max 128 PCBC, but relatively scarce to absent in many areas.

Evening Grosbeak: max 98 ECBC, smaller flocks scattered over all 4 counties.

ADDENDUM

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:

Speculator 24-26 Oct 99 (PK), 1st HAMI and 8th Regional record.

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

Jane Denker Graves

133 York Avenue

Saratoga Springs NY 12866-2533

As reported from the Albany International Airport, December's mean temperature was 30.9°F, 4.4° above normal. Sunshine averaged 43%, 4% above normal. There was 1.42" of rain, 1.51" below normal, with only 1.1" of snow. January averaged a normal 20.6°, with 43% sunshine, 4% below normal. Rain was 3.43", 1.07" above normal, with 31" of snow. February was a warm month, averaging 27.6°, 4.1° above normal, with 46% sunshine. Rain was measured at 2.83", 0.56" above normal, with 12.4" of snow.

The mild December delayed freeze-up and allowed many waterfowl to linger, providing good diversity on the early CBC's. Lingering land birds were also well represented on CBC's and at feeders. A very surprising Osprey was found on the Johnstown-Gloversville count. Marsh and Winter wrens, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Yellow-rumped and Palm warblers, Fox, Swamp and White-crowned sparrows were reported. Water bodies froze quickly after the 21st and by the 28th most rivers and lakes were frozen except for areas below dams and power stations.

Species diversity dropped sharply as extreme cold set in during early and mid-January. Wild food crops were generally poor and numbers of overwintering birds were way down. Species such as Horned Lark and American Tree Sparrow were reported only in small numbers, while Golden-Crowned Kinglets were practically nonexistent. However, Eastern Bluebirds were present in excellent numbers, and Black-capped Chickadees continued their irruption at Jenny Lake, with adult birds predominating. 88 individuals were banded during the period. The only winter finches present in good numbers were Common Redpolls. Several Hoary Redpoll sightings were reported; it is to be hoped that NYSARC reports were filed for all. A Gray Catbird overwintered in the vicinity of Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin's feeding station, being fed suet crumbs by the two after they noticed the bird picking up suet dropped under their woodpecker feeder. There was a very unusual sighting of a Yellow-rumped Warbler reported by Bob Yunick from the Vischer Ferry Power Station area on 3 Feb. In late February there was an abrupt thaw causing ice jams on rivers and flooding many meadows, which provided good waterfowl viewing opportunities.

The 124 species reported included 25 species of waterfowl, 12 species of hawks, 7 species of gulls, 7 species of owls, 5 species of sparrows, and 10 species of finches. Unusual birds not previously mentioned included Great Cormorant, Black-crowned Night -Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Tundra Swan, Thayer's Gull, Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, and Bohemian Waxwing.

CONTRIBUTORS

Kenneth P. Able, Sue Adair, Elliott Adams, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Kate Beale, Brad Bidwell (BBI), Bob Boehm (Bbo), Robert Budliger, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Mark Fitzsimmons, Craig Fosdick, Laurie Freeman, Jane Graves, Richard Guthrie, Denise Hilton Stoner, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN): William Lee, Andy Mason, Nancy Martin, Peter Nye, Tom Palmer, Barbara Putnam, Scott Stoner, Alison Van Keuren, Carol Whitby, Owen Whitby, Mark Woythal, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACCBC - Albany County CBC, 19 Dec; CBL - Coxsackie Boat Launch, GREE; CCCBC - Catskill-Coxsackie CBC, 21 Dec; ChCBC - Chatham CBC, 18 Dec; CL - Collins Lake, SCHE; FPCBC - Fort Plain CBC, 2 Jan; FR

- Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward area, WASH; FtM - Fort Miller, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HFCBC - Hudson Falls CBC, 19 Dec; GL - Galway Lake, SARA; HR - Hudson River; JGCBC - Johnstown-Gloversville CBC, 27 Dec; L7 - Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7 SCHE; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore, GREE; NL - Nassau Lake, RENS; NR - Niskayuna RR Station, SCHE; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; NWW - Niskayuna Wide Waters, SCHE; PP - Papscanee Preserve, RENS; RL - Round Lake, SARA; SCBC - Salem CBC, 29 Dec; ScCBC - Schenectady CBC, 18 Dec; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, SARA; SL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; SRCBC - Southern Rensselaer CBC, 26 Dec; SSCBC - Saratoga Spa CBC, 18 Dec; TCBC - Troy CBC, 2 Jan; TR - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; WR - Waterviet Reservoir, ALBA.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 1 HFCBC.

Com. Loon: 1 RL 2 Dec; 1 SL 2 Dec; 4 Mechanicville 7 Dec; 2 ACCBC; 2 SSCBC; only reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: 1 WR 2, 5 Dec; 1 CCCBC; only reports.

Horned Grebe: 1 WR 5 Dec; only report.

Red-necked Grebe: 1 CCCBC; only report.

Great Cormorant: 1 Embough Bay 21 Dec (BC); 1 Kingston Point 11 Jan (RG); same individual?

Great Blue Heron: 50 on 9 CBCs; 6 Jan, 1 Feb reports.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 Embough Bay 21 Dec (BC).

Turkey Vulture: 1 Woodstock 7 Jan (RG); 1 Slingerlands 12 Jan (AV); 1 Helderberg Escarpment 29 Jan (MF); 1 Austerlitz 25 Feb (ADBC); 2 Schenectady 28 Feb (WL).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 1 WR 16 Dec (WE); 1 ACCBC 19 Dec; probably same bird.

Snow Goose: 2957 on 7 CBCs, high count; 1865 TCBC; 2000-2500 remained on HR bt. Ft. Miller-Mechanicville thru 12 Jan.

Canada Goose: 11,432 SCBC; 6908 CCCBC.

Mute Swan: max 87 CCCBC; 2 pr NL 9, 26 Dec; 40 Coxsackie 21 Feb.

Tundra Swan: 43 NR 27 Feb (RY).

Wood Duck: 1 FtM 7 Dec; 3 on 2 CBCs; 1 GI 23 Jan (WE).

Gadwall: 18 on 5 CBCs.

Am. Wigeon: max 102 ACCBC; arr 2 pr Collins Creek 28 Feb (WL).

Am. Black Duck: 2345 on 11 CBCs; high count 494 CCCBC.

Mallard: 9126 on 11 CBCs; max 1681 SRCBC; 1631 SSCBC; 1581 FPCBC; 600+ FtM 14 Feb.

N. Shoveler: 1 TCBC, only report.

N. Pintail: 11 on 4 CBCs; 1 SI 30 Dec; 1 GI 23 Jan.

Green-winged Teal: 7 VF 5 Dec; 19 on 6 CBCs; max 13 ChCBC; 2 HR T Half Moon 27 Feb.

Canvasback: 14 on 7 CBCs; max 500 HR Germantown 16 Jan (CW, OW).

Redhead: 14 SSCBC; 1 TCBC; 1 lower MR 2 Jan (SA); 1 L4 Stillwater 30 Jan (WE); 3 HR Germantown 16 Jan (CW, OW).

Ring-necked Duck: 118 TR 1 Dec; 240 on 6 CBCs; 4 L4 Stillwater 23 Jan (WE); 3 Collins Creek 28 Feb (WL).

Greater Scaup: 90 SSCBC; 2 ScCBC; 1 L4 Stillwater 30 Jan; 12 Collins Creek 28 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: 3 ACCBC; 35 SCBC; 1 SRCBC CW; only reports.

Oldsquaw: 1 FPCBC, only report.

Bufflehead: 7 Alcove Res 12 Dec; 97 on 5 CBCs; max 72 SSCBC; no reports after 1 Jan.

Com. Goldeneye: 1882 on 8 CBCs; max

1415 SSCBC; 160 L4 HR Stillwater 23 Jan.
Hooded Merganser: 134 TR 1 Dec (RY); 282 on 8 CBCs; max 158 SSCBC; 4 HR L4 Stillwater 23, 30 Jan; 3 HR T Half Moon 27 Feb; 3 Collins Creek 28 Feb (WL).
Com. Merganser: high counts 210 TR 14 Dec; 207 ACCBC; 270 ScCBC; 279 TCBC; 100+ Collins Creek 28 Feb.
Red-breasted Merganser: 1 NWW 12 Dec (RY); 1 ACCBC; 1 CCCBC; 1 GI 16 Jan, 24 Feb.
Ruddy Duck: 12 TR 14 Dec; 20 NL 9 Dec; 25 GL 113 Dec; max 179 ACCBC.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: 1 JGCBC.
Bald Eagle: 23 on 6 CBCs; 2 ad Conklingville Dam 28 Dec (LF); HR: 6 imm, 1 ad above Ft. Miller; 10-15 bt Lock 1 Waterford-Lock 5 Clark's Mills; at least 4 ad, 6 imm bt. Albany-Hudson (PN); MR: 1 ad Rt. 160 Princetown 13 Feb (WE); 1 imm Burtonsville 24 Feb (Bbo, KB).
N. Harrier: 49 on 8 CBCs; 12 present FtE thru; 9 reports of singles.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 28 on 8 CBCs; 36 reports of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: 24 on 9 CBCs; 36 reports of singles.
N. Goshawk: 3 ACCBC; 1 JGCBC; 1 SCBC; 1 ScCBC; 1 SSCBC.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Gardner 6 Jan (RG); 1 Ballston Spa 8 Feb (BEN); only reports.
Red-tailed Hawk: 703 on 11 CBCs; max 95 FPCBC; 83 ChCBC.
Rough-legged Hawk: 16 on 4 CBCs; 9 FtE 14 Feb; 4 Ft. Plain area 12 Feb; 11 reports of singles.
Am. Kestrel: 29 on 9 CBCs; 23 reports of singles.
Merlin: 1 Albany 4 Dec; 1 TCBC; 1 Washington Pk. Albany 29 Feb.
Peregrine Falcon: 1 Waterford 11 Dec (BEN); 1 Castleton Bridge 13 Dec (RG); 1 Schenectady Co. Public Library 13 Dec (WL); 1 SRCBC; ad pr at nest box Dunn Memorial Bridge 23 Dec (WL, RY); 1 over SUNYA 29 Dec (WE); 1 TCBC; 1 HR Rt. 113 Easton 6 Jan (WE); 1 imm f Colonie 23 Jan (WE); 1 Schenectady 23 Feb (Rob Hayes to

BEN); 1 Cohoes 24 Feb (WL); 1 Dunn Memorial Bridge 27 Feb.
Ring-necked Pheasant: 1 FPCBC; 1 Jan ADBC, only reports.
Ruffed Grouse: 36 on 9 CBCs; 3 reports of singles.
Wild Turkey: high counts 152 ACCBC; 102 ChCBC; 307 FPCBC.
Am. Coot: 100 SL 11 Dec (BP); 1 BCR 12 Dec; 7 ACCBC; 1 SSCBC.
Ring-billed Gull: max 841 CCCBC; 258 ACCBC.
Herring Gull: max 2357 CCCBC; 1185 TCBC; 551 ACCBC; 800 MR Colonie 8 Jan.
THAYER'S GULL: 1 ad Crescent 4 Dec (KPA).
Iceland Gull: 1 1st yr. Coxsackie 12 Dec; 1 CCCBC; 1 JGCBC; 2 TCBC; 1 1st yr MR Colonie 8, 23 Jan; 2 Coxsackie 15 Jan. 1 3rd basic MR Colonie 30 Jan.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 VF 5 Dec (WE); 1 ad Colonie landfill 30 Dec (WL, RY); 1 Crescent 6 Jan (RB); 1 2nd yr HR Waterford 16 Jan (WE); 1 VF 10 Feb (WE).
Glaucous Gull: 1 Coxsackie 11-12 Dec (RG); 1 Crescent 6 Jan (RB); 1 imm Coxsackie 11, 15 Jan (RG); 1 1st yr Crescent 19 Jan (RB); 1 1st yr. MR Colonie 30 Jan (WE).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 604 TCBC; 310 MR Colonie 30 Jan.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: high counts 1061 FPCBC; 1449 TCBC; 726 ScCBC.
Mourning Dove: high counts 894 TCBC; 683 FPCBC.
E. Screech-Owl: 28 on 9 CBCs; 1 FR 1 Jan; 1 Ft. Plain area 12 Feb; 1 Taghkanic 16 Feb.
Great Horned Owl: 26 on 7 CBCs; max 12 FPCBC; 14 other reports.
Snowy Owl: 1 19, 24 Feb Claverack (fide BC).
Barred Owl: 1 Hague 4 Dec; 10 on 6 CBCs; 5 Jan, 1 Feb reports.
Long-eared Owl: 1 FOCBC; 1 Gallupville 6 Jan (Bbo, KB); 1 Claverack 6 Jan (BC).
Short-eared Owl: 10 FtE 9 Jan (SS); 10 on 5 CBCs; 1 Pangburn Rd. T Rotterdam 11-12 Jan

(MW); 14 Ft. Plain area 12 Feb (EA, AM).
N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 FPCBC; 1 recently dead ScCBC; no other reports.
Belted Kingfisher: 45 on 6 CBCs; max 15 TCBC; 4 Jan, 4 Feb reports.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 106 on 11 CBCs, high count 33 ChCBC; 30 reports of singles.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 CCCBC; 1 ChCBC; 2 ScCBC; 1 Guilderland 29 Dec (WE); 1 Ghent 17 Jan (CW, OW).
Downy Woodpecker: 552 on 10 CBCs; max 93 ChCBC; 9 NRP 12 Feb.
Hairy Woodpecker: 138 on 10 CBCs; max 25 ScCBC.
N. Flicker: 145 on 10 CBCs; max 30 ChCBC; 5 Jan, 5 Feb reports.
Pileated Woodpecker: 57 on 10 CBCs; max 9 ChCBC; 20 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: 28 on 9 CBCs; 31 reports of singles.
Blue Jay: 1137 on 11 CBCs; numbers down from last year.
Am. Crow: max 5921 TCBC; c. 7000 at dusk Colonie 8 Jan (WE).
Fish Crow: 18 on 5 CBCs; 13 TCBC; 7 Jan, 4 Feb reports.
Com. Raven: 13 on 6 CBCs; continues to be widely reported throughout Region.
Horned Lark: 465 on 6 CBCs; max 167 FPCBC; numbers down significantly from last year.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 766 CCCBC; 683 JGCBC; 533 SRCBC; 572 ChCBC; 20 NRP 20 Feb; irruption yr JL.
Tufted Titmouse: max 184 CCCBC; 126 ScCBC; 20 NRP 29 Jan.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 87 on 11 CBCs; max 25 JGCBC.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 581 on 11 CBCs; max 89 CCCBC.
Brown Creeper: 63 on 9 CBCs; singing Guilderland 26 Feb (WE).
Carolina Wren: 20 on 6 CBCs; 10 reports of singles, including 1 overwintering Delmar (RB).
Winter Wren: 2 ACCBC; 4 CCCBC; 2 ScCBC; 1 TCBC.
Marsh Wren: 3 CCCBC; 1 Athens 9 Jan (RG).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 33 on 8 CBCs; scarce thru.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 CCCBC; 1 ChCBC.
E. Bluebird: 713 on 11 CBCs; max 155 ChCBC; present in excellent numbers thru.
Hermit Thrush: 1 CCCBC; 1 ScCBC; 1 TCBC; 1 Amsterdam 16 Dec, 15 Jan (TP).
Am. Robin: 1653 on 9 CBCs; max 490 CCCBC; 1000 Livingston 16 Jan (CW, OW).
Gray Catbird: 4 on 4 CBCs; 1 Athens 9 Jan (RG); 1 overwintered Guilderland feeder (WE, NM).
N. Mockingbird: 103 on 11 CBCs; 8 Jan, 3 Feb reports.
European Starling: high count 10,279 SRCBC.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 1 Glens Falls 2 Dec (BBI); 15 WR 2 Dec (WE); 8 Colonie 30 Dec (WL); 3 T Hague 14 Feb (fide LM); 44 Jefferson MONT 26 Feb (AM).
Cedar Waxwing: high counts 200 Glens Falls 2 Dec; 233 SCBC; 107 ChCBC.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 5 ACCBC; 10 CCCBC; 11 Stockport 21 Dec (ADBC); 1 L7 3 Feb (RY).
Palm Warbler: 1 NB 8 Jan (RG).
Com. Yellowthroat: 1 ChCBC.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: high counts 304 TCBC; 274 SCBC; 175 ScCBC; numbers down from last year.
Fox Sparrow: 1 Guilderland 31 Jan thru (WE, NM).
Song Sparrow: 82 on 9 CBCs; max 20 ScCBC.
Swamp Sparrow: 5 CCCBC; 1 ChCBC; 1 ScCBC, only reports.
White-throated Sparrow: max 88 CCCBC; 82 ACCBC; 70 ScCBC.
White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Hillsdale 17 Dec, only report.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 330 ChCBC; 285 CCCBC; 251 TCBC; numbers down from last year.
Lapland Longspur: c. 12 Van Epps Rd. s of Fultonville 9 Feb (Bbo, KB); 5 T FtE 6 Feb (WE), only reports.
Snow Bunting: 2 HFCBC; 20 FtE 9 Jan;

150 SL 9 Jan; 75 Gansevoort 23 Jan; 35-40 perched in tree T Wilton 4 Feb; 92 FtE 6 Feb; 200 Ft. Plain area 12 Feb; 70 T Florida MONT 13 Feb; 400 FtE 17 Feb.
N. Cardinal: high counts 89 SCCBC; 60 TCBC; 14 at feeder Guilderland 25 Jan; 51 L7 3 Feb (RY).
Red-winged Blackbird: 755 on 5 CBCs; arr 2 Slingerlands 26 Feb; 1 singing NRRS 27 Feb.
Com. Grackle: 1 ACCBC; 1 FPCBC; 1 Slingerlands 3 Jan; arr Jefferson MONT 26 Feb.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 300+ PP 23 Dec (WL); arr 2 Glenmont 13 Feb.
Pine Grosbeak: 1 Guilderland 31 Jan (WE, NM), only report.
Purple Finch: 34 on 8 CBCs; no Jan, 10 Feb reports.
House Finch: 2249 on 11 CBCs; max 344

ScCBC; 310 TCBC; scarce at feeders.
Red Crossbill: 3 Guilderland 11 Dec-9 Jan (WE, NM).
White-winged Crossbill: 1 Guilderland 1 Dec (WE, NM).
Com. Redpoll: 2730 on 11 CBCs; max 1000 JGCBC; common throughout winter.
HOARY REDPOLL: 1 Guilderland 10 Dec (WE, NM); 1 FPCBC; 1 SRCBC; 2 f Berne 23-28 Dec (KPA).
Pine Siskin: 76 on 7 CBCs; max 45 JGCBC; small numbers thru.
Am. Goldfinch: max 286 ChCBC; 199 ScCBC; good numbers.
Evening Grosbeak: 245 JGCBC; 42 FPCBC; 11 Minerva CBC; 30 Jefferson 23 Jan; other reports of small numbers.
House Sparrow: max 353 HFCBC; 259 SRCBC.
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REGION 9 - HUDSON-DELAWARE

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December was generally warm and without snow. The first snow didn't occur till 13 Jan. After that, we had a hard freeze, reaching -10 F in the northern sections of Region 9. February warmed to near normal temperatures.

The second Rockland County record for Greater White-fronted Goose was reported by Jessie Trabank in Ascension Cemetery in Monsey on 19 Dec. It stayed for about a week. A second, possibly the same individual, was found at the Blue Chip farm in Ulster on 9 Jan and relocated in Walkill 31 Jan.

Two egrets lasted into December, a Great Egret in Sullivan County on 9 Dec and a Snowy Egret was found on the Bronx-Westchester CBC in New Rochelle 26 Dec.

Galeville Airport in Ulster County has now officially renamed the Shawangunk Grassland National Wildlife Refuge. This report will refer to the site as Galeville. The new name will be used beginning with the spring report.

The Southern Orange County CBC mirrored the continuing increase of Black Vultures in Region 9 with a whopping 45 on 26 Dec. There were also 49 Turkey Vultures recorded on that same count, testifying for the growing tendency for both species to overwinter.

Wintering Bald Eagles on the Hudson River were in unprecedented numbers. Up to 56 individuals were sighted, possibly more, on a single day.

There was a moderate influx of Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrikes, and winter finches. Good numbers of Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins were found, along with single reports of Red and White-winged crossbills and Pine Grosbeak

Fish Crows lingered further north this year, with birds being found on the inland CBC counts of Eastern Orange, Rockland and Putnam counties.

An interesting sight was a partial albinistic American Crow with white wings, reported by Irene Warshauer just outside New Paltz on 9 Jan.

Other notable species include: Eurasian Wigeon, Merlin, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Baltimore Oriole

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ABBREVIATIONS

BWCBC - Bronx-Westchester Christmas Bird Count (West. only), CPP-Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, EOCBC - Eastern Orange County Christmas Bird Count, GA-Galeville Airport (Shawangunk Grassland National Wildlife Refuge), KP-Kakiat Park, MCBC - Monicello Christmas Bird Count, PCBC - Peekskill Christmas Bird Count, PCCBC - Putnam County Christmas Bird Count, PP-Piermont Pier, RCCBC - Rockland County Christmas Bird Count, RNC-Rye Nature Center, SOCBC - Southern Orange County Christmas Bird Count.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: max 19 EGR 24 Jan; 3 Peekskill 26 Feb.

Red-necked Grebe: 1 New Rochelle 26 Dec.

Northern Gannet: 3 BWCBC 26 Dec.

Great Cormorant: 15 Peekskill 26 Feb.

Great Blue Heron: max 19 EGR 20 Dec.

Great Egret: 1 Callicoon Access Area 9 Dec.

Snowy Egret: 1 New Rochelle 26 Dec (DP).

Black Vulture: many reports west of Hudson; 45 SOCBC 26 Dec, very high; 2 PCCBC 2 Jan; 4 Peekskill 18 Dec, 12 Feb; 6 New Croton Dam 12 Feb.

Turkey Vulture: 49 SOCBC 26 Dec; many other reports throughout Region.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 Ascension Cemetery, Monsey 19- 14 Dec (JT,CW), 2nd ROCK record; 1 Blue Chip Farm 9 Jan (JM,KM); 1 Wallkill River 31 Jan (JM,KM).

Snow Goose: 1 Salt Point thru Dec; 2 CPP 21 Dec; 1 Round Pond, DUTC 2,12 Jan.

Brant: 15 EGR 1 Jan; 8 Rye 16 Feb.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 New Rochelle 26 Dec; 1 EGR 1 Jan; 1 New Rochelle 23 Jan, 6 Feb.

Canvasback: 400 Kingston 16 Jan; 154 EGR 31 Jan.

Redhead: 6 EGR 23 Dec.

Ring-necked Duck: 150 Stissing Lake 5 Dec; 2 EGR 1 Jan.

Greater Scaup: 4900 EGR 15 Jan.

Lesser Scaup: 1200 EGR 15 Jan.

Black Scoter: 5 BWCBC 26 Dec.

Surf Scoter: 2 BWCBC 26 Dec.

Oldsquaw: 1 Sylvan Lake 1-6 Dec; 2 EOCBC 18 Dec.

Com. Goldeneye: 30 EGR 1 Jan

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 PP 21 Dec

Ruddy Duck: 225 EGR 23 Dec.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 32 Delaware River area 16 Jan; 30 Hudson River 30 Jan; 14 Chelsea 30 Jan; 56 Hudson River 12 Feb (JAs); 40 Peekskill 21 Feb.

N. Harrier: 1 Thompson Pond 5 Dec; 1 Swan Lake 1,13 Dec; 1 Wurtsboro early Dec; 1 Rye 23 Jan; 2 Stissing Mt 27 Feb.

N. Goshawk: 1 DUTC 26 Dec; 1 MC 24

Dec; 1 Rye Nature Center 1 26 Dec; 1 Verbank 1-3 Jan; 1 MC 23 Jan, 8 Feb; 1 GA 30 Jan, 5 Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 EOCBC 18 Dec; 1 EGR 26, 31 Dec; 2 SOCBC 26 Dec; 1 Pawling 1 Jan; 1 Wappinger Falls 1-6 Feb; 1 MC 1 Jan, 18 Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Eastchester 26 Dec; 1 CPP 15 Jan; 1 Stissing Mt 2 Feb; 3 GA 30 Jan, 5 Feb.

Golden Eagle: 2 Stissing Mt 5 Dec; 1 Thompson Pond 29 Jan.

Merlin: 1 Eastchester 26 Dec; 1 DUTC 2 Jan; 1 Millbrook 4 Jan.

Peregrine Falcon: 1 EOCBC 18 Dec; 1 RCCBC 19 Dec; 1 SOCBC 26 Dec; 2 EGR 26,29 Dec; 1-2 Poughkeepsie all winter.

N. Bobwhite: 2 DUTC 27 Dec.

Purple Sandpiper: 30 EGR 23 Jan.

Dunlin: 78 MC 31 Dec.

Am. Woodcock: 1 FDR estate 22 Jan, early.

Bonaparte's Gull: 60 Rye 23 Dec.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 RCCBC 19 Dec; 1 EOCBC Dec.

Glaucous Gull: 1 Wallkill River 30 Jan.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Long-eared Owl: 1 EGR 16 Feb.

Short-eared Owl: 8 GA 4 Dec-29 Feb; 1-2 CPP 12-26 Feb.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: many widespread reports.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: 1 MCBC 26 Dec; 1 SOCBC 26 Dec.

N. Shrike: 1 Vassar Farm 3, 29 Dec, 6-27 Feb; 1 Woodbourne 16 Dec; 1 SOCBC 26 Dec; 1 CPP 1 Jan; 4 PCCBC 2 Jan; other scattered sightings in DUTC.

Fish Crow: 1 EOCBC 18 Dec; 18 RCCBC 19 Dec; 1 PCCBC 2 Jan; some present all winter in WEST

Com. Raven: 1 CPP 12 Feb; 1 Bear Mt Scenic Overlook 12 Feb, many reports west of Hudson.

Horned Lark: 120 DUTC 2 Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: few around in WEST.

Sedge Wren: 1 MC 26 Dec - 1 Jan (TB).

Marsh Wren: 1 MC 21 Dec; 1 MC 1 Jan.

Am. Pipit: 1 ULST 18 Dec; few CPP 15 Jan.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: scattered reports.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 MC 17, 26, 29 Dec; 1 PCBC 18 Dec.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 1 Rye 5 Jan.

Savannah "Ipswich" Sparrow: 1 EGR 26-28 Dec.

Fox Sparrow: max 10 MC 21 Dec; 11 MC 23 Jan.

White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Rhinebeck 27 Jan.

Snow Bunting: 5 EGR 22 Dec; 1 Gretna 29 Dec; 2 Vassar Farm 9 Feb.

E. Meadowlark: 5 GA 15 Jan.

Rusty Blackbird: 8 Neversink early Dec; 2 PCBC 18 Dec; 1 RCCBC 19 Dec; 17

SOCBC 26 Dec; 1 PCCBC 2 Jan; 1 Rye 19 Jan - 7 Feb.

Baltimore Oriole: 1 DUTC 25 Dec; 1 Rye 17 Jan.

Pine Grosbeak: 2 PCCBC 2 Jan.

Purple Finch: few reports from WEST and DUTC.

Red Crossbill: 1 PCBC 18 Dec.

White-winged Crossbill: 8 Swan Lake 11 Dec

Com. Redpoll: 120 Hurleyville 4 Dec; 5 EGR 24 Dec; 54 Swan Lake 14 Dec; 30 Cape Pond 20 Dec; 20 Wanasink 26 Dec; 89 SOCBC 26 Dec; 11 Woodstock 27 Dec; 75 Rhinebeck 27 Jan; 80 DUTC 2 Feb; 40 Katonah 12 Feb; other scattered reports from DUTC.

Pine Siskin: 1 Croton 2 Dec - 28 Feb; 1-11 Rye 20 Dec - 3 Feb; 14 PCBC 18 Dec; 2 Wurtsboro 26 Dec; 5 Vassar Farm 28 Feb.

Evening Grosbeak: scattered report from SULL in Dec; 17 Woodstock 23 Dec.

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REGION 10 - MARINE

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The winter was mild and dry. Rain in December and January was somewhat less than normal and February had half its usual amount. We started warm and ended warm with a slug of freezing cold in-between. The winter had little snow. December had only eight days below the freezing mark and February had only six, and all of these above 20°F. December recorded two new daily high temperatures and February one, a 64°F. day on the third. Without January, there would have been no winter. However, from 17 to 22 Jan, the temperature never rose above freezing. This cold snap coincided with the target dates for the Federation Waterfowl Count, and much water was covered with ice.

With November being the seventh warmest month on record and December continuing the trend, it was no surprise that many species lingered. Early Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) came up with many late birds, including a number that remained into January. In some cases, the birds even wintered.

There seemed to be fewer half-hardies this year, maybe because it was warmer and they didn't need the protection that the Region usually supplies. But, on the other hand, just to confuse the situation, we experienced a heavy invasion of northern wanderers and finches, well before the weather turned cool.

Four rare to uncommon subspecies were recorded during the season. With taxonomy in flux, we will continue to include recognizable forms in the interest of preserving records against potential future changes. We'll discuss these in their usual AOU order, but first, **an addition to the New York State list**, New York State's first **Macgillivray's Warbler**, was identified on Staten Island 15 Dec by Richard Veit and remained until 28 Dec. (*Kingbird* 50:2). It was accompanied by an impressive group of other birds including Northern Shrike, Orange-Crowned and Nashville warblers, two Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Lincoln's and three White-crowned sparrows.

Two Eared Grebes were found on the ocean on the Southern Nassau CBC 2 Jan, one off the Jones Beach center mall and one in Long Beach. On 9 Jan, two Eared Grebes were found in the Point Lookout area. Both birds, separated by the better part of a mile, were feeding along the oceanfront, one west of the westernmost jetty at Point Lookout, the second farther west off the Nassau Beach Club. One bird was present to 22 Jan. An Eared Grebe was also seen at Main Beach in East Hampton on 20 Feb.

A Turkey Vulture was found in Montauk 9 Jan, 2 in Central Park 19 Jan, in Westhampton 29 Jan, and in both Mattituck and Napeague 6 Feb.

On 16 Feb, Tony Lauro found a Black Vulture along River Road south of the Grumman property on the east side of the road. Another, or the same bird, was seen from the Montauk Point parking lot 21 Feb. The bird was relocated in March.

Up to four Greater White-Fronted Geese, two adults and two immatures, visited Marratooka Lake on the North Fork along New Suffolk Avenue in Mattituck from early December. Along the same road, a drake Eurasian Wigeon frequented Deep Hole Creek.

Two "Richardson's" Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsi*), a small subspecies of the Canada Goose, were found among the large flock of Canada Geese on Short's Pond along Scuttlehole Road on the Sagaponack CBC 19 Dec.

On 9 Jan, the NYRBA reported an adult "BLACK" BRANT (*Branta bernicla nigricans*) was found in the Brant flock at Zachs Bay. The bird was most easily spotted when the Brant were on shore.

Uncommon wintering species included numerous Wood Ducks scattered throughout the Region. This undoubtedly is a result of the warm early winter. Jim Clinton found an adult male Tufted Duck in a flock of Ring-necked Ducks on Fox Pond in Calverton on 7 Jan. On Saturday 4 Feb, Andy Baldelli relocated the Tufted Duck in the Peconic River in Riverhead. It remained until 12 Feb. A drake Barrow's Goldeneye again wintered at Ransom Beach in Bayville. A second one was found on Long Island Sound off Caumsett State Park, a third on the Orient CBC in Gardiner's Bay from the bluffs east of Cedar Point, just north of Northwest Harbor, and a fourth at Cedar Point, East Hampton. There were unusually large concentrations of Common Mergansers in several places this winter, e.g. 40 at Hook Pond in East Hampton 15 Jan and 90+ at Hempstead Lake SP on 23 Feb.

An immature Bald Eagle was seen from 4 Dec through early January from Hempstead Harbor and Manorville on the west and then east to both the North and South Forks. Although sightings were widespread in both time and place, it is presumed to be the same bird. Rough-legged Hawks are another irruptive species that is considered rare to uncommon on the coast. There was an amazing invasion of them throughout the Northeast this winter, and Region 10 had more than its share of these uncommon buteos. An all time high may have occurred for the Region when at least 13 were reported during the Christmas Count period. More were reported during February. Reports came from virtually every part of the Region.

Several dozen American Oystercatchers wintered. 31 were counted on 9 Jan from the Coast Guard station at Jones Beach. This large group attracted a **Whimbrel** that stayed with the group at least until 7 Jan. This is the 6th winter record.

Uncommon wintering gulls included one or more Little Gulls, several Black-headed Gulls, Iceland Gulls, and more than the usual number of Glaucous Gulls. But the best was a **Mew Gull**, possibly the same individual observed the previous year in the same locale and described as *Larus c. canus*, "Common" Gull (*Kingbird* 49:286). This one was spotted by the sharp-eyed youth brigade of Mike Anderson, Nick Laviola, Chris Jager, and Paul Anderson. It was found on 30 Jan on the beach in Southampton east of the Shinnecock Inlet and stayed into mid February. A late Common Tern was seen at Montauk Point on 3 Jan.

Angus Wilson and Andy Guthrie left Montauk on Friday, 3 Dec for a 48-hour pelagic trip. The first day of their trip was spent approximately 65 miles south of Moriches Inlet, the second day 50 miles SSE of Montauk Point. The highlights of the trip were 3-4 *GREAT SKUAS*, 2 seen each day, and huge numbers of Black-Legged Kittiwakes, 1000 on 4 Dec and 3427 on 5 Dec. Saturday's other sightings of interest included one Greater Shearwater, 84 Red Phalaropes, 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls (both 60-65 miles offshore), and 2 Razorbills. On Sunday they found 3 Greater Shearwaters, 1 Manx Shearwater, 78 Red Phalaropes, 1 Parasitic Jaeger, 1 Iceland Gull, 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 1 Razorbill, and 1 unidentified large alcid. Other alcid reports consisted of Dovekies and Razorbills from Montauk Point, Shinnecock Inlet, and Jones Inlet, and a fly-by **Black Guillemot** recorded by Ken and Sue Feustel on 8 Jan at Montauk Point.

A very cooperative Barred Owl wintered in Prospect Park, a most unusual find.

An Eurasian Collared-Dove stopped briefly at Jeff Stetson's feeder on Staten Island on 7 Feb and was photographed; details and photos to us. This wandering species is not currently on the NYS list, because of the uncertain provenance of the individuals reported. The species is a common cage bird in the metropolitan area.

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was seen at Riis Park by Glen Davis and Peter Joost on the Brooklyn CBC 18 Dec (details supplied). This is the third and the latest winter record for the state and the Region.

Since the split, the status of wintering sharp-tailed sparrows is not yet clear. Local observers reported both species and their identifiable subspecies this season, as follows: Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows from Staten Island, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow from Jamaica Bay, and both species from Dune Road east of Shinnecock Inlet. The Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows there included *nelsoni*, *subvirgatus*, and perhaps *alterus*, all difficult to separate from our breeding species (Saltmarsh) even with good views. A Lincoln's Sparrows spent the early part of the winter on Staten Island and another spent most of the winter in Prospect Park. A White-crowned Sparrow of the "**Gambel's**" race was found with other white-crowns along Scuttlehole Road at Butter Lane on the Sagaponack CBC 19 Dec. Paul Buckley and Richard Veit found a Dark-eyed Junco of the "**Pink-sided**" race in Riverdale Park on the Bronx CBC 26 Dec. It was seen until 30 Dec. Full details were supplied to the CBC compiler who sent us a copy. Both observers have had extensive experience banding juncos.

An **INDIGO BUNTING** wintered at a feeder in Central Park. This is the 5th winter record for the state and the first bird that spent the entire

winter. Prior records include three in December and one mid February through March.

An impressive flock of an estimated 25,000 Common Grackles and 5,000 Red-winged Blackbirds was seen feeding in Cutchogue's cornfields in late December. This is certainly an all-time high for downstate. On the morning of 26 Feb, an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, was present in the Prentice backyard in Cutchogue.

This year's list of northern passerine wanderers included Northern Shrike, **Bohemian Waxwing**, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, and Common Redpoll.

Finally, some notes on the mating behavior of Red Crossbills from *East End Birds* on the internet by Hugh McGuinness: -- In Quogue on 22 Jan, Tom Burke, Andy Baldelli, Gail Benson, and Hugh McGuinness found an amorous male singing repeatedly from the tops of the pitch pines as an attentive female fed nearby. At one point, after several minutes of singing, the female approached and the male fed her (or at least attempted to feed her), a clear demonstration of courtship. The birds were relocated the next day, and 4 were found on 25 Jan. The male was still singing. Since this species is known to nest at all times of the year, these observations indicate possible breeding.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP-Alley Pond Park; B-Brooklyn; BX-Bronx; C-Captree; CB-Cedar Beach; CP-Central Park; CBC-Christmas Bird Count; CLP-Clove Lake Park, SI; CS-Central Suffolk; Freeport; DP-Democrat Pt, FI; DRSH-Dune Road, Shinnecock; FI-Fire Island; FTP-Fort Pond, Montauk; HILSP-

Hempstead Lake State Park; HP-Hook Pond, Southampton; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH-Jones Beach; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; LI-Long Island; ML-Marratooka Lake, M-Montauk; MP-Montauk Point; NYRBA-New York Rare Bird Alert; NN-Northern Nassau; O-Orient; PEL-Pelagic trip, 60-65 miles offshore from Montauk; PBP-Pelham Bay Park; PL-Point Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP-Prospect Park; Q-Queens; QW-Quogue /Water Mill; RP-Riis Park; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park; SG-Sagaponack; SN-Southern Nassau; SHIN-Shinnecock Inlet; S-Smithtown; SI-Staten Island; SS- Shu Swamp, Mill Neck ; WD-Westhampton Dunes; ZB-Zachs Bay.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: uncommon to fairly common off South Shore beaches; 1283 M CBC 18 Dec an extraordinary number on the coast.

Red-necked Grebe: PBP 4 Dec; FTP 4 Dec; 3 FTP 5 Dec; off the Horton Point Lighthouse in Southold 8 Dec; B CBC 18 Dec; C CBC 19 Dec; 8 M CBC 18 Dec; 2 SG CBC 19 Dec; BX CBC 26 Dec; SHIN 31 Jan; 7 in flock of 41 Horned Grebes Main Beach, East Hampton 13 Feb.

Eared Grebe: JBCH center mall 2 Jan; Long Beach 2 Jan; 2 PL area 9 Jan; Main Beach, East Hampton 20 Feb.

Greater Shearwater: PEL 4 Dec; 3 PEL 5 Dec (AG,AnW).

Manx Shearwater: PEL 5 Dec (AG,AnW).

N. Gannet: 3862 M CBC 18 Dec, large number so late in the season; scarce in the western part of the Region.

Great Cormorant: wintered at Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn, FTT, PL, SHIN, MP, and other locations.

Am. Bittern: 6 SN CBC 2 Jan; wintered DRSH.

Great Egret: QW CBC 18 Dec; NN CBC 26 Dec; O CBC 1 Jan; SN CBC 2 Jan; DRSH to 8 Jan.

Tricolored Heron: Tobay 25 Dec.

Green Heron: wintered Georgica Pond.

BLACK VULTURE: River Road south of the Grumman property 16 Feb (AL); another, or the same bird M SP parking lot 21 Feb.

Turkey Vulture: QW CBC 18 Dec; PBP

29 Jan; M Village 9 Jan; 2 CP 19 Jan; Dune Rd. Westhampton 29 Jan; Mattituck 6 Feb; Napeague 6 Feb.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2 ad, 2 imm Marratooka Lake, tuck from early Dec; 1 - 2 there thru.

Snow Goose: CP to mid Jan; others.

Canada "RICHARDSON" Goose: SG CBC 19 Dec, among the large flock of Canada Geese.

"BLACK" Brant: ad ZB 9 Jan (NYRBA), with Brant flock.

Tundra Swan: 4-5 Hook Pond, Easthampton thru.

Wood Duck: wintered CP, PP, SS.

Eurasian Wigeon: a few wintered across Region and were found at various times at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn; JBWR; PP; Patchogue; and Southaven County Park

Blue-winged Teal: SG CBC 19 Dec; CS CBC 26 Dec; SN CBC 2 Jan; Swan Pond in Patchogue 5 Feb; CP 27 Feb.

Redhead: 4 wintered in ZB, usually not seen on salt water.

Tufted Duck: Riverhead 4 - 12 Feb (AB).

King Eider: several wintered at MP.

Com. Eider: single widely scattered birds along the South Shore west to PL; est 200-300 wintered at MP; max count 243 on M CBC.

Harlequin Duck: sev at MP, Southold on the North Fork; 4 building to 12 PL.

Surf Scoter; White-winged Scoter; Black Scoter: all three scoters in some numbers at MP increasing starting late Jan, White-winged the most numerous; a few others

elsewhere.

Barrow's Goldeneye: males at 1) Ransom Beach; Bayville; 2) LI Sound off Caumsett State Park; 3) O CBC Gardiner's Bay ; 4) just north of Northwest Harbor; Cedar Point, East Hampton.

Com. Merganser: 40 HP 15 Jan; 90+ HLSP 23 Feb, unusually large concentrations.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: Captree CBC 19 Dec.

Bald Eagle: imm Hempstead Harbor & Manorville 4 Dec-late Jan. Possibly just one bird

Rough-legged Hawk: at least 13 CBC period; more Feb. Reports came from virtually every part of the Region.

Wild Turkey: 3 Inwood Pk, Northern Manhattan 18 Dec; QW CBC 18 Dec.

N. Bobwhite: dozen resident WD; very scarce.

Clapper Rail: wintered DRSH.

Virginia Rail: 6 SG CBC 19 Dec; NN CBC 26 Dec; 2 O CBC 1 Jan; wintered SS

Am. Oystercatcher: several dozen wintered JB area; 50+ 24 Dec, 31 9 Jan; others along the South Shore.

WHIMBREL: JBCH Coast Guard Station thru 7 Jan (AW), with Am Oystercatchers, 6th winter record.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 5-6 in Westhampton, CS CBC 26 Dec; 2 Tobay, SN CBC 2 Jan.

Red Phalarope: 84 PEL 4 Dec; 78 PEL 5 Dec.

GREAT SKUA: 3-4 PEL, 2 each 4, 5 Dec (AG,AnW).

Parasitic Jaeger: PEL 5 Dec (AG,AnW).

Laughing Gull: RMSP 4 Dec; MP 12 Dec.

Little Gull: 2 imm MP 2 Jan; Dune Road 5-19 Feb; PL 8 Jan.

Black-headed Gull: "old one foot" SG CBC 19 Dec; 1-3 PL early Jan on; 1-2 SHIN mid Jan on;

MEW GULL: Southampton east of the SHIN, 30 Jan - mid Feb (MA,PA,CA,NL) probably "Common" Gull (*Larus c. canus*).

Iceland Gull: wintered DRSH, MP; GKP mid Feb; CP late Feb; JBWE/PL mid Feb

thru.

Glaucous Gull: up to 4 SHIN area; MP; PL, and JBCH early in season only; Breezy Pt 19 Feb.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 1000 PEL 4 Dec; 3427 PEL 5 Dec (AG,AnW); found in varying numbers at MP thru.

COM TERN: MP 3 Jan (AB, OB).

Dovekie: 1-2 MP 7-29 Jan; SHIN & Quogue mid Jan - mid Feb; PL 15 Jan - mid Feb

Razorbill: 2 PEL 4 Dec; 1 PEL 5 Dec (AG, AnW); many wintering at MP; max 125+ MP 7 Jan; small numbers SHIN; a few JBCH & PL.

BLACK GUILLEMOT: fly-by MP 8 Jan (S & KF).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 1 Staten Island 7 Feb (JS)

Monk Parakeet: 4 Whitestone 5 Dec, at feeder; 4 Q CBC 18 Dec; 3 south of Forest Park, Queens 23 Feb.

Snowy Owl: RMSP to CB 4-19 Dec; Gardiner's Island 19 Dec; Marine PK to JBWR 18 Dec - 5 Feb

Barred Owl: 1 Prospect Park

N. Saw-whet Owl: wintered PBP, others in Dec.

Red-headed Woodpecker: M CBC 18 Dec; Dyker Beach Golf Course B CBC 18 Dec; Wertheim NWR, CS CBC 26 Dec; Nissequogue River Park, CS CBC 27 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: mostly imm's - SI 15 Dec; 3 SI 18 Dec; 2 SG CBC 19 Dec; C CBC 19 Dec; CC CBC 26 Dec; Southaven County Park, NN CBC 26 Dec; east of Mattituck 9 Jan; Calverton 13-20 Jan; 1-2 causeway at Orient Point SP early to mid Feb; Jamesport 19 Feb; Cutchogue 26 Feb.

Tree Swallow: , SG CBC 19 Dec; CS CBC 26 Dec.

Brown Creeper: wintered PP & CP, NN CBC 26 Dec.

House Wren: 8 on CBC's NN to M; some seen later.

Winter Wren: CP 2-19 Dec; PP 12 Dec; 8 NN CBC 26 Dec; SI 29 Dec; MP 12 Feb.

Marsh Wren: APP 1 Jan; O CBC 1 Jan;
SN CBC 2 Jan.
Am. Pipit: JBWE 15-23 Jan; PBP 15-16
Jan; MOR 23 Jan; 26 Jan-6 Feb; SI 31 Jan.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: Westhampton
Dunes 30-31 Jan (AL, AG); East Moriches
7 Feb (AB).

WARBLERS

TENNESSEE WARBLER: Inwood Park
18 Dec (CL), very late date.
Orange-crowned Warbler: many widely
scattered reports, there appeared to be
more birds than usual.
Nashville Warbler: B CBC 18 Dec; SI
thru 6 Jan, very late date.
N. Parula: PP 12 Dec, latest coastal date
is 17 Dec.
Magnolia Warbler: CP 12 December, lat-
est date 12-13 December.
CAPE MAY WARBLER: 6 Jan CP
Latest date except Penn Yan feeder 12
Jan-7 Feb (KB 33:122) record omitted
Bull's Birds of New York State (1998)
Black-throated Blue Warbler:
Bridgethampton 27 Dec, very rare in win-
ter.
Pine Warbler: several early Dec; 7
Quogue CBC 18 Dec, high count this
late; CS CBC 26 Dec; one wintered CP.
Prairie Warbler: MP 4 Dec, very rare in
winter last 10 years.
Palm Warbler: JBCH 4 Dec; SC CBC 27
Dec
MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER, SI 15
Dec - 1 Jan (RV), *1st NY State record.*
Com. Yellowthroat: CP 6 Dec; SI 7 Dec; B
CBC 18 Dec.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: RP, B
CBC 18 Dec (GD, PJ), 3rd and latest win-
ter record for the state and Region.
Vesper Sparrow: M CBC 18 Dec; SG CBC
19 Dec.
Savannah "Ipswich" Sparrow: wintered
JCBH, DRSH.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Jamaica
Bay; Dune Road

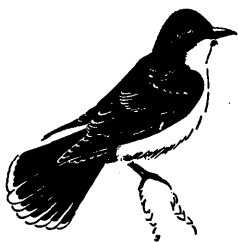
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Staten
Island;.
Seaside Sparrow: DRSH mid to late Jan.
Lincoln's Sparrow: SI thru Jan; PP to
early Feb.
White-crowned "GAMBEL'S" Sparrow:
SG CBC 19 Dec, with other White-
crowned.
Dark-eyed "PINK-SIDED" Junco:
Riverdale Park, BX CBC 26 - 30 Dec (Paul
Buckley, Richard Veit)
Lapland Longspur: 1 JBWE Dec; **Snow
Bunting:** 100+ JBWE; 100+ RMSP, small-
er numbers other locations.
INDIGO BUNTING: feeder in Central
Park thru; 5th winter record for the state,
first to spend the entire winter.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: ad
male Cutchogue 26 Feb (BP)
Rusty Blackbird: CP, feeder; Sg Harbor
6-8 Feb; Van Cortland Pk; SI 17 Feb;
Northport 23 Feb,
Com. Grackle: approx 25,000
Cutchogue's late Dec, with 5,000 Red-
winged Blackbirds
Boat-tailed Grackle: main group at
Jamaica Bay; approx 15 Dune Road;
Riverhead 13 Jan
Baltimore Oriole: B CBC 18 Dec; Q CBC
18 Dec; M CBC 18 Dec; SG CBC 19 Dec;
SN CBC 2 Jan; Sands Pt 16 Jan.
Purple Finch: CP Dec; 6 M CBC 18 Dec;
B CBC 18 Dec; Sag Harbor 26 Dec; 13
NN CBC 26 Dec; 2 DRSH 11 Feb.
Red Crossbill: up to several dozen win-
tered Dune Rd SHIN area, erratic and
wandering; others on CBC's.
White-winged Crossbill: 5 JBWE 5 Dec
(RK); East Quogue 18 Jan to 10 Feb (OB),
feeding on black-oil sunflower seed.
Com. Redpoll: CP 2-4 Jan; Jamesport
feeder 4 Jan; PL 2 Feb; flock wintered
Dune Rd SHIN area and a few in the M
area, erratic and wandering; Pine Siskin:
on sev CBCs; single birds thereafter from
the East End.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 CS CBC 26 Dec,
scarce.
syschiff@ascensionet.com

INVITING NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Readers are urged to submit short pieces of interesting sightings, observations, incidents, etc., that do not require full-blown article treatment. Note the items on pgs 17 and 18 of this issue. This is the type of thing being sought. Most birders have had some unique experience, amusing, puzzling or informative. Why not share that experience with the rest of us?

If there is a photograph involved, all we need is a slide or a print.

If the Editor believes the item should be expanded to a full article, you will be invited to do so.



FEEDBACK

The Editor would very much like to hear from the readers of *The Kingbird*. There is an enormous amount of work involving a number of people, all of whom are volunteers, that goes into the production of this quarterly. The actual printing and distribution of the four issues per year consumes the greatest part of the FNYSBC annual budget.

With all of this effort and expense, I would like to be certain that you, the reader is getting what he wants. I cannot know that unless you tell me. Is there some aspect of birding that we are missing that you would like to see included?

All suggestions will be acknowledged and seriously entertained.

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The Kingbird

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