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The KINGBIRD

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**FIRST RECORD OF BLACK-TAILED GODWIT
(*Limosa limosa*) FOR NEW YORK STATE**

Seatuck Creek , Eastport , Suffolk County, NY April 5-18 2001

Paul Gillen

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At about 3:00 PM on 5 Apr 2001, I stopped in the hamlet of Eastport in Long Island's Suffolk County to look at Seatuck Creek, a regularly visited birding site. This is a tidal creek, with a large lake-like body of water on the north side of Rte 27A, a favorite viewing spot for waterfowl, which drains into a smaller marshy area on the south side of the road. I walked over to the west bank of the smaller body of water to scan for Common Snipe that I hoped to see there. In a matter of seconds, I was focused on a large shorebird feeding in the middle of the creek. It had a bright orange bill, head, neck, and breast. With trembling fingers, I started taking some notes.

It was obviously a godwit, the orange-red head and breast color eliminating Marbled and Hudsonian. That left Bar-tailed and Black-tailed to consider. Bar-tailed does not have the strong black barring on breast and flanks dis-

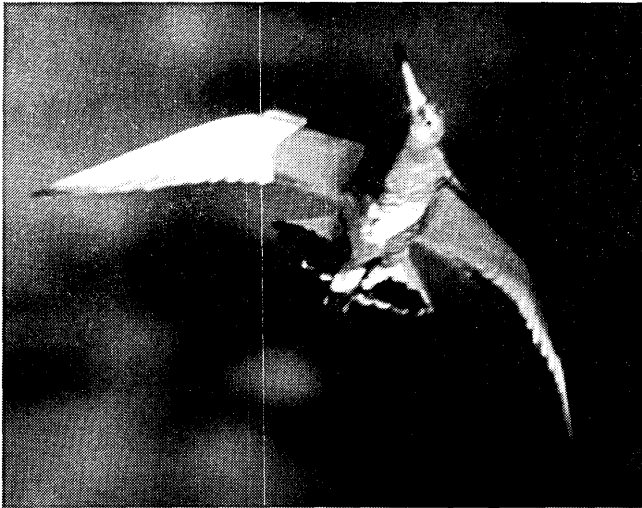


Figure 1: Black-tailed Godwit Eastport, NY 5 April 2001
Note totally diagnostic white underwings distinguishing the species from all other godwits.

Photo by Sean Sime

played by this bird. Then in flight, the bird showed its unmistakable white underwing, along with a prominent white wing bar on the upperwing and its white rump and black tail band. Later, when my brain started cooling off, I observed the bill with no pronounced upturn. It all added up to Black-tailed Godwit!

I immediately phoned Tony Lauro in Cutchogue, who in turn called several other birders before setting out himself. Both he and John Fritz arrived in time to see the bird before the rising tide forced it from its feeding and it departed in a southerly direction. John was able to take some photographs before it left. At least, if it did not reappear, the state's first Black-tailed Godwit was confirmed and documented!

The birding world was further alerted by Angus Wilson who, after getting Lauro's call, immediately relayed the news to NYSBirds-listserve and this was subsequently cross-posted to Birdchat. When I returned with Paul Stoutenburgh the next morning, 6 Apr, there were already thirty plus birders feasting their eyes on this striking and unusual visitor. Several birding friends greeted me with "congratulations", "thank you" and the like. The attention did not damage my ego.

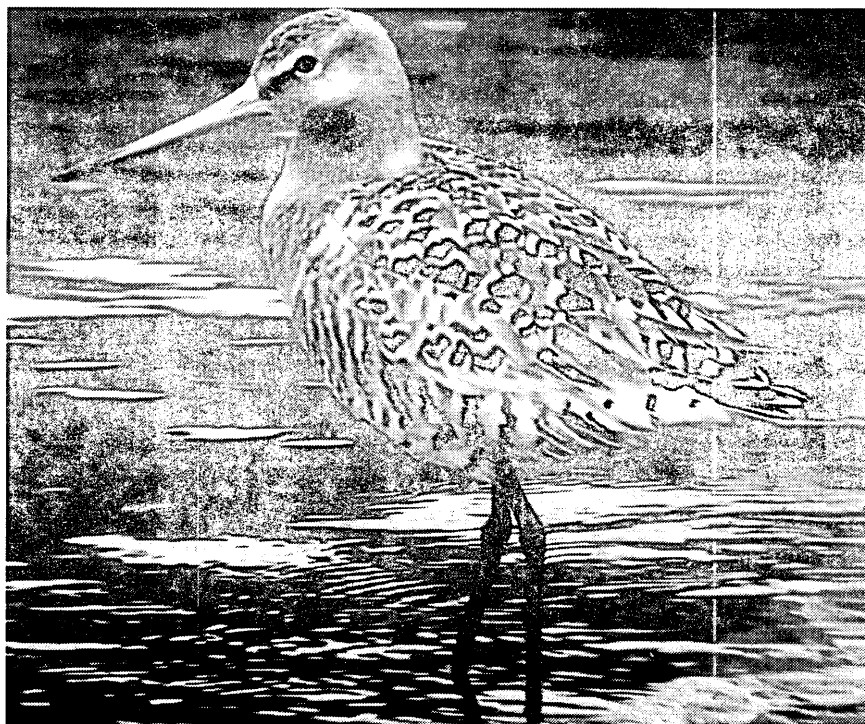


Figure 2: Black-tailed Godwit Eastport, NY 5 April 2001
 Note nearly straight bill, heavily barred breast and flanks, setting this species apart
 from the superficially similar Bar-tailed Godwit
 Photo by Sy Schiff

The godwit continued to appear daily through 18 Apr , with its appearance being related to low tide. Fortunately , it would continue feeding well into the onset of high tide, thus giving it more "on stage" time for the many hundreds of birders who came to see this spectacular and beautiful visitor. When it left the area for the day, it usually headed south and when it reappeared it came from the south. Several people searched to the south, but to my knowledge, the bird was not observed during its two weeks stay anywhere else except the place where it was discovered.

A Black-tailed Godwit was seen on 19 Apr at Milford Point, CT, approximately 45 miles north of Eastport as the "godwit" flies , on the western Connecticut shore of the Long Island Sound. Another sighting was made in Waterford, CT on 27 or 28 Apr with confirmation as to this species on 29 Apr by Greg Hanisek. This location is about 50 miles east of Milford Pt. and again on the Long Island Sound. It is not unreasonable to conjecture , as a matter of fact it is probable, that these sightings were of the Seatuck bird.

Over the last three plus decades, the species has been sporadic in its occurrences on the eastern seaboard of North America , with some roughly sixteen reports , half being from the Maritime Provinces of Canada and the other half being scattered from Massachusetts , New Jersey, North Carolina to Florida. The specific records may be seen on Angus Wilson's web site www.oceanwanderers.com (click on the New York State Rarities link.)

Again borrowing from Angus Wilson's web site there are three recognized subspecies as follows:

The nominate (*Limosa l. limosa*) - breeds in mainland Europe and western Russia, and winters from southern Europe through sub-Saharan Africa and east to western India

The so-called "Iceland Godwit" (*L.l. islandica*) breeds in Iceland, the Faeroes, northern Scotland and the Lofoten Islands, and winters throughout western Europe.

The Asiatic form (*L.l. melanuroides*) sometimes referred to as "Eastern Black-tailed Godwit" breeds in Siberia, Mongolia and \ China, wintering in southeast Asia and into southern Australia.

There has been much discussion , none conclusive ,as to what subspecies this individual belongs .

However, as to the species, there is no identification problem. When formally accepted by the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) the Black-tailed Godwit of 5 Apr 2001, will become the 458th species on the official New York State Checklist.

THE QUESTIONABLE WISDOM OF INTRODUCING ALIEN SPECIES

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In January 1988 a Trumpeter Swan was found in the upper Niagara River offshore from Fort Erie, Ontario. I was one of those who crossed the Peace Bridge to observe this bird -- and to add the species to my life list. Increasingly over the years since then, I have been concerned about that decision. Accumulating lists represents the sport of birding and I do not denigrate that activity. "Listing" drives the more serious study of ornithology in the same way that a hobbyist accumulating a collection of insect specimens moves forward the study of entomology. But there must be limits. That bird was almost certainly raised and released by Canadian aviculturists who have been breeding Trumpeter and Whooper swans for some years.

Consider a rather obvious example. There are a number of people in western New York who, as an avocation, raise exotic (and usually beautiful) birds: Golden Pheasants, Mandarin Ducks and Cinnamon Teals, for example. Now suppose, as often happens, one of those birds escapes, perhaps walks across the road from the game farm. Should I count it? Rather obviously not!

But now consider a more serious concern. In an article that provides an excellent survey of current records (Carroll and Swift 2000) we read, "In 1996 wild Trumpeter Swans were confirmed breeding in New York State for the first time in recent history." I am troubled by that sentence and with the discussion about the earlier history of this species in New York on two scores and I will explore those concerns.

Let me stress here my high regard for the authors. I consider Dan Carroll, with whose work I am acquainted, one of the finest naturalists of western New York, and I am advised that Bryan Swift is of equal caliber.

First, I believe that the phrase "in recent history" is incorrect. The best evidence I find is that Trumpeter Swans **never** bred in New York State. Consider, for example, the range map that appears on page 61 of *Handbook of North American Birds*, Vol. 2 Waterfowl (Part 1) edited by Ralph S. Palmer. The historic breeding range of the Trumpeter Swan on that map extends only east as far as central Michigan, 250 miles west of westernmost New York State.

Second, according to my research, Carroll and Swift are in error when they say that the Trumpeter Swan "was once common throughout the northern United States, Alaska and Canada. The historic breeding range extended in a

wide band from the Bering Sea east to the Atlantic Coast and south to northern Kentucky, northern West Virginia, northern Maryland and northern Delaware."

The first sentence is incorrect and the second sentence, which at least qualifies the first, is still wide of the mark. Indeed there are Trumpeter Swan records from the states mentioned. In addition the authors refer to two historic records of dubious origin in New York State (Eaton 1910) and one prehistoric record in Orange County, NY (Steadman 1998) but none of these was part of a breeding population. Given the lack of supportive evidence, we can only assume that they were migratory birds.

The following paragraph states, "This bird was extirpated from the Atlantic Flyway by the early settlers almost 200 years ago."

The Trumpeter Swan population that wintered along our southern Atlantic Coast was indeed decimated by early hunters and that had a significant effect on the entire population of this species. In substance then, the sentence is on the mark, but these were not birds of the Atlantic Flyway. These were birds that migrated southeast from their midwestern and western breeding range to winter along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts **from the Carolinas southward**. The best summary of the views I have expressed here was by Bill Whan (Whan 2000). Although he writes about Ohio, his message speaks to us, still farther to the east.

Finally, as Carroll and Swift carefully note, these newly breeding Trumpeter Swans are, with little doubt, escapes. That places this species in the same category as the escaped European Goldfinches that briefly nested on Long Island (Elliott 1968, Lincoln 1998.)

Which brings me back to modern times. The survey by Carroll and Swift of recent Trumpeter Swan records ends with an invitation for "readers to offer their views about whether an active restoration program would be desirable." Unless the analysis I have provided here is incorrect, the word "restoration" is inappropriate. It should be replaced with "introduction." And I voice my strongest possible opposition to that introduction.

The Trumpeter Swan is indeed a beautiful bird, but so too is the Canada Goose -- unless you happen to own a golf course. But I don't oppose the introduction of the Trumpeter Swan simply because we have trouble with Canada Geese, Monk Parakeets, European Starlings and House Sparrows. I oppose it because it is an alien species to this region! To argue, as I have heard, that the Trumpeter Swan will shoulder out the problem Mute Swan is simply speculative nonsense. That reminds me of the apocryphal story I used to hear many years ago about the introduction of the European Starling, which claimed that a European Starling that was caged with an English Sparrow killed the smaller bird, leading to the assumption that the starling would control the House Sparrow population.

I believe that we need to think much more seriously about introductions, or even reintroductions, of any kind -- and in this regard I salute the DEC for its current policy (as stated by Carroll and Swift) of "hands off" or at least "wait and see".

Unfortunately there is some slippage in this policy, most notably continuing attempts by a group called Environmental Studies at Airlie. Oddly, they are associated with the International Academy for Preventive Medicine and are located in Warrenton, Va. (www.trumpeterswans.org) Their goal is to establish a migrating population of Trumpeter Swans to fly back and forth from near the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge to Chesapeake Bay. The process is a current ornithological fad - movies included - better used to reestablish and improve an historic Whooping Crane population.

I had an opportunity to observe this group's laughable first attempt to carry out this task in 1998. The idea is to associate the swans with ultralight aircraft and get them to follow the flight of those planes. The team leader of this project (from Great Britain) insisted that this was "reestablishing a flight pattern." When I pointed out to him that historically the birds neither bred here nor wintered in Chesapeake Bay, he insisted that I was misinformed.

The Trumpeter Swan cygnets were raised and cared for by young women, the pilots were both men. It was great fun to watch the local "training" flights. Once the birds were able to fly, they were transported to a runway where they were encouraged to follow the planes as they took off. The planes started away and the young women waved their arms and "whooshed" the birds off to follow their ultralight leaders. They did so for about a quarter mile but then a few at a time peeled off to return to the care-givers on whom they were imprinted. It was simply nonsense of the worst kind and the later attempt to get the birds to follow the planes south was not only an abject failure but also a minor disaster when one of the birds was crippled by a collision with one of the aircraft.

The whole project is, I suggest, absurd and should be terminated. This is not appropriate biology or conservation and the quite substantial funds could be far better used for almost any other activity.

There is a great deal of evidence that fooling with Mother Nature is often not in our or the birds' best interests. We need only look at the extreme example of Hawaii to witness this at its worst. Consider as well, two of our own game birds. On one hand we have the (alien) Ring-necked Pheasant. Since massive releases have been largely terminated, it is now an uncommon to rare species here in western New York. In the 1950's a state wildlife publication calculated the act of stocking per bird taken by hunters at over \$13. We can only imagine how far hunting permits go to pay for stocking some forty years later? Flying directly in the face of our U.S. experience, Ontario wildlife authorities are currently considering a massive introduction of Ring-necked Pheasants.

On the other hand we have a wonderful example here in New York of the reestablishment of the Wild Turkey. Contrary to what is often claimed, this was not accomplished through releases. This species reestablished the right way! It spread north from historic population remnants in Pennsylvania.

I urge not only that we discourage further attempts to manipulate wild bird populations through releases, but also that we develop and implement laws to prevent such activities.

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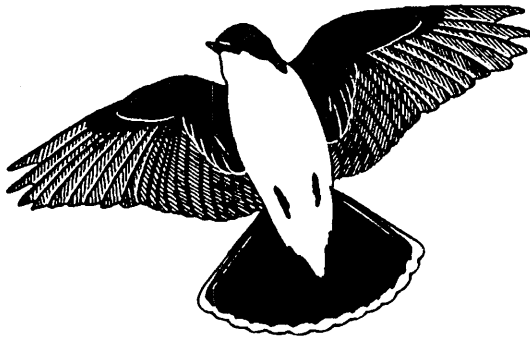
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**AN UNUSUAL CHICKADEE (*Poecile species*)
BANDED AT BRADDOCK BAY, NY**

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Abstract

An unusual chickadee was captured and banded at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory passerine banding station along the south shore of Lake Ontario in Monroe County during the fall 1999 migration. Measurements taken on this bird put it within the range of Carolina Chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), a species which has not been recorded in New York State. We discuss the measurements, appearance of the bird, and the possibilities that it represents.

Introduction

During the fall of 1999, an incredible movement of Black-capped Chickadees (*Poecile atricapilla*) was noted along the south shore of Lake Ontario by Braddock Bay Bird Observatory banders. On many days at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach passerine banding station near Braddock Bay, NY, the vast majority of birds captured were chickadees. During the entire fall period (15 September 1999 to 15 November 1999), 1,082 chickadees were netted and banded. This total eclipses the highest previous fall total of chickadees by more than a factor of two.

Discussion

On 16 Oct 1999, after twenty-four hours of southerly winds, three Braddock Bay Bird Observatory banders were netting large numbers of chickadees. One individual, trapped in the fifth hour after sunrise, was noted to have a very short wing chord (unflattened wing measurement from the shoulder to the tip of the longest primary). The measurement was low for Black-capped

Chickadee, and prompted a measurement of the bird's tail. The tail measurement was very short as well. In fact, the combination of the two measurements placed the bird clearly in the range for Carolina Chickadee, according to a scatter diagram in *Guide to Identification of North American Birds*, Vol. I, P. Pyle, 1997 (hereafter referred to as Pyle). This book is the accepted reference for banders, containing information on molt sequence, aging, specific and subspecific identification of passerines and "near" passerines of North America. The bird was carefully checked to determine if the low measurements were, perhaps, the result of molt or severe wear. All flight feathers were well-grown and fresh, thus neither wear nor active molt was in any way a factor in the measurements.

The bird was independently measured by all three banders, who reproduced within one-half millimeter the three original measurements: wing chord (59mm), tail (54mm) and exposed culmen—distance along the top of the upper mandible, from the edge of the feathers to the tip of the bill—(7.0 mm). According to Pyle, the tail and exposed culmen measurements were too low for Black-capped Chickadee. The wing chord measurement was on the absolute low end of the range for the species, and outside of the range for the race expected to occur in New York State.

Evaluation of the bird's plumage showed that when held side by side with a Black-capped Chickadee (of which numerous individuals were available for comparison!), the greater coverts of this unusual bird were edged with a dusky grayish, rather than pure white. The secondaries were edged in white, producing more contrast on the wing than was noted on the Black-capped Chickadees. The bottom edge of the black bib was very clean and straight; a feature normally observed on Carolina rather than Black-capped Chickadee. There were only two plumage features that appeared to be inconsistent with identification as Carolina Chickadee, these being the presence of white edging on the tail feathers, and a fairly buffy wash to the flanks. Regarding the latter feature, the subspecies of Carolina Chickadee (*P.c. extimus*) that ranges closest to New York State does show more buff in the flanks than any of the other subspecies (Pyle 1997).

When the bird was released, a volunteer at the station followed the bird, in the hope that it would call during flight or perhaps land and vocalize. Unfortunately, this was not the case — the bird left silently, and did not alight in the first possible wooded area. It was lost to the observer shortly thereafter.

Although the wing, tail and exposed culmen measurements were quite low, and in fact well to the Carolina side of the separation line in Pyle, the wing-tail ratio was on the high side of the range for that species. Pyle notes that in the area of species range overlap, hybridization does occur between Carolina and Black-capped chickadees. A hybrid could be expected to be intermediate in size between the two species, and to show plumage characteristics of both species. This bird's plumage was closer to Carolina than Black-capped, except for the white edging on the tail feathers, although it is possible for Carolina to show such edging in extremely fresh plumage.

Summary

Although there are no records for Carolina Chickadee in New York State, the species does come tantalizingly close to the border in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey. There is also a specimen record of the Carolina Chickadee subspecies *extimus* for Ontario, Canada, from Long Point on the north shore of Lake Erie. (Parkes 1986)

In the field, the only method of identification that is considered reliable is vocalization. It is conceivable that the species has occurred in the state, but not been detected, due to the difficulty of field identification. Although we are not able to rule out the possibility of a hybrid or exceptionally small Black-capped Chickadee, photographs and descriptions of this bird are being submitted to NYSARC for review as a Carolina Chickadee.

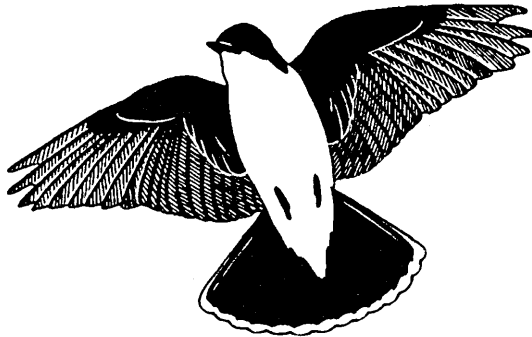
Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank Jessie Barry for volunteering her time at the banding station, and especially for following this chickadee on its release in the hopes that it would vocalize, and Willie D'Anna who reviewed a draft of this article and provided helpful comments.

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OBITUARY

Douglas L. Howland 1920-1999

Douglas L. Howland, the artist who designed the original cover for *The Kingbird*, died in Albany, NY on 8 Oct 1999. He was born in Lisle, NY on 12 Jul 1920. His drawing of this jaunty flycatcher became the familiar logo of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, and graced its quarterly publication for a full fifty years. He was a member of The Genesee Ornithological Society for many, many years.

Mr. Howland attended the Rochester Institute of Technology, graduating in 1941 with a Fine Arts degree. Shortly thereafter, he enlisted in the Army Medical Corps, served overseas, attained the rank of Tech Sergeant, and was honorably discharged in 1946.

He then began a career with the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences that led to his appointment as Artist Preparator, creating and designing many of the dioramas and exhibits. These scenes became world famous for their realistic depiction of the environment, ecology and natural history of western New York.

After 23 years at the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, he resigned to take a position as Artist Preparator in the Cultural Education Center of the New York State Museum at Albany where he later was appointed a Supervisor of the State Museum Workshop.

His interest in natural history and dedication to perfection, afforded him many opportunities and commissions as an illustrator and watercolorist, particularly for children's books.

He retired to Cape Cod where he exhibited his watercolors, dry points and lithographs at the Orleans Gallery in Orleans, MA.

Doug is survived by his wife Patricia, who resides in Albany and shared his interest and enthusiasm for nature and art during their 55 years of marriage.

Allan S. Klonick 78 Harvest Rd. Fairport, NY 14450



**FIRST BREEDING RECORD OF
COMMON EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*)
IN NEW YORK STATE**

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On 5 Aug 2000, Jackie Williamson called and said that she and her son Peter had just seen a family of ducks, an adult and four young, that she suspected to be Common Eiders. As she described them to me, "eider" is what came to mind before she even mentioned the word. Jackie went on to describe the location where she had seen them and I decided to check the following day.

On the morning of 6 Aug 2000, Katherine, my wife, and I drove to the area described. It was on the east side of West Harbor on Fisher's Island, opposite a marsh filled with phragmites. Before I even stopped the car I saw the family about 30 feet out in the water of the Long Island Sound. I quickly drove to a parking space, but the family began to swim out into the Sound and was soon lost from view. I then realized that I had forgotten my camera and after a quick search along the shore for a nest and finding none, we left the scene and returned at 3 p.m. that afternoon.

Again, before I stopped the car I saw small dots in the distance about one-quarter of a mile away. Using binoculars the spots turned into a female

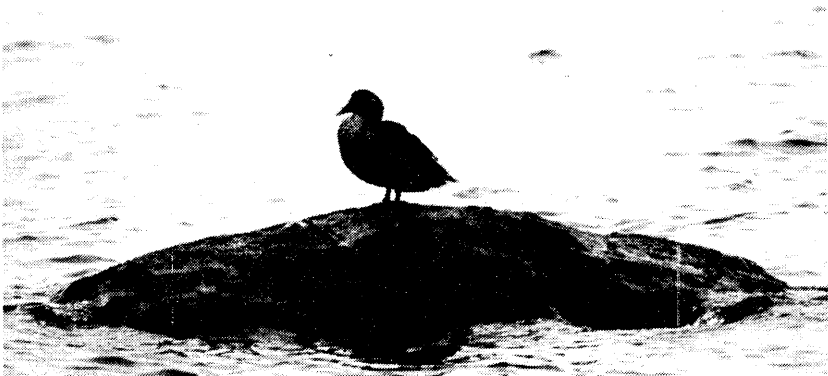


Figure 1: Common Eider

Fisher's Island, NY

6 Aug 2000

Photo by Edwin Horning

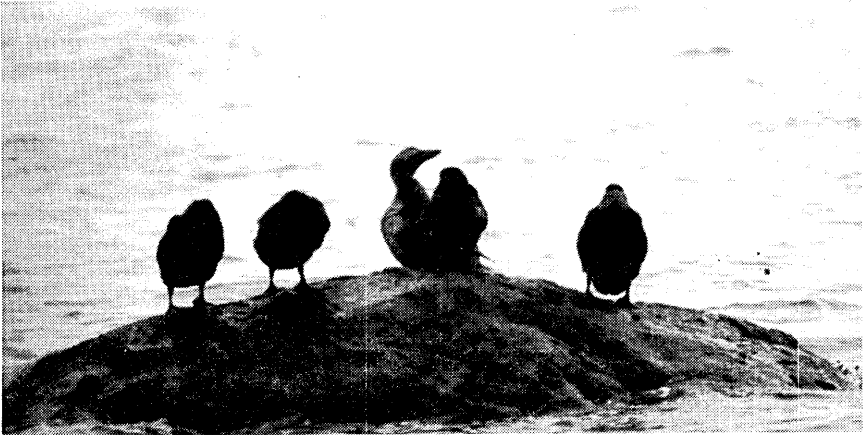


Figure 2: Common Eider with young Fisher's Island, NY 6 Aug 2000

Photo by Edwin Horning

Common Eider and four young. Needless to say I was excited and began to take photos. The family moved out to sea again and then turned and swam around a long dock and then to my surprise, swam toward where I was sitting. The family reached a large rock, about thirty feet from me, that was as flat as a table top. The adult clambered onto the rock. The young first swam past the rock but then returned and one by one made their way onto the rock where they first sat beside the female and then snuggled down as to take a nap. I was then able to photograph the family.

Now for a little history. The previous year, 1999, on 4 Jul, Dick Baker took me out to South Dumpling Island. I was taking a count of the herons on the island for the Long Island Colonial Waterbird Count. As we approached the shore of South Dumpling I noticed a different bird among the many gulls. Dick looked through his binoculars and exclaimed, "eider!". Looking more closely we noticed a duckling with it. Before I could take photos the female Common Eider and young one had moved away. I reported the sighting to Manny Levine, who stated this observation, if it could be documented that the Common Eider duckling was hatched in New York State, would represent the first breeding of an eider species in the state.

The earliest previous record that I have of Common Eider in Fisher's Island waters is 1 Dec 1969.

These reports and photos have been forwarded to NYSARC for their consideration.

Editor's Note

The ultimate decision of whether to add the species to the breeding avifauna of New York State belongs to the NYSARC. Some background material may be of interest to the reader.

The *AOU Check-List of North American Birds*, Seventh Edition 1998 pg.78, shows Maine as the southernmost breeding location in its range. It also states, "Introduced (*mollissima* group) in southeastern Massachusetts."

This introduction is amplified in the *Birds of Massachusetts* 1993 Veit and Peterson(p.112) which states "between 1973 and 1975, 175 Common Eider chicks were introduced to Penikese Island from nests in Casco Bay, Maine (Stanton 1979). Some of these birds have established themselves as breeders, and they are gradually colonizing the neighboring Elizabeth Islands...."

For the state of Rhode Island "2 female common eiders with 10 [flightless] young at Sakonnet Point, R.I. 17-30 June 1999" (F. Norton, David Emerson) were noted in *North American Birds* 53:364 (1999).

For the state of Connecticut, *Connecticut Birds* Zeranski and Baptist 1990 indicates no breeding records.

It is therefore not clear if the Rhode Island breeding record of 1999 and the New York breeding evidence presented here were the result of the breeding success of the introduced Massachusetts birds or indicate a southern extension of the general breeding range of the species.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE IN SUBURBAN SUFFOLK COUNTY BACKYARD

Robert Edwards

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I am what you would consider a novice birder, casually observing birds as I go about my daily activities. A few years ago I started keeping lists including a backyard list which stands at some forty plus species .

On 13 Mar 2001, my 12 year old son, Scott, came running into the house excitedly telling me that there was an "eagle" in a tree across the street . I immediately rushed outside with a bird book and a pair of binoculars.

Sitting about thirty feet up in a maple tree, was not an eagle, but a large black- and-white bird, being harassed by agitated crows . To me, the bird seemed to be in some distress as indicated by his chest feathers being puffed out and the fact that it would place its head under its wing at times. Scott, myself, my neighbor Dennis Walsh and his two children, Nick and Brendan, all took turns looking through the binoculars and comparing our observations with various field guides.

Initially we were stumped, eliminating eagles, ospreys and hawks, but finally zeroed in on the plates of the Swallow-tailed Kite. Our bird had the all white head, black back and white front pictured, and of course the unique shape



Swallow-tailed kite

W. Sayville, NY

13 Mar 2001

Photo by Edwin Horning

of the tail clinched it. The only problem in my mind was that the maps in my guides all showed that the northern extent of this birds' range was the Carolinas?

We then took some photos . The one appearing here, was taken by nine-year old Nick Walsh and easily confirms the identification.

The kite spent some hours sitting on that branch and then left that same day. I have added this species to my backyard list and have been advised that it is probably the only such "yard"list in New York to contain this species.

Editor's Note

Through 1996 , there were some twenty-seven (27) documented records of this species in New York State (Dodge 1998, *in* Bull's Birds of New York State, E. Levine ed. ,Cornell University Press Ithaca, pgs. 180-181). Of these, eighteen (18) occurred in the spring. In recent years there have been increases in occurrences in neighboring states possibly indicating a northern extension of the range of the species.

The accompanying photo was taken with a simple "point and shoot" camera by nine-year old Nick Walsh and resulted in an unequivocal identification of the bird proving that one should not hesitate to take photographs because of the lack of sophisticated equipment.

SANDHILL CRANE SPOTTING

Michael Stubblefield

13 Haven Avenue, New York, NY 10032

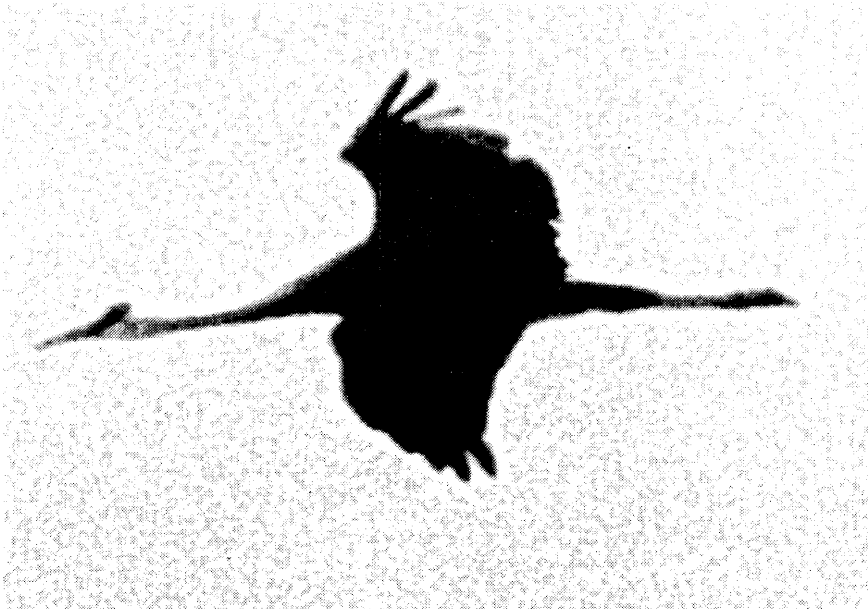
On April 15th at about 10:30 AM while birding with Jeff Novick in the Big Reeds Pond area at Montauk, L.I., I noticed a very large and unusual bird . The bird approached from the southwest and passed directly overhead at an altitude of about 150 feet. As the bird came into clear view through an opening in the trees it was instantly recognizable as an adult Sandhill Crane!!! After re-engaging my dropped jaw I was able to alert Jeff and we both observed the bird as it flew away from us toward the northeast. We were fortunate to hear the crane call once as it passed by.

Still in shock from the encounter we progressed another 300 feet through the woods in the hope that the crane had landed somewhere on the pond. As we came to an opening in the woods overlooking a large span of phragmites to the east, we noted a sizable kettle of vultures about 1200 feet away. A closer inspection of the kettle found it to consist of 9 **Black** Vultures and only 1 Turkey Vulture!!!

We were now beside ourselves...Our late morning search for Pine Warblers and Swamp Sparrows had turned up an amazing spectacle and we were totally unprepared to document it. We raced back to the parking lot to grab a spotting scope and camera. As I was putting my 600mm lens and 1.4X teleconverter on the tripod , I noticed yet another kettle of vultures. This kettle had several Turkey Vultures and at least two Black Vultures. Just as I was focusing on the group another Sandhill Crane flew through my viewfinder!!! Fortunately I was able to get a few distant, but diagnostic, images of the crane as it flew by at a distance of about 200 yards.

Now much relieved to have some evidence in hand, Jeff and I relaxed in the parking lot and enjoyed the rest of a remarkable spring raptor migration that included five juvenile Red-shouldered Hawks, several Sharp-shinned Hawks, many Red-tailed Hawks, a couple of Ospreys and a single male Northern Harrier.

The time between our first encounter with the crane and the second was only about fifteen minutes. Also, the distance between the crane sightings was considerable and they were both heading in the same northeasterly direction. None of the other soaring birds we observed were noted to circle around us. The crane would have had to circle the entire peninsula to get in position for us to see it a second ime. I think it possible, if not very probable, that there were two different Sandhill Cranes at Montauk that day



Sandhill Crane

Montauk, NY

15 Apr 2001

Photographed by Michael Stubblefield

CORRIGENDA

Vol 51 No. 1 March 2001 Page 463

The first sentence on this page is incomplete. It should read:

"Since then , Curlew Sandpipers have been recorded with regularity on Long Island, although the preferred locations change from time to time."

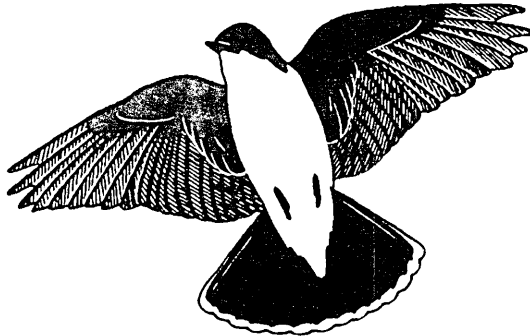
Report of NYSARC for 1998

Regrettably, a few errors crept into the 1998 Annual Report (*Kingbird* 51:478-499.) Glenn Wolford's excellent description of Sandhill Cranes (NYSARC 1996-14-A) flying over the Lakeshore Marshes Wildlife Management Area in Wayne County involved a party of eleven birds rather than one bird as we incorrectly stated.

In addition, the names of Rex Stanford and William Benner were omitted from the final list of contributors. As acknowledged in the narrative, Bill Benner first discovered and filed a detailed description of the Broad-billed Sandpiper that was enjoyed by hundreds at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Reserve. Rex Stanford also submitted a detailed description together with a series of color photographs.

On behalf of the committee, I apologize for these errors and omissions and welcome any further comments on the format and accuracy of the Annual Report

Angus Wilson, Chair, NYSARC



POET'S CORNER

Wilson's Storm-Petrels

"Sea Swallows"
breeding in February
at the Strait of Magellan
on the South Orkneys, on the edge of the Antarctica

"Mother Carey's Chickens"
the square rigger sailors called them
Said they gathered around sinking ships
Said they were the drowned coming back

Did the old mariners suspect
these birds follow the Equatorial stars
the Caribbean stars into the North Atlantic summer
That they revel in the plankton-rich seas
off Britain, off the American coast
over the Grand Banks of Newfoundland

Pattering their feet over swells
still wing-borne
they make seafarers think of St. Peter
walking the lake of Gennesaret
until he saw the wind raving
and he was all a-pleading, "Lord save me"

Petrels are only animals
But they return to their nests
in the circumpolar south
as surely as earth arcs thru darkness
around its solar star

Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
53RD ANNUAL MEETING
WATERLOO, NY SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2000**

Barbara A. Butler

At 9:20 a.m., Saturday, September 9, 2000, President Mary Alice Koenke called to order the meeting of the Council of Delegates. This meeting in Waterloo was the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. and was hosted by the Eaton Birding Society.

A roll call of member clubs showed that 43 delegates represented 26 of 46 member clubs. The minutes of the 52nd Annual Meeting were approved as printed in *The Kingbird* (motion, Ellie Long; second, Valerie Freer). Mary Alice appointed Barbara Butler and Bill Reeves to the Resolution Committee.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mary Alice Koenke presented the following President's Report:

The New York State Federation of Bird Clubs has had a very busy year statewide. The initiation of the Atlas 2000 project was begun and the Regional coordinators will soon collect the data for the first field year. State Coordinator Kim Hunsinger of the NYSDEC, Valerie Freer, Steering Committee Chair, Bob Miller, Laura Sommers, and John Ozard of the NYSDEC are all to be commended for their hard work insuring that we all had the necessary handbooks, field cards, maps to get us all into the field. David Miller's National Audubon office in Albany deserves thanks as well for their role in assisting in obtaining funding to assure the project received the proper hardware, software, and other items to get materials out to the volunteers. Every one of the volunteer coordinators and first year volunteers also should be commended for doing so much to get atlasing off to such a great start. Thank you all!

Some of the other activities and successes of the Federation this past year are:

- Three more member clubs have asked for membership bringing our total membership to 49 clubs! Family and Individual memberships have also increased
- NYSARC continues to bring the state ornithological records up to date under the fine organization of Angus Wilson, chair and the rest of the com-

mittee. Annual reports including some photographs are now on the FNYSBC web site. Willie D'Anna was appointed to fill a position on the committee formerly held by Charlie Smith.

- The Federation web site is one of which to be proud. It continues to expand public awareness of the Federation and its activities: membership has increased through an electronically available membership form on the web site. Barbara Butler, Kevin McGowan and staff at Cornell continually update and fine-tune the pages.

- FNYSBC sponsored a team at the Montezuma NWR Muckrace and supported the Lake Ontario Migratory Bird Festival in Mexico, NY.

- FNYSBC Board of Directors has begun exploring ways in which to promote youth activities in support of NY State ornithology. Gift memberships were given to the nine young birders who participated in the Montezuma Muckrace. We have our first youth club member: The Raptor Club of Fulton, NY.

- The FNYSBC was represented at conservation meetings/hearings throughout the year including the ongoing Double-crested Cormorant and Jamaica Bay Bike Path issues and the NY State BCA program.

- *The Kingbird* and *NY Birders*, our two wonderful publications are our most public face and continue to publish quality articles and information for NY State's birding community. Special thanks go to Manny Levine, Phyllis Jones, Willie D'Anna, and all of the Regional Editors for keeping us in the know.

FNYSBC has accomplished a lot this past year and this next year will bring a second year of atlasing, activities, issues and other projects. If you wish to become more involved in the FNYSBC speak to any of the Board members. If you know of individuals who might like to become members — spread the word. Take brochures to your club meeting and other birding activities. Thank you!

Elections of New Clubs Three clubs have requested membership in the Federation: Hudson River Audubon Society (formerly Yonkers Audubon Society), Jamestown Audubon Society, and The Raptor Club, Fulton, NY. With a motion by Dorothy Crumb, seconded by Barb Reuter, the clubs were accepted into membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sue Adair presented the Treasurer's Report, distributing a detailed 1999 Annual Financial Report.

Specific fund balances as of December 31, 1999 were:

Unrestricted Fund

General Operating	\$29,149.14
General Memorial	55,758.57
Member Clubs Awards	4,927.15

Temporarily Restricted Fund	
John J. Elliott Fund	1,213.30
Lillian C. Stoner	10,089.13
Atlas 2000	5,459.45
Bull's Birds of New York State	0
Life Member	18,339.50
Total Fund Balances	\$124,936.25

The General Operating Fund, income was \$23,587.04 and expenses were \$23,032.82. The excess of income over expenses was \$554.22. Sue noted that the Bull book fund has been closed out, with the remaining balance transferred to the General Operating Fund or the Atlas 2000 Fund or returned to the donors, according to the donors' directions.

Auditing Committee Report In the absence of Dick Sloss, Manny Levine reported for the Auditing Committee. The committee members, Dick, Irving Cantor, and Norm Stotz have found Sue's marvelously detailed records to be in good shape.

Atlas Steering Committee Report Valerie Freer reported that the steering committee and the DEC folks have produced materials for the Atlas, including handbooks, maps, field cards, buttons, ID cards for volunteers and their cars, notable species forms, etc. Distribution has not been as efficient as hoped, so anyone missing any materials should contact their Regional coordinator. Atlas T-shirts were available for sale at the meeting. The internet-based system for distributing maps has been working well and other states have been contacting John Ozard about how to do it. At the Atlas workshop later in the meeting, Valerie reported that 2200 blocks of the total 5335 blocks have been assigned so far.

PUBLICATIONS

Manny Levine reported a smooth transition from *New York Birders* editor, Phyllis Jones to the new editor Sue Adair. Manny expressed his concern about the amount of money it takes to produce *The Kingbird* in relation to other Federation expenses. He is interested in feedback about *The Kingbird*. He has had suggestions to add color to the journal, but the costs are substantial. However, other state bird organizations that have moved to a color journal have seen large increases in membership.

Conservation Committee Chair Mary Alice Koeneke reported the conservation issues addressed for the past year included:

- The banning of Avitrol, the pesticide used for controlling pigeons, sparrows, starlings, and other target species. Governor Pataki signed legislation banning its use in August. The efforts of our member club, NY City Audubon, on this issue are to be commended.

- The Double-crested Cormorant issue on Lake Ontario — FNYSBC participated in a consensus-building interview in the hopes that an area of consensus could be found among the various stakeholder groups. Comments were provided for the NYSDEC draft EIC on Double-crested Cormorant management and to the USFWS on their management plan for Double-crested Cormorants.

- The FNYSBC kept up with the progress of CARA — the Conservation and Reinvestment Act and an action alert has been added to the web site on this issue. In addition, Mary Alice requested each member club present at this meeting designate someone to sign the club onto a letter that will be sent to Senators Moynihan and Schumer on Monday as a push to have this legislation enacted before Congress recesses. The letter was circulated among the delegates for signatures.

- The Jamaica Bay bike path issue also received attention from the FNYSBC in the form of letters of support including support of a compromise proposed by the NY City Audubon chapter and again special recognition is due the member clubs and especially Al Ott and Nellie Larsen who have worked on this still ongoing issue.

Harriett Marsi proposed a resolution to urge New York State to fully participate in the Chesapeake Bay Program. She explained the historic productivity of the Chesapeake Bay and its importance to many of "our" birds which winter there. Wildlife abundance in the Bay has declined, due to the increase in nutrient load coming in from the watershed and to the loss of the oyster beds that had filtered the water. The Susquehanna River, largest tributary of the Bay, begins in New York State and, along with its west branch, flows 300-400 miles through the state. Therefore, New York has some responsibility for the fate of the Chesapeake Bay. After some wording changes, Andy Mason moved that the resolution be adopted. Marty Borko seconded and the motion was approved.

NYSDEC Report

Bob Miller gave the report on the Department of Environmental Conservation activities.

- **Atlas 2000** - In addition to Kim Hunsinger and John Ozard, DEC personnel from the habitat inventory unit and systems development have provided support for various aspects of Atlas 2000.

- **BCAs** - The DEC has hired 2 biologists to work on the now 10 Bird Conservation Areas on state-owned land. A third biologist will be hired soon.

One of the BCA biologists, Dave Adams gave a paper about the BCAs at the paper session.

- **Cormorant management** - The DEC oiled eggs on Little Galloo Island again this year in 94% of the 5400 nests there. They have begun a 2-year telemetry study to determine if the Little Galloo cormorants move to other islands and to determine where they winter.

- **Piping Plover** - The US Fish & Wildlife Service is working on identifying critical habitat for Piping Plovers in the Great Lakes region. They have proposed a 17-mile stretch of Lake Ontario shoreline in Jefferson and Oswego counties as a critical habitat.

- **Endangered Species** - The winter Bald Eagle survey found 350 eagles, up from 244 last year and 41 in 1979. There was a record number of nests (43) and young (71) this year. Peregrine Falcon nests outside of the Adirondacks produced 51 young. The 234 young Ospreys produced by 277 pair on Long Island is down for unknown reasons.

- **Colonial Waterbird Management** - A study of Black Terns will attempt to locate pre-migratory staging areas. These would be good places to monitor Black Tern populations in the future.

- **Spruce Grouse** - This year John Ozard began the first study of Spruce Grouse populations since 1985 by visiting historic nesting sites. The study will continue next year.

- **Waterfowl Count** - Bryan Swift reports that he will need new coordinators for Region 6 and 10. He recommends the Federation recognize Walt Sabin for his past service as Waterfowl Count Chairman 1976-2000.

- **Loon contaminant work** - A number of loons and a few mergansers were captured and marked to allow future study.

WEB SITE REPORT

Barbara Butler reported that additions to the web site include *The Kingbird* tables of contents and some sample articles, conservation articles from *NY Birders* - collected by topic, e-mail contacts for many member clubs, and some new links.

NYSARC REPORT

Reviews of NYSARC reports are moving along, according to Kevin McGowan. The secretary position has still not been filled, so chair Angus Wilson is distributing the reports. The 1998 report will be published in the first *Kingbird* issue of 2001.

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

The awards will be presented at the banquet.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Valerie Freer announced the following slate of officers and board members for 2000-2001:

President: Mary Alice Koeneke
Vice President: Tim Baird
Recording Secretary: Dick Miga
Corresponding Secretary: Phyllis Jones
Treasurer: Bill Reeves

Board Members - terms expiring in 2001:

Sara Kinch, Emanuel Levine, and Sharon Skelly

Board Members - terms expiring in 2002:

Barbara Butler, Kevin McGowan, and William Watson

There were no nominations from the floor.

A motion to cast one vote to adopt the slate as presented was made by Anne Vogt and seconded by Marty Borko. It passed with one abstention by Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club.

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

Bill Lee described the field trips conducted by the Federation since the last annual meeting.

- January - Galeville Airport, Shawangunk Grassland Unit, Wallkill River NWR. Spectacular display of 7 Short-eared Owls in flight all at once in bright afternoon sunshine.
- February - Ft Edward Grasslands (Washington County) more Short-eared Owls, Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs. Thanks to Beth and Brad Bidwell, Southern Adirondack Audubon, for leading the trip.
- March - Montauk Point and eastern Long Island - Black Guillemot (a pair), King Eider, and a glimpse of Black-legged Kittiwake. Thanks to John Fritz for local field leadership.
- April - Derby Hill. Not a good hawk flight day, but some early spring migrants along the lakeshore. Thanks to Sue Adair of Onondaga Audubon and Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club.
- June 3-4 - Adirondack Weekend - Spring Pond Bog and Whiteface Mountain. The most well attended trip and most, though not all, saw Spruce Grouse and Bicknell's Thrush. Some participants saw Boreal Chickadee, Olive-sided & Yellow-bellied flycatchers, Evening Grosbeak, and Black-backed Woodpecker. Thanks to John Ozard of NYS DEC and Rich MacDonald of Adirondack Nature Conservancy and High Peaks Audubon for local arrangements and leadership.

- June 10-11 - Fort Drum Grasslands, Perch River Wildlife Management Area. Success in locating Clay-colored, Henslow, and Vesper sparrows at Fort Drum, and Black Tern, Least Bittern and Trumpeter Swan at Perch River. Thanks to Mary Alice Koeneke and Mickey Scilingo of Onondaga Audubon Society for local arrangements and field trip leadership.
- August - Jamaica Bay NWR. Thanks to Michael Bochnik, of Hudson River Audubon for conducting this trip.
- A trip is planned for the Niagara River in December for gulls.

Good numbers have been attending the trips. Bill has suggestions for Doodletown and Whiskey Hollow for trips next year.

COUNTY AND STATE LISTING

Berna Lincoln reported that 90-100 people have submitted lists for 1999 and there is an increase in the counties reported by them. The lists include a number of folks who do not otherwise participate in Federation activities.

ARCHIVES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEES

Phyllis Jones, chair of both committees, received material from Marty Borko dated the time Dick Sloss was president of the Federation, which she will add to the archive. The bibliography citations will be published in the December issue of *The Kingbird*.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Sue Adair and Mary Alice Koeneke are now handling the Speakers Bureau. Thanks to Valerie Freer and Phyllis Jones for getting the speakers' bureau going.

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

The 2001 meeting will be hosted by Onondaga Audubon ,September 14-16 in Syracuse. The Naturalist Club of Broome County will host the 2002 meeting in the Binghamton area.

ELECTION OF NOMINATING AND AUDITING COMMITTEES

Mary Alice named Valerie Freer, Sara Kinch, and Joe DiCostanzo to the nominating committee. With a motion by Kevin McGowan and second by Dick Miga, which was passed, the committee was accepted. Valerie Freer made a motion, seconded by Kevin McGowan, to appoint Irving Cantor, Norm Stotz, and Manny Levine to the auditing committee. The motion was passed.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

Dick Miga explained a survey which he distributed. The survey asks about

member clubs' activities for young people. The board will review the returned surveys and look for ways to facilitate and support member clubs' youth activities. Dorothy Crumb noted that the membership of the new Raptor Club is entirely young people and one of them is working on an Atlas block. The president of the host club, Eaton Birding Society, is a high school senior.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion from the floor, the meeting of the Council of Delegates was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE BANQUET

Mary Alice Koeneke presented the club newsletter awards to the John Burroughs Natural History Society for *The Chirp*, Lake Erie Bird Club for *Wrens' Ramblings*, Great South Bay Audubon Society for *Sanderling*, Moriches Bay Audubon Society for *The Osprey*, New York City Audubon for *The Urban Audubon*, The Raptor Club for *The Raptor Report*, and the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club received the special award for the best article appearing in the past year in a club newsletter, "A Century of Change" by Stan DeOrsey.

The John J. Elliott Memorial Award for the *Kingbird* article judged to be the year's best went to J.M.C. Peterson and G. Howard for the article entitled "A Common Yellowthroat Exhibiting Male and Female Plumage (Bilateral Gynandromorph) in Essex County, NY" which appeared in Vol. 49 No.4. Mary Alice awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Walt Sabin who chaired the Waterfowl Count for 25 years. Certificates of Appreciation were also awarded to Melanie Uhlir and Greg DeLisle of Cornell for their support of the Federation web site, and to Jeff Walsh and The Nevele Hotel for hosting the American White Pelican. There were 2 recipients of Lillian Stoner awards: Erin Hewett, a high school senior nominated by the Naturalists Club of Broome County and Matt Williams, a Cornell graduate student nominated by Cayuga Bird Club. Charles Rouse presented the Elon Howard Eaton Award to Dr. Eaton's son, Stephen W. Eaton in recognition of his contribution and involvement in New York State Ornithology. The Gordon Meade Award was presented to Robert Spahn, whose three decades of contributions to the Federation include service to *The Kingbird* as the Region 2 Editor, Editor of the seasonal highlights, and Regional Reports Editor, and Regional coordinator for both Breeding Bird Atlases. Mary Alice presented The President's Award to Phyllis Jones for her contributions as editor of *New York Birders* for 4 years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara A. Butler, Recording Secretary

9/12/2000

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINTER SEASON 2000-2001

Willie D'Anna

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Weather Effects

December was exceptionally cold and snowy in much of New York. Temperatures were as much as 7 degrees below normal in Region 1 and a record 70.3" of snow fell in Region 5. As stressful as these weather conditions are for birds, it is the food supply that makes the most difference to them. Apparently that was pretty good as a fair number of half-hardies were found this winter. Especially interesting were the numerous February half-hardies found in Region 2 by birders doing a "big month." It has been often assumed that most of these birds do not last through the winter. It will be interesting to see these efforts repeated and if similar results are achieved in future Februarys. Some may argue that the mild January and February weather was the main factor for survival of these birds. While these months were mild in terms of temperature, as much as 4 degrees above normal in both, most Regions maintained a snow cover throughout which could greatly reduce foraging opportunities for some species.

Waterbirds

Waterbird diversity was good this season. While numbers were down in some Regions in part due to the early freeze-up, this can help to create impressive concentrations elsewhere. I am referring to Region 3 where counts of over 500 Tundra Swans, 4000 American Black Ducks, and over 13,000 Redheads were exceptional. Redheads were also up in Regions 1 & 5. Counts of Horned Grebes on Lake Ontario were quite high for mid January – 27 in Region 1, 20 in Region 5, and an amazing 283 in Region 2. Red-necked Grebes in five of seven Regions were also more than usual.

Half-Hardies

As mentioned, numerous half-hardies were found this winter, especially in Region 2. The species that are referred to as half-hardies are subjective and vary with the Region. For example, many species of regular winter occurrence in most Regions are very unusual in Regions 6 & 7. The following discussion of half-hardies this winter refers to birds found in January or early February, i.e., those birds trying to over-winter in the state and not individuals that are simply tardy or early migrants. Note that almost all of them are not unusual in Region 10 where milder weather permits more regular occurrence.

The following were found in January or early February in at least three reporting Regions, excluding Region 10: Turkey Vultures, Red-shouldered Hawks, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Winter Wrens (including Region 7), Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, and Fox Sparrows (including Region 7). In two Regions were: Brant, Northern Shovelers, Killdeers, Common Snipes, Chipping Sparrows, and Rusty Blackbirds (including Region 7). In addition Region 3 had a Blue-winged Teal and Region 1 had a Black-crowned Night-Heron and three(!) Pine Warblers. Region 2 added Virginia Rails, Soras, Marsh Wrens, Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, and Savannah Sparrows. The two rails and the wren are reported nearly every winter from Region 2 but only rarely from other Regions away from southeastern New York. I would urge birders from other Regions to search their marshes for these species in winter.

Northern Invaders

It was an outstanding season for northern owls (Northern Hawk Owl, Great Gray Owl, and Boreal Owl) – in Ontario and Quebec, that is. Remarkably, of these species only two No. Hawk Owls were located in New York, both in Region 7. These birds were not taken for granted as numerous birders trekked to see them. Those who did were rewarded with not only the owl but outstanding boreal birding as well. While it was generally poor for winter finches outside of Region 7, Purple Finches, White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins were numerous there. Many of the crossbills were breeding. I am always amazed that they will nest in mid-winter. Obviously, food and not weather is what drives their biological impulse to breed. By the end of the period, some of the winter finches were spreading out from the Adirondacks.

Miscellaneous

There were some unusually high counts of Northern Pintails in early February – 24 in Region 1 (3 Feb) and 30 in Region 3 (10 Feb). These may represent early migrants but the Regional Editors did not mention an early push of migrants this season. 41 Bald Eagles on the Thousand Islands CBC, Merlins in all reporting Regions, and Peregrine Falcons in all but one, are another indication of the complete recovery these birds have made in New York. Over 100 Lapland Longspurs in Region 2 and 600 Horned Larks in Region 3 are high counts but 500 Razorbills off Montauk Pt. in Region 10 and 500 Purple Finches in Region 7 are exceptional. Although White-crowned Sparrow is regular in winter in Regions 1 & 2, a count of 112 in Region 2 is amazing! 35 Yellow-rumped Warblers in Region 1 was a winter record there.

Unusually late passerines lingering into December included: Savannah Sparrow and Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Region 3, Eastern Phoebe and Savannah Sparrow in Region 5, Hermit Thrush, White-crowned Sparrow, and a very rare in winter House Wren in Region 7; Eastern Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo,

Nashville Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, and Wilson's Warbler in Region 10.

Rarities

With only seven Regional reports available(Regions 4, 8 and 9 reports not received by deadline) the list of rarities is a little shorter than usual. Still, the multiple reports of some lesser rarities is noteworthy. Eared Grebes were found in Regions 1, 3, & 10 and Harlequin Ducks appeared in Regions 1, 5, 6 and 10, Barrow's Goldeneyes turned up in six of the seven Regions including two in each of Regions 3 & 5. King Eiders were represented by a single in Region 1, several fly-bys at Hamlin Beach State Park in Region 2, and an impressive flock of 15 in Region 5, as well as the usual birds at Montauk. "Oregon" Juncos in Regions 1, 2, 5, & 7 are the most in several years. This subspecies needs to be carefully identified to rule out an intergrade. Northern Gannets reported on Lake Ontario, 3 Dec, in both Regions 1 & 2 may be the same individual. A Greater White-fronted Goose in Region 3 and a group of four in Region 2 are more than usual for winter. Trumpeter Swans were found in Region 2 (three) and Region 5 (six) – no doubt these were the products of the various official and unofficial reintroduction programs in New York and Ontario.

As is often the case in Region 1, gulls were a highlight. A Black-headed Gull, and the now annual California Gull were found, and Sabine's Gulls lingered into December. An alcid species and a Varied Thrush were also located. The former is a great find on Lake Ontario and not at all diminished by the fact that the observer cautiously chose not to identify it to species. A Least Bittern heard calling in a marsh in Region 2, is an extreme rarity in winter. A Red Phalarope and a Dickcissel also appeared in Region 2. A Eurasian Wigeon was in Region 3 as was a Gyrfalcon and a Laughing Gull, neither of which stuck around. A Great Cormorant returned to Oswego in Region 5, but the highlights there were a second Regional Tufted Duck, a cooperative dark-morph Gyrfalcon, and an immature Ivory Gull, a potential first Regional record. The best in Region 6 was a Golden Eagle found on a CBC. With the increase in reports of this species during spring and fall, it is somewhat surprising that there have been no regular wintering areas found in the state. The bird of the season in Region 7 would have to be the much visited Northern Hawk Owl in Bloomingdale Bog. Region 7 also hosted a second No. Hawk Owl as well as a reported white-morph Gyrfalcon, seen briefly by a single observer. Golden Eagles were also found in Region 10 but gulls were the highlight there – Black-tailed, Mew and California, were all reported but only seen briefly. At least the Mew Gull was sighted on a second day and it is likely that this is the same individual returning from the previous two winters. Common Murre, Thick-billed Murre and Atlantic Puffin were the best of the alcids in Region 10. Two Ash-throated Flycatchers lingered from fall and a Chestnut-collared Longspur, found on a rescheduled So. Nassau CBC

would be only the sixth for New York, if accepted by NYSARC.

In terms of rarity, the alcid in Region 1, Ivory Gull in Region 5, and the three gulls and the Chestnut-collared Longspur in Region 10 all would vie for the Bird of the Season (BOTS) award. However, none of these birds was cooperative, being seen only briefly or by just a single observer. Birds seen by many observers over several days include Region 5's Tufted Duck and Gyrfalcon, Region 7's Northern Hawk Owl, and Region 10's Thick-billed Murre. However, these species have been recorded many times in the past in New York. So, nothing really stands out to me as the BOTS award winner. This season, you can pick your own favorite!



REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

MIKE MORGANTE

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December 2000 saw a continuation of the cold and snowy end to November. The average temperature for the month was 22.1° F, which was 7.0° below normal. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 3.76" and it was the seventh snowiest December, with 50.3", 26" more than usual. A very strong cold front on the 12th brought 60+ mph winds and the highest Lake Erie levels since 1985.

January was mild and dry, offering a respite from the previous two months. The average temperature was 27°, 3.4° above normal, and the monthly precipitation was 2.15", 0.55" below normal, with 19.6" of it snow, 6" less than normal. The ground remained snow-covered from the November and December snowfalls. Lake Erie was frozen by the end of the month.

February was also moderate. The average temperature was 28.2°, 4° above normal, and the monthly precipitation was normal at 2.33". Only 9.8" of snow fell, which was 6" less than normal. Lake Erie remained frozen all month. Some brief warm-ups in February may have been factors in early reports of Turkey Vulture, Killdeer and Red-winged Blackbird.

Vivian Pitzrick reported a good cone crop as well as a good supply of mast and wild grape, gray-barked dogwood, buckthorn and thornapple fruits in Allegany Co.

The Type E botulism outbreak among waterfowl along Lake Erie continued into the beginning of the winter season. NYSDEC, with assistance from a volunteer group, began removing carcasses from accessible areas of the shoreline. This effort began on 1 December and ended on 7 December when snowfall, ice and lake swells made further retrieval of the birds impossible. A total of 1110 birds, including 106 Common Loons, 424 Red-breasted Mergansers and 427 Ring-billed Gulls, were picked up and submitted to the NYSDEC's Wildlife Pathologist.

When Lake Erie froze over in January, as typical, the concentration of waterfowl at the mouth of the Niagara River increased dramatically. No extreme rarities were found this winter. However, a female King Eider, observed several times with Canvasbacks along the Niagara, was a very unusual occurrence. Four Mute Swans along the Niagara River were also high for Region 1, still remarkable given the higher counts in nearby Region 2 and elsewhere on the Great Lakes. A large group of Tundra Swans again wintered along the Niagara in the vicinity of Strawberry Island and Beaver Island State Park; this occurrence has become regular in the last few years and such numbers had not previously been recorded in winter.

A little farther north along the Niagara, in the vicinity of Navy Island and Buckhorn Island State Park, Bald Eagles wintered in increased numbers, including six observed on 18 February. Bald Eagles were also reported with more frequency elsewhere this winter and a pair built a nest at Cayuga Pool, giving Iroquois NWR a second active nest.

Merlins were recorded in record numbers this winter. Four wintered at the SUNY Buffalo campus, a traditional roosting location. Another was observed several times at the Buffalo State College campus.

Good numbers of gulls remained on the Niagara River for much of December. Gordon Bellerby had a maximum count of 11,880 Bonaparte's Gulls on 9 December, and he observed a Black-headed Gull a few days later on the 13th. California and Sabine's gulls lingered into December with multiple sightings. David Suggs reported tens of thousands of gulls coming to roost in the Buffalo Harbor area on 15 January. This occurrence was probably influenced by the freezing of Lake Erie waters.

More Snowy Owls were reported than in recent winters. There were also a handful of reports for Long-eared, Short-eared and Northern Saw-whet owls. Northern Shrikes were widely distributed throughout the season.

Despite the very rough weather of late November and December, many "half-hardies" were reported. Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Hermit Thrushes were reported with increased frequency and Carolina Wrens were recorded in respectable numbers. Remarkably, three Pine Warblers wintered in the Region. One in Pomfret was likely the same bird that wintered there last year.

Finches were rather scarce this winter. Pine Siskins were reported in low numbers and Purple Finches wintered in good numbers at Southern Tier feeders. There were only two reports of Evening Grosbeaks, single reports of both crossbill species and no redpoll reports.

Jim Landau again compiled the local CBC data this year. He reported that the only noteworthy 11-year high count this year was of Double-crested Cormorant. Despite a new count circle in the Region, in Wilson, Niagara County, noteworthy 11-year low counts were: Wood Duck, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Finch and House Sparrow.

The winter season produced some good rarities. Brendan Klick observed an alcid on Lake Ontario at Olcott on 10 December. He suspected that the bird was either a Razorbill or a murre. Obviously, any alcid report in this Region is extremely rare. The previous week, Klick and Don Harris observed a Northern Gannet flying west on Lake Ontario from Golden Hill State Park. Doug Happ and Mike Zebehazy found a Varied Thrush in the Town of Mansfield while conducting some early season Atlas work. Other rarities included Harlequin Duck, Bohemian Waxwing, Fox Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco and Brewer's Blackbird.

I would like to thank Ken Roblee of NYSDEC for his information on the botulism outbreak and Jim Landau for his CBC report.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP CATT; BuSP – Buckhorn Island SP ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; DH – Dunkirk Harbor CHAU; FMCSPP – Four Mile Creek SP NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP NIAG; GI – Goat Island NIAG; INWR – Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge GENE/ORLE; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NPP – Niagara Power Project on Niagara River, Lewiston NIAG; NR – Niagara River; OOWMA – Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area GENE; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary, East Aurora ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Préserve, Buffalo ERIE.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: last 11 Porter NIAG 15 Dec; no Jan or Feb reports.

Com. Loon: last Lewiston NR 15 Dec; no Jan or Feb reports; *intro*.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 11 DH 7 Jan; good count for winter.

Horned Grebe: max 27 Shadigee ORLE 13 Jan.

EARED GREBE: DH 8 Dec (DM); fourth for Region in 2000.

NORTHERN GANNET: GHSP 3 Dec (BK!), flying west on L Ontario; fourth report ever on Region 1 L Ontario, all since 1990. [RRed: Amazing, given that more that that number appears in some years and the species is nearly annual both east and west of Region 1.]

Double-crested Cormorant: max 80 DH 24 Feb; several reports of singles on NR.

Great Blue Heron: max 36 Motor I NR 2 Feb (BB).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: DH 4 Feb (PY), unexpected winter location; Buffalo ERIE 13 Feb (PY); nearly annual in winter in Buffalo.

Turkey Vulture: arr Pomfret CHAU 7 Feb (TM!); Orchard P ERIE 9 Feb (JL!).

Snow Goose: 2 blue morph Porter NIAG

27 Dec (MM); unusual in winter.

Mute Swan: 2 Barcelona Harbor CHAU 7 Jan; 2 Olcott NIAG 14 Jan; max 4 NR Buffalo 14-20 Jan (DR, BB).

Tundra Swan: max 138 Strawberry I NR 18 Jan (DR, BB); similar numbers have wintered annually on this part of the NR in recent years.

Wood Duck: Wilson NIAG 10 Dec (KF); Silver Creek ERIE 14 Jan (FR); max 3 Amherst ERIE 15 Jan (BK).

N. Pintail: max 24 DH 3 Feb (TM), good winter count; 2 reports of singles ERIE.

Green-winged Teal: DH 8 Jan (DM); 2 Machias CATT 21 Jan (BK, RS), only reports beyond Dec.

Canvasback: max 6800 Grand I NR 15 Jan (BK).

Redhead: 880 Grand I NR 15 Jan (BK); max 1000 GHSP 24 Feb (DS); BWWTP 28 Feb (WW), likely migrant.

Ring-necked Duck: max 25 Buffalo NR 8 Jan (PY); 10 BuSP 28 Jan (PY).

Greater Scaup: max 3500 GHSP 24 Feb (DS).

Lesser Scaup: max 450 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 23 Jan (BK), very high winter count.

KING EIDER: fem NR Buffalo 7 Jan

(PY), 27 Feb (TH); rare on NR.
HARLEQUIN DUCK: fem NF 2, 3 Dec (WD), same bird as Nov report.
Surf Scoter: max 3 DH 3 Feb (TM); only report beyond Dec.
Black Scoter: NR Buffalo 20 Jan (WD!); only report.
Ruddy Duck: max 5 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 12 Jan (BK); 2 DH 28 Jan (BK), 11 Feb (RA).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 at nest INWR 24 Jan (WW); max 9 Salamanca CATT 8 Feb (TL); 6 observed from Grand I NR 18 Feb (BB); increased sightings along NR; Arcade WYOM 18 Feb (DH, MZ); Clarence ERIE 28 Feb (WW).
N. Goshawk: Panama CHAU 14 Dec (TS); Jamestown CHAU 1 Jan (BS); AISP 14 Jan (BK!); imm Bond L NIAG 29 Jan (BK!); more reports than usual.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Buffalo ERIE 7 Dec (PY), late migrant; Jamestown CHAU 6, 14 Jan (TM, BK); Elma ERIE 20 Jan (PF).
Rough-legged Hawk: max 6 S. Dayton CATT 21 Jan (FR); well reported thru.
Merlin: max 4 SUNY Buffalo campus ERIE 29 Dec (PY!), new max count at this winter roost location; Yates ORLE 2 Jan (BK!); Buffalo ERIE 24 Jan (BK!).
Peregrine Falcon: several sightings in Buffalo near nesting area.
Am. Coot: max 130 DH 14 Jan.
Killdeer: arr Pomfret CHAU 9 Feb (TM); Portland CHAU 11 Feb (RA).
Com. Snipe: 2 Jamestown CBC 17 Dec; Gerry CHAU 14 Jan (BK!), at historical wintering locations.
Little Gull: max 23 NR 12 Feb (GB).
BLACK-HEADED GULL: NR 13 Dec (GB), only report.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 11,880 NR 9 Dec (GB), peak for fall migration; 1470 NR 12 Feb (GB), counted at Niagara-on-the-Lake flypast.
CALIFORNIA GULL: ad NF 2 Dec

(MM!); ad NPP 10 Dec (WD! BK!); continued from Nov.
Iceland Gull: max 5 Buffalo 23 Jan; Somerset NIAG 18 Feb (PY), few reports from L Ontario.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: FMCS 15 Dec; Wilson NIAG 21 Dec; max 3 Buffalo 8 Jan.
Glaucous Gull: 3 Porter NIAG 27 Dec; 3 NPP 1 Jan; 3 FN 24 Jan.
SABINE'S GULL: juv NF thru Dec 6 (WD!, GB, WW!); juv Whirlpool NR thru Dec 3 (WD! BK!); few historical Dec records.
ALCID sp.: Olcott NIAG 10 Dec (BK!); any alcid report very rare for Region.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: NF Airport NIAG 9-21 Dec (WD); Arcade WYOM 20 Dec- 20 Jan (RV); Yates ORLE 30 Dec- 28 Jan (KF); 2 Eagle WYOM 2 Jan (RR); 2 Wheatfield NIAG 28 Jan (PY).
Long-eared Owl: 4 Porter NIAG 27 Dec; 2 Bond L NIAG 3 Feb; 2 Cherry Creek CHAU 3 Feb (RR); 10 Porter NIAG 18 Feb (BK); 4 Clarence ERIE 20 Feb.
Short-eared Owl: 10 Niagara NIAG 9 Dec (WB); 2 Shelby ORLE 10 Dec (KF); Yates 2 Jan (BK); 6 Wheatfield NIAG 14 Jan (JL, KL).
N. Saw-whet Owl: FMCS 3, 11 Feb (BK); GHSP 3 Feb (BK); Somerset NIAG 3 Feb (BK).
Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Lakeside Beach SP ORLE 2 Jan (BK); Pt Gratiot CHAU 14 Jan (TS); only winter reports.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Fredonia CHAU 21 Dec (JG); unusual in winter.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: numerous reports throughout Region.
Com. Raven: 2 Wethersfield WYOM 24 Jan (DJ); Franklinville CATT 26 Feb (MD).
Carolina Wren: 6 Jamestown CBC

CHAU 17 Dec; 6 Hamburg CBC ERIE 31 Dec; reported from 8 other locations.
Winter Wren: 2 Porter NIAG 27 Dec; Porter NIAG 13 Jan (BK), last reports.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Porter NIAG 27 Dec (MM!); L Erie SP CHAU 7 Jan (BK!); Grand I ERIE 12 Jan (BK!); Tiff NP 13 Feb (ER!); good number of reports.
Eastern Bluebird: max 25 NIAG 16 Jan.
Hermit Thrush: Lancaster ERIE 22 Dec thru (MM); FMCSP 27 Dec; Yates ORLE 2 Jan; Lewiston NIAG 10 Jan; Bond L NIAG 17 Jan-3 Feb (BK); more reports than usual.
VARIED THRUSH: Mansfield CATT 24 Feb (DH! MZ!); fourth verified report since 1990.
Am. Pipit: Jamestown CBC 17 Dec; late.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: FNSP 1 Dec (BK!), carryover from Nov.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 16 OOWMA 23 Dec (MM); 6 Porter NIAG 27 Dec; 35 L Erie SP CHAU 7 Jan (BK); 9 BuSP 12 Jan; 6 other reports.
PINE WARBLER: Pomfret CHAU 2 Dec-19 Feb, at same feeder as wintered last year; Orchard Park ERIE 21-31 Dec (DH!); Bond L NIAG 27 Dec, 27 Jan (MM! WD!); good winter showing.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Darien GENE thru (TH), only a few winter in Region.
Chipping Sparrow: Grand I CBC 17 Dec; Hamburg CBC 31 Dec; unusual in winter.
Savannah Sparrow: 2 Pomfret CHAU 2 Dec (TM!), rare in winter.
FOX SPARROW: Genesee Co. P 7 Jan (HK), unverified; only 3 previous verified Jan records.
Swamp Sparrow: 6 OOWMA 23 Dec; 2 Porter NIAG 27 Dec; Hamburg CBC 31

Jan; 2 Wilson NIAG 19 Jan; decent winter numbers.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 9 Porter NIAG 18 Feb.
Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: Eden ERIE thru (RA!), continued from Nov at feeder; Oak Orchard CBC 23 Dec, unverified.
Lapland Longspur: max 18 Oakfield GENE 11 Jan (BK); 7 Yates ORLE 28 Jan; Evans ERIE 4 Feb.
Snow Bunting: max 100 Porter NIAG 3 Jan (HK).
Red-winged Blackbird: SPNS 15 Jan; 3 Buffalo 21 Jan; arr Lancaster ERIE 12 Feb.
E. Meadowlark: 3 Ridgeway NIAG 21, 30 Dec (KF), only report.
Rusty Blackbird: Franklinville CATT 3 Feb (MD), at feeder.
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: Fredonia CHAU 25 Dec (AB); unverified.
Com. Grackle: 3 East Aurora ERIE 1-31 Dec; arr 2 SPNS 26 Feb.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 77 Kenmore ERIE 13 Dec; 75 Buffalo ERIE 25 Dec.
Purple Finch: 10 Alfred ALLE 20 Jan; 6 Darien GENE 16-28 Feb; 11 Franklinville CATT 17 Feb; 4 other reports of singles besides CBCs.
Red Crossbill: W. Almond ALLE 20 Jan (BK), only report.
White-winged Crossbill: Amherst ERIE 25 Jan (Buffalo RBA), only report.
Pine Siskin: Somerset NIAG 3 Dec; 17 Hamburg CBC 31 Dec; 2 Amity L ALLE 14 Jan; 3 Alfred ALLE 20 Jan; Franklinville CATT 17 Feb; Boston ERIE 24 Feb.
Evening Grosbeak: Alexander GENE 14 Dec (KF); 4 Hamburg CBC 31 Dec; only reports.

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REGION 2 – GENESEE

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The season was characterized by snow. It wasn't that we had significant amounts of snow on any single days, but it fell regularly in small amounts. The winter started very cold, with a December average of 22.6°F, 6.5° below normal. It was the sixth coldest December in the last 100 years. Total precipitation for the month reached 2.45", slightly below normal. Snowfall totaled 38.8", 17.2" above normal. A deep low-pressure system on the 12th of the month brought gusty winds and some tree damage. Another such front passed on the 17th-18th. The end of the month saw the Region on the western fringe of a major East Coast storm. Compared with December, January was quite tranquil. The average temperature was 26.6°, 3° higher than normal. Precipitation was a scant 0.13" below normal at 1.95". Snowfall was light but consistent, totaling 21.6", 3.5" less than normal. Once again, we were spared any significant winter weather in February. No major systems were noted and no significant meteorological events occurred. The average temperature was 28.6°, a full 4° above normal. Total precipitation amounted to 2.26", a mere 0.16" above normal. Snowfall was just about average at 23.3".

Despite the cold December, the Rochester Christmas Bird Count broke the 100 species mark for the first time with a total of 105. Certainly one of the highlights was the Least Bittern found in the Cranberry Pond marsh by Dave Tetlow. Waterbirds in general were quite good, helping raise the total. The cold didn't seem to bother the lingering "half-hardies" as a number of good finds occurred on the count. The Little Lakes CBC saw a more frozen landscape and therefore waterbirds were fewer than normal and the total reached 78 species. The total for the Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC was 68.

An event that added to the total for the season was a concentrated effort by Mike Davids and Dave Tetlow to do a "Big February." This can often be a difficult month to build a high total. They managed to reach 125 species. The Regional total for the month was 126. Diligent lakewatch observation by William Symonds from Hamlin Beach State Park throughout the season was also a big plus.

Red-throated Loons lingered during the season, with more reports from January and February than typical. Common Loons were less numerous. Horned Grebe numbers were quite good this season. Northern Gannet from Hamlin Beach on 3 December was a late date. The usual one or two Double-crested Cormorants were evident through the season. Great Blue Herons were able to find open water and some remained throughout the season. The number of waterfowl species was good, but numbers of individuals were not very high. Four Greater White-fronted Geese in Victor were quite a surprise. Two Brant on the Rochester CBC were also a good find. Mute Swan numbers continued to build, and once again Trumpeter Swans wintered at Irondequoit Bay. Two carried yellow wing tags, while the third did not. The usual large rafts of Greater Scaup were missing this year. King Eider reports

from Hamlin Beach were excellent. This trend continues at least partly as a result of better coverage at that location throughout the year. A male Barrow's Goldeneye found by Dave Tetlow at Sodus Bay was another highlight.

Accipiters were seen regularly, with a record number of Cooper's Hawks tallied on the Little Lakes CBC. Rough-legged Hawks were pretty good from the midpoint to the end of the season. They were very regular in the more southerly agricultural areas of the Region. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were once again reported, continuing the recent trend of winter sightings. The Purple Sandpiper on the Rochester CBC was a good find. Dunlin, Common Snipe and Red Phalarope rounded out the late or wintering shorebirds of the season. Gulls were generally pretty good, with Thayer's and Lesser Black-backed being reported from the Detection Systems' Pond in Perinton. The usual concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls never materialized on Lake Ontario and consequently neither did many reports of Little Gull.

One of the major highlights of the Little Lakes CBC was the record number of owls. New highs were established for E. Screech-Owl, Barred and N. Saw-whet owls. [RREd: This was due to a combination of a serious effort by observers in one of the count sectors and a night when owls responded well.] Snowy Owls put in regular appearances and Short-eared Owls were located in their usual haunts.

Red-headed Woodpecker was reported from the usual Nations Road location. A record high 32 Pileated Woodpeckers were tallied on the Little Lakes CBC.

It was a generally good winter for Northern Shrike, with consistent reports from around the area. Marsh Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet were good finds on the CBCs. The wrens were also found in February. Hermit Thrush sightings were somewhat limited, and a Gray Catbird in December was unusual yet nearly regular. A second catbird wintered in Rush. Northern Mockingbirds continued to be reported in good numbers. Yellow-rumped Warblers and Common Yellowthroats were found on two of the three CBCs.

Sparrows of note included Chipping, Field, Savannah and Fox. There were very high counts for White-crowned Sparrows, continuing a recent wintering trend. Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs were quite evident throughout the period. A review continues of birds in the Nations Road area which were reported as possible Chestnut-collared Longspurs. The birds were carefully studied at close range, but no written reports have yet been received for evaluation. The Dickcissel in North Chili in January was a super find.

A few blackbirds were located on the CBCs, but no really high concentrations were noted. Rusty Blackbird was found on two of the three CBCs. Winter finches were certainly not abundant, but scattered individuals were noted during the season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay MONR; BE – Bergen Swamp GENE; CH – Ontario Beach, Charlotte MONR; CL – Conesus Lake LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman Park MONR; G – Greece MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HL – Hemlock L LIVI/ONTA; HoL – Honoeye L ONTA; HP – Hogan Pt, Greece MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay MONR; K – Kendall ORLE; LLCBC – Little Lakes CBC; LSLCBC – Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC; LW – Letchworth SP; M – Manitou MONR; MP – Mendon Ponds MONR; NR – Nations Road, Avon LIVI; NYSWC – New York State Waterfowl Census; P – Perinton MONR; PE – Penfield MONR; RCBC – Rochester CBC; RH – Rattlesnake Hill Wildlife Management Area LIVI; SB – Sodus Bay WAYN; V – Victor ONTA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: max 18 RCBC 17 Dec.
Com. Loon: max 5 RCBC 17 Dec.
Horned Grebe: max 283 L Ontario offshore 13-14 Jan NYSWC.
Red-necked Grebe: HB 11 Jan.
N. Gannet: HB 3 Dec (WS), last report for the year.
LEAST BITTERN: BB (Cranberry Pd) 17 Dec (DT), record late.
Great Blue Heron: max 17 Turning Pt P 28 Jan.
Turkey Vulture: LW 1 Jan.
Greater White-fronted Goose: 4 V 3-10 Dec (FB, JM0, ph).
Brant: 2 CH 17 Dec, uncommon in winter.
Mute Swan: max 164 RCBC 17 Dec, unfortunately.
Trumpeter Swan: 3 RCBC at IB 17 Dec, 2 with wing tags.
Am. Wigeon: max 11 CL 14 Jan.
N. Shoveler: IB 17 Dec; 26-27 Jan.
N. Pintail: PE 14 Jan; SB 16 Jan.

Green-winged Teal: 2 Caledonia 15 Jan.
King Eider: max 5 HB 11 Dec (WS); SB 13 Dec (DS); HB 16 Dec (WS); 2 HB 19 Dec (WS); all females; 2 HB 11 Jan (WS); HB 12 Jan (WS); imm males; HB 1 Feb (WS), subad male; HB 4 Feb (WS); HB 19 Feb (WS); females; 3 HB 20 Feb (DT, MD), ad male and 2 females.
White-winged Scoter: max 1818 HB 20 Feb.
Barrow's Goldeneye: SB 14 Feb, male (DT).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 4 LW 1 Jan (DT, MD), 2 ad, 1 subad, 1 imm.
N. Goshawk: G 19 Feb; scarce.
Red-shouldered Hawk: G 14 Dec (DT); imm Carlton 28 Jan (DT, MD), unusual at this time of year.
Merlin: BB 15 Dec; PE 30 Dec; IB 13 Jan; Perry 19 Feb.
Peregrine Falcon: IB 17 Dec (CM, C&RM, JL); IB 13 Jan (DT, MD); 2 Rochester 14 Jan (DT, MD); Rochester

18 Feb (DT,MD).

Virginia Rail: MP 3 Feb (DT, MD), usual wintering locale.

Sora: 2 MP 3 Feb (DT, MD), only report of season, prior wintering locale.

Killdeer: arr G 16 Feb.

Purple Sandpiper: IB 17 Dec (MD, DT), late.

Dunlin: IB 2 Dec (R&SS).

Com. Snipe: CL 15 Jan (MD, DT), only report.

Am. Woodcock: 3 BE 26 Feb, arrival or wintering?

Red Phalarope: 2 HB 10 Dec (WS), uncommon.

Little Gull: ad HB 3 Jan (WS); HB 15 Feb (WS); HB 27 Feb (WS); scarce.

Thayer's Gull: ad P 2 Dec (DS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 P 1-31 Dec (DS); IB 17 Dec (DT, MD); IB 26 Dec (R&SS); P 2 Jan (DS); IB 4 Jan (KG); P 20 Jan (MD, DT); 3 P 24 Feb (DT, MD); all ad.

Iceland Gull: max 8 P Dec (DS).

Glaucous Gull: singles reported from many locations thru.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: max 60 LLCBC 30 Dec.

Barred Owl: max 5 HoL 30 Dec; 2 BE 11 Feb.

Long-eared Owl: G 17 Dec; HoL 30 Dec; HL 30 Dec; 2 BE 26 Feb.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 HoL 30 Dec (LLCBC); BE 26 Feb.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: T Stafford all Jan (J&MM).

Pileated Woodpecker: max 32 LLCBC 30 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: max 6 L Ontario Pkwy 14 Jan.

Com. Raven: LW 3 Feb (DT, MD), only report.

Marsh Wren: 2 G 17 Dec; CL 30 Dec, 15 Jan; 2 MP 3 Feb; uncommon in

winter.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: IB 17 Dec.

Hermit Thrush: M 17 Dec; CL 30 Dec; HB 14 Jan; uncommon.

Am. Robin: max 3000+ MP all Jan.

Gray Catbird: G 16 Dec (KG), Rush 15 Jan, 3 Feb (DT, MD); uncommon in winter.

Brown Thrasher: Parma 4 Jan (KG), only report.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 6 RCBC 17 Dec.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 2 RCBC 17 Dec.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Silver L 17 Feb, only report.

Chipping Sparrow: NR 26 Dec (DS); Irondequoit 30 Dec, 1 Jan (TP); NR 17 Feb (DT, MD); uncommon.

Field Sparrow: CL 30 Dec; CL 17 Feb; Leicester 22 Feb; (all DT, MD).

Savannah Sparrow: NR 11, 21 Feb (DT, MD).

Fox Sparrow: HP 16-17 Dec; Brighton 2-5 Feb.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 112 Leicester 17 Feb.

Lapland Longspur: max 100+ York 17 Feb; Geneseo, Leicester 22 Feb.

Snow Bunting: max 8000 West Bloomfield 7 Feb.

DICKCISSEL: N Chili 10 Jan (DT).

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: RCBC 17 Dec (F&RD).

Rusty Blackbird: MP 20 Jan; scarce.

Purple Finch: 3 RH 11 Feb, only report.

Red Crossbill: HB 14 Jan; DE 25 Feb.

White-winged Crossbill: 2 HB 20; HB 24 Feb; only reports.

Com. Redpoll: max 30 K 24 Jan (DT, MD), only report.

Evening Grosbeak: RH 11 Feb, only report.

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REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

BILL OSTRANDER

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A colder than normal December, with temperatures averaging 6°F below normal, led to early freezing of bodies of water throughout the Region. January and February were 2.9° and 4.0° warmer than normal respectively, but night time lows stayed slightly above freezing only three times all winter in Ithaca and only twice in Elmira. Consequently, there was little appreciable thawing. Although precipitation in Ithaca was well below normal all three months, the cold temperatures helped to maintain a snow cover there on all but eight days. Elmira had even less precipitation and much of what fell there was in the form of rain, so there were few days with snow cover, at least at lower elevations.

The following account includes comparisons of observed bird populations in the Region between Winter 2000-2001 and Winter 1999-2000, with occasional reference to a species' status in the previous two winters. Unless otherwise noted, the cited comparisons showed statistically significant changes ($\chi^2 > 3.84$; $P = 0.05$). A discussion of my methodology and its limitations can be found in the Region 3 report in the December 1999 issue of *The Kingbird* (Vol. 49, No. 4, pp. 335-6).

The numbers of many aquatic species reported by observers in the Region changed significantly from those reported the previous winter. Great Blue Heron, Tundra Swan, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Duck were all reported in lower numbers. All but the Lesser Scaup are dependent upon shallow waters, which were largely frozen throughout the season. Nevertheless, some dabbling species showed increases. Canada Goose, American Black Duck and Gadwall increased for the second consecutive year. American Wigeons were also seen in greater numbers this winter. Some observers reported on the habit of the wigeons accompanying diving species, especially American Coots, and stealing their food when they surfaced from their dives. Perhaps the parallel increase in American Coot helps to explain why more wigeons were able to spend the winter in the Region. Among the divers, Common Merganser and Canvasback increased, the latter fivefold. Greater Scaup and Common Goldeneye increased for the second consecutive year. Redhead and Ring-necked Duck were the only species, aquatic or otherwise, to increase for the third consecutive year.

Several interesting water birds showed up during the season. An Eared Grebe again appeared in Aurora Bay at the center of the east side of Cayuga Lake, although it spent some time at the Ithaca Yacht Club near the southwest corner of the lake. A group of birders from Ithaca discovered a Greater White-fronted Goose at Myers Point on 24 February, and another group found probably the same bird feeding in a field in the Town of Lansing the following day. Martin Jorgenson saw a Brant at Treman Marina State Park on the late date of 19 December. The Blue-winged Teal found on the Ithaca CBC on New Year's Day was an unusually late record. Probably the same female Northern Shoveler that was discovered in

Horseheads last winter returned there to be counted on the Elmira CBC. Bob Fogg found a Eurasian Wigeon near the northwest corner of Cayuga Lake in early December. Individual male Barrow's Goldeneyes again appeared off Seneca Lake State Park at Geneva and near the ice edge at the north end of Cayuga Lake.

The only raptor to change significantly was Rough-legged Hawk, which increased by 64%. Wild Turkey was the only gallinaceous species to increase. Supported by good mast crops and little snow cover in the Southern Tier, populations may be expected to increase in the approaching breeding season. Two January sightings of Red-shouldered Hawk in Sapsucker Woods indicate that one may have stayed in that vicinity for the winter, as one probably did the previous winter. Fred Bertram found a Peregrine Falcon in the Town of Ledyard on 24 December. Nicolas Barbarin and Bob Fogg found another on New Year's Day on the ice on Cayuga Lake near Union Springs. Probably the same bird was reported twice more on 16 and 20 January. Ben Fambrough and Meena Haribal reported an immature Gyrfalcon from West Cory Road in the Town of Venice. Though many people subsequently visited the site, they were unable to find the bird. Nevertheless, they were usually rewarded with flocks of field birds and other open-country raptors.

Among gulls, only Ring-billed Gull showed an increase. Reports of Herring and Great Black-backed gulls were down in numbers. Sam and Steve Kelling found the gull of the season, a Laughing Gull at Stewart Park, 17 December. Stewart Park also produced the latest records of Bonaparte's Gulls, with the last reported by Bill Evans on Christmas Day.

Rock and Mourning doves were both reported in lower numbers. No owl species showed significant changes from last year. Multiple Snowy Owls at the Savannah Mucklands and on the ice at the north end of Cayuga Lake raised optimism for a Regionwide invasion of this species, but none appeared elsewhere.

Downy Woodpecker was the only woodpecker species to change. It increased for the second consecutive year. No reports of Red-headed Woodpecker came in during the season, but after the season ended Mike Demunn's report came to light. He observed one at Lodi Point along Seneca Lake through the entire winter.

Winter field birds were numerous. Horned Larks and Snow Buntings were both reported in higher numbers. Lapland Longspurs were present also, but in lower numbers than last year. While other corvids showed no significant changes, Blue Jays increased for the second consecutive year, doubling last year's numbers. Perhaps the availability of acorns for storage in the fall allowed more to stay in the Region this winter.

Among the southern species whose ranges have expanded into the Region over the past century, Tufted Titmouse and Northern Cardinal were the only ones to change. Both of them increased.

Species which lingered in the Region in higher numbers included Eastern Bluebird, Song and White-throated sparrows. These were the second consecutive increases for all three. Lingering species that decreased included White-crowned Sparrow and icterids Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Brown-headed

Cowbird and Common Grackle. Spring migrants of these icterid species arrived in February, but in very small numbers. Individuals of many other species lingered in the Region. Most unusual were the Gray Catbird and two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on the Geneva CBC.

Dark-eyed Juncos were up from last year. Winter finches were, of course, down from last year. However, Purple Finches were up in spite of a dismal crop of White Ash seeds, and American Goldfinches were up for the second consecutive year. Many people mentioned not having goldfinches at their feeders, however. On two occasions I observed flocks of goldfinches feeding on Black Birch catkins, which seemed abundant this winter.

European Starling increased and House Sparrow increased for the second consecutive year. House Finches, which were actually up last winter in spite of conjunctivitis, were down this winter. In summary, of the 138 species reported during the season in the Region, 89 showed no significant change in numbers reported, 20 decreased and 29 increased. Many that increased this winter, increased last winter also. None of the species that decreased this winter showed decreases last winter.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AurB – Aurora Bay; CayL – Cayuga Lake; CCBC – Corning CBC 16 Dec; CLB – Cayuga Lake Basin; CLSP – Cayuga Lake SP; ECBC – Elmira CBC 1 Jan; GCBC – Geneva CBC 17 Dec; ICBC – Ithaca CBC 1 Jan; IYC – Ithaca Yacht Club; KeuL – Keuka Lake; KH – Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory; MCBC – Montezuma CBC 1 Jan; SaW – Sapsucker Woods TOMP; SavM – Savannah Mucklands SENE; SML – Seneca Meadows Landfill SENE; StP – Stewart Park TOMP; SuFS – Summerhill State Forest; WCBC – Watkins Glen CBC 30 Dec.

LOONS – DUCKS

RED-THROATED LOON: 2 Canoga Marsh 17 Dec (MH), only report.

Com. Loon: max 4 KeuL 9 Dec; 2 Taughannock Falls SP 2 Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 9 KeuL 9 Dec; 7 IYC 31 Jan.

Horned Grebe: max 12 AurB 15 Feb.

Red-necked Grebe: WCBC; ICBC; IYC 17 Jan; CayL 3 Feb.

EARED GREBE: AurB 9-16 Dec, 27 Jan-24 Feb (mob); IYC 6-18 Jan (mob).

Double-crested Cormorant: CayL 8 Dec; last WCBC.

Great Blue Heron: max 8 MCBC; 6 ICBC.

Turkey Vulture: arr Lansing 2 Feb, early; max 2 Ithaca 13 Feb.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED

GOOSE: arr Myers Pt 24 Feb (JGe, StK, J&KMc); Lansing 25 Feb (RB, BFa, MMe, MW).

Snow Goose: last & max 932 SavM 17 Dec; arr 12 Genoa 23 Feb.

BRANT: Treman Marina SP 19 Dec (MJ), only report.

Mute Swan: max 9 CLB 23 Jan.

Tundra Swan: max 500+ CLSP 2 Dec;

33 Cornell U 28 Dec.

Wood Duck: max 3 WCBC; Chemung Valley 13 Jan.

Gadwall: max 82 CLB 23 Jan (CaBC), high; 10 Seneca L SP 31 Jan.

EURASIAN WIGEON: CayL 6-7 Dec (BFo).

Am. Wigeon: max 50 CayL 9 Dec (StK, J&KMc, KR), high; 41 CLSP 2 Dec.

Am. Black Duck: max 4000 Ulysses 19 Feb (BiMc), high; 1466 CLB 23 Jan.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: CLSP 5 Dec; ICBC.

N. SHOVELER: ECBC (DRu).

N. Pintail: max 30 Wyers Pt SENE 10 Feb; 11 CLB 23 Jan.

Green-winged Teal: max 7 Union Springs Mill Pd 27 Jan; 2 ECBC; WCBC.

Canvasback: max 8004 ICBC, high; 2000 Union Springs Marina 23 Feb.

Redhead: max 13,412 ICBC, high; 7329 CLB 23 Jan.

Ring-necked Duck: max 133 KeuL 9 Dec (EBS, J&NL), high; 42 CLB 23 Jan.

Greater Scaup: max 200 CayL 9 Dec; 110 GCBC.

Lesser Scaup: max 75 ICBC; 63 CLSP 2

Dec.

White-winged Scoter: Wyers Pt SENE
21 Jan (BFa, MMe), only report.

Long-tailed Duck: max 3 ICBC; 2 AurB
1 Jan.

Bufflehead: max 97 CLB 23 Jan; 37
GCBC.

Com. Goldeneye: max 1359 CLB 23
Jan; 324 Seneca L 14 Jan.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: Seneca L
SP 9 Dec-31 Jan (mob); CayL 12 Jan-4
Feb (mob).

Hooded Merganser: max 50 CayL
WMA 5 Dec; 20 KeuL 9 Dec.

Com. Merganser: max 670 CLB 23 Jan;
56 Chemung River 17 Jan.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:
max 30 CayL 10 Feb (CWi).

RUDDY DUCK: max 2 ICBC; CayL 7
Jan (GBi, AM).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 2 Red Jacket Yacht
Club SENE 8 Jan; 2 MCBC.

N. Harrier: max "several" CLB 9 Dec; 3
GCBC.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 7 ICBC, tied
seven-year high; 5 WCBC.

Cooper's Hawk: max 10 ICBC, tied
seven-year high; 6 ECBC.

N. Goshawk: KH 29 Dec-25 Feb; SuSF
29 Dec; Romulus 16 Feb.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: SaW 6
Jan (MH); SaW 23 Jan (WH, KMc, KR);
only reports.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 27 WCBC;
15 ECBC.

Merlin: 11 reports scattered thru Reg.

PEREGRINE FALCON: Ledyard 24
Dec (FB); CayL 1-16 Jan (NB, BFo).

GYRFALCON: Venice 28 Jan (BFa
MH!).

Wild Turkey: max 108 ECBC; 65
WCBC.

Am. Coot: max 580 ICBC; 314 WCBC.

Killdeer: CayL 2 Dec; MCBC; Union
Springs Marina 13 Jan; arr KH 11 Feb.

LAUGHING GULL: StP 17 Dec

(Sa&StK!).

BONAPARTE'S GULL: last & max 7
StP 25 Dec (BE), high; 4 StP 18 Dec
(GK); CLSP 5 Dec (CoBC).

Ring-billed Gull: max 1870 GCBC
(EBS), high; 1603 MCBC.

Herring Gull: max 296 MCBC, low;
188 WCBC.

Iceland Gull: arr Van Cleef L 5&9 Dec;
max 2 SML 20&27 Jan; CayL 13&21
Jan, 24 Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 SML
9 Dec; 2 Seneca Falls 2 Dec; 2 CayL 2
Dec.

Glaucous Gull: arr SML 29 Dec; CayL
8-13 Jan, 24 Feb.

Glaucous Gull X Herring Gull hybrid:
SML 9 Dec (StK, J&KMc, KR).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 45
GCBC; 42 ICBC.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: max 1029 WCBC; 933
ICBC.

Mourning Dove: max 551 ECBC; 386
ICBC.

Snowy Owl: max 2 CayL 9 Dec-29 Jan
(BFo, MW), high; 2 SavM 2-10 Dec; last
CayL 3 Feb.

Barred Owl: Southport 13 Dec-7 Feb;
ICBC 1 Jan; SavM 12 Jan; SuSF 5 Feb;
only reports.

Short-eared Owl: max 6 Montezuma
Wetlands Complex 2 Dec; 3 Ledyard 13
Jan.

N. Saw-whet Owl: max 2 W Danby 30
Jan; 2 Elmira 4 Feb.

Belted Kingfisher: max 8 ICBC, high; 3
MCBC.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:
Lodi Pt thru (MD).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 5 ICBC,
high; WCBC; ECBC.

Downy Woodpecker: max 260 ICBC;
65 WCBC.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: max 2 MCBC; 2 ICBC; 2

Dryden 6 Jan.

Blue Jay: max 750 ICBC, high; 227 CCBC.

Fish Crow: max 4 ECBC; 2 Treman Marina SP 10 Dec.

Com. Raven: max 12 CCBC, high; 11 ECBC.

Horned Lark: max 600 Fayette 27 Jan (JB, CoBC, JW, MW), high; 250 KH 18 Jan.

Tufted Titmouse: max 201 ICBC; 74 ECBC.

Carolina Wren: max 15 ICBC; 9 ECBC.

WINTER WREN: ECBC; ICBC; WCBC; Esty Glen 4-6 Feb (CSe).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 85 ICBC, high; 33 CCBC.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: Long Pt SP 9 Dec (StK, J&KMc, KR), only report.

E. Bluebird: max 150 Dix 23 Dec; 63 ICBC.

HERMIT THRUSH: ICBC, only report.

Am. Robin: max 1066 MCBC, high; 161 ICBC.

GRAY CATBIRD: GCBC (EBS), only report.

European Starling: max 8103 ICBC; 4708 MCBC.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 9 Long Pt SP 8 Jan; 2 MCBC.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. TOWHEE: max 2 Enfield 8 Feb thru (fide SJH); 2 ECBC; other reports of singles.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 690 ICBC, high; 251 WCBC.

FIELD SPARROW: 2 ICBC, only report.

SAVANNAH SPARROW: Dix 23 Dec (BO), only report.

Song Sparrow: max 53 ICBC; 17

MCBC.

Swamp Sparrow: max 6 ICBC; GCBC; Summerhill 29 Dec; only reports.

White-throated Sparrow: max 132 ICBC; 42 WCBC.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: max 3 Romulus 17-25 Jan (MJT); Etna 18 Feb (SyA); Covert thru.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 709 ICBC; 357 CCBC.

Lapland Longspur: max 8 Dryden 6 Jan (J&K&PMc), high; 6 GCBC.

Snow Bunting: max 1000 Venice 4 Feb; 650 Fayette 27 Jan.

N. Cardinal: max 367 ICBC; 138 MCBC.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: 2 GCBC 16-17 Dec (A&DCo).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 47 Horseheads 24 Feb; 40 Lansing 29 Jan; arr KH 16 Feb.

E. Meadowlark: 2 ECBC (MBo, GW), only report.

Rusty Blackbird: SaW 6 Dec (BR), only report.

Com. Grackle: max 14 ICBC, low; MCBC.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 74 WCBC; 47 Dryden 16 Jan.

Purple Finch: max 36 ICBC; 23 TOMP 15 Jan.

House Finch: max 456 ICBC; 191 ECBC.

Red Crossbill: 2 SuSF 11 Jan (BFo), only report.

Com. Redpoll: arr 20 KH 9 Dec; max 38 ICBC.

Pine Siskin: max 14 SuSF 20 Feb; 3 Orange 16 Feb.

Am. Goldfinch: max 373 ICBC; 177 MCBC.

House Sparrow: max 1134 ICBC; 280 GCBC.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

No report received.

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

BILL PURCELL

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The average temperature for December was 21.7°F, 6.6° below normal. There were 2.36" of precipitation for the month, which was 0.84" below normal, but it fell in the form of a record **70.3" of snow**. Oneida Lake iced over initially on 7 December and froze for the winter on the 20th. Delta Lake was frozen by mid month. The season warmed up after December; the average temperature in January was 31.5°, 3.2° above normal, and February's average was 27.7°, 3.7° above normal. The snowfall for the two months was 56.1" but there were only 3.29" of water in that snow, which was 1.2" below normal. A brief warm spell during 15-17 December reduced snow cover in some of the southern areas but most of the Region had at least 1-3' of snow on the ground after early December.

Common Loon reports were few and there was only one Red-throated Loon for the season. The Oswego Harbor Great Cormorant departed in early January and Double-crested Cormorant numbers dwindled quickly, with none remaining through the season. Turkey Vulture, a species presumably affected by snow and cold, was sighted on several occasions east of Syracuse in the area where it has wintered in the recent past. Few Snow Geese lingered into December, in contrast with the past few years. Canvasbacks were quite scarce. The second recorded Tufted Duck showed up in early February and stayed through the month in Oswego Harbor where it was readily found by anyone who cared to look. A Harlequin Duck put in a brief appearance and two Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen as well. Kevin McGann found two King Eiders along the east shore of Lake Ontario in January, and in February he found a remarkable **15** about 10 miles away along the south shore. There were high numbers of Redheads and Hooded Mergansers during the season, while all three scoter species spent the winter in the Nine Mile Point area. By the end of the season there was little evidence that spring waterfowl migration was underway.

An immature dark Gyrfalcon was found on frozen Little Sodus Bay by Mary Alice Koeneke in early February and seen by many the same day. By the end of the month it was being seen on a regular basis by birders who were willing to spend some time waiting for it to feed on various carcasses on the ice. Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel and Short-eared Owl, raptors affected by snow depths, were all reported in very low numbers. Snowy Owl did not persist in

Oswego Harbor and there were only two verified birds elsewhere. While not reported in the species account below, the three resident owls, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned and Barred, were all reported in good numbers by observers who looked for them. As is usually the case, an irruption of northern owls ended just to the north of our Region.

Gulls peaked on the Oswego River in early January, began declining by the end of the month and dropped considerably in numbers as the river opened up in February. Kevin McGann had our bird of the season, an immature Ivory Gull on 29 December on Lake Ontario, seen from the Energy Information Center in Scriba. The bird was seen as it flew into a gull roost on the ice but within minutes a Bald Eagle flying along the shore put all the birds up and the Ivory Gull was not seen again. Iceland and Glaucous gulls were consistently found, but in low numbers, while Lesser Black-backed Gull was missed.

An Eastern Phoebe flycatching along Oriskany Creek on the Clinton CBC was only our third winter record. Winter Wren reports were more than usual, while numbers of Northern Shrikes, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Red-breasted Nuthatches all seemed to be above average. Abundant fruit and seed crops supported flocks of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings. In a non-invasion year, only one Bohemian Waxwing was reported. Yellow-rumped Warblers feeding on poison ivy berries at Howland Island were still present in late February. The sparrow variety was very good for winter, although numbers of the regular species, such as American Tree, Song, White-Throated and Dark-eyed Junco were no better than most years.

White-winged Crossbills were on territory throughout northern Herkimer County and in pockets of suitable habitat in the southwestern Tug Hill. Pine Siskins were also paired up in the Adirondacks and by February some had been noted at the higher elevations of southern Onondaga and Madison counties. There were only a few reports of Common Redpolls this winter, mostly in and around the Adirondacks, and the only Evening Grosbeaks were coming to feeders in Old Forge and Big Moose. American Goldfinches were quite scarce at feeders but Matt Perry reported that they were feeding on Hop Hornbeam and Yellow Birch fruit and the latter tree seemed to be what large flocks of Purple Finches were feeding on in Herkimer County. No Pine Grosbeaks or Red Crossbills were reported.

By the end of February only small groups of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles had appeared and a few hawks had begun to move past Derby Hill. The season's total of 129 species was the same as 1998 and might well be a Regional best. Highlights were Great Cormorant, **Tufted Duck**, King Eider, Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, **Gyr Falcon**, **Ivory Gull**, **Eastern Phoebe**, Bohemian Waxwing, White-winged Crossbill and all the "half-hardies."

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ABBREVIATIONS

Adks – Adirondacks; Bvllc – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; HIWMA – Howland Island WMA; LOL – Lake Ontario Littoral; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; SFWS – Spring Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Paris; Skan – Skaneateles; StMC – Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt; Syr – Syracuse.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: FH 3 Dec, only report.
Com. Loon: Fourth L 9 Dec, caught in ice; max 3 LOL 14 Jan; last Oswego 3 Feb.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 Seneca R 14 Jan; max 4 Oswego R 28 Jan.
Horned Grebe: max 20 LOL 14 Jan.
Red-necked Grebe: LOL 7 Jan; Oswego 24 Feb.
Double-crested Cormorant: 6 LOL 7 Jan; last Oswego 7 Feb.
GREAT CORMORANT: Oswego thru early Jan.
Great Blue Heron: max 12 OnonL 25 Feb.
Turkey Vulture: 2 Pompey 9 Feb; 3 Dewitt 24 Feb, thought to be wintering.
Snow Goose: only a small number lingered into Dec; arr 1 blue morph FH 24 Feb.
Canada Goose: max 4200 FH 11 Feb.
Mute Swan: max 4 FH 28 Feb; 2 Oswego 11 Feb; singles Bvllc, OnonL, Syr in Jan.
Tundra Swan: max 6 FH 3 Dec; 4 Oneida L 16 Dec; none after Dec.
Trumpeter Swan: 4 ad 2 y FH 3 Dec (BP, NYSARC), 2 remained FH into Feb.
Wood Duck: Bvllc 6 Jan; OnonL 13 Jan; Phoenix 14 Jan; 3 Manlius 14 Jan.
Gadwall: max 24 FH 3 Dec.
Am. Wigeon: max 65 FH 3 Dec; Skan L 14 Jan; 2 FH 4 Feb.

Am. Black Duck: max 115 FH 3 Dec; 71 OnonL 13 Jan.
Mallard: max 600 Oswego R 10 Jan.
N. Shoveler: max 4 FH 3 Dec; last 16 Dec.
N. Pintail: 2 Fulton 25 Jan.
Green-winged Teal: 2 Oswego 3 Dec; 2 Syr 16 Dec, only reports.
Canvasback: max 6 FH 4 Feb; missed on Jan NYS Waterfowl Census for only 4th time since 1955.
Redhead: max 1400 FH 4 Feb; 666 Skan L 14 Jan.
Ring-necked Duck: max 6 Bvllc 7 Jan.
TUFTED DUCK: male Oswego after 4 Feb (BP, GP, KM, mob, NYSARC), 2nd Regional record.
Greater Scaup: max 498 Skan L 14 Jan.
Lesser Scaup: max 140 FH 3 Dec.
KING EIDER: 2 LOL 7-8 Jan; 15 LOL T New Haven 24 Feb (KM, BP), 2nd highest one day count.
HARLEQUIN DUCK: female Oswego 4 Jan (GP).
Surf Scoter: 2 LOL after 15 Jan.
White-winged Scoter: up to 24 LOL Oswego to New Haven thru.
Black Scoter: 3 LOL 7 thru.
Long-tailed Duck: max 515 LOL 14 Jan.
Bufflehead: max 80 LOL 7 Jan and FH 4 Feb.
Com. Goldeneye: max 2503 LOL 14 Jan.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: male moving between Brewerton and Phoenix

after 14 Jan (John Rogers, mob); male
FH after 1 Feb (MAK, BP, MSc).
Hooded Merganser: max 20 Oswego
R14 Jan.
Com. Merganser: max 4200 OnonL 16
Dec.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 40
Oswego 14 Jan.
Ruddy Duck: max 6 Cazenovia L 4 Dec;
last FH 24 Dec.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 3 ad and 2 imm Big Moose
in Dec; 2 ad and 2 imm along Oswego R
to OnonL thru; 2 Verona 23 Dec;
Durhamville 24 Dec; W Canada Creek 7
Jan; T Florence 31 Jan; Oneida 24 Feb.
N. Harrier: 2 Syr CBC and 1 Clinton
CBC 16 Dec, last reports.
N. Goshawk: Big Moose 16 Dec; Selkirk
Shores SP 7 Jan.
Red-tailed Hawk: Old Forge in Feb,
unusual.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 5 Clinton
CBC 16 Dec; mostly 1 a day Jan & Feb.
Am. Kestrel: only 7 reports, very scarce.
Merlin: 2 wintered Onondaga P Syr; also
reported from University and downtown
Syr; Oneida 9 Feb.
Peregrine Falcon: 1-2 downtown Syr
thru.
Ring-necked Pheasant: max 5 Clinton
CBC 16 Dec.
Ruffed Grouse: max 5 Verona 23 Dec;
many seen eating tree buds.
Wild Turkey: max 131 Verona 23 Dec;
50-100 per day T Western thru.
Am. Coot: max 5 Oswego R 28 Jan;
fewer wintering than in recent years.
Killdeer: N Syr 16 Dec (JB).
Com. Snipe: Syr 16 Dec.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 10 OnonL 16
Dec; none lingered to Jan.
Ring-billed Gull: max 2400 Oswego 14
Jan.
Herring Gull: max 800 Phoenix 7 Jan.
Iceland Gull: 1-3 per day Oswego R
after 17 Dec.

Glaucous Gull: max 2 Bvll 7 Jan;
mostly 1 per day Oswego R Jan & Feb.
Great Black-backed Gull: mid winter
max of 350, which seems low.
IVORY GULL: imm L Ontario off
Scriba nuclear plants 29 Dec (KM,
NYSARC), first regional report.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: 2 Oswego 3 Dec; Fairfield
24 Dec, periodic thru Jan; Fenner 14 Jan,
reported into Feb.
Long-eared Owl: 2 Pompey 15 Feb thru;
Otisco 16 Feb.
Short-eared Owl: Clinton 16 Dec; last
Verona 23 Dec.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 calling Pompey
after 13 Feb.
Belted Kingfisher: reports from 5
locations.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: StMC thru 3
Feb (GH).
Black-backed Woodpecker: Moss L 20
Jan; Windfall Pd 21 Jan; Third L Creek
21 Jan.
N. Flicker: max 3 per day to mid Jan in
usual areas, southern ONON and LOL.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

EASTERN PHOEBE: Oriskany Creek
Clinton 16 Dec (Ernest Williams, fide
MP); 3rd winter record.
N. Shrike: reports of at least 26
individuals, few were persistent.
Am. Crow: max 2242 Syr 16 Dec, roost
may have shifted to new location.
Fish Crow: 2 Liverpool, 3 Shop City Syr
and occasional University area Syr thru.
Com. Raven: all reports from Adks and
Tug Hill.
Horned Lark: max 93 Skan 30 Dec.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 15
Boylston 20 Jan; many wintered in
breeding areas.
Carolina Wren: singles Syr 16 Dec and
Marcellus 30 Dec.
Winter Wren: Syr 16 Dec; 2 CM 16
Dec; CM 21 Jan; Dewitt 24 Jan;

Deansboro 20 Feb; most since 1974.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 15
Fulton 17 Dec.

E. Bluebird: max 13 T Onondaga
(Pleasant Valley) 30 Dec; T Western 26
Dec, only snowbelt report.

Hermit Thrush: singles SFWS 12 Dec
and Camillus 30 Dec.

Am. Robin: max 173 Green Lakes SP 1
Feb; good numbers ONON despite deep
snow; straggler T Webb 16 Dec.

Gray Catbird: Syr 16 Dec.

Bohemian Waxwing: Oswego 7 Jan
(KM, BP, BB, MAK).

Cedar Waxwing: max 200 SFWS
16 Feb; large flocks found thru.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Bville 3 Dec;
Syr 16 Dec; HIWMA 1 Jan; 3 HIWMA
19 Feb, surviving on poison ivy berries.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 20-40 per party on
CBCs; generally 10-15 per day
otherwise.

Chipping Sparrow: Rome to 13 Jan.

Savannah Sparrow: Verona 21 Dec.

Fox Sparrow: Bville 2 Dec (JB).

Song Sparrow: max 5 Pumpkin Hollow
30; 1-2 per day until mid Jan, then very
scarce.

Swamp Sparrow: Clinton CBC 16 Dec.

White-throated Sparrow: max 23 CM
16 Dec; to 6 per day southern areas thru.

White-crowned Sparrow: Pumpkin
Hollow 30 Dec (GH).

Dark-eyed Junco: max 37 Camillus 30
Dec.

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: Parish thru
(MSc, NYSARC)

Lapland Longspur: Sangerfield 29 Dec;
Oswego 7 Jan; 2 Navarino 6 Jan; 2 T
Onondaga 13 Jan; Nine Mile Pt 13 Jan;
Van Buren 31 Jan.

Snow Bunting: max 550 Fenner 29 Jan;
200 per day there thru Feb.

Red-winged Blackbird: only 5 at 4 sites
until end of Feb; max 27 Dewitt 25 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: 9 Pulaski 3 Dec, only
report.

Com. Grackle: max 4 N Syr 21 Dec; 3
Pompey thru; arr SFWS 22 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 170 Tully
16 Feb; many wintered southern areas.

Purple Finch: flocks of 25-40 common
in Adks; 2-4 per day at feeders outside
Adks late Feb.

House Finch: max 104 Verona 23 Dec;
53 StMC 8 Dec, feeding on Hop
Hornbeam fruit; leucistic male at SFWS
4th consecutive winter.

White-winged Crossbill: pairs on
territory everywhere T Webb and T Ohio
HERK thru, some y noted.

Com. Redpoll: max 15 Big Moose 16
Dec; only a few reports.

Pine Siskin: widespread Adks where
they appeared to be in pairs; also small
numbers at other higher elevations.

Am. Goldfinch: max 32 CM 16 Dec;
mostly feeding in deciduous trees.

Evening Grosbeak: only a few at feeders
Big Moose and Old Forge.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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The winter season of 2000-2001 began with temperatures in the 20°s F and snow cover over the entire Region. Temperatures remained 4° to 7° lower than the norm throughout December. Continuous snow cover with an additional 10–18" created problems for grassland feeders, causing many species to depart early. January temperatures were average in St. Lawrence County and slightly warmer in Jefferson and Lewis counties. Snow fall for the month was 18", adding to the 6–8" already present in the lowlands. The Adirondacks and Tug Hill accumulated a total of 4–6' over the three-month period. A cold front, preceded by a warm push of temperatures in the 60°s and wind gusts as high as 60–70 miles per hour, hit the area on 10 February. Thereafter, winter conditions continued for the rest of the period. The St. Lawrence River, however, was open in several locations throughout the season, allowing several species of ducks to remain.

Bald Eagle numbers were again at an all-time high, with a total of 56 and reports from all three counties. The main source of food continues to be White-tailed Deer. Eight Northern Goshawk reports were above average. Rough-legged Hawk numbers returned to normal for the season, probably due to the recovery of voles on Point Peninsula. The appearance of an immature Golden Eagle on the Massena CBC, reported by Bruce DiLabio, was unusual for the season.

Positives for the period were good numbers of Northern Shrikes, with 18 reports, 22 reports of Common Ravens away from the Adirondacks and large flocks of Cedar Waxwings and Snow Buntings. Both House and Purple finches were in good numbers and a massive invasion of White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins began to develop at the end of the period.

Negatives included fewer American Black Ducks and Mallards due to snow cover and lower numbers of Red-tailed Hawks in Jefferson County. There were no reports of Bonaparte's Gull, Eastern Bluebird or Bohemian Waxwing and numbers of Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks were low.

Rarities included **Harlequin Duck** and **Barrow's Goldeneye**.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CL – Collins Landing SLR at the Thousand Islands bridge T Orleans JEFF; CV – T Cape Vincent JEFF; FL– Fisher’s Landing T Orleans JEFF; FWC – Federation Waterfowl Count 15–22 Jan; KC – Kelsey Creek T Watertown JEFF; MCBC – Massena CBC STLA 23 Dec; NBCBC – New Boston CBC LEWI 28 Dec; PIPt – Pillar Pt T Hounsfield JEFF; PRWMA – Perch R WMA T Orleans JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; RMPD – Robert Moses Power Dam T Massena; SLR – St. Lawrence R; TICBC – Thousand Islands CBC T Alexandria, Orleans, Clayton JEFF 30 Dec; TLou –T Louisville STLA; TMas – T Massena; TMor – T Morristown STLA; WB – Wilson Bay CV; WBM – Wilson Bay Marsh CV JEFF; WCBC – Watertown CBC JEFF 16 Dec; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA TLou STLA; WI – Wellesley I T Orleans JEFF.

LOONS – DUCKS

Great Blue Heron: 4 WCBC; 2 TLou in open water to 30 Dec.
Snow Goose: 25 flying along SLR CV 9 Jan; blue morph with flock of Canada Geese over CV 17 Jan.
Canada Goose: max 2942 WCBC; 40 over CV 17 Jan; last 12 Adams JEFF 22 Jan.
Mute Swan: 6 Dexter Marsh T Hounsfield JEFF 4 Dec.
Tundra Swan: 11 PtPen 15 Dec; 10 SLR CV 21 Dec; max 17 WCBC; last 2 WB on the ice 20 Feb.
Wood Duck: KC 14 Jan.
Gadwall: 3 TICBC; 5 MCBC.
Am. Black Duck: 200 WHWMA 14 Dec; 88 WCBC; 27 TICBC; 35 FWC 17 Jan; last 2 Adams JEFF 22 Jan.
Mallard: plentiful thruout until heavy snows in late Dec; 39 WCBC; 2000-2500 mixed with small numbers of Am. Black Duck and N. Pintail T Watertown Jeff 29 Dec; 9 FWC 14 Jan.
N. Pintail: FL 6 Feb.
Canvasback: 4 PIPt 4 Dec; 12 WB 10 Dec; FL 6 Feb.
Redhead: 20 WB 20 Dec; 60 10-mile survey SLR TMor T Oswegatchie STLA 11 Feb.
Ring-necked Duck: 5 WCBC.
Greater Scaup: 1500 PIPt 4 Dec; 10 WCBC.

Lesser Scaup: 10 MCBC.

HARLEQUIN DUCK: ad male FL 12 Jan-6 Feb (NL)

Bufflehead: 30 SLR CV 10 Dec; 15 WCBC.

Com. Goldeneye: 402 WCBC; 272 TICBC; max 1347 SLR T Mor 16-19 Feb.

Barrow’s Goldeneye: ad male Blackstone Bay TMor 30 Jan.

Hooded Merganser: 10 SLR TLou 11 Dec; 10 TICBC; 10 FL 13 Jan; last 4 RMPD 18 Feb.

Com. Merganser: 93 TICBC; 501 WCBC; 208 CV FWC 13 Jan.

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 CV FWC 14 Jan; max 35 10-mile survey SLR TMor T Oswegatchie 11 Feb.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 30 ad 11 imm TICBC; 1 ad 1 imm MCBC; 4 TMor 11 Feb; 2 T Parishville STLA 19 Jan; 6 Sevey’s Corners T Colton STLA 10-13 Jan; 2 T Lorraine LEWI 10 Jan.

N. Harrier: male PRWMA 13 Dec; female PRWMA 28 Jan; TICBC.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 3 singles JEFF; NBCBC; 2 TMas, max 4 WCBC.

Cooper’s Hawk: WCBC; MCBC; TICBC; 3 other reports scattered thruout Reg.

N. Goshawk: KC 20 Dec; WCBC; 2

TICBC; CV village 28 Jan; 3 NBCBC.
Red-tailed Hawk: 6 NBCBC; 34 TICBC; 57 WCBC; numbers down 50% on CBCs, perhaps due to snow cover prior to 1 Dec.
Rough-legged Hawk: 3 MCBC; 9 NBCBC; 7 TICBC; 47 WCBC; numbers back to average after poor count last year.
Golden Eagle: imm MCBC (BD).
Am. Kestrel: 3 WCBC; 3 CV 1 Jan; 2 TICBC.
Merlin: T Watertown JEFF 16 Dec- 10 Jan; Ogdensburg T Oswegatchie STLA 13 Jan.
Gray Partridge: 24 in 4 coveys CV.
Ring-necked Pheasant: 6 WCBC; 2 males CV 31 Jan.
Ruffed Grouse: 3 MCBC; 3 NBCBC; 32 TICBC.
Wild Turkey: 90 TICBC; 91 MCBC; 194 NBCBC.
Ring-billed Gull: 14 WCBC; 5 MCBC; 28 TICBC; low numbers.
Herring Gull: 22 WCBC; 12 MCBC; 17 NBCBC.
Great-Black-backed Gull: 14 MCBC; 9 WCBC; 4 TICBC.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: max 936 WCBC.
Mourning Dove: 393 WCBC; 25 NBCBC; 253 MCBC.
E. Screech-Owl: WHWMA 4 Feb.
Great Horned Owl: 3 separate pairs south village CV early Jan; 2 NBCBC; 4 TICBC; MCBC.
Snowy Owl: 4 JEFF; TICBC; 2 STLA; all imm.
Barred Owl: NBCBC; 2 MCBC; TICBC; 1 catching a Hairy Woodpecker T Potsdam 8 Feb; 2 TLou 15 Feb.
Short-eared Owl: 2 WCBC.
Belted Kingfisher: 2 WCBC; 1 thru 23 Feb; TICBC.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 5 WCBC.
N. Flicker: TLou 4 Jan.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: 5 NBCBC; 5 MCBC; 4 WCBC; 4 TICBC; 3 T Canton STLA 28 Jan; 2 Ogdensburg T Oswegatchie STLA 13 Jan; TLou 20 Dec; 2 RMPD 18 Feb; 2 Redwood JEFF thru Dec; a very good year.
Com. Raven: 9 NBCBC; 2 WCBC; 9 TICBC; 2 MCBC; 12 on deer carcass near Sevey's Corners T Colton STLA.
Horned Lark: 210 TICBC; 3 NBCBC; 120 WCBC.
Tufted Titmouse: MCBC; TLou 2 Jan.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 33 NBCBC; 3 MCBC; 2-3 TLou, TMas thru; max 34 TICBC.
Brown Creeper: NBCBC; 4 WCBC; 2 MCBC; 2 CV thru.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 8 NBCBC; 10 TICBC; 3 MCBC.
Am. Robin: 64 TICBC; 101 WCBC; 10 MCBC.
N. Mockingbird: MCBC; T LeRay JEFF 25 Jan.
European Starling: 6278 WCBC; 327 NBCBC.
Cedar Waxwing: 118 WCBC; 91 NBCBC; 201 TICBC; 50 RMPD 27 Jan.

WARBLERS

None

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 157 WCBC; 59 MCBC; 314 TICBC; 40 NBCBC.
Song Sparrow: 6 TICBC; 3 WCBC; KC thru.
White-throated Sparrow: 2 TICBC; 5 WCBC; 6 KC thru.
Dark-eyed Junco: 46 WCBC; 149 TICBC; 18 MCBC; 20 NBCBC; at several feeders all winter.
Lapland Longspur: 7 River Rd CV 10 Dec; 14 CV 1 Jan.
Snow Bunting: 262 WCBC; 182 TICBC; 131 MCBC; max 500-600 CV 17 Jan.
N. Cardinal: 28 WCBC; 6 TICBC; 66 MCBC.

Red-winged Blackbird: TICBC.
E. Meadowlark: WCBC.
Rusty Blackbird: T Lorraine Lewi 8-13
Dec at feeder (DL).
Com. Grackle: 6 Rt 37 TLou 26 Dec; 3
TICBC; WCBC.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 2 MCBC; 2
WCBC; 5 NBCBC; 4 TICBC.
Purple Finch: 22 NBCBC; 28 MCBC;
18 TICBC.
House Finch: 30 TMas 20 Dec; 81
MCBC; 119 WCBC; 8 NBCBC; 207
TICBC.
White-winged Crossbill: 2 NBCBC; 4

PtPen 12 Feb; large flocks T Greig LEWI
24 Feb and T Colton, Fine, Piercefield
and Colton STLA 15 Feb thru.
Com. Redpoll: 16 TMas 27 Jan; 20
WCBC; 10 TICBC.
Pine Siskin: large flocks in the
Adirondacks and Tug Hill with White-
winged Crossbills after 15 Feb.
Am. Goldfinch: 102 WCBC; 107
MCBC; 208 TICBC; large flocks thru.
Evening Grosbeak: 5 NBCBC; 2
WCBC.

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REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The season began with snow on the higher elevations and frigid temperatures: -2°F at Saranac Lake on 2 December, 0° there on the 6th and -1° at Owls Head the following day. Wind gusts reached 60 mph on 12 December, bringing 2500 power outages across the Region. The Ferrisburg CBC on 16 December had snow cover of 3–4", and the Plattsburgh CBC the following day had less than 2", but constant rain showers. Snow depth was 2–10" during the 23 December Elizabethtown CBC and measured up to a foot a week later on the Minerva and Saranac Lake CBCs. Mooers had 20" of snow on New Year's Eve. Lake Champlain still had large expanses of open water for the 13–14 January Federation Waterfowl Count, although the north and south ends were mostly frozen. Plattsburgh dropped to -10° on 18 January, and a Nor'easter on 6 February dumped 8" of fresh snow on Ellenburg Depot. Altogether, this was an uneventful season, although meteorologists were tracking another storm moving up from the Gulf of Mexico at the end of February and warning of a huge snowfall, if it collided with a Canadian cold front.

While skiing through Bloomingdale Bog, Franklin County, on the 30 December Saranac Lake CBC, Ed Grant found a Three-toed Woodpecker and a **Northern Hawk Owl**. Over the next two months the latter rarity brought dozens, if not hundreds, of observers to the abandoned railroad grade, many bearing gifts of mice. Just two weeks later, on 13 January, Nancy Olsen spotted a second **Northern Hawk Owl** at Exit 39 of the Adirondack Northway, Clinton County, near

Cumberland Head. Both remained present at season's end, with the Franklin County bird receiving the greater number of visitors, most of whom were able to see other boreal birds. These two owls were but a suggestion of some 200 Northern Hawk Owls reported just to the north in the Province of Quebec during the winter. We urge all observers of these owls and other rarities that require documentation to submit reports to NYSARC.

Red cedars were blue with berries at lower elevations along Lake Champlain, where frugivorous birds were especially abundant. The NYS side of the Ferrisburg (VT) CBC tallied 36 Eastern Bluebirds, a **Hermit Thrush**, 46 American Robins, 339 Cedar Waxwings and five White-throated Sparrows.... not to mention the European Starlings. This was a "cedar bird" winter; except for an earlier Bohemian Waxwing at Westport 11 November, the only seasonal report of this visitant was a single bird along the Chubb River on 30 December.

Meanwhile, the bumper crop of spruce cones at higher elevations in the Adirondacks led to continued Atlas records of breeding crossbills, the vast majority being White-winged Crossbills, with just a smattering of Reds. White-wingeds were both copulating and feeding young at Chubb River Swamp 14 January. Fledglings just starting to fly and being fed were at Oseetah Lake by 8 February, although at about the same time adults were still carrying nesting material at Bloomingdale Bog. Reports came from all four counties, with Clinton receiving its first Atlas record near Dannemora on 24 February. Pine Siskins were passing nesting material and food at Chubb River by late January and engaging in song flights and territorial chases throughout the Adirondacks by early February. The Saranac Lake CBC had high counts of 326 Purple Finches, 269 White-winged Crossbills, 105 Pine Siskins, 705 American Goldfinches and 160 Evening Grosbeaks. Somewhat lower down, the Elizabethtown CBC had the high of 13 Red Crossbills. The only reports of Pine Grosbeaks were singles at Elizabethtown and Minerva and there were no reports of redpolls. As expected, Plattsburgh claimed the high of 46 House Finches.

Other noteworthy sightings included a white morph **Gyr Falcon** at Tupper Lake Marsh 26 December, chased from the snow by American Crows near a deer carcass hung in pines. **Six** Glaucous Gulls near Plattsburgh on 17 December provided a Regional high. At least 20 Northern Shrikes were reported, a strong showing, but the eight on CBCs was still far short of the 21 found on counts during the remarkable Canadian invasion winter of 1995–1996. An unexpected **House Wren** was spotted near Westport on 16 December; details were provided to the Ferrisburg CBC compiler. This was a good winter for Dark-eyed Junco, with a record **272** on the Elizabethtown CBC and **204** on the NYS side of the Ferrisburg CBC. Perhaps not surprisingly, a female "Oregon" (or "Canadian Rocky Mountain" form) visited a Keene feeder 4–31 December. Thanks to generally mild conditions, open water and the heavy crop of wild foods, a respectable total of 96 species was reported, but this was somewhat surprisingly lower than last winter's 102, when the food crop failed, and well short of the record 104 species found in the winter of 1998–1999.

Finally, we wish to express our thanks to the hundred Atlas 2000 observers who

submitted data for about half of the 690 blocks in Adirondack-Champlain Region 7 during the first year of coverage. You're an outstanding team and a joy to serve as coordinator. [RREd: Hear! Hear!]

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Adks – Adirondacks; AP – Ausable Point WMA; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CRS – Chubb River Swamp; ECBC – Elizabethtown CBC 23 Dec; FCBC – Ferrisburg CBC 16 Dec; FWC – Federation Waterfowl Count 13-14 Jan; MCBC – Minerva CBC 30 Dec; PCBC – Plattsburgh CBC 17 Dec; PtR – Point au Roche SP; SLCBC – Saranac Lake CBC 30 Dec; TL – Tupper Lake; WB – Whallon Bay.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-necked Grebe: 15 WB 3 Dec (JP, J&PT); grounded L Placid 27 Dec, released L Champlain after rehabilitation.
Double-crested Cormorant: few Ticonderoga 5 Dec (DR), fairly late.
Great Blue Heron: 4 Dec reports.
Snow Goose: max 80 CH 15 Dec (NO).
Canada Goose: max 326 FCBC.
Mute Swan: 2 AP Dec-Jan moved s to Wickham Marsh during Jan-Feb.
Gadwall: 2 drakes FWC, only report.
Green-winged Teal: drake Westport 3 Dec (JP, J&PT), rare in winter.
Canvasback: count week PCBC, only report.
Ring-necked Duck: max 20+ Westport 18 Jan (TF, KW).
Bufflehead: max 141 FWC, a healthy number.

Com. Goldeneye: 3105 FWC, a strong showing.

Barrow's Goldeneye: ad drake Essex harbor 24 Feb (RH, SO).

Hooded Merganser: 45 FWC, including 37 LaChute R 14 Jan (DC), new ESSE max.

Red-breasted Merganser: hen FWC on Willsboro Bay, only report.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: numerous reports of up to 10 per day, with birds seen feeding on a deer carcass TL, beaver carcass L Simond, and freshly-killed drake Com. Merganser at Essex.

Merlin: count week PCBC, a good find.

Peregrine Falcon: count week PCBC, another good find.

GYRFALCON: white morph TL marsh

26 Dec (CD), chased by Am. Crows from deer carcass.

Wild Turkey: max 52 PCBC; flocks of 6-30 reported from central Adks.

Am. Coot: 2 Westport 16 Dec-13 Jan.

Glaucous Gull: max 6 PCBC (JC), new Regional & CLIN max.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

NORTHERN HAWK OWL: BB 30

Dec (EG) thru, 4th FRAN record; Northway Exit 39 13 Jan (NO) thru, 1st CLIN record; there now appear to be 8 Regional records since Eaton's day.

Three-toed Woodpecker: BB 30 Dec (EG); Mt Jo 31 Dec (RM); male CRS 13 Jan (MM, MY); an excellent showing for this elusive bird.

Black-backed Woodpecker: SLCBC; Whiteface Mt 1 Jan; pr BB Jan; FB 19 Feb; only indicative of numbers present.

N. Flicker: max 3 Westport 3 Dec (JP, J&PT); 2 FCBC; 2 Valcour Conf. Ctr. 26 Feb (CM); all good finds here in winter.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 11 FCBC; 20 on all CBCs.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: 20 reports, a strong showing. **Gray Jay:** BB & nearby feeder; Brown's Tract; FB; expected FRAN & HAMI locations; Adirondak Loj Rd 13 Jan; Jackrabbit Trail, Keene, 28 Jan (J&PT), excellent ESSE finds.

Com. Raven: max 20 ECBC, but numbers have declined from the high of 55 in '92 when the Essex Co landfill was open, and gulls have disappeared from the same count.

Horned Lark: max 100 PtR 17 Jan; 10 other reports of flocks of 8-75, an excellent showing.

Black-capped Chickadee: leucistic bird Westport since 3 Nov 1999 still present this 16 Dec.

Boreal Chickadee: max 6 SLCBC.

Tufted Titmouse: max 7 ECBC; 19 on all CBCs.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 138 SLCBC where cones were most abundant.

HOUSE WREN: FCBC near Westport (JT), details to compiler.

Winter Wren: Northville-Placid trailhead, L Placid, 7 Feb (BM), a good winter find.

E. Bluebird: max 36 FCBC; 50 on all CBCs.

HERMIT THRUSH: FCBC (GW), perhaps only 5th ESSE winter record.

Am. Robin: 46 FCBC; 31 PCBC; 17 ECBC, but 100+ along ESSE lakeshore 9 Feb (JP, J&PT), with darker-backed individuals noted there and at the tip of Willsboro Pt later in the month.

European Starling: thousands trapped by south wind Ticonderoga 5 Dec (DR), whitewashed the village; thousands reported roosting tip of Crown Pt later in month; est. 1000 Keese Corners CLIN 16 Feb (RM); 918 PCBC, high counts here, but they were lured to red cedar groves with bluebirds, robins and waxwings.

Bohemian Waxwing: SLCBC at CRS, only report since 1 Westport 11 Nov.

Cedar Waxwing: max 339 FCBC, seemingly absent higher up.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 129 ECBC; 2 wintered Inlet feeder (GL) where scarce.

Fox Sparrow: TL feeder 23-24 Jan (CD), apparently 2nd FRAN winter record.

Song Sparrow: max 4 ECBC; count week PCBC, excellent here.

White-throated Sparrow: max 5 FCBC; 6 others, another "half-hardy" success.

White-crowned Sparrow: FCBC, exceptional here, with perhaps 5 ESSE midwinter records.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 272 ECBC; 204 FCBC; 117 SLCBC; extremely high winter numbers.

Dark-eyed "Oregon"-type Junco: ad female Keene 4 Dec, 30-31 Dec (J&PT);

light gray head distinct from tannish-rose sides and *chest*, with brownish back. [Cf "Canadian Rocky Mountains" illustration in *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (2000), p. 501.]

Lapland Longspur: 3 PtR 17 Jan (DH), always a good find.

Snow Bunting: max 250 PtR 17 Jan (DH); 11 other reports of up to 65 birds suggest a good, but not great, winter for these Canadian visitants.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 13 FCBC, record high; only report.

Rusty Blackbird: Bloomingdale feeder 10 Feb (D&EK), only about 5th ESSE winter record.

Com. Grackle: FCBC; count week PCBC; few Keese Corners CLIN 16 Feb (RM), good here.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 100 PCBC; 50 Keese Corners; 32 FCBC; 16 ECBC, good here.

Pine Grosbeak: singles ECBC & MCBC, only reports.

Purple Finch: max 500+ Speculator HAMI 19 Feb (PK), record high; 326 SLCBC; increasing at lower elevations by season's end.

House Finch: max 46 PCBC, expected.
Red Crossbill: max 13 ECBC; 4 MCBC;

10 Oseetah L 8 Feb (LL); otherwise scarce.

White-winged Crossbill: max 269 SLCBC; 80 MCBC; 29 ECBC; pr copulating & female feeding young CRS 14 Jan (MM, MY); fledglings just starting to fly & parents feeding Oseetah L FRAN 8 Feb (LL); carrying nesting material BB Feb; 1st CLIN Atlas record Dannemora 24 Feb (JH, NO); singing and prs reported from virtually all boreal habitat visited.

Pine Siskin: max 105 SLCBC; 43 ECBC; 16 PCBC; illustrates the greater numbers at higher elevations; pr passing nesting material and food CRS Jan; territorial chases Oseetah L from 8 Feb (LL); increased singing and flight displays by Adks flocks thereafter.

Am. Goldfinch: max 705 SLCBC; 350 ECBC; 198 PCBC; 75 FCBC; also serves to illustrate the greater numbers found in the highlands.

Evening Grosbeak: max 160 SLCBC; other reports from Bloomingdale, Elizabethtown, Indian L, Long L, Newcomb, Plattsburgh, Speculator, but nowhere abundant.

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REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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As reported from Albany International Airport, December's mean temperature was 22.2°F, 4.3° below normal. Sunshine averaged 43%, 4% above normal. There were 4.38" of precipitation, 1.45" above normal, with 20" of snow, most falling on the 31st. January was warm, averaging 24.6°, 4° above normal, with only 35% sunshine, 12% below normal. Precipitation was 1", 1.36" below normal, with only 7.6" of snow. February was also a warm month, averaging 26.9°, 3.1° above

normal, with 44% sunshine. Precipitation measured 1.85", 0.42" below normal, with 16" of snow.

The early onset of cold weather caused water bodies to freeze up by mid-December, resulting in low numbers of waterfowl on CBCs. Weekend CBCs were further effected by an intense rain event, nearly 3", on 16-17 December and a major snowstorm on the 30th-31st. Although January and February were not exceptionally cold, with no below-zero days, there was no January thaw so the snow pack remained deep through the end of the period. Even with the snow cover, there were sufficient wild food crops to keep birds away from feeders.

Lingering landbirds were well represented on CBCs and overwintering. Eastern Phoebe, Carolina, Winter and Marsh wrens, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Chipping, Field, Fox and White-crowned sparrows were reported. For the third winter in a row, Osprey was found on a Region 8 CBC, this time on the Chatham count.

I received an interesting Bald Eagle report from Pete Nye. An adult eagle, which was caught on the Upper Hudson this winter and outfitted with a satellite radio, left the area in late March and spent two weeks just below Spier Falls, Saratoga County, in April before heading north. Rough-legged Hawk numbers were up substantially from last year, with 25 individuals present at the Ft. Edward grasslands through the period. With the deep snow cover, Short-eared Owls were out and about in the daytime, sitting on hay wagons and utility poles. Large numbers of American Robins overwintered, with a flock of 2250 noted at Nott Road Park on 13 January. Other large flocks were reported during January and February. Dark-eyed Juncos were present during early winter in high numbers, with 1057 on the Saratoga CBC. Red-winged Blackbirds also overwintered and were observed in small flocks, feeding on white pine cones, by two different reporters during January and February. The White-winged Crossbill invasion spread to Region 8, with good numbers reported from higher elevation habitats, including the southern Adirondacks, the Rensselaer Plateau and the hill towns of southern Albany County. Atlasers were able to describe probable breeding behavior in all of these areas, but could not confirm breeding.

The 116 species reported included 23 species of waterfowl, 13 species of hawks, six species of gulls, six species of owls, nine species of sparrows and seven species of finches.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACCBC – Albany County CBC 17 Dec; AR – Alcove Reservoir ALBA; CBL – Coxsackie Boat Launch GREE; ChCBC – Chatham CBC 16 Dec; CL – Collins Lake SCHE; FPCBC – Fort Plain CBC 30 Dec; 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 29 Dec; HR – Hudson River; JGCBC – Johnstown-Gloversville CBC 23 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; RL – Round Lake SARA; SCBC – Salem CBC 27 Dec; ScCBC – Schenectady CBC 16 Dec; SI – Simmons Island, Cohoes, SARA; SL – Saratoga Lake SARA; SNHP – Saratoga National Historical Park SARA; SRCBC – Southern Rensselaer CBC 23 Dec; SSCBC – Saratoga Spa CBC 16 Dec; TCBC – Troy CBC 30 Dec; TR – Tomhannock Reservoir RENS; WR – Watervliet Reservoir ALBA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 4 ACCBC; ChCBC; ScCBC; only reports.
Pied-billed Grebe: ACCBC, only report.
Great Blue Heron: 12 on 5 CBCs; 7 reports in Jan, 2 in Feb.
Turkey Vulture: Troy 26 Feb (AV); 3 Guilderland 26 Feb (NM); 2 Guilderland 28 Feb (AV).
Snow Goose: 4000+ TR 11 Dec (AV); 28 on 4 CBCs; 1 CBL Jan-Feb.
Canada Goose: high counts 6416 ChCBC; 4039 SRCBC.
Mute Swan: NL 6 Dec; 31 ChCBC; ScCBC; 4 CBL 19 Feb; Schoharie Creek SCHE/SCHO 21 Jan, 27 Feb.
Wood Duck: 3 CL 3 Dec; TCBC; Rt 90 RENS 4 Feb; only reports.
Gadwall: 11 on 2 CBCs; MR Cohoes 14 Jan; SI 16 Jan.
Am. Wigeon: AR 3 Dec; 2 ACCBC; only reports.
Am. Black Duck: 1225 on 11 CBCs; max 334 FPCBC.
Mallard: 4652 on 11 CBCs; max 1197 SSCBC.
Blue-winged Teal: 3 ChCBC.
N. Shoveler: GREE 3 Dec, only report.

N. Pintail: 6 reports of singles.
Green-winged Teal: 2 ACCBC; ChCBC; FPCBC; only reports.
Canvasback: max 235 ChCBC; 2 AR 3 Dec; 4 CBL 24 Feb.
Redhead: TCBC; HR Stillwater 1 Feb.
Ring-necked Duck: 50 AR 3 Dec; 33 ACCBC; 9 TCBC; 6 HR Mechanicville 14 Jan; 9 HR Stillwater 18 Feb.
Greater Scaup: TCBC, only report.
Lesser Scaup: Copake 2 Dec; AR 3 Dec; 2 Stillwater 18 Feb; only reports.
Long-tailed Duck: TCBC, only report.
Bufflehead: 24 on 3 CBCs, only reports.
Com. Goldeneye: 679 on 6 CBCs; max 392 HFCBC; 75 FtM 14 Jan; 40 Stillwater 18 Feb.
Hooded Merganser: 50 Copake 2 Dec; 31 on 6 CBCs; 90 HR Stillwater 1 Feb.
Com. Merganser: 66 TR 11 Dec; 501 on 10 CBCs; 20 FtM 28 Jan.
Ruddy Duck: 2 Copake 2 Dec; NL 6 Dec; 2 TR 11 Dec; 32 ACCBC.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

OSPREY: ChCBC.
Bald Eagle: 26 on 8 CBCs; mid-winter survey: 23 ad, 2 imm, Upper Hudson

above Albany, including Hoosic River; 3 ad, 3 imm between Troy Dam and Inbocht Bay; 1 ad, 2 imm Stewarts Bridge/Conklingville.

N. Harrier: 35 on 7 CBCs; 10 FtE thru; 6 T Northumberland 15 Feb; 24 reports of singles.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 19 on 7 CBCs; 31 reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: 18 on 8 CBCs; 35 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: AR 3 Dec (RG); S RENS 19 Dec (ADBC); SCBC; Partridge Run 4 Jan (Greg Recer).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 SSCBC; Griffin Lab Guilderland 16 Jan; Ballston Spa 19, 22 Jan; ad Rotterdam 16 Feb; 2 Grapeville GREE 22 Feb.

Red-tailed Hawk: 553 on 10 CBCs; max 102 FPCBC, 72 ScCBC.

Rough-legged Hawk: 57 on 9 CBCs; 25 FtE 11 Feb; 33 reports of singles.

Am. Kestrel: 10 on 7 CBCs; 19 reports of singles.

Merlin: TCBC; Greenport 7 Jan; VF 28 Jan; only reports.

Peregrine Falcon: ad male FtE 10 Dec; ScCBC; 2 SRCBC; Albany 26 Dec; imm FtE 21 Jan; ad Cohoes 29 Jan; ad T Moreau 17 Feb.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 5 reports of singles.

Ruffed Grouse: 23 on 9 CBCs; no other reports.

Wild Turkey: high counts 641 on 9 CBCs; max 190 FPCBC; 110 SRCBC.

Am. Coot: ChCBC, only report.

Ring-billed Gull: 327 on 7 CBCs; max 400 Inbocht Bay GREE 19 Dec.

Herring Gull: 483 on 8 CBCs; 800 lower MR Cohoes/Colonie 15 Jan.

Iceland Gull: ChCBC; Cohoes 1 Jan; 1st winter Colonie 2 Jan; 1st winter MR Scotia 2 Jan; 2 lower MR

Cohoes/Colonie 15 Jan; New St. Cohoes 28 Jan; 2 GI 28 Jan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad MR Crescent 1 Jan; 1st winter lower MR

Cohoes/Colonie 15 Jan; only reports.

Glaucous Gull: ad MR Colonie 1 Jan; Cohoes 1 Jan; 3 CBL 3 Jan; New St. Cohoes 14 Jan; GI 28 Jan; 1st year CBL 19 Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull: 115 on 6 CBCs; max 260 lower MR Cohoes/Colonie 28 Jan.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: high counts 1038 FPCBC; 1927 HFCBC.

Mourning Dove: high counts 600 FPCBC; 524 ChCBC.

E. Screech-Owl: 22 on 8 CBCs; 7 reports of singles.

Great Horned Owl: 28 on 8 CBCs; max 9 TCBC; 14 other reports.

Barred Owl: 5 on 4 CBCs; 4 reports Jan, 2 in Feb.

Long-eared Owl: FPCBC, only report.

Short-eared Owl: FPCBC; 2 HFCBC; Coxsackie 11 Feb; 17 FtE 14 Feb (WE).

N. Saw-Whet Owl: 2 FPCBC; HFCBC; 2 JGBC; T Berne 30 Dec; NB 14 Jan; Schodack Ctr 16 Feb.

Belted Kingfisher: 11 on 7 CBCs; 5 Jan reports, 2 in Feb.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 88 on 10 CBCs, high count 53 ChCBC; 19 reports of singles.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: HFCBC, only report.

Downy Woodpecker: 444 on 11 CBCs; max 95 ChCBC.

Hairy Woodpecker: 120 on 11 CBCs; max 31 ScCBC.

N. Flicker: 104 on 10 CBCs; max 32 ChCBC; 4 Jan reports, 4 in Feb.

Pileated Woodpecker: 38 on 10 CBCs; max 10 ChCBC; 24 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: NRP 31 Jan (WE).

N. Shrike: 12 on 5 CBCs; 14 reports of singles.

Blue Jay: 2387 on 11 CBCs; numbers up significantly from last year.

Am. Crow: max 6499 TCBC; 8000+ GI 28 Jan (WE).

Fish Crow: 35 TCBC; 2 ChCBC; 7 Jan reports, 4 in Feb.

Com. Raven: 15 on 7 CBCs; continues to be widely reported throughout Region.

Horned Lark: 998 on 8 CBCs; max 435 SCBC; numbers up from last year.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 629 JGCBC, 559 SSCBC; 502 ChCBC.

Tufted Titmouse: max 97 ScCBC; 80 SSCBC.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 62 on 8 CBCs; max 23 JGCBC.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 372 on 11 CBCs; max 66 ChCBC.

Brown Creeper: 44 on 9 CBCs.

Carolina Wren: 12 on 5 CBCs; 12 reports, including 2 overwintering Delmar (RB).

Winter Wren: 5 ScCBC; SRCBC; 2 SSCBC; Inbocht Bay 19 Dec; FR 1 Jan; Wolf Hollow SCHE 21 Jan.

Marsh Wren: ACCBC, only report.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 63 on 10 CBCs; scarce Jan-Feb.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: ChCBC; ScCBC; 7 Jan reports, 3 in Feb.

E. Bluebird: 256 on 9 CBCs; max 80 ChCBC; in good numbers thru.

Hermit Thrush: ScCBC; TCBC; FR 1, 13 Jan; New Salem 19 Feb.

Am. Robin: 7381 on 9 CBCs; max 3880 ScCBC; 2085 ChCBC; 2250 NRP 13 Jan.

Gray Catbird: S RENS 3 Dec; ScCBC; Ghent 6 Jan.

N. Mockingbird: 72 on 9 CBCs; 9 Jan reports, 4 in Feb.

European Starling: high count 7907 HFCBC.

Cedar Waxwing: high counts 509 JGCBC; 579 SSCBC.

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 2 ChCBC; 3 SSCBC; 8 TCBC; Claverack 8 Jan; Gallupville 16, 18, 20 Feb.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: WR 16 Dec (WE).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: high counts 565 FPCBC; 328 SCBC; 280 SSCBC; good numbers.

Chipping Sparrow: ScCBC.

Field Sparrow: ChCBC; HFCBC; SRCBC; Ghent 31 Dec-28 Jan.

Savannah Sparrow: 2 SRCBC; Coxsackie 8 Jan (RG); 3 Coxsackie Flats 25 Jan (RB).

Fox Sparrow: Bridge Rd T Berne ALBA 20 Jan (AV).

Song Sparrow: 140 on 9 CBCs; high count 36 ChCBC.

Swamp Sparrow: ACCBC; 5 ScCBC; TCBC; 2 Embough Bay 19 Dec.

White-throated Sparrow: max 178 ScCBC; 90 ChCBC; 88 SRCBC; 80 ACCBC.

White-crowned Sparrow: 2 FPCBC, only report.

Dark-eyed Junco: 3967 on 11 CBCs; max 1057 SSCBC; 566 ChCBC; excellent numbers.

Lapland Longspur: 2 SSCBC; 15 FtE 21 Jan; 2-3 near Nassau 23 Jan; 10-12 Stone Bridge Rd T Northumberland SARA 28 Jan.

Snow Bunting: high counts 200 FPCBC; 100 TCBC; ~300 Duanesburg 21 Jan; 100 T Northumberland 28 Jan; 400 Stone Bridge Rd 10 Feb.

N. Cardinal: high counts 145 ScCBC; 68 ChCBC; 17 at feeder Guilderland 10 Feb.

Red-winged Blackbird: 82 on 5 CBCs; 506 Embough Bay 19 Dec; arr 700+ Schodack 26 Feb.

E. Meadowlark: 1-2 FtE 10 Dec, 11 Jan, 14 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: 11 ScCBC; 1+ singing Schodack 28 Feb (PC).

Com. Grackle: JGCBC; SRCBC; NB 8 Jan; Livingston 14 Jan; arr 500+ Schodack 26 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 315 on 8 CBCs; arr 300+ Schodack 28 Feb.
Purple Finch: 122 on 7 CBCs; 24 Harrisburg Rd WARR 24 Jan; 25 at feeder Berne late Feb; good numbers.
House Finch: 1168 on 11 CBCs; max 208 ScCBC; scarce at feeders.
Red Crossbill: 11 Jenny L 11 Dec, only report.
White-winged Crossbill: 38 Rensselaer Plateau 4 Feb; 10 Partridge Run WMA 20 Jan; 2 Cole Hill 20 Jan; pr Harrisburg Rd WARR 24 Jan; 15 Fox Hill Rd SARA 4 Feb; pr T Hague 13 Feb; pr Cole Hill

18 Feb.
Pine Siskin: none on CBCs; 19 Partridge Run 20 Jan; 60+ Taborton 27 Jan; widespread at higher elevations Jan-Feb.
Am. Goldfinch: max 554 JGCBC; 275 ScCBC; large numbers at feeders beginning late Feb.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 JGCBC; Ghent 2 Jan; Gallupville 14 Jan; 6 Taborton area RENS 4 Feb; only reports.
House Sparrow: max 461 SCBC; 393 FPCBC.

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REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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Overall, the season was colder than normal, with plenty of snowfall. December was much colder than normal, with above average precipitation. On 30 December, 13–20" of snow fell on the Region. The cold temperatures remained until the second week of January, with Montgomery reaching -7°F on 2 January. We then experienced above average temperatures for the last half of January and the first part of February. It was in the 50°s in the southern part of the Region, just after a heavy rainfall on 30 January. There was another significant snow a week later on 5 February that brought 6–25". Although there was more snow this season than in the last couple of years, totals for the season were not far above normal.

Some species, despite the snow, were plentiful this winter, with Killdeer, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle topping the list.

The Southern Orange County CBC broke its own incredible record for Black Vulture with 109 seen on count day, 23 December. The count also recorded 47 Turkey Vultures, a Greater White-fronted Goose and a Western Kingbird. The Pawling Count had a surprising five Black and nine Turkey vultures. That count also included an Eastern Phoebe in Patterson.

It seems each year there are more and more Bald Eagles on the Hudson River and at interior reservoirs. Up to 90 birds wintered on the Hudson this year. A Long-tailed Duck also made an appearance on the river at Piermont Pier on 19 December.

There were a fair number of Northern Goshawks, Rough-legged Hawks and

Northern Shrikes reported, and there were single reports of both Iceland and Glaucous gulls inland. December warblers included a Pine in Bronxville and a Prairie at Croton Point Park. Another surprising report for the month was an Indigo Bunting in Yonkers. Horned Larks were plentiful this season and a Lapland Longspur was seen at Blue Chip Farms on 14 January.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Pt P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; PP – Piermont Pier; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR (Galeville Airport); SOCBC – Southern Orange CBC.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 4 Rye 22 Dec.
Red-throated Loon: 17 Rye 22 Dec.
Horned Grebe: 16 EGR 27 Feb.
Red-necked Grebe: Rye 23 Dec.
N. Gannet: Rye 25 Dec.
Great Cormorant: 3 PP 18 Dec; 6 Stony Pt 11 Jan.
Great Blue Heron: 20 EGR 23 Dec.
Black Vulture: 109 SOCBC 23 Dec; many other reports, seen in each county
Turkey Vulture: 47 SOCBC 23 Dec.
Greater White-fronted Goose: SOCBC 23 Dec.
Snow Goose: 90 Youngsville early Dec; imm Wurtsboro 16 Dec; Rye 23 Dec; 3 Harrison 23 Dec; 14 SOCBC 23 Dec; 3 Amenia 25 Jan.
Canada Goose: 1500 Sylvan L 17 Jan.
Brant: 59 EGR 31 Dec; 30 EGR 2 Jan.
Gadwall: 30 Mamaroneck 23 Dec.
Am. Wigeon: 129 Rye 23 Dec.
Canvasback: low numbers at EGR.
Redhead: EGR 1 Jan.

Ring-necked Duck: 2 Round Pd DUTC 7 Jan; 2 Mt Pleasant 3 Feb; 2 Fishkill Cemetery Feb.
Greater Scaup: low numbers at EGR
Long-tailed Duck: PP 19 Dec (CW).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 17 Rondout Res 27 Jan; many Hudson River reports all season; max 90 on 28 Jan (TF); 35 Mongaup-Rio Res area 3-4 Feb (JA).
N. Harrier: 3 CPP 28 Dec; 3 CPP 3 Feb.
N. Goshawk: MC 5 Dec; Callicoon Center 8 Dec; SOCBC 23 Dec; CPP 24 Dec; Rhinebeck 14 Dec.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 3 Bashakill 27 Dec.
Red-tailed Hawk: albino Pine Plains 28 Jan (CV); albino Ward Pound Ridge Reservation 28 Feb (RD, MG).
Rough-legged Hawk: 5 SOCBC 23 Dec; EGR 1 Jan; CPP 21 Jan; 5 SGNWR 14 Jan; 6 Jan reports, 3 in Feb DUTC.
Golden Eagle: 1-3 Thompson Pd all

winter; south of Bear Mt Bridge 20 Jan;
Tomkins Cove 28 Dec.
Am. Kestrel: CPP 28 Dec; EGR 31 Dec.
Merlin: MC 22-23 Dec; Mamaroneck 22
Dec.
Peregrine Falcon: reports from DUTC.
Wild Turkey: 81 Domin Farm DUTC 22
Jan.
Virginia Rail: MC 23 Dec.
Killdeer: numerous in Dec.
Greater Yellowlegs: EGR 19 Dec.
Am. Woodcock: arr West Pt 20 Feb.
Bonaparte's Gull: 4 EGR 22 Dec; Rye
20 Jan.
Iceland Gull: I-87 Modena Rest Stop 26
Dec.
Glaucous Gull: ORAN 14 Jan.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Barn Owl: 2 Cornwall all winter.
Short-eared Owl: 2 SGNWR 7 Jan; 7
Oil City Rd ORAN 12 Jan.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 Swan Lake 29 Dec
Red-headed Woodpecker: Shunpike all
Jan (JB).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: Patterson 1, 5 Jan (JK, JD).
WESTERN KINGBIRD: Chester 23
Dec (SOCBC).
N. Shrike: SULL 1 Dec; DUTC 20 Jan;
Pine Plains 28 Jan (CV); Stony Pt P 28
Jan (TF); Kingston 10 Feb (MD).
Am. Crow: 4000 at roost Poughkeepsie
29 Jan.
Fish Crow: 25 CPP 1 Dec; Tarrytown 23
Feb.
Com. Raven: numerous reports.
Horned Lark: 75 Wallkill Valley 7 Jan;
50 DUTC 14 Jan; 40 Round Pd 24 Jan;
40 Pine Plains 28 Jan.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: low numbers,
few scattered reports.
Carolina Wren: good numbers south

and a few reports from the northern
counties.
Marsh Wren: Peekskill CBC 16 Dec.
Hermit Thrush: scattered Jan reports
DUTC, more than usual.
Am. Pipit: 40 CPP 1 Dec; 60 Warwick
23 Dec; 3 CPP 28 Dec.
Cedar Waxwing: 300 MC 19 Dec.

WARBLERS

Pine Warbler: Bronxville 16 Dec (AB).
PRAIRIE WARBLER: CPP 1 Dec (TF,
KW).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: CPP 28 Dec (RJ);
Tarrytown 6 Feb (MB); Hennessey Lane
DUTC 16 Feb (JAt, KJ).
Fox Sparrow: more than normal
sightings.
White-crowned Sparrow: few scattered
reports.
Lapland Longspur: Blue Chip Farms 14
Jan.
Snow Bunting: 32 SOCBC 23 Dec; 4
CPP 31 Dec; 30 Rudd Pd 14 Jan; CPP 20
Jan; 30 Greig's Farm DUTC 19 Feb.
INDIGO BUNTING: Yonkers 5 Dec
(CJ).
E. Meadowlark: CPP 28 Dec.
Red-winged Blackbird: 200 MC 23
Dec.
Rusty Blackbird: Wurtsboro early Dec;
2 MC 23 Dec; DUTC 21-23 Jan.
Pine Siskin: early Dec reports from
SULL; Rye 4 Dec; many Woodstock 13
Dec.
Evening Grosbeak: surprisingly, no
reports.

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REGION 10 – MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF

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The first storm of the season came with torrential rain, high winds and a record high temperature of 62°F. It flooded streets, downed trees and caused major power disruptions. It occurred on 16 December, the first day of CBCs, the day the majority of the counts in our Region are held. The intrepid birders who participated were drenched. The following weekend wasn't too wonderful either. But, all this was nothing compared to what *Newsday* called "The Last Storm of the Century" on the 30th, which ended, in hindsight, not so badly. Still, it dumped 12-15" of snow in the west of our Region and lesser amounts in the east, canceling the Southern Nassau County CBC. The count was postponed to 5 January.

In January the rain was a little less than normal, with temperatures 2.6° higher than normal. In February little rain fell, only 1.96" against a norm of 3.27". Temperatures were 2.3° higher than the norm of 33.6°. So, the winter was warm, the precipitation low and we experienced the greatest amount of snow in years. While the snow cover did not last long or stick to roads in many cases, fields were covered for extended periods. This tended to concentrate birds in small open patches at the beaches.

Hardly taking time to rest from last fall's remarkable Cassin's Sparrow record, we immediately had a close second. In a snow-free area alongside the roadway at Jones Beach West End, Tom Burke and Gail Benson, with K. and S. Feustel, G. and J. Fritz *et al* found a paler, "different" longspur in a group of Horned Larks on the Southern Nassau CBC 5 January. A positive identification of **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was announced after examination of skins at the American Museum of Natural History. This species of the prairies is a vagrant along the Atlantic Coast. There are five NYS accepted records, none in mid-winter. The nearest occurrences for this species during this year's CBC period were in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Other searchers during the winter reported a "pale longspur" and some conjectured that the bird wintered.

The balance of interesting reports in the early part of the season were of western flycatchers and some late warblers. They were followed by a host of wintering sea birds. The latter included grebes, unusual gulls and alcids.

This season saw more than usual numbers of wintering Red-necked Grebes. Up to seven were seen in Jones Inlet and 12 on the Montauk CBC 16 December. Others were on the ocean on the East End. Single **Eared Grebes** also occurred in the same areas from mid January on.

A **Ross's Goose** at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge remained until 20 December. Summarizing reports of other waterfowl: a **Barrow's Goldeneye** wintered in a Common Goldeneye flock off Ransom Beach in Bayville, a **Tufted Duck** was in

Patchogue and vicinity, there were several Eurasian Wigeon throughout, a Blue-winged Teal in Jones Inlet in early January, an unusual place, and numerous Wood Ducks.

On 15 December, the day before the Montauk CBC, an immature Golden Eagle was seen on Gardiners Island. Then, on 26 December, a second-year Golden Eagle was reported in Bridgehampton. In all, 14 species of gulls were seen in the Region this season: Laughing, Little, Black-headed, Bonaparte's, **Black-tailed**, **Mew**, Ring-billed, **California**, Herring, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous, Great Black-backed and Black-legged Kittiwake.

Little Gulls were reported from Montauk 10 December, Shinnecock 29 January, Wainscott 11 February and Jones Inlet 25-26 February. Black-headed Gulls were seen in Jones Inlet, Shinnecock and Montauk Point. An adult **Mew Gull** was observed by Andy Baldelli on 14 December on the east side of Shinnecock Inlet and then again by Tony Lauro on 24 February. It was also seen there on 26 February and sporadically into the next season. On 1 January, Tom Burke, Gail Benson, J. and G. Fritz and S. Mitra saw an adult **Black-tailed Gull** at Jones Beach from Parking Field 10 (fishing piers). It was observed at length as it flew about feeding about a quarter mile to the west and was later observed more closely from a vantage point along the roadway west of Field 10. Meanwhile, later in the day, a Rockland County Audubon Society field trip, including Carol Weiss, Dawn Hannay, Gene Herskovics, Vince Plogar and others went to Point Lookout where the highlight was presumably the same Black-tailed Gull seen feeding and resting on the algae among a large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls. On 24 December an adult **California Gull** was found by Tony Lauro at Southold Town Beach among the many Ring-Billed and Herring gulls. The bird was not relocated. If accepted by NYSARC, this will be the first such record of this species for Long Island.

This season included an extraordinary invasion of alcids. Although most of the individuals were Razorbills seen at Montauk Point, five other species were also found. On 6 January, two **Dovekies** were seen at Montauk Point and a single bird was in Jones Inlet on the 23rd. On 13 January, a **Common Murre** was discovered along the ocean just west of the Ponquogue Bridge at Shinnecock. This bird was covered with oil on its left flank and belly. Later that day it was captured by a wildlife rehabilitator and taken to the Wildlife Center of the Hamptons where it was de-oiled and medicated to prevent poisoning by the oil. It was released at sea. On 3 February, two **Thick-billed Murres** were discovered by Bob Kurtz at Montauk Point. A single bird was seen on 4, 7 and 8 February and sporadically into the next season. **Razorbills** were seen at Montauk Point throughout the winter, starting in early December. Numbers in excess of 50 were not uncommon and numbers in the hundreds were reported. Other reports came from Jones Inlet, where they are very rare, and from East Hampton during mid January and February. On 17 February, Tony Lauro discovered a **Black Guillemot** at Montauk Point late in the afternoon. It was not found again. Matt Victoria reported that on a 9 December pelagic trip from Brielle, NJ, an **Atlantic Puffin** was seen. Other birds seen in NY waters were

two **Pomarine Jaegers**, two jaeger sp., one Laughing Gull, one second-year Lesser Black-backed Gull, one or two probable Dovekies and a murre species.

Two **Ash-throated Flycatchers** lingered into the season in New York City parks: one at Prospect Park to 1 December, another at Alley Pond Park 3-24 December.

A very rare and extremely late **Yellow-throated Warbler** visited a set of feeders at Vinnie Schiappa's residence in Northport. It was last seen 27 December. Other late warblers included numerous Palm Warblers to 9 January, a Blackpoll Warbler at Bridgehampton 2 December, Ovenbirds in Prospect Park 2 December and Alley Pond Park 10 December, Pine Warblers on four CBCs and one seen by Tom Fiore in Prospect Park 31 January, a Northern Waterthrush on the Central Suffolk CBC 27 December, Common Yellowthroats on two CBCs and a Wilson's Warbler in Bridgehampton on 10 and 14 December.

Both sharp-tailed sparrows wintered in small numbers and for the most part in the same marshes. There were no northern finches reported this year. This has been attributed to abundant food sources to the north.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P; BNL – Brookhaven National Laboratory; BR – Bridgehampton; CP – Central Park; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FI – Fire I; In – Inlet; JB – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long Island; MP – Montauk Pt; PBP – Pelham Bay P; Pkwy – Parkway; PL – Pt Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP – Prospect P; PT – pelagic trip; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten I; VCP – Van Cortlandt P BRON; ZB – Zachs Bay.

Christmas Bird Count Designations: NYBR – Brooklyn 16 Dec; NYBW – Bronx-Westchester 23 Dec; NYCA – Captree 17 Dec; NYCS – Central Suffolk Co 27 Dec; NYMK – Montauk 16 Dec; NYNN – Northern Nassau Co 23 Dec; NYOR – Orient 30 Dec; NYQU – Queens 16 Dec; NYQW – Quogue-Watermill

16 Dec; NYSG – Sagaponack 17 Dec; NYSI – Staten Island 16 Dec; NYSM – Smithtown 27 Dec; NYSN – Southern Nassau Co 5 Jan.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-necked Grebe: 4 MP 10 Dec; NYBR; 12 NYMK; 2 PL 7 Jan increasing to 7 by period end; Breezy Pt 13 Jan.

EARED GREBE: PL 14 Jan thru; T Montauk sporadically 26 Jan thru; Gilgo 4 Feb.

Great Egret: NYSM; SHIN 27-30 Jan.

Snowy Egret: 2 NYSM.

Tricolored Heron: NYBR; 2 Gilgo 23 Dec.

Cattle Egret: flying over Meadowbrook Pkwy, between JB and Loop Pkwy 3 Dec (DF), very late.

Turkey Vulture: numerous reports of singles from BNL to the east, mid Jan on; flying over Manhattan 21 Feb.

ROSS'S GOOSE: with Snow Geese JBWR to 20 Dec.

“Black” Brant: FBF 13 Feb.

Tundra Swan: 7 Hook Pd 2 Dec-7 Jan, fewer thereafter; MP 9-10 Dec; 3 Greenport 29 Dec.

Wood Duck: many widely scattered.

Eurasian Wigeon: wintered FBF, PP, Patchogue; others.

Blue-winged Teal: PL 3 Dec, unusual in salt water.

Green-winged Teal: 35+ wintered off the island in front of the marina JBWE, an unlikely place.

Tufted Duck: Smithtown Bay late Dec; Halsey Neck Pd mid Jan; South Haven Co P early to mid Feb; possibly only one bird, no observer reported more than one at a time.

King Eider: several in the Com. Eider flock at MP.

Com. Eider: 1604 max MP 4 Feb.

Harlequin Duck: 2 wintered off jetties PL; others MP, Bayville, Horton Pt.

Surf Scoter/White-winged Scoter/Black Scoter: large numbers MP, most white-winged, followed by black, then surf.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: Ransom

Beach, Bayville late Dec thru.

Com. Merganser: several in Jones In and along jetties at PL in Jan, an unusual place.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: NYMK; arr East Setauket 26 Feb.

Bald Eagle: Calverton 30 Jan; Riverhead 6 Feb; MP 18 Feb; Wading River 21 Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: large numbers this year; 11 NYSN, previous high 9 in 1964; perhaps an additional dozen elsewhere.

Golden Eagle: Gardiners I 15 Dec (Lisa D'Andrea *fide* HM); BR 26 Dec (JA).

Wild Turkey: 2 Inwood P 17 Dec; 33 NYMK; 63 NYCS at BNL; 6 VCP 21 Jan; 12 Wertheim SP mid Feb.

Semipalmated Plover: 3 JBWE 14 Dec (AW).

Piping Plover: 2 Westhampton Dunes 9 Dec (JF).

Whimbrel: SHIN to mid Dec.

Red Knot: 10-20 wintered in Dunlin flock JB.

Purple Sandpiper: Breezy Pt 3 Dec.

Long-billed Dowitcher: wintered Massapequa Preserve.

Pomarine Jaeger: 2 PT 9 Dec.

jaeger species: 2 PT 9 Dec.

Laughing Gull: PT 9 Dec; Southold 25 Dec.

Little Gull: Fort Pd, Montauk 10 Dec; SHIN 29 Jan; PL 25-26 Feb.

Black-headed Gull: 1-3 wintered PL; SHIN; MP; NYBW at Spuyten Duyvil.

BLACK-TAILED GULL: JB Field 10, then PL 1 Jan (TB *et al*), *intro*.

MEW GULL: “Common” race, for 3rd year, SHIN 14 Dec (AB), 24, 26 Feb (AL).

CALIFORNIA GULL: ad Southold T Beach 24 Dec (AL).

Iceland Gull: widely scattered CP to MP.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: SI to MP; regular and probably increasing.
Glaucous Gull: 1 or more south fork LI.
Great Black-backed Gull: "leucistic" SHIN mid Jan-25 Feb, this bird presented an identification challenge.
Black-legged Kittiwake: wintering at MP, seen mostly in onshore winds.
DOVEKIE: 2 MP 6 Jan; PL 23 Jan.
COMMON MURRE: oiled bird SHIN 13 Jan (JC *et al*), captured, cleaned and released at sea 17 Jan.
THICK-BILLED MURRE: 2 MP 3 Feb (RK), then 4-11 Feb and sporadically thru.
RAZORBILL: Easthampton and Jones In mid Jan and Feb; MP early Feb on; usual numbers at MP 20-50; many days 100-200; estimated high alcids, all presumed this species, 500; these numbers are unprecedented.
BLACK GUILLEMOT: MP 17 Feb (AL).
ATLANTIC PUFFIN: PT 9 Dec (MV).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: NYQU; 12+ PBP 21 Jan; 8 Greenwood Cemetery KING 9 Feb.
Barn Owl: 2 NYBR; 6 NYSN.
Snowy Owl: SHIN 1 Dec on, 3 on 13 Jan; Breezy Pt 14 Dec; 2 NYMK; 2 JBWE 1-15 Dec; NYBR; JBWR 1 Jan; JBWE 13 Jan on; Port Jefferson 28 Jan; Gilgo 26 Jan.
Long-eared Owl: JBWR 1 Jan; 3 CP 7 Jan; 2 PBP 7 Jan; 3 JBWE 8 Jan; 4 FBF 20 Feb; others.
Short-eared Owl: few reports widely scattered, Rockaways to SHIN.
N. Saw-whet Owl: PBP 2 Dec; 2 NYCS; BR 31 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: APP 3-4 Dec; Manhattan 17 Dec; NYCS.
ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: PP 1 Dec (PD *et al*); APP 3-24 Dec (AO

et al).
N. Shrike: Amagansett 10 Dec; NYSG at Watermill1; ZB 6-25 Jan.
BLUE-HEADED VIREO: APP 3-4 Dec, very late.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce.
Am. Robin: 200+ MP and a similar number in Springs both early Jan.

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: 6 on 4 CBCs; others.
Nashville Warbler: NYSI.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Northport feeder to 27 Dec (VS *et al*).
Pine Warbler: CP 14 Dec; NYBR; NYNN; NYSG; NYBW at VCP; PP 1, 31 Jan.
Palm Warbler: 2 MP 2 Dec; 2 Hither Hills SP 3 Dec; FBF 3 Dec; APP 10 Dec; NYSI; NYQW; NYBK; 2 PL 1 Jan; Robert Moses SP 9 Jan.
BLACKPOLL WARBLER: BR 2 Dec (PB, PL, SM), very late and rare at this season.
Ovenbird: PP 2 Dec (RJ, SN); APP 10 Dec (RG).
Northern Waterthrush: NYCS.
Com. Yellowthroat: NYQU; NYOR.
Wilson's Warbler: MP 3 Dec; BR 1-10, 14 Dec (SB); very rare in this season.
Yellow-breasted Chat: several singles SI to MP.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: JBWE 3 Dec; 19 NYMK; NYSI; NYSG; 21 NYBW at VCP; 2 NYSN; BNL 11 Jan.
Vesper Sparrow: NYMK; NYBR; Dune Rd 27 Jan.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 2 each NYQW, NYCS, NYBR; 2 SHIN 16 Jan.
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 2 each NYBR, NYQW; 3 NYSN; SHIN 16 Jan.
Seaside Sparrow: NYQW; SHIN 13-16 Jan.
Lincoln's Sparrow: NYSI; APP late

Dec-2 Jan; NYBR; NYBW at VCP.

White-crowned Sparrow: 25 NYSI; 63 NYSG; 60 Watermill 1 Jan; others in small numbers.

Lapland Longspur: PBP; Breezy Pt; Riverhead; 25 JBWE 20 Feb; others.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED

LONGSPUR: NYSN at JBWE 5 Jan (TB *et al*), 18-19 Feb (SS); NYSARC reports submitted; there are five prior NY

records accepted, none in mid-winter.

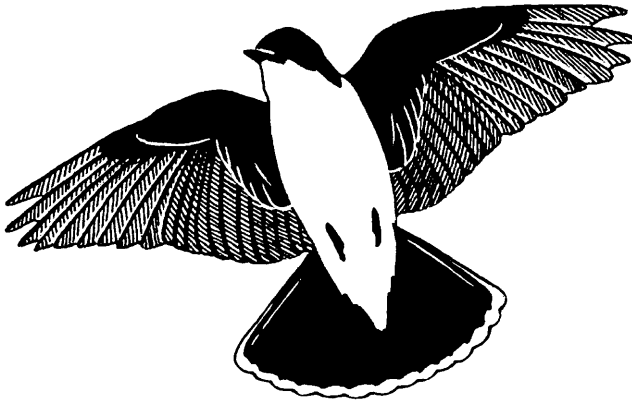
Dickcissel: NYMK; Springs to 3 Feb; Gilgo 22 Feb thru.

Boat-tailed Grackle: resident; 488 NYQU; 20 SHIN.

Baltimore Oriole: 2 NYMK.

Pine Siskin: 2 NYMK; 12 NYSI; NYCS.

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STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; 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; **Ri** - River; **SP** - State Park; **spm** - specimen; **subad** - subadult; **T** - Town of; **thru** - throughout period; **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 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

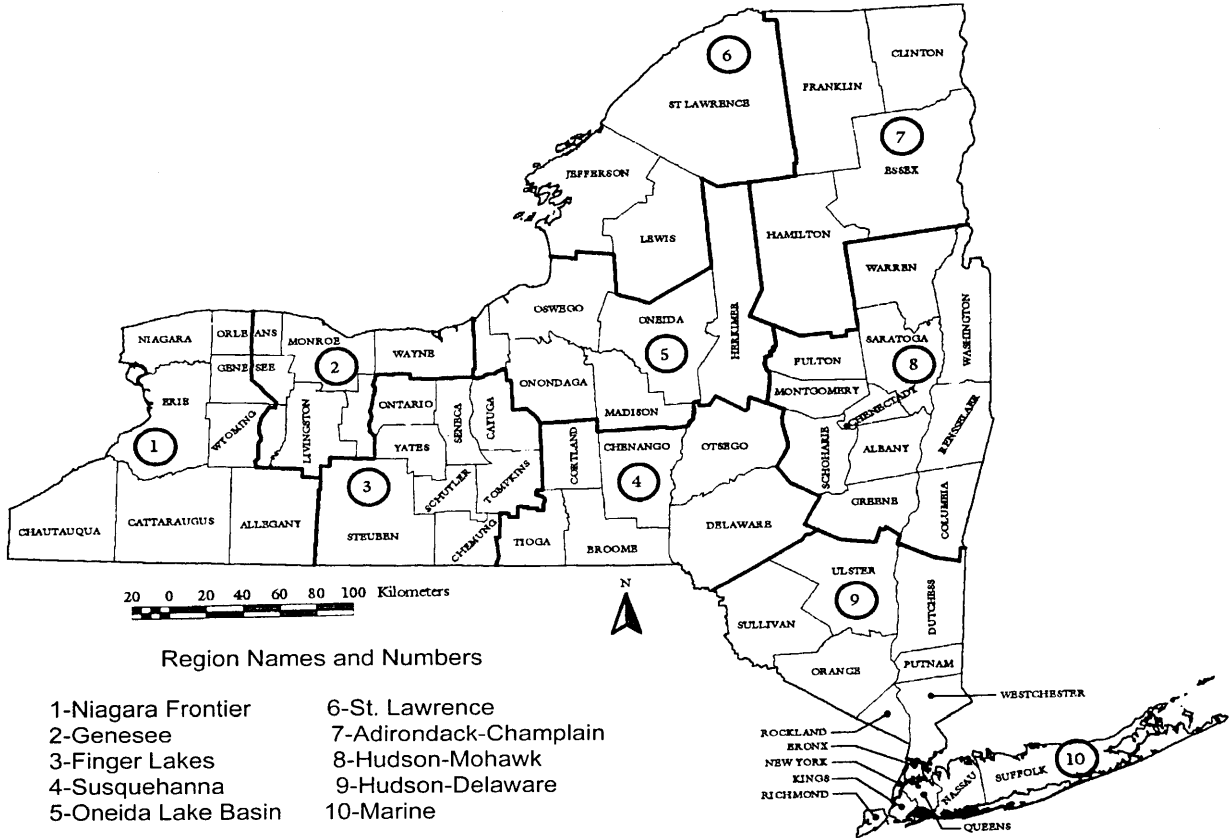
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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