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RED CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvisrotra*) CALL-TYPES OF NEW YORK: THEIR TAXONOMY, FLIGHT CALL VOCALIZATIONS, AND ECOLOGY

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Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) populations around the world vary greatly in traits ranging from overall size and bill morphology to flight call vocalizations. Their taxonomy has a confused history, but it is now known that differences in flight call vocalizations are critical to differentiating as many as 25 distinct groups known as call-types (Groth 1993, Benkman 1999, Irwin 2010a), and that many of these may represent incipient species (Parchmen et al. 2006). These call-types correspond with small differences in bill depth morphology, which correlate with differing ecological specializations (Benkman 1993, Benkman 1999, Irwin 2010a). For example, the average bill depth for large-billed call-type 2, which is most efficient feeding on ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) (Benkman 1993), is 9.67mm (Groth 1993a), whereas the small-billed call-type 3, which is most efficient feeding on Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) (Benkman 1993), is 8.19mm (Groth 1993a). Bill depth is thought to be most heritable, since it's resistant to wear, unlike bill length (Benkman 1993). Most call-types have a key conifer or conifers (Benkman 1993) on which they feed most efficiently, and these key conifers exist in a core zone of occurrence (Dickermen 1987, Knox 1992, Kelsey 2008, Young 2010), which is an area where the corresponding call-type is most abundant. Often when key conifers fail in this core zone of occurrence, crossbills will switch to alternate conifers that provide the highest energy yields (Benkman 1987). This is why call-types can be seen foraging on several different species of conifers.

Bill depth differences aside, it's still nearly impossible to identify crossbills definitively in the field based on morphology, and therefore it's essential to record crossbill flight calls for analysis. Extremely large or small specimens of a given call-type can overlap morphologically with several other call-types (Groth 1993a). As many as ten call-types of Red Crossbill can be found across North America (Groth 1993a, Benkman 1999, Ken Irwin 2010a), and as already stated, each may represent a different species, or more likely, an incipient species (Parchman et al. 2006). Types 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10 find their home, or core zone of occurrence, in regions of the West where call-types appear to be adaptively radiating (Benkman 1993, Benkman 1999, Irwin 2010a). The most widespread call-types in North America are Types 1, 2, 3, 4 (Groth 1993a), and 10 (Irwin 2010a), with Type 1 most common in the East (Young 2010, Blankenship et al. 2010). Records of a quasi-resident Appalachian Red Crossbill call-type date back to before Griscom (1937), and Groth's studies in the 1980s

revealed Type 1 to be common in North Carolina and Virginia (Groth 1988, 1993a).

Evidence presented by Sewall (2010) supports the idea that Red Crossbill flight calls are an example of reliable signaling because identification of appropriate companions and mates is essential to species integrity through prezygotic isolation. Sewall (2009) has also presented evidence that adults show limited vocal learning, likely facilitating distinctive flight calls in Red Crossbill types. It can certainly be challenging to differentiate flight calls of the various Red Crossbill call-types and some on-line sites offer help (Groth 1993b, Young 2008b, Irwin 2010b). Flight calls are the sound typically described as “jip-jip” or “whit-whit”. To be able to find and identify crossbills, it’s essential to develop a familiarity with these flight calls, which occasionally are also given by perched birds. Birds that are singing can give flight-like calls, but it is highly recommended that birds singing not be identified to call-type until more work is done on crossbill song vocalizations.

Knowing when and where to look for crossbills is very important. Birds flying overhead are often the most vocal, and believe it or not, birds feeding atop a conifer just 15 meters away can be very quiet and easily missed. When feeding, the sound most often heard is the very subtle crackling of the birds extracting the seed from the seedcoat. Sometimes this is the only sound they make as the seedcoats drop to the ground. With much practice, however, many of the call-types (hereafter Type or Types) can be identified in the field. Nearly all flight call recordings can be identified with certainty via audiospectrographic analysis (once in a while you need to let one go as unidentified). The audiospectrographic analysis gives a computer printout of the bird’s voice. To analyze them I used Raven Pro 1.3 (Charif et al. 2008). In this paper I will discuss New York State’s Red Crossbills, focusing on their flight call vocalizations and also their ecology and taxonomy.

TAXONOMY

In previous work on New York State taxonomy of Red Crossbills, four geographical subspecies were identified as occurring within the state (Bull 1974, p. 566):

- L. curvirostra minor* – from south-central Canada to north-central US.
- L. c. pusilla* – Newfoundland, winters in northeast US.
- L. c. sitkensis* – Alaska to northwest California, winters to northeast US.
- L. c. benti* – southern Montana to southwest US.

As noted above, contemporary crossbill researchers prefer to describe Red Crossbill taxa in terms of call-types. By definition, crossbill call-types don’t correspond neatly with geographical subspecies, because several crossbill call-types can at least occasionally nest sympatrically. The distribution and ranges listed below for each call-type are defined from the analysis of several hundreds

of crossbill recordings obtained via The Macaulay Library of Sounds at The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Florida Museum of Natural History, The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley (aka Jeff Groth's collection), Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics, xeno-canto, and several other crossbill enthusiasts across the country. For distribution, I also referenced Ken Irwin (2010a) and Evans and O'Brien (2002). Based on the work of flight calls (Groth 1993a, Benkman 1999, Irwin 2010a), I have identified these forms from smallest to largest occurring in New York State (NYS).

Type 3—Smallest-billed Form

First Type Specimen: Craig W. Benkman, 25 miles south of Albany, New York, 4 February, 1985 (Groth 1993a).

History, Distribution and Status: Its core zone of occurrence is estimated to be from Pacific Northwest to Alaska; it also occasionally wanders across the southern boreal zone to the northeastern United States, sometimes even occurring here in numbers. Type 3 rarely occurs in Intermountain West to Arizona. Based on the analysis of recordings, it has invaded NYS in 1984-85, 1994-95, 1997-98, 2006-07, 2008-09 and other years dating back to 1887-88. This Type corresponds most closely to *L. c. minor*, but the latter also includes other specimens of similar morphology such as Type 10. Type 3 breeds rarely to occasionally in NYS, mostly across the northern part of the state. During major irruptions, Type 3 can be common in the Adirondacks and locally common south of the Adirondacks. It appears to be rare on the coast of New York.

Flight Call Vocalization: The flight call of the Type 3 is weaker and squeakier sounding than the other call-types. The spectrogram (see Figure 1) looks a bit like a lightning bolt with its zig-zag appearance—it starts out with a downward component, followed by a short upward component connected to a second downward component. Occasionally, there can be tails at both the beginning (less common) and end of the typical zig-zag appearance. During the second downward-modulated component, the call can level out just slightly as it continues downward. Type 3 can sound a bit like a weaker version of a Type 1 or 2, but Type 1 is sharper and louder and Type 2 is huskier and more powerful. The spectrograms of Type 3, however, cannot be confused with any other call-type unless too small of a scale is used. If too small a scale is used, Type 3 can look a little like Type 5 or even a kinked Type 2—this is a prime example of why a large enough scale is essential and why I suggest a scale similar to what Groth used. Type 3 can sound a bit similar to Type 5, but Type 5 often gives a twangy sound instead of a squeaky sound.

Ecology: This call-type uses hemlock (*Tsuga sp.*) more readily than any of the other call-types found in North America and is most common in Pacific Northwest coastal hemlock forests. This is where it finds its core range and is

most regularly abundant. Type 3, and less so Type 10, are the most highly irruptive call-types in the Northeast during most invasions. When it irrupts eastward, it often irrupts with Type 10. Unlike Type 10 though, all birds seem to depart the area once cone crops start developing out west. Type 3 regularly uses Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) but also uses various spruces (*Picea sp.*) readily when irrupting into the Northeast. Because of its small bill, it uses pines much less so than the other types. Despite this, I have seen it feeding on Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) at least a few times and Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*) at least once.

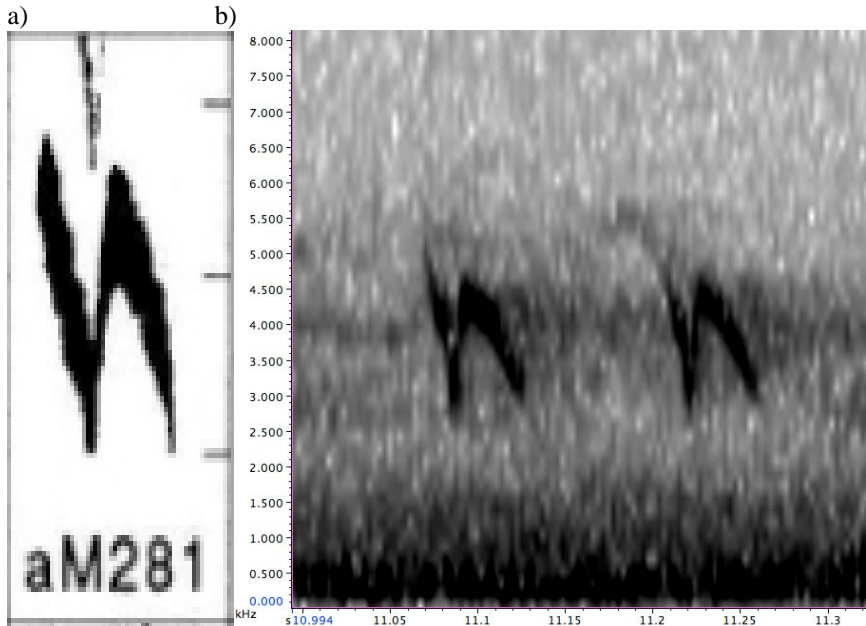


Figure 1. Spectrograms of Type 3 Red Crossbill flight calls. a) Spectrogram of Type 3 used and adapted with approval from Groth 1993a. b) Type 3 recorded Matthew A. Young, Summerhill, New York, 4 April 2009 (Macaulay Library of Sounds #161296). The dark lines on the sides of the Groth's spectrographs are for kHz lines 3, 5, 7.

Type 10—Medium-billed

First Type Specimen: Gregory F. Budney and Matthew A. Young, Dryden, New York, 17 May 1998 (Macaulay Library of Sounds # 130478). Craig W. Benkman recorded either a Type 4 or 10 Hamilton County, New York 14 February 1985 (Groth 1993a), but Benkman (pers. comm.) could not confirm which call-type was present.

History, Distribution and Status: Type 10 occurs in a core zone of occurrence from northern California to southern British Columbia (BC); it also occasionally occurs across the southern boreal zone in numbers to the Northeast. It has not been reported in the Intermountain West. Appears to be quasi-resident in small widely scattered numbers in the Northeast from the Adirondacks (Matt Young unpublished data) northward to the Maritimes. Occasionally occurs in southern NY and rarely south of NY to Maryland. Can occur along coast south to NY and NJ (Michael O'Brien, pers. comm.), as in the winters of 2001-02 and 2007-08. Appears to be the most common Type at NY coastal locations, but breeding along coast of NY uncertain at this time. Based on the analysis of recordings Type 10 has been documented in the Northeast in nearly 40% of the years dating back to 1959 and also likely occurred in the 1887-88 invasion. *L. c. sitkensis* is the subspecies to which it could be assigned, but it is hard to be certain, given similarities between *L. c. sitkensis* and *L. c. minor*. In recent years it has been recorded in NY 1984-85, 1994-95, 1997-98, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2011. The 1997-98 invasion involved 1000s of Type 10 and several Type 3. Type 10 breeds occasionally in NYS, but most commonly in the Adirondacks.

Flight Call Vocalization: It wasn't until Ken Irwin recently described Type 10 (Irwin 2010a) that it became widely known. However, the idea that there was a crossbill call-type that gave a flight call similar to Type 4 but lacking in a strong downward component had existed for several years. Irwin has found large flocks of Type 10 regularly in the Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) forests of coastal northern California to central Oregon. The flight call of Type 10 is perhaps one of the easiest call types to recognize. It's a very thin, slightly weak, non-musical whit-whit-whit. The whit-whit-whit sounds much like the "whit" call of an *Empidonax* flycatcher (e.g., Least or Dusky Flycatcher). The spectrogram (see Figure 2) is dominated by an upward component. There are distinct differences between Type 4 and 10 spectrograms, and the two are best looked at as a gradation with Type 4 containing a downward and upward component and Type 10 usually just giving the upward component. However, Type 10 spectrograms do appear to be more variable than most of the other call-types (Irwin 2010a). The spectrogram for Type 10 can look like a checkmark, uptick, or the letter "u". The Type 10 flight call can sound similar to the White-winged Crossbill weet-weet-weet call.

Ecology: Despite being most efficient at feeding on Sitka Spruce of western coastal forests, Type 10 appears to be one of, if not the most frequently occurring call-types in the Northeast. They seem to ecologically associate with various spruces first and foremost, but will also snack on Eastern White Pine and to a lesser extent Eastern Hemlock in the Northeast. Given that it is most closely associated with Sitka Spruce, it is not surprising this call-type is perhaps the most frequently occurring call-type from the Adirondacks northward to the Maritimes where several species of spruce occur.

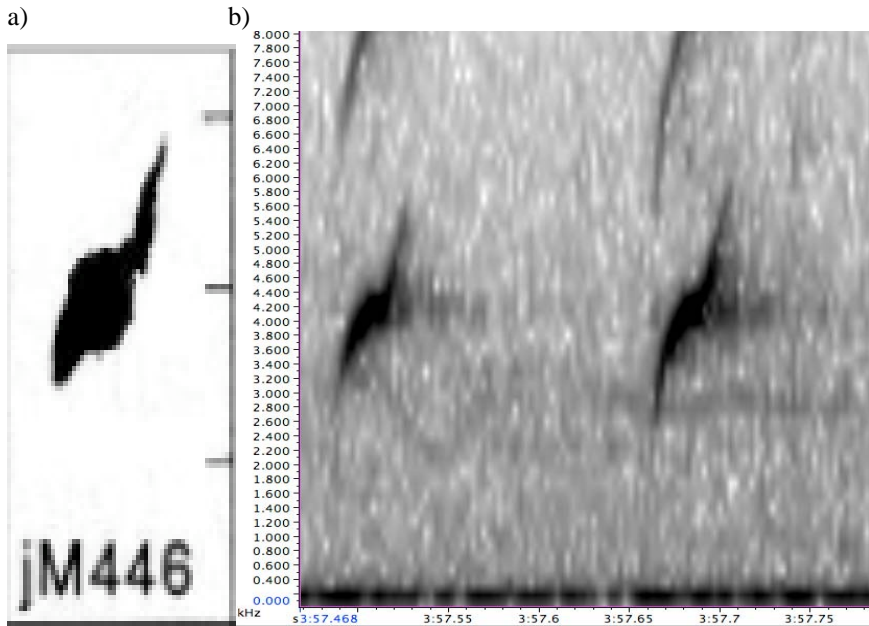


Figure 2. Spectrograms of Type 10 Red Crossbill flight calls. a) Spectrogram of Type 10 used and adapted with approval from Groth 1993a. b) Type specimen of Type 10 recorded Gregory F. Budney and Matthew A. Young, Dryden, New York, 17 May 1998 (Macaulay Library of Sounds #130478).

Type 1—Medium-billed

First Type Specimen: Gregory F. Budney and Matthew A. Young, Georgetown, New York, 5 August 2006 (Macaulay Library of Sounds #137497).

History, Distribution and Status: Core zone of occurrence is from southern NY to northern Georgia in the mountains; also appears to wander rarely to occasionally to northern NY and southern Maritimes, and rarely across southern boreal to Pacific Northwest and southern Alaska. Only found at inland mountainous sites. Corresponds most closely with *L. c. pusilla* (Dickerman 1987) but likely includes some specimens classified as Type 10 or Type 4. It has also been historically assigned to *L. c. neogaea*. It has been recorded in NYS every year since at least 2004 and bred here in numbers in 2004-05, 2007, and 2008-09. It is quasi-resident and breeds fairly commonly across many of the state lands in the southern half of NYS. It has not been reported at coastal locations in New York.

Flight Call Vocalization: The Type 1 or “Appalachian” Red Crossbill flight call sounds much like a Type 2 Red Crossbill. In both call-types the spectrograms

are dominated by a downward component. To be able to identify these two call-types with certainty, audiospectrographic analysis is essential. The Type 1 spectrogram will start with an initial upward component the vast majority of the time, and the downward part descends more quickly than that found in the Type 2 (see Figure 3). Overall, the Type 1 flight call is a quicker, dryer and sharper flight call than the Type 2 and it sounds like a chewt-chewt-chewt. Like the Type 5, Type 1 can produce sound polyphonically, meaning they use separate parts of their syrinx simultaneously like a *Catharus* thrush. Occasionally a very rare variant of Type 1 can produce calls that slightly overlap and therefore look slightly similar to a Type 5 spectrogram. This Variant Type 1, however, does not sound much like Type 5.

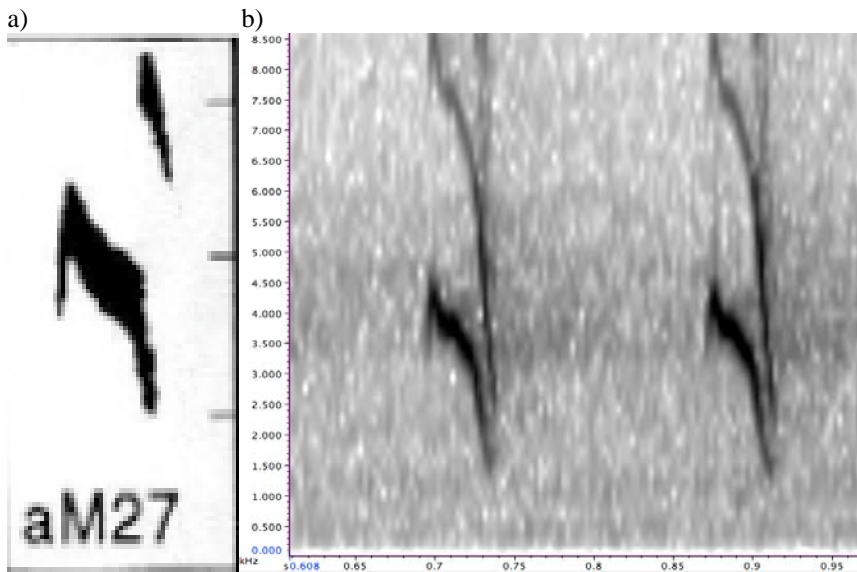


Figure 3. Spectrograms of Type 1 Red Crossbill flight calls. a) Spectrogram of Type 1 used and adapted with approval from Groth 1993a. b) Type specimen of Type 1 recorded Greg Budney and Matt Young, 2006 Georgetown, New York, 5 August 2006 (Macaulay Library of Sounds #137497).

Ecology: Unlike the other call-types discussed thus far, Type 1 occurs primarily in the East, particularly in the central and southern Appalachians (Young et al. in review), but it does not appear to be the most common type in the northern parts of the Northeast. The main ecological associations for Type 1 here in the East are Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*), White Spruce (*Picea glauca*) (in the Northeast only), Eastern White Pine, and Eastern Hemlock. During the late winter months, when these conifers have dropped most of their seed, it appears to switch to harder-coned pines such as Red Pine, Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*), and Virginia Pine (*Pinus virginiana*) (pers. obs. Groth 1993). It appears as if it could be more of a generalist, which would make sense given there's little competition

with other call-types here in the East. In areas of central NY, this type can be seen feeding and nesting in Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) almost every year in at least small numbers from February to September. It has also used several other conifer species when nesting, such as Red Pine and European Larch (*Larix decidua*). In some years it can be quite common in state forests in southern NY. It appears to be rare to occasional north of southern NY, but more study is needed to be certain.

Type 4—Medium-billed

First Type Specimen: Matthew A. Young, Summerhill, New York, 4 April 2009 (Macaulay Library of Sounds #161298). Craig W. Benkman recorded either a Type 4 or 10 Hamilton County, New York, 14 February 1985 (Groth 1993a). Benkman (pers. comm.) could not confirm which type was present.

History, Distribution and Status: Core zone of occurrence is from Washington to British Columbia; occasionally wanders to Intermountain West to Arizona. Appears to be relatively rare across southern boreal into Northeast south to Ohio. Type 4 perhaps breeds very rarely in NYS. There is no subspecies that can be accurately associated with Type 4. Subspecies *L.c. neogaea* was once incorrectly assigned to the “old northeastern subspecies” (Dickermen 1987) despite it likely representing a call-type that commonly occurs in the West.

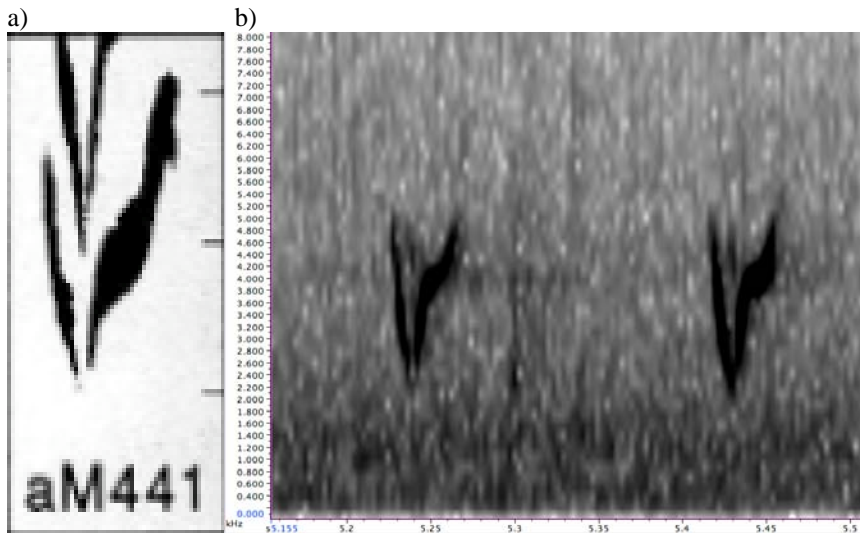


Figure 4. Spectrograms of Type 4 Red Crossbill flight calls. a) Spectrogram of Type 4 used and adapted with approval from Groth 1993a. b) Type specimen of Type 4 recorded by Matt Young, Summerhill, New York 4, April 2009 (Macaulay Library of Sounds #161298).

Flight Call Vocalization: The flight call of the Type 4 is one the easiest to recognize even when compared to Type 10 (it was recently split from Type 10; see Type 10 above). It's a very bouncy, almost musical down up jeyip-jeyip-jeyip. The spectrogram (see Figure 4) is dominated by a down up component with the ending section looking very similar to the Type 10 flight call. Overall the flight call resembles the letter "v".

Ecology: This call-type is most abundance in the Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) forests of the Pacific Northwest, but it is also widespread in North America, like Types 1, 2, 3, and 10, and therefore is at least rarely found here in the East. In the Northeast, it associates with spruce and white pine (and other pines). With a little practice, this flight call is very recognizable from Type 10 and other call-types.

Type 5—Large-billed

First Type Specimen: Only one record in all of the East and New York. Recorded by Gregory F. Budney and Matthew A. Young (Macaulay Library of Sounds #138299) in Pharsalia, New York, 5 August 2006 (Young 2010).

History, Distribution and Status: Core zone of occurrence is Intermountain West from BC and the Cascades south to at least Colorado. Is occasional in Arizona and New Mexico and rare to western coastal states. Only one record in Northeast and NY, as described above. Would be most appropriately assigned to subspecies *L. c. benderei*, but, in part, has also been assigned to *L. c. benti*. Breeding uncertain in NYS, and would be, at best, accidental or very rare.

Flight Call Vocalization: Type 5 Red Crossbills have two elements that drop in frequency, but the two elements are given in very slightly different frequency domains (see Figure 5). The lower elements are generally simpler and show less variation individually, whereas the upper elements usually rise sharply before modulating downward (Groth 1993). The second element starts a fraction of a second after the first element. On the spectrograph this second element often connects or hints at connecting to the first element, thus forming the letter "n" or "h". Occasionally the two elements don't connect at all. Generally speaking, both elements are given nearly simultaneously. The idea that both elements modulate differently, basically over the same time span, is likely evidence that the Type 5 uses different halves of its syrinx, thus producing sound polyphonically not unlike a *Catharus* thrush (Groth 1993a, Pieplow 2007). The human ear often doesn't pick up the time lag between the two elements, and therefore the overlapping quality of the elements is heard as a single note, almost like the striking of two keys on a typewriter at nearly the same time. Occasionally the human ear can discern the two elements. To the human ear, Type 5 sounds very "twangy".

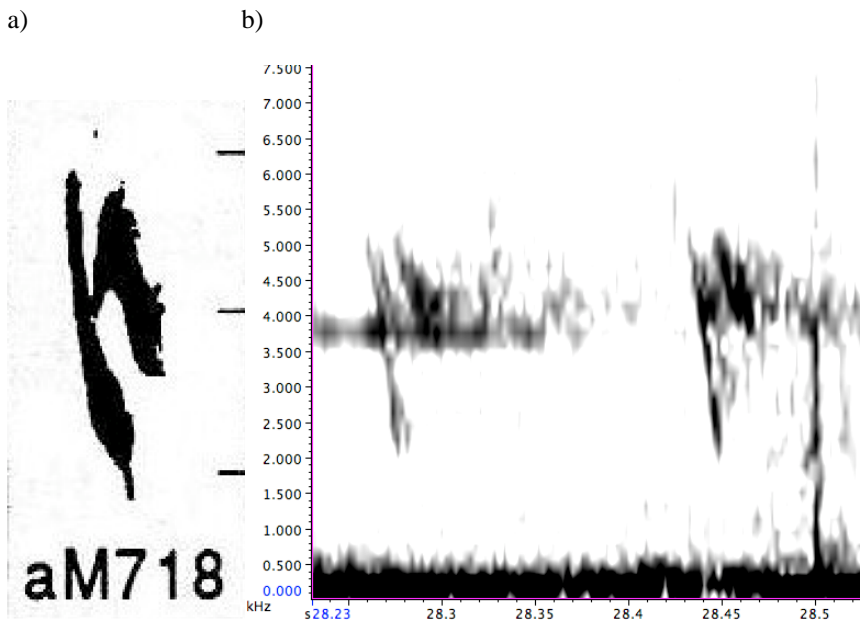


Figure 5. Spectrograms of Type 5 Red Crossbill flight call. a) Spectrogram of Type 5 used and adapted with approval from Groth 1993a. b) Type specimen of Type 5 recorded by Gregory F. Budney and Matthew A. Young (Library of Sounds #138299) in Pharsalia, New York, 5 August 2006.

Ecology: Type 5 most commonly occurs in Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*) forests of the West, but also will snack on various spruces and western pines. Given that Lodgepole Pine is a fire-driven species, it appears likely that the absence/presence of fire plays a significant role in the distribution and evolution of Type 5 in the West. Status in the East is very uncertain, but could increase with the massive dieoff of Lodgepole Pine from mountain pine beetle. The birds in Pharsalia were in areas of spruce and Red Pine.

Type 2—Large-billed

First Type Specimen: Craig W. Benkman, Albany, New York, 30 March 1982 (Groth 1993a).

History, Distribution and Status: The core zone of occurrence for Type 2 is in Intermountain West north to southern BC and the Cascades and Sierras, and south into at least northern Mexico; occasional to the western coastal states. Occurs somewhat regularly most years in very small widely scattered numbers somewhere in the East from Ontario to Georgia. Call-types occurring in Mississippi, Texas and Plains states are very likely Type 2. This is the most

commonly occurring large-billed type in NY and has occurred in the Northeast in 1969-70, 1982, 1984-85, 1997-98, 2009, 2010, and 2011. Would be most appropriately assigned to subspecies *L. c. benti*, but, in part, has also been assigned to *L. c. benderei*. Type 2 breeds occasionally across NYS in small numbers, and based on distribution of various species of conifers in the state, is most likely type to breed on Long Island or in areas away from the mountains.

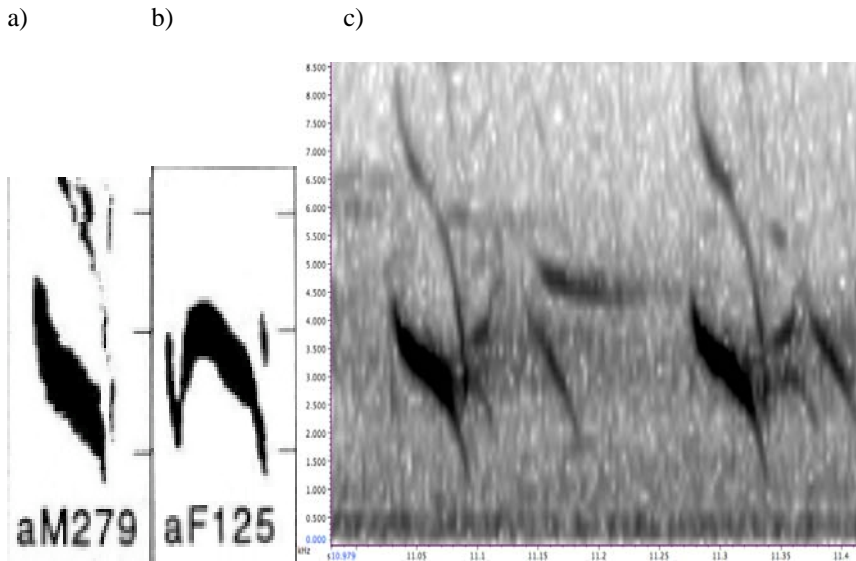


Figure 6. Spectrograms of Type 2 Red Crossbill flight calls. a) Spectrogram of a typical Type 2 used and adapted with approval from Groth 1993a. b) Spectrogram of a “kinked” Type 2 used and adapted with approval of Groth 1993. c) Type 2 recorded Matthew A. Young, Fabius, New York, 28 March 2009 (Macaulay Library of Sounds #161299).

Flight Call Vocalization: Type 2 flight calls are a bit more powerful and husky sounding than those of the Type 1. The downward component of the spectrogram is more gradual, and the initial upward component found in the Type 1 is absent (see Figure 6). Additionally, the call (as it appears on the spectrogram) will often level out a bit before continuing its downward trend. The call sounds like cheewp-cheewp-cheewp. Both call-types often have secondary ending components, but they’re stronger and consistently present in Type 1. Additionally, the Type 2 flight call is given near or below 4.5 kHz whereas the highest point of the initial upward component of the Type 1 flight call is usually between 4.5-5 kHz (Figure 3). Often, Type 2 will produce what is called a “kinked” spectrogram, however, birds producing this call-type of spectrogram seem to be rare in the East. This “kinked” call-type appears to be the most common call-type given by Type 2 in the West, and as Benkman suggested (1994), might be evidence of a very recent divergence between Type 2 in the East and West. This “kinked” flight call first goes down and then up

before going back down. This spectrogram can look a bit like a Type 3, but the difference in sound is quite evident with Type 2 sounding much stronger and huskier. The flight calls of the Type 1 and Type 2 Red Crossbill are probably the least likely to be confused with the veet-veet-veet of the White-winged Crossbill.

Ecology: Type 2 is most abundant in ponderosa pine forests of the West. More than any other call-type, Type 2 will readily feed on hard pines like Red Pine, Pitch Pine and non-native Scotch (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Austrian Pine (*P. nigra*) in the Northeast. It once nested using Austrian Pine on SUNY-Albany campus in 1982 (Craig Benkman, pers. comm.). This call-type also readily feeds on white pine and various spruces. This call-type has perhaps the most varied diet and is the most widespread Red Crossbill call-type in North America (Groth 1993), even occurring in areas of the Plains where ornamental conifers have been planted. It has been seen using perhaps more than a dozen species of conifers while nesting.

Type 8—not definitely known from New York State

L. c. percna (large-billed) corresponds to the Newfoundland Type 8 and was at one time incorrectly assigned to *ssp. pusilla*. There is no definitive evidence that it wanders to the Northeast. It appears to be an island endemic that does not wander any farther than to small offshore islands, but not to mainland Canada.

IRRUPTIONS

With the exceptions of Type 1 (quasi-resident across the southern part of the state) and Type 10 (small numbers possibly resident in the Adirondacks), Red Crossbills occur in New York primarily as irruptives. Given the diversity and predominance of soft-coned conifers (spruces, larches, hemlocks, white pine), dietary overlap could be great across call-types most years. Therefore, it would not be unexpected some years to find several Types feeding on the same conifer species in the same area. It is very likely that at least a few Type 1 Red Crossbills were present during the invasions described below. It also appears that in great irruptions, western invading Types (3 and 10) (pers. obs.) can swamp the modest numbers of regularly occurring Type 1 found here in southern NY. Below I outline some of the more significant invasions from the past 25 years.

1984-85: The 1984-85 irruption was one of the largest on record, and when Types 2, 3 and 4, and/or 10 (Groth 1993a) arrived here in New York they found one of the best bumper conifer cone crops on record (Messineo 1985). The spruces and Eastern Hemlock produced great cone crops and as a result several call-types were suspected of successfully nesting (Messineo 1985). The irruption *The Kingbird* 2011 June; 61 (2)

started in late fall of 1984 and went through May-June 1985 (Messineo 1985, Crumb 1985). The irruption coincided with very large Pine Siskin and White-winged Crossbill invasions, which also resulted in widespread breeding. Crossbills were mostly present in higher elevation areas with abundant conifers. Most of the individuals of invading call-types, particularly Type 3, appeared to move out of the Northeast (pers. obs.) in June, likely migrating back into their core range where new cone crops were forming on their key conifers.

1997-98: Like most crossbill irruptions, this one also started in the late fall, but unlike the 1984-85 invasion, birds did not find a widespread bumper cone crop. Many Christmas Bird Counts from the Adirondacks to Long Island reported good numbers of Red Crossbills. This invasion was made up of thousands of Type 10s with numbers of Type 3s. A suspected Type 2 was also recorded in central NY during the spring of 1998 (Macaulay Library of Sounds # 113520). Several northeastern recordings of Type 10 from this invasion exist in Cornell's Macaulay Library of Sounds. Many of these recordings also contain a few Type 3. Evans and O'Brien's Night Flight Call Guide (2002) also has northeastern recordings of Types 2, 3, and 10 from this invasion. Unlike the 1984-85 invasion, breeding was thought to be rare. The largest concentration of both crossbill species (White-winged and Red) was found at Cook's State Forest in northwestern Pennsylvania (Hess et al. 1998). At Cook's State Forest birds were reported to be mostly feeding on Eastern Hemlock (Hess et al. 1998).

2006-07: In addition to White-winged Crossbills and to a lesser extent Pine Siskins, much of New York experienced a modest widespread invasion of Red Crossbill call-types. During July of 2006, at least one pair of Type 5 (the first ever for the state) and many Type 1 Red Crossbills were recorded in central New York (Young 2010). In July 2006 Type 1 could be heard singing at many state forests, and juveniles were seen at Muller Hill State Forest in September 2006. Type 1 continued to increase across the southern part of state with several dozens of adults with juveniles seen through June 2007—at least one group of Type 3 with juveniles was also seen in April 2007 (Young 2010).

As 2007 began, numbers of Types 3 and 10 invaded northern parts of the state, and on a trip to the Adirondacks with Greg Budney in March we recorded several Type 3s. During that same period Sean O'Brien recorded Type 10s (pers. obs.) near Paul Smith's. Birds could be seen feeding and heard singing in areas of spruce and hemlock in the Adirondacks throughout that spring. Almost all of the birds departed the Adirondacks by May 2007, and at least small numbers of both Types were strongly suspected of successfully nesting. During December of 2007 and into 2008 several Red Crossbills started to show up in coastal areas from Connecticut to Long Island and New Jersey. Analysis of recordings from Connecticut, given to me by Nick Bonono, yielded mostly Type 10 and a few Type 3. I strongly suspect the birds on Long Island were also mostly Type 10. Some of the birds present in late 2007 and into 2008 were likely holdovers from the larger 2006-07 invasion.

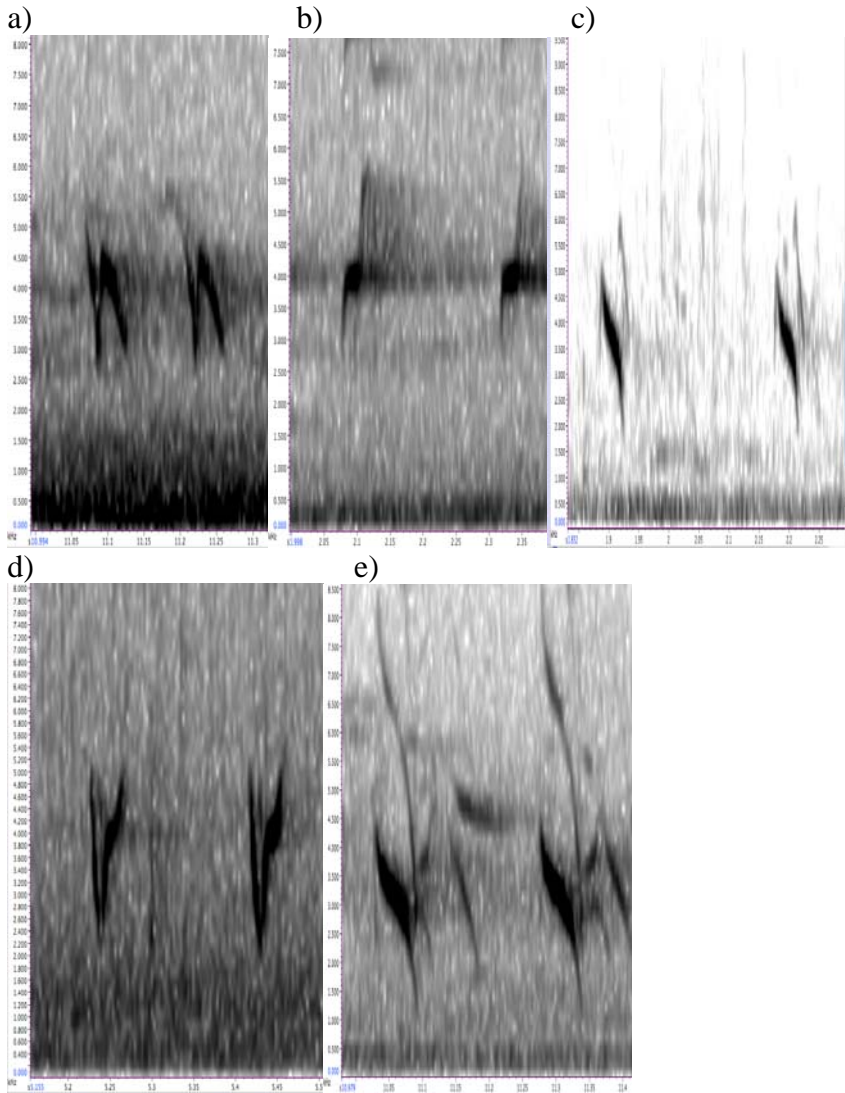


Figure 7. Types 2, 3, and 4 (a, d, e) are the same used above. Types 1 and 10 (b, c) recorded Summerhill, New York, 18 April 2009 (Type 1 Macaulay Library of Sounds #165189 and Type 10 Macaulay Library of Sounds #165188). This illustrates for the first time five different call-types were present in central New York 28 March-18 April 2009.

March-April 2009: New York and the Northeast experienced a massive invasion of Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills. An invasion this size had not been seen since 1989. Later in the invasion, fairly localized and modest numbers of five different call-types of Red Crossbills appeared (see Figure 7). This was the first time five different call-types were documented in NY at the *The Kingbird* 2011 June; 61 (2)

same time. As the spectrograms in this paper show, Types 1, 2, 3, 4, and 10 were present during this brief irruption. All five types were recorded at Summerhill State Forest on 18 April 2009. Only a couple each of Types 2 and 4 were present, with Type 1 being the most common and evenly distributed. Many birds were heard singing at several locations and perhaps a few nested. I suspected a very low incidence of nesting because no juveniles were seen. The sheer numbers of White-winged Crossbills, Pine Siskins and Red Crossbill call-types probably were higher than the resources needed for widespread nesting, and the behavioral environment present likely prohibited effective pair bonding (Groth, pers. comm.). A Red Crossbill pair was seen copulating at Summerhill State Forest, Cayuga County in April 2009 (Tom Johnson, pers. comm.). During this invasion, call-types were seen feeding on Norway spruce and Red Pine. Nearly all of the invading call-types departed by early May (one Type 4 was recorded Pharsalia July 2009) while many Type 1s remained. Type 1 has nested every year since 2004.

RESEARCH AND THE FUTURE

Studies have shown that some call-types in the United States and Europe pair with their own call-types, suggesting there may be fairly distinct populations to consider for any conservation efforts. Thus far, documentation of hybridization between different call-types has been very rare: 1-5% of pairs (Benkman et al. 2009, Summers et al. 2007, Groth 1993c). In the South Hills of Idaho, where a resident population of Type 9 occurs sympatrically with Types 2 and 5, interbreeding was found to be less than 1% in a large sample size of 1,704 paired crossbills (Benkman et al. 2009). The Type 9 South Hills crossbill was proposed for species status during the last AOU revisions, but the proposition was very narrowly rejected. Whether crossbill call-types assortively pair under differing environmental conditions is an area in need of further study.

Historical declines of Red Crossbill in the Northeast in the early 1900s were likely related to logging of mature coniferous forests according to Dickerman (1987). Dickerman specifically mentioned the decline of a medium-billed bird, but it's obvious today that medium-billed crossbills are still the most frequently occurring (pers. obs.). Three different medium-billed call-types occur in the state, which would be expected given that most conifers (i.e., hemlock, spruces) in the Northeast best match the bill depth morphologies of medium-billed crossbills. The vast majority of crossbills recorded in the East are of medium-billed call-types 1, 4, and 10, especially call-types 1 and 10.

The preservation of diverse conifer forests will ensure the Red Crossbill's future in New York and the northeastern United States. While forest maturation in New York will increase available habitat for crossbills, stressors such as the hemlock wooly adelgid, logging, global warming, and acid rain will compromise habitat, particularly for Type 1, which finds its home in the Appalachians. It's also clear that the state forest plantations have led to an

increase in appropriate habitat. A certain percentage and diversity of conifers should be maintained in these state lands across New York.

As previously mentioned, there is a need for much additional fieldwork focusing on Red Crossbills across their range. This is particularly true across eastern North America where they occur erratically and can be quite difficult to locate, let alone study in detail. The potential for some call-types to be recognized as distinct species warrants additional efforts to record crossbill vocalizations. One thing is certain: birders in New York and elsewhere should have their “crossbill radar” on any time they are encountered. With much practice, many of the call-types can be identified in the field, but audiospectrographic analysis is always recommended. When Red Crossbill call-types are observed, an attempt to record their flight calls using any available means (including video recorders, camcorders with audio or even some cell phones) may lead to a better understanding of their ecology. Any recordings can be sent to me at the address above.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I’d like to thank Craig Benkman, Jeffrey Groth, Tom Hahn, Ken Irwin, and Nathan Pieplow for continued discussion about the Red Crossbill complex. Jeffrey Groth was instrumental in helping me go through dozens of recordings so I could fine-tune my ability to audiospectrographically analyze the various flight calls of the Red Crossbill call-types. Craig Benkman is always great with giving details about the natural history of the various call-types. I would like to thank the Macaulay Library of Sounds at The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Florida Museum of Natural History, The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley (aka Jeff Groth’s collection), Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics, and xeno-canto for the use of recordings. I’d like to especially thank Curator Greg Budney at the Macaulay Library of Sounds as he was instrumental in helping me fine-tune my recording abilities—as one can see, Greg Budney recorded a number of the tracks cited. Lastly I’d like to thank Julie Siler for editing help, and for listening to me go on and on about crossbills!

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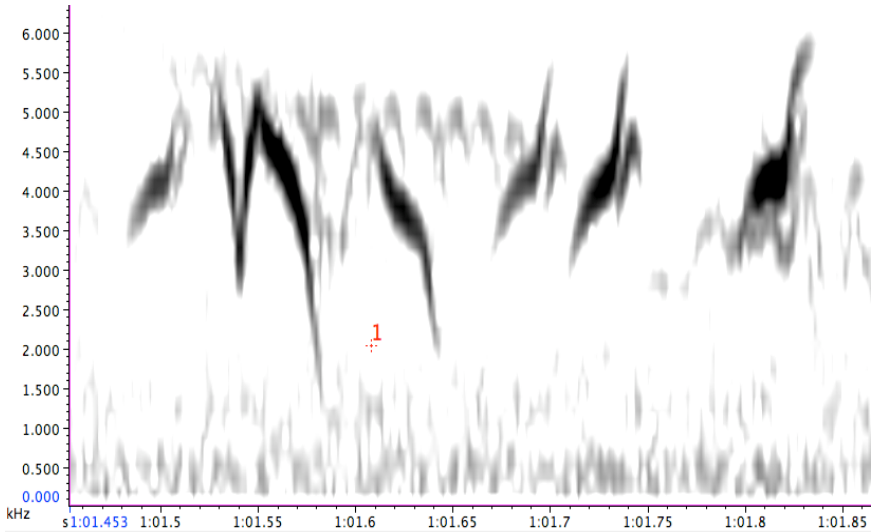


Figure 8. Spectrogram above illustrates a flock of call-types 3, 10, and 1. As it reads from left to right: Type 10, Type 3, Type 1, Type 10, Type 10, Type 10. Recorded by Matthew A. Young in Pitcher, New York, 15 March 2009 (Macaulay Library of Sounds #163231).

A 2010 NASSAU COUNTY “BIG YEAR”

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After recording a modest 35 species at my usual assignment of the South Nassau CBC on 2 Jan 2010, it occurred to me to attempt the rather interesting though limited endeavor of a Nassau County Big Year. Having seen American Bittern and Razorbill that day, and knowing these to be nice finds on any day within Nassau County, I had the extra incentive to take on this endeavor. Initially, I wasn't sure what the birding community would think of this project, but most turned out to be very supportive. Only a small number of my comrades thought that limiting a “Big Year” to just one county was too restrictive. Factoring in the “Realistic” factor—knowing in advance how much available time I would have for the field—was another important component in limiting this project to the county in which I've been a life-long resident. Knowing my birding would be confined to weekends and a minimal number of late afternoons forced me to tap into all of my skills in terms of utilizing seasonality, tides, and weather patterns in the best and most sensible ways possible.

Diligent record keeping made for easy retrieval of hours spent in the field and locations visited, keeping in mind that many of my regular birding locations outside of Nassau were also visited, mostly for chasing rarities, or for out-of-Region 10 vacation time, but generally for limited periods. Most of the 36 locations visited were in the southern sector of the County, which includes three State Parks (Valley Stream, Hempstead Lake and Jones Beach), each of which I worked regularly. Nineteen of the 36 locations were visited repeatedly; the most frequently visited location was Jones Beach State Park where the most productivity was at the West End. In a total of 180 hours and 50 minutes recorded in the field, 108 entries were documented within 69 dates. Roughly another 25 hours of unproductive birding went unrecorded. 15 hours and 45 minutes were spent sea-watching within parts of 17 of those recorded outings. There were no pelagic trips.

This synopsis represents the highlights and some of the “Hits and Misses” as well as notable observations recorded during the calendar year. Of the 238 recorded species, there were several species personally seen for the first time in Nassau County. These are: Tundra Swan, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Marbled Godwit, White-winged Dove, Loggerhead Shrike, Cave Swallow, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Nelson's Sparrow. Here are some notes related to the first timers as well as other significant observations and findings. Comments on individual species relate to my recent records and recollection of my birding experiences in Nassau County since the early 1970s.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Hempstead Lake SP - 24 Jan. With Canada Geese moving around mainly at the north end of the reservoir.

Tundra Swan: Massapequa Preserve - 22 Feb. On the pond near the Pittsburg Ave. entrance. Up to two birds wintered within the preserve and were seen by many.

Eurasian Wigeon: Mill Pond, Oyster Bay - 21 Nov. Was reported moving around this area for about a week and seen at this location the previous day.

Redhead: Hempstead Lake SP - 27 Feb. Four birds on the South Pond at the southwest corner, a typical location for these, but not seen every year.

Harlequin Duck: Point Lookout - Up to only three birds on multiple dates wintering around the jetties, rarely missed in the last 15+ years at this location.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Jones Beach West End - 9 May; Bay County Park - 30 May. Both calling. Getting harder to find in recent years.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: JFK Memorial Wildlife Refuge at Tobay - 13 Jun. Five birds darting around fairly close, generally moving west.

American Bittern: Jones Beach SP - 2 Jan. In flight moving north, seen from Field 10.

Turkey Vulture: East Norwich - 21 Feb. Seen from Rt. 25A, the only one found for the year.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Valley Stream SP - 24 Jan. A bright adult bird was a nice sighting for this date. Occasionally immatures will turn up at this location, most often in March and November.

Virginia Rail: JFK Memorial Wildlife Refuge at Tobay - 6 Jun. A single calling bird; a group of up to three heard from the same location on an unrecorded date in August may have been a family group.

American Avocet: Marine Nature Study Center, Oceanside - 29 Aug. A well-monitored bird that stayed around for several days and was seen by many. Only my second record in Nassau.

Whimbrel: Island Park - 26 Sep. Seven birds seen off the channel which runs behind "Peter's Clam Bar" Restaurant on Long Beach Road. A nice surprise and always a nice find in Nassau.

Marbled Godwit: Jones Beach West End - 11 Sep. Well-reported by many during Sep. and Oct. on the sandbar at the West End, sometimes multiples.

Western Sandpiper: Jones Beach West End - 4 Sep. and 9 Oct. Both singles with most of the other peep species.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Seen in high numbers at many locations during many visits. Definitely the strongest showing I've seen for these on the South Shore.

Baird's Sandpiper: Jones Beach West End - One or two birds seen on three dates from 4 Sep. to 11 Sep.

Stilt Sandpiper: Marine Nature Study Center, Oceanside - 29 Aug. A roosting and well-hidden bird among Short-billed Dowitchers, I would have overlooked it without help. Only my second Nassau record.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Jones Beach West End - 18 Sep. On the grass near the Field 2 exit. The only one for the year, this bird was found by others who quickly alerted me to its presence.

Wilson's Snipe: Jones Beach SP - 24 Oct. The only one for the year, found between Fields 3 and 4 on a tip. High water levels in Spring, when they're usually not too hard to find, had kept these away from their normally occurring places.

Black-headed Gull: Point Lookout - 11 Dec. An adult, with about 12 Bonaparte's Gulls between the west jetties, on the water feeding and preening. This was the final species recorded for the year.

Iceland Gull: Jones Beach West End - 5 Mar. A first-year bird, seen on the sandbar.

Roseate Tern: Jones Beach West End - 22 Aug. One bird, seen in flight after leaving the sandbar and moving out over the ocean. One had been reported from the tern colony at Nickerson Beach around this time.

Razorbill: Jones Beach SP - 2 Jan. One bird, seen in flight from the fishing piers at Field 10 moving east. Single Razorbills are occasionally found at this location in Winter, sometimes close in when the food is good.

White-winged Dove: Jones Beach West End - 2 May. I was already at the West End with others when a call came in on this bird, which was with the pigeon flock at the parking area near the Coast Guard Station. It stayed for about 1.5 hours, long enough for many others to see it, but then took off to the west and was not relocated, leaving many observers coming up empty.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Jones Beach West End - 7 Nov. A single bird was found by others around a known roosting area.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Jones Beach West End; Valley Stream SP - 11 Sep. Two birds at the beach, one bird at Valley Stream on the same day suggests this

species was likely well represented within this migration corridor. My last Nassau record goes back to perhaps the 80s or early 90s.

Loggerhead Shrike: Jones Beach West End - 30 Oct., 4 Dec. This and the White-winged Dove would have to be the most significant findings for the year. Having been in the area at the time of its original appearance, I was lucky to get on the bird seconds after its discovery. Initially ID'd as a small Northern Shrike, the bird was well scrutinized and later found to be a Loggerhead.

White-eyed Vireo: Muttontown Preserve - 22 May. One wouldn't think of this species as hard to find in any year, but for some reason, I didn't turn up any other than two vocalizing birds that were well hidden and probably associated with a nest nearby. Other birders had similar comments regarding low numbers for this species.

Philadelphia Vireo: Valley Stream SP - 6 Sep. A target species, as they were well reported in Region 10 around this time. This was a single bird in loose association with some No. Parulas. Seen on average four out of every ten years.

Cave Swallow: Jones Beach West End - 24 Nov. With a few birds reported on this day and in recent days along the South Shore, I managed good looks at one bird, possibly two birds total, both in fading light. With a few Tree Swallows around, I was able to get a nice comparison even while not being able to appreciate any distinct markings or coloration. The ID was confirmed through its flight style, slightly broader wings and wide, squared-off tail while the bird was not in tight association with the Tree Swallows.

Eastern Bluebird: Stillwell Woods CP - 13 Nov. Having struck out in Spring, this was a serious target bird for this date. A group was reported in Oyster Bay in recent days providing some optimism and this location features plenty of suitable habitat. Only three birds were seen.

Lapland Longspur: Jones Beach West End - 26 Nov. A group of eight birds took off from the swale west of the Nature Center moving east, some calling all the way.

Tennessee Warbler: Valley Stream SP - 15 May. One female, on a "fallout" day across the area. I've recorded this species on average only 1-3 times every 10 years.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Hempstead Lake SP - 18 Apr. A fairly cooperative bird that had apparently wintered around the stream at the south end, I was tipped off on its appearance on this day and treated to a few vocalizations as well.

Cape May Warbler: Jones Beach West End - 29 Aug. One first year female by

itself in the pines near the Field 2 exit.

Kentucky Warbler: Valley Stream SP - 9 May and 10 May. Initially seen by others, I was able to get a few bursts of song on these days while never getting to see the bird. Dense foliage as a result of an early leaf-out made for some nice habitat for this species, which lingered up to four days. This park is a good spot to listen for this species during appropriate migration times.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Seen on two different dates in late Summer and early Fall, both at South Shore coastal locations. This species seems to be picking up in numbers in recent years in Region 10.

Lark Sparrow: Jones Beach SP - 7 Nov. A nicely marked adult was well reported and seen by MOB around the Zach's Bay area.

Nelson's Sparrow: Marine Nature Study Center, Oceanside - 17 Apr. One bird seen well but briefly in suitable habitat. Saltmarsh Sparrow was reported around this time, but none were seen on this day.

Dickcissel: Point Lookout Town Park - 18 Sep. Two males feeding together in the "rockpile" area, perhaps loosely associating with a few Song Sparrows. A nice surprise and a save for the year.

The following are what I would classify as the "Bad Misses" for the year:

Canvasback: These are getting tougher to find with each passing year. Smith's Pond and Mill River, both in Rockville Centre, used to be reliable locations for this species, but not in at least six years.

Barrow's Goldeneye: An annually occurring bird seen mainly from points in Bayville and Centre Island was never turned up despite multiple attempts. Others were on hand for some of these efforts offering plenty of help in scanning.

Wild Turkey: A few tame birds have been notoriously loafing about around Sagamore Hill, but deemed non-wild. Though increasing in Suffolk County, reports on established populations are sketchy.

Red-necked Grebe: One can often find one or two from the Point Lookout side of Jones Inlet in most winters.

Shearwater species: None were picked up despite plenty of effort, though all of the expected shearwaters were found by others a few miles to the east at Robert Moses SP.

Tricolored Heron: Have appeared irregularly at Cow Meadow Park, Freeport

and Marine Nature Study Center, Oceanside but getting harder to find in recent years. A few single birds were recoded in remote areas during the year around some of the South Shore marshes, only seen by boat. Many local birders commented on how this species is getting scarcer throughout the entire Marine Region.

Cattle Egret: Many obliging birds were reported in Brooklyn, Queens and Suffolk Counties, but only a flyover bird was reported from Nassau that I'm aware of. This species is obviously expanding its range and showing up in much stronger numbers, thus rendering it a "Bad Miss".

Bald Eagle: I probably had one flying over the marshes north of Lido Beach; however, this was during a non-birding event with no optics, so I'm not comfortable with the call. There were some reports of eagles moving through around that time in late September.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Formerly reliable at the Pittsburg Ave. Pond at Massapequa Preserve. Scanning groups of Short-billed Dowitchers at appropriate times may be the best way go. Along with Jones Beach, perhaps looking north at the flats from Tobay Beach in late summer could be a good bet.

American Woodcock: One or two can usually be flushed up in Spring from a variety of locations with suitable habitat. The same applies in late Fall, when I made an all-out effort to find one without success. As a consolation, I did turn up a bird on 1 Jan. 2011 on the South Nassau CBC.

Black Tern: Basic plumaged birds have turned up fairly regularly at Jones Beach West End near the sandbar and around Jones Inlet in late Summer, but not in recent years. Given the effort, I'd still consider this a "Bad Miss".

Black-billed Cuckoo: This species was apparently scarce in the entire region with only scattered reports throughout the year. A few observers commented on this in my travels, noting it to be rather odd. I've found Black-billed to be generally more often occurring than Yellow-billed over the long term; however, the last few years have shown a decrease in Black-billed and an increase in Yellow-billed Cuckoo, primarily during Spring migration.

Great Horned Owl: This one was undoubtedly missed due to a lack of proper nocturnal effort. Several attempts were made during the day at known roosts, including Shu Swamp, Welwyn Preserve and Stillwell Woods. I didn't connect with a reported bird at Hempstead Lake SP during the Winter, which was seen by many.

Acadian Flycatcher: After a failed breeding attempt in 2009 at Valley Stream SP, I thought this seemingly increasing species would continue to be fairly easy to find in late Spring. Apparently not too many were reported in the area for

some reason, possibly showing a preference for points west and east of Nassau. I've recorded single birds on roughly 50% of Spring migrations in the last 10 years. Prior to that, they were only occasional at best.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Some folks may find this uniquely vocalizing species to be the worst miss of all, but my records over the years clearly show this bird to be way more prevalent in Queens County than in Nassau, and it can be easily missed.

Common Raven: I wouldn't call this a "Bad Miss" on any other year, but with a well documented successfully breeding pair reported in Roslyn, one would think this to be an easy find. Four attempts were made in hope of detecting one of these birds or their offspring while covering a broad area in that vicinity.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: These are found on about 70% of Spring migrations during my birding history, usually during late May as one might expect, but I've noticed a few to arrive 5-10 days earlier in recent years, occasionally ahead of the more common Swainson's Thrush. Interestingly, I've found several non-vocal "Bicknell's Types" moving through at Valley Stream SP in early May in some recent years, staying for only brief periods but quite conspicuous. These birds are noticeably smaller than the classic "ghost-like" individuals that most birders are used to seeing, and have strong rufous in the tail giving them the feel of a "warm", non-tail-flicking Hermit Thrush. Some of these could also be of the "Newfoundland" race of Gray-cheeked Thrush, though size points toward Bicknell's.

Worm-eating Warbler: With 29 species of warblers recorded for the count, this one stands out as the worst miss. Worm-eating seemed to be on the increase in Spring migration during the 1990s and into the -00s, but that trend may have lost some momentum in recent years.

Summer Tanager: Perhaps a bit borderline for this category; I've generally found or relocated one on 50-60% of Spring and Fall migrations over the years.

Blue Grosbeak: These have been on a steady increase in recent years as they've expanded their range northward, but still not a "given" every year. They were only "occasional" at best during the 70s and 80s.

Common Redpoll: Considered a "Bad Miss" only because they irrupted nicely late in the year and were well reported coastally, many as calling flyovers. Like American Woodcock, I had one of those calling flyover birds at Jones Beach during the South Nassau CBC on 1 Jan. 2011.

The following species occur much less frequently than most mentioned in the "Bad Misses" category and would have been realistic though ambitious finds:

Ross's Goose, Barnacle Goose, Cackling Goose, King Eider, Northern Bobwhite, American White and Brown Pelicans, Black Vulture, Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Sora, Common Moorhen, Wilson's Plover (tried for, but missed the reported Jones Beach bird), Upland Sandpiper, Little Gull (at least two appeared briefly late in the year with Bonaparte's, and were tried for), Glaucous Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Caspian Tern, Parasitic Jaeger, Dovekie, Common and Thick-billed Murres, Barn Owl, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Northern Shrike, Purple Martin, Cliff Swallow, Yellow-throated Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Red and White-winged Crossbills.

For purposes of comparison, my Nassau County Life List stands at 292 at the time of this writing, so given the effort, I believe 238 species for the year is a number to be proud of considering all factors.

It's important to mention that weather conditions were about as good as can be expected with nearly every weekend featuring at least one dry day, but the year didn't go without a few inconveniences; two nasty flu-like bugs and an unprecedented bout with poison ivy took me out of the field and into doctors' offices and pharmacies more than I'd like to recall.

All in all, I felt this project to be most significant in being an exercise in camaraderie more than just the birding in itself. It brought many of us together in a special way, well beyond what we'd expect in an ordinary year. With the feel of what at times felt like a prolonged CBC, the phone rang very often with friends and fellow birders leading me to a number of species which I would have missed for the year if not for their help. A special mention of thanks goes to Janice Berlinger for her support and getting me up and out early...with plenty of coffee! I am grateful to the following conscientious birders and friends for their enthusiasm and help in making this happen.

Seth Ausubel, Andrew Baksh, Ed Bescher, Gail Benson, Tom Burke, Ed Coyle, Mike Farina, Ken and Sue Feustel, Gerta Fritz, Doug Futuyma, John Gluth, Sam Jannazzo, Pat Jones, Rich Kelly, Dave Klauber, Bob Kurtz, Patricia Lindsay, Stella Miller, Shai Mitra, Mary Normandia, Joan Quinlan, Lloyd Spitalnik, Joe Viglietta.



NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

ADDITIONS TO THE NEW YORK STATE CHECKLIST

The New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) has voted to add three species to the New York State Checklist under the new 'accelerated review' policy (NYSARC 2009, *Kingbird* 59(3): 235). The three additions are:

1. **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) on the basis of three separate sightings that were part of a larger incursion into the northeast: five individuals, Oneida Lake, Onondaga, May 2010, one individual at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, Jul-Aug 2010, and one individual at Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, Genesee, Aug 2010.
2. **Common Ground-Dove** (*Columbina passerina*) on the basis of a bird from Captree State Park, Suffolk, Oct-Nov 2010.
3. **Hermit Warbler** (*Dendroica occidentalis*) based on a first-fall female at Sunken Meadow State Park, Suffolk in Dec 2010.

Full details of these exciting records will be published in the 2010 NYSARC Annual Report, as is customary, but it is worth mentioning that all of these individuals were thoroughly documented with excellent color photographs and written reports from multiple observers. With these inclusions, the NYS list now stands at 478 species.

Submitted on behalf of the New York State Avian Records Committee: Angus Wilson (Chair), Jeanne Skelly (Secretary), Jeffrey S. Bolsinger, Thomas W. Burke, Willie D'Anna, Andrew Guthrie, Tom Johnson, and Dominic Sherony.

THE 111TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT IN NEW YORK STATE

A decade has passed since the National Audubon Society discontinued publication of complete Christmas Bird Count data, choosing instead to make CBC data accessible exclusively through an online database. Despite its many obvious advantages, this database poses a number of inconveniences—and even serious obstacles—to potential users of CBC data, some of which were discussed six years ago in an editorial note in *The Kingbird* (Volume 55, pp. 107-109). This note concluded that a static and comprehensive archive of the data collected each year is an invaluable safe-guard against the ambiguities that inevitably creep into dynamic databases as taxonomy and review standards change over time.

Since that time, *The Kingbird* has hosted data from NYS CBCs with the intention of preserving such an archive and presenting it in an easily browsable format. Despite its merits, this printed archive has come at a considerable cost in terms of space allocations in this quarterly journal, and it has been pointed out that the key qualities of the archive are its permanence, comprehensiveness, and accessibility—not the print medium itself. Indeed, a browsable digital file format is arguably the preferable means of presenting the archive.

This year, the complete results of the 111th Christmas Bird Count in New York State have been collated and archived in a document that may be downloaded and printed from the NYSOA website:

<http://www.nybirds.org/Publications/kingbird.htm>

Hard copies of this file, formatted to the page size of *The Kingbird*, are also available upon request from Shaibal S. Mitra, Biology Department, College of Staten Island, Staten Island, NY 10314.



FIFTY YEARS AGO IN

The KINGBIRD

Chickadee Migration in Monroe County: As early as September 1, 1961, observers in the area northeast of Rochester noted Black-capped Chickadees in greater than normal numbers, but this was passed off as limited post-nesting wanderings of local birds after a successful nesting season. This theory was upset on Sept. 30 when 25 birds hit the banding nets in Dr. Leubner's backyard in Irondequoit; this almost proved that the chickadee population at this time consisted of something more than wandering local birds.

After due consideration, the observers chose Oklahoma Beach as a vantage point from which to await developments. This area is about a quarter mile east of the Irondequoit Bay outlet into Lake Ontario. Somewhat above the railroad, the slope levels out into suburban lots which are well shrubbed. The upper slopes are rather lightly wooded.

On Friday, October 5, Mrs. Mary Ann Sunderlin and Miss Louise Zeitler counted 503 chickadees between 1:30 and 2:15 p.m. On Saturday Mrs. Sunderlin and Mrs. Thomas McNett counted 1,253 chickadees between 9:30 a.m. and noon. They returned at 1:20 p.m. and counted 6,297 more chickadees in the next 2 ¼ hours.

On October 8 they were joined by Warren Lloyd, Miss Ruth MacRae, Mrs. Ruth Shermer, Joseph McNett, Dr. and Mrs. Neal Moon, Bob Dobson, and Walter Listman. Observers were continually at the point from 7:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. During this time, 17,166 chickadees were counted and 6,860 more were estimated. On Monday, in little more than four hours of observation, 7,154 birds were counted. On Thursday an estimated 2,000 birds were observed passing this point.

Thus in the three peak days of the flight passing this point 31,870 chickadees were counted, and there must have been many thousands that passed when no observers were present.

In addition to the chickadees, at least 14 Tufted Titmice, 43 White-breasted Nuthatches, and 35 Brown Creepers were observed on the three peak days. A single Boreal Chickadee was carefully studied by Mrs. Shermer.

The combined total of the peak two days of the last great flight in 1954, which was watched from a point about two miles west of Manitou, was estimated at 20,000 birds. That migration followed a west-east direction, the opposite of this year's flight.

Where did they go? This flight seemed to turn inland just east of or over Rochester. At the peak of the flight there was no comparable flight in either direction at Manitou or other nearby points. During this time the maximum estimated count at Manitou was only 75 on Oct. 7, and these birds were moving in the usual west-east direction. Between Oct. 7 and 15 small flocks were observed passing regularly over the heart of Rochester, almost always in a southerly direction. After the flight tapered off, the number of chickadees present locally did not seem greater than usual during a fairly good chickadee year.—Howard S. Miller, 54 Luella St., Rochester 9.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—WINTER 2010-11

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THE WEATHER

Record setting cold temperatures and high levels of snow accumulation were a trend this winter throughout most of New York. Hugh McGuinness' report from the Marine Region best described it as "the weather this season was %\$#^! crazy!" "Snowbirds" would boast that it was a perfect year to head to a warmer climate for the winter months, but of course then you would have missed all the good birds observed in New York from December through February.

As of mid-January, Syracuse had received almost double their average snowfall to that date. The New York City Metropolitan area received three large snowstorms in December and January, each one between 16 and 20 inches, resulting in record breaking levels in January. It was also an incredibly cold winter, with a number of low temperature records being shattered in January, when parts of the State were more than 20 degrees below zero.

WATERFOWL AND WATERBIRDS

- On 3 January, Kurt Fox and Dave Tetlow reported a "goose slam" with a single each Brant, Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, and Cackling Goose present amongst thousands of Canada Geese and Snow Geese in the Savannah Mucklands.
- Approximately 15 different Greater White-fronted Geese were discovered over four different counties in the Marine Region.
- Snow Geese remained in higher than usual numbers in the Finger Lakes Region through January.
- Nine Ross's Geese were in West Sparta in December. A single Ross's Goose was present in Bridgehampton in February.
- Apparently two Barnacle Geese were present near Belmont Lake State Park in January, as observers noted one with leg bands and one without.
- There were a large number of reports (32) of Cackling Geese in the Genesee Region, with a few other individual reports elsewhere throughout the State.
- Trumpeter Swans were reported in six out of ten Regions in the State, with multiple reports of as many as 20 birds at Point Peninsula and Henderson Harbor. Little to no detail was given on most sightings of this species in the State, with the exception of one very well documented wing-tagged individual at Lake Agawam in Southampton. Extremely interesting is the

fact that this individual bird has a known origin of Ontario, Canada, a region which has officially given Trumpeter Swans full species status since October 2007. You can read more about this bird in the Marine Region write-up. Other than that specific report, the birding community seems to have a somewhat lackadaisical approach towards reporting Trumpeter Swans since there does not appear to be a clear path forward for this species to receive full species status in New York.

- Five separate reports of Eurasian Wigeon came from Long Island in December and January. One Eurasian Wigeon was present at Vischer's Ferry in Saratoga County, as well as another that had lingered from the fall into early December at Rockland Lake in the Hudson-Delaware Region.
- Nearly 200 Gadwalls held on through mid December in Cape Vincent which is 20x higher than normal winter numbers.
- A record early Blue-winged Teal was seen at Fair Haven on 27 February.
- Three reports of "Eurasian" Green-winged Teals (Common Teals) came from Long Island throughout the reporting period.
- Redheads were present in excellent numbers in the Finger Lakes with Cayuga Lake hosting a winter flock of up to 18,000, and the Conesus-Hemlock CBC detecting a record high count of 6,655 birds.
- A Tufted Duck was found by Gary Straus in Cold Spring Harbor on 4 January, and stayed through 7 January.
- Good numbers of King Eiders were seen around the State with a high count of eight off Montauk Point, three on the Buffalo waterfront in January, an immature male at Point Breeze on Lake Ontario in December, and a near adult male at the south end of Cayuga Lake in December. A female and an immature male were also reported after being shot by a hunter legally in Lake Ontario, at the mouth of the Niagara River.
- One of the most impressive waterfowl spectacles of the winter was the size of the sea duck flock, comprised mainly of all three scoter species and Common Eider, at Montauk Point. Observers estimated the total number of sea ducks at forty to sixty thousand individuals, with the maximum numbers occurring in mid-January.
- Good numbers of Harlequin Ducks were reported from upstate—four in Rochester, two in Dunkirk, and two on Onondaga Lake in Syracuse.
- Barrow's Goldeneyes put in an excellent show around the State with a high count of six being reported in the St. Lawrence. Three reports of Barrow's Goldeneyes came from the Hudson-Mohawk Region. Also, individual Barrow's Goldeneyes returned to three previous winter locations on Long Island, while single males returned to Lake Ontario at Point Breeze and Sodus Bay. One was reported in the Adirondack-Chaplain Region, as well as one on the east side of Canandaigua Lake in Vine Valley, Yates County.
- An unusually high count of 875 Common Mergansers were seen on Seneca Lake in mid January.
- A large number of Ruddy Ducks (645) stayed at the Batavia WWTP up until it froze in December.

- In December, single annually returning Eared Grebes were reported at the Batavia WWTP and Cayuga Lake in Aurora. An additional Eared Grebe spent much of the winter in Dunkirk Harbor.
- Three reports of a single American White Pelican came from Long Island between 29 December and 8 January, the latter being of a dead bird. An American White Pelican was also reported flying high over Chelsea in Dutchess County on 5 January.
- An immature Great Cormorant was seen flying into Irondequoit Bay on Lake Ontario. Another that was found in the Adirondack-Champlain Region in November lingered into early December. A pair of Double-crested Cormorants were found on the Binghamton CBC which were locally rare for the winter months.
- In the Oneida Lake Basin, Karl Curtis spotted a record sized flock of 48 Sandhill Cranes flying over Jamesville on 4 December.
- An offshore pelagic southeast of Shinnecock Inlet on 11 December located 35 Atlantic Puffins.
- An inshore pelagic trip from Freeport, Long Island on 23 January found 31 Common Murres, one Thick-billed Murre, and 27 Razorbills. At least 66 additional large alcids were observed on the pelagic (likely murres or Razorbills). Decent numbers of Razorbills were reported throughout the winter from the south shore of Long Island. A dead Thick-billed Murre was also found near Montauk.

VULTURES AND RAPTORS

- Black Vultures continue to move their range northward, and winter records are no exception in reflecting this trend. A modest winter roost of a half dozen Black Vultures has become established east of the city of Hudson. Nine Black Vultures were reported from Manhattan to Montauk during the period. On 19 January, David Nicosia observed a Black Vulture in Johnson City near Binghamton. Four days later on 23 January, Susan Danskin observed possibly the same Black Vulture approximately 30 miles north near Ithaca. This bird was refound in that same area by other birders on subsequent days. In late February a Black Vulture was reported eating a deer carcass in Hilton along Lake Ontario. Also of interest were five Black Vultures reported along the Niagara River just across the New York State border in Queenston, Ontario.
- An unusual mid-winter sighting of Osprey occurred in February in Montgomery County.
- There were very good numbers of both species of eagles reported this winter across the state. Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch ended up breaking their record for Bald Eagles (221). A one day count of 191 Bald Eagles came from a section of the Hudson River, and 102 were counted on a January NYSDEC aerial survey of the St. Lawrence River.

- The Hudson-Delaware Region also turned in at least 10 reports of Golden Eagles; a few of these reports were of multiple birds. There were numerous Golden Eagle reports from the Susquehanna Region, three reports from the St. Lawrence Region, two from Oneida Lake Basin, and single reports near the Helderbergs of Albany County, and north of Aurora Bay on the east side of Cayuga Lake.
- Small numbers of Northern Goshawks were reported across the State, with slightly higher than normal numbers of Cooper's Hawks, Merlins, and Red-shouldered Hawks. Merlins and Cooper's Hawks in particular are trending higher in recent winters.
- An extremely rare winter report of a Broad-winged Hawk came from Tom Sarro at the Mohonk Lake area in the Hudson-Delaware Region on 18 December.
- Rough-legged Hawks were observed in good numbers in much of upstate and northern NY, although this varied in some locations. The Susquehanna Region also reported higher than average numbers.
- Reports of owl species were average at best throughout much of the State, with some species low to non-existent in parts of the State. The exception to this was a good number of Eastern Screech-Owls reports throughout much of the State.
- Snowy Owls were detected in very low numbers in six out of ten Regions (2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10), with typically only one bird briefly present per Region during the period.
- Short-eared Owls were found in small numbers at traditional locations, with a high count of 16 at a roost on Cape Vincent in December.
- Long-eared Owls and Northern Saw-whet Owls were detected primarily in small numbers during a few of the CBCs, with some Regions having no reports at all.

GULLS AND SHOREBIRDS

- All the expected gull species were reported on the Niagara River and along the coast. The Slaty-backed Gull that Jim Pawlicki found in late February, at the Lewiston Power Reservoir in Niagara County, was really the only rarity.
- Upstate Black-legged Kittiwakes are always notable, as were single birds found at Buffalo Harbor, the mouth of the Genesee River in Rochester, and at Derby Hill.
- A Black-headed Gull was present much of December in the Rochester area, and multiple birds were reported from the Marine Region throughout the reporting period.
- One, and possibly two, California Gulls were on the Niagara River in December.

- Good numbers of Iceland Gulls were reported from the Niagara River and the coastal Region.
- Thayer's Gulls were also reported in good numbers from the Niagara River. Rochester reported an above average number (six) of Thayer's Gulls.
- At one point during the reporting period, Willie D'Anna reported exceptional numbers of Glaucous Gulls on the Niagara River. Decent numbers of this species were reported throughout the State.
- The ever-expanding list of hybrid gull combinations cannot be overlooked when summarizing winter gull highlights. In addition to the regularly reported "Nelson's Gulls" (Herring x Glaucous hybrid) from the Niagara River, Jim Pawlicki and Jim Watson photographed a presumed Great Black-backed x Glaucous Gull) at Dunkirk Harbor.
- A few reports of Purple Sandpipers came from upstate (Niagara River, Rochester, Fair Haven, and Onondaga Lake). Of course, if you really want to see this species in New York State, you may want to attend next year's Brooklyn CBC where they reported the maximum count of 199 Purple Sandpipers!
- Wilson's Snipes were reported in five out of ten Regions (1, 3, 5, 8, and 10).
- An offshore pelagic southeast of Shinnecock Inlet on 11 December located eight Red Phalaropes.

PASSERINES AND HALF HARDIES

- An average number of Northern Shrikes were reported throughout the State.
- The large American Crow roost in Rochester continued with over 24,000 birds counted for the second year in a row on the CBC. However, the bigger story was the detection of the first winter record of Fish Crow for the Region amongst the large roost. With additional observation by numerous observers, as many as 23 Fish Crows were detected in early February.
- Common Ravens continued to spread through the Marine Region, and are slowly working their way east on Long Island. Several western Long Island nest sites appeared to be active by the end of the period.
- Very good numbers of Bohemian Waxwings were reported across the Lake Ontario plain, and into northern New York, with some flocks in the Oneida Lake Basin and the Adirondacks numbering almost 300 birds. Two Bohemian Waxwings were reported from DeBruce in northern Sullivan County, and a single report came from Saratoga County.
- Excellent numbers of field birds such as Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings, and Horned Larks, were observed upstate. A mixed flock that included over 200 Lapland Longspurs was enjoyed by many birders near Cuylerville. Flocks of 1000 to 2400 Snow Buntings were reported from the western Lake Ontario plain on multiple occasions, as well as one report of 1000 atop Mount Pleasant.

- Rusty Blackbirds were reported from Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, and 10 including 10 photographed at a feeder in McConnellsville in the Oneida Lake Basin on 19 January.
- In the general category of half hardy species, all the expected species were represented in at least seven Regions in the State, including Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Gray Catbirds, Hermit Thrushes, American Pipits, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were recorded in six Regions.
- As expected, the southern Marine Region recorded the most half hardy wood warbler species (nine) over the reporting period (Orange-crowned, Pine, Yellow-rumped, Hermit, Palm, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow-breasted Chat). A Yellow-breasted Chat in a Buffalo yard from mid December through most of January was unprecedented for the Region. An extremely late Yellow Warbler was observed well by Dave Czaplak at Seneca Lake State Park on 4 December.
- The Marine Region also put together an impressive list of no less than fifteen species of sparrows over the reporting period, including American Tree, Chipping, Field, Lark, Savannah, Le Conte's, Saltmarsh, Nelson's, Seaside, Fox, Song, Swamp, White-throated, White-crowned, and Dark-eyed Junco. A Vesper Sparrow reported upstate in the Genesee Region was unexpected.

WINTER FINCHES

- Matt Young, who is looked to by many in the State as a resident finch expert, described the season as a "pretty good finch winter." Of course the numbers of observations varied greatly by specific species.
- There was a conspicuous near-absence of Pine Grosbeaks across the State this winter. Two reports came from the Adirondack-Champlain Region, a third from Canton, and a final one from Saratoga. These reports were primarily of single birds.
- Small flocks of Red Crossbills were reported from Fort Drum in the St. Lawrence Region. Other than that, only single birds were reported from five other Regions (2, 3, 4, 5, and 10), possibly due to the poor cone crop.
- I was really surprised to learn that all Regions except the Finger Lakes reported White-winged Crossbills this winter season. I was under the impression that they also were nearly absent, but apparently small numbers were present across the State, in particular from the Adirondacks and from five counties within the Hudson-Mohawk Region. A couple of sightings came from the Susquehanna and Niagara Frontier Regions.
- Pine Siskins were present in small numbers across the State, however they were in low numbers compared to recent invasion years.
- Evening Grosbeaks made a very good push in December, and as a result, were detected from all Regions except the Marine Region. Good numbers

were reported in the Adirondacks and foothills, Sullivan, Chenango, and Cortland Counties, the Oneida Lake Basin, and the Summerhill area.

- The winter finch story of the season was the very large influx of redpolls across localized portions of upstate and northern New York, and included both subspecies of Common Redpolls and both subspecies of Hoary Redpolls. The redpolls started arriving en masse in late December with flocks of hundreds being reported at feeders and other locations in the field. This was followed by a second large wave of redpolls in mid to late February. This latter push sent many redpolls downstate to Long Island, and some birds were even reported as far south as North Carolina.
- Flocks of one hundred or more Common Redpolls were reported in every Region of the state, with some Regions (Adirondack, St. Lawrence, Finger Lakes, Genesee, and Marine) reporting flocks of approximately three- to four-hundred birds. The Oneida Lake Basin reported widespread flocks of up to 100 per day in January and February. A few of the darker and larger sized “Greater” Redpolls (*rostrata* subspecies from Greenland) were reported as well. Multiple reports of this rare *rostrata* subspecies came from the Susquehanna and Genesee Regions, and one report came from Bill Kruegerin in Cumberland Head in the Adirondack Region.
- Hoary Redpolls were found amongst the Common Redpoll flocks at the seven northern and western Regions in the State. The Genesee Region alone had 37 Hoary Redpolls reported over the period. At some locations, Hoary Redpolls were seen in unusually large numbers, with a high count of 11 reported by Dave Tetlow in a flock of Common Redpolls near Kendall. Up to five Hoary Redpolls were photographed by multiple observers at Beaver Lake Nature Center in Onondaga County. At least four Hoary Redpolls were photographed at Brad Carlson’s feeders south of Rochester. Multiple reports came from the St. Lawrence, Adirondack, Finger Lakes, and Susquehanna Regions, the later documenting some birds with photographs. The Niagara Frontier Region had two reports of Hoary Redpolls including two birds photographed at Willie D’Anna’s feeders. T. Lloyd Williams reported one Hoary Redpoll as far south as the Hudson-Mohawk Region. One, or possible two different, larger, and much rarer Greenland race of “Hornemann’s” Hoary Redpolls (*hornemanni* subspecies) were seen at Brad Carlson’s feeders south of Rochester in January and February.

RARITIES

There was quite a nice list of rarities this winter season, and they were spread across the entire State.

- The number of Eurasian Collared-Doves in the Genesee Region continues to increase with eight being observed perched together in January at a traditional location. Possibly a sign of their continuing range expansion within the State, the Niagara Frontier Region experienced their first ever Eurasian Collared-Dove at a feeder in Lyndonville.

- A Lewis's Woodpecker continued to frequent a private residence in Ontario County through the entire reporting period.
- One December report of a Western Kingbird came from Tottenville in the Marine Region.
- The well-photographed Loggerhead Shrike found at Jones Beach State Park on 30 October continued through 6 December.
- A large movement of Cave Swallows occurred in late November along Lake Ontario, and 16 of the birds lingered at a treatment plant in Greece, NY into early December, where they perished.
- A Townsend's Solitaire found by Mike Stewart on Point Peninsula on 19 December was seen by many birders throughout the rest of the reporting period. A second Townsend's Solitaire was reported from the Orient CBC on 1 January, but could not be relocated.
- An adult male Varied Thrush was photographed at a feeder at a private residence in Wurtsboro, Sullivan County in late December and stayed through the reporting period. A Varied Thrush at Central Park found in November stayed through the entire reporting period, while another at a private residence in East Marion was present in early December.
- The first State record of Hermit Warbler was recorded at Sunken Meadow State Park on 4 December (see p.132 and p.149).
- Vicki Bustamante found an adult male Western Tanager at her feeder on 31 December, which remained until 22 February.
- Tom Burke and Gail Benson found a LeConte's Sparrow on the EPCAL property in Suffolk County on 8 January. This may constitute New York's first winter record for the species. A wintering Lark Sparrow was also at EPCAL for three weeks from mid-December to early January.
- A Harris's Sparrow was present for nearly the entire reporting period by a feeding station along Dryden Lake in the Finger Lakes Region.
- In February, an adult male "Oregon" Junco was photographed by LeAnn Childs at her feeder in Ellery in the Niagara Frontier Region.
- An unusually large mixed flock of icterids were present at Brad Carlson's feeders south of Rochester in December including ~800 cowbirds, numerous Red-winged Blackbirds, grackles, and one adult female Yellow-headed Blackbird that was present for seven days. This is the same location that hosted an immature male Yellow-headed Blackbird last winter.
- A European Goldfinch was discovered at a feeder in Pine Bush, Orange County during the Great Yard Bird Count on 21 February.

BIRD OF THE SEASON

There were quite a few rarities this season, but I felt that only two species warranted consideration as the Bird of the Season for Winter 2010-11. The first accepted New York State record of Hermit Warbler is likely the most obvious contender. However, I also think there are strong merits for the fifth State record

of Lewis's Woodpecker. For the following reasons, I select both of these species as the Bird(s) of the Season for Winter 2010-11.

This season's first fall female Hermit Warbler found at Sunken Meadow State Park by Vinnie Pellegrino on 4 December stayed through 8 December, and was seen by hundreds of birders. This bird was of great interest to many State birders because this same species had previously nearly received full status on the New York State checklist in 2002, but was rejected at that time. The previous well-photographed hatching year male warbler was found at Jones Beach SP, Nassau Co. in November 2002. However, it was not accepted by NYSARC because the possibility of Townsend's x Hermit Warbler hybrid origins could not be ruled out due to some plumage characteristics. For details on this previous bird, you can see NYSARC's conclusions online at: <http://www.nybirds.org/NYSARC/Reports/NYSARC2002.html>.

In the meantime, those of you who were lucky enough to see this winter's Hermit Warbler can breathe comfortably now that this bird has officially been accepted as New York State's first Hermit Warbler (p. 132).

The Lewis's Woodpecker was hosted by Fred and Eleanor Jordon at their private residence in Ontario County. This bird arrived on 30 October, and remained throughout the entire winter season / reporting period. The Jordon's initially requested that the bird not be publicized on the internet, with the understandable concern of being inundated by the birding community. The Jordon's did, however, agree to host small groups of birders at prearranged times and dates. They proceeded to coordinate visits with small groups of birders via word of mouth, through the entire reporting period. Eleanor recently informed me that on 7 May, well after the reporting period ended, the Lewis's Woodpecker loaded up on suet for the last time and headed off, not to be seen again. As of this final date, the Jordon's had hosted 312 birders hoping to see the woodpecker. They wanted me to mention how much they really enjoyed the birding community that visited and shared this wonderful woodpecker with them! Based on the fact that this mega rarity stayed the entire season, and considering the well-coordinated effort between the homeowners and the birding community to respect one another's wishes, the Lewis's Woodpecker also deserves to be recognized as the Bird of the Season.



REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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December 2010 was the coldest in ten years. The average temperature was 26.1° F, 3.6° F below normal. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 2.72", 1.08" less than usual, with 32.0" of snow, 6.5" more than usual. However, snowfall amounts varied widely by location. A mostly stationary, major lake effect snow event dropped up to 39" in a narrow band from South Buffalo to Lancaster during a 30 hour period starting on the evening of the 1st. There was an unusual stretch from the 13th to the 29th where the temperature did not exceed freezing. January remained consistently cold except for a warm-up on New Year's Day. The average temperature was 21.3°, 3.2° below normal. The monthly precipitation was 1.89", 1.27" below normal, with 29.8" of snow, 3.7" more than normal. Snowfall occurred every day except the 1st, however, it was not heavy. The coldest temperature at Buffalo in 15 years, -8° F, occurred on the morning of the 24th. The cold weather and frequent but light snowfall continued in February. The average temperature was 24.6°, 1.3° below normal. The monthly precipitation was 3.13", 0.71" above normal, with 34.1" of snowfall, 16.3" above normal. A strong thaw occurred on the 17th-18th, with some strong southwest winds (up to 50 mph), which prompted a few early migrants to return, e.g., Turkey Vulture, Killdeer, and Red-winged Blackbird.

Despite the cold winter weather, Lake Erie did not freeze earlier than usual. As usual, waterfowl were most abundant on the Niagara River, and numbers swelled at ice-free Dunkirk Harbor after the Lake was largely iced over. Waterfowl numbers are best reflected in the New York State winter waterfowl count data. White-winged Scoter is the most common scoter in winter with the highest numbers on Lake Ontario. Surf Scoter and Black Scoter are usually scarce during the winter months as evidenced by zero and three reports, respectively, this winter. Meanwhile, **King Eider** reports have increased in recent years and even surpassed the number of Surf and Black Scoters this winter. One was seen at Point Breeze over several days in December, two were shot on Lake Ontario off Fort Niagara on 1 January, and three were found on the Buffalo waterfront in January. One and then two **Harlequin Ducks** were crowd pleasers at Dunkirk Harbor for a prolonged stay, often allowing close views. Kurt Fox's count of **645 Ruddy Ducks** at Batavia WWTP on 3 December demonstrates their fidelity to this favored location right up until it ices over.

An **Eared Grebe** lingered at Batavia WWTP until 4 December, and another was present at Dunkirk Harbor for much of January and February. Red-necked Grebes were reported at only two locations, with a maximum of three at Dunkirk Harbor. Red-throated Loon is now clearly the most expected loon species after December. Besides the usual reports on Lake Ontario, they were also found at Niagara Falls, Batavia WWTP, and Dunkirk Harbor this season.

Bald Eagles were again numerous. On 17 January, David Suggs counted 10 at Evangola SP and eight at nearby Sturgeon Pt. out on Lake Erie ice. Celeste Morien came across a roosting location for Northern Harriers in Shelby, with 12 sighted before dusk on 1 December. The only **Northern Goshawk** report was an adult photographed by Chris Newton in his Colden yard. Red-shouldered Hawks continue to be reported in slightly elevated numbers in winter.

There was only a smattering of rare gull reports, with the clear highlight being a **Slaty-backed Gull** found by Jim Pawlicki at Lewiston Reservoir on 22 February. Pawlicki carefully studied the somewhat distant bird and also deserves credit for checking this under-birded location. By my count this is the second Slaty-backed Gull for Region 1, with the first being the bird found in Niagara Falls, Ontario in 1992 that was also documented to be on the New York side of the river. Documented Slaty-backs at Niagara Falls in 2006 and 2008 were only seen on the Canadian side of the river. A California Gull continuing from the fall season and a Black-legged Kittiwake were the only other notably rare gull species observed. Pawlicki and Bill Watson photographed a **Great Black-backed x Glaucous Gull** at Dunkirk Harbor, a hybrid not previously seen, or at least not documented to my knowledge, in the Region before. Meanwhile, Herring x Glaucous Gull ("Nelson's" Gull) is regularly sighted one or more times each winter, including this year.

A new yard bird for Brett and Sheryl Ewald was also the first for Region 1; on 27 January, Brett spotted a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** making a brief visit to his Lyndonville, Orleans County, yard. A few days later he photographed the dove during its only other appearance. This was a long-awaited arrival for Region 1 and most plausibly is one of the doves wandering from the small population to the east in Hamlin in Region 2.

There were no Snowy Owl or Long-eared Owl reports this winter. **Short-eared Owls** were found at locations where they have been previously documented in recent winters and tracked by a NYSDEC study. Several Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported, mostly from CBCs.

Common Ravens are continuing to slowly spread north from their southern tier haunts. I was surprised to see a pair over my Orchard Park yard on the morning of 15 February. There were several reports of **Bohemian Waxwings** among large Cedar Waxwing flocks along Lake Ontario. Snow Buntings were numerous this winter, including an especially large flock of 1,500 sighted by Willie D'Anna in Wilson on 30 January. A **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** was photographed by LeAnn Childs during its stay in her Ellery yard in February.

Three warbler species during the winter season is two more than usual. Yellow-rumped Warblers are found annually. A **Pine Warbler** on the Jamestown CBC is the next most frequently found wintering warbler species. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** in a Buffalo yard 12 December-21 January was unprecedented.

It was an excellent winter for Common Redpoll sightings. They descended to and through the Region in late December and many stayed. Willie D'Anna documented two separate **Hoary Redpolls**, and there were several undocumented sightings. Pine Siskins were only present in low numbers. There

were two sightings of **White-winged Crossbill** and **Evening Grosbeak**, all of single birds.

CONTRIBUTORS

Doug Beattie, Ann Beebe, Jim Berry, Tom Burke, Brad Carlson, LeAnn Childs, Mike Crewe, Sarah & Virginia Cunningham, Willie D'Anna, Brett Ewald, Kurt Fox, Paul Fuhrmann, Mike Hamilton, Carol Hardenburg, Paul Hess, Nick Glabicky, Joanne Goetz, Doug Gochfeld, Mark Kurtis, Jim Landau (JiL), Jerry Lazarczyk (JeL), Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Terry Mosher, Chris Newton, Jeff Norton, Tom O'Donnell, Jim Pawlicki, Betsy Potter, Gerry Rising, Chuck Rosenburg, Fran Rew, Richard Salembier, Debbie Sharon (DSH), David Suggs (DSu), Marty Sanden, Nancy Vignykan, William Watson, Scott Whittle, Jim Wojewodzki, Mike Zebehazy.

ABBREVIATIONS

AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWT – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; MI – Motor I NR, ERIE; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NFSP – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; NPP – Niagara Power Project on NR, Lewiston, NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA; GENE/ORLE; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; RTPI – Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Jamestown, CHAU; Tift NP – Tift NP, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, NIAG/GENE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: last 2 Randolph CATT 4 Dec (MK), only report.
Cackling Goose: 3 Rushford L ALLE 9 Dec (JP, JM); Buffalo ERIE 19 Dec (JP); only reports.
Mute Swan: 6 FNSP 4 Dec; 3 Java WYOM 18 Dec (GR); max 6, 11 PB 19, 31 Dec; 2, 2 BeSP 11 Jan, 24 Feb; 2 Celeron ChauL 13, 15 Jan; 5 Waterport ORLE 29 Jan; 2 Lewiston NR 15 Feb.
Trumpeter Swan: 3 DH 6 Jan (WW, JP), only report.
Tundra Swan: 235, 350, 386 BeSP 16 Dec, 16, 31 Jan (DSH, JP); ChauL 6 Feb; 60 Dunkirk CHAU 7 Feb (MS); 6 DH 9 Feb.
Wood Duck: St. Bonaventure CBC 18 Dec; Jamestown CBC 19 Dec; Tonawanda ERIE 31 Jan; only reports.
Gadwall: max 17 BeSP 17 Dec.
Am. Wigeon: max 4 DH 20 Feb.
Am. Black Duck: 22 BWWT 3 Dec; max 33 Cuba L ALLE 9 Dec; arr 28 Newstead ERIE 18 Feb.
N. Shoveler: 23, 10 BWWT 3, 5 Dec, only reports.
N. Pintail: max 20 BWWT 3 Dec; 5 Cuba L ALLE 9 Dec; 5 Buffalo CBC 19 Dec; OOWMA

28 Dec; 6 Grand I NR 16 Feb (PH); reported from five other locations.

Green-winged Teal: BWWT 3 Dec; 14 Cuba L ALLE 9 Dec (JP); Buffalo CBC 19 Dec; only reports.

Canvasback: max 20,151 Buffalo CBC 19 Dec; 5000, 9120 Grand I NR 12, 16 Jan (JeL, MM).

Redhead: 100 DH 6 Feb; 56 Tonawanda NR 20 Feb; max 518 Buffalo CBC.

Ring-necked Duck: 13 BWWT 3 Dec; 5 DH 6 Jan; 10 ChauL 10 Jan; 5 ChauL 27 Feb; 2 Tonawanda NR 28 Feb.

Greater Scaup: max 13,000 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 18 Jan (JP, WW).

Lesser Scaup: 7 NF 2 Dec; 24 BWWT 3 Dec; 2 DH 8 Jan; max 390 Tonawanda NR 26 Feb (JP).

KING EIDER: PB 19-23 Dec (BC, CM); 2 shot FNSP 1 Jan; 3 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 13 Jan (NG).

HARLEQUIN DUCK: DH 22 Jan – 5 Feb (JW, JiL); 2 DH 12-20 Feb (mob).

Surf Scoter: no reports.

White-winged Scoter: 3 Buffalo NR 5 Feb; max 199 PB 15 Feb; DH 20 Feb.

Black Scoter: Sturgeon Pt ERIE 8 Dec; PB 28, 31 Dec; DH 12, 20 Feb; only reports.

Bufflehead: 15 BWWT 3 Dec; max 3,432 Buffalo CBC 19 Dec.
Com. Goldeneye: max 4503 Buffalo CBC 19 Dec; 2000 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 21 Feb.
Hooded Merganser: max 121 DH 17 Jan (FR); 88 N. Tonawanda NR 31 Jan; many for Jan.
Com. Merganser: 34 BWWT 3 Dec; 51 Rushford L ALLE 9 Dec; max 305 DH 20 Feb; CBC, waterfowl.
Red-breasted Merganser: Cuba L ALLE 9 Dec, uncommon inland; max 500 Buffalo ERIE 5 Feb.
Ruddy Duck: max 645 BWWT 3 Dec (WW, DB); 3 Cuba L 9 Dec; 2 Rushford L ALLE 9 Dec; 2 BuSP 30 Dec; 12 reported on 4 CBCs; 17, 30 DH 6 Jan, 26 Feb; 3 Barcelona CHAU 17 Jan (AB).
Red-throated Loon: NF 2 Dec; BWWT 3 Dec (WW, DB), rare inland; 10 Wilson CBC 18 Dec; NF CBC 27 Dec; DH 2-17 Jan (JG); max 23 FNSP 5 Feb (WD); FMCSP 27 Feb; 7, 1 Olcott NIAG 15, 27 Feb.
Com. Loon: NFSP 16 Jan, only rep beyond Dec.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 8 DH 6 Jan; 2, 4 Jamestown CHAU 1, 13 Jan; Wilson NIAG 27 Feb.
Horned Grebe: 6 Shadigee ORLE 29 Jan; FNSP 5 Feb; max 9, 12 DH 4, 20 Feb.
Red-necked Grebe: 1, 2 Wilson NIAG 18 Dec, 28 Jan; 2-3 DH 4-9 Feb; only reports.
EARED GREBE: BWWT thru 3 - 4 Dec (WW, JIL); DH 6 Jan - 20 Feb (JP, mob), increased sightings in recent winters.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 133 DH 6 Jan; 3 Tonawanda NR 26 Jan.
Great Blue Heron: 30 Tonawanda NR 16 Jan; 17 DH 17 Jan; 12 TWMA 19 Jan; 47 MI 23 Feb; max 95 Tonawanda NR 26 Feb.
Turkey Vulture: last 20 Scio CBC 19 Dec; arr 5 Hamburg HW 18 Feb; Orchard Park ERIE 20 Feb.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 10 Evangola SP ERIE; 8 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 17 Jan (DSu); 9 DH 23 Jan; well reported from other traditional wintering and breeding areas.
N. Harrier: max 12 E Shelby ORLE 1 Dec (CM), winter roost, impressive total; Times Beach NP ERIE 17 Dec; Tonawanda ERIE 18, 30 Jan.
N. Goshawk: ad Colden ERIE 17 Dec (CN!), only report.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 5 on 3 CBCs; Carroll CHAU 31 Dec; 2 Jamestown CHAU 6, 7 Jan; Glenwood ERIE 22 Jan; 2 Darien GENE 14 Jan, 5-8 Feb; Marilla ERIE 28 Jan; 2 Bennington

WYOM 8 Feb; RTPI 18 Feb; E Aurora 18 Feb; good showing.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 3 Yates ORLE 15 Feb; 17 other reports.
Merlin: NF 2 Dec; Buffalo ERIE 3 Dec; Buffalo CBC 19 Dec; Amherst ERIE 5 Jan; FNSP 20 Jan; Buffalo ERIE 27 Jan.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 Buffalo ERIE 1, 3, 8 Dec; SUNY campus Buffalo ERIE 19 Jan; DH 22, 30 Jan; 2 Lewiston Res NIAG 27 Feb; well reported near nesting areas.
Am. Coot: max 115 DH 6 Jan.
SANDHILL CRANE: 3 Lewiston NIAG 27 Dec (MH!), unexpected.
Killdeer: arr Holland ERIE 18 Feb; 2 Lewiston Res NIAG 27 Feb.
Wilson's Snipe: Jamestown CBC 19 Dec, only report.
Black-legged Kittiwake: Buffalo Harbor ERIE 17 Dec (JP), only report.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 19,000 Squaw I NR 5 Dec (DG, SW, MC); 5 Lewiston NR 15 Feb, indicative of mid-winter near absence on NR.
Little Gull: Buffalo NR 1 Dec; Lewiston NR 20, 28 Dec, 1, 14 Jan; 1st win DH 6-29 Jan; max 3 DH 12, 20 Feb (TM, JP).
CALIFORNIA GULL: NFSP thru 4 Dec (JP, NYSARC).
Thayer's Gull: NFSP 11 Dec (WD!, ph, NYSARC); several other reports NPP, NF considered "probable" due to ID difficulties.
Iceland Gull: max 16, 7 NPP 9, 16 Jan (BC, WW); 5 Buffalo ERIE 30 Jan; Wilson NIAG 30 Jan; PB 15 Feb; DH 19, 20 Feb; 4 FNSP 22 Feb; 3 Lewiston Res 27 Feb.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 14, 10 NFSP 15, 19 Dec (JP); 3 NPP 16 Jan; Wilson NIAG 30 Jan; GHSP 15 Feb; DH 20 Feb.
SLATY-BACKED GULL: ad Lewiston Res NIAG 22 Feb (JP!, NYSARC), 2nd record for Reg.
Glaucous Gull: FNSP 5 Dec; 1 DH 11 Dec; Wilson NIAG 18 Dec; 2 NFSP 19 Dec; 4, 5 NPP 28 Dec, 16 Jan; Porter NIAG 11 Jan; 1 DH 13 Jan; 3 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 18 Jan; 4 BeSP 18 Feb (DSh); max 8 Lewiston Res NIAG 22 Feb (JP); 5 Lewiston Res NIAG 27 Feb (JP).
Glaucous x G. Black-backed Gull: DH 20 Feb (JP!, WW, ph), rarely documented hybrid.
Glaucous x Herring ("Nelson's") Gull: Buffalo NR 22 Jan (JP); also several undoc reports.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: Lyndonville ORLE 27 Jan, 2 Feb (BE! NYSARC), first Regional record.
Snowy Owl: no reports.

Long-eared Owl: no reports.

Short-eared Owl: 3, 3, 1 E Shelby ORLE 1, 19 Dec, 5 Jan (CM, DB); 2 Royalton NIAG 18 Dec (TO); OOWMA 28 Dec (KF); max 11 Hartland NIAG 11 Feb (CR); 2, 1 Olcott NIAG 15, 17 Feb (JP, WW, DSh).

N. Saw-whet Owl: Ellington CHAU 19 Dec (JB), plus 2 others Jamestown CBC; Buffalo CBC 19 Dec; FMCSP 27 Dec (BP); WTSP 29 Dec (BP); Poland CHAU 2 Jan (JB); Hartland NIAG 15 Feb (CR), calling at night.

Red-headed Woodpecker: no reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: SPNS 2 Jan (JM), only report.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: well reported throughout Reg.

Com. Raven: 2 Orchard Park ERIE 15 Feb (MM), location indicative of continue push north in ERIE.

Horned Lark: 110 Yates ORLE 14 Jan; max 151 Oakfield GENE 29 Jan (JW); 95 Bethany GENE 30 Jan.

Carolina Wren: ave number of reports.

Winter Wren: NFSP 4, 11 Dec, 9 Jan; 10 seen on 3 CBCs; only reports.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 165 on 9 of 10 CBCs; more numerous than other recent winters.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Beaver Meadow CBC 18 Dec; Scio CBC 19 Dec; only reports.

E. Bluebird: well reported.

Hermit Thrush: NFSP 2 Dec; Porter NIAG 27 Dec; Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; only reports.

Am. Robin: max 123 Tonawanda ERIE 31 Dec; 115 Lewiston NIAG 27 Feb.

Gray Catbird: Sturgeon Pt ERIE 8 Dec (JP); Jamestown CBC 19 Dec; Orchard Park ERIE (MM, PF) 2 Jan; Tiftt NP 16 Feb (JP, WW); becoming more regular in winter.

N. Mockingbird: BWWTP 19 Dec; 2 Lackawanna ERIE 1 Jan; Somerset NIAG 17 Jan; Alexander GENE 17 Jan; Bethany GENE 5 Feb; Buffalo ERIE 17 Feb; Tiftt NP 20 Feb; good showing away from core NIAG range.

Am. Pipit: Jamestown CBC & Buffalo CBC 19 Dec, only reports.

Bohemian Waxwing: max 11, 1 Newfane NIAG 8, 30 Jan (WD); Wilson NIAG 14 Jan (DB).

Cedar Waxwing: 140 Newfane NIAG 8 Jan; max 200 Wilson NIAG 14 Jan.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Shelby ORLE 5 Dec; Barre ORLE 28 Dec; 23 Yates ORLE 8 Jan; max 30 Yates ORLE 14 Jan; 16 Porter NIAG 14 Jan; 6,

21 Wilson NIAG 30 Jan, 6 Feb; 4, 5 Somerset NIAG 17, 30 Jan; Alexander GENE 8 Feb.

Snow Bunting: 275 Shelby ORLE 2 Dec; 100 Sheridan CHAU 24 Dec; 160 Ransomville NIAG 27 Dec; 200, 600 Yates ORLE 8, 16 Jan; 300 Newfane NIAG 9 Jan; 70-600 Bethany GENE 20-30 Jan (DB); 500 Oakfield GENE 29 Jan; 600 Somerset NIAG 30 Jan; max 800-1500 Wilson NIAG 26-30 Jan; 500 Lyndonville ORLE 29 Jan.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Orchard Park ERIE 7 Jan – 6 Feb (MZ, NV); Porter NIAG 17 Jan; Ransomville NIAG 3 Feb; 2 Bethany GENE 27 Feb (DB); only reports.

Pine Warbler: Jamestown CBC 19 Dec, rare in winter.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Buffalo ERIE 12 Dec – 21 Jan (FG, KC, WD!), first winter record for Reg.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Grand Island ERIE 28, 29 Dec (TB); Porter NIAG 30 Jan (RS); only reports.

Chipping Sparrow: Portland CHAU 1 Dec; 10 Wilson CBC 18 Dec; Buffalo CBC 19 Dec; Wilson NIAG 20 Dec (WD, BP).

Field Sparrow: Alexander GENE 2, 3 Dec (KF); 15 Beaver Meadow CBC 18 Dec; 4 Jamestown CBC 19 Dec; Lyndonville ORLE 24 Dec (BE).

Fox Sparrow: Jamestown CBC 19 Dec; Porter NIAG 30 Jan (RS); only reports.

Swamp Sparrow: 4 on 3 CBCs; AmSP 10 Jan (JP), only report beyond Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: Portland CHAU 1 Dec; 2-3 Bethany GENE 5, 8 Dec, 9-21 Jan; Colden ERIE 17 Dec; Yates ORLE 17 Jan; max 6 Carlton ORLE 27 Jan; Eden ERIE 3, 5, 11 Feb; 5 Carlton ORLE 15 Feb; Tiftt NP 16 Feb.

Dark-eyed “Oregon” Junco (*J. h oregonus*): Ellery CHAU 7-26 Feb (LC, ph), apparent ad m.

Red-winged Blackbird: FMCSP 27 Dec; Lackawanna ERIE 1 Jan; 8 Porter NIAG 2 Jan; Grand Island ERIE 8 Jan; 6, 5 Tonawanda ERIE 18, 21 Jan; arr Bethany GENE 19 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: Lyndonville ORLE 24 Dec; S. Buffalo ERIE 24 Jan (FR); Jamestown CHAU 9 Feb (JN); only reports.

Com. Grackle: 3 on 3 CBCs; arr Hamburg HW 18 Feb; Lancaster ERIE 28 Feb; only reports.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 32 Tonawanda ERIE 15 Feb; fewer winter reports than usual.

Purple Finch: few reports; 15 on 4 CBCs; max 4 Pomfret CHAU 28 Feb.

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PHOTO GALLERY
Winter 2010-11



Hermit Warbler, Sunken Meadow SP, *Suffolk*, 4 Dec 2010, © Vinny Pellegrino.



Lewis's Woodpecker, Livonia, *Ontario*, 2 Nov 2010, © Brad Carlson.



Common Redpoll, Honeoye Falls, *Ontario*, 20 Feb 2010, © Brad Carlson.



Hoary Redpoll, Honeoye Falls, *Ontario*, 26 Feb 2010, © Brad Carlson.



Cave Swallow, Payne Beach Rd. Water Treatment Plant, *Monroe*, 2 Dec 2010, © Brad Carlson.



Townsend's Solitaire, Point Peninsula, *Jefferson*, 20 Dec 2010 © Mike Stewart.



Glaucous Gull, Niagara River, *Erie*, 30 Jan 2011, © Jim Pawlicki.



Little Gull, Dunkirk Harbor, *Erie*, 4 Feb, 2011, © Jim Pawlicki.

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White-winged Crossbill: E Amherst ERIE 6 Dec (S&VC); Portland CHAU 28 Feb (CH); only reports.

Com. Redpoll: arr Lyndonville ORLE 5 Dec; a few late Dec reports, then widespread Jan - Feb; max 100 Newfane NIAG 1 Jan; 100 Shelby ORLE 1 Jan; 100 Wilson NIAG 5 Jan.

HOARY REDPOLL: Carlton ORLE 8 Jan (WD!); Wilson NIAG 5 Feb (WD!); only documented reports.

Pine Siskin: reported mostly in low numbers with peak in Dec; max 40-10 Wilson NIAG 1-31 Dec; 11 Salamanca CATT 9 Dec; 23 Porter NIAG 27 Dec; 16 Barre ORLE 28 Dec.

Evening Grosbeak: Wilson NIAG 17, 18 Dec (BP, WD); Orchard Park ERIE 2 Jan (MM, PF); only reports.

REGION 2—GENESEE

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If December could be used as a harbinger for the rest of the winter, we were in for some serious bouts of cabin fever. The December weather statistics were brutal. The average temperature was 26.2° F, 3.2° F below normal. The snowfall total was an all-time Rochester, NY record of 46.5", 24.6" above normal. We only received 15% of the sunshine possible for the month; the normal 25% would have been reason for celebration. The final two days of the month were mild, hopefully this would transition us into a mild January. January 1st was a picnic with a high of 56°. The three-day warm spell had melted the snowpack and things were looking up, right? Wrong. January's temperature averaged 21.9°, 3.0° below average. The snowfall total of 31.7" was 5.9" above average. We received 40% of available sunshine, which is about average. February's temperature averaged 21.8°, 3° below normal. The snowfall total was 31.7", 5.9" above average. The 40% sunshine total for the month was near normal, and there were mild conditions on the 17th and 18th and also the last two days of the month. This ushered in some early migrants, and there were signs that maybe winter's grip was weakening.

Waterfowl highlights were fairly numerous this winter. One such highlight was the "goose slam" accomplished on 3 January by Kurt Fox and Dave Tetlow in the Savannah Mucklands. Present among the thousands of Canada Geese and Snow Geese were one each of the following goose species: Brant, Greater White-fronted, Ross's, and Cackling. Nine Ross's Geese in West Sparta on 5 December tied the record high for the State and was a Region 2 record high. Thirty-two Cackling Goose reports was a good total for the season, but not necessarily unexpected. A maximum of 170 Mute Swans, down from recent numbers of around 300, is still a sign that the DEC needs to do more to control their population. Tundra Swans arrived early, with 34 present at Sodus Bay on 18 February. The Wood Duck total of six birds for the season was a good total by recent standards. Additionally, there was an early arrival at Braddock Bay on

18 February. Other early arrivals on 18 February included six Northern Pintails in Hamlin and a total of 46 American Wigeons from three different locations. A record high Conesus-Hemlock CBC total of 6,655 Redhead was counted, most coming from Conesus Lake. The 500 Ring-necked Ducks on Hemlock Lake on 1 January was an excellent total for the date. Both scap species were again virtually absent, a continuing disturbing trend. The immature male King Eider found by Brad Carlson at Point Breeze was seen by many 19-31 December. The female Harlequin Duck found by Gary Chapin at Irondequoit Bay was also enjoyed by many, and the two immature males found by Andy Garland off of Webster Park the same day were seen by several people as well. All three birds lingered for several days. The late winter report of a fly-by off of Greece rounded out an exceptional season for the species. There were low numbers of Long-tailed Duck reported. The returning Barrow's Goldeneye at Point Breeze was found on 11 December and continued through the season. There was a Common x Barrow's Goldeneye present at this location for the second year in a row. A male also made a two-day appearance at Sodus Bay. This species has been increasingly detected throughout the Northeast in recent years. Red-throated Loon, a bird that used to be somewhat difficult to find in winter, again put on a good show. The 50 counted on the Rochester CBC was a count record high. Counts of 29 off of Kendall and 19 off of Hamlin Beach were also quite good. Amazingly, Common Loon went unreported for the season. Only seven Pied-billed Grebes were reported for the season; usually at least double-digits would be recorded. An immature **Great Cormorant** was seen flying into Irondequoit Bay by Chris Wood and Jessie Barry but could not be relocated. The **Black Vulture** found feeding on a deer carcass in the backyard of the Schnell's was a third winter record. This followed on the heels of last year's second record. This bird probably could be treated as an arrival as well, as it showed up during a strong southerly air flow. The now-expected winter Turkey Vulture roost was found in the Town of Wheatland and contained 36 birds.

A record count was tied with 14 Cooper's Hawk on the Rochester CBC. Two Northern Goshawk reports were typical, whereas four Red-shouldered Hawk reports were above average. Total reports of 22 Merlin and 16 Peregrine Falcons were about normal by recent standards. A Virginia Rail in the Town of Caledonia was at a new site. The two Sandhill Cranes in Richmond should probably be considered record late. They were last seen on 1 January. Only one Purple Sandpiper was found, which is somewhat unusual. A **Black-legged Kittiwake** at the mouth of the Genesee River provided a rare winter record. This bird was found by Shawn Billerman, Tim Lenz, and Matt Medler while looking for the **Black-headed Gull** that was found on 2 December and lingered through 20 December, allowing it to be seen on the Rochester CBC. Six Thayer's Gull reports would definitely be considered above average. "White-winged" Gulls were in less than spectacular numbers this winter but could still be found fairly easily. A build-up of "large" gulls at Irondequoit Bay on 20-21 March included two of the above Thayer's, at least four Iceland, two Glaucous, five Lesser Black-backed, and a minimum of 128 Great Black-backed. Who knows what other gems may have been mixed in with the relatively tight-packed birds?

As many as eight Eurasian Collared-Doves were seen this winter, but typically only one or two were seen at a time. A record high of 89 Eastern Screech-Owls was tallied on the Rochester CBC. There were sporadic reports of Snowy Owl this winter from the Summerville Pier and from Braddock Bay. These sightings pertained to the same bird according to Tom MacDonald. There were the usual reports of Long-eared Owl from Bergen Swamp and Short-eared Owl from the Lima area as in years past. Eight Northern Saw-whet Owl reports for the winter included two early arrivals on 17 February. At least one bird probably wintered in the Braddock Bay area. The stunning **Lewis's Woodpecker** continued at the feeders of Fred Jordan who has graciously hosted over 200 people since the bird's arrival on 30 October. An excellent total of eight Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was found this winter.

A late Eastern Phoebe hung in until 7 December. Northern Shrikes were fairly easy to locate, but would probably not be described as common. The large American Crow roost in Rochester continued with over 24,000 birds counted for the second year in a row on the CBC. One of the major stories of the winter was the first winter record of **Fish Crow**. What started out as a single bird found by Kenny Frisch on the Rochester CBC quickly turned into a quest to find out just how many birds were really involved in this event. In chasing Kenny's bird to add to a January listing effort, two birds and possibly a third were found by Dave Tetlow. Going back to try to confirm the third bird, even more were found, first nine, then 16, and so on until eventually a whopping 23 were confirmed on 3 February. Many observers were able to take part in this event. Not surprising, there were multiple sightings within a few miles of the primary location during the winter. A count record high of nine Common Ravens was tallied on the Conesus-Hemlock CBC. The 16 lingering **Cave Swallows** at the treatment plant in Greece unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, perished. Three birds were seen for the last time on 5 December. During their stay, many birders got their life look at this species. Two Marsh Wrens were found on the Rochester CBC. Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Conesus Lake inlet found by Jay Powell were a surprise, as was one on the Montezuma CBC found by Leona Lauster. Only one Hermit Thrush and only two Gray Catbirds were found. One American Pipit keeps up a recent trend for winter records. There were 26 Bohemian Waxwings reported. This total includes two that were mixed in with 497 Cedar Waxwings in an unprecedented late-winter flight at Hamlin Beach on 17 February.

There were excellent counts of "field" birds this winter. A large flock of 200+ Lapland Longspurs, found by Jim Kimball in Cuylerville, was enjoyed by many. A massive flock of 2,400 Snow Buntings was seen in Kendall, and on 11 February multiple flocks totaling 5,300+ birds were found primarily in Hamlin. From late January through mid-February, one could regularly encounter flocks of 1,000+ birds. Beyond that date apparently someone swung a magic wand, because presto, they were gone. Do Snow Buntings migrate diurnally or nocturnally primarily? I think nocturnally for the most part, owing to the fact that thousands of birds could not migrate out/through during the day without being detected. Only three Yellow-rumped Warblers were reported. Perhaps off-setting this was the three reports of Pine Warbler.

There were three Eastern Towhees reported, which is about typical. The 280 American Tree Sparrows in one flock in Caledonia provided an indication of how abundant they were this winter. Half-hardy sparrows were incredibly numerous. There were four Chipping, one Field, **14** Savannah, and two Fox Sparrows found. Additionally, a **Vesper Sparrow** found in Kendall was extremely rare for winter. A flock of five of the above Savannahs was at this Kendall location. A maximum of 43 White-crowned Sparrows was a good total. Brad Carlson had a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at his feeders in Honeoye Falls for the second consecutive winter; this time an adult female versus last year's immature male. An excellent count of 17 Rusty Blackbirds was reported. Only six White-winged Crossbills and one Red Crossbill were reported. The Northeast enjoyed a major redpoll invasion this winter and Region 2 did not miss out. There were multiple flocks of over 100 Common Redpolls found, the largest of which was the flock ranging from 100-300+ at Brad Carlson's feeders that was present from late December through the end of the reporting period. **"Greater" Redpolls** were reported as well, including one at Brad Carlson's feeders late winter and three birds in two separate flocks in Kendall found by Dave Tetlow. This subspecies is often overlooked as most birders really do not watch for its occurrence. Hoary Redpolls were also well reported, with at least 37 separate birds reported. An astounding 11 were in a flock of 85 redpolls in Kendall as reported by Dave Tetlow. As many as four Hoary Redpolls were present nearly continuously at Brad Carlson's feeders from late January on, and he also photographed at least two different **"Hornemann's" Hoary Redpolls** on three separate dates. Redpolls alone made for an interesting late-winter season for many birders in the area.

December was a species rich month. The total of 139 was 15 above the ten-year average and also eclipsed the record of 137 set in 1999. January's total of 129 species was right on the ten-year average, and the 117 species in February was eight above that month's ten-year average.

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ABBREVIATIONS

B – T Bergen, GENE; BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; C – T Caledonia, LIVI; CHCBC – Conesus-Hemlock CBC; CL – Conesus Lake, LIVI; DEP – Durand Eastman Park, MONR; G - T Greece, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach State Park, MONR; HF - Honeoye Falls, MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay, T Irondequoit, MONR; K – T Kendall, ORLE; L – T Lima, LIVI; MCBC – Montezuma CBC, WAYN; P – T Parma, MONR; PB – Point Breeze, T Carlton, ORLE; RLF – Riga Landfill, MONR; RCBC – Rochester CBC; S – T Savannah, WAYN; SB – Sodus Bay, WAYN; TPP – Turning Point Park, MONR; TR – T of Richmond, ONTA; W – T Webster, MONR; WP – Webster Park, MONR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 S 3 Jan (DT, KF).

Snow Goose: max 8,000+ S 3 Jan (DT, DF).

Ross's Goose: 9 West Sparta, LIVI 5 Dec (DT), Regional high and ties State record high; 1 S 3 Jan (DT, KF); 1 PB 28 Jan (KF).

Cackling Goose: 32 total reported for season, some duplication possible.

Brant: 1 S 3 Jan (DT, KF).

Mute Swan: max 170 BB 4 Jan (KG).

Trumpeter Swan: max 6 IB 23 Feb (JA).

Tundra Swan: max 168 CL 11 Dec (JK); arr 34 SB 18 Feb (M & JT).

Wood Duck: 3 DEP 1 Jan (GL, JPo); 1 B 27 Jan (DT); 1 C 1 Feb (DT); 1 B 6 Feb (DT, KF); arr 1 BB 18 Feb (KG, GL), early.

Gadwall: arr 2 G 15 Feb (GL).

Am. Wigeon: 2 CL 3 Jan (DT, KF); 1 C 16 Jan (JPo, MK); arr 46 total sev loc (mob), early.

Am. Black Duck: max 900 S 3 Jan (DT, KF).

Mallard: max 4500 S 3 Jan (DT, KF).

N. Shoveler: 2 CL 26 Dec (JK, JG).

N. Pintail: arr 6 H/BB 18 Feb (KG, GL), early.

Canvasback: max 33 BB 24 Feb (KG, GL).

Redhead: max 6655 CHCBC 26 Dec, count record high.

Ring-necked Duck: max 500 Hemlock L 1 Jan (R&SSp).

Greater Scaup: max 1200 BB 20 Feb (DT), low.

King Eider: 1 imm male PB 19-31 Dec (BC, mob).

Harlequin Duck: 1 f IB 18-22 Dec (GC, mob); 2 imm male WP 18-20 Dec (AG, mob); 1 imm male G 27 Feb (DT).

Long-tailed Duck: max 1368 RCBC 19 Dec, low.

Barrow's Goldeneye: 1 m PB 11 Dec-28 Feb (KF, mob); 1 m SB 31 Jan-1 Feb (DT, DD).

Barrow's x Com. Goldeneye: 1 m PB 20 Jan (DT).

Hooded Merganser: max 111 IB 12 Dec (R&SSp).

Com. Merganser: max 960+ DEP 13 Feb (MT).

Ruddy Duck: max 7 CHCBC 26 Dec.

Red-throated Loon: max 50 RCBC 20 Dec, count record high; 29 K 10 Jan (DT); 19 HB 16 Feb (DT), good counts for winter.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 CL 3 Jan (DT, KF); 1 IB 13 Feb (KD).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 18 RCBC 19 Dec.

GREAT CORMORANT: 1 imm IB 24 Dec (CW, JeB).

Great Blue Heron: max 27 RCBC 19 Dec.

BLACK VULTURE: 1 P 27-28 Feb (P&AS), 3rd winter record, probably also arr.

Turkey Vulture: max 36 Wheatland, MONR 9 Jan (DT).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Cooper's Hawk: max 14 RCBC 19 Dec, ties count record high.

N. Goshawk: 1 Irondequoit, MONR 4 Jan (RSp); 1 Murray, ORLE 15 Jan (KG).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 t Ontario, WAYN 3 Dec (DT); 1 L 18 Dec (KF); 1 C 28 Dec (DT); 1 K 29 Jan (DT).

Merlin: total 9 all Dec; total 9 all Jan; total 4 all Feb.

Peregrine Falcon: total 5 all Dec; total 9 all Jan; total 12 all Feb.

Virginia Rail: 1 C 9 Feb (DT).
Am. Coot: max 162 CHCBC 26 Dec.
Sandhill Crane: 2 TR 31 Dec-1 Jan (KK), very late.
Killdeer: 1 TPP 5 Dec (Cho, CN); 1 G 8 Dec (GL); 1 CHCBC 26 Dec.
Purple Sandpiper: 1 IB 18-22 Dec (GC, mob).
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: 1 SP 12 Dec (SB, TL, MM).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 400+ TPP 2 Dec (DT).
BLACK-HEADED GULL: 1 ad TPP 2-20 Dec (DT, mob); 1 ad TPP & DEP 19 Dec (MT, KF), same bird all sightings.
Herring Gull: max 4600 RLF 12 Dec (DT).
Thayer's Gull: 1 RLF 12 Dec (DT); 3 K 21 Jan (DT); 1-2 2nd winter IB 20-21 Feb (KFr, KG, RS, DT).
Iceland Gull: max 4 IB 21 Feb (DT, KG, RSp).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 5 IB 21 Feb (DT, KG, RSp).
Glaucous Gull: max 4 K 10 Jan (DT).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 128 IB 21 Feb (DT).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 1-8 P/H 1-4 Feb (mob).
E. Screech-Owl: max 89 RCBC 19 Dec, count record high.
Snowy Owl: 1 Summerville Pier 18 Dec (KFr); 1 BB 19 Dec-7 Jan (mob); 1 SP 23-24 Jan (AG, *et al.*), all sightings same bird.
Long-eared Owl: 1-2 Bergen Swamp 1 Jan (DT, KF, AG).
Short-eared Owl: max 6-8 L 1 Jan (mob).
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 G 22 Dec-5 Jan (KS, GL, mob); 1 Hemlock L 26 Dec (DSt); 2 Bergen Swamp 1 Jan (DT, KF, AG); 1 Ossian, LIVI 8 Jan (DT, KF); 1 Brockport, MONR 17 Jan (VS); arr 1 G 17 Feb (DT); arr 1 P 17 Feb (DT), road kill.
LEWIS'S WOODPECKER: 1 TR 1 Dec-28 Feb (FJ, mob), continuing from October.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: total 8 rep for season, excellent winter total.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: 1 P 7 Dec (DT), late.
N. Shrike: total 17 all Jan; total 11 all Feb.
Am. Crow: max 24,689 RCBC 19 Dec (sev).
FISH CROW: 1 TPP 19-31 Dec (KFr), 1st winter record; 3 G 31 Dec (JPo); 16 TPP area 25-31 (DT, mob); max 23 TPP area 3 Feb (DT); 1 G 14 Feb (KG); 1 G 26 Feb (GL).
Com. Raven: max 9 CHCBC 26 Dec (sev), count record high; 1 H/P 17 Feb (DT, AT).

CAVE SWALLOW: 16 G 1-5 Dec (DT, mob), State record late.
Marsh Wren: 2 RCBC 19 Dec (KG, DT).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 MCBC 18 Dec (LL); 2 CL 2 Jan (JPo), photo.
Hermit Thrush: 1 Sodus, WAYN 7 Jan (DT).
Gray Catbird: 1 HB 30 Dec-4 Jan (AG); 1 Mendon Ponds Park, MONR 13, 27 Feb (BCI, PM).
Am. Pipit: 1 T Elba, GENE 30 Jan (DT).
Bohemian Waxwing: 3 DEP 18 Dec (BCI); 3 G 24 Dec (KFr); 4 HB 30 Dec (DT); 4 W 31 Dec (DT, KF); 1 WP 4 Jan (R & SSp); 1 WP 8 Jan (GC, DS); 1 t Carlton, ORLE 19 Jan (DT); max 7 T Pavilion, GENE 30 Jan (DT); 2 HB 17 Feb (DT).
Cedar Waxwing: max 497 HB 17 Feb (DT), unprecedented winter flight.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max 200 Cuylerville, LIVI 22-31 Jan (JK, mob).
Snow Bunting: max 2400 K 24 Jan (DT); 1900 K 4 Feb (KG, DT); total 5300 H/K 11 Feb (DT); 1600 K 10 Feb (DT); 1800 K 11 Feb (DT); 1600 H 11 Feb (DT).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1-3 C 16-31 Jan (JPo, sev).
Pine Warbler: 1 Holley, ORLE 22 Jan (RSi), photos; 1 HB 5 Feb (DT); 1 W 27-28 Feb (NP, JBo), photos.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 1 T York, LIVI 18 Dec-1 Jan (KF, DT); 1 DEP 18 Dec (BCI); 1 Conesus, LIVI 22-31 Dec (SD).
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 280 C 28 Dec (DT).
Chipping Sparrow: 1 t Avon, LIVI 18 Dec (JK); 1 imm C 1-9 Jan (KF, AG, DT); 1 H 3-5 Jan (AG); 1 Carlton, ORLE 4 Feb (KG, DT).
Field Sparrow: 1 T Avon, LIVI 18 Dec (JK).
VESPER SPARROW: 1 K 26 Jan (DT).
Savannah Sparrow: total 14 for season; max 5 K 24 Jan (DT, sev).
FOX SPARROW: 1 G 24-29 Dec (DT); 1 Victor, ONTA 19 Feb (BBr).
White-crowned Sparrow: max 43 Leicester, LIVI 9 Feb (DT).
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 ad f HF 2-8 Dec (BCI, mob).
Rusty Blackbird: max 17 T York, LIVI 1 Jan (KF, AG, DT).
Com. Grackle: arr 5 HF 26 Feb (BCI).
Red Crossbill: 1 Conesus, LIVI 1 Dec (SD).
White-winged Crossbill: total 6 rep.

Com. Redpoll: 140 HB 4 Jan (DT); 240 HB 17 Feb (DT); max 200-300 HF 31 Dec-28 Feb (BCL).

“GREATER” COMMON REDPOLL (*C. f. rostrata*): 1 K 4 Feb (DT); 2 K 4 Feb (DT); 1 HF 25 Feb (BCL).

Hoary Redpoll: 1 H 4 Jan (AG); 1 Ontario, WAYN 16 Jan (JW); 2 Mt. Morris, LIVI 17 Jan (DT); 1 K 26 Jan (DT); 1-4 HF 4-28 Feb (BCL);

1-5 H 3-4 Feb (DT); max 11 K 4 Feb (DT); 4 K 7 Feb (DT); 6 K 11 Feb (DT); 1 Bushnell’s Basin, MONR (R & SM); 1 G 24 Feb (BBL).

“HORNEMANN’S” HOARY REDPOLL (*C. h. hornemanni*): 1 HF 22 Jan (BCL); 1 HF 16 Feb (BCL); 1 HF 26 Feb (BCL).

Evening Grosbeak: 2 G 19 Dec (GL); 1 G 15 Feb (GL)

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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The start of the winter season was unseasonably cold in Region 3. In Ithaca, respective average temperatures for December and January were 3.7° and 3.4° F below historical norms. Frequent moderate snowfall in January yielded a total of 24.6", 37% above the historical average. February brought yet more snow, a total of nearly 28" inches in Ithaca or nearly twice the historical mean for the month.

A male **King Eider**, first found in late November at Myers Park in Lansing, lingered until 29 December at the south end of Cayuga Lake, mostly at Stewart Park. As usual, Cayuga Lake also hosted large wintering flocks of Redheads, with an impressive maximum count of approximately 18,000 birds on 20 February. Smaller in magnitude but perhaps even more notable for disproportion was Doug Daniels's count of 875 Common Mergansers on Seneca Lake in mid-January, which is eBird's all-time high tally for this species in the Region. Snow Geese remained in unusual numbers at least into early January; Christmas Bird Counts in both Elmira and Schuyler County recorded all-time high counts of this species. For at least the twelfth consecutive winter, an Eared Grebe joined a small flock of Horned Grebes on Aurora Bay.

Despite the deep snow cover, vultures lingered throughout December and January in the Ithaca area. On 23 January, Susan Danskin observed a **Black Vulture** with a flock of Turkey Vultures in Lansing. A few days later, Bob McGuire refound the Black Vulture with the other vultures. These birds flew to a day roost, where many observers eventually saw them. The maximum tally of Turkey Vultures in this flock was 15.

Winter raptor observations were largely unsurprising. There were scattered reports of Merlins throughout the Region plus Peregrine Falcons in urban lakeside areas of both Geneva and Ithaca. No Gyrfalcons were reported during the season. Brad Carlson and Doug Daniels noted the season's only Golden Eagle above Aurora Bay on 30 January.

The most notable shorebird of the season was a Wilson's Snipe, which spent several days in January in a small patch of mud by a drainage pipe by Stewart Park. Early Killdeer were found in at least two locations in February.

On 11 December, Tim Lenz, Hope Batcheller, and Andy Johnson found a Little Gull on Cayuga Lake from Lower Lake Road. White-winged gulls and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were observed throughout the season in various locations.

Birders reported scattered "half-hardies" such as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Hermit Thrush throughout the period. Marty Schlabach found the season's only Gray Catbird on the Ithaca CBC. American Pipits made rare winter appearances at several locations along the shore of Cayuga Lake in January. Expected field birds were tallied in impressive numbers this winter, including more than 1000 Snow Buntings counted by Gary Kohlenberg atop Mount Pleasant and 18 Lapland Longspurs found in a roadside flock in Yates County by Bob Guthrie.

On 4 December, Dave Czaplak found and closely observed a late Yellow Warbler at Seneca Lake State Park. A Pine Warbler frequented Claire Damaske's feeder near Seneca Falls for over a week in late February.

The other major rarity of the winter was a **Harris's Sparrow**, which rode out essentially the entire reporting period by a feeding station along Dryden Lake. Out-of-season Eastern Towhees, Field Sparrows, and White-crowned Sparrows were found at various locations. Participants on the Elmira CBC found 75 Rusty Blackbirds, eight Common Grackles, and a Brown-headed Cowbird in a single mixed flock.

Winter finches irrupted into the Region on an apparently moderate scale. Common Redpolls were numerous and rather readily found throughout the Region, but not in record-breaking numbers. Matt Young, Kevin McGowan, and Steve Fast separately found single Hoary Redpolls in Common Redpoll flocks. Pine Siskin reports were sparse. White-winged Crossbills were evidently completely absent, but Bob McGuire turned up single Red Crossbills in Summer Hill State Forest in December and February. The Summerhill area also proved a fairly reliable spot for Evening Grosbeaks, with a high count of 20 at the home known as the Hovel at the intersection of Fillmore and Salt Roads.

Members of the Eaton Birding Society mourn the loss of one of its most active and treasured members, Bob Guthrie, who died early this year in his sleep at home in Keuka Park. He was an excellent field naturalist with knowledge of plants, mammals, insects, and birds which he shared with passion and enthusiasm on almost all the Eaton Bird Club trips. He moved back to Keuka Park from New Jersey in 1988 and in the years since then he was an active birder as he had been in NJ. He was recognized by NYSOA for covering 30 blocks for the Breeding Bird Atlas of NYS. He participated in Audubon Christmas Bird Counts for Geneva and Montezuma, yearly NYSDEC Winter Waterfowl Counts for Keuka Lake, and Montezuma Muckraces. He volunteered for many local organizations including Cummings Nature Center, Ontario

Pathways, Canandaigua Botanical Society, and the Finger Lakes Land Trust, to name a few.

His skills at observation were exceptional. He had the sharpest eyes and an extraordinary ear for bird calls, combined with a wealth of knowledge gathered over his 77 years. He had a fun side too and often came up with jokes, limericks, unique observations, and especially puns, which were either hilarious or ghastly depending on your point of view.

People who ran into Bob in the field usually left with a smile. Friends and those who birded with him often felt privileged to have known him. He will be remembered and missed for the joy he expressed sharing the beauty and wonder of the natural world with others.—Leona Lauster

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ABBREVIATIONS

ATSMP – Allan Treman State Marine Park, Ithaca; CU – Cornell University; dIth – downtown Ithaca; EBSCBC – Eaton Birding Society Christmas Bird Count; ECBC – Elmira Christmas Bird Count; ESP – East Shore Park, Ithaca; GCBC – Geneva Christmas Bird Count; HHSF – Hammond Hill State Forest; ICBC – Ithaca Christmas Bird Count; LPtSP – Long Point State Park; MCBC – Montezuma Christmas Bird Count on 18 Dec; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; Myers – Myers Park, Lansing; SchCBC – Schuyler County CBC; SLSP – Seneca Lake State Park; StvR – Stevenson Road, Dryden; SW – Sapsucker Woods; StP – Stewart Park, Ithaca.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 SLSP 8 Jan (MM).

Snow Goose: max 20000 Geneva late Dec (FB); 285 ECBC 1 Jan new high for count; 250 SchCBC 2 Jan new high for count.

Brant: 1 MNWR 4 Jan (DT, KF).

Canada x Snow Goose hybrid: 1 Sheldrake (SENE) 9 Jan (BMcG, DN, *et al.*).

Cackling Goose: 1 StP 2 Jan AM.

Mute Swan: 2 Myers 14 Feb (DN); 2 StP 17 Feb (TL, JGe).

Tundra Swan: max 2000 Mud Lock (CAYU) 18 Feb (M&JT).

Trumpeter Swan: max 9 Harris Park (CAYU) 20 Feb (TL).

Wood Duck: 1 Corning CBC 28 Dec second ever on count.

Gadwall: max 28 SchCBC 2 Jan new high for count.

N. Shoveler: 1 MNWR 19 Dec (JM, MM, TL, SB); 1 Branchport (YATE) 3 Jan (BG); 1 Keuka Lake 17 Jan (LD, AD, LL).

Canvasback: max 1590 SP 18 Feb (JM).

Redhead: max 18000 Cayuga Lake 20 Feb (TL).

KING EIDER: 1 Myers 2-4 Dec (DN, MW, LG, mob); 1 StP and ATSM 5-29 Dec (TL, DN, mob!).

Surf Scoter: 1 Sheldrake (CAYU) 6-7 Feb (BMcG, AM, KA); 1 ESP 16 Feb (JGK).

Long-tailed Duck: max 12 Aurora Bay 21 Dec (JM, PM).

Com. Merganser: max 875 SLSP 19 Jan (DD), very high.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 39 Sheldrake (CAYU) 13 Feb (NSe).

Red-throated Loon: 1 ESP and StP 30 Dec (BE, JM).

Pied-billed Grebe: 1 StP 4 Jan (MP); 2 SchCBC 2 Jan.

Red-necked Grebe: 2 Aurora Bay 21 Feb (SF); 1 Myers 27 Feb (BM, DF).

EARED GREBE: 1 Aurora Bay 19 Dec thru (JM, MM, TL, SB, mob), at least 12th consec. winter.

BLACK VULTURE: 1 Lansing 23 Jan, 28-29 Jan (SD, DN, mob).

Turkey Vulture: max 15 Lansing 31 Jan (DN, BMcG, AM), high.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 SW 8 Dec thru (JG, SK, mob); 1 Monkey Run South (TOMP) 8 Jan (CLW).

Golden Eagle: 1 Aurora 30 Jan (DD, BC), only report.

Merlin: 1 ICBC 1 Jan (DN, SO); 1 GCBC 2 Jan; 1 Ithaca 9 Jan (BMcG, DN, *et al.*); 1 King Ferry (CAYU) 30 Jan (JM, TL, NS, SH); 1 StvR 15 Feb (AMy).

Peregrine Falcon: 1 dtlh 11 Dec (BB, DN); 1 GCBC 2 Jan; 1 StP 27 Jan and 24 Feb (PA, DN); 1 CU 9 Feb (RC); 1 Geneva 13 Feb (FB).

Killdeer: 1 Bonnie Banks Rd (SENE) 5 Feb (TL); 1 Brooktondale 18 Feb (SF).

Wilson's Snipe: 1 StP 17-22 Jan StP (DL, SY, mob).

Little Gull: 1 Lower Lake Road (SENE) 11 Dec (HB, AJ, TL).

Iceland Gull: max 4 Geneva 18 Dec (CR, LR, BG); 1 StP 19 Dec (KR); 1 Chemung River 15 Jan (BO); 1 StvR 22 Jan (KM).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 ESP 26 Feb (JM); 1 StP 11 Dec (HB, AJ, TL); 1 Geneva 11 Dec (CR); 1 StP 19 Dec (KR); 1 Lakefront Park (SENE) 24 Dec (GC); 1 Chemung River 15 Jan (BO); 1 StvR 24 Feb (JM).

Glaucous Gull: 1 StP 11 Dec (TL); 1 StP 19 Dec (KR); 1 SLSP 24 Dec (GC); 1 StP 26 Dec (DN); 1 StvR 26 Jan (JM); 2 StP 6 Feb (DN).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Penn Yan 10 Dec (BG); 1 Quick Cemetery (TOMP) 11 Jan (JGe); 1 Groton 29-30 Jan (MCo); scattered other reports.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Fish Crow: 1 MCBC 18 Dec, 1st for count.

Marsh Wren: 2 MNWR 19 Dec (JM, MM, TL, SB).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 4 LPSP 21 Dec (JM, PM).

Hermit Thrush: 1 Monkey Run South (TOMP) 8 Jan (CLW).

Gray Catbird: 1 Ithaca 1-2 Jan (MS), only report.

Am. Pipit: 1 Cayuga Lake (TOMP) 13 Jan (EM, DN); 1 Aurora 22-30 Jan (DN, SF, DD, BC); rare mid-winter records.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max 18 Leach Road (YATE) 14 Dec (BG), high.

Snow Bunting: max 1020 Dryden 8 Jan (JGK).

Yellow Warbler: 1 SLSP 4 Dec (DCz!), very late.

Pine Warbler: 1 Gravel Road (SENE) 19-25 Feb (CD), only report.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 1 StP 3 Dec (TL); 1 Ithaca 24 Dec (RG).

Field Sparrow: max 4 Cascadilla Creek (TOMP) 1 Jan (JF); 1 SW throughout late December and early January.

HARRIS'S SPARROW: 1 Dryden Lake 6 Dec – 20 Feb (NI, mob!).

White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Mecklenburg 20 Dec - 15 Jan (ND); 1 GCBC 2 Jan; 2 Canoga 9 Jan (BMcG, DN, *et al.*); max 3 King Ferry 16 Jan (KR, TS, MB).

Rusty Blackbird: max 75 ECBC 1 Jan, high count CBC; 2 SW 10 Dec (LAvL); 1 SW 26 Jan (JM, FD).

Com. Grackle: max 30 MCBC 18 Dec; 9 ECBC 1 Jan; 1 Mecklenburg 20 Dec (ND).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 1 Union Springs 11 Dec (FB); 1 ECBC 1 Jan.

Red Crossbill: 1 SHSF 9 Dec and 17 Feb (BMcG).

Com. Redpoll: max 280 Lake Como Road (CAYU) 12 Feb (JM).

Hoary Redpoll: 1 Lake Como Road (CAYU) 30 Jan (MY); 1 Dryden 20 Feb (KM); 1 Brooktondale 22 Feb (SF).

Pine Siskin: 3 Brooktondale 12 Dec (SP); 3 Danby 25 Dec (AH).

Evening Grosbeak: max 20 Fillmore Road (CAYU) 7 Jan (MY).

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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Winter got off to a relatively early start with a colder than normal December. Snow was less than normal for Southern Tier counties, but significant lake effect snows were impressive for Cortland and Chenango Counties in December. In January, northwestern sections of the Region, i.e., northern Cortland and Chenango Counties, continued to receive impressive, higher than normal lake effect snow. In general, January snowfall totals were below average for Southern Tier counties. Temperatures were again below normal across the Region for January. February was noted for small measureable lake effect snows on most days and two widespread snow events that brought a general 5-10 inches across the Region. Temperatures for February were near average across the Region. Overall, it made for a long, colder, and snowier winter, not seen since at least 2003.

The cone crop was terrible again for the second consecutive year. It's unusual to have two bad back-to-back cone crop years, but this sets the table for what should be a great conifer cone crop in 2011-12. The only conifer with seeds was red pine, and the crop was modest at best. Other winter food crops like fruiting trees and birches produced an average to above average crop, but shrubs, maples, oaks, and ashes were below average.

There were no big surprises during the annual mid winter waterfowl count. The best finds were one Wood Duck, three Gadwall, two Lesser Scaup, and a Long-tailed Duck. Snow Geese moved through a bit earlier than in previous years and so were missed on area Christmas Bird Counts. However, the two lingering **Double-crested Cormorants** on the Binghamton CBC were a nice find.

Turkey Vultures continue to stay later and return earlier, with a few now appearing to even overwinter. Two were seen on the Sherburne CBC 18 December, and six were seen in Windsor on 1 February. Perhaps the best find for the Region was the **Black Vulture** seen in Johnson City with Turkey Vultures on 19 January. This bird was perhaps the same one that spent over a week in the Ithaca area. Cooper's Hawks continue to be reported more commonly in winter than historically. They are now conspicuously more common in winter than Sharp-shinned Hawks. **Merlins** continue to overwinter

in Binghamton, Cortland, and perhaps Oneonta. **Golden Eagles** were seen on the Cortland and Binghamton CBCs; it appears that almost every year now at least 2-3 are reported on area CBCs. Some birds are clearly migrants, but other birds appear to stop over for a time or try to overwinter. In Otsego and Delaware Counties, where members of the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society have set up eagle monitoring sites, both eagle species are seen annually. This year there were only four Bald Eagles and one Golden Eagle seen, along with many Red-tailed Hawks, a few Rough-legged Hawks, and as many as 40 Common Ravens. A handful of other Golden Eagles were reported across the Region, and Bald Eagles are now an expected species along most moderate-to-large waterways. Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch ended up breaking their record for Bald Eagles with a count of **221**, but only had half the annual average of Golden Eagles reported. Rough-legged Hawk numbers were higher than average. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported on the Binghamton and Owego CBCs. **Long-eared** and **Saw-whet Owls** were nice additions to the Cortland Christmas Bird Count.

A number of half-hardies were reported, among them: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** on two CBCs; Winter Wren; Hermit Thrush; and **Field, Fox, and Chipping Sparrows**, the latter being reported on three of the areas CBCs. Perhaps the best half-hardy reported for the Region was the **Gray Catbird** seen in mid-December in Broome County.

It was a pretty good finch winter, which certainly helped many get through the long, cold, snowy winter. It was a bad cone crop year, so only a few White-winged and **Red Crossbills (Type 1)** were reported. Pine Siskins and Purple Finches largely moved through the area, with both lingering in small, scattered numbers throughout Region. There was a good push of **Evening Grosbeaks** through the Region in November-December, with several small flocks wintering in the hills of Chenango and Cortland Counties. After much anticipation by some, a late, moderate to large invasion of **Common Redpolls** materialized in late December-early January. As typical with redpoll invasions, a few scattered **Hoary Redpolls** and "**Greater**" **Common Redpolls** were reported.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCBC – Binghamton Christmas Bird Count; Bpd – Boland Pond; CCBC – Cortland Christmas Bird Count; CVSP – Chenango Valley State Park; FMHW – Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch; NYSOA – New York State Ornithological Association; OnCBC – Oneonta Christmas Bird Count; OwCBC – Owego Christmas Bird Count; SHCBC – Sherburne Christmas Bird Count; SkanL – Skaneateles Lake; TBC – Tioga Bird Club; NCBCWW – Naturalists' Club of Broome County Weed Walkers.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 200 W Burlington 9 Dec; last flocks moved thru early Dec, most moved through earlier than in recent years; 1 Bing 8 Jan.
Mute Swan: 2 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid Jan.

Wood Duck: 2 CCBC 18 Dec; NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid Jan.

GADWALL: 3 SkanL NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid Jan.

Am. Wigeon: 1 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid Jan.

Am. Black Duck: 256 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid Jan; 41 BCBC 18 Dec.

N. Pintail: 1 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid Jan.

Redhead: 6-11 Hillcrest Pits Dec & Feb; 3 SkanL CCBC 18 Dec.

Ring-necked Duck: 1 Bpd thru; 2 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid Jan; few reports from BROO, TIOG, CORT.

Greater Scaup: 2 Hillcrest Pits 16-18 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: 2 SkanL CCBC 18 Dec.

Bufflehead: 3 scattered rep of singles; 2 SkanL CCBC 18 Dec.

Com. Goldeneye: max 75 SkanL CCBC 18 Dec.

Hooded Merganser: max 85 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid Jan; 78 BCBC 18 Dec.

Com. Merganser: max 459 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid Jan; reported on all CBCs.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: max 4 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid Jan; 2 BCBC 18 Dec.

Ring-necked Pheasant: missed on all area CBC's; few reports.

Ruffed Grouse: max 4 CCBC and BCBC 18 Dec; lower numbers than last year.

Wild Turkey: max 351 OnCBC 18 Dec; good numbers reported.

Com. Loon: Murphy's Island Endwell mid Jan.

Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Chagnot River Walk 23 Jan.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: 2 BCBC 18 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: max 5 BCBC & CCBC 18 Dec; lower number of reports this year than last with typical decline in numbers during early Jan-late Feb.

BLACK VULTURE: Johnson City 19 Jan (DN); very rare in winter, perhaps same bird seen in Ithaca area around the same time.

Turkey Vulture: a few early Dec; 2 SHCBC 18 Dec; 6 Windsor BROO 1 Feb; first larger wave of returning migrants mid-late Feb; rare in winter, but increasing in southern tier and CNY.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 5 BCBC 18 Dec; reported on all CBCs except SHCBC; larger numbers concentrated in Delaware River basin, but reported from all counties; also now regular in smaller numbers near medium sized rivers including along Tio R from E Homer to Whitney Pt; 15 FMHW Dec; record high 221 for season FMHW; 4 at winter Eagle Survey Stations in OTSE.

N. Harrier: max 18 OwCBC 26 Dec, very high count; low numbers for rest of Reg, typical.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 6 CCBC 14 Dec.

Cooper's Hawk: 14 BCBC 18 Dec; regular and more common now than Sharp-shinned.

N. Goshawk: singles BCBC, CCBC, & OwCBC; only two other reports, scarce.

Red-shouldered Hawk: BCBC 18 Dec; OwCBC 26 Dec; Endicott 6 Dec, 10 Jan (photos NM); 1 BROO 16 Jan (DN).

Red-tailed Hawk: 106 CCBC 18 Dec, count high; above ave numbers reported throughout Reg, much higher than last year; total 48 FMHW Dec; total 12 FMHW Jan.

Rough-legged Hawk: 24 OwCBC 26 Dec; higher than ave numbers.

GOLDEN EAGLE: total 8 FMHW Dec; season total 93 FMHW, approx half normal ave of 181; BCBC & CCBC 18 Dec; 6 other rep; a few seem to stopover or try to overwinter annually esp in OTSE and DELA.

Am. Kestrel: 1-2 on all CBCs; scarce after Dec; overwintering birds declining for years despite generally warmer winters.

Merlin: CCBC & BCBC 18 Dec; Binghamton and Cortland thru; probably occurring in winter in other areas as increase in both winter and breeding numbers continues throughout southern half of state..

Peregrine Falcon: Binghamton thru, expected.

Am. Coot: max 41 NYSOA Waterfowl Count mid-Jan; S SkanL CCBC; Otsego Lake, annual.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: Windsor 1 Feb, no details.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 7 CCBC 18 Dec, low.

BONAPARTE'S GULL: 2 Murphy's 13 Dec (DW), late.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 470 OwBC 26 Dec.

E. Screech-Owl: several reports, good numbers.

Great Horned Owl: several reports, widely distributed.

Barred Owl: reported on 3 of 5 CBCs; few reports, underreported. **LONG-EARED OWL:** Scott CORT 18 Dec; only report.

N.SAW-WHET OWL: 2 CCBC 18 Dec, only report.

Belted Kingfisher: max 7 BCBC 18 Dec; sev rep, dip in numbers early Jan-late Feb.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: numerous reports along river valleys and towns at <1500'; increasing reports from 1500'-2000'; absent from OnCBC and still scarce in that area.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: max 3 BCBC 14 Dec; CCBC 18 Dec; 2 other rep..

N. Flicker: max 5 CCBC & BCBC Dec 18; missed only on OnCBC; numbers up from low numbers last year but still generally scarce.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: few reports; max 3 CCBC 18 Dec, higher than expected.

Blue Jay: max 387 BCBC 18 Dec.

Fish Crow: missed on CBCs; a few rep from typical loc near waterways between Binghamton and Owego; still not found north to Cortland despite being found in Ithaca and Syracuse.

Com. Raven: max 40+ OTSE, at eagle survey sites; reported on all area CBC's except SHCBC; max 21 CCBC 18 Dec; sev other widely scattered rep thru, increasing.

Horned Lark: a few widely scattered rep CORT, BROO, and TIOG; max 90 Cornell Ln CCBC 18 Dec; missed on 2 of 5 area CBC's.

Tufted Titmouse: max 148 BCBC 18 Dec; 37 SHCBC 18 Dec; increasing along many river valleys and villages of Region <1500' and starting to increase even during winter up to 1800-2000'.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 48 CCBC 18 Dec; below ave in state forest, but modest numbers at feeders.

Brown Creeper: max 22 BCBC 18 Dec, high count; ave numbers otherwise.

Carolina Wren: max 15 BCBC 18 Dec; continues to increase area-wide.

WINTER WREN: Norwich 12 Dec; CVSP 15 Jan, rare in winter, but often then here.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 32 CCBC 18 Dec; rep on all CBCs.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: 2 CCBC 18 Dec; Chagnum River BROO thru much of period.

E. Bluebird: max 58 OwCBC 26 Dec; many reported thru, but generally more common along "southern tier" counties; missed on 2 higher elevation CBCs.

HERMIT THRUSH: 1 Fernwood Ave BROO 24 Feb (DG).

Am. Robin: max 9 CCBC 14 Dec; relatively low numbers reported.

GRAY CATBIRD: BROO 12 Dec (MB!).

N. Mockingbird: max 7 BCBC 18 Dec; 4 CCBC, high count; few OwCBC.

Cedar Waxwing: max 95 CCBC 18 Dec; low numbers reported on all five regional CBCs.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: max 208 CCBC 18 Dec; rep all CBCs; sev rep moderate to large flocks thru.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 589 CCBC 18 Dec; best numbers on all CBCs in a number of years!

FIELD SPARROW: Brick Pond Berm Trail 4 Feb (BO).

CHIPPING SPARROW: BCBC, OwCBC, and SHCBC's; max 2 BCBC 18 Dec.

FOX SPARROW: Cortland thru, good details provided.

Song Sparrow: max 23 BCBC 18 Dec; rep all area CBC's.

Swamp Sparrow: singles BCBC & CCBC 18 Dec; a few overwinter in marshes along with higher numbers of Song Sparrows.

White-throated Sparrow: max 20 CCBC 18 Dec; rep all CBC's except OnCBC.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 13 OwCBC 26 Dec; CCBC 18 Dec; 21 Wildwood Nature Preserve 19 Jan thru (MB); a few migrants late Feb.

Com. Grackle: no rep.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 32 CCBC 18 Dec; most common winter blackbird.

Purple Finch: max 43 OnCBC 20 Dec; widely scattered in small numbers.

House Finch: max 285 BCBC 18 Dec; small numbers in towns, hamlets, and farms; numbers haven't rebounded to early 90's highs.

Red Crossbill: 1 Kolb Rd feeders early Feb; a few Type 1 in hills CHEN.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: Cortland Jan & Morris OTSE 19 Jan.

COM. REDPOLL: moderate - large invasion late Dec/early Jan thru; low area CBCs; at most Reg feeders Feb & Mar.

"GREATER" COMMON REDPOLL: a few scattered at feeders; 2-3 Scott CORT Feb; 1 Cuyler CORT Feb.

HOARY REDPOLL: 2-3 Scott CORT Feb-early March, at feeders; 1 Truxton Jan-Feb; 2-3 Endwell feeders (NM ph).

PINE SISKIN: max 43 OnCBC 18 Dec; reported in very small numbers from 4 of 5 CBC's; a few wintered across Reg.

Evening Grosbeak: a few small flocks wintered in hills of CORT & CHEN and probably OTSE; max 40 Truxton CORT thru.

Am. Goldfinch: max 586 CCBC 18 Dec, count high; ave to slightly above thru.

ADDENDA

WHITE EYED VIREO: 11 May 2010 Parsons Rd BROO (NM), rare!

Cerulean Warbler: CVSP 31 May 2010 (JS), heard and seen; pr CVSP 3 June (NM), seen.

ORCHARD ORIOLE: 2 May BU Nature Preserve (NM), rare!

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The season was drier and colder than normal with near record amounts of snow. In December the average temperature was 25.5° F, 3.1° below normal, with 2.42" of precipitation, 0.70" below normal. There were 72.8" of snow for the month. January had an average temperature of 21.0°, 1.7° below normal, with 1.43" of precipitation, 1.17" below normal, and 43.4" of snow. The February averages were 23.8°, 0.8° below normal, 2.65" of precipitation, 0.53" above normal, and 43.3" of snow.

Fourth Lake froze on 8 December, Oneida Lake was mostly frozen by 23 December, Onondaga Lake by 11 January, and the shallow north end of Skaneateles Lake on 22 January. There was not much of a winter thaw, a few days around the first of the year and then little relief until 17 February. With that mid-February warm-up some waterfowl moved in and a few half-hardies were noted, likely wintering birds found by observers encouraged to get out by the milder weather.

A cold front on 8 December brought the largest Snow Goose and Canada Goose migration of the fall. This late migration is now the norm. Flocks of Tundra Swans at two sites on 23 February may have wintered in the area but possibly came in with the warm weather a few days earlier. Blue-winged Teal was an early arrival at Fair Haven and had probably wintered somewhere close

by. Green-winged Teal were gone by early December. Two Harlequin Ducks were on Onondaga Lake in December just before hunting season opened and later a single one was found at the lake's outlet, remaining until the outlet froze a week later. Loons and grebes were infrequently reported and in low numbers only.

Reports of Turkey Vultures in southwestern Onondaga County may be an expansion of their local winter range, while Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel wintered in expected numbers. Northern Harrier was pushed out by the December snowfall, and Rough-legged Hawk was present in fairly low numbers with the exception of one area. Onondaga Lake again hosted a large number of Bald Eagles in mid-winter. Two Golden Eagles were reported, Merlins were widespread, and Peregrine Falcons were found around the three largest cities in the Region. The spring hawk migration began on 17 February with a Northern Goshawk and several Red-tailed Hawks.

A record flock of **48 Sandhill Cranes** were calling as they flew over Jamesville in December. Two Purple Sandpipers at Fair Haven were later than most years, and a Purple Sandpiper on Onondaga Lake was the first recorded sighting in Onondaga County. Killdeer had arrived by the end of the period, and a Wilson's Snipe spent much of the winter in an open drainage ditch.

For the second year in a row, gulls were scarce, with low numbers of Herring Gulls on the Oswego River system and sightings of Glaucous, Iceland, and Lesser Black-backed infrequent. Bonaparte's Gull does not winter in the Region, but December counts are typically higher than they were this year. A Black-legged Kittiwake passed Derby Hill on an early season cold front.

Few migrant owls were reported. A Snowy Owl was in Oswego for a short time, and one was at a shopping center at the end of the season. One Short-eared Owl was found on 1 January, a bit of a surprise given the amount of snow that had fallen in December. No Long-eared Owls were noted and there was only one Northern Saw-whet Owl report. An adult Red-headed Woodpecker spent the winter along Lake Ontario, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported in higher numbers than most years. One Black-backed Woodpecker was seen in the Old Forge area.

An Eastern Phoebe was seen along a sheltered, fast-flowing creek that remained open. The 17 February date would indicate a survivor, not a new migrant. It was an off year for Northern Shrike, with few persistent birds. Fish Crow and Common Raven are doing well, and the latter species is increasing on the margins of the Syracuse suburbs. Red-breasted Nuthatches had moved out of breeding areas in large numbers, so eight in the conifer plantations along two miles of road in the Tug Hill were not expected.

At least five Winter Wrens were seen after mid-December, many small flocks of Eastern Bluebirds were wintering, and American Robins were conspicuous even with the deep snow. The only Hermit Thrush reported was of one eating berries at Okara Lakes during the Old Forge CBC. A mid-January Gray Catbird seemed to be going strong in a wet area, although it still had a long winter to survive. Yellow-rumped Warblers spent the winter in Liverpool and

Van Buren, and several were seen on Howland Island which seems to host them most winters of late.

Deep snow in many areas apparently limited the numbers of American Tree and White-throated Sparrows. Swamp Sparrow didn't linger after December, and even Dark-eyed Junco numbers were low overall. The ten Rusty Blackbirds photographed at a feeder in January were one-day wonders, while two singles seen in late February were birds that had probably wintered nearby. Reports of other blackbirds were consistent with past years, with numbers dwindling rapidly by late December and the first hardy migrants appearing in late February.

Purple Finch was fairly scarce; a few birds here and there but otherwise generally not noted. We received only single reports of both Red and White-winged Crossbills, likely birds roaming about trying to find food and having very little success hereabouts. The Common Redpoll irruption was moderate this year, and with little natural food, redpolls were dependent on feeders. Hoary Redpoll reports were higher than most years and photos confirmed the identification of many of them. Evening Grosbeaks were found near feeders in forested upland areas and were quite scarce elsewhere.

For the season a total of 128 species were seen, about one more than the recent 10 year average. Highlights included Blue-winged Teal, Harlequin Duck, Sandhill Crane, Purple Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Black-legged Kittiwake, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Bohemian Waxwing, Rusty Blackbird, and Hoary Redpoll.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BRH – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; Bvll – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; LOL – Lake Ontario Littoral; MCL – Madison County landfill, T Lincoln; MR – T's Mexico & Richland grasslands; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; Skan – Skaneateles; Syr – Syracuse; WPD – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: large, Region-wide migration 8 Dec; 3 Sherrill 10 Feb.

Cackling Goose: Otisco L 11 Dec; Utica 17 Dec.

Mute Swan: max 6 OnonL 16 Jan.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 OnonL 19 Jan; 2 FH 14 Jan.

Tundra Swan: max 214 OneiL 2 Dec; 31 Brewerton 23 Feb; 19 OnonL 23 Feb.

Wood Duck: CM 25 Jan & 5 Feb; arr 2 DH 18 Feb.

Gadwall: 3 DH 6 Dec; max 11 Brewerton 23 Feb.
Am. Wigeon: max 10 WPd 4 Dec; arr OnonL 23 Feb.
Am. Black Duck: max 82 DH 6 Dec.
Blue-winged Teal: arr FH 27 Feb (DW), record early.
N. Pintail: max 32 DH 6 Dec; last Mexico 16 Jan; arr Oswego 12 Feb.
Green-winged Teal: last DH 7 Dec.
Canvasback: max 5 Oswego 17 Feb.
Redhead: max 246 OnonL 18 Dec.
Ring-necked Duck: max 171 Hatch L 13 Dec.
Greater Scaup: max 454 Oswego 4 Feb.
Lesser Scaup: max 342 OnonL 19 Dec.
Harlequin Duck: 2 OnonL 23-24 Dec (MS, mob); OnonL 16-23 Jan.
Surf Scoter: max 3 LOL 11 Dec; last LOL 11 Jan.
White-winged Scoter: max 384 DH 6 Dec.
Black Scoter: max 15 DH 6 Dec; 3 singles Jan-Feb.
Long-tailed Duck: max 215 DH 11 Dec.
Bufflehead: max 59 Skan L 12 Dec.
Com. Goldeneye: max 180 OnonL 6 Jan.
Hooded Merganser: max 145 Otisco L 12 Dec; 47 Bvllc 13 Feb, good winter count.
Com. Merganser: max 2000 Cross L 10 Dec; 1400 OnonL 18 Dec.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 1200 FH 11 Dec.
Ruddy Duck: max 94 Skan L 12 Dec; 25 Skan L 16 Jan, late.
Red-throated Loon: DH 6 Dec; Oswego 17 Feb.
Com. Loon: 2 Jan & 2 Feb reports.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 2 Oswego R 16 Jan.
Horned Grebe: max 5 OnonL 16 Dec; last DH 7 Jan.
Red-necked Grebe: max & last 3 OnonL 18 Dec.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 15 OnonL 11 Jan.
Great Blue Heron: max 14 OnonL 18 Dec.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture: max 5 Dewitt 26 Dec; Marcellus and Skan after 7 Feb; arr DH 18 Feb.
Bald Eagle: max 24 OnonL 22 Jan.
N. Harrier: Fairfield 5 Dec, only winter report; arr DH 17 Feb.
N. Goshawk: 5 Dec reports; max 3 T Lincoln 9 Jan; arr DH 18 Feb.
Red-shouldered Hawk: last Dewitt 18 Dec; arr Cicero 27 Feb.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 8 DH 18 Feb.
Rough-legged Hawk: to 9 per day Mexico after 4 Jan, only concentration.

Golden Eagle: Whitesboro 11 Dec; Sullivan 16 Jan (BB, MV).
Merlin: 6 sites Jan; pair Oakwood Cem Syr 20 Feb.
Peregrine Falcon: OnonL 6 Jan; Syr 30 Jan; pair Oswego 27 Feb.
Am. Osot: max 50 WPd 9 Dec; 23 Skan 16 Jan.
SANDHILL CRANE: 48 Pompey 4 Dec (KC!), record number.
Killdeer: arr 2 Brewerton 21 Feb.
Purple Sandpiper: 2 FH 11 Dec (GD); OnonL 18 Dec (BP, BC), 1st ONON record.
Wilson's Snipe: Brewerton after Jan thru (CL).
Black-legged Kittiwake: last DH 7 Dec.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 14 DH 6 Dec.
Herring Gull: max 1430 MCL 2 Dec.
Iceland Gull: max 2 per day LOL, MCL & OnonL.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: singles at 4 sites to 14 Jan.
Glaucous Gull: max 4 Oswego 5 Feb; singles otherwise.
"Nelson's" Gull (Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull): Phoenix 8 Jan.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 220 MCL 8 Jan.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: Oswego 19 Dec to 2 Jan; Fulton 27 Feb.
Barred Owl: 3 Richland 16 Feb, hunting in afternoon.
Short-eared Owl: Verona 1 Jan, only report.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Beaver L 16 Dec.
Belted Kingfisher: max 3 OnonL 18 Dec.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Scriba 1 Jan thru (JB, mob).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 7 sites in Jan & 4 sites Feb, more than usual.
Black-backed Woodpecker: Old Forge 18 Dec.
N. Flicker: max 5 GLSP 21 Dec; 11 sites in Jan & 5 in Feb.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: Skan 17 Feb (DiW).
N. Shrike: 10 sites Jan & 7 sites Feb, hard to find.
Blue Jay: max 30 Williamstown 14 Dec; low numbers outside Tug Hill & Adks.
Fish Crow: reports from Onondaga Lake and Syr University area.
Com. Raven: widespread, increasing near populated areas.
Horned Lark: max 200 Cazenovia 13 Feb.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 8 Boylston 25 Jan.
Winter Wren: 2 Syr CBC 18 Dec; Nelson 29 Dec; Oneida 1 Jan; 2 CM 7 Feb.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 7 Camden 24 Dec.

E. Bluebird: max 24 Mexico 4 Dec; many small flocks now winter here.

Hermit Thrush: Rondaxe L 18 Dec (Culleen Doolittle fide GL).

Am. Robin: 234 Oneida CBC, record high; widespread Onondaga County and LOL despite snow.

Gray Catbird: Utica 18 Dec; Elbridge 19-20 Jan (KB).

Am. Pipit: last Pulaski 4 Dec.

Bohemian Waxwing: max 280 Pulaski 4 Jan; 65 Rainbow Shores 7 Jan; to 10 per day otherwise.

Cedar Waxwing: 144 Oneida CBC, count record high; max 150 New Hartford 28 Feb.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max 4 Deruyter 13 Feb.

Snow Bunting: max 500 Stockbridge 27 Dec; individuals at feeders in Feb.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 3 Oswego 19 Dec; 3 Howland Island 28 Jan; 3 other singles.

SPARROWS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 36 Skan 29 Dec; max 64 Skan 9 Jan.

Song Sparrow: max 6 Verona 1 Jan; 4 Tully 23 Feb, possible migrants.

Swamp Sparrow: last 2 Syr CBC 18 Dec.

White-throated Sparrow: max 17 CM 18 Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: Nelson 4, 21 Dec (BW); Syr 26-27 Dec (AW).

Dark-eyed Junco: max 34 Sandy Creek 4 Dec.

N. Cardinal: Thendara thru 15 Feb, unusual Adks.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 7 Fayetteville 7 Dec; arr Verona 27 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: max 10 McConnellsville 19 Jan; Tully 16 Feb, likely wintered.

Com. Grackle: singles after 2 Dec; arr 2 N Syr 28 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 17 Hannibal 19 Dec.

Purple Finch: 5 per day Dec; max 7 Pulaski 4 Jan.

Red Crossbill: Boylston 17 Jan, only report.

White-winged Crossbill: 5 Camden 19 Dec, only report.

Com. Redpoll: to 100 per day Jan-Feb, widespread.

Hoary Redpoll: arr Hastings 4 Jan; max 5 Beaver L 8 Feb (JM ph, AVN).

Pine Siskin: max 24 Liverpool 18 Dec; 3 singles Jan.

Am. Goldfinch: max 81 Salisbury 2 Jan.

Evening Grosbeak: max 75 Okara L after 1 Jan; 70 DeRuyter 8 Jan; 67 T Ohio 28 Fe

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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It was a real old-fashioned winter, as I heard from several long-time residents of northern New York. All three months were between 3° and 4° F colder than average in Watertown, where the temperature dropped below zero on 14 nights, and the coldest temperature of the season was -30° on 24 January. Precipitation was below normal for the season, although the 3.9" that fell in December was 1.1" above average. January was very dry, as the 1.7" of precipitation that month was about half of normal. More precipitation fell in February, but the 3.6" total was still 1.2" below average. For the season, 115.9" of snow fell on Watertown, which is about a foot more than normal.

Waterfowl were abundant during the early winter, with many species present in far larger numbers than usual for December. Swan numbers were particularly high during the first half of the season, including: Tundra Swans in the low hundreds from several Lake Ontario locations, scattered Trumpeter

Swan sightings that unfortunately lacked details regarding identification or the presence of wing tags, and Mute Swans in several locations. Dabbling duck numbers were very high during early December and in fact much higher than they were previously in the fall, as it seemed that most Gadwall, American Black Ducks, Mallards, and Northern Pintails did not arrive to Region 6 until the first week of December. As one example, the 199 Gadwall observed in Cape Vincent on 16 December was about six times the maximum number observed during the fall season and 20 times that reported most winters. Seasonally unusual species included a Green-winged Teal at Fisher's Landing and three Canvasbacks at Stony Point. Winter ducks put in a good showing, with larger than usual numbers of Bufflehead and six Barrow's Goldeneye, a good total.

Raptor numbers were generally modest, with winter *buteos* present in low numbers, but Cooper's Hawk and Merlin continuing their increases of recent years. Northern Harrier and American Kestrel were generally scarce during early winter and then absent for the rest of the season. It was the fourth consecutive year with relatively low numbers of wintering Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks, and numbers declined further as snow piled up in January and February. Cooper's Hawks outnumbered Sharp-shinned Hawks by about three to one. The Short-eared Owl roosts in Cape Vincent hosted at least 16 birds in December, but this species was scarce later in the winter. There were just two Snowy Owl reports of three individuals observed within two days of each other, suggesting that these owls may have been part of a small movement of owls through or out of the Region.

The rarity highlight of the season was clearly a **Townsend's Solitaire** found by Mike Stewart on Point Peninsula on 19 December and seen by many birders throughout the rest of the winter. The solitaire was frequently observed munching red cedar berries and occasionally singing from the tree tops, seemingly quite content on its winter territory. The solitaire was the only true rarity of the winter other than a few seasonally rare birds, including a Gray Catbird that survived to at least 8 January at Westcott Beach State Park and an Eastern Towhee that showed up at an Adams feeder 12-13 February.

It was a good winter for half-hardies and seemed particularly outstanding when compared with the previous, woeful winter. American Robins were widespread and seen almost daily in the Lake Ontario Plains and St. Lawrence Valley. Northern Flickers and Eastern Bluebirds occurred in the same areas in lower numbers. Sparrows and blackbirds were well represented, especially White-throated Sparrow which was counted in near-record numbers on the Watertown Christmas Bird Count.

Waxwings and finches irrupted in modest numbers, including nearly every species of winter irruptive. Bohemian Waxwings were reported throughout the Region in mostly small flocks but were generally scarce near Lake Ontario, where they were outnumbered by Cedar Waxwings. In most other locations Bohemian Waxwings were clearly the more abundant waxwing. Small to medium-sized flocks of redpolls roamed around the Region throughout the winter, mostly feeding in successional woodlands during December and early January and increasingly relying on feeders from late January on. Hoary

Redpolls were reported in many flocks, and several observers felt that it was an exceptionally good winter for Hoary Redpolls given the relatively modest size of the overall redpoll irruption. Unfortunately, no details were provided for any Hoary Redpoll sighting. Other notable finches included flocks of Red Crossbills at Fort Drum and near Leonard Pond, good numbers of Evening Grosbeaks in the Adirondacks and foothills, and, oddly, Pine Siskins at feeders in Canton and Watertown but strangely unreported elsewhere, and just a single Pine Grosbeak in a Canton tamarack stands that has hosted Regional high counts for this species during two of the last four winters.

Strong southerly winds 17-18 February brought to Philadelphia an exceptionally early Killdeer, beating the previous record early arrival date by nearly a week. Also arriving on this weather system were at least two Great Blue Herons, a species not normally seen in Region 6 until March. The first Red-winged Blackbird believed to be a spring arrival was at a Watertown feeder 23 February.

The 112 species documented during the winter was a major improvement over the previous winter, when just 90 species were reported. This year's winter species tally is the highest in at least six years and among the highest ever for Region 6. The obvious highlight was the Townsend's Solitaire, but the modest waxwing and finch irruption and good numbers of half-hardies were also welcome. Perhaps the biggest disappointment was another relatively poor winter for buteos. But considering how miserable the birding was during the previous winter, birders had little to complain about. On a more personal note, my biggest disappointment was the failure of contributors to provide details on Trumpeter Swans or Hoary Redpolls.

CONTRIBUTORS

Erwin Batalla, Jeff Bolsinger, Dick & Marion Brouse, Carol Cady, Brad Carlson, Bernie Carr, Tom Carrolan, Star Carter, Joan Collins, Mary Curtis, Nan Dixon, Chris Dobony, Kirk Huffstater, Mike Jesiorski, Steve Kelling, Miranda Monica, Daniel Leete, Nick Leone, Eugene Nichols, John Ohst, Fred Ossman, Bill Purcell, Dominic Sheron, Tony Shrimpton, Gerry Smith, Mike Stewart, Todd Vincent, Tom & Eileen Wheeler, Hans van der Zweep.

ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart Island, Massena, STLA; CPSP – Cedar Point State Park; CV – Cape Vincent, JEFF; FL – Fisher's Landing, JEFF; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; GPSP – Grass Point SP; HH – Henderson Harbor; HP – Hawkin's Pt., Massena, STLA; KC – Kelsey Creek, Watertown, JEFF; LPd – Leonard Pond trail, Colton, STLA; LPSP – Long Point SP; MCCBC – Massena-Cornwall CBC; MP – Montario Pt, Ellisburg, JEFF; PilPt – Pillar Point; PRWMA – Perch River WMA, JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula, Lyme, JEFF; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, Massena, STLA; RWSP – Robert G. Wehle SP; SLR – St. Lawrence River; SnPt – Snowshoe Pt., Henderson, JEFF; StPt – Stony Point, Henderson, JEFF; WBSP – Westcott Beach SP; WISP – Wellesley Island SP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: heaviest migration of fall 4-10 Dec; last 3 MP 11 Dec.

Canada Goose: mid-winter max 1350 PtPen 8 Jan; just a few small flocks Feb.

Mute Swan: 2 HH 11 Dec; 8 WISP 5 Jan; 3 PtPen 8 Jan; 7 FL 28 Jan; 1-3 per day SLR Ogdensburg 5 Feb thru; increasing during winter.

Tundra Swan: max 433 PilPt 4 Dec; many reports 100-250 L Ontario shore JEFF thru Dec; 88 PtPen 14 Jan where remaining open water iced over 15 Jan.

Trumpeter Swan: several reports up to 20 PtPen and HH; few details provided.

Wood Duck: 2 Canton 4 Dec; FD 10 Dec.

Gadwall: max 199 CV 16 Dec, high; mid-winter max 45 PtPen 2 Jan; many reps of up to 10 thru.

Am. Wigeon: max 5 PtPen 20 Dec; last 2 BI 13 Jan.

Am. Black Duck: 130 CV 16 Dec.

Mallard: heavy movement 1-20 Dec; max 450 WISP 5 Jan.

N. Pintail: several reports 1-3 Dec; last HP 9 Jan.

Green-winged Teal: CV 19 Dec; FL 24 Dec - 22 Jan.

Canvasback: 3 StPt 19 Dec, only report.

Redhead: up to 14 per day FL thru; max 16 PtPen 2 Jan.

Ring-necked Duck: mid-winter max 12 FL 28 Jan; last StPt 30 Jan.

Greater Scaup: 60 PtPen 2 Jan; up to 10 per day FL thru.

Lesser Scaup: MP 11 Dec; FL 28 Jan.

White-winged Scoter: 4 MP 11 Dec; 3 CV 16 Dec; GPSP 4 Jan.

Black Scoter: 2 MP 12 Dec; last MP 19 Dec.

Long-tailed Duck: max 900 MP 11 Dec; SLR Lisbon 17 Jan unusual location for mid-winter.

Bufflehead: 75 HH 11 Dec; max 120 PtPen 20 Dec; 48 PtPen 14 Jan, high for mid-winter.

Com. Goldeneye: max in one location 700 FL 28 Jan.

Barrow's Goldeneye: ad f PtPen 20 Dec - 1 Jan (JB, TC); ad m PtPen 26 Dec - 13 Jan (DL); pr CV 4 Jan (EN); ad f SLR Ogdensburg 17 Jan (JB); f FL 15-28 Jan (NL, JB).

Hooded Merganser: max 27 MCCBC 27 Dec.

Com. Merganser: max 2500 Chaumont Bay 13 Dec; 925 SLR Ogdensburg 5 Feb; 660 SLR Oak Pt 21 Feb; additional counts 200+ from GPSP, HP, LPSP, Red Mills, & Wellesley Is.

Red-breasted Merganser: 104 BI 3 Dec, high for this stretch SLR; 120 SnPt 11 Dec; max 200 SLR Clayton 10 Jan.

Red-throated Loon: SH 11 Dec; rare in winter.

Com. Loon: max 10 BI 3 Dec; 2 SH 5 Jan; last 2 BI 9 Jan.

Horned Grebe: max 6 StPt 11 Dec & RWSP 18 Dec; last RWSP 9 Jan.

Red-necked Grebe: MP 11 Dec; 3 RWSP 18 Dec; StPt 18 Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: max & last 3 SLR Massena 27 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: last Canton 1 Jan; arr Rodman 18 Feb, early; FD 23 Feb.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 102 counted on Jan NYSDEC aerial survey SLR, second consecutive year with 100+ on survey; many reports 1-3 from loc far from L Ontario & SLR.

N. Harrier: up to 4 per day PtPen thru early Jan; scarce after 10 Jan.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 9 reports.

Cooper's Hawk: 26 reports of at least 29 individuals.

N. Goshawk: imm PtPen thru; ad Canton 31 Dec; Hounsfield 2 Jan; Chaumont 29 Jan.

Red-tailed Hawk: 6-12 per day CV thru; similar numbers elsewhere.

Rough-legged Hawk: 6-10 per day CV & PtPen thru mid Jan decreasing to 1-4 per day; 1-3 per day most other lowland locations.

Golden Eagle: ad & imm HP 6 Jan (HZ); PtPen 20 Jan (MB); 10 ravens harassing imm Pierrepont 27 Feb (JB, CC).

Am. Kestrel: widely scattered Dec; declined thru Jan; last PRWMA & PtPen 29 Jan.

Merlin: PtPen 20-21 Dec; 2 CV 28 Dec; Ogdensburg 8 Jan; FD 17 Feb; additional reports Hammond & Rodman lacked dates.

Peregrine Falcon: pr BI Bridge Massena thru.

Am. Coot: PilPt 11 Dec; 12 HH 19 Dec; PtPen 23 Dec; unusual in winter.

Sandhill Crane: Hounsfield 19 Dec; second consecutive Dec migrant reported.

Killdeer: arr Philadelphia 17 Feb, 6 days earlier than previous record early date.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 5 GPSP 4 Jan; unusual in winter.

Ring-billed Gull: absent from SLR after 13 Jan until 7 arr BI 28 Feb.

Iceland Gull: 5 reports singles SLR Ogdensburg & Oak Point.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: HP 3 Dec (JB).

Glaucous Gull: 2-3 per day SLR Ogdensburg 17 Jan thru; 2 SLR Oak Pt. 21 Feb.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: Canton 29 Dec; PtPen 30 Jan.

Snowy Owl: 2 FD 6 Feb could not be relocated (FO); Denmark 8 Feb; only reports.

The Kingbird 2011 June; 61 (2)

Barred Owl: 20+ reports of daytime hunting throughout Region.
Long-eared Owl: Clayton 30 Dec, only report.
Short-eared Owl: Lyme 3 Feb; max 16 CV 9 Dec; Galop Is. 5 Feb.
Belted Kingfisher: last Pt Salubrious 14 Dec.
Black-backed Woodpecker: foraging on red pine LPd 30 Jan.
N. Flicker: max 4 PtPen multiple dates; reports from 22 other locations; high.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: 1-2 per day throughout lowland areas.
Com. Raven: max 50+ Canton 4 Dec (JB).
Horned Lark: max 110 Canton 16 Jan; 54 Philadelphia 10 Dec; 52 CV 28 Jan; many reports smaller flocks.
Carolina Wren: 2-3 at Canton feeders thru, increasing.
E. Bluebird: 4 Canton 89 Dec; Hounsfield 11 Dec; 4 Massena 29 Dec; Canton 29 Jan; max 8 PtPen. several dates Jan.
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: PtPen 19 Dec thru (MS, BP, JB, mob, photos, reports to NYSARC), 1st Regional record.
Am. Robin: max 75 PtPen 23 Dec; 30 FD 2 Jan; 51 BI 17 Feb; numerous smaller flocks & singles; more than most winters.
Gray Catbird: WBSP 11 Dec (JSB, MS), still present 8 Jan (MS).
Bohemian Waxwing: 223 Canton 29 Dec; 150 RMSP 13 Feb; many smaller flocks throughout except scarce near L Ontario.
Cedar Waxwing: 150 CPSP 17 Dec; 300 PtPen 23 Dec; 226 Massena 27 Dec; most flocks small.

LONGSPURS -WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max 14 CV 9 Dec; most reports of 1-3 with Snow Buntings and Horned Larks.
Snow Bunting: max 600 Hammond 11 Feb.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: coming to Adams feeder 12-13 Feb (TV, photos!).
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 110 Canton 29 Dec.
Savannah Sparrow: last 2 Hounsfield 11 Dec (JB, MS), late.
Song Sparrow: max 3 CV 11 Jan; 8 other reports.
White-throated Sparrow: 20 WCBC, second highest total in count history; many reports.
Red-winged Blackbird: FD 6, 16, & 22 Dec; Massena 5 Feb; arr Watertown 23 Feb.
E. Meadowlark: 2 PtPen 14 Jan (JB, MS).
Com. Grackle: Clayton 10 Dec; Massena 30 Dec; Henderson 9 Feb.
Pine Grosbeak: Canton 1 Jan in tamarack stand where good numbers found in past irruptions (JB), only report.
Purple Finch: absent from most of Region except 5-10 daily at Clayton feeder thru; 5 PtPen 14 Jan.
Red Crossbill: several flocks 4-10 FD 13 Jan thru; 4-14 per day LPd 30 Jan thru.
White-winged Crossbill: Taylor Creek SF Pierrepont 29 Jan; Canton feeder 2 Feb.
Com. Redpoll: widely scattered flocks 30-150 in natural habitat Dec & Jan; increasing numbers at feeders mid Feb thru including max 400 at Evans Mills feeder.
Hoary Redpoll: 2 FD 18 Feb (JB!); PRGC 20 Feb (JB!); Canton several dates late Feb (JB!); at least 11 other reports all lacking details.
Pine Siskin: up to 21 per day at several Canton feeders thru; up to 6 per day KC; 12 Deferiet early Dec.
Evening Grosbeak: max 125 Pierrepont 15 Jan; several reports smaller flocks Adirondacks & foothills and NE STLA.
Am. Goldfinch: up to 20 per day at feeders throughout Region.



REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The winter of 2010-11 was a typical North Country winter, with temperatures averaging at or just below normal across the Region and average to slightly above average snowfall totals. December began with warmer temperatures and heavy rainfall, but by the 10th a cold front brought most of the Region to temperatures below zero, with an extreme of -14° F in Lake Placid, and temperatures averaged 1-3° below normal for the remainder of the month. The first measurable snow accumulation occurred on the 6th, bringing 2-5" across the Region, with subsequent snowfalls on the 14th, 17th, and 26th forming the beginning of a snowpack that would blanket the Region for most of the winter. January also began with a warm front that brought the highest temperatures of the month, reaching 53° in Lake Placid and 50° in Willsboro on the 1st. The coldest days of the winter season occurred on the 24th and 25th, keeping daytime temperatures below zero across the Region and nighttime lows to the -30s in the Adirondacks and -20s in the Champlain Valley. A persistent weather pattern brought frequent smaller snowstorms to the Region, with January snowfall totals ranging from 10-16" in the Champlain Valley to 26-40" across the Adirondacks. February did not enter with a warm front like the previous months but instead began with heavy snowstorm that dumped 16" of snow in the Champlain Valley. This trend continued, and produced one of the snowiest Februaries on record, with monthly snowfall totals of 40-50" across the entire Region, including 46" of snow in Peru. Temperatures for the month were slightly above normal in the Adirondacks and slightly below for the Champlain Valley and ranged from -11° in Tupper Lake on the 1st to a high of 59° in Chazy on the 19th.

Average temperatures and above average snowfall took its toll on the Region, the evidence of which can still be seen in numerous potholes in the roads, houses with caved in roofs, and the lack of species diversity in the winter bird reports. Many of the season's highlights came from Christmas Bird Count reports. Fortunately the counts draw out dozens of birders in the Region and help to motivate us to continue birding through winter even as bird numbers drop. There was an impressive number of bird reports by numerous individuals throughout the winter period despite the fact that few irruptive species were present this year. The greatest number of reports came from birdfeeders, where redpolls made an impressive appearance and were frequently reported in numbers ranging from dozens to hundreds. With such large numbers of redpolls, there were multiple reports of Hoary Redpolls that supported the theory that for every 100 Common there is likely to be a Hoary in there somewhere. There was also one report of a "Greater" Redpoll, a rarer subspecies of Common Redpoll from Greenland and the Arctic Islands. Redpolls were the only widespread finches this winter, though there were a few isolated reports of Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, Evening Grosbeaks, and Pine Grosbeaks. There were zero

reports of Red Crossbills, and American Goldfinches disappeared from most of the Region after mid-December. White-winged Crossbills were recorded on the Elizabethtown CBC and at feeders in small numbers during February.

Many North Country winters are highlighted by owls and raptors that winter in the fields of the Champlain Valley, but the constant snowpack made conditions less than favorable for birds of prey this season. The only northern owl seen was a single Snowy Owl at Point Au Roche SP on 9 December, though an Eastern Screech-Owl in a barn on the Plattsburgh CBC was also an impressive owl sighting. There were a few reports of Rough-Legged Hawks and Northern Harriers in December, but no reports in the snowier months of January and February. Snow Buntings and Horned Larks were abundant in the month of December, and three Lapland Longspurs, always a good find, were found in December. Northern Shrikes were seen throughout winter across the Region, and one was banded in Inlet. Bohemian Waxwings continued to be seen in fields and backyards throughout the season, with flocks in the hundreds reported in December and February.

While the snow-covered fields became quiet beyond December, the open water of Lake Champlain provided birding opportunities throughout the winter. Narrower portions of the lake north of Cumberland Head and south of Willsboro Point froze solid by late January, but the wider portions of the lake remained open all winter. The temporary ferry at Crown Point provides a new location for wintering dabbling ducks, the highlight being an American Wigeon on 16 February. The NYS winter waterfowl count on 19 January yielded good numbers this year, with 2,533 Common Goldeneye, one Barrow's Goldeneye, 579 Common Mergansers, 69 Bufflehead, and one Redhead. On the Plattsburgh CBC a Northern Shoveler was seen at Cumberland Head, a new CBC record and late record for the County. Another good CBC find was a lingering Blue-winged Teal in Westport on the Elizabethtown CBC.

Despite the harsh winter there were a number of hardy migrants that decided to stick around longer than normal, with some toughing it out the entire winter. The **Great Cormorant** first sighted in November was last seen on 3 December. A Double-crested Cormorant was seen as late as 18 December. Belted Kingfishers were reported by CBC observers and seen again as early as 1 February. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker visited a Peru birdfeeder from 20 January-1 February and a Westport birdfeeder on 22 January. Red-bellied Woodpeckers seem to be increasingly overwintering in the Region, with mid-winter reports at locations throughout the Region. Tufted Titmice and Carolina Wrens also seem to be increasing their winter numbers in more interior parts of the Region. Other stragglers included a lingering Fox Sparrow at my feeders on 13 December and a Yellow-rumped Warbler in Plattsburgh on 9 January, a new late record for the County.

There was a total of 93 species reported this winter, well below the record of 109, as would be expected with the harsh weather conditions. Thank you to the many observers who braved the inhospitable winter weather to provide these reports.

CONTRIBUTORS

Tom Auer, Andrew Baksh, Alan Belford, Robert Bate, Joan Collins, Eric D'Amour, Charlotte Demers, Becca Farrell, Elizabeth & Holland Fitts, Richard Fried, Amy Freiman, Tom & Donna Gooley, Richard Guthrie, Suzy Feustel, Larry Hall, Judy Heintz, Bob Heitzman, Stuart & Aran Hutchinson, Hal Klein, Bill Krueger, Sheila LaBounty, Dayna LaLonde, Linda LaPan, Gary Lee, Robert Lee, Ruthann Lee, Allen Lewis, Ted Mack, Larry Master, Brian McAllister, Melanie McCormack, Matthew Medler, Charlie Mitchell, Dan Nickerson, Sean O'Brien, Nancy Olsen, Justin Potter, Neal Reilly, Nancy Rogers, Dana Rohleder, Alice Sample, John Shea, Daryl & Deb Smith, William Stahl, Eric Teed, John & Patricia Thaxton, Nanci Vineyard, Lois Valenti.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Point; CR – Chazy Riverlands; Etown – Elizabethtown; ELCBC – Elizabethtown CBC; LC – Lake Champlain; LP – Lake Placid; LL – Long Lake; Pburgh – Plattsburgh; PLCBC – Plattsburgh CBC; PK – Port Kent; PtR – Point Au Roche State Park; SL – Saranac Lake; SLCBC – Saranac Lake CBC; TB – Treadwell Bay; TL – Tupper Lake; West – Westport; WWC – NYS Winter Waterfowl Count.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 1000 PtR 12 Dec (BK); 200 TB 17 Dec.

Canada Goose: max 104 LP 10 Dec (LM).

Am. Wigeon: arr LC 5 Feb (LC, AB, ET); CP 16 Feb (RG).

Am. Black Duck: max 49 LC 15 Jan (WWC); 46 CP 19 Feb (BH).

Mallard: max 524 LC 1/15 (WWC).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: West 18 Dec (J&PT), only report.

N. Shoveler: CH 19 Dec (LH, AB, BMc), late record CLIN.

Redhead: LC 15 Jan (BK), only report.

Ring-necked Duck: Piseco 5 Dec (LH); LC 15 Jan (BK).

Lesser Scaup: West 18 Dec (J&PT); 14 LC 15 Jan (WWC).

Bufflehead: 20 West 18 Dec; max 69 LC 15 Jan (WWC).

Com. Goldeneye: 176 West 18 Dec; SL 2 Jan (SLCBC); max 2533 LC 15 Jan (WWC).

Barrow's Goldeneye: Montys Bay 9 Jan (SO, TM, JS); LC 15 Jan (WWC).

Hooded Merganser: max 10 AP 1 Jan, 9 LC 15 Jan (WWC).

Com. Merganser: 50 LC 17 Dec (NO); max 579 LC 15 Jan; 25 Port Douglas 2 Feb (DR).

Red-breasted Merganser: TB 6 Dec (HK); 2 West 18 Dec (J&PT); LC 19 Dec (PLCBC); 2 SL 12 Feb (TA).

Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 Pburgh 19 Dec (PLCBC); Etown 19 Dec (ELCBC); 2 Essex 22 Feb (ABa).

Wild Turkey: max 38 Etown 19 Dec (J&PT); 31 Inlet 9 Dec (GL).

Com. Loon: max 38 LC 19 Dec (PLCBC); Inlet 20 Dec (GL), late; 2 West 5 Dec (J&PT).

Horned Grebe: 5 LC 19 Dec (PLCBC); max 7 LC 15 Jan (WWC).

Double-crested Cormorant: West 18 Dec (J&PT).

GREAT CORMORANT: RP thru 3 Dec (NR).

Great Blue Heron: 5 LC 19 Dec (PLCBC); West 18 Dec (J&PT), late.

Bald Eagle: max 6 LC 15 Jan (WWC); 4 AP 15 Feb (NO); 2 CP 16 Feb (RG).

N. Harrier: max 5 West 18 Dec (J&PT); Moffitt Rd 19 Dec; PtR 22 Dec (NO).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Essex 22 Feb (ABa).

Cooper's Hawk: Saranac Ri 9 Dec (BF); West 18 Dec (J&PT); PK 23 Jan (DR).

N. Goshawk: West 18 Dec (J&PT); 13 Feb Willsboro (RuL).

Rough-legged Hawk: West 18 Dec (J&PT); Pburgh 19 Dec (PLCBC); Chazy 20 Dec (DL); West 1 Jan (J&PT), few reports.

Merlin: Moffitt Rd 19 Dec; PtR 22 Dec (NO).

Killdeer: PtR 9 Dec (HK).

Great Black-backed Gull: 4 West 18 Dec; max 10 LC 15 Jan (WWC).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: West 18 Dec (J&PT); Peru 19 Dec (PLCBC).

Great Horned Owl: Pburgh 8 Jan (DR).

Snowy Owl: PtR 9 Dec (AS).

N. Saw-whet Owl: Pburgh 24 Dec (LV).

Belted Kingfisher: Etown 19 Dec (J&PT), late; AP 1 Feb, LP 13 Feb (LL).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 3 West 18 Dec (J&PT); Cadyville 19 Dec (CO); West 22 Jan; PK 30 Jan (SL); overwintered Inlet (GL) & Willsboro (RoL).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: West 18 Dec (J&PT); West 22 Jan (S&AH); Peru 20 Jan-1 Feb (DL), 2nd Jan record CLIN.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Inlet 9 Jan (GL); SSP 30 Dec (JP); BB 18 Feb.

N. Flicker: arr Essex 19 Feb (J&PT); Essex 27 Feb (SF).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: LP 4 Dec (LM); Etown 19 Dec (ELCBC); Keene 28 Dec (MM); Inlet 2 Jan (GL), banded; PK 6 Jan (DR); LL 31 Jan (BL); Etown 5 Feb (AB); West 19 Feb (J&PT).

Blue Jay: max 47 West 18 Dec; 25 Essex 27 Feb.

Com. Raven: max 6 Inlet 25 Feb.

Horned Lark: 3 West 18 Dec (J&PT); max 108 Pburgh 19 Dec (PLCBC); 7 Chazy 20 Dec (DL); 10 PtR 22 Dec (NO); 3 Essex 24 Feb (SF), few reports.

Boreal Chickadee: BB 25 Dec (LM); 3 SSP 30 Dec (JP); 2 BB 24 Feb.

Tufted Titmouse: max 16 West 18 Dec (J&PT); 2 New Russia 22 Jan (ET); 2 Keene 22 Jan (MM), 4 LL 21 Feb.

Carolina Wren: max 5 West 18 Dec (J&PT); 3 Pburgh 19 Dec; 2 Willsboro 15 Jan-19 Feb (RoL); New Russia 20 Feb (ET).

E. Bluebird: max 6 West 18 Dec; L Alice 24 Dec (T&DG); LC 15 Jan (WWC); 6 Peru 2 Feb; 3 Essex 27 Feb.

Am. Robin: max 200 Willsboro 19 Feb (RoL).

N. Mockingbird: Pburgh 1 Dec-24 Dec (CM).

Bohemian Waxwing: 220 Pburgh 19 Dec (PLCBC); 300 Peru 26 Dec (LL); 30 Peru 28 Dec (L&HF); CH 26 Jan (BK, CM); max 400 Keene 5 Feb (AB); 300 Keene 21 Feb (RF), a good irruptive year.

Cedar Waxwing: 14 West 18 Dec (J&PT); max 383 Pburgh 19 Dec (PLCBC); 9 Essex 19 Dec; 15 West 5 Feb (AB); Valcour 15 Feb (NO).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 2 CRL 18 Dec (DL); PtR 22 Dec (NO).

Snow Bunting: 40 LP 10 Dec (LM); 38 Etown 19 Dec (ELCBC); max 200 Chazy 20 Dec (DL); 12 PtR 22 Dec (NO); 7 CP 11 Jan; 27 Essex 22 Jan.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Pburgh 9 Jan (SOB, TM, JS), late record CLIN.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 45 Wadhams 17 Dec; 18 West 18 Dec; max 129 Etown 19 Dec (ELCBC); 12 Peru 4 Jan; 10 Essex 24 Feb.

Fox Sparrow: Keene 13 Dec (MM), late.

Song Sparrow: West 18 Dec (J&PT); Essex 22 Feb (ABA).

White-throated Sparrow: PK 5 Feb (DR).

Dark-eyed Junco: max 70 Wadhams 17 Dec (DN).

Red-winged Blackbird: 25 CRL 18 Dec (BK,CM); 2 Essex 18 Dec (NR).

Brown-headed Cowbird: SL 2 Jan (SLCBC); 14 Wilmington 18 Feb (BS); 3 Belmont 19 Feb (NR).

Purple Finch: max 7 Pburgh 19 Dec (PLCBC); Etown 19 Dec (ELCBC).

Pine Grosbeak: Etown 19 Dec (ELCBC); Indian L 30 Jan (NV), only reports.

White-winged Crossbill: 3 Etown 19 Dec (ELCBC); 2 Newcomb 20 Jan-5 Feb (AF); 2 New Russia 30 Jan (ET); 2 Indian L 4 Feb (D&DS); 4 Gabriels 24 Feb (JS).

Com. Redpoll: arr 30 Cadyville 18 Dec; 19 Peru 19 Dec; 21 LP 23 Dec; 18 Keene 25 Dec; 10 PtR 4 Jan; 75 Peru 19 Jan; 250 Keene 20 Feb; 160 New Russia 20 Feb; 300 SL 24 Feb; max 400 LP 27 Feb; 250 LL 27 Feb; a strong irruptive year.

HOARY REDPOLL: 2 New Russia 22 Jan, 20 Feb (ET); 2 Keene 20 Feb (J&PT); LL 24 Feb (JC); max 3 LP 27 Feb (LM).

Pine Siskin: 2 Pburgh 19 Dec (PLCBC); LP 31 Dec (LM); SL 2 Jan (SLCBC); max 4 LL 16 Feb (JC); 2 BB 23 Feb.

Am. Goldfinch: 4 LP 10 Dec; 36 West 18 Dec; 3 Piseco 29 Dec; 3 BB 23 Feb; no Jan reports.

Evening Grosbeak: 12 Inlet 8 Jan (GL); max 110 LL 16 Feb (JC); 30 Newcomb 19 Feb (AF); 40 LL 23 Feb (RB).

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Winter 2011 brought us colder temperatures and more snow than average. The first day of December brought a high of 60° F at Albany International Airport and nearly two inches of warm rain. It was the last mild weather of the season. The month of December finished 2.1° colder than average, with few snowstorms. January continued cold, 1.7° below average, with a monthly snowfall total near average. Frequent small storms, however, delivered that average snowfall on 14 days, and several more days in January received trace amounts of snow. January logged only one clear day at Albany. By February, which finished 1.1° below average, the season snow totals began to pile up. By 28 February, Albany recorded 75.1" of snow compared to a seasonal average of 62.7". In many areas, snow completely covered the ground from late December through the season without a mid-winter thaw.

Snow geese made a good showing in the Hudson River Valley this winter, with large flights occurring on the evening of 7 December. Over two thousand staged in Rensselaer County, and large numbers continued in the Region until the Christmas Bird Count season. Elizabeth Grace found a Cackling Goose in Columbia County, and a **Eurasian Wigeon** lingered at Vischer's Ferry, Saratoga County, long enough to be observed by multiple birders.

A modest winter roost of Black Vultures has become established near the abandoned cement quarries just east of the city of Hudson, and birders in that area found up to half a dozen vultures winging around the city this season or loitering around dumpsters. An unusual mid-winter sighting of **Osprey** occurred in February in Montgomery County, and a Golden Eagle hung around the Helderbergs of Albany County.

Few surprises showed up on Regional Christmas Bird Counts. Albany counters found a Wilson's Snipe. Some of the half hardies include Gray Catbirds on four counts and a Baltimore Oriole at Catskill-Coxsackie. A late Eastern Phoebe managed to eke out a living in Northumberland, Saratoga County, until the middle of January—no small feat during this colder- and stormier-than-average winter.

The season produced a decent owl list for the Region, if you include the carcass list. Paul Novak found a dead Northern Saw-whet Owl in Voorheesville. Thankfully live saw-whets were found by others this winter. Bob Yunick reported finding a dead emaciated Long-eared Owl in Saratoga County. Snowy Owl showed up once, and Short-eared Owl seemed scarce, with only a lone sighting at Fort Edward and a total of four on the Fort Plain CBC.

Anecdotally, many Regional birders reported that bird activity was low in the field this year and that activity was sparse even at feeders. American Pipits go unreported in this Region even during migration, so an early January sighting at the Coxsackie grasslands and two on the Salem CBC are nice winter

surprises. Steve Abrahamsen's quick eye spotted a **Bohemian Waxwing** in a flock of Cedar Waxwings in Saratoga County. Many birders this winter managed to tease Lapland Longspurs out of modestly abundant flocks of Horned Larks and Snow Buntings.

Despite many reporters noticing a poor cone crop this winter, we experienced a small irruption of **White-winged Crossbills**, appearing in five counties, mostly at feeders, from mid-January through the end of the season. Common Redpolls arrived in late December and nearly everyone reported at least a few at their feeders. Only one birder, however, T. Lloyd Williams, reported the rarer **Hoary Redpoll**.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CAT – T Catskill, GREE; COX – T Coxsackie, GREE; FtE – T Fort Edwards, WASH; TR – Tomhannock Res, RENS; VF – Vischer's Ferry, SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1000 HR GREE-ALBA 7 Dec; 2500 Brunswick RENS 9 Dec; 3500 CAT-COX CBC 14 Dec.

CACKLING GOOSE: Ooms Pd Chatham COLU 30 Dec (EG).

Tundra Swan: Stafford Bridge SARA 19-21 Feb.

Wood Duck: 13 CAT-COX CBC 14 Dec; last Hillsdale COLU 18 Dec.

Gadwall: VF 3 Dec.

EURASIAN WIGEON: VF 1-4 Dec (mob).

Am. Wigeon: 7 Albany CBC 19 Dec.

N. Pintail: CAT-COX CBC 14 Dec; VF 3-18 Dec.

Canvasback: 2 Saratoga CBC 20 Dec; Stafford Bridge SARA 22-23 Feb.

Redhead: TR 3-11 Dec; Albany CBC 19 Dec; Saratoga CBC 20 Dec; Troy CBC 2 Jan; 6 Stafford Bridge SARA 19-23 Feb.

Greater Scaup: max 12 CAT-COX CBC 14 Dec.

Lesser Scaup: CAT-COX CBC 14 Dec.

Long-tailed Duck: Schenectady SCHE 16 Dec.

Barrow's Goldeneye: TR 3 Dec; FtE 1 Jan; Ft Miller SARA 17-20 Feb.

Red-breasted Merganser: Basic Creek Res ALBA 2 Dec; CAT-COX CBC 14 Dec; 4 Salem CBC 18 Dec; Ft Miller SARA 18-19 Feb.

Ruddy Duck: max 69 TR 3 Dec.

Ruffed Grouse: Stony Creek WARR 9 Dec; Hudson Falls CBC 18 Dec; SCHE CBC 18 Dec; 4 Albany CBC 19 Dec; Johnstown-Gloversville CBC 27 Dec; S RENS CBC 30 Dec; 2 Troy CBC 2 Jan.

Com. Loon: max 6 TR 4 Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr Stafford Bridge SARA 19 Feb, early.

Red-necked Grebe: Hudson Falls CBC 18 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: last Austerlitz COLU 20 Jan.

Turkey Vulture: CAT-COX CBC 14 Dec; arr Palenville GREE 13 Feb.

Black Vulture: 5 Hudson COLU 12-26 Dec; 2 Albany 1 Jan.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

OSPREY: Amsterdam MONT 18 Feb (JL), rare in Feb.

N. Goshawk: Thatcher P ALBA 5 Dec; 6 reports of singles.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Fort Plain CBC 31 Dec; COX grasslands 29 Jan; Route 211 MONT 23 Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 4 Florida MONT 4 Jan, generally scarce at expected locations.

Golden Eagle: Voorheesville ALBA 23 Feb.

Merlin: 12 reports of single birds thru.

Am. Coot: Chatham COLU 18 Dec; Stafford's Bridge SARA 25-26 Feb.

Wilson's Snipe: Albany CBC 19 Dec, uncommon in winter.

Iceland Gull: COX boat launch 14 Dec-11 Jan; Crescent Power Plant ALBA 15-17 Jan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: COX boat launch 2-9 Jan.

Glaucous Gull: 2 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 15 Jan-19 Feb.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: Northumberland SARA 8 Jan.

Long-eared Owl: Fitch Rd SARA 26 Jan (RY), found dead and emaciated.

Short-eared Owl: FtE 14 Dec; 4 Fort Plain CBC 31 Dec.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Voorheesville ALBA 3 Dec (PN), found dead; Ft Plain CBC 31 Dec; Cherry Plains RENS 23 Jan; New Baltimore GREE 25 Jan.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: Northumberland SARA 14 Jan, late.

N. Shrike: FtE 2 Dec; Charlton SARA 4 Dec; Rensselaerville ALBA 4 Dec; 2 Albany CBC 19 Dec; Gansevoort SARA 26 Dec; FtE 31 Dec, banded; Berne ALBA 1 Jan; FtE 15 Jan; Knox ALBA 4 Feb; Five Rivers ALBA 8 Feb.

Horned Lark: max 240 Clermont COLU 2 Feb.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: CAT-COX CBC 14 Dec; last Germantown COLU 18 Dec.

Hermit Thrush: FtE 17 Jan.

Gray Catbird: CAT-COX CBC 14 Dec; Schenectady CBC 18 Dec; Fort Plain CBC 31 Dec; 2 Troy CBC 2 Jan.

Am. Pipit: 2 Salem CBC 18 Dec; COX 8 Jan.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: Saratoga SARA 12 Dec (SA), found in flock of Cedar Waxwings.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max 7 Northumberland SARA 10 Feb; several reports of singles.

Snow Bunting: max 250 Clermont COLU 3 Jan; numerous reports of flocks under 30 thru.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: last Germantown COLU 18 Dec.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Field Sparrow: Troy CBC 2 Jan.

Fox Sparrow: Hillsdale COLU 26 Jan.

White-crowned Sparrow: Stuyvesant COLU 16 Dec; Chatham COLU 18 Dec; 2 Papscanee RENS 16 Jan.

E. Meadowlark: 2 COX 2 Jan; 4 FtE 11 Jan.

Rusty Blackbird: Kinderhook COLU 18 Dec; Hillsdale COLU 19 Jan.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: CAT-COX CBC 14 Dec, 4-mile Pt GREE (RG).

Pine Grosbeak: 6 Saratoga SARA 10 Dec.

Purple Finch: max 8 Claverack COLU 28 Jan.

White-winged Crossbill: Colonie ALBA 13 Jan; Claverack COLU 19 Jan; Taghkanic COLU 21 Jan; Saratoga SARA 5-6 Feb; 2 Glenville SCHE 8 Feb; 9 Stony Creek WARR 11 Feb; Loudonville ALBA 13 Feb.

Com. Redpoll: max 150 Burnt Hills ALBA 26 Dec; numerous flocks less than 50 thru.

HOARY REDPOLL: Berne ALBA 1 Jan (TLW).

Pine Siskin: Austerlitz COLU 4 Dec; Stony Creek WARR 9 Dec; Bolton Landing CBC 18 Dec; Hudson Falls CBC 18 Dec; 39 Fort Plain CBC 31 Dec; 8 Stillwater SARA 12-19 Feb.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 Rensselaerville ALBA 4 Dec; max 30 Stony Creek WARR 9 Dec.



REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

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December was cold, marked with the lack of any warm spells. A blizzard hit the area on 26-27 December, hampering coverage for the Bronx-Westchester CBC. 14-20" fell on the area, with the highest amounts south and towards the coast. Westchester came in 4.5° F colder than normal for the month and wet, with 4.3" of precipitation. Then followed a series of weekly winter storms without any chance for the snow cover to melt. Poughkeepsie did not reach 40° or above from 4 January to 5 February. The month was 1° cooler and 0.4" wetter than normal and was one of, if not the, snowiest January on record. February was wetter than normal and fortunately a degree warmer thanks to 2" of rain on 6 February and a thaw from 16-18 February, during which Poughkeepsie reached a high of 72° on the 18th.

Both Snow Goose and Brant lingered well into the winter season. Brant remained through the period along the Long Island Sound shore in Westchester. Cackling Goose was reported from Ulster County in December and from Westchester in February. The Eurasian Wigeon at Rockland Lake, found in October, lingered into the early part of December. Large rafts of scoters and Long-tailed Duck wintered off Rye through the winter. Most of the scoters were White-wing and Surf, but a couple of Black Scoters made the mix. Bob Shriber found an interesting hybrid duck in Mamaroneck, Westchester County, on 7 & 8 December, but freezing conditions kept it moving. It was traveling with a group of Hooded Mergansers and appeared to be a Hooded Merganser x goldeneye hybrid—possibly Barrow's Goldeneye.

An American White Pelican was reported flying high over Chelsea in Dutchess County on 5 January by Rodney Johnson. Interestingly, an American White Pelican was reported over Floyd Bennett Field south of Region 9 the next day. Wintering Bald Eagles along the Hudson continue to impress with their numbers. The Mearns Bird Club counted 191 Bald Eagles at the Croton Dam and between Croton Point Park and the Bear Mountain Bridge on 30 January. Golden Eagle sightings were up as well, with most reports from Dutchess County. Wintering Merlins are now expected. They were reported on five Christmas Bird Counts, and sightings continued throughout the season.

While clearing his roof of snow, Edmond Spaeth noticed two V-formations of Sandhill Cranes flying southeastward high in the sky above some crows. He described their flight as necks and legs extended and wing strokes with an upward tick and slow down stroke.

An adult male **VARIED THRUSH** appeared at a feeder at a private residence in Wurtsboro, Sullivan County in late December and stayed until 3 March. The homeowner, not knowing what type of bird it was, contacted Arlene Borko and Arlene contacted John Haas. They saw and photographed the bird on

3 January. Due to the homeowner's wishes for privacy, the location was properly not disclosed to the general public. The homeowner did graciously allow John to monitor and document the bird. The bird made the Monticello CBC [NYMT] on 29 December, and a report has been submitted to NYSARC.

Lance Verderame observed two **BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS** in Debruce in northern Sullivan County on 24 December.

Just as in the fall, White-crowned Sparrows were more common than usual in winter throughout the Region. There was a scattering of White-winged Crossbills in January, but none lingered. Common Redpolls were numerous in the northern half of the Region but still scarce in the south. Evening Grosbeaks returned to their usual haunts in Sullivan County.

A **European Goldfinch** was discovered at a feeder in Pine Bush, Orange County during the Great Yard Bird Count on 21 February.

As usual, the Christmas Bird Counts had their own highlights. The Peekskill count [NYPE] held on 18 December totaled a respectable 98 species. Highlights included a record-breaking number of Common Mergansers—4,262 that came primarily from a large flock located on the Hudson River off the Village of Verplanck. A Northern Goshawk, two Red-shouldered Hawks, two Merlin, a Virginia Rail, a Marsh Wren, 56 Eastern Bluebirds, an American Pipit, White-crowned Sparrow, Snow Bunting, and Eastern Meadowlark rounded out the other notable species.

The Mohonk Lake-Ashokan Reservoir count [NYML] found 72 species on 18 December, only the third time the count recorded 70 or more species. Highlights included three species previously recorded only once during the count's history. A very late **BROAD-WINGED HAWK** was observed by Tom Sarro perched in a tree on the edge of a horse paddock on Klienekill Farm in the Mohonk Lake area, two Northern Saw-whet Owls responded to vocal imitation in Accord, and eight Wood Ducks were found. Two additional species were encountered for only the third time—two Merlins and a late Killdeer. Six Ring-necked Ducks were an unusual find for this count circle. Two White-crowned Sparrows, representing the seventh count record, two Ruby-crowned Kinglets, three Field Sparrows, one Fox Sparrow, and three American Kestrels were nice half-hardy additions to the compilation.

The Dutchess County count [NYDC] set a count record for total individual birds on 18 December, in large part due to a roost with 20,000 American Crows and 1,300 Fish Crows in Poughkeepsie. Another highlight was two White-winged Scoters. The Putnam County count [NYPC] on 2 January had 80 species, with new highs for Carolina Wren and Red-bellied Woodpecker. Other highlights were Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Long-tailed Duck, Merlin, Ring-necked Pheasant, six Eastern Towhees, and White-crowned Sparrow. The Pawling (Hidden Valley) count [NYHV] added a new species to their list on 1 January with a Common Yellowthroat in Pawling. The count also found a Vesper Sparrow in Putnam. The Rockland County count [NYRC] on 19 December had a Purple Sandpiper at Piermont Pier. The bird was relocated on the 23rd.

The Bronx-Westchester count [NYBW] found 106 species on 26 December, despite an impending blizzard that eventually dumped 17-20" of snow on the area. Highlights included a Nelson's Sparrow at Marshlands Conservancy, for the first time on the count since it became a full species. It was previously reported as a subspecies in 1935 and 1953. All three scoter species were found on the Sound off Rye, as well as a Red-necked Grebe and a Northern Gannet. Great Egret was found in Mamaroneck and only one Pine Siskin was reported. Two Common Redpolls were reported from Rye.

Other notable species for the season include: Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Northern Shrike, and Baltimore Oriole.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; FNC – Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; NYBW – Bronx-Westchester CBC; NYDC – Dutchess County CBC; NYEO – East Orange CBC; NYHV – Pawling (Hidden Valley) CBC; NYML – Mohonk Lake-Ashokan Reservoir CBC; NYMT – Monticello CBC; NYPC – Putnam County CBC; NYPE – Peekskill CBC; NYRC – Rockland County CBC; NYSU – Southern Orange County CBC; PP – Piermont Pier; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 2 Blue Chip Farms, 5 Dec; 140 FNC 8 Dec; 600 FNC 9 Dec; 2 CPP 14 Dec; 5 NYEO 18 Dec; 4 Wallkill NWR 20 Dec; 102 Youngsville 6 Jan.
Brant: present all season on LI Sound, WEST; 60 EGR 11 Dec; 46 EGR 12 Jan; 28 EGR 6 Feb.
Cackling Goose: 2 Blue Chip Farms, 5 Dec (MDe); CPP 27 Feb (BV), ph.
Mute Swan: 93 Purdy's Res 7 Feb.

Wood Duck: 8 NYML 18 Dec; 5 NYPC 2 Jan; 61 Bashakill 25 Feb.

Gadwall: 20 MC 25 Dec.

Eurasian Wigeon: Rockland SP 3 Dec.

Am.Wigeon: 60 Rye 25 Dec.

Mallard: 767 NYML 18 Dec, new count high.

N. Pintail: Wappinger Falls 3 Dec; Wurtsboro 7 Dec – mid Feb; 2 Pine Plains 4, 29 Jan; 3 Pine Plains 6 Feb; Wallkill NWR 27 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: 7 Yonkers 26 Dec; NYPC 2 Jan; East Fishkill 21 Jan; Millerton 30 Jan; Millerton 17 Feb.

Canvasback: 300 Esopus 27 Feb.

Redhead: 3 Rockland L 29 Dec; Croton-Harmon Train Station 20 Jan; few PP 11 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: 148 Round Pd, Town of North East 8 Dec; 6 NYML 18 Dec; 82 Beekman 9 Dec.

Greater Scaup: 400 Rye 2 Jan; 450 EGR 8 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: 800 EGR 12 Jan.

Surf Scoter: 300 EGR 25 Dec; 70 NYBW 26 Dec; 250 Rye 24 Jan; 85 EGR 8 Feb.

White-winged Scoter: 2 Poughkeepsie 18 Dec (NYDC); 400 EGR 23 Dec; 615 NYBW 26 Dec; 200 EGR 29 Dec; 400 Rye 2 Jan; Haverstraw Bay County Park 17 Jan (JP); 1615 EGR 8 Feb; PP 13,17 Feb (LP).

Black Scoter: 2 NYBW 26 Dec; 3 EGR 27 Dec; EGR 24 Feb.

scoter species: 1000 EGR 11 Dec.

Long-tailed Duck: Poughkeepsie 6 Dec (CV); 900 EGR 29 Dec; Cold Spring 2 Jan (NYPC); 700 EGR 12 Jan; 850 EGR 6 Feb.

Com. Goldeneye: 22 Wallkill River 31 Jan; 160 PP 27 Feb; 300 Esopus 27 Feb.

Hooded Merganser x Goldeneye species: Mamaroneck 7,8 Dec (BS,TB).

Com. Merganser: 4262 NYPE 18 Dec; 1032 George's Island 22 Jan.

N. Bobwhite: Claryville 1Dec - early Jan (CB).

Ring-necked Pheasant: NYPC 2 Jan; Millbrook 30 Jan.

Ruffed Grouse: 4 Jeffersonville 3 Dec; Neversink 4 Dec; Millbrook 23 Jan; Parksville 11 Feb; Callicoon 15 Feb.

Red-throated Loon: 7 Rye 11Dec, 24, 27 Jan.

Com. Loon: 3 Rye 3, 11 Dec, 2 Jan,17 Feb; Rhinecliff 3 Jan.

Pied-billed Grebe: Beekman 9 Dec; Black Rock Park 20, 22 Jan.

Horned Grebe: 7 NYML 18 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: EGR 23, 26, 27 Dec, 27 Jan (TB,BV,NYBW).

N. Gannet: EGR 13, 23, 26, 27, 30 Dec.

Am. White Pelican: flying high over Chelsea 5 Jan (RJ).

Great Egret: Mamaroneck, NYBW 26 Dec; MC 4 Jan (TB).

Black Vulture: 20 NYEO 18 Dec; 23 NYSU 27 Dec; 50 Wappinger 10, 13 Feb.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 5 NYML 18 Dec, new count high; 64 George's Island Park 22 Jan; 191 between Croton Dam, Croton Point Park and the Bear Mountain Bridge 30 January.

N. Harrier: 12 Black Dirt region 14 Dec; 4 SGNWR 19 Dec; 4 Wallkill NWR 27 Feb.

Cooper's Hawk: 7 NYML 18 Dec, new count high.

N. Goshawk: White Plains High School 3 Dec; Dover 5 Dec; NYPE 18 Dec; Saugerties 1 Jan; 3 Woodstock 1 Jan.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 4 NYML 18 Dec, new count high; 2 NYPE 18 Dec; many scattered reports thru.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Klienekill Farm, Mohonk Lake area, NYML 18 Dec (TS).

Red-tailed Hawk: 80 NYML 18 Dec, new count high.

Rough-legged Hawk: many reports this season from the northern half of Region 9; 7 Black Dirt region 14 Dec; 8 NYSU 27 Dec; 4 SGNWR 9 Jan; 6 Wallkill NWR 22 Jan; Millbrook 13 Feb; 6 Wallkill NWR 27 Feb.

Golden Eagle: StonyKill 4 Dec; Verbank 8 Dec; Lew Beach 12 Dec; FNC 14 Dec; Mashomack 21 Dec; Pawling 18 Jan; 2 Millbrook 23 Jan; 2 Thompson Pd 30 Jan; 1 ad, 1 imm Stissing 20 Feb; 1 imm Millerton 20 Feb.

Am. Kestrel: 3 NYML 18 Dec; Orange County Airport 31 Jan.

Merlin: 2 NYPE 18 Dec; 2 NYML 18 Dec; Rye 26 Dec (NYBW); 2 NYSU 27 Dec; Carmel 2 Jan (NYPC); New Rochelle 13 Jan (ABI); Amenia 7 Jan (DF); 2 Thompson Pd 30 Jan (MBoc); Pound Ridge 5 Feb (TB); CPP 21 Feb.

Virginia Rail: NYPE 18 Dec.

Sandhill Crane: 30 in 2 V-formations over Fishkill 28 Dec (ES).

Killdeer: Krumville, NYML 18 Dec; Clinton Corners 18 Feb; 1-4 EGR thru.

Purple Sandpiper: PP 19, 23 Dec (NYRC, VK); 4 EGR 30 Dec; 21 EGR 6 Jan; 12 EGR 5 Feb.

Am. Woodcock: Rye 27 Feb.

Iceland Gull: Wallkill 3 Feb (JH); Shawangunk 8 Feb (JH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Wallkill River, Wallkill 9, 31 Jan (JH); Red Mills Road, Wallkill 3 Feb (JH); 2 Wallkill 6, 8 Feb (JH).

Glaucous Gull: Blue Chip Farm 5 Dec (MDe); Red Mills Road, Wallkill 3 Feb (JH).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Barn Owl: Wallkill NWR 22 Jan; Pomona 22 Jan.

Barred Owl: 7 NYML 18 Dec, new count high.

Long-eared Owl: 2 PP 18, 20-22, 27 Feb; 4 PP 24 Feb; 3 PP 28 Feb.

Short-eared Owl: 5 Wallkill NWR 3 Jan; 3 SGNWR 4 Jan; 8 Wallkill NWR 22 Jan; 2 Tallman Marsh 16 Feb; Wallkill NWR 27 Feb.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 Accord, NYML 18 Dec; West Saugerties 12 Jan; 2 Woodstock 12 Jan.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary, New Paltz 8 Jan (MBow, MCor); 3 Humpo Marsh, New Paltz 13 Feb (PSc).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 121 NYPC 2 Jan.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 9 NYML 18 Dec, new count high.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: Neversink Res 24 Dec (SB); Stormville 21 Jan (SG).
Am. Crow: 20,000 Poughkeepsie 18 Dec (NYDC).
Fish Crow: 1300 Poughkeepsie 18 Dec (NYDC); returned to many areas mid Feb.
Horned Lark: 8 Woodbourne 8 Dec; 20 CPP 14 Dec; 120 Millerton 16 Jan; 46 Pleasant Valley 18 Dec; 3 CPP 18 Dec; 100 Winchell Mt 30 Dec; 18 Amenia 9 Jan; 24 Skinner Ln, Goshen 16 Jan; 175 Millbrook 30 Jan; 300 between Chester and Montgomery 31 Jan; 35 Orange County Airport 31 Jan; 70 Stone Ridge 6 Feb; 5 Beechwoods 11 Feb; 57 Amenia 27 Feb; 80 Millerton early Feb; particularly numerous this winter.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: much less numerous this winter.
Carolina Wren: 53 NYML 18 Dec, new count high; 94 NYPC 2 Jan, new high count.
Marsh Wren: NYPE 18 Dec.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 NYML 18 Dec.
E. Bluebird: 56 NYPE 18 Dec; 109 NYML 18 Dec.
Hermit Thrush: Bridgeville 29 Dec.
Am. Robin: 80 Kakiat Park 6 Feb.
VARIED THRUSH: Wurtsboro 29 Dec thru, see *intro*.
Am. Pipit: 25 CPP 14 Dec; CPP 18 Dec (NYPE); 8 EGR 30 Dec; PP 5 Jan; 2 Lomontville 15 Jan; 3 PP 28 Feb.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 2 Debruce 24 Dec (LV).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 2 Northeast 24 Dec (DF); NYSU 27 Dec; Millbrook 30 Jan (JAs); Stone Ridge 6 Feb (PSc); 2 Rochester 27 Feb.
Snow Bunting: 2 CPP 14 Dec; NYPE 18 Dec; 8 Neversink Dam 15, 21 Dec; 18 LaGrange 15-17 Dec; 34 Neversink 18 Dec; 58 NYML 18 Dec; 60 Westbrookville 29 Dec; 8 Winchell My 30 Dec; 36 EGR 31 Dec; 18 Neversink 1 Jan; 10 Rockland L 4 Jan; 42 Callicoon 15 Jan; 57 Skinner Ln, Goshen 16 Jan; 125 Millbrook 30 Jan; Orange County Airport 31 Jan; Red Mills Road, Wallkill 3 Feb; 10 Stone Ridge 6 Feb; 3 Liberty 11 Feb; 2 Neversink 12 Feb; some

Millerton 11, 18 Feb; StonyKill 17 Feb; 6 Mabbettville 4 Feb.
Com. Yellowthroat: Kingston 11 Dec (MDe); Pawling, NYHV 1 Jan (DK, KL).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 6 NYPC 2 Jan.
Am. Tree Sparrow: 50 Fallburg Rd 3 Feb.
Chipping Sparrow: Lagrange 21 Feb (JAt).
Field Sparrow: 3 NYML 18 Dec
Vesper Sparrow: Putnum, NYHV 1 Jan (BW).
Savannah Sparrow: 2 LaGrange 16 Dec (CV); 2 Stony Kill Farm 31 Dec; 5 Orange County Airport 31 Jan (JH).
NELSON'S SPARROW: MC 26 Dec (BV).
Fox Sparrow: NYML 18 Dec.
Song Sparrow: 98 NYML 18 Dec, new count high.
White-crowned Sparrow: 8 Verbank 8 Dec; 2 Rhinebeck 11 Dec; 15 James Baird SP 15 Dec; NYPE 18 Dec; 2 NYML 18 Dec; 2 Poughkeepsie 18 Dec; 5 NYEO 18 Dec; 8 Millerton 19 Dec; 22 Norrie Pt 22 Dec; 3 NYSU 27 Dec; Cold Spring 2 Jan; 1-5 Millerton 2, 13, 28 Jan; 2 Shawangunk 15 Jan; CPP 5, 22 Jan; 5 Northeast 30 Jan; 2 Stonykill 7 Feb; Rombout 11 Feb.
E. Meadowlark: CPP, NYPE 16, 18 Dec; 4 LaGrangeville 10 Jan; Union Vale 13, 17 Jan.
Baltimore Oriole: Eastchester 1 Jan (SO).
Purple Finch: scattered reports, no large numbers.
White-winged Crossbill: Youngsville 12 Jan (RD); Rockland feeder 16 Jan (AW); 2 Grahamsville 22 Jan (PD); Millbrook 29-31 Jan (WS).
Com. Redpoll: CPP 14 Dec; 2 LaGrange 22 Dec; 15 Millbrook 23 Dec; 100 Claryville 24 Dec; 90 Debruce 25 Dec; 2 EGR, NYBW 26 Dec; 2 Rhinebeck 27 Dec; 65 EGR 29 Dec; 120 Parksville 30 Dec; 2-42 Rhinebeck all 1-31 Jan; Bashakill 7 Jan; 2 Mountandale 9 Jan; 17 Callicoon 15 Jan; 8 George's Island Park 20 Jan; small numbers started visiting feeders everywhere mid Feb.
Pine Siskin: common and widespread; NYBW 26 Dec; 45 Woodbourne 5 Jan; 27 Bashakill 29 Jan.
EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH: at feeder Pine Bush 21, 26 Feb (LF).
Evening Grosbeak: 3-11 Parksville early Dec, 24 Dec; 45 Fir Brook 19 Dec; 14 Parksville 30 Dec; 3 Parksville all Jan; 9 Bradley 9 Jan; 50 Neversink 1 Jan; Wappinger Rural Cemetery 17 Feb (KHa); few - 20 thru mid Feb at the same high elevation locations in SULL & ULST.

REGION 10—MARINE

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Average temperatures were below normal during December and January, while precipitation, especially snow, was well above normal. At one point in late January, the Region had suffered weekly nor'easters for six successive weeks. Three storms dumped huge amounts of snow: the 26-27 December storm dumped 20" on New York City, the 11 January storm left 17" on Long Island, and the 27 January storm deposited another 16". Although February started off cold, it was slightly warmer than normal during the final two weeks. Monthly precipitation was also slightly above normal in February. As one long time observer put it, "The weather this season was %\$#! crazy!"

One result of the cold temperatures and the snow that completely covered the ground from late December through mid-February was that many of the more fragile half-hardy species disappeared after early January. For example, 19 Orange-crowned Warblers were reported in December, ten in January (with the latest on the 10th), and only one in February. Species such as Great Egret, American Oystercatcher, Willet, Tree Swallow, Pine Warbler, and Chipping Sparrow, which have regularly overwintered during the past decade, had largely disappeared by the second weekend in January.

The population trends of several wintering species continued this season, despite the brutal weather. About 15 different Greater White-fronted Geese were discovered in four different counties. This species has become increasingly common in the Region and in the last five years it is increasingly being found on western Long Island and in New York City. Apparently two **Barnacle Geese** were present near Belmont Lake State Park, as observers noted one with leg bands and one without. An individual found at the Glen Cove Golf Course in late February may have been one of the previous individuals. Cackling Geese were found in several locations in Suffolk Co. All three of these species have been regular winter visitors to the Region for at least a decade.

In December a pair of Trumpeter Swans returned to Upper Lake in Yaphank for the third winter in a row and then apparently moved around the area once the lakes froze. A third individual, with wing tag 'A 60,' was found at Lake Agawam in Southampton on 11 December by Willy Becker, but then dead on the ice on 4 January, having been last reported on 31 December. Angus Wilson reports, "A60 was a female that was hatched in 2009 by two tagged swans (981 and E51). She was banded at Hillsburg ON (northwest of the Lake Ontario shoreline) on 7 October 2009 and then re-sighted at several locations within southeastern Ontario during the following winter, spring, and summer. In July of this year, A60 was found injured in Rosemount ON, taken into rehab,

and then released a short while later near Mansfield ON. There had been no additional reports of this bird until now.” Formerly a rare species in the Region, three Barrow’s Goldeneye were found on Long Island, all of which appear to be birds present at the same locations in prior years.

Wild Turkey continued to expand in the Region, with reports of a flock from the highly suburban Northern Nassau CBC and a lone individual in lower Manhattan. Nine Black Vultures were reported from Manhattan to Montauk during the period continuing the trend of recent years. Bald Eagles were found throughout the Region with reports from almost every county. American Kestrel continued its precipitous decline as a winter resident in the Region, with the EPCAL property in Calverton the only reliable place to see more than a single individual.

Common Ravens continued to spread through the Region, being reported from all seven counties and slowly working their way east on Long Island as far as Calverton. Startled observers on the Queens CBC watched two ravens copulate, and several western Long Island nest sites appeared to be active by the end of the period.

One of the most impressive spectacles of the winter was the size of the sea duck flock, comprised mainly of all three scoter species and Common Eider, at Montauk Point. Observers familiar with Montauk Point’s “recirculation issue,” whereby birds are drifted off the feeding grounds by the tides and thus have to fly back continuously giving the appearance of on-going migration, estimated the total number of sea ducks at forty- to sixty-thousand individuals, with the maximum numbers occurring in mid-January. The highest counts came on 17 January when Angus Wilson and I, aided by several boats that flushed the flock at varying distances from the Point, estimated the flock to contain 56,000 birds. At one point we watched a distant flock rise off the ocean and estimated more than 20,000 in the air in a 10-minute period and at considerable distance from the large flocks sitting just offshore.

Two pelagic trips, one on 11 December that went about 35 miles south-southeast of Shinnecock Inlet and the other on 23 January that spent most of its time 20 miles south of Jones Beach, produced noteworthy results. **Common Murre** and **Atlantic Puffin** continued to be found offshore once warmer waters were reached, and the number of Dovekies wintering off Long Island can be astounding. Angus Wilson and John Shemilt counted over 2,000 off Shinnecock on 11 December, a number that contrasts sharply with the four reports from land during the period.

Out of season species not normally recorded in the Region during winter included Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, Osprey, Semipalmated Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Black Skimmer, Western Kingbird, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, and Lincoln’s Sparrow, all of which are covered in the species accounts. The precarious nature of attempting to winter this far north is indicated by the fact that ten of these records were from December, four were from January, and one was from February.

Several species appeared to arrive earlier than normal when the warmer weather appeared in late February. These included an Osprey in Cutchogue on

12 February, American Oystercatcher at three different locations on 18 February, Eastern Phoebe in Bridgehampton on 18 February, and Tree Swallow at Great Kills Park on 19 February.

In the rarity department, a **Ross's Goose** was found in Bridgehampton on 13 February by Doug Gochfeld, Shane Blodgett, and Heydi Lopes. Although it remained in the area for nearly two weeks, it was incredibly difficult to locate. Three separate "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teals** were reported in the Region. A **Tufted Duck**, the first in the Region in several years, was found at Cold Spring Harbor on 4 January by Gary Straus but only remained until the 7th. There were three reports of **American White Pelican** between 29 December and 8 January (the last found dead), and these may have represented the same individual. Shane Blodgett pointed out that coincidentally a flock of five was reported from Westport CT on 28 December, Charlestown RI on 29 December, and Jamestown RI on 5 January, with singles in MA in early January.

Two **Thick-billed Murres** were found during the period, one dead at Montauk and another off Jones Beach on a pelagic trip. The **Loggerhead Shrike** found at the Jones Beach Nature Center in November continued into early December. A **Townsend's Solitaire** found on the Orient CBC on 1 January was not relocated subsequently. Two **Varied Thrushes** found in November were seen during the period, with the one in Central Park continuing into March. A **Hermit Warbler**, the first record for New York, was found at Sunken Meadow State Park on 4 December by Vinnie Pellegrino and stayed until the 8th to the delight of hundreds of observers. Tom Burke and Gail Benson found a **Le Conte's Sparrow** on the EPCAL property on 8 January, and a few lucky observers were able to re-find it the following day. This constitutes the first January record for NYS and the second winter record (one was found in Battery Park, Manhattan on 15 Mar 1996). A wintering Lark Sparrow was also at EPCAL for three weeks from mid-December to early January. Vicki Bustamante found an adult male **Western Tanager** at her feeder on 31 December. It remained until 22 February and was viewed by many observers.

CONTRIBUTORS

Deborah Allen, Seth Ausubel, Andrew Baksh, Rob Bate, Debbie Becker, Willy Becker, Gail Benson, Bobby Berlingeri (BB), Shane Blodgett, Brent Bomkamp (BBk), *Sharon Brody* (SBr), John Brush, Jr (JBj), John Brush, Sr (JBS), **Tom Burke** (TWB), Vicki Bustamante, Richard Cartwright, *Jacob Drucker*, Corey Finger, **Tom Fiore**, Ken & Sue Fuestel, Douglas Futuyma, Paul Gillen, Doug Gochfeld, Andy Guthrie, Rob Jett, Tom Johnson, Brian Kane, *Richard Kaskan* (RRK), Rich Kelly, *Dave Klauber*, *Robert Kurtz* (RJK), Mary Laura Lamont, Patricia J Lindsay, Heydi Lopes, *Peter J Martin*, Michael McBrien, Hugh (HDM) & Jackson (FJM) McGuinness, Stella Miller (SM), S. S. Mitra, Todd Olson, Vinnie Pellegrino, Karen & Barbara Rubinstein (K&BRu), *Eileen Schwinn*, Peter Scully Jr (PSc), John Shemilt (JSh), John Sep (JSp), Lloyd Spitalnik, Carl Starace, Jeff Stetson (JSt), Gary Straus, Paul Sweet, Steve Walter, **Angus C. Wilson** (ACW), Seth Wollney (SIW). **Bold**: sub-regional compilers; *italics*: sent end of season report.

ABBREVIATIONS

BLSP – Belmont Lake SP, SUFF; CP – Central Park, NEWY; CRSP – Connetquot River SP, SUFF; DPMK – Ditch Plains, Montauk, SUFF; EPCAL – EPCAL property, Calverton, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; HP – Hook Pond, East Hampton, SUFF; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE-KING; JBNC – Jones Beach Nature Center, NASS; JBWE – Jones Beach West End, NASS; Marra – Marratooka Lake, Mattituck, SUFF; MP – Montauk Point, SUFF; NYBG – New York Botanical Gardens, BRON; PBP – Pelham Bay Park, BRON; POJB – Pelagic trip off Jones Beach; PL – Point Lookout, NASS; PP – Prospect P, KING; Shinn – Shinnecock Bay & Inlet; SPCP – Smith Point CP, SUFF; SMSP – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF. For other locations mentioned more than once below, the county is given in the first citation but not thereafter.

Christmas Bird Counts referred to below: BKCC – Brooklyn; CPCC – Captree; CSCC – Central Suffolk; MKCC – Montauk; NNCC – Northern Nassau; ORCC – Orient; QUCC – Queens; QWCC – Quogue Watermill; SACC – Sagaponack; SNCC – Southern Nassau.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: HP thru 18 Feb; max 6 HP 15 Jan (K&BRu); Van Cortland P, BRON 11-12 Dec (AB); Marra 17-23 Dec (PG); Tung Ting Pd, Centerport 24 Dec (BBk); Wading River 30 Dec (RK); SNCC 1 Jan; 4 Pinelawn Cem, BLSP & vicinity 11 Jan-14 Feb (GS); RICH 27 Feb (C Barron).

Snow Goose: 1522 BKCC 18 Dec; max 3000+ JBWR 27 Feb (AB).

ROSS'S GOOSE: Bridgehampton 13-19, 27 Feb (SB, DG, HL).

“Black” Brant: FBF 11 Dec (SW).

BARNACLE GOOSE: Pinelawn Cem, BLSP & vicinity 6-19 Jan (WB), likely two present on 11 Jan, *intro*; Glen Cove GC, NASS 15-22 Feb.

Cackling Goose: HP thru 19 Feb; max 2 HP 12 Dec (HDM, ACW); Marra 4 Jan (PG); CRSP 6 Jan (KF); Sagaponack 6 Jan (TJ); Wading River 8 Jan; BLSP 8 Dec-17 Jan (KF); max 2 on 17 Jan (J Gluth).

Trumpeter Swan: pr returned to Upper Lake, Yaphank SUFF 28 Nov thru; also Artist’s Lake SUFF 26 Feb & Patchogue Lake SUFF 22 Jan, prob same birds; Lake Agawam, Southampton SUFF 11-31 Dec (WB), bird marked A60, found dead on 4 Jan, *intro*.

Tundra Swan: Marra 18 Dec (JSp); 2 SNCC 1 Jan; Sagaponack 13-16 Feb (DG, SB, HL).

Wood Duck: max 16 BLSP 19 Dec (BB).

Eurasian Wigeon: Patchogue Lake 4 Dec (RRK); Marine Park, KING 7 Dec (P Dorosh); East Setauket 29 Dec (PSc et al.); Cooper’s Neck Pd, Southampton SUFF 1 Jan (JSh); Massapequa Lake NASS 3-5 Jan (K&SF).

N. Shoveler: max 744 BKCC 18 Dec.

N. Pintail: max 772 BKCC 18 Dec.

“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL: HP 20 Feb (MM); JBWR 27 Feb thru (SA, CF); Hendrix Creek KING 27 Feb.

Canvasback: max 400 BKCC 18 Dec.

Redhead: max 92 Capri Pond, West Islip SUFF 26 Feb (SA, CF).

Ring-necked Duck: max 153 Blydenburg Co P SUFF 23 Dec (BBk);

TUFTED DUCK: Cold Spring Harbor 4-7 Jan (GS).

Greater Scaup: max 20,758 NNCC 18 Dec.

Lesser Scaup: max 4000 Bayard Cutting Arboretum SUFF 20 Feb (K&SF).

King Eider: Ft Tilden 18-24 Dec; MP 18 Dec thru 20 Feb; max 5 MP 17-30 Jan; 6 MP 6 Feb (TWB); 8 MP 20 Feb (DF).

Com. Eider: huge numbers at MP, but good numbers elsewhere; 450 Shinn 11 Dec (SA, GH, SM); 250 WEJB 17 Dec (KF); 3000 MP 4 Dec; 6000+ MP 17 Jan (ACW, HDM).

Harlequin Duck: 3 JBWE 2-11 Dec (LS, *et al.*); 1 Montauk Inlet 2 Dec (VB); 1 MP 3 Dec (PS); Ft Tilden 18 Dec- 6 Jan; max 3 Ft Tilden 24 Dec; 6 MKCC 18 Dec; Clearwater Bch, East Hampton 25 Dec-9 Jan (KRu); Pt Jefferson 29 Dec (HDM); 4 CSCC 30 Dec; 6 PL 1 Jan thru; max 8 PL 26 Feb (SA, CF).

Surf Scoter: high counts 7500 MP 18 Dec; 20,000 MP 17 Jan (HDM, ACW).

White-winged Scoter: high counts 12,000 MP 17 Dec (HDM); 10,000 MP 18 Dec; 12,500 MP 17 Jan (HDM, ACW).

Black Scoter: 2591 BKCC 18 Dec; 17,500 MP 17 Jan (ACW, HDM).

Long-tailed Duck: max 5100 Coney Island Pier 17 Jan (DG, SB).
Bufflehead: max 2595 CPCC 19 Dec.
Barrow's Goldeneye: East Marion 18 Dec-1 Jan (fide JBJ); Long Beach, Noyac SUFF 19 Dec-20 Feb (ACW & AG); JBWR 23 Feb thru.
Hooded Merganser: max 974 SNCC 1 Jan.
Com. Merganser: max 120 CRSP 14 Jan (KF); 202 CRSP 4 Feb (K&SF).
N. Bobwhite: CRSP 14-16 Jan (KF); max 8 CRSP Jan 15 (R Fried).
Wild Turkey: Battery Park NEWY 11 Dec (JD, L Fried); 9 NNCC 18 Dec; 75+ Three Mile Harbor SUFF 16 Jan (KRu).
Red-throated Loon: max 800 Napeague-Southampton 6 Jan (DG, TJ).
Red-necked Grebe: reported throughout Region in small numbers.
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: East Setauket 29 Dec (PSc et al.); FBF 6 Jan (SB); 1 dead Bellport 8 Jan (fide N Carrao).
Double-crested Cormorant: max 155 CPCC 19 Dec.
Great Cormorant: max 100 BKCC 18 Dec.
Am. Bittern: max 4 Shinn 4 Dec (M Liotto), wintered.
Great Egret: 2 CPCC 19 Dec; SNCC 1 Jan; Southold 1 Jan (JSp).
Little Blue Heron: JBWR 13 Dec (RB), late.
Green Heron: NNCC 18 Dec, late.
Black Vulture: Montauk 5-29 Dec (D Johann & VB); 2 FBF 9 Jan (RJ, HL); 3 PP 13 Jan (RB); CP 27 Jan (fide TF) & 29 Jan (L Karim); Sagaponack 20 Feb (RRK).
Turkey Vulture: wintered on the North Fork; max 13 Mattituck 6 Jan (JBS).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: CRSP 18 Dec-6 Jan (PJM; KF); arr Cutchogue 12 Feb (R & L Kedenburg).
Bald Eagle: 15 reports from 6 of the 7 counties.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 34 SNCC 1 Jan.
Cooper's Hawk: max 24 SNCC 1 Jan.
N. Goshawk: Tobay NASS 2 Dec (PJM); Moravian Cem, RICH 4 Dec (H Fisher); imm JBWE 16 Jan; imm Northville 25 Jan-4 Feb (MLL).
Red-shouldered Hawk: 10 rep, mostly imm birds through Region.
Rough-legged Hawk: East Hampton 9 Dec (HDM); 10 Dec, 19 Dec SPCP (CS); 2 QWCC 18 Dec; 4 Gardiner's Island 18 Dec; RICH 21 Dec (T Brown); Captree SP 30 Dec; 2 EPCAL 5 Jan-27 Feb (CS); 4 Jones strip 11-29 Jan (mob); Riverhead 13 Jan (L Ormand); Marine Park KING 29 Jan (RJ, HL).
Am. Kestrel: scarce; regular at EPCAL.

Semipalmated Plover: QUCC 19 Dec; Tobay 3 Jan (PJM), late dates.
Am. Oystercatcher: 3 BKCC 18 Dec; 4 QUCC 19 Dec; Zach's Bay, Jones Bch NASS 31 Dec (PJM); 29 SNCC 1 Jan; arr 11 PL 18 Feb (J Turner); 7 Fire Island Inlet SUFF 18 Feb (SSM); 2 GKP 18 Feb (JSt).
Spotted Sandpiper: Goldsmith's Inlet, Peconic 8-9 Jan (JBS, et al).
Willet: Pt Lookout 17 Dec; QWCC 18 Dec.
Red Knot: Nap 11 Dec (AC); 3 QWCC 18 Dec; 8 JBNC 1-8 Jan (HDM, TWB et al.); 1 JBNC 27 Feb.
White-rumped Sandpiper: late QUCC 19 Dec.
Purple Sandpiper: max 199 BKCC 18 Dec.
Dunlin: max 4762 SNCC 1 Jan.
Long-billed Dowitcher: 2 Bridge Creek, RICH 31 Dec (SIW).
Wilson's Snipe: max 9 Georgica Pond 29 Jan (TWB).
Am. Woodcock: 10 FBF 28 Feb (DG).
RED PHALAROPE: 8 offshore SE of Shinn 11 Dec (ACW, JSh).
Black-legged Kittiwake: 20+ MP 12 Dec (HDM, ACW); 10 MP 17 Dec (HDM); 21 POJB 23 Jan (ACW, et al)
Black-headed Gull: PL 11-17 Dec (BB, RK); ad Owl's Head Wastewater Plant, KING 15 Dec-9 Jan (SB), joined by 1st yr 24 Dec-17 Jan (SB); East Hampton 19 Feb (CS); 1st yr Hither Hills SP SUFF 20 Feb (ACW).
Little Gull: ad MP 22 Jan.
Laughing Gull: GKP 1 Dec.
Ring-billed Gull: max 10,000+ FBF 17 Jan (DG, SB).
Iceland Gull: At least 14 records, many lingering in same location for much of the winter, scattered through Region.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: small numbers throughout the Region.
Glaucous Gull: 2nd win Orient Point thru; 2nd yr Shinn 7 Dec (JSh); Marra 3 Jan (PG); 1st yr DPMK 9 Jan (ACW); 1st yr POJB 23 Jan (ACW et al.); West Meadow P SUFF 6 Feb (J & P Horman); ad Southampton 6 Feb (RK); imm Lake Agawam, Southampton 18 Feb (SA); 2nd yr GKP 19 Feb (SIW, ACI); 1st yr Bayshore 20 Feb (SW).
Black Skimmer: 3 Coney Island 18 Dec.
Dovekie: High Rock P, RICH 2 Dec, injured & taken to rehabber; 2139 offshore SE of Shinn 11 Dec (ACW, JSh); 1 DPMK 11 Dec (SSM, PJJ); Jones Inlet 3 Jan (S Janazzo), found alive and soon died; Ditch Plains 6 Jan (DG, TJ).
COMMON MURRE: 31 POJB 23 Jan (ACW, et al), *intro*.
THICK-BILLED MURRE: 1 POJB 23 Jan (ACW, et al); dead DPMK 26 Feb (ACW).

Razorbill: 100 MP 2 Dec (VB); 150 MP 4 Dec; 350 MP 11 Dec (SA, GH, SM); 72 MP 13 Feb (DG, SB, HL); 27 POJB 23 Jan (ACW, *et al*); numbers reduced after mid-Jan.

Black Guillemot: MP 4-12 Dec (J Collins, C Resch).

ATLANTIC PUFFIN: 35 offshore SE of Shinn 11 Dec (ACW, JSh).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 50 BKCC 18 Dec; 12 QUCC 19 Dec; up to 3 Massapequa 4 Jan-16 Feb (DK); 8 Baldwin 1 Jan; 6 Amity Harbor SUFF 6 Jan (RJK); 9 West Islip 9 Jan (R Grover).

Mitred Parakeet: 12 Forest Hills QUEE 10 Jan (SA).

Barn Owl: 3 QUCC 19 Dec; dead Gilgo Beach 22 Dec (RC); 5 SNCC 1 Jan; JBWR 27 Feb (SA, CF).

E. Screech-Owl: CP 17 Feb.

Great Horned Owl: in NYC a few found regularly in all boroughs except Manhattan.

Snowy Owl: Napeague 31 Jan (K&SF).

Barned Owl: PBP 3 Jan-17 Feb (R Aracil).

Long-eared Owl: up to 5 PBP 23 Jan-17 Feb (B Benish, R & G Prelich); up to 3 CP 29 Jan-20 Feb (fide DA); up to 4 Inwood Hill NEWY 29 Jan-12 Feb (Suzanne Abbott); found dead Gilgo Beach 4 Feb (RC); 2 NYBG 19 Feb (DB).

Short-eared Owl: 1 BKCC 18 Dec; JBWE 1-14 Jan, 23 Feb, 2 on 14 Jan; Shinn 3 Jan-20 Feb (ES), max 2 Shinn 6 Feb (SA, RK, AB).

N. Saw-whet Owl: Northville, SUFF 6 Dec (MLL); Tobay 10 Dec & 25 Feb (PJM); 2 Northwest Woods, E Hampton 19 Dec (BK), 20 Feb (DF); West Bronx 26 Dec; Bronx Zoo 10 Jan-4 Feb (TO, *et al*); NYBG 15 Jan-19 Feb (DB), max 2 on 22 Jan (DB); PBP 29 Jan-14 Feb.

Red-headed Woodpecker: imm CP 11 Dec thru (mob).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: CRSP 19 Dec-15 Jan (K&SF); Bridgehampton 18 Feb (ES).

W. Kingbird: Tottenville, RICH 5 Dec (SIW).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: JBNC thru 6 Dec.

N. Shrike: Napeague 11 Dec-27 Feb (AC); Christie Estate South NASS 17 Feb (RK, A Lindberg).

Fish Crow: max 190 CPCC 19 Dec.

COMMON RAVEN: Frick Estate, Roslyn 15 Dec-22 Feb (PJM); NNCC 18 Dec, may be same as previous record; FBF 18 Dec; EPCAL 19 Dec-12 Feb (CS & D Belanger); QUCC 19 Dec; 2 Forest Hills, QUEE 26 Dec (SA); up to 2 Rocky Pt SUFF 4 Jan-11 Feb (D Heglund); 2

RICH 31 Jan (A Purcell); Forest P QUEE 7 Jan (J Loscalzo) & 7 Feb; CP 27 Feb (TF).

Horned Lark: max 100 Cutchogue 11 Dec (JBJ); 125 FBF 26 Jan (SB).

Tree Swallow: 2 SNCC 1 Jan; ORCC 1 Jan; arr 3 GKP 19 Feb; 7 ORCC 24 Feb (ACi).

House Wren: SGCC 19 Dec, late.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: Greenport 1 Jan (JBS, R McGinness).

VARIED THRUSH: CP thru; East Marion thru 5 Dec (B Singer).

Am. Pipit: high counts: 97 BKCC 18 Dec; 49 SGCC 19 Dec; 42 Fresh P, Amagansett SUFF 1 Jan (KRu); 66 SNCC 1 Jan; 90+ SI 10 Jan (SIW).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: small numbers; max 3 Jones strip, FBF, & GKP mid-Dec thru.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Riverside P, NEWY 3 Dec; Eltingville, RICH 15 Dec (JSt); Massapequa 17 Dec-1 Jan (DK); 6 BKCC 18 Dec; NNCC 18 Dec; QWCC 18 Dec; Heckscher SP 19 Dec; QUCC 19 Dec; up to 2 JBWE 24 Dec-1 Jan (SW, RJK, KF); 3 Smith Point Co P 30 Dec (DG); 3 SNCC 1 Jan; 3 ORCC 1 Jan; 2 Sequine Ave, RICH 8-10 Jan (SIW, D Eib); JBNC 7-13 Feb.

HERMIT WARBLER: SMSP 4-8 Dec (VP, mob), 1st NYS record (see p. 132 & p. 149).

Pine Warbler: 2 BKCC 18 Dec; SI 28 Feb (ACi).

Ovenbird: CPCC 19 Dec, late.

N. Waterthrush: Kissena Park QUEE 19 Dec, late.

Com. Yellowthroat: QWCC 18 Dec, late.

Yellow-breasted Chat: CP 3-4 Dec (A Burdo); Gardiner's I 18 Dec (R Prum); Massapequa 1 Jan; Shelter Island 1 Jan (J Clinton Jr, *et al*).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: up to 6 EPCAL 17 Dec-10 Jan; 6 SACC 19 Dec.

Vesper Sparrow: 3 SACC 19 Dec.

Lark Sparrow: EPCAL 17 Dec-11 Jan (VP).

“Ipswich” Savannah Sparrow: 11 SPCP 30 Dec (DG).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: EPCAL 8-9 Jan (TWB, GB, *et al*), intro.

Nelson's Sparrow: Shinn 15 Jan.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: max 3 Shinn 6 Jan (DG, TJ).

Seaside Sparrow: max 9 Shinn 9 Jan (ACW, HDM).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Riverside P NEWY 16 Dec (G Nuelle); BKCC 18 Dec; NNCC 18 Dec;

Camp Hero, Montauk 18 Dec (TWB et al.); PBP 14 Jan (DA, R DeCandido); late dates.

White-crowned Sparrow: small numbers; max 10, scattered throughout Region.

WESTERN TANAGER: ad male Montauk 29 Jan-22 Feb (VB, *et al.*).

Dickcissel: Massapequa, NASS late December (fide SSM).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 2007 SACC 19 Dec.

Rusty Blackbird: max 40 Bronx Zoo 11 Dec (TO); 38 BWCC 26 Dec.

Com. Grackle: max 7220 SACC 19 Dec.

Boat-tailed Grackle: max 74 SPCP 30 Dec (DG).

Baltimore Oriole: RICH 11 Dec (ACi).

Purple Finch: scarce: max 10 SACC 19 Dec; 11 Sag Harbor 27 Feb (HDM).

Red Crossbill: BKCC 18 Dec; 2 Northwest Creek, E Hampton 19 Dec (BK).

White-winged Crossbill: JBWE 11 Dec (S Billerman); JBWE 17 Jan; SMSP 13 Dec (VP);

HP 19 Dec (HDM, FJM); MP 18 Jan (KF); CRSP 20 Jan-4 Feb (ES, M Higgiston); E Hampton 21-24 Jan (P D'Andrea); Montauk 29 Jan (TWB); JBWE 26 Feb.

Com. Redpoll: numbers building after Dec and especially in late Feb; 4 BRON 26 Dec; 12 SNCC 1 Jan; 50 JBWE 17-18 Feb (KF, *et al.*); 45 Orient Beach SP 19 Feb (JBJ); 119 Hither Hills SP 20 Feb (ACW); 55 Shinn 20 Feb (MM); 60+ Cupsogue Co P 20 Feb (RRK); 50 Montauk 22 Feb (PS); 130 RMSP 23 Feb; 340 JBWE 23 Feb; 100 SPCP 24 Feb; 85 JBWE 26 Feb (BB).

Pine Siskin: small numbers; max 21 ORCC 1 Jan; 8 CP 27 Feb (TF).

ADDENDA

Yellow-headed Blackbird: ad m Southold 23 May 2008 (Rick Kedenburg, ph).

Forster's Tern: Mecox SUFF 18 Dec 2009 (AG).



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 the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

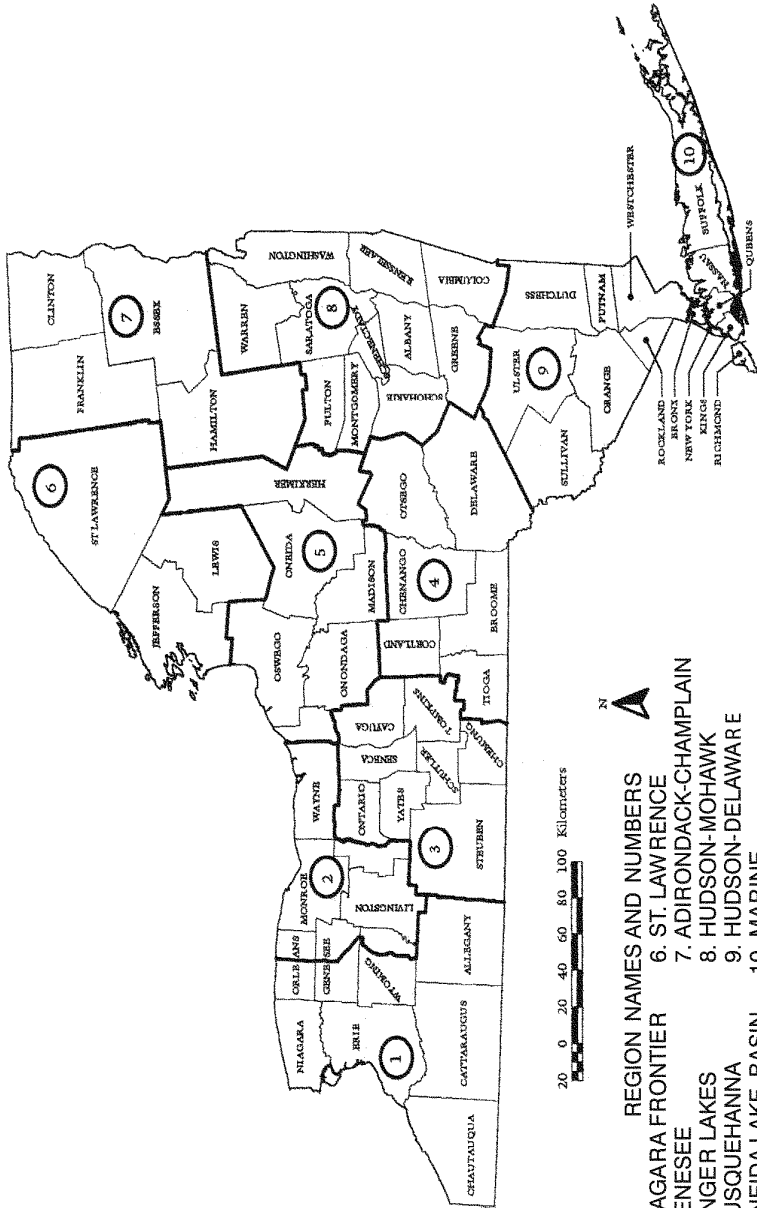
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



REGION NAMES AND NUMBERS

1. NIAGARA FRONTIER
 2. GENESEE
 3. FINGER LAKES
 4. SUSQUEHANNA
 5. ONEIDA LAKE BASIN
 6. ST. LAWRENCE
 7. ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN
 8. HUDSON-MOHAWK
 9. HUDSON-DELAWARE
 10. MARINE

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