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# The KINGBIRD

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# WINTER WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 2013

**Bill Ostrander**

80 Westmont Avenue, Elmira, New York 14905

browncreeper@stny.rr.com

About 300 volunteers collected data for the New York State Ornithological Association's 2013 January Waterfowl Count. Ten Regional coordinators and numerous local coordinators recruited and organized the volunteers. Coverage of the state appears to have been very good, with all ten Regions reporting and volunteers logging 944.75 hours in the field, 19-27 January. Swift (2007) described the methodology of the count.

## WEATHER CONDITIONS

I checked weather conditions at Buffalo, Ithaca, Ogdensburg, Kingston, and Islip. Throughout New York State, temperatures were above normal through the first three weeks of December. The next two weeks they were normal. They rose above normal in mid-January, returning to normal just before the count dates. The first weekend of the count, temperatures began above normal and above freezing, but became normal and below freezing by Sunday afternoon, 20 January. Temperatures remained below freezing for the rest of the count period. By Tuesday, they were below normal and stayed well below normal until Saturday afternoon, 26 January. Snow fell fairly often during the count period, but in very small amounts. Maximum accumulation was 1 inch. Except in the northern part of the state, most water bodies would have been open at the start of the count period. Widespread freezing of at least smaller bodies of water would have occurred during the count week after the first weekend.

## RESULTS

Although the counts of 2009-2012 have yet to be compiled, the 264,756 birds counted in the January 2013 count were well below the overall 1973-2008 average of 295,163 and the average of 385,328 of the ten most recently compiled years, 1999-2008. Grouping into geese, swans, diving ducks, dabbling ducks, and other waterfowl provides a better idea of what is going on. The counts of geese, diving ducks, and dabbling ducks were all below both the 1973-2008 overall average and the 1999-2008 ten-year average. The swan count (2,923) was above both the overall average and the recent ten-year average. The

count of other waterfowl (3,525) collectively was higher than the overall average, but lower than the recent 10-year average.

Observers found 42 species of waterfowl. Counts for exactly half those species were below both the overall and the recent ten-year averages. The counts for eight species were less than the recent ten-year average, but greater than the overall average. Only one species, the very scarce in winter Blue-winged Teal had a count (2) that was less than the overall average, but greater than the recent ten-year average. Eleven species had counts greater than both averages. The scarce Red-necked Grebe's count of four was the only count that tied the overall average. It was less than the ten-year average of five. The count of unidentified scaup is large enough to warrant combining it with the counts of the two species of scaup to see how the whole scaup count fared. The Greater Scaup count (6,196) was much smaller than either average. The Lesser Scaup count was a little greater than either average. The total scaup count was much lower than either average.

## **LONG-TERM TRENDS**

Bryan Swift (2008) identified some long-term trends. He noted that Tundra Swans had become an increasingly common wintering species in New York State since 1995, even though the eastern population was staying about the same. At that time, the maximum number tallied on a January Waterfowl Count of Tundra Swans was 1,773 in 2006. The 2013 count was 2,140, so this trend appears to have continued.

Swift also noted that the 2008 count of 25,718 Canvasbacks was a record high for the state. He pointed out, however, that the trend in Region 10 was downward. He believed this indicated that aquatic vegetation in Long Island coastal waters was disappearing. The 1973-2008 average in Region 10 was 3,803. The regional count hit a low in 2007 of 409, rebounding slightly in 2008 to 498. In 2013, Region 10 observers found 600, still well below the overall average. Statewide, observers found only 3,771 Canvasbacks in the 2013 count. That was the lowest count since resumption of the count in 1973.

Swift observed that scaup numbers, though fluctuating from year to year, were showing a long-term decline. He also noticed that the population was shifting from Long Island to the Great Lakes. He attributed this shift to the availability of the invasive zebra mussel as a food source for scaup in the Great Lakes. This shift was not so evident in 2013 with numbers far below the peak achieved in 2006-2008 in the Great Lakes regions. On the other hand, the 2013 count on Long Island of 6,898 was not so different from many of the counts conducted on Long Island between 2000 and 2008.

Swift identified the rising numbers of Hooded Mergansers on the count, particularly after 1985. By 1997, the statewide count was exceeding 1,000 birds every year through 2005. In 2006 and 2007, the counts were more than 2,000 in

Table 1. Regional totals for the 2013 January Waterfowl Count.

<b>Species</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Total</b>
Goose, White-fronted	0	1	0		0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Snow/Ross'	0	0	800		0	1	0	1	4	12	818
Canada/Cackling	5,065	4,376	17,545	2318	3548	6,131	190	4,225	22,454	18,823	84,675
Brant	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	128	2,241	2,369
Swan, Mute	6	242	4	2	7	13	0	13	80	396	763
Trumpeter	0	2	14		0	3	0	0	0	1	20
Tundra	553	9	1,236		69	273	0	0	0	0	2,140
Wood Duck	1	0	0		0	0	0	0	4	3	8
Gadwall	44	2	348	3	5	205	32	0	12	825	1,476
Wigeon, Eurasian	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	4	9	14
American	8	0	17	1	0	2	0	0	6	381	415
Am. Black Duck	204	409	2,625	367	109	848	359	98	428	3,104	8,551
Mallard	3,576	6,319	12,619	1,544	2148	1,654	1,789	1,692	4,277	3,456	39,074
Mallard X Black	3	0	5	1	2	2	1	0	2	6	22
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Northern Shoveler	0	1	0		3	0	0	0	3	108	115
Northern Pintail	0	0	13	2	1	9	1	0	11	86	123
Green-winged Teal	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	13	48	65
Canvasback	3,116	2	36		0	2	0	0	15	600	3,771
Redhead	677	7,083	11,148	41	28	3	0	0	2	6	18,988
Ring-necked Duck	228	483	1,618	221	220	47	176	5	208	812	4,018
Tufted Duck	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scaup, Greater	2,915	286	45		49	248	1	0	923	1,729	6,196
Lesser	206	82	302	5	25	4	1,155	3	7	1,062	2,851
not to species	13	125	38		0	30	0	0	0	4,107	4,313

<b>Species</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Total</b>
Eider, King	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	203	203
Harlequin Duck	1	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Scoter, Surf	1	8	0		0	0	0	0	67	409	485
White-winged	3,936	665	2		15	55	0	0	152	9,127	13,952
Black	1	1	0		0	1	0	0	7	1,491	1,501
not to species	75	0	0		0	2	0	0	0	283	360
Long-tailed Duck	3,965	1,873	1		44	3,157	20	0	382	1,011	10,453
Bufflehead	1,954	77	247	1	62	428	226	0	321	2,614	5,930
Goldeneye, Common	3,875	1,180	648	103	442	2,833	8,442	225	168	268	18,184
Barrow's	0	0	0		0	0	6	0	0	0	6
Merganser, Hooded	227	64	195	115	120	39	44	26	252	488	1,570
Common	1,276	527	488	1,031	1210	805	627	620	2,028	11	8,623
Red-breasted	3,704	4,857	15		100	1,273	0	0	67	1,291	11,307
Ruddy Duck	9	4	5	2	2	0	0	0	72	2,880	2,974
Loon, Red-throated	1	4	0		0	0	0	0	21	72	98
Common	5	9	8	5	6	2	1	0	24	118	178
Grebe, Pied-billed	9	0	24		3	0	1	0	15	24	76
Horned	6	86	6		0	1	22	0	5	78	204
Red-necked	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	3	0	4
Eared	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cormorant, D.-crested	105	13	2		23	0	0	0	249	16	408
Great	0	0	0		0	1	0	0	9	12	22
American Coot	412	159	1,197	61	211	0	0	0	165	330	2,535
Other/Unidentified	3,000	0	14		8	125	0	1	715	1,030	4,893
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE</b>	<b>39,178</b>	<b>28,951</b>	<b>51,265</b>	<b>5,824</b>	<b>8462</b>	<b>18,197</b>	<b>13,093</b>	<b>6,909</b>	<b>33,304</b>	<b>59,573</b>	<b>264,756</b>

each year. The 2013 count of Hooded Mergansers was 1,570, perhaps indicating a leveling off of New York State's wintering population of Hooded Mergansers.

In addition to Tundra Swans, other species that seem to have done well in 2013 were White-winged Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, Common Goldeneye, and Red-breasted Merganser. All five species' 2013 counts easily exceeded their overall and recent ten-year averages.

## FUTURE COUNTS

The success of the January Waterfowl Count to monitor winter populations of waterfowl in New York State relies on the work of volunteers. Continued success relies on the availability of new volunteers. Please consider helping with future counts by contacting your regional compiler. The compiler contact information is listed at <http://nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm> where you can also access the historical data.

For planning purposes, the January Waterfowl Count is conducted in a period that begins the Saturday before Dr. Martin Luther King Day (always the third Monday in January). The next two count periods will be:

2014 – January 18-26 (target date Sunday, January 19)

2015 – January 17-25 (target date Sunday, January 18)

Table 2. Comparison of 2013 January Waterfowl Counts to ten-year and long-term averages.

Species	2013	Avg '99-'08	% Diff.	Avg '73-'08	% Diff.
Goose, White-fronted	2	5	-59%	1	44%
Blue		0		0	
Snow	818	13,130	-94%	3,801	-78%
Ross's		0	-100%	0	
Canada	84,675	150,927	-44%	88,419	-4%
Brant	2,369	15,975	-85%	15,151	-84%
Swan, Mute	763	1,744	-56%	1,333	-43%
Trumpeter	20	8	153%	2	811%
Tundra	2,140	746	187%	230	831%
Wood Duck	8	44	-82%	38	-79%
Gadwall	1,476	1,585	-7%	1,053	40%
Wigeon, Eurasian	14	4	278%	3	409%
American	415	1,449	-71%	1,588	-74%
Am. Black Duck	8,551	13,971	-39%	18,243	-53%
Mallard	39,074	42,604	-8%	34,311	14%
Mallard X Black	22	94	-77%	63	-65%
Blue-winged Teal	2	1	122%	3	-37%



Species	2013	Avg '99-'08	% Diff.	Avg '73-'08	% Diff.
Northern Shoveler	115	488	-76%	287	-60%
Northern Pintail	123	167	-26%	202	-39%
Green-winged Teal	65	339	-81%	273	-76%
Canvasback	3,771	14,060	-73%	11,542	-67%
Redhead	18,988	13,144	44%	8,745	117%
Ring-necked Duck	4,018	1,168	244%	584	588%
Tufted Duck	0	1	-100%	1	-100%
Scaup, Greater	6,196	32,166	-81%	27,554	-78%
Lesser	2,851	2,749	4%	1,347	112%
not to species	4,313	1,271	239%	17,857	-76%
Eider, King	0	3	-100%	6	-100%
Common	203	980	-79%	1,087	-81%
Harlequin Duck	1	6	-83%	6	-82%
Scoter, Surf	485	6,047	-92%	3,107	-84%
White-winged	13,952	6,330	120%	7,274	92%
Black	1,501	3,370	-55%	1,341	12%
not to species	360	2,864	-87%	2,332	-85%
Long-tailed Duck	10,453	7,406	41%	4,903	113%
Bufflehead	5,930	8,049	-26%	6,464	-8%
Goldeneye, Common	18,184	14,892	22%	12,824	42%
Barrow's	6	3	76%	2	181%
Merganser, Hooded	1,570	1,710	-8%	831	89%
Common	8,623	9,281	-7%	10,969	-21%
Red-breasted	11,307	5,834	94%	4,669	142%
not to species		0		0	
Ruddy Duck	2,974	4,578	-35%	2,353	26%
Loon, Red-throated	98	247	-60%	91	8%
Common	178	299	-41%	195	-9%
Yellow-billed		0	-100%	0	-100%
not to species		0		0	-100%
Grebe, Pied-billed	76	105	-27%	82	-7%
Horned	204	398	-49%	368	-45%
Red-necked	4	5	-26%	4	-2%
Eared	0	1	-100%	0	
Cormorant, D.-crested	408	251	62%	150	171%
Great	22	159	-86%	167	-87%
not to species	0	0		1	-100%
American Coot	2,535	2,741	-7%	2,066	23%
unidentified	4,893	1,930	154%	1,241	294%
<b>Total</b>	<b>264,756</b>	<b>385,328</b>	<b>-31%</b>	<b>295,163</b>	<b>-10%</b>

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many thanks go to everyone who participated in the 2013 January Waterfowl Count. The field observers endured some very cold temperatures during the count period. Regional and local compilers and coordinators deserve special thanks for making sure that the State had good coverage and for compiling the data in a timely manner.

Table 1. Regional Compilers for NYSOA's 2013 January Waterfowl Count.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Compiler</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Compiler</b>
<b>1</b>	Jim Landau	<b>6</b>	Jerry LeTendre
<b>2</b>	Cricket Fegan	<b>7</b>	Gary Lee
<b>3</b>	Thomas Bell	<b>8</b>	Bryan Swift
<b>4</b>	Gail Kirch	<b>9</b>	Tracey Shimer
<b>5</b>	Bill Purcell	<b>10</b>	Ronald Borque

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## NOTES AND COMMENTS

### Notes on a Gray Jay Nest in Raquette Lake

On 6 March, 2012, after visiting the Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch in Locust Grove, Lewis County, John and Kirsten Askildsen found Gray Jays building a nest in Raquette Lake, Hamilton County. They observed two adults actively nest-building, with 5-6 young birds closely associating with the adults, and foraging with the adults. The nest was mostly made of what looked like stripped birch bark, with twigs in between for support structure. The observers also saw one of the adult birds bringing in bits of fur.

Joan Collins visited the nest site on 12 March and found a bird on the nest either laying eggs or already sitting on eggs. It appeared to be a sensitive time, so she didn't stay. She described the nest site as along what seemed to be a popular walking road, about 6 feet up (John described it as eye level, but that is only from John's point of view!) in a small spruce tree at the edge of a cedar/spruce bog.

On 3 April, after a nearly three-week road trip, Joan visited the nest site again at 6:40 p.m. An adult was on the nest—she could see just the top of the bird's head and an eye peering out at her. The long tail was sticking up at a 45° angle out of the nest. It was a chilly 39° F and very windy and she didn't want the bird to flush, so she made it a quick drive-by. The bird was certainly either on eggs or brooding young.

On 18 April, Larry Master visited the Gray Jay nest between 7:30 and 11:00 a.m. There were four healthy-looking young in the nest that he guessed were at least 7-10 days away from fledging. Larry thought the nest might have a mite infestation as one of the adults spent a lot of time digging around in the nest and eating very small objects, observable in the videos he took. The pattern of parental care Larry observed and photographed is also interesting. One parent sat on the nest regularly, especially during the first hour when it was the coldest (30°). He took images each time the adults visited the nest, and figured the timing of visits to be every 10-15 minutes or so at first, but then quickly lengthening to every 30-45 minutes or so, with both parents typically coming in to the nest within a few minutes of each other. One video shows the transfer of food between the parents before feeding the young.

Strickland and Ouellet (2011: Gray Jay. *The Birds of North America Online*. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology; <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/>) describe the behavior Larry had captured on video (the female grabbing food from male's bill to help feed young): "Initially male brings food to nest, shares it with female (who may remain sitting until food sharing), then both feed nestlings simultaneously. On days 2-5 male sometimes tries to feed nestlings directly; female seizes food from his bill, then feeds young. By day 5 (3 nestlings) or day 8 (2 nestlings), male starts resisting female's attempts to seize food and she

begins to accompany male on foraging trips.” Also described is the “nest jabbing” behavior observed by Larry (and thought to be associated with possible mite infestation): “From day 2-20 (mostly days 5-15) female puts head down in cup and repeatedly jabs at lining with sufficient force that nest and supporting branches are visibly shaken and nestlings, which may be on top of her head, jostled (DS, Rutter 1969, Blomgren 1964).” They suggest that this behavior might serve “to deepen and enlarge nest cup to accommodate growing nestlings and prolong their being surrounded by high insulative walls.” They also mention the choice of an opening along a bog, or road edge, with a southern exposure for the nest.

Larry didn’t hear any vocalizations from the jays—adults or young—but singing in the background were American Robins, Winter Wrens, White-throated Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Tree Swallows, Blue Jays, and a Palm Warbler. As far as he could tell, the jays almost completely ignored him sitting in his vehicle directly opposite the nest, and ignored the half dozen trucks that drove by within a couple of meters, between his car and the nest tree. He suspected it wouldn’t have mattered if he had been standing outside the car, but didn’t want to chance it or leave his scent at the site.

On 20 April, Joan again stopped by the nest site, at 7:40 p.m. on a beautiful, unusually warm (mid 60°s) night for this time of year. There were four big babies “home alone” and muscling each other for room in the nest. They were still very young and likely to be in the nest for a while longer, but were now much bigger than when Larry had taken the video. There was no sign of a parent.

The next evening, 21 April, Joan drove by the nest on her way home from Binghamton at 6:55 p.m. in very different weather—it was 41° with a steady, light rain. She observed an adult covering the babies like an umbrella (no room IN the nest for the parent now) and even its tail was spread, looking not at all comfortable for the adult. Joan had anticipated this situation, and almost didn’t stop for fear of scaring the parent off the nest, so she observed with the car moving. Fortunately, the parent didn’t budge.

On 26 April, David Buckley and Joan stopped by the Gray Jay nest site hoping to see the four young babies before they fledged, but they were too late. Joan was quite certain that they had fledged, as there was no visible evidence that the nest had been predated. Joan called Larry, and he asked her to collect the nest. David and Joan stopped at a convenience store in Inlet and got a plastic bag. As they attempted to collect the nest, they found that it was actually at least 8 feet up in the spruce tree; it had appeared lower when the snow was on the ground. Joan was glad that, fortunately, no one was there to get video of their comical attempts at getting the nest down, which at one point included Joan suspended and hanging onto the trunk when she couldn’t balance on one foot in David’s hands! David was finally able to bend the tree down and they got the nest out perfectly intact (including all the fluffy material in the cup and the dangling branches described as typical for their nests).

The nest had been built at the intersection of a branch against the trunk and a branch from a nearby dead tree that was leaning against the spruce. When David broke off the dead branch, the nest didn't budge; it appeared to just be adding extra stability. The nest was quite big and barely fit in the plastic bag. Back home, Joan transferred it to a large kitchen-sized garbage bag and it took up a whole shelf in her basement freezer!

*Eastern Birds' Nests* (Hal H. Harrison, 1975), describes the Gray Jay nest and states that they are typically found between 6 and 8 feet up in a conifer. The 'Notes' section states: "Nests so early in snowbound northern woods (Feb–March) that few nests have been studied. Birds are suspected of hoarding or storing nest material (deer hair) before use in nesting. Good insulation is needed to protect eggs and young from temperatures which may drop below 0° Fahrenheit. Noisy, tame, and sociable at other seasons, Gray Jays are quiet and retiring during nesting period."

Gray Jay nests are seldom found; Chamberlaine (1998: Gray Jay. *Bull's Birds of New York State*. Cornell University Press), states that "The first recorded NY nest, a used one, was found during Atlas work at Long Pond outlet, St. Lawrence Co., 26 Jul 1983 by Medd and Mulligan (Atlas 1988; J. Ozard, pers. comm.)." This well studied example yielded interesting and useful data concerning a very localized breeder in New York State.

**Kirsten & John Askildsen** (askildsen@verizon.net), **Joan Collins** (Joan.Collins@Frontier.net), and **Larry Master** (lawrencemaster@gmail.com)

## A Pelagic Purple Gallinule Rescue

The purpose of this note is to clarify the location of origin of this unusual and well-publicized Purple Gallinule record, and to report on the outcome of this most unusual story. It was prepared in part from information excerpted from an article which appeared in the *Southampton Press* on 7 February, 2013 and from an account in the Spring 2013 issue of the wildlife rehabilitator's newsletter, *Wild Life Line*.

On 15 January, while returning from a week-long fishing trip in the waters 75 miles south of Nantucket, the co-captain of the vessel *The Bookie* spotted an unusual bird on the water and asked the captain to back up, which he did. The crew dropped a fishing basket in the water and the bird, flapping and obviously in distress, climbed in readily.

The captain of the ship, Frank Green, brought the bird up to the pilothouse and offered it food and fresh water, which it refused. But during the two remaining days it took to reach their Hampton Bays destination, the bird seemed to acclimate itself to the surroundings, wrapping its long toes around the controls and "rocking with the waves."

"We knew it was a bird that didn't belong out there," said Captain Green. But he didn't know just how unusual it was until he brought it to the Evelyn

Alexander Wildlife Refuge Center in Hampton Bays on 17 January, and a veterinarian identified it as a Purple Gallinule.

The bird was dehydrated and hypothermic (the water temperature was reported to be 58° F) but made a good recovery in the capable hands of the staff at the rehab center, an excellent facility run by the Director, Virginia Frati. The bird was flown to the Peace River Wildlife Center in Punta Gorda, Florida on 23 April, and was released to the wild on 22 May.

How this bird ended up out in the open Atlantic in the middle of January will remain a puzzling mystery. Equally amazing is the series of fortuitous events that ensued: in the vast ocean, it happened to be in the very path of *The Bookie*; someone's keen eyes actually picked it out on the water from the 67' boat; the crew made the effort to turn back and rescue it; it ended up in the absolute best place to rehabilitate; it got a plane ride back to Punta Gorda; and it actually ended up in its natural wintering habitat!

The Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*) winters in marshes in Central and South America, to as far north as the Gulf States in North America. There are more than forty reliable records of this species in New York (J. DiCostanzo, in *Bull's Birds of New York State*, pp. 224-225; NYSARC: <http://www.nybirds.org/NYSARC/RecordsSummary.htm>), but this particularly famous individual is better attributable to Massachusetts, visiting New York only while in care.

**Patricia J. Lindsay**, Bay Shore, [pjlindsay@optonline.net](mailto:pjlindsay@optonline.net)



## IN MEMORIAM

**Paul H. Gillen, Jr.**

**February 2, 1921- November 24, 2012**

Paul H. Gillen, Jr., a prominent yet unassuming member of the Long Island birding community, died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Cutchogue on November 24, 2012.

Born in Chicago, IL, Paul moved to Long Island as a teenager. He was a graduate of Cornell and served during World War II in the US Army Air Corps. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Joan (known as "Jody"), his son Paul H. Gillen III, his sister Nancy and her family, and many nieces and nephews.

In the birding community, Paul impressed those who knew him with his gentle demeanor and ready willingness to share his knowledge and wisdom. After learning of his passing, a few of those birders shared their sentiments and stories, reprinted here.

Paul Gillen and I had a special relationship. He was the one who made me an avid birder from 1986-2002, until I lost my 380+ NYS list due to the corruption of my Thayer's Birder's List and gave up.

I met him first time at Shinnecock Inlet scoping the inlet and ocean, as I had driven there to check the ocean conditions to see if I could take my boat out. I used to post all the birds I had seen in my yard in a diary, but had no clue people used to search for birds outside their yards. My first question was about the female Red-bellied Woodpecker, a woodpecker I had never seen in my yard in East Quogue since I bought the house in 1976, until then. When it was clear it was not a rare bird, just one which extended its range northward gradually, and that people birded outside their yards too, I got hooked.

Paul was the one who advised me to buy the Swarovski scope I still have and he was the one who showed me my first Red-throated Loon, Boat-tailed Grackle, and Horned Lark. I did also see the Black-tailed Godwit he discovered and identified. He will be greatly missed.

**Orhan Birol**, Shelter Island

I met Paul over 40 years ago, when I was banding at Tobay. We spent many hours talking about birds and life. He worked for an insurance company that bonded contractors, so we had a mutual interest tie....He was a good and gentle man. He fought against the ravages of time with a quiet determination. Going from car to bike to walking, always looking for the good bird.

**Tony Lauro**, Cutchogue

Many of you will remember Paul as the fellow who found the Black-tailed Godwit in Eastport many years ago. Before that Paul was one of the first birders in the modern era to find a bona fide Franklin's Gull, a first-year bird that spent several weeks cadging handouts in the parking lot of the Riverhead MacDonald's. For many of us, that was the first Franklin's Gull we had seen in New York. Paul was a regular contributor throughout the years that I compiled East End Birds. Even as his abilities diminished in recent years, he remained active in the field and was often the first to report the rare waterfowl of Lake Marratooka. I, for one, am very saddened to learn of his demise even though I did not know him well.

**Hugh McGuinness**, Washington, D.C.

It was always a pleasure running into Paul out in the field, peering through a scope at some distant shorebird on the turf fields, or searching through the ducks on the local ponds, and we will treasure those special memories. One that stands out for us was a day in September 2001 when we discovered together a beautiful shorebird in a plumage none of us had ever seen before. It was a juvenile Ruff, and the pleasure of savoring this new experience was enriched by Paul's quiet but deep enthusiasm. Long Island has truly lost a well-loved and learned

gentleman, but his contributions to its avifaunal record will stand as one of many tributes to his persistence and spirit.

**Shaibal S. Mitra & Patricia J. Lindsay**, Bay Shore

### **Dr. Robert E. Long**

**1936-2013**

A very moving tribute to Bob Long by Mary Alice Koenke and Kathy Schneider can be found in the July 2013 issue of *New York Birders*, NYSOA's quarterly newsletter, and the obituary in the can be accessed here:

<http://obits.syracuse.com/obituaries/syracuse/obituary.aspx?pid=165094389#fb>

### **Marie N. Petuh**

**February 24, 1927-October 1, 2012**

It is with sadness that I report the death of Marie N. Petuh, who for many years guided and mentored the members of the Broome County Naturalists' Club. Before I had even met Marie, her book *Broome Birds & Byways* helped me to explore the many natural places of our region. This book provided a guide to roughly 70 locations in Broome, Tioga, Chenango, and Susqhehanna (PA) counties, and contained excellent directions to each spot and descriptions of the flora and fauna which could be found in each location. Much of the information in the book is now incorporated in the website of our club.

She also helped others directly with other projects related to conservation and natural history. Dr. Julian Shepherd of Binghamton University stated:

“Marie's extensive knowledge of local natural areas was indispensable for the inventory of Broome County natural areas that I have just completed. Her book *Broome Birds & Byways* was my initial primary source, and she painstakingly copied much of the past Weed Walkers records for me. She also frequently contacted me with information on new areas and on several occasions she made arrangements to show them to me.”

For the uninitiated, the Weed Walkers was the name given to the club's weekly field trips to points of birding promise in our area. Often Marie would be the navigator with maps guiding us through all the myriad back roads from Edwards Hill to Death Valley Road (yes, that's really a road) to Owens Hill Road till miraculously we would somehow come back to the Oakdale Mall in Johnson City from where we had begun.



With her characteristic humor, she also designed the one-page pamphlet called “**Low-Tech Easy Guide to Warbler Songs of the Northeast.**” The pamphlet is folded into four parts, resulting in a small booklet with a cover page, two center pages devoted to local nesters, and a back page devoted to migrant possibilities and good local spots to view warblers. For each warbler species there is a description of their song. Rose Smith, a friend and long-time board member, said, “Many member birders kept it in their bird identification books and referred to it when checking out a bird song. I still carry mine and think of her often.” Colleen Wolpert, who leads many nature walks in our area, states, “I always offer her little guide to bird songs and people just love it. I gave away over a dozen copies just this weekend.” A small but effective guide, logical and concise—perhaps reflecting in many ways its author.

Marie also had a love of raptors. Andy Mason writes, “Marie was instrumental in the early years of the Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch. She was introduced to the site by Ron Milliken, and was a regular counter during that period. She helped publicize Franklin Mt. in Broome Co. and elsewhere. She even wrote a humorous little booklet with “rules” for counting at the site. Her contributions are much appreciated by Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society and the Hawkwatch.”

So far it appears that Marie did everything—but wait, there is more. One club member remembered how she always took the tickets for the club’s annual Harvest Dinner. Marie gathered bird-related items from garage sales for raffles. She served as President of our club, Treasurer of our club, Board member, and – and , well you get the picture.

Marie knew her wildflowers, loved crows (she said she wanted to come back as a crow), and would go anywhere to see an owl. She helped numerous people both young and old appreciate the natural world. Marie seemed to know every landowner and every feeder in three counties and could tell you what’s been seen everywhere for the past 20 years or so. Plus she could really, really write. In her honor for the year 2013 we are having the Marie Petuh Birding Challenge to see who can see the most species in our area. We will miss her greatly.

**William Kuk**, Binghamton, NY

**Starr Saphir**  
**July 1, 1939- February 5, 2013**

New York lost yet another birding legend on February of this year, after a long battle with illness. Many touching tributes and informative articles about her life can be found on the website: <http://starrtrips.wordpress.com>

She, too, is sorely missed by her many, many admirers, followers, students, and friends

## **Remembering Alvin Wollin** **August 28, 1928 - December 2012**

I met Al after a long hiatus in my birding career—with graduate school, the army, a career, and marriage, I was too busy to bird. After moving from Pennsylvania to New York, and eventually becoming a “reverse commuter”, one of my first excursions from Queens (other than driving to work) was a trip to the legendary Jones Beach. I had no idea what the place looked like or where to go once I got there. Fortunately, coming off the parkway, I turned right towards the Coast Guard Station parking lot. There I ran into a group of birders piling out of a car as I arrived.

The group was Manny Levine, Neil Ward, Dick Sloss, and Al Wollin. They invited me to join them, gave me information about where to bird in the New York area, told me where and when they usually met, and invited me to join them on weekends. There were far fewer birders then and these were the best. I had hit the proverbial birding jackpot.

Eventually I moved out to the island from the big city and became much more involved with this core group of serious Long Island birders. As a new home owner in need of hardware and all kinds of things, it was only natural that I frequented Al's store, Lynbrook Hardware. There we discussed lawn furniture, barbecues, household items, paint, maintenance and a thousand things a new home owner needs to know and buy. Al was unstinting in his help. And, between other customers who needed his attention, we talked birds.

Some time later, Al and I became co-editors of the Region 10 report in *The Kingbird*, the publication of the former Federation of New York Bird Clubs, now the New York State Ornithological Association. Manny was the Chairman of the Publications Committee and needed a Regional Editor to cover the New York City and Long Island region. During a birding interlude, he offered the job to Al, one of the more knowledgeable birders in the area. Al declined, not surprising given his low-key, behind-the-scenes demeanor, but agreed to co-edit after the job was offered to me. I needed someone more familiar with the terrain than I was before I accepted the job as sole editor.

So began a 16 year saga of sharing duties for the quarterly reports, plus six months of lapsed report catch-up. Tom Burke did a fantastic job of summarizing the Rare Bird Alert reports for us, annotated with viewers' names, which became the basis for the reports. But not everyone reported sightings to the RBA. We insisted on documentation, even if on scraps of paper (which, believe it or not, we often got!). Al knew almost everybody. With his quiet, unassuming personality, he managed to cajole reports from the most recalcitrant members of the birding community. Of course, this was before cell phones and internet. Without his efforts at gathering and retrieving data, the job would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible.

The collaboration required spending time together, usually at Al's place. So, I got to know his wife Joan, and his boys as they grew up and became

professionals: Mike, now a urologist and David, a lawyer. After the data were put together, I wrote the reports and Al edited, pointing out where I erred or was too aggressive when voicing an opinion. I liked to push the envelope, Al was more mellow; stuff got left on the cutting room floor. He made the reports that much better.

Al took Thursdays off from the store and spent the mornings birding. I was now working in the city and had acquired enough time for four weeks of vacation, two weeks together and two weeks in days. I used three to four days in May and four during September and October to join him. (My wife got the other two to three days plus my two week vacation). We lived fairly close to one another, so we started to car pool and continued for years. On the weekends, we usually joined with others of the original group I had first met at the beach.

Over the years, there were many notable birding experiences. Once I had moved to the island, I joined Al for the Hempstead section of the Southern Nassau Christmas Bird Count. It was just the two of us for years in that vast area before Manny and Dick, the count compilers, took pity on us and assigned a few additional personnel. We covered the territory, finding some notable CBC birds over the years, namely, a first-ever wintering Broad-winged Hawk, a Ruff, a Black-billed Magpie, and a Bullock's Oriole.

One day we were walking to Zachs Bay in the winter when we saw a not-quite-right scaup fairly close in. As we approached, it just kept bobbing up and down; finally we realized it was a very nice decoy. I rolled up my pants, walked out into the frigid bay, and retrieved it. After pouring the water out of my shoes, wringing out the inner and the wool outer socks I was wearing, and putting them all back on, we headed to the car where I had a change of dry socks and fresh boots. True to his nature, Al didn't say "You're crazy". However, I'm not so sure he wasn't thinking it.

In 2001, at Seatuck Creek in Eastport, Al patiently set up his scope for me so I could digiscope the Black-tailed Godwit that showed up. Cool! We chased the Northern Lapwing in Mecox in 1995, but I couldn't convince him to go to Brooklyn for the Varied Thrush. (I went alone the next day.) Somehow, Brooklyn wasn't the Island. He rarely left it except for special circumstances. Manny dragged the group up to Westchester for the Pine Grosbeaks in 1978. But Manny was the leader and we all went along with him.

Al was the youngest of our group. I was next, a year older. Neil eventually moved to Denver and died there, Dick's health declined and he dropped out of the group (he passed away in 2005 at the age of 87), then Manny stopped coming out in his mid-eighties due to health issues as well (he will be 91 this summer). Finally, at 80 years old, Al too had slowed down to the point where birding was no longer an option, and we denizens of Al's stomping grounds, mainly the beach and Hempstead Lake State Park, saw less and less of him. We were saddened to learn of his death this past winter. We all miss him.

**Seymour "Sy" Schiff**, South Hempstead, NY

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – WINTER 2012-13

**Dominic Sherony**

51 Lambeth Loop, Fairport, NY 14450

dsherony@frontiernet.net

The winter of 2012-2013 was cooler than the previous winter but it was still warmer than average, ranking it as the 20<sup>th</sup> warmest winter on record. Temperatures in December were above average throughout the State until the week of 22 December. January temperatures were about average until a cold spell from January 21 to 27 brought frigid conditions throughout the State. February temperatures were average overall but below average on the coast. Precipitation in the State was average to below average in the western part of the State and average in the eastern. The southwest experienced higher than average precipitation. Snowfall in the central and western parts of the State was about 80% of normal compared with last winter's 50% of normal. A nor'easter brought heavy snowfall to New York City on 8 February.

### STATE OVERVIEW

When we look at the overall winter trends in the bird populations within the State, we can glean the following trends. Rare and unusual waterfowl were encountered throughout the State with some unusual records and a few high numbers. For the expected winter waterfowl, the western portion of the State recorded average results whereas the far eastern portion of the State experienced below average expected waterfowl. Black Vultures continue to increase in winter, distributed around the Niagara and Hudson Rivers. Bald Eagles were seen in most of the State and in very high numbers. Arctic gulls were surprisingly plentiful this winter but Little Gull seemed unusually scarce. Wintering Merlins and Peregrines are continuing to be more widespread and increasing in numbers. Owls were found in expected numbers. Three Rufous Hummingbirds were found this winter, which was unusual and follows the trend of the past few years. There is some evidence that the eastern Monk Parakeet population might be expanding. This winter most of the half-hardy species were gone by the winter season except in the warmer coastal Regions, very unlike last year. Winter provided an excellent season for Bohemian Waxwings, Pine Grosbeaks, Evening Grosbeaks, and winter finches including redpolls, siskins, and crossbills.

Noteworthy in David Nicosia's report from Region 4 is the program of the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society (DOAS) to use camera trapping activities to monitor the movement and habits of Golden and Bald Eagles. These cameras started operating in mid December at eight sites in Delaware and Otsego Counties. Based on experience since 2010, there were remarkable numbers of

both Golden Eagles and Bald Eagles at these sites this winter, commensurate with reduced numbers in West Virginia and Tennessee, the usual Golden Eagle winter stronghold.

## THE WINTER SUMMARY

For those seven Regions of the State that have significant water boundaries, it was a remarkable year for unusual waterfowl. Cackling Geese continue to increase in numbers annually with reports from six Regions: three Regions reported numbers greater than 15, and Region 2 tallied a maximum of 49. Likewise, Greater White-Fronted Geese are also increasing with, perhaps, a State record year. There were reports from five Regions with a maximum of about 16 from Region 10. Barnacle Geese were recorded in Regions 9 and 10, and Ross's Geese were recorded in Regions 2 and 10. A maximum count of 100,000 Snow Geese occurred at Waterville in Region 5. Region 10 reported the only Black Brant. The most unusual sighting was a Pink-footed Goose that was seen only on two days at Warren Sod Farm in Region 9. Trumpeter Swans were being seen throughout the winter on the Great Lakes Plains, in the Finger Lakes areas, and on the east coast. The peak numbers of 20 were recorded in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area. A Smew on the St. Lawrence River in February did not linger for those searching for this extremely rare duck. There were only three reports of Harlequin Duck, one a third record for Clinton County, and one report of King Eider away from the coastal area. Eider reports of vagrants were definitely down. An extraordinary number of Eurasian Wigeon was reported in Region 10, with 19 in all.

Birders are becoming more analytical in dealing with some of the more difficult identification challenges of waterfowl. Regions 1, 5, and 10 all reported Tufted Duck and two of these cases were females. More female Barrow's Goldeneyes are also being reported. Finally, there were two duck and four goose hybrids documented this winter.

An Eared Grebe was found at Ogdensburg in Region 6 in December, and another spent January on Aurora Bay in Region 3. A total of three Western Grebes was seen, two in Region 10 and one in Region 2. There were four reports of Pacific Loon: one in Region 1 on Lake Ontario, one that lingered for some time in Region 6 at Black River Bay, and two on Long Island.

A subadult (third calendar year) gray morph Gyrfalcon delighted large numbers of birders along the Long Island barrier beach from 17 February into March. One or two Northern Goshawks were reported in almost all Regions and a maximum of four was seen on the Southern Nassau CBC. Golden Eagles were also widely distributed in low numbers but with a maximum of eight in both Regions 4 and 9. High counts of 44 Bald Eagles were tallied in both Regions 4 and 9. Most Regional editors reported that Rough-legged Hawks were scarce throughout the winter. An unusual raptor migration was the passage of 46 Red-

tailed Hawks at Derby Hill on 26 February. A late raptor was a Broad-winged Hawk on 15 December in Region 10.

Region 10 recorded a Black Rail on the Captree CBC on 16 December, for the second year in a row. Sandhill Cranes were reported from three Regions in January and late February indicating a presence throughout the winter season. American Woodcock were reported from five Regions between 3 December and 29 February, indicating both late departure and early arrival or possibly birds overwintering. Among the unusual shorebird reports were a Spotted Sandpiper in Region 1 on 12 January, a White-rumped Sandpiper in Region 2 on 8 December, Red Phalarope in Region 5 on 13 January, Wilson Snipe from Region 9 on 28 January, and an American Golden Plover at Heckscher State Park in Region 10 on 12 December. It was a banner winter for Arctic gulls. High counts of Iceland and Glaucous Gulls were widespread with the Niagara River yielding maximum numbers of 44 Iceland Gulls and 35 Glaucous Gulls. Thayer's Gull was reported in three Regions. There were four reports of Slaty-backed Gull from Region 1 that most likely represented two separate individuals and another Slaty-backed Gull from Oswego Harbor on 28 February. A record late Sabine's Gull on 27 January was seen at the Buffalo Harbor. There was only one report of Little Gull from Region 1 with a maximum of three. Region 10 recorded five reports of Black-headed Gull ranging in dates from 1 December to 26 February.

A very unusual report of a Dovekie was a first record for Ulster County on 21 December. Razorbills were present in Region 8 from December until 17 January. A burst of strong easterlies in mid-December produced numerous alcid reports in Region 10. Alcids were reported in good numbers offshore with unusually high totals of Common Murre, Dovekies, and Atlantic Puffins.

A Eurasian Collared-Dove was found on 5 January at Hamlin in Region 2. Between four and six Monk Parakeets in Greece, present in fall and winter, might be signaling that the eastern population is spreading. So far, attempts to pin down their origin have been inconclusive. Snowy Owl numbers were about average with reports from four Regions with a maximum of nine that wintered in northwest Jefferson County in Region 6. Short-eared Owls were more widespread than usual with high counts of 10 to 11 from Regions 1, 2, and 9. A Great-gray Owl was photographed in January at Robert Moses State Park in Region 6. A Northern Hawk-Owl on 19 January from Region 8 was the only report. Northern Saw-whet Owls are becoming more common in winter in the Great Lakes Plain and the southeastern parts of the State. We received reports from five Regions with the highest totals on Long Island. Three Rufous Hummingbirds was a new State high for winter. They were seen as singles in Regions 5, 9, and 10 and ranged in dates from 5 December to 6 January.

Fish Crows were present in winter in all the Great Lakes Plain Regions and in the coastal areas. Six Regional editors reported them, with Region 1 reporting six on 21 February, a maximum of nine on 27 February in Region 5, and significant numbers "moving north" in Region 10. Two winter Cave Swallows

were seen, one at Derby Hill on 4 December and the other at Montauk on 9 December. In addition, five Northern Rough-winged Swallows lingered at Niagara Falls State Park into December. The only Varied Thrush was at Fulton on 18 January. A Townsend's Solitaire spent the entire winter at Sampson State Park in Region 3 and was seen by many. Bohemian Waxwings were also reported in most Regions in small numbers, except in Region 5 where a maximum count of 350 occurred at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary on 27 Feb and in Region 7 where two flocks totaled 825.

Half-hardies were mostly gone by December, unlike last winter. Most lingering warblers were found in the eastern part of the State, with Regions 9 and 10 dominant in numbers and variety, consistent with their milder climate. However, a Yellow-throated and a Wilson's Warbler were exceptions in Albany the second week of December. Region 9 recorded nine warbler species including Magnolia and Blackpoll, both quite late. Region 10 reached a total of 16 warbler species, mostly the result of the Christmas Count efforts. Most unusual was the State's first verified Virginia's Warbler found in fall and remaining through 3 December. Also, an "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler was found in late November and remained until 27 December.

A LeConte's Sparrow at Edgemere Landfill on 16 December in Region 10 was the most unusual *Emberizidae*. Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen, one from Region 2 and the other from Region 10. A Dickcissel was seen 19-21 December in the Town of Parma in Region 2. Pine Grosbeaks were reported from six Regions, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8, with a high count of 48 in Region 6. Red and White-winged Crossbills were reported from all Regions and Common Redpolls were judged to be numerous. Many reports of single Hoary Redpolls accompanied the redpoll invasion. They were seen in seven Regions with a maximum of 11 reports in Region 5 and a total of eight on the Saranac Lake CBC on 22 December. Evening Grosbeaks were the least encountered winter specialty but the numbers were encouraging based on past observations of their scarcity in the recent years. Reports of this species came from five Regions.

## BIRD OF THE SEASON

When we view this past winter season from the standpoint of birders, there were three noteworthy groupings that competed for their attention: a large diversity of swans, geese, and ducks (*Anseriformes*), both a large diversity and significant numbers of wintering gulls (*Laridae*), and a significant incursion of wintering grosbeaks and finches (*Fringillidae*). All three produced some wonderful birds to watch, gave great incentives to get out during the winter months and produced many thrills for those who were rewarded with entertaining views. Of these three groups, I would choose the *Fringillidae* as the most fun and interesting. These include the Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Grosbeaks, Red Crossbills, White-winged crossbills, Common Redpolls and the ever-so-difficult-to-identify Hoary Redpolls.

## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

**Mike Morgante**

6405 Woodberry Court, East Amherst, NY 14051  
morgm@roadrunner.com

December 2012 was the eighth warmest December on record. The average temperature was 36.3° F, 6.2° above normal. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 3.64", 0.25" less than usual, with 19.6" of snow, 7.8" less than usual. Most of the snow fell over the last week of the year and affected some CBCs. January 2013 was a roller coaster ride, with alternating cold snaps and well-above-normal warm periods. The average temperature was 30.0°, 5.1° above normal. The monthly precipitation was 2.50", 0.68" below normal, with 6.2" of snow, 19.1" less than normal. Lake Erie became partially frozen over late in January. February brought a return to normal winter conditions. The average temperature was 26.0°, again 0.3° below normal. The monthly precipitation was 3.05", 0.56" above normal, with 20.5" of snowfall, 3.2" above normal.

Waterfowl concentrations were slow to build in Buffalo Harbor and on the Niagara River, perhaps due to the mild conditions in early winter. However, there were large numbers by late January and through February. Gadwall and American Black Duck had higher winter counts than usual on the Niagara River during this period. There were more Wood Duck and Northern Shoveler reports than usual. The largest Greater Scaup count in Buffalo Harbor topped more than 22,000. There were several counts of Lesser Scaup in the hundreds, which is an indication that this species is increasing in winter and/or birders are paying more attention to differentiating the scaup species. The Region's first **Tufted Duck**, a female or 1<sup>st</sup>-winter male, was picked out among the scaup masses at Buffalo Harbor by Jim Pawlicki but was not found again. A count of Ring-necked Ducks just shy of 200 on the Niagara River off Buckhorn Island SP was unusually high for winter. Winter counts of Tundra Swans around Grand Island on the Niagara River reached new high levels of 700+. Four **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found by Jim Landau and Doug Happ at Dunkirk Harbor in early February, which were unprecedented for mid-winter. A female **Harlequin Duck** found by Tim Baird on the Allegheny River provided only the second Regional record of this species away from the Great Lakes and Niagara River and the first in over sixty years!

There were some high winter counts of Great Blue Heron on Strawberry and Motor Islands in late January and early February. Seventeen **Black-crowned Night-Herons** in Buffalo in mid-December was not unusual; however, up to six of them at Dunkirk Harbor being seen regularly in January and February was certainly unusual.

Up to eight **Black Vultures** and 31 Turkey Vultures wintered in Lewiston, at least the second consecutive overwintering year for Blacks.



There were numerous Bald Eagle sightings, with a maximum of 13 on pack ice at Dunkirk Harbor on 25 February. A **Golden Eagle** was photographed at Allegany SP by Tom LeBlanc, where this species has been annual in recent winters. Rough-legged Hawks were unusually scarce. The only **Northern Goshawk** report was from the Oak Orchard CBC.

Tom Somerville was surprised to find three **Sandhill Cranes** in a field in Elma on 27 February, an early arrival date and possibly tied to strong southeasterly winds that day. More surprising was the **Spotted Sandpiper** sighted by Brett Ewald and David and Debbie Suggs at Niagara Falls SP on 12 January; the first winter record for the Region. For other shorebird species, there were the usual smattering of Killdeer, two Wilson Snipe reports in December, and Purple Sandpipers at Niagara Falls, Buffalo Harbor, and Dunkirk Harbor.

It was an excellent winter for gull-watching on and around the Niagara River, with good variety, rarities, high numbers, and a big February influx of “white-winged” gulls. For the second winter in a row, Bonaparte’s Gulls were numerous on the Niagara River in January and early February, when in most years there are only a few around in mid-winter. The stretch of river between Squaw Island and Beaver Island SP held an estimated 15,000 or more “Bonies”. One or more **Black-headed Gulls** were sighted, and through photographs, Jim Pawlicki determined that two individuals have made up most of the Regional sightings over the past two years. Little Gulls were less frequent than usual this winter, and there were several **Black-legged Kittiwake** sightings as usual. The most unusual small gull species sighting was an immature **Sabine’s Gull** found by Jim Pawlicki at Buffalo Harbor on 27 January. This is only the second January record and latest on record. This winter produced the highest counts of Iceland Gull ever recorded and the highest counts of Glaucous Gull since 1975. They were especially numerous in February around Lewiston Reservoir, the Niagara River in Lewiston, and at Buffalo Harbor, which was largely iced over. Jim Pawlicki nicely photographed and documented several **Thayer’s Gulls** along the Niagara River. Multiple **Slaty-backed Gull** reports sent birders chasing after this Far Eastern species, which is seemingly becoming less rare with each winter. Observers felt that there were at least two individuals involved with the sightings at Lewiston Reservoir, Buffalo Harbor, and at Niagara Falls on the Canadian side. A **Franklin’s Gull** continued from the fall season into early December on the Niagara River. **California Gull** was documented at Devil’s Hole SP in late December.

**Snowy Owls** were reported from three locations, with possibly more than one individual involved with the sightings at Buffalo Harbor. **Short-eared Owls** were enjoyed by many birders in the fields along Posson Road in Shelby, with up to 11 reported. Short-eared Owls were sighted at four other locations this winter.

Following last winter’s first documented occurrences, **Fish Crows** were again sighted this winter. Jim Pawlicki found six among American Crows feeding on gizzard shad carcasses washed up on ice near Squaw Island on 21

February. Common Ravens were observed gathering nest materials in Tonawanda in late February. They have been observed at this location over the past year and may have nested last year. Ravens are still rare in the northern portion of the Region, but there are continuing signs, like the Tonawanda pair, that this may soon be changing.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallows** continued from the fall season at Niagara Falls SP, with five in early December dwindling to one brave or foolish bird sighted by Joe Mitchell on 2 January, our first January swallow record. There were several American Pipit sightings, including three at Beaver Island SP in late January and early February. Winter pipit reports are slowly increasing. There were three warbler species sighted this winter, with **Common Yellowthroat** joining the more expected Yellow-rumped and Pine primarily during CBC season. Five Eastern Meadowlark reports were more than any winter in recent memory.

The cool February limited the number of earlier spring migrants. The first migrant Killdeer, Turkey Vultures, and blackbirds were reported in the second half of February; however, there was limited waterfowl migration in late February this year.

Similar to the fall season, all of the finch species were sighted this winter, but only **Common Redpolls** were widespread. Among the many redpolls visiting area feeders this winter, five **Hoary Redpolls** were documented. Crossbill reports were scattered, with more White-winged than Red. The only long-staying birds were up to nine **White-winged Crossbills** at the feeders of Chuck and Kristen Rosenburg in Elma. Pine Siskins were at the same feeders, and there were other scattered reports but they were not widespread this winter. There were several **Pine Grosbeak** reports along Lake Ontario earlier in the season and a report of 20 at Point Gratiot by Nick Ziemba. There were only three **Evening Grosbeak** reports following the fall movement. Purple Finches were again scarce, with only a total four birds seen over three CBCs and a winter maximum count of four.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Andrie, Tim Baird, Doug Beattie, Greg Bennett, Jim Berry, Corey Callaghan, Lewis Crowell, Willie D'Anna, Doug Daniels, Brett Ewald, Joe Fell, Kurt Fox, Mike Galas, Brooke Genter, Joanne Goetz, David Gordon, Andy Guthrie, Ron Hacker, Doug Happ, Alec Humann, Tom Johnson, Jerry Lazarczyk, Jim & Karen Landau, Tom LeBlanc (ToL), Twan Leenders (TwL), Jay McGowan (JMc), Joe Mitchell (JMi), Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Terry Mosher, Susan & Tom O'Donnell, Jim Pawlicki, Betsy Potter, Chuck Rosenburg, Richard Salembier, Debbie Sharon, Tom Simmons (TSi), Tom Somerville (TSo), Kimberly Sucy, David & Debbie Suggs, Gale VerHague, Jacquie Walters, William Watson, Peter Yoerg, Nick Ziemba.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BMAC – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; BufH – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; 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; PG – Point Gratiot, CHAU; RTPi – Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Jamestown CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary ERIE; Tiff NP – Tiff NP, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, NIAG/GENE; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** arr 4 DH 7-18 Feb (J&KL, DH, mob), early.

**Snow Goose:** 4 Oakfield GENE 6 Dec; 2 FNSP 14 Dec; 16 Carlton ORLE 19 Dec; Jamestown CHAU 16 Dec; no Jan reports; arr DH 7 Feb; Fredonia CHAU 26 Feb.

**Brant:** Mayville CHAU 2 Dec (JG), only report.

**Cackling Goose:** max 24, 6 Oakfield GENE 3, 28 Dec (KF); 12, 6 INWR 5, 19 Dec; Attica Res WYOM 9 Dec; SPNS 16 Dec; N Harmony CHAU 18 Dec (TSi); Lyndonville ORLE 19 Dec; 7 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Jan; INWR 12 Jan; arr 3 DH 9, 10 Feb; 2 Shadigee ORLE 17 Feb.

**Mute Swan:** max 7 PB 2 Jan; DH 10, 12 Jan; BWWTP 11, 20 Jan.

**Trumpeter Swan:** 3 TWMA 23 Dec (CC); OOWMA 28 Dec; only reports.

**Tundra Swan:** 70 DH 28 Dec; 65 Jamestown CHAU 1 Jan; max 785, 712 BeSP 6, 17 Feb (DS; JW), highest winter counts on record.

**Wood Duck:** max 14 OOWMA 6 Dec; BMAC 6, 21 Dec; INWR 29 Dec; 5 on 4 CBCs Dec; Buffalo NR 19, 20 Jan, 27 Feb; Jamestown CHAU 20 Jan; 2 NF 24 Jan; N. Tonawanda NR 24 Feb.

**Gadwall:** 46 INWR 13 Dec; 36 Tiff NP 19 Dec; 53 N. Harmony CHAU 20 Dec; max 236 BufH 27 Jan (JP); 34 Tonawanda NR 24 Feb.

**Am. Wigeon:** only a few scattered reports.

**Am. Black Duck:** 35 Oakfield GENE 30 Dec; 170 BufH 27 Jan (JP); max 200 BeSP 17 Feb (JW), excellent count for winter.

**N. Shoveler:** 39 INWR 13 Dec; 3 Jamestown CBC 16 Dec; 11 Oakfield GENE 28 Dec; INWR 11 Jan; Tonawanda NR 31 Jan, 3, 23 Feb; BWWTP 3 Feb; more reps than usual for winter.

**N. Pintail:** six reports Dec & Jan; arr 2 INWR 26 Feb.

**Green-winged Teal:** six reports Dec, Jan; arr DH 20 Feb; 4 Fredonia CHAU 23 Feb.

**Canvasback:** max 6550 BeSP 4 Feb.

**Redhead:** 132 Wilson NIAG 15 Dec; 450 Grand I NR 30 Jan; 300 DH 30 Jan, 2 Feb; max 1500 BeSP 17 Feb; max 1500 BufH 18 Feb; semi-leucistic Tonawanda NR 23, 24 Feb.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 35 BufH ERIE 7 Jan; 67 NF 15 Jan; max 191 BuSP 19 Jan (MM), good count for winter.

**Tufted Duck:** Buffalo NR 18 Feb (JP! WW! NYSARC), first regional record, although was sighted on Ontario side of NR once before.

**Greater Scaup:** max 22345 BufH ERIE 27 Jan (JP); 12000, 7000 Buffalo NR 10, 18 Feb.

**Lesser Scaup:** 532 Jamestown CBC 16 Dec; 194 Grand I NR 19 Jan (MM); 115, 150 BufH ERIE 27 Jan, 18 Feb; 75 DH 31 Jan; max 698 Tonawanda NR 23 Feb (JP); either increasing numbers or increased scrutiny of scaup species.

**Harlequin Duck:** NFSP 20, 25 Dec, 10, 30 Jan (BE, AG); Allegany CATT 20 Jan (TB!), only second ever inland.

**Surf Scoter:** 1, 2, 2 FNSP 14 Dec, 2, 26 Jan; Wilson NIAG 15 Dec; 2, 1 PB 19 Dec, 16 Jan; FMCSP 31 Dec; NFSP 21 Jan; Lewiston NR 28 Jan; BufH ERIE 10, 23 Feb; max 3 DH 27 Feb; only reports.

**White-winged Scoter:** DH 28 Jan, 24 Feb, only reports away from NR, L Ontario.

**Black Scoter:** small numbers (1-3) BufH, DH, L Ontario thru; max 6, 8 PB 19 Dec, 10 Feb.

**Bufflehead:** max 4000 Buffalo NR 1 Dec (JMc).

**Com. Goldeneye:** 600, 800 NF 31 Dec, 17 Jan; max 1480 BufH 27 Jan.

**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (R1):** PB 19 Dec; 2, 21 Jan; 6 Feb (RS, JP, WD), likely same male that has wintered here for several years and also wanders into adjacent Region 2.

**Hooded Merganser:** 76 Tiff NP 19 Dec; 60, 92, 74 DH 6 Jan, 10, 18 Feb; max 250 ChauL 4 Jan (JB).

**Com. Merganser:** max 550 DH 2 Feb.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 1800 Barcelona CHAU 22 Dec; 900 NF 17 Jan; 1000 BufH 10 Feb.

**Ruddy Duck:** 98 BWWTP 5 Dec; 200

Lakewood ChauL 14 Dec; max 299 Jamestown CBC 16 Dec; 50 DH 9 Jan; BWWTP 11 Jan.

**Red-throated Loon:** max 157 Wilson NIAG 15 Dec (WD, BE); 29 FMCS 31 Dec; FN 21 Jan; 3 GHSP 26 Jan; rescued by SPCA on L Ontario ice, released Wilson Harbor NIAG 7 Feb; 6 Carlton ORLE 16 Feb; 11 Shadigee ORLE 17 Feb; increasing in winter on L Ontario.

**Com. Loon:** PB 5 Jan; 2 NFSP 10 Jan; 5 on January waterfowl count 20-27 Jan; only reports beyond Dec.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Tonawanda NR 4 Jan; ChauL 4 Jan; 4, 2 BuSP 5, 12 Jan; max 16, 22 DH 31 Jan, 9 Feb.

**Horned Grebe:** max 12 Carlton ORLE 16 Feb; few reports.

**Red-necked Grebe:** FN 14 Dec; max 91 Wilson NIAG 15 Dec (WD, BE); PB, Olcott NIAG 5 Jan; DH 9 Jan; NFSP 10 Jan; Shadigee 17 Feb.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 75, 98, 149 DH 1, 31 Jan, 10 Feb; 7 Lewiston NR 16 Jan.

**Great Blue Heron:** 25, 15 DH 28 Dec, 29 Jan; 88, 55 Strawberry I NR 28 Jan, 4 Feb (WW), good counts for mid-winter; max 132 Tonawanda NR 3 Feb (D&DS); 18 Lewiston NR 10 Feb; 75 Motor I NR 15 Feb.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 17, 3 Buffalo NR 16 Dec, 1 Jan (J&KL); 1-6 DH 1 Jan – 24 Feb (JG, mob).

**BLACK VULTURE (R1):** up to 8 Lewiston NIAG thru (mob); overwintered for at least 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year.

**Turkey Vulture:** up to 31 Lewiston NIAG thru (mob); 16 Jamestown CBC 16 Dec; arr Jamestown CHAU 25 Feb; Hamburg HW 26 Feb.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** 11 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; max 16 Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC 1 Jan; 13 DH 25 Feb (TwL); well reported from other traditional wintering and breeding areas.

**N. Harrier:** 4 Shelby ORLE 9 Dec; max 16 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec.

**N. Goshawk:** Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec, only report.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** rep from seven locs.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** relatively few reports, even scarce at times.

**GOLDEN EAGLE (R1):** AISP 7 Jan (ToL, photo), has wintered at location near annually.

**Am. Coot:** 62, 66 BuSP 1 Dec, 12 Jan; max 247, 267 DH 31 Jan, 10 Feb; 18 Tonawanda NR 18 Feb.

**Sandhill Crane:** arr 3 Elma ERIE 27 Feb (TSo!), early.

**Killdeer:** BWWTP 3 Dec; Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC 1 Jan; arr Clarence ERIE 18 Feb; Orchard Park ERIE 26 Feb.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER (R1):** NFSP 12 Jan (D&DS!, BE); first Reg winter report.

**Purple Sandpiper:** NFSP 20, 25 Dec; DH 2, 10 Jan (NZ); 2, 1 BuFH 19, 27 Jan, 2 Feb (JP, CC); only reports.

**Wilson's Snipe:** Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 3 Dec (RS!); Jamestown CBC 16 Dec; only reports.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** NF 1 Dec; NPP, Lewiston NR NIAG 15-28 Jan (JP, mob), observed several times in this stretch of NR.

**Sabine's Gull:** BufH 27 Jan (JP!, WD), only 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan report and latest record.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1255 Wilson NIAG 15 Dec; 4800 Barcelona CHAU, 1400 DH 22 Dec (CC); 15000 Buffalo to Tonawanda NR 4, 17 Jan (WD, RS); 10000 BeSP 10, 19 Jan (WW, MM); 8500, 7000 Lewiston NR 21 Jan, 17 Feb (CM); present on NR most of winter but few by late Feb.

**Black-headed Gull:** Buffalo NR 12, 15 Dec, 4, 5 Jan (PY, RS, WD, JP), possibly same bird.

**Little Gull:** NFSP 1 Dec; 2, 3 DH 22 Dec, 31 Jan (CC, TM); 3, 3 Lewiston NR 15 Jan, 27 Feb; Buffalo NR 20 Jan; NPP 26 Jan; BufH 2 Feb; fewer than usual.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** Lewiston NR 2 Dec, continued from fall.

**CALIFORNIA GULL:** Devil's Hole SP NIAG 28 Dec (JP! NYSARC); regular location for fall, winter sightings.

**Herring Gull:** 2800 Lewiston NR 1 Dec; max 6200, 4800 Lewiston Reservoir NIAG 3, 9 Feb (WW, CC); 1000 BeSP 17 Feb.

**THAYER'S GULL:** 1, 1 Devils Hole SP NIAG 28 Dec, 7 Jan (JP!, photos); 1, 1, 1 NFSP 21, 23 Jan, 3 Feb (JP!, photo); several other undocumented reports NPP, NF.

**Iceland Gull:** 10, 14, 30 NPP 9 Dec, 27 Jan, 3 Feb (WD, GP); Orchard Park ERIE 29 Dec (MM), flyover; 2 FMCS 31 Dec; 15, 32, 15 Lewiston Reservoir NIAG 26 Jan, 3, 24 Feb (JP); **max 41** Lewiston Reservoir and Lewiston NR (JP, CC), record count.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** WoBSP 10 Dec; max 12, 15, 9 NFSP 14, 25 Dec, 9 Feb (WD, AG, JP); Barre ORLE 14 Jan (CM), only inland report; 3 Lewiston Reservoir NIAG 5 Feb; 2 BuFH 10, 11 Feb; BeSP 13, 14 Feb.

**Lesser Black-backed x Herring Gull:** NFSP 20 Jan (TJ, photo); annual occurrence, rarely ph.  
**SLATY-BACKED GULL:** Lewiston Reservoir NIAG 25, 26 Jan, 9 Feb (JP! NYSARC); BuFH 10, 11 Feb (JP! NYSARC); seen several times on Ontario side of NR 30 Dec, 1 Jan (WD!); consensus that there were at least two individuals.

**Glaucous Gull:** 18 FNSP to Lewiston NR 25 Jan (JP); 15, 35 Lewiston NIAG 26 Jan, 9 Feb (JP), 35 is third highest count on record; 12 Lewiston Reservoir NIAG 3 Feb; 10 BuFH 10 Feb (CC).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 76 DH 22 Dec; 58 BeSP 12 Feb.

### PIGEONS – PARROTS

**Snowy Owl:** BuFH 25 Dec – 13 Feb (AH), occasional sightings thru, may not be same bird; Dunkirk CHAU 7 Feb (NZ); Lewiston Reservoir NIAG 9, 18 Feb (JP, JM).

**Long-eared Owl:** Carlton ORLE 4 Dec, only report.

**Short-eared Owl:** 2, 11, 8 Shelby ORLE 9 Dec, 26 Jan, 18 Feb (CM, mob), many birders enjoyed thru winter; 3 Royalton NIAG 15 Dec; Wilson NIAG 2 Jan; 2 Cherry Creek CHAU 10 Jan (J&KL); 1, 2 Alexander GENE 20, 28 Feb.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Wilson NIAG 15 Dec (CR); Gerry CHAU 16 Dec (JB); FMCSP 31 Dec (BP); all CBC reports.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** no reports.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Buffalo CBC 16 Dec; Hamburg-E Aurora CBC 29 Dec; Como Lake P ERIE 4 Feb; AISP 4 Feb; only reports.

**N. Flicker:** 14 Hartland NIAG 20 Dec (CC), on ground, good count for date.

**Merlin:** 5 Buffalo CBC 16 Dec; Jamestown CBC 16 Dec; 2 Hamburg- E Aurora CBC 29 Dec; 10 other reports throughout Reg.

**Peregrine Falcon:** reported from nine locations.

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**N. Shrike:** typical number of reports.

**Am. Crow:** max 1500, 500 Buffalo ERIE 4, 6 Feb (JF), roost; likely undercounted.

**FISH CROW:** 6 Squaw I NR 21 Feb (JP!); multiple reports in Fort Erie ONT across NR from Buffalo 12 Jan thru Feb.

**Com. Raven:** Tonawanda ERIE 3 Dec thru, seen gathering nest mat. 23 Feb (JP); Buffalo ERIE 7 Jan; only reports away from typical range.

**Horned Lark:** 131 Barre ORLE 28 Dec; 85 Bethany GENE 7 Jan; max 150 Yates ORLE 10 Feb.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** 5, 3, 2, 1 NFSP 1, 14, 18 Dec, 2 Jan (BG, WD, JP, JMi!), record late, traditional location for late sightings.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** well reported.

**Winter Wren:** 10 reported on 4 CBCs; four other reports in Dec, Jan.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** NFSP 16 Dec, 10 Jan (CC, RS); BuSP 12 Jan (WW); TWMA 3 Feb (PY); more winter reports than usual.

**E. Bluebird:** max 10 LESP 1 Jan (JG).

**Hermit Thrush:** LBSP 4 Dec; Orchard Park ERIE 29 Dec; NF CBC 31 Dec; GHSP 26 Jan; only reports.

**Am. Robin:** max 285 LBSP 21 Jan; not widespread.

**Gray Catbird:** LBSP 4 Dec, only report.

**Am. Pipit:** OOWMA 28 Dec (KF); Hamburg ERIE 29 Dec (DG); DH 2 Jan (GV); Pomfret CHAU 5 Jan (JG); 2, 3, 2 BeSP 24 Jan, 3, 10 Feb (DS, S&TO!, AH); rare after mid-Dec.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** 6, 1, 2 Newfane NIAG 2 Dec, 5, 6 Jan (WD, BP, JF); GHSP 3 Dec (DB); Wilson NIAG 24 Jan (BP); only reports.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 350 Newfane NIAG 5 Jan.

### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** 50 Beaver Meadow CBC 22 Dec; 42 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; 16 Porter NIAG 31 Dec; 2 Youngstown NIAG 2 Jan; 4 Yates ORLE 5 Jan; Bethany GENE 1 Feb; 14 Ransomville NIAG 17 Feb.

**Snow Bunting:** 310 Barre ORLE 28 Dec; 221 Porter NIAG 31 Dec; 350 Bethany 6 Jan (DB); max 450 Yates ORLE 10 Feb (LC).

**Com. Yellowthroat:** St. Bonaventure CBC 15 Dec, only report.

**Pine Warbler:** FMCSP 31 Dec, 2 Jan (WD, AG, BP), rare in winter.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** NFSP 1 Dec; Buffalo CBC 16 Dec; 4 Cambria NIAG 23 Dec; Wilson NIAG 24 Dec; Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; 2 NF CBC 31 Dec; Buffalo ERIE 12 Jan; only reports.

### TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** Gowanda ERIE 17 Feb, only report.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Beaver Meadow CBC 22 Dec; Fredonia CHAU 27 Dec, 1 Jan; 17-28 Feb (JG); Buffalo ERIE 29 Dec; only reports.

**Field Sparrow:** 2 Buffalo CBC 16 Dec; 4 Hamburg-E Aurora CBC 29 Dec; Eden ERIE 1-28 Feb (RA); only reports.

**Savannah Sparrow:** 3 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; Shelby ORLE 10 Feb (LC); only reports.

**Fox Sparrow:** Ashford CATT 5 Dec; BMAC 6 Dec; 2 Buffalo CBC 16 Dec; Wales ERIE 21 Dec; only reports.

**Swamp Sparrow:** 16 reported on 5 CBCs; scattered other reports.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 39 Bethany GENE 2 Feb (WD, DB); 15 Carlton ORLE 7 Feb (JMi, JP); rep 4 other locations in low numbers.

**Dark-eyed Junco (*J. h oreganus*):** Colden ERIE 1 Dec thru 9 Feb (J&KL), continued from fall; Tonawanda ERIE 23 Feb (JP, WW).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** 57 Oak Orchard CBC 28 Dec; rep 5 other locations Dec – Jan; arr 2 Portland CHAU 13 Feb; more numerous migrants 23-28 Feb.

**E. Meadowlark:** Shelby ORLE 9 Dec (CM); 2 Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC 1 Jan; Watts Flats WMA CHAU 5 Jan (TwL); 2 Somerset NIAG 6 Feb (RS); Fredonia CHAU 10 Feb (NZ); more winter reports than usual.

**Rusty Blackbird:** Tift NP, SPNS 1 Dec; INWR 28 Dec; Portland CHAU 6, 7 Feb; only reports.

**Com. Grackle:** 4 Jamestown CBC 16 Dec; arr Grand Island ERIE 26 Feb.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** fewer winter reports than usual; arr 3 Alabama GENE 18 Feb.

**Pine Grosbeak:** 6, 1 GHSP 1, 14 Dec (J&KL, RS); max 20 PG 6 Dec (NZ); 1, 1 FNSP 6, 9 Dec

(JeL, JF); FMCSP 2 Jan (RS); 8 Carlton ORLE 25 Jan (DB).

**Purple Finch:** very few reports; only 4 on three CBCs; max 4 RTP3 3 Jan.

**Red Crossbill:** 3 Buffalo ERIE 3 Dec (AH); FNSP 14 Dec (RS); 2 Carlton ORLE 12 Jan (KS); Lancaster ERIE 23 Jan (MM); Colden ERIE 23 Feb (GB); 3, max 6 AISP 27 Jan, 25 Feb (AH, ToL).

**White-winged Crossbill:** 8 FNSP 14 Dec (RS); 13 Boston ERIE 3 Dec (J&KL); 1-9 Elma ERIE 9 Dec – 3 Feb (CR), regular feeder visitors; 7 FMCSP 2 Jan; 8, 8, 10 Carlton ORLE 15, 27 Jan, 2 Feb; 13 AISP 7 Feb (ToL); plus scattered reports of 1-3 birds.

**Com. Redpoll:** widespread thru; 119 Barre ORLE 28 Dec; 100 Clarence ERIE 12 Jan; 120 INWR 8 Jan; max 350, 290 Carlton ORLE 21, 25 Jan (BG, DD); 135 Bethany GENE 21 Feb; 100 S. Wales ERIE 2 Feb; 198 Hartland NIAG 18 Feb.

**Hoary Redpoll:** 2 Cambria NIAG 15 Dec (MG, RH); Wilson NIAG 14 Jan (WDI); Porter NIAG 25 Jan (JP!, WW!); Alden ERIE 8 Feb (JM!); only documented reports.

**Pine Siskin:** 13 Shelby ORLE 1, 2 Dec; 20 - 40 Elma ERIE 9 Dec thru 7 Feb (CR); 26 Wilson NIAG 15 Dec; 8 Colden ERIE 17-23 Dec; 10 BMAC 8 Jan; 25 S Wales ERIE 2 Feb; not widespread.

**Evening Grosbeak:** Cambria NIAG 7, 15 Dec; N Clymer CHAU 28 Dec; 2 Bethany GENE 28 Jan, 6 Feb (DB, JM); only reports.

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## REGION 2 - GENESEE

**Robert G. Spahn**

716 High Tower Way, Webster, NY 14580

rspahn@prodigy.net

The winter of 2012-13 was much closer to normal after the extremes of last year. Still, temperatures averaged more than 5° F above normal for both December and January this winter, and only February was back to near normal. Snowfall was near normal for December, far below for January, then above for February for a total only 10% below average. But for December and January much of the time the ground was bare and the average snow depth for all three months was only two inches and the maxima 9-11 inches. The only two notable synoptic snow events were the day after Christmas (8.5") and on 8 February

(10"). Lake Ontario remained open all winter, with only enough shore ice to provide some erosion protection. Summary details from the National Weather Service follow. December: temperature average 36.2°, 6.2° above normal, precipitation 3.57", 0.94" above normal, and snowfall 22.6", 0.80" above normal; January: temperature average 30.1°, 54° above normal, precipitation 1.47", 0.94" below normal, and snowfall 11.7", 16.5" below normal; and February: temperature average 26.8°, 0.4° above normal, precipitation 2.86", 0.91" above normal, and snowfall 28.8", 7.3" above normal.

Generally, species diversity was very close to the 10-year averages for each month, with December a bit above. In spite of the early warmth, half-hardy lingering birds seemed harder to find than in many years. Total species on all three local Christmas Bird Counts ran high average to a record high for the Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC. These were helped by the open water, count dates between the waterfowl seasons, and the incursion of winter finches. More than half the record high counts were among the waterbirds. Interestingly, many of the high counts were from the Finger Lakes, even for species which have historically wintered in bigger numbers on Lake Ontario. There seemed to be less emphasis on 'Big January' searches this year, yet with the warmth and lack of snow cover, diversity to start the year was right on average. There was no substantial early spring push of migrants through season's end.

Delving into the season's picture in more detail, we can start with waterfowl. Most expected species, even the less regular, were at least present in all three months, with only a few puddle ducks dropping out in February. Only the two eiders and Harlequin Duck were missed. Brant and Blue-winged Teal made it into early December. Snow Goose, Canada Goose, and Cackling Goose each set record highs on at least one CBC. By the January Waterfowl Count, numbers were down for most species. Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, and Barrow's Goldeneye were reported as rarities, with a Common x Barrow's Goldeneye tossed in at Sodus Point. All three swans wintered. Among the puddle ducks, small numbers of individuals popped up here and there through the winter, with Wood Duck not reported after December and N. Shoveler and Green-winged Teal missed in February. Among the divers, continuing trends were low numbers of Canvasback, but increasing numbers of Ring-necked Duck, Redhead, and scaup gathered on the Finger Lakes instead of Lake Ontario. On Lake Ontario, scoter numbers were relatively low, Long-tailed Duck locations were shifted a bit, and Bufflehead and Common Merganser counts were low. Red-breasted Merganser numbers continue to rise, and record highs were noted for Ruddy Duck on two CBCs. Wintering loons and grebes were back to more typical lower numbers, though Horned Grebe was again locally numerous off parts of Wayne County. A highlight was the finding of a rare **Western Grebe** in January. Most Double-crested Cormorant reports were of young birds wintering on Irondequoit Bay.

There was a sizeable Turkey Vulture roost in the Town of Lima, with one Black Vulture reported there in mid December but none later in the season.

There were very few raptor reports of great interest. A record late Osprey was well described from the Conesus-Hemlock CBC, the Sharp-shinned/Coopers hawk ratio was a typical 1:2, only three N. Goshawks were reported, and Rough-legged Hawk numbers were low. The falcons now appear taxonomically after woodpeckers but seem to fit here, so American Kestrels were scarce and Merlin and Peregrine Falcon numbers typical of recent winters. Sandhill Crane was recorded for the first time on the Conesus-Hemlock CBC, though the birds were reported in the area sporadically since August and they were found nearby in January in 2011. Two Virginia Rails were found on the Rochester CBC, but none was reported all winter from the usual Mendon Pond Park sites.

Late shorebirds included Killdeer on two CBCs and reports in December and January; White-rumped Sandpiper to a record late date of 8 December; Dunlin on the Rochester CBC on 16 December; a Purple Sandpiper at Sodus Point on 26 January; and Wilson's Snipe on 3 January. Bonaparte's Gull made a first appearance on the Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC but then vanished by historically typical mid January, not to reappear until March. There was a Thayer's Gull report from the Riga landfill area, and typical numbers of Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls scattered about through the season. A first Iceland Gull for Wyoming County and a new bird for the Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC was recorded by Kurt Fox and Dave Tetlow on 15 December on Silver Lake. Great Black-backed Gull numbers seemed low until numbers on the edge of the breaking ice on Irondequoit Bay jumped up in late February. Both Herring x Glaucous and Herring x Great Black-backed gulls were reported.

Eurasian Collared-Dove was reported through December and early January at the usual Hamlin (Church Road) location but not after that. For the less regularly reported owls, Long-eared Owl was found in Penfield and Lima, as well as at the usual Bergen Swamp location for that species, and N. Saw-whet Owl was checked by a group on 1 January. Short-eared Owls were reported as expected through the season. Snowy Owl went unreported this winter. We had no verified Red-headed Woodpecker reports for the season, but a few Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers through late January and record high Red-bellied Woodpecker counts on two CBCs were noted. The Monk Parakeets on West Ridge Road were reported into early January but then not again until after season's end. Late information told of their being in the vicinity since May 2012, and there was no substantiation of rumors of a local pet shop origin; origin is still unknown. Finally, Northern Shrike was well reported, with 20, 14, and 13 apparently different birds by month—good but not really big numbers.

The next couple of groupings capture most of the half hardies and several irruptive species. American Crow numbers tallied at the Rochester roost during the CBC were down a bit from last year, and after that there were efforts to drive the birds out of that area. Fish Crow was reported all season from the Charlotte area of Rochester and nearby Greece, where they have been found the past two winters. However, the local feeding site for crows seemed not to be active this winter and peak numbers were way down. Black-capped Chickadee numbers



were good, but many of the other winter-woods species were relatively low. Red-breasted Nuthatch had staged an early fall irruption, but, while there were many reports through this season, there were only five counts in double digits aside from CBC totals. Winter Wren and Hermit Thrush were reported through the season in small numbers at typical sites. American Pipit was reported in December and January. Bohemian Waxwing was only found in December, and even Cedar Waxwing numbers dropped off quickly. Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting were reported all season but with few big counts. Warbler reports were few this winter, but included Common Yellowthroat in Greece, Yellow-rumped Warbler in all three months, and two Pine Warblers in February.

Among the sparrows, only American Tree Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco wintered in sizable numbers. There were reports of small numbers of the usual Song, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows. Then we had scattered reports of the less regular Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and Savannah Sparrow, and finally a “Gambel’s” White-crowned Sparrow in Honeoye falls and at least two photographed Dark-eyed “Oregon” Juncos. Swamp Sparrow numbers were very low. Northern Cardinal set a new record high on the Conesus-Hemlock CBC, and a Dickcissel was found by Dave Tetlow in Parma 19-21 December.

A Yellow-headed Blackbird, this time an adult male, again joined the horde (maximum 550) of Brown-headed Cowbirds and other species at Brad Carlson’s feeders in Honeoye Falls from 28 December to 7 January, with likely the same bird nearby in Rush on 1 February. An Eastern Meadowlark was found on the Conesus-Hemlock CBC, and a male Baltimore Oriole was photographed at a feeder on 23 December.

The major winter finch irruption was one of the big stories of this winter across the continent. It started here in earnest by late October. However by this season, while all species were reported, numbers for most had dropped dramatically. Pine Grosbeaks were reported all season, but the only reliable site was Webster Park, and they were reported from only three other locations. There were three reports of 1-6 Red Crossbills in December and only a lone report of two in February. White-winged Crossbill was reported all season, but were much scarcer after December and down to one report in February. Redpoll numbers held up through the season, with good counts of Common Redpoll and several reports of Hoary Redpoll among them each month. Pine Siskin was surprisingly scarce, and only a lone Evening Grosbeak was reported on the Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC in December.

About 24,579 eBird records were received for the Region for the season. There was a large jump in reports and reporters in February with eBird taking on the reports from the Great Backyard Bird Count. This produced a jump in reports but also added issues in report screening with the new skill mix and new reporters. As usual, it remains to users to try to extract numbers of different records and counts of individuals from the simple sum of records received—a not an insignificant task.

Species totals for all three months were near or above the 10-year averages: December – 136 (126.8), January – 129 (128.8), and February – 112 (110.7).

## CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Ted Barnett, Carolyn Barnhart, Jessie Barry, Jim & Liz Barry, Doug Bassett, John Bateman (JoB), Bob Beal (BBl), Doug & Sharon Beattie, Steven Benedict, Linda Clark-Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez (BBr), Michael Bianchi, Richard Bishopp, Bradley Bloemendal, John Boettcher, Linda Boutwell, Lynn Braband, Debra Brandt, George Briggs, Joe Brin, Bruce & Mary Ann Cady, Cory Callaghan, Doug Cameron, Thomas Cardello, Brad Carlson ( BCl), Nancy Casper, Jill Church, Kelly Close, Anthony Collerton, Seaghan Coleman, Melissa Coniglio, Tom Connare, Andrew Consler (AC), Doug Constable, Dawn Crane, Robert Cross, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Willie D’Anna, Elaine Dart, Pete Debes, Eric DeRuiter, Jon Dombroski, Steve Donohue, Jacob Drucker, Brett Ewald, Cricket Fegan, Joe Fell, Daena Ford, Tony Ford, Kurt Fox (KF), B.C. French, Andy Garland (Aga), Brooke Genter, Bill Gillette, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Georgia Guenther, Judy & Lew Gurley, Andrew Guthrie (AG), Danny Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Robert Haggett, A. Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Joyce & Brian Herne, Carolyn Jacobs, Chris Lajewski, Laura Kammermeier, Stefan Karkuff, Deborah Killenbeck, Jim Kimball, Cindy Kindle, Kathy Kirsch, Raymond Kouri, Hans Kunze, Edith Lank, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Jerry Lazarczyk, Sandra Lazzara, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Bill Maier, Cindy Marino, David Marsh, Pat Martin, Bob & Sandy Mauceli, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Chita McKinney, Ferne Merrill, Minetor & Nic Minetor, Joseph Mitchell, Tom & Celeste Morien, Frank Morlock, Brian Morse, Robert Morris, Terence Moser, Marcia Mundirk, Dave Nicosia, Joe Ovsiovitch, Tom Parks, Andrea Patterson, Jim Pawlicki, Susan Persia, Norma Platt, Betsy Potter, Jay Powell, Don Powers, Mike Powers, Dave Prill, Bill Purcell, RBA Field Trips, Carolyn Ragan, Noah Reid, Susan Reindel, Gerry Rising, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Priscilla Saulsgiver, Linda Schaumberger, Michael Scheibel, Linda Scott, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Joe Slattery, Judy Slein, John Slowik, Tom & Pat Smith, Cathy Spahn, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stamger, Al & Di Stout, Dave Strong, Kim Sucey, June Summers, Patrick Tanner, Jim Tarolli, Steve Taylor, Joyce Testa, David Tetlow (DT), Mike & Joann Tetlow, Luke Tiller, Don & Donna Traver, Benjamin Van Doren, Lee Ann van Leer, Andrew VanNorstrand, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Bill Watson, Bridget Watts, Drew Weber, Dave Wheeler, Brenda Williamson, Joseph Wing, Chris Wood, Joseph Woody, Dan Young, Martha Zettel.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; CHCBC – Conesus-Hemlock CBC; CL – Conesus Lake, LIVI; G – T Greece, MONR; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay, MONR; LSLCBC – Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC on 17 Dec; NMWMAC – Northern Montezuma WMA, T Savannah, WAYN; PB – Point Breeze, T Carlton, ORLE; RCBC – Rochester CBC; SB – Sodus Bay, WAYN; SP – Sodus Pt, WAYN; TCEA – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices; WP – Webster Park, MONR.

## WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 1 CL 22 Jan (DD, DM).  
**Snow Goose:** 50 RCBC 16 Dec, count record high; max 610 Newark 19 Dec; 500 NMWMA 12 Jan; arr 200 Mendon 25 Feb; 600 WAYN 26 Feb.  
**Ross's Goose:** 3 TCEA 12 Dec (BMo, MW).  
**Brant:** last 1 TCEA 10-12 Dec.  
**Cackling Goose:** approx 49 ind many loc Dec; max 19 HB 8 Dec (DT); 10 TCEA 10-12 Dec (MW); 1 CL 1 Jan; 1 BB 16 Feb; 2 CL 18 Feb.  
**Canada Goose:** 12,000 Lake LaGrange WYOM 9 Dec (KF); max 14,000 TCEA 17 Dec (MW); record highs also on LSL CBC and RCBC of 19,469 and 16, 448.  
**Mute Swan:** 233 RCBC 16 Dec; 242 Waterfowl Count 19-27 Jan.  
**Trumpeter Swan:** max 20 NMWMA (Railroad Rd) 16 Feb (LL).  
**Tundra Swan:** max 200 NMWMA (N Rt 31) 13 Jan (W&MR).  
**Wood Duck:** last 2 RCBC 16 Dec.  
**Gadwall:** max 60 C-HCBC 28 Dec, count record high.  
**Am. Wigeon:** 19 CHCBC 28 Dec, count record high; 1-5 sev loc Jan; arr 7 BB 25 Feb.  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 143 22 Jan (DD, DM).  
**Mallard:** max 3648 CL 22 Jan (DD, DM).  
**Blue-winged Teal:** last 1 NW Quad Treatment Plant, Parma 9 Dec (DT).  
**N. Shoveler:** max 8 SB 20 Dec.  
**N. Pintail:** 12 RCBC 16 Dec, count record high; arr 5 BB 25 Feb.  
**Canvasback:** max 19 BB 16 Feb, low, other months lower.  
**Redhead:** max 7083 Waterfowl Count 22 Jan (DD, DM), all on Conesus, Hemlock, and Honeoye lakes – 6810 on just Conesus Lake, high count.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 1734 Lake LaGrange WYOM 15 Dec (KF); 1905 LSLCBC 15 Dec & 1025 CHCBC 28 Dec, count record highs; down to 17 CL 19 Feb, months high.  
**Greater Scaup:** 800 SB 19 Dec, low.  
**Lesser Scaup:** 300 CL 2 Jan, low max  
**White-winged Scoter:** max 500 SB 22 Feb (JTa, DWh); good counts near Pt, Breeze overlap Region 1 & 2 boundary.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 2043 RCBC 16 Dec; 1650 SP 21 Jan (GL).  
**Bufflehead:** max 216 CHCBC 28 Dec; otherwise low.

**Com. Goldeneye:** max 727 CHCBC 28 Dec, count record high.  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** 1 m PB 18 Dec-Jan (CCA, mob).  
**Barrow's x Com. Goldeneye:** 1 m SP 26 Jan – x Feb (TL, JMcG, AVN, mob), ph, good description of ID issues posted on geneseebirds 11 Feb by CW.  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 357 CHCBC 28 Dec; high numbers on each CBC.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 900 IB-N 16 Feb.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** 2013 RCBC 16 Dec, count record high; max 4857 Waterfowl Count 19-27 Jan.  
**Ruddy Duck:** 166 LSLCBC 15 Dec & 112 CHCBC, count record highs.  
**Red-throated Loon:** max 96 HB 1 Dec, low max; 12 HB 9 Feb, low winter max.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 17 CL Inlet 2 Jan (MW).  
**Horned Grebe:** max 86 Waterfowl Count 19-27 Jan, all but 1 off WAYN.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 810 HB 2 Dec (AG), very high fall count; 18 eBird rep Feb, but all of 1 ind at IB-N.  
**WESTERN GREBE:** 1 off Irondequoit Bay Outlet 19 Jan (RS, JBo, JeB, CW, ph), approx 13th Reg record.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 25 IB 1 Dec (KH), present in decreasing numbers thru.  
**Great Blue Heron:** max 32 RCBC 16 Dec.  
**BLACK VULTURE:** 1 Lima LIVI 15-17 Dec (BCL, MW), only report.  
**TURKEY VULTURE:** MAX 45-46 LIMA LIVI 15, 17 DEC, ROOST ACTIVE THRU.

## HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 1 CL 28 Dec (AC), found on CHCBC, Reg record late.  
**N. Goshawk:** 1 Honeoye Falls 1-2 Jan, 9 Feb (BCL, mob; 1 Kendall 21 Jan (DT)).  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 2 Rattlesnake Hill WMA 5 Dec (MW), only report.  
**Virginia Rail:** 2 RCBC 16 DEC; none at usual Mendon Ponds sites.  
**Am. Coot:** max 900 CL 2 Jan (MW).  
**Sandhill Crane:** 3 T Richmond ONTA 3 Dec, 30 Jan (KK); 3 T Bloomfield ONTA 6 Dec (AH); 2 T Richmond ONTA 28 Dec (LB), first CHCBC record; all likely same 3 ind present since Aug in area.  
**Killdeer:** near Cuylerville LIVI 15 Dec; Greece 16 Dec; Ontario Beach ROCH 31 Dec; Greece 8 Jan (BBI).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 1 BB-ES 8 Dec (GL, JoB), Reg record late.  
**Purple Sandpiper:** 1 SP 26 Jan (TL, JMcG, AVN), only report. **Dunlin:** 1 BB-ES 8, 16 Dec (GL, JoB, mob), rare in Reg in winter.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** T Ogden 3 Jan (DT), scarce in winter.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 230 RCBC 16 Dec, low; last 5 off Durand-Eastman Park 15 Jan, historically typical.  
**Herring x Glaucous Gull:** NMWMA (N of Rt 31) 14 Jan (DWe).  
**Herring x Great Black-backed Gull:** SP 26 Jan (TL, JMcG, AVN).  
**THAYER'S GULL:** 1 Riga Landfill 1 Jan (KF, GL, DT).  
**Iceland Gull:** 1 Silver Lake WYOM 15 Dec (KF, DT), 1<sup>st</sup> WYOM record; approx 26 other reports thru.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 27 ind for season; max 6 T Bergen 24 Dec (AG).  
**Glaucous Gull:** approx 19 ind for season.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 74 IB-N 25 Feb, late increase, low most of season.

#### PIGEONS – PARROTS

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE:** 1-4 H Dec-5 Jan, none later.  
**E. Screech-Owl:** max 47 RCBC 16 Dec, good count.  
**Long-eared Owl:** 2 Bergen Swamp 1 Jan (DT, KF, GL), usual loc for year list start; Penfield 16 Feb & Lima 26 Feb, interesting locations.  
**Short-eared Owl:** 4-7 Church Rd T Hamlin 15 Jan thru (mob).  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 1 Bergen Swamp 1 Jan (DT, KF, GL), usual loc for year list start.  
**Short-eared Owl:** max 10-11 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) WAYN 16-23 Feb.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 57 LSLCBC 15 Dec & 93 CHCBC 28 Dec, both count record highs.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** total 6 rep Dec & Jan, good number for winter.  
**Merlin:** total 12 all Dec; total 9 all Jan; total 4 all Feb.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** total 1 all Dec; total 7 all Jan; total 3 all Feb.  
**MONK PARAKEET (R2):** 4-6 Rochester (West Ridge Plaza area) Dec-12 Jan (mob), none in Feb, but seen again in Mar, origins still unknown, *intro*.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**N. Shrike:** total about 47 for season, good total.

**Am. Crow:** max 23,022 RCBC 18 Dec, down by 1/3 from last year, but there were last winter and later this winter continued to be efforts to haze them away from the Rochester roost, *intro*.  
**FISH CROW (R2):** max 7 RCBC 16 Dec (T&PSm, KH); birds were back in the Charlotte of area of Rochester and in nearby T of Greece all winter, *intro*.  
**Horned Lark:** max 260 Kendall 4 Dec (DT).  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 583 reports, but 466 were repeated reports from 11 feeders and many more were associated with 3-4 reports each from feeders only for the Great Backyard Bird Count, and only 5 reports were for >10 ind, three of these at 1 site for the GBBC.  
**Winter Wren:** max 4 Durand-Eastman P 16 Dec; total 9 sev loc Jan; Oatka Creek P 2 Feb; Webster P 24 Feb.  
**Hermit Thrush:** 10 rep of approx 12 birds thru season; max 3 Parma 9 Dec, low.  
**Am Robin:** max 562 RCBC 16 DEC.  
**Am. Pipit:** HB 3 Dec (DT); Riga Landfill 1 Jan (KF, GL, DT); 12-13 Jan (AG).  
**Bohemian Waxwing:** Hamlin & Hilton 29 Dec (AG, RG), only reports.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 134 WP 20 Dec, low.

#### LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

**Snow Bunting:** max 350 Perry WYOM 1 Jan (BGe, BM).  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** 2 Greece (Church Trail) 14 Dec (DT); Beatty Pt. Greece (GL).  
**Pine Warbler:** 2 Webster 16-17 Feb (PSA).  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 2 NW Quad TP T Parma 9 Dec (DT); 2 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 1 Jan (KF, GL, DT); 6 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 10 Feb (JAd, R&SS).

#### TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** 1 Kendall 2 Jan (RS).  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 181 CHCBC 28 Dec, decreasing thru season.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** H 9-11 Dec (AG); Lima 1 Jan (KF, GL, DT); T Bloomfield ONTA 7 Jan (DSH).  
**Field Sparrow:** LSLCBC 15 Dec (KF); CHCBC 28 Dec (R&SS).  
**Savannah Sparrow:** 9 rep 15 thru Dec; max 9 Kendall ORLE 28 Dec (DT); 3 York LIV1 1 Jan (KF, GL, DT); H 1-9 Jan (AG); 2 T Murray ORLE 5 Jan (AG).  
**Fox Sparrow:** last N Wolcott WAYN 5 Dec (W&MR).  
**WHITE-CROWNED "GAMBEL'S" SPARROW (R2):** Honeoye Falls 31 Dec (BCI).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 410 RCBC 28 Dec, count record high.

**Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco:** N Wolcott WAYN 5, 22 Dec, all Feb (W&MR, ph); T Ontario WAYN 3 Feb (JWi, ph).

**N. Cardinal:** max 389 CHCBC 28 Dec, count record high.

**DICKCISSEL (R2):** 1 imm f Parma 19-21 Dec (DT, JLa).

**E. Meadowlark:** 1 T Richmond ONTA 28 Dec (DB), only rep

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** ad m Honeoye Falls 28 Dec – 7 Jan (BCI, ph, mob), ad m Rush 1 Feb (TB, ph), likely same bird.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 1-3 Victor 5-19 Jan (BB).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 550 Honeoye Falls 31 Dec – 1 Jan (BCI, *et al*).

**Baltimore Oriole:** 1 m Pittsford 23 Dec (DP, ph), rare in winter.

**Pine Grosbeak:** 1-17 WP thru (mob); 4-5 T Ontario WAYN 19-22 Dec (DT); 8-9 Greece (E. Manitou Rd) 16 Feb (AG, DT); 4 Ontario Beach P ROCH 16 Feb (GL).

**Red Crossbill:** 1-6 sev loc 1, 16, 19 Dec; 2 Webster 17 Feb.

**White-winged Crossbill:** 9 rep sev loc 1-16 Dec; max 25 Riverside Cemetery ROCH 4 Dec; 15 Rochester 1 Jan; 3 HB 25 Jan; 4 Durand-Eastman P 17 Feb.

**Com. Redpoll:** max 400 T Macedon (Hance Rd) WAYN 31 Dec (JPo); 350 Macedon WAYN 4 Jan (JPo); 320 South Conesus LIVI (KC); many other rep of smaller numbers thru.

**Hoary Redpoll:** Silver Lake WYOM 15 Dec (KF, DT); Webster 16 Dec (D&DTr); Honeoye Falls 24 Dec (BCI); H 8 Jan (AG); NMWMA (MAC) 11 Jan (LL); Bushnell's Basin 15, 25 Jan (C&HH); CL WMA 25 Jan (MW); Ontario WAYN 2 Feb (JWi, ph); South Conesus LIVI 15-17 Feb (KC); N Wolcott WAYN 17-27 Feb (W&MR); good numbers accompanying all the Com. Redpolls.

**Pine Siskin:** max 16 WAYN 11 Feb, low.

**Evening Grosbeak:** last 1 LSLCBC 15 Dec (KF).

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No report was received for Region 3, Finger Lakes Region.

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## REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

**David J. Nicosia**

daven1024@yahoo.com

This winter season was much colder and snowier than the record warm winter of 2011-2012. Even so, the winter months averaged 2-3° F above the long term mean, making for another relatively mild winter. Snowfall averaged 3-5", which was about 10" below the long term mean. December began very mild, with winter conditions kicking in around the 21<sup>st</sup> with a 6-12" snowstorm and much colder temperatures. Another moderate snowstorm hit before the new year which brought snow depths to around 10-15" by early January. January saw a couple significant thaws interspersed with very cold temperatures. It was cold enough for all area ponds and lakes to remain frozen from the end of December through February. Snow cover was present most of January, but below normal depths prevailed. February was colder than normal but saw below normal snowfall and snow cover as well. There were no major thaws in February, and at times there was significant river ice.

One of the highlights of the winter season was a major redpoll invasion during which at times hundreds of Common Redpolls were showing up at feeding stations all over. There were also reports of several Hoary Redpolls. In addition, Snow Buntings were fairly widespread, with many flocks reported through the Region. Northern Shrikes and Rough-legged Hawks also were reported often. There was at least one Northern Harrier that remained through the winter in northern Broome County. A Lapland Longspur was seen on Edwards Hill Road in northern Broome County amid a large flock of Horned Larks on 28 February. One Bohemian Waxwing was seen in Chenango Forks on 12 February. One American Coot overwintered on the Susquehanna River near the Chugnut River Walk in Endicott for at least the second winter in a row.

Tom Salo provided some interesting information relative to the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society (DOAS) camera trapping activities. These started operating on 19 December, and most were active from the end of December through the period. There were eight sites in Delaware and Otsego Counties. Based on our experience since 2010, there were a remarkable number of both Golden Eagles and Bald Eagles at our sites this winter. Communication with others involved in the Appalachian Eagles Project in the mid-Appalachians indicated a considerably lower number of both species than usual in West Virginia and Tennessee, the usual Golden Eagle winter stronghold.

Looking in detail at the Golden Eagle results, 13 individual Golden Eagles were identified at six of eight sites during the reporting period. Five or more were present at a site in the Town of Andes in southern Delaware County. Other sites had one or two individuals prior to the migration. The first Golden Eagle was photographed feeding on 3 January. Some Golden Eagles were irregular feeders at a site, dropping in every several days or once a week. Other birds fed most days through the period. Some only appeared once. The site with five birds shut down in mid-February. At other sites, regular, winter residents Golden Eagles were no longer seen after 23 February.

From 25-28 February, four previously unseen individual Golden Eagles were photographed at two sites in northern Otsego County. This timing coincides with the beginning of observed migratory movement of telemetered birds and some observed at hawk migration sites, both casual watching and formal hawk counting. For the first time in NY State we photographed more than one Golden Eagle feeding at a site. At the site with five birds, there were numerous occasions when two Golden Eagles were feeding together, and good numbers of Bald Eagles also. Golden and Bald Eagles fed together more there than has been previously seen in NY State. Typically, ravens and Bald Eagles keep a respectful distance when Golden Eagles feed.

Turning to Bald Eagles, we had many at our sites. It would be impossible to give an accurate count without examining tens of thousands of photos. A conservative estimate would be at least 80 individual birds through the period.

**PHOTO GALLERY**  
**Winter 2012-13**



Gray Jays, Raquette Lake, *Hamilton*, 18 Apr 2012, © Larry Master. A note describing this nesting is included in this issue, on pp. 97-99.



Sandhill Crane, along the Mohawk River in Halfmoon, *Saratoga*, 3 Feb 2013, © Denise Hackert-Stoner.





Northern Cardinal, Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, *Albany*, 29 Dec 2012, © Scott Stoner.



Eastern Bluebird, Fort Edward Grasslands IBA, *Washington*, 30 Dec 2012, © Denise Hackert-Stoner.



Gyrfalcon, Gilgo, *Suffolk*, 26 Feb 2013, © Doug Gochfeld.



Western Grebe, Shinnecock Inlet, *Suffolk*, 13 Jan 2013, © Gail Benson.

We documented some interesting movements by banded birds. One bird photographed at the southern Delaware County site was subsequently photographed at an Otsego County site in Worcester 26 miles north. A different bird did the opposite, it was first photographed in Worcester and then at the Delaware site. Randy Lynch observed 44 Bald Eagles at Cannonsville Reservoir on 2 February.

In the case of Common Raven, large numbers of juvenile ravens are typical at sites. Many sites had between 10 and 50 ravens. Typically, eagles arrive at sites shortly after ravens. Ravens harass Bald Eagles relentlessly but are very respectful of Golden Eagles.

Finally, a Barred Owl was photographed at the Edmeston site on 19 January, and a Great-horned Owl was photographed at the same site during the day on 3 February.

## **CONTRIBUTORS**

Richard Andrus, Mike & Dawn Ackley, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Dianne Benko, Lois Bingley, Peter Blue, John Birkett, Marty Borko, Bruce Bozdos, Peg Burnett, Gerry Cahill, Gerianne Carillo, Eleanor Carson, Rod Carter, Anne Clark, Benjamin Clock, Germaine Connolly, Cortland-Lime Hollow Bird Club, Kay Crane, MaryAnn Cuff, Fran Czochara, Larry Dake, Dolores & Eve Daniels, John Davis, Marilyn Davis, Toni Dean, Renee DePrato, Ed Dewar, Mary Diegert, Bob Donnelly, Bruce & Janice Downie, Jean M. Dorman, Helen Eno, Tom Fernandez, Margaret Ferranti, Finch Hollow Nature Center Staff, Fred Fries, Sue Garing, Lisa Gorn, Bob Grajewski, Derek Green, Becky Gretton, Bob Grosek, Linda Hall, Steve Hall, Peter Harity, Erin Hewett, Dylan Horvath, Jim Hoteling, Dorian Huneke, Spencer Hunt, Michael Jordan, Nick Kaldis, Paul Kalka, Doug & Teresa Kibbe, Sara Kinch, Eugene Kirch, Gail Kirch, Diane Krein, Sharon Krotzer, Bill Kuk, Victor Lamoureux, Tricia Larson, Tom Laskowski, Arthur Levy, Dave Loparco, Roger Luther, Andy Mason, JoAnne Mattucci, Carole McQuiston, JoAnne Mattucci, David McCartt, Jay McGowan, Jim McKenna, Evelyn & George Mead, Marji Miller Tom Moore, Naturalists' Club of Broome County (NCBC), Eleanor Moriarty, David Nicosia, Sandy Olshefski, Bob Pantle, Melissa Penta, Sandy Perry, Bill Purcell, Bill Ostrander, John Quain, Don Quataert, Bill Ralston, Jessie Ravage, Judy Read, Alice & Joe Richardson, Jo Ann & Tom Salo, Paul Scharf, Charles Scheim, Julian Shepherd, Julie Siler, Arnold Talentino, Mark Tannis, Tom Tasber & family, Tioga Bird Club, Jack Thompson, Jan Trzeciak, Tanna Ulmer, George Wade, Weed Walkers, Dan Watkins, Donald & Joanne Weber, Joel Weeks, Jon Weeks, Michelle Weeks, Carole Westerman, Teri Wetzell, Anne Whitaker, Sue & Tom Whitney, Colleen & Paul Wolpert, Rich Youket, Matt Young.

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

BCBC - Binghamton Christmas Bird Count; BPD - Boland Pond; CCBC - Cortland Christmas Bird Count.

## WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** max 250 Candor 24 Feb, last flocks moved thru early Dec; few Binghamton thru Dec; most of migration was later than usual.  
**Mute Swan:** 1 Upper Lisle 7 Jan; 1 Hillcrest Pits & Bpd most of Jan & Feb.  
**Wood Duck:** 1 23 Feb Bpd.  
**GADWALL:** max 5 Hillcrest Pits; a few others began arriving mid Feb.  
**Am. Wigeon:** max 5 Bpd; a few others began arriving mid Feb.  
**Am. Black Duck:** present thru; max 60 Hamden.  
**N. SHOVELER:** 1 Bpd. 27 Jan.  
**N. Pintail:** arr few BROO & TIOG end of Feb.  
**Redhead:** few BROO thru late Dec; arr few late Feb.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** few thru, becoming more widespread in small numbers end of Feb.  
**Greater Scaup:** 5 Hillcrest Pits end of Feb; a few along Chenango River Binghamton 28 Feb.  
**Lesser Scaup:** few BROO thru; began increasing end of Feb.  
**Bufflehead:** few BROO, TIOG, % CORT thru..  
**Com. Goldeneye:** sev across area thru.  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 60 Binghamton date; widespread in small numbers across area.  
**Com. Merganser:** common thru.  
**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** 1 Dorchester P 14 Dec.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 1 Vestal 15 Dec; Greene 17 Feb.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** few reported, scarce.  
**Wild Turkey:** widespread, fairly common.  
**Com. Loon:** 1 Dorchester P thru mid Dec.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** 1 BROO thru late Dec.  
**Great Blue Heron:** few area-wide thru.  
**Turkey Vulture:** arr area-wide late Feb.

## HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** widespread in low numbers on area waterways; 80+ in Delaware-Otsego camera trapping project; max 44 Cannonsville Reservoir 2 Feb.  
**N. Harrier:** at least 4 different TIOG into DELA thru.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** fairly common thru.  
**N. Goshawk:** 1 Hamden mid Feb; 1 Port Crane 20 Jan; 1 Berkshire late Jan - early Feb.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** scattered loc across Region, scarce or under reported.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** widespread, but low.  
**GOLDEN EAGLE:** at least 8 DELA-OTSE thru, at camera traps, *intro*.  
**Am. Coot:** 1 Chungut River walk Endicott thru; 1Bpd thru early Dec.

## PIGEONS - PARROTS

**E. Screech-Owl:** 1 Vestal & 1 Endicott, only reports, scarce.  
**Great Horned Owl:** sev reports, widely distributed.  
**Barred Owl:** few reports, underreported.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** fairly widespread along river in low numbers.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** numerous reports.  
**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:** 1 Waverly 4 Feb.  
**N. Flicker:** singles in scattered locales.  
**Am. Kestrel:** singles many loc thru.  
**Merlin:** at least 1 or 2 Binghamton area thru; 1 Owego 2 Feb.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** Binghamton thru, expected.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**N. Shrike:** reported at scattered locales, usually singles.  
**Fish Crow:** a few rep from typical loc near waterways between Binghamton and Owego;  
**Com. Raven:** max 50+ OTSE date, at eagle survey sites, *intro*; fairly widespread thru.  
**Horned Lark:** scattered locales in TIOG & BROO; max 50 n BROO 14 Feb.  
**WINTER WREN:** scattered reports BROO & TIOG.  
**RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET:** 1 Endicott thru early Dec .  
**E. Bluebird:** fairly widespread thru, in open areas.  
**Am. Robin:** max 9 CCBC 14 Dec; relatively low numbers.  
**GRAY CATBIRD:** BROO 12 Dec (MB!).  
**N. Mockingbird:** max 7 BCBC 18 Dec; 4 CCBC, high count; few OwCBC.  
**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** 1 Chenango Forks 12-Feb, photos.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** none reported.

## LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Snow Bunting:** sev reports of moderate to large flocks thru.

## TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** fairly common and widespread thru.  
**CHIPPING SPARROW:** 1 near Whitney Point 17 Jan (MA, DW).  
**FOX SPARROW:** 1 Vestal Center 15 Feb, no details.  
**Song Sparrow:** present thru in small numbers, especially along the river valleys.

**Swamp Sparrow:** 1 BPD mid Dec; 1 BPD mid Feb.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** a few migrants late Feb.

**Com. Grackle:** a few migrants late Feb.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** wintered in a few locales, especially around CORT.

**Purple Finch:** widely scattered in small numbers.

**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; some feeders had hundreds; many birds still present at end Feb.

**HOARY REDPOLL:** isolated rep of singles in Whitney Point, Vestal Center, & near Owego.

**PINE SISKIN:** a few wintered across Reg.

**Evening Grosbeak:** a few small flocks in hills of CORT & CHEN thru.



## REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

**Matt Perry**

3787 Dawes Ave., Clinton, NY 13323  
mperry63@roadrunner.com

**David Wheeler**

20 Waterbury Dr., North Syracuse, NY 13212  
tigger64@aol.com

On its face the winter season looked more like the old-fashioned kind that once characterized this Region, but the temperature data tells us that it was not harsh by historical standards. In Syracuse, the average temperature for December was 35.3° F, fully 5.9° warmer than normal. The same location saw precipitation on 21 days in December, for a total of 7.57", which is 4.35" above the norm. Much of that precipitation fell in the form of snow, producing 32.4". 12.5" of snow fell in a single storm on 26-27 December. By the end of December the snow depth measured 19". With an average temperature of 27.7°, January was 4.1° warmer than normal, but was also slightly drier with 0.8" less precipitation than normal. A total of 11.6" of snow fell in January. February broke the warming trend, but just barely and was 0.5° colder than average. Precipitation was 0.5" above normal for February, and a total of 36.4" of snow fell during the month. It's no surprise that Old Forge saw our Region's coldest temperatures for the period and experienced 20 days below zero. The coldest temperature recorded there was minus 28° on 24 January.

Relatively mild temperatures prevailed through the period when most of the Region's CBCs took place and was reflected by many of the high tallies of waterfowl and half-hardy songbirds on those counts. A massive flock of Snow Geese lingered just south of Utica for over a week before the Clinton CBC on 15 December. The presence of so many white geese stunned locals who never experienced anything like it before. Pictures of the phenomenon were featured in local media. In a field near Sauquoit in southern Oneida County, Jody Hildreth

estimated a flock of Snow Geese to be 100,000 strong. Around 15 in the flock bore neck bands, and Hildreth learned that most of those birds were originally banded on Bylot Island in Nunavut, Canada, which is approximately 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

From the Adirondacks, Gary Lee reported that the lakes around Old Forge didn't freeze until 26 December, and that allowed modest numbers of waterfowl to linger there longer than normal. Some of the deeper lakes in the western half of our reporting area never froze completely, including Skaneateles Lake, and that resulted in good numbers of waterfowl remaining on those waters. Gene Huggins reported that the lakes in the Tully area did freeze, but there always remained a few areas of open water where some birds could find refuge. Other lakes in the southern highlands froze by early January and remained frozen. The eastern end of Oneida Lake didn't freeze over until after 1 January, but by mid-month milder weather had opened up the western end of the lake. By the end of January Oneida Lake was iced over again except for the usual spot at Brewerton. Onondaga Lake was open through the annual Waterfowl Count but was mostly frozen thereafter except for the usual spots. Open water in some areas was arguably good for wintering waterfowl, but it also meant that the birds tended to be less concentrated and were therefore harder to find. Rarities such as Eurasian Wigeon, Tufted Duck, King Eider, and Barrow's Goldeneye were found this period. A female Tufted Duck found by Andrew VanNorstrand on 7 February at Oswego Harbor stayed through the end of the period and was ultimately witnessed by most of the upstate birding community. Several female Barrow's Goldeneye were found and well documented thus giving observers a chance to study this inconspicuous plumage.

In early January, late January, and into February, the ice shelves that formed near the dams and locks on the Oswego and Seneca Rivers and around the Inner Harbor of Onondaga Lake made especially good gull habitat. In these places, patient observers were rewarded with a good variety of winter gulls including some rarities and some interesting (and often enough, confusing) hybrids. Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Glaucous Gull were not uncommon finds this season in those areas and at the Madison County Landfill, which also produced a strong Thayer's Gull candidate. On the last day of February, scanning for rarities at Oswego Harbor, Dave Wheeler and Jim Tarolli found a first-for-the-Region Slaty-backed Gull. Unfortunately, the gull didn't linger to be seen by other birders, but the discoverers enjoyed a good long view and were able to take photos of the perched bird. Fortunately, they ultimately got to see the bird take flight, which helped to clinch the identification of this extraordinary find. The bird was thought to be third- or fourth-cycle and sported conspicuous bubble-gum-pink legs and wide white "skirt". Onondaga Lake's Inner Harbor produced another Thayer's Gull candidate among hundreds of Herring and Great Black-backed. An unusually pale large gull was tentatively identified as Glaucous x Great Black-backed, probably second-winter, and subsequently seen and well-photographed in coastal Massachusetts. Others

thought the bird might be a leucistic Great Black-backed but ultimately only the bird knows the truth. One might hope it will return next year and provide a truly rare opportunity to see the bird in its next plumage cycle.

The Creek Walk at Onondaga Lake hosted four immature Black-crowned Night Herons for most of the period, causing observers to wonder if this has been an annual occurrence and for how long. The Creek Walk has only recently allowed good viewing opportunities. The trail end at Onondaga Lake attracted as many as 15 Bald Eagles in mid-February. Bald Eagles had an excellent showing on many of the Region's lakes, bays, and rivers. Michael Goldych counted an amazing 29 eagles while traveling three miles on the west side of the Oswego River on 21 February, and other observers reported similar or (possibly greater) numbers. Golden Eagles were found in several locations this winter, including an area just north of Delta Lake and along the West Canada Creek just east of Newport. Increasing sightings during mid-winter provide hope that this species is becoming a regular winter resident in our Region. A few Red-shouldered Hawks appeared in January, including at least one well-photographed juvenile bird, which is particularly unusual. Rough-legged Hawks were not common this winter, but those birders willing to put in some extra effort stood a fair chance at coming up with one. A game camera operated by Kevin Pace in Madison County captured a dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk feeding on a deer carcass left out for Bald Eagles.

Three species of shorebird were encountered this season including one Purple Sandpiper and one Red Phalarope. The latter made only a quick fly-by along Lake Ontario's east shore and was identified by the alert observer, Bernie Carr. There were no Snowy Owls reported and only six Short-eared Owls – five of which were found by Bill Purcell on 24 February at the southwestern marshes of Howland Island WMA. Even the “common” owls were not so commonly encountered this winter. Probably no more than two Northern Saw-whet Owls were found during the period, and they were only found at Beaver Lake Nature Center, where the species has been known to roost in previous winter seasons. The male Rufous Hummingbird that arrived at a Phoenix residence during the fall period remained until 27 December, when it was apparently ushered out of the area by a significant winter storm. Up until that time, the bird was being seen daily as it made use of a heated nectar feeder provided by Ann Dillon Gray, the residence's owner. Gray reported that the hummingbird had stayed in the area for a total of 14 weeks and four days. Many thanks are due to Ms. Gray for her efforts in monitoring the behavior of this incredible rarity and for keeping the birding community so well informed.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in only three places this period, with one found by Joe Brin consistently visiting a feeder in Baldwinsville. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found in five areas. In Marcellus on 22 January, Ken Burdick observed a sapsucker feeding on frozen sap from vines of Virginia Creeper. All three “common” falcons were in evidence through the winter. Besides the resident Peregrine Falcons in Syracuse and Utica, a single Peregrine

was seen repeatedly in the vicinity of Oswego Harbor. Northern Shrikes were not uncommon either, but they became harder to find in the latter part of the season. The same was true for many half-hardy songbirds, which were very much in evidence during the CBC period and less so after that time frame. One Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen several times in Skaneateles between late January and late February, but Golden-crowned Kinglets were harder to come by than usual this winter. Searching for mixed foraging flocks in southern Oneida County, Matt Perry commented that kinglets and Brown Creepers seemed to be conspicuously absent from the woodlands in that area.

Several American Pipits were noted in the Region. Two kept company with a flock of Horned Larks in a farm field in Baldwinsville where freshly-spread manure allowed observers good views. Another lone pipit was seen frequenting the Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery in Elbridge. Despite the season's Region-wide poor berry and seed crop, some areas hosted large, if unpredictable, flocks of Bohemian Waxwings. At the end of February, a flock of 350 Bohemians were seen making the best of the scant offerings provided by European Buckthorn trees at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland. Baldwinsville was the most reliable place to find Lapland Longspurs this winter, and on 23 January a maximum of 10 was counted. The longspurs were usually seen with a flock of Horned Larks, and, with the two pipits and a lone Snow Bunting, provided a hard-to-achieve sweep of the field birds. Interestingly, a juvenile Lapland Longspur made an uncommon appearance at a bird feeder in Tully on 30 December.

An excellent find for the Region was an adult male **Varied Thrush** that briefly visited a Fulton backyard belonging to Daniel Wood on 18 January. Fortunately, Wood and his wife were able to adequately document this rarity, but the bird was not photographed nor was it ever relocated. Four warbler species were reported during the period, but none were found after 1 January. As expected, Yellow-rumped Warblers were the most numerous and the Onondaga Lake Creek Walk was the most reliable place to find them. The "Audubon's" Warbler first found during the previous reporting period stayed just long enough to be tallied on the Syracuse CBC on 15 December, as was the male Wilson's Warbler. A Common Yellowthroat was found in Waterville by Bob Williams on 13 December and on Christmas Day a single Pine Warbler was reported visiting a bird feeder at the Jamesville residence belonging to Alison Fitzgerald. A total of three Eastern Towhees was reported this period, two of which were found in the Southern Highlands. A decent mix of sparrows overwintered in the Region including Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow, but only the latter two species were found more than once or twice. Four immature White-crowned Sparrows were found together at the Crego Farm in Baldwinsville, and Jim Tarolli found an "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco at Beaver Lake on 7 January.

Winter finch numbers never quite lived up to the optimistic pre-season predictions and really only Common Redpoll came close to reaching anything



approaching invasion-year levels. This was all understandable given a dearth of wild food resources throughout the entire Region. For most finch species the number of sightings matched what would be expected in a typical non-invasion year. At least 11 Hoary Redpolls were reported in the Region during the period. Evening Grosbeaks were most consistently found only in the Southern Highlands of Madison County where they traditionally concentrate.

A total of 145 species was found for this period, which is 19 species higher than the last decade's average. The highlights included: Cackling Goose, **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Tufted Duck**, King Eider, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle, Purple Sandpiper, **American Woodcock**, **Red Phalarope**, Lesser Black-backed Gull, **SLATY-BACKED GULL** (first Regional record), Short-eared Owl, **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**, **Cave Swallow**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **VARIED THRUSH**, American Pipit, Bohemian Waxwing, **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (AUDUBON'S)**, **WILSON'S WARBLER**, Common Yellowthroat, Pine Warbler, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Hoary Redpoll.

The winter season produced 29,495 eBird records which were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v4.01.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Carol Adams, Andrew & JoAnn Anderson, Betty Armbruster, Seth Ausubel, Faith Baker, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Ken & Rose Burdick, Andrea Burke, Joe Carey, Tom Carrolan, Bernie Carr, Gerald Case, Richard Cohen, Cornelia Corbett, Rosanne Costello, Greg Dashnau, Pete Davidson, Rose DeNeve, Diane Emord, Wayne Fidler, Allison Fitzgerald, Michael Goldych, Anne Dillon Gray, Larry Gridley, Lewis Grove, Bill Gruenbaum, Barbara & Larry Hall, Kim Hartquist, Polly Herring, Jody Hildreth, Kirk Huffstater, Gene Huggins, Kathleen Jacques, Steve Kelling, Steve Kolbe, Gretchen Lasser, Joshua LaCelle (JaL), Josiah LaCelle (JhL), Robbie LaCelle, Sean Lanigan, Jerry Lazarczyk, Gary Lee, Gary Mackinnon, Mary Mayville, Liz McCormick, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, John Moore, Steve Moore, David Nash, Michele Neligan, Mitch Nusbaum, Kevin Pace, Dianne Parrish, Matt Perry, Susan Price, Bill Purcell, Paul Richardson, Mary Zarnoch Riley, Tom Riley, John Rogers, Melissa & Wade Rowely, Margaret Rusk, Jeanne Ryan, Linda Salter, Cheri Sassman, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Marlene Slade, Allison Smith, Gerald Smith, Sheila Smith, Chris Spagnoli, Maureen Staloff, Connie Stock, Joseph Sutherland, Jim Tarolli (JT), Phil Taylor, Judy Thurber (JTh), Courtney Tucker, Lee Ann Van Leer, Andrew Van Norstrand, Matt Voelker, Zachary Wakeman, Drew Weber (DWe), Lisa Welch, David Wheeler (DW), Brian White, Andrea Wiggins, Ernest Williams, Robert G. Williams III, Daniel Wood (DWo), Judy Wright, Matt Young, Ken Zoller.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BLNC – Beaver Lake Nature Center; Brew – Oneida Lake at Brewerton; Bville – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta Lake; DR – DeRuyter

Reservoir area; ECT – Erie Canal Trail; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; Fville – Fayetteville; HI – Howland Island WMA; HR – Hinckley Reservoir; LOnt – Lake Ontario; MCL – Madison County Landfill, T Lincoln; MPSP – Mexico Point SP; NSyr – North Syracuse; OF – Old Forge; OLC – Onondaga Lake Creekwalk; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; OSP – Oneida Shores Park; Osw – Oswego Harbor; Pville – Pennellville; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SH – Southern Highlands of Onondaga & Madison Co.; Skan – Skaneateles; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh; VB – Van Buren; WPd – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

#### **WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES**

**Snow Goose:** max est 100,000 Waterville 14 Dec (JH); 10,000 Skan 13 Dec; 5,000 Pompey 8 Dec; 4,800 Manheim 2 Dec; high numbers linger in corn fields in areas south and west of Utica thru first weeks of December.

**Cackling Goose:** max 2 Mexico 12 Dec; MCL 5 Dec; 3 records for period.

**Canada Goose:** 4,559 Tully Lakes 19 Dec (GH); 17,839 Syr CBC 15 Dec; 12,324 Clinton CBC 15 Dec; 42 Old Forge 17 Dec (GL); good number for Adirondacks.

**Mute Swan:** max 50 FH 19 Jan; 10 OnonL 25 Feb.

**Trumpeter Swan:** max 5 OnonL 5 Jan; 4 Fulton 12 Jan.

**Tundra Swan:** max 160 OSP 2 Dec; 149 Brew 4 Jan.

**Wood Duck:** max 7 Waterville 6 Dec; 6 UM 14 Dec; 2 remained in New Hartford thru late Feb.

**Gadwall:** max 50 FH 16 Dec; 27 Osw 15 Feb; 20 OnonL 28 Jan, & 19 Feb.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** male FH 3 Dec (BP).

**Am. Wigeon:** max 50 WP 4 Dec; 43 FH 3 Dec; singles/small numbers after early Dec.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 85 UM 15 Dec; 72 FH 3 Dec; 68 OneiL 21 Jan.

**Mallard:** max 400 HR 8 Dec; 400 OnonL 23 Jan; 400 Syracuse 19 Feb.

**Am. Black Duck X Mallard (hybrid):** several reports.

**N. Shoveler:** max 22 FH 4 Dec; 7 OnonL 1 Dec; 6 VB 14 -17 Dec; 6 UM 14 Dec; few reported after Dec.

**N. Pintail:** max 24 FH 3 Dec; singles/small numbers lingered thru.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 8 UM 14 Dec; 7 Frankfort 4 Jan; none reported after 4 Jan.

**Canvasback:** max 24 Osw 15 Feb; 5 OnonL 13 Feb.

**Redhead:** max 1130 Osw 10 Feb; 750 Osw 15 Feb; few reports away from ONON/OSWE.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 209 Skan 19 Jan; 200 WPd 9 Dec; 139 Tully 2 Dec; widespread reports and good numbers.

**Tufted Duck:** fem Osw 7 Feb thru (AVN!, mob, ph, NYSARC).

**Greater Scaup:** max 294 Osw 12 Feb; 280 Osw 17 Feb; scattered reports.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 405 OnonL 15 Dec; 340 Osw 25 Feb; 8 OF 17 Dec; scattered reports.

**King Eider:** fem Osw 13 – 16 Dec (BP, WF).

**Surf Scoter:** OnonL 14-15 Dec; Osw 7 Feb thru.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 150 Osw 28 Feb; most records from Oswego.

**Black Scoter:** 3 Rainbow Shores 9 Dec (BP), only report.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 164 DH 5 Dec; 150 Osw 31 Dec, few sightings away from Lake Ontario.

**Bufflehead:** max 94 Osw 21 Jan; 64 MPSP 3 Feb; 57 Skan 11 Dec; many reports.

**Com. Goldeneye:** max 400 OneiL 12 Jan; 234 Osw 21 Jan; 7 OF 18 Dec.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** fem Brew 12-13 Jan (DW!, mob, ph), fem birds seldom seen or documented.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 150 Tuscarora Lake 25 Dec; 135 Lake Neatahwanta 16 Dec; 288 Osw CBC 16 Dec; 49 OF 17 Dec; good numbers and widespread reports.

**Com. Merganser:** max 1200 OnonL 23 Jan; 600 Lake Neatahwanta 16 Dec; good numbers throughout Reg.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 2000 FH 18 Dec; 1000 Fair Haven 8 Dec; 944 LOnt 21 Jan (Waterfowl Count); most sightings from Lake Ontario.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 145 Otisco Lake 12 Jan; 50 DeRuyter Reservoir 9 Dec; widespread reports.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 5 Bville 17 Feb; widespread reports singles/pairs.

**Ruffed Grouse:** max 6 OF 17 Dec; 5 Kirkland 15 Dec; one territorial bird regularly confronts visitors at BLNC.

**Wild Turkey:** max 91 Little Falls 19 Feb; 90 Newport 12 Feb; indications of improving numbers in some areas.

**Red-throated Loon:** max 6 FH 4 Dec; few reports away from Lake Ontario.

**Com. Loon:** max 8 OnonL 9 Dec; 2 OF 17 Dec, unusual for Adirondacks in winter; last LOnt 21 Jan (Waterfowl Count); no Feb recs.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 7 OnonL 13 Feb; widespread reports of singles/small numbers thru.

**Horned Grebe:** max 19 OneiL 11 Dec; 15 LOnt 21 Jan, Waterfowl Count.

**Red-necked Grebe:** max 3 OnonL 15 Dec & Osw 8 Jan.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 42 Fulton 3 Dec; 35 OnonL 29 Jan; small numbers reported thru.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 11 OLC 29 Jan; 9 OnonL 19 Jan, 14 Feb; OF 17 Dec; good numbers for middle of winter.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 4 juv OLC 18 Dec; at least 3 remained thru.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Turkey Vulture:** max 20 Fayetteville 25 Feb; 18 Fayetteville 15 Feb, presumably overwinterers possibly augmented with migrants; 4 Syr CBC 15 Dec.

**Bald Eagle:** max 29-50 Oswego River 21 Feb (MG, PT, PD); 16 Oswego River 22 Feb; 15 OnonL 28 Jan; 15 Cross Lake 23 Feb; ever increasing numbers overwinter in the Region.

**N. Harrier:** max 3 DH 4 Dec; about average number of winter reports.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 2 Otisco Lake 17 Feb; many reports of individuals.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 6 Syr CBC 15 Dec; 7 Skan CBC 30 Dec, high compared with other Region 5 CBCs.

**N. Goshawk:** max 2 DH 9 Dec & 2 arr DH 28 Feb; few other reports.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** juv N Syr 11 & 31 Jan, 11 Feb (DW!, ph), several other reports.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 46 migrants DH 26 Feb; 36 migrants DH 28 Feb; relatively high counts on regional CBCs; dark-morph Erieville 19 Jan (KP!, ph).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 2 several locations; relatively few overwinter.

**Golden Eagle:** arr & max 2 migrants DH 28 Feb; Georgetown 29 Dec (KB); indication of increasing over-winterers - reports from Delta Lake, Newport, and West Winfield.

**Am. Kestrel:** widespread reports of mostly singles.

**Merlin:** max 4 Syr CBC 15 Dec; a few singles reported.

**Peregrine Falcon:** resident pairs overwinter in Syr and Utica; a few singles reported.

**Am. Coot:** max 124 Skan 19 Jan; 115 Skan 11 Dec; 49 OnonL 19 Jan; 47 Osw 23 Feb; excellent winter numbers.

**Killdeer:** max 7 OLC 4 Dec (TS), good number for December; arr Syr 17 Feb.

**Purple Sandpiper:** FH 3 Dec, only report.

**Am. Woodcock:** Camden 1 Feb (JaL, JhL), rare in winter.

**Red Phalarope:** LOnt 13 Jan (BC), rare after Dec.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 57 FH 4 Dec; 51 OneiL 11 Dec; last 3 OnonL 6 Jan.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max est 5000 Osw 17 Feb; est 4000 Osw 10 Feb; est 3000 Skan 13 Dec.

**Herring Gull:** max est 2500 OnonL 15 Feb; 1500 MCL 17 Jan.

**THAYER'S GULL:** MCL 7 Dec (DW!, ph, NYSARC).

**Thayer's/Kumlein's Gull:** OnonL 26 Jan (DW!, ph, NYSARC).

**Iceland Gull:** max 7 Phoenix 26 Dec & Phoenix 7 Jan; many reports of individuals and small numbers.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 4 OnonL 6 Feb; other reports from usual areas.

**SLATY-BACKED GULL:** 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>-cycle, Oswego 28 Feb (DW!, JT!, ph, NYSARC), 1st Reg record.

**Glaucous Gull:** max 3 OnonL 25 Jan; numerous reports from usual areas.

**Herring x Glaucous Gull:** OnonL 8 & 10 Feb.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 200 OnonL 7 Feb; 150 MCL 5 Dec.

**Great Black-backed x Glaucous Gull:** OnonL 28 Jan (DW, JT, DWe, ph) & 3 Feb (DW), putative, see *intro*.

#### PIGEONS - PARROTS

**Rock Pigeon:** max 555 Syr 15 Dec.

**Mourning Dove:** max 133 Oneida 1 Jan; 107 Fairfield 21 Dec; 106 Canastota 1 Jan.

**E. Screech-Owl:** max 3 Waterville 30 Jan; fewer reports than usual.

**Great Horned Owl:** max 4 TR 4 Jan & Mexico 5 Jan; relatively few reports.

**Barred Owl:** singles only Oswego, SFNS, Waterville, BLNC, Dolgeville, Mexico, Verona, and FH.

**Short-eared Owl:** max 5 HI 24 Feb (BP); Bville 16 Jan (JB, mob); Ohio 17 Dec; few reports.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** max 2 BLNC 6 Dec; same bird early Dec and late Feb.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** ad male Phoenix, continuing from fall, last seen 27 December, see *intro*.

**Belted Kingfisher:** 4 Syr CBC 15 Dec; reports of singles/pairs throughout Region.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** singles Bville, New Woodstock, Skan; only reports.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 10 Skan CBC 30 Dec.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** singles overwinter at HI, Cazenovia, Otisco Lake, Skan, Marcellus.

**Downy Woodpecker:** max 15 Verona area 1 Jan.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 11 Kirkville 29 Dec.

**N. Flicker:** max 6 HI 10 Jan; 4 Coldbrook 15 Feb; 7 Osw CBC 16 Dec; singles not uncommon.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** max 8 Old Forge 17 Dec (GL); 5 HI 10 Jan.

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**N. Shrike:** max 2 Oswego 11 Jan & Rainbow Shores 12 Jan; singles reported.

**Blue Jay:** max 54 Cazenovia area 29 Dec.

**Am. Crow:** max 15,817 fly-in to Syr roost 15 Dec (GH); 25,575 Syr CBC 15 Dec.

**Fish Crow:** max 9 OnonL 27 Feb.

**Com. Raven:** max 8 Fairfield 15 Jan; also 8 BLNC 14 Dec; increasing numbers wintering.

**Horned Lark:** max 175 Manheim 2 Dec; 150 Bville 18-25 Jan (JB); otherwise low numbers.

**CAVE SWALLOW:** Derby Hill 4 Dec (BP, TC), flying west.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 174 Cazenovia area 29 Dec.

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 16 Pville 26 Dec, traveling count; widespread at feeders.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 8 Oswego 17 Feb; 11 Syr CBC 15 Dec; moderately good numbers in some areas.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 13 Cazenovia area 29 Dec.

**Brown Creeper:** max 5 FH 17 Feb; 4 Camden 12 Dec, 29 Jan, 19 Feb; 11 Syr CBC 15 Dec; generally uncommon.

**Carolina Wren:** max 7 Fville ECT 15 Dec; reports mainly from ONON/ONEI.

**Winter Wren:** max 3 CM 24 Feb; none reported after Jan.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 6 Nelson Swamp 18 Feb; uncommon.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Cazenovia 23 Dec-18 Feb (JS, JR), rare in winter.

**E. Bluebird:** max 14 CM 9 Dec; 20 Syr CBC 15 Dec; 16 Osw CBC 16 Dec; 7 HI 10 Jan.

**Hermit Thrush:** 5 individuals reported.

**Am. Robin:** max 75 SFNS 6 Feb; 54 CM 7 Dec; 145 Syr CBC 15 Dec; flocks size increases in Feb.

**VARIED THRUSH:** ad m Fulton 18 Jan (DWo!), no photos but description provided.

**Gray Catbird:** DeWitt 5, 7, 10 Jan; Syr 15 Feb.  
**N. Mockingbird:** widespread reports of singles and pairs; 17 Syr CBC 15 Dec.

**European Starling:** max 2000 MCL 17 Jan.

**Am. Pipit:** max 2 Bville 23 Jan, with Horned Larks; Elbridge fish hatchery 17-22 Feb, rare in winter.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** arr Bville 23 Jan (AVN); max 350 SFNS 27 Feb (MP), unprecedented numbers at SFNS despite low food resources; 170 Rainbow Shores 3 Feb (BP).

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 225 SFNS 22 Feb; 125 Pulaski 1 Jan, relatively scarce.

### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** arr DeRuyter 29 Dec; max 10 Bville 23 Jan (JB), excellent number; juv Tully bird feeder 30 Dec (GH); 3 Canastota 2 - 3 Jan; Bville 22 Feb.

**Snow Bunting:** 400 Stockbridge 5 Jan; 260 Bville 24 Jan; 205 Sauquoit 17 Jan; low numbers before Jan.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** Waterville 13 Dec (RW), only report.

**Pine Warbler:** Jamesville 25 Dec (AF, ph).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 7 OLC 15 Dec; singles/small numbers same area thru 1 Jan; one Oswego Harbor 11 Feb.

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (AUDUBON'S):** continues from fall OLC 4 - 15 Dec (mob, ph, NYSARC).

**WILSON'S WARBLER (R5):** ad male continues OLC 7 - 15 Dec (mob, ph).

### SPARROWS - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** 3 reports; male SH 30 Dec; male Elbridge 5 Jan; fem New Woodstock 23 Jan.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 426 Onei CBC 1 Jan; generally good numbers.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Tully 17 Feb (CT), adequately described, rare in winter.

**Field Sparrow:** 2 reports; one Manheim 1 Jan; one Bville 19 Dec; rare in winter.

**Savannah Sparrow:** Lysander 1 Jan (JT, JB, ph), seen gritting on edge of road; rare in winter.

**Fox Sparrow:** 5 records; Syracuse mid Dec thru 17 Feb (DE, ph); rare in winter.

**Song Sparrow:** max 10 UM 14 Dec; 9 Osw CBC 16 Dec; 11 Skan CBC 30 Dec.

**Swamp Sparrow:** max 3 HI 10 Jan; 3 UM 15 Dec; scarce.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 13 SFNS 15 Dec; 7 Fville ECT 15 Dec; 7 Elbridge 22 Feb.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** 4 imm Bville 8 Dec; 2 Canastota 1 Jan; 2 Bville 7 Jan; HI 10 Jan.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 94 Marcellus 30 Dec; widespread thru period.  
**Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon):** BLNC 7 Jan (JT!, DW, JB, ph, NYSARC).  
**N. Cardinal:** max 47 Cazenovia area 29 Dec; 30 Onei CBC 1 Jan.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** arr & max 22 Bville 24 Feb (TC); 17 Dewitt 5 Jan; widespread reports of overwintering individuals and small flocks.  
**E. Meadowlark:** no reports  
**Rusty Blackbird:** max 3 New Woodstock 1 Jan (CS); 2 Canastota 2 – 3 Jan (BP, BB); 2 Elbridge 28 Feb (BW).  
**Com. Grackle:** Skan CBC 30 Dec; arr SFNS 23 Feb; very few overwinter.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 150 New Woodstock 2 Dec (BB); 35 Dolgeville 7 Jan; 28 Mexico 11 Jan; increasing numbers overwinter.

**Pine Grosbeak:** max 6 Boylston 28 Dec (CS); 5 Tioghnoga WMA 4 Dec (MY); 3 Marcellus 19 Jan; few other reports.  
**Purple Finch:** a few reports of single birds and pairs but mostly absent from Region.  
**House Finch:** max 76 Cazenovia 29 Dec; generally improving numbers.  
**Red Crossbill:** max 3 flying west DH 4 Dec (BP) & 3 same location 12 Jan; few reports.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** max 22 TR 13 Jan; 7 Syr 8 Dec; few reports.  
**Com. Redpoll:** max 300 SH; 215 Verona area 1 Jan; common & widespread throughout Reg.  
**Hoary Redpoll:** 11 ind reported.  
**Pine Siskin:** max 16 Utica 15 Dec; 15 DR 9 Dec; mostly absent from Region as winter progressed.  
**Am. Goldfinch:** max 80 Barneveld 17 Feb; 201 Syr CBC 15 Dec; 170 Onei CBC 1 Jan.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** max 80 New Woodstock 23 Jan; 40 Boylston 19 Jan; common at feeders in SH.  
**House Sparrow:** max 109 Syr CBC 15 Dec.



## REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

**Jeffrey S. Bolsinger**

98 State Street, Canton NY 13617  
jsbolsinger@yahoo.com

Many North Country residents seemed to think it was a cold winter, but weather data actually indicate a warmer than average winter. December and January averaged 4.5° F and 4.6° above normal, respectively, although February's mean temperature was within 0.2° of normal. December was wet, as the 6.6" of precipitation that fell was more than twice average, but the rest of the winter received about average precipitation, with about an inch less than normal falling in January and about an inch more than normal falling in February.

An **Eared Grebe** on the St. Lawrence River in Ogdensburg on 1 December was the first of a relatively large number of rarities seen in Region 6 this winter. Soon afterward, Nick Leone saw an interesting loon in Black River Bay from several vantage points over a period of a week or so, but did not get a close enough view until 12 December to confirm that it was a **Pacific Loon**. The loon continued to at least 20 December allowing several birders to see it. But a **Great Gray Owl** found by Mary Curtis at Robert Moses State Park on 27 January was not so cooperative, and none of the dozen or more birders that

chased the owl had any luck. The biggest surprise of the season was a female **Smew** I found on the St. Lawrence River in Lisbon 16 February, which drew a crowd immediately, but, unfortunately, flew off just before the first birders arrived to see it. The Smew was initially spooked by a snowmobile that passed by on the shore of the river, and the obvious alarm shown by the bird could be taken as a good sign regarding origins, but no definitive evidence was obtained that might shed light as to whether this bird was an escapee or a likely natural vagrant.

Aside from the Smew, the waterfowl picture in Region 6 was mixed. Dabbling ducks were generally present in average numbers, with more Northern Pintails than usual, including an exceptional winter count of nine in Lake Ontario off Black Pond WMA on 18 January. Diving duck numbers also seemed about average, but scoter numbers were relatively high for the second consecutive winter. Four Black Scoters were reported from Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River 17-19 January and none the rest of the reporting period, suggesting a mid-winter movement. Goldeneye seemed less abundant than usual, and the two Barrow's Goldeneye was fewer than have been reported most recent years.

It was an exceptionally poor winter for buteos, with very low numbers of Rough-legged Hawks and marginally higher numbers of Red-tailed Hawks. The latter species seemed to be more common in semi-wooded areas than more open habitats, probably because small mammals were more abundant in woodlands than grasslands, if mammal-trapping data from Fort Drum reflect the status of small mammal populations regionally as a whole. Poor grassland mammal numbers also are the likely explanation for low numbers of Short-eared Owls, but what then explains the relatively high number of American Kestrels that overwintered throughout the Region? At least nine, and probably more, Snowy Owls were in northern Jefferson County through the winter, but none were reported outside of this relatively small area.

Compared with last winter, many fewer half-hardies were present this season, although Red-headed Woodpeckers made a good showing. At least two and possibly more adult Red-headed Woodpeckers successfully overwintered on Fort Drum, thanks to a huge acorn crop last summer. Gerry Smith and Tom Carrolan saw two immature Red-headed Woodpeckers on Point Peninsula on 24 January, and I received a late report of another overwintering individual in Cape Vincent, although no details were provided regarding age. Other half-hardies included Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, and the usual assortment of sparrows.

Bohemian Waxwings and several finch species put on a good show. Bohemian Waxwings were particularly widespread, with reports of sizeable flocks from all portions of the Region. Numerous Pine Grosbeak flocks were reported, mostly from central and northern St. Lawrence County and along the St. Lawrence River in Jefferson County, with most flocks including no adult males. Common Redpolls were ubiquitous in December, but apparently most

redpolls moved farther south by mid-January, as few were observed away from feeders during the latter half of the winter. Hoary Redpoll reports trickled in throughout the winter, but as usual many reports lacked details. White-winged and Red Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks also were present in Region 6 but were generally scarce outside the Adirondacks with a few exceptions.

For the season a total of 121 species was reported, more than most winters, and somewhat surprisingly just two shy of the tally from the previous rather exceptional winter. The highlight of the season was the excellent number of rarities reported, although this number probably wouldn't be considered exceptional in most Regions. Unfortunately, only one or a small handful of observers saw most of these rarities. For many, then, the excellent showing by Bohemian Waxwings, Pine Grosbeaks, and redpolls was the main attraction this winter.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Bradley Bloemendal, Jeffrey Bolsinger, Richard & Marion Brouse, Carol Cady, Corey Callaghan, Tom Carrolan, Joan Collins, Mark Conboy, Mary Curtis, Eric DeRuiter, Linda Greene, Willis Haller, Kirk Huffstater, Steve Kelling, Kingston Field Naturalists, Greg Lawrence, Nick Leone, Ellen Miller, Lida Perfetto, Bill Purcell, Antony Shrimpton, Gerry Smith, William Stahl, Benjamin Van Doren, Tom & Eileen Wheeler, Susan Willson.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart Island, T Massena; BP – Black Pond WMA, T Ellisburg; BI – Barnhart Island, Massena; BRB – Black River Bay; CBy – Chaumont Bay; CCSP – Coles Creek SP, T Waddington; CPSP – Cedar Point SP; CV – T Cape Vincent; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; FL – Fisher's Landing, T Alexandria; HH – Henderson Harbor; HPt – Hawkins Point, Massena; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; KC – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; LB – Lisbon Beach, T Lisbon; MB – Millen's Bay; PilPt – Pillar Point; PtPen – Point Peninsula; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; SBSP – Southwick Beach SP; SLR – St. Lawrence River; StPt – Stony Point, T Henderson; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; WI – Wellesley Island.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** heaviest movement of "fall" thru 15 Dec; last flock Canton 23 Dec; singles lingered to 12 Jan.

**Cackling Goose:** PilPt 2 Jan (WH).

**Mute Swan:** 4 CBy 5 Dec; 4 FL 4 Jan.

**Trumpeter Swan:** 4 CV 5 Dec; 3 ULLWMA thru 6 Jan, where 1 heard 24 Feb.

**Tundra Swan:** max 196 BRB 13 Dec; midwinter max 100 StPt 13 Jan.

**Wood Duck:** last BI 9 Dec.

**Gadwall:** max 220 CV 17 Jan.

**Am. Wigeon:** max 4 MB 13 Jan; 6 other reports.

**Mallard:** max 585 SLR Lisbon 19 Jan.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 400 PilPt 15 Dec.

**N. Pintail:** max 9 BP 18 Jan (JB); 10 other reports, high.

**Green-winged Teal:** m FL 17 Jan (JB).

**Redhead:** max 720 PtPen 13 Feb.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 83 PtPen 17 Jan.

**Greater Scaup:** 1020 BRB 13 Dec; max 2000 PtPen 24 Dec.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 75 FL 18 Jan.

**Surf Scoter:** BP 17 Jan (CC, GL, BV), only report.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 266 BP 26 Dec.

**Black Scoter:** 2 BP & 1 SBSP 17 Jan (CC, GL, BV); CCSP 19 Jan (JB).

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 2400 BP 18 Jan (JB).

**Bufflehead:** max 70 PtPen 3 Dec.

**Com. Goldeneye:** max 1000 FL 13 Feb.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** m MB 1 Jan (NL); f FL 2 Jan to 24 Feb (NL, JB).

**SMEW:** f LB 16 Feb (JB, photos, report to NYSARC).

**Hooded Merganser:** max 65 FL 8 Jan.

**Com. Merganser:** max 475 SLR Ogdensburg 9 Feb.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 140 HH 26 Dec.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 9 PilPt 12 Dec; HH 26 Dec & 2 RMSP 26 Jan only other reports.

**Ruffed Grouse:** max 9 ICNC 24 Feb.

**Wild Turkey:** several flocks of 160-200 reported.

**Red-throated Loon:** 1-3/day BRB thru 20 Dec; SLR Massena 14 Dec; carcass recovered Henderson 5 Dec tested for botulism.

**PACIFIC LOON:** BRB 12 to 20 Dec (NL, JB, BP, reports to NYSARC).

**Com. Loon:** 1-2/day L Ontario & SLR thru 13 Dec; max 8 KPSP 2 Dec; last SLR Waddington 19 Jan.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** WHWMA 9 Dec; FL thru 11 Jan, only reports.

**Horned Grebe:** max 7 PilPt 13 Dec; last RWSP 18 Jan.

**Red-necked Grebe:** CCSP 9 Dec, only report.

**EARED GREBE (R6):** SLR Ogdensburg 1 Dec (JB).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** last SLR Massena 5 Jan.

**Great Blue Heron:** I saw 6; last Dekalb 28 Jan.

**Turkey Vulture:** 2 Indian River LEWI 15 Feb, presumed early arr; only report (LP).

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** 16 WI 26 Jan, high count.

**N. Harrier:** scarce after mid Jan.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 9 reports.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 25 reports.

**N. Goshawk:** ad FD 7 Dec; ad ULLWMA 26 Feb.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 5-7/day N JEFF thru, low.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** widely scattered singles with few reports of more than 2, low.

**Golden Eagle:** ad WI 18 Feb (BB, ED), only report.

**Am. Coot:** PilPt 15 Dec; MP 26 Dec; 1-2/day FL 4-11 Jan.

**Killdeer:** last ED 2 Dec (AS), late.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 16 WI 5 Dec; last 15 CPSP 17 Jan, high for date.

**Ring-billed Gull:** last SBSP 18 Jan.

**Iceland Gull:** TP 10 Jan, only report!

**Herring Gull:** max 785 HP 22 Dec; low numbers throughout after Dec.

**Glaucous Gull:** CCSP 9 Dec; several reports 1-2 HPT thru; scarcer than most years.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 300 RMSP 18 Jan; numbers generally low after Dec.

#### PIGEONS - PARROTS

**Mourning Dove:** max 160 PilPt 17 Dec.

**E. Screech-Owl:** CV 3 Feb.

**Snowy Owl:** at least 9 wintered NW JEFF; none elsewhere.

**GREAT GRAY OWL:** RMSP 27 Jan (MC, photos!).

**Short-eared Owl:** at least 2 CV Dec thru.

**Belted Kingfisher:** ULLWMA 4 Jan; FD 10 Jan; CV 14 Jan; WISP 6 Feb.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 2-3 ad remained on FD breeding terr thru (JB); CV thru; 2 imm PtPen 24 Jan (TC, GS).

**N. Flicker:** 16 reports, lower than some years.

**Am. Kestrel:** more than 25 reports throughout winter, more than usual.

**Merlin:** Canton 16 Dec & 23 Feb; PtPen 24 Dec; CV 25 Jan, WISP 6 Feb.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Ogdensburg 8 Dec; 2 BI thru.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**N. Shrike:** about 50 reported.

**Am. Crow:** max 25000-30000 at Watertown roost to early Jan, when dispersed by hazing.

**Horned Lark:** 45 Canton 5 Jan; numbers low.

**Carolina Wren:** 2-3/day Canton thru.

**Winter Wren:** FD 25 Feb (JB), rare in winter.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** scarce throughout.

**E. Bluebird:** max 9 PtPen 17 Jan; few other reports.

**Hermite Thrush:** StPt 26 Feb (KH), rare in winter.

**Am. Robin:** max 78 PilPt 9 Jan; many fewer than previous winter.

**N. Mockingbird:** RMSP 15 Jan (MC).

**Bohemian Waxwing:** 450 FD 17 Jan; widespread smaller flocks all parts of Region thru.

**Cedar Waxwing:** most reports of 2-20 ind, often in larger groups of Bohemians; generally scarce.



#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** 5 Canton 5 Jan; 6 Ellisburg 10 Feb; 5 CV 13 Feb; relatively scarce.

**Snow Bunting:** max 325 Dekalb 30 Jan; generally present in lower than usual numbers.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** several reports PilPt to 9 Jan.

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 80 ULLWMA 28 Dec.

**Savannah Sparrow:** Lowville 2 Dec (EM), only report.

**Song Sparrow:** 13 reports.

**Swamp Sparrow:** FD 10 Jan (JB), only report.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 11 KC 25 & 28 Feb.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 25 WISP 5 Dec.

**Rusty Blackbird:** at Canton feeder 1 Dec.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 70 Fort Jackson 16 Feb; 6 other reports of 1-5.

**Pine Grosbeak:** max 48 WI 19 Jan; many reports of smaller flocks, nearly all in female or immature plumage.

**Purple Finch:** 15 reports; scarce.

**Red Crossbill:** CV 8 Jan, only report.

**White-winged Crossbill:** up to 55/day CV 28 Dec to 26 Feb.

**Com. Redpoll:** numerous & widespread flocks of up to 250 in birch woodlands Dec; fewer after early Jan when most at feeders.

**Hoary Redpoll:** FD 17 & 19 Dec (JB); at CV feeders thru 11 Jan (NL); 2 PtPen 18 Feb (BB, ED); at least 5 other reports lacked details.

**Pine Siskin:** max 40 Canton 26 Feb; few reports.

**Evening Grosbeak:** max 15 Winona SF 18 Feb.



## REGION 7- ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

**Melanie McCormack**

PO Box 366, Keene, NY 12942

Mruddyduck@aol.com

The winter of 2012-2013 was a fairly typical winter for the Region, with average snowfall and fairly normal temperatures. The winter began with temperatures well above average in the month of December, with temperatures in the 60s on the 5<sup>th</sup>. But February ended the season with temperatures well below average, never reaching above the 40s. Extreme temperatures in December ranged from 63° F in Ellenburg Depot on 5 December to -2° in Newcomb on 26 December. The weather event of December was most certainly the post-Christmas snowstorm that occurred on the 26<sup>th</sup>, dumping as much as 8-17" across the Region. That snowstorm was followed by smaller snow amounts a few days later, leading to above average monthly snowfall totals of 22" in Peru and 27" in Lake Placid, making for some cold and snowy Christmas Bird Counts. In contrast to December, January was a mild month, with temperatures slightly above normal and snowfall totals 4-8" below normal. A snap of arctic air brought temperatures down to -25° in Lake Placid on 25 January, but abnormally high temperatures followed on the 31<sup>st</sup>, reaching 64° in Ellenburg Depot and 56° in Lake Placid. The warm thaw of January was soon forgotten, however, when February rolled in and temperatures stayed below average through the month. Temperature extremes ranged from 42° in Peru on the 8<sup>th</sup> to minus 18° in Indian Lake on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Snowfall totals were above average for the month, with monthly totals of 29" in Tupper Lake, 21" in

Elizabethtown, and 12" in Plattsburgh. A storm on 8–9 February brought high winds and the highest snowfall totals, leaving 9" in Lake Placid and 10" in Peru.

A mild start to winter brought mostly good weather for the Region's December Christmas Bird Counts. Highlights of the Ferrisburgh, VT count on 15 December, which includes part of NY's lakeshore, included a male Wood Duck, a pair of Green-winged Teal, three Northern Harriers, and three Rough-Legged Hawks. On the following day the Plattsburgh count was highlighted by 16 Red-Breasted Mergansers, a Peregrine Falcon, and 62 Bohemian Waxwings, though the real highlight of the count was a female **Harlequin Duck** that was seen at Ausable Point 19-20 December. This was only the third record of the species in Clinton County and was seen just in time to be included in the CBC records. The Elizabethtown CBC took place on 22 December, and highlights were an Eastern Screech Owl and two Northern Shrikes. While most of the Region's counts saw fairly typical numbers of species, the Saranac Lake CBC set a new species count record on 30 December, due in part to a record high number of participants. Highlights of the Saranac Lake CBC include a late Wood Duck, two Northern Shrikes, 10 Gray Jays, 11 Snow Buntings, 30 Pine Grosbeaks, five Red Crossbills, four White-winged Crossbills, and a record **eight Hoary Redpolls**.

The most exciting bird of the season appeared in the Region shortly after the CBCs, bringing birders from all over the northeast to the Region. A **Common Pochard** was first sighted in Vermont on 2 January and was first seen in the Region from the Crown Point bridge on 5 January and at Port Henry on 6 January, where it stayed for a number of days. I joined the hordes of birders searching for it on the 6<sup>th</sup>, when the bird was sighted very close to shore in a raft of dabbling ducks affording excellent views and photographing opportunities. One of the photographers was able to document a leg band that was used to determine that the bird was likely an escape from a private collection, much to the disappointment of many of the people who travelled to see it. But regardless of origin it was a beautiful bird to behold, and the flocking of birders to see it resulted in numerous other bird sightings. When I unsuccessfully sought the bird on 3 January, I was fortunate enough to see a Glaucous Gull from the Crown Point Bridge instead, and an Iceland Gull was seen there on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Surrounding the pochard were rafts of thousands of ducks, within which multiple observers found two **Barrow's Goldeneye**, 10 Redhead, one Canvasback, and one Red-Breasted Merganser. Port Henry observers also reported 15 Bald Eagles and a lingering Winter Wren.

The big winter irruption this year was the Common Redpoll, which started appearing in small numbers in early December and in large flocks by the end of the month. Numbers died down in January but peaked again as the birds moved back through in late February. A number of rarities were spotted within the redpoll flocks, including one "Greater" Common Redpoll in Plattsburgh on 12 December. **Hoary Redpolls** were widely reported, with reports from Cumberland Head on 12 December, Intervale Lowlands on 13 December, my

feeder in Keene on 1 January, Long Lake 19-22 January, and again in Keene 15-18 February. Pine Siskin numbers were way down from last year, with the largest flocks reported being only 32 in Essex on 22 December and 25 in Saranac Lake on 30 December. Crossbills were sparsely reported from Bloomingdale Bog throughout the season, and Pine Grosbeak and Evening Grosbeak reports were sporadic.

Our usual winter visitors were well reported across the Region. Bohemian Waxwings were first reported in Plattsburgh on 16 December and were reported sporadically through the season. Two flocks in Westport contained an estimated **825** Bohemian Waxwings, setting a new record high for Essex County. Snow Buntings appeared late and were sighted in mostly small numbers, with the exception of flocks of 175 sighted at Crown Point on 3 January and 80 on Adirondack Loj Road on 28 January. The Crown Point flock also had 16 **Lapland Longspurs**, which were also reported in smaller numbers in the Chazy area and in Essex County.

In all a total of 101 species was reported for the period, one more than last year and shy of the record of 109.



## REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

**Will Yandik**

269 Schneider Road, Hudson NY 12534  
wyandik@hotmail.com

Winter 2013 began warmer than average and slightly wet with snows arriving after Christmas. December ended 4.8° F above average with 1.12 more inches of precipitation than average. The end of January ushered in a cold snap, but the month still ended nearly 3° warmer than average. February brought in seasonable temperatures with a few small snowstorms. In many places, snow and ice remained through the season, with brief thaws quickly replenished with a light cover of snow.

Snow Geese staged in the Region this winter in larger than average numbers, with a max of 5,000 reported in Amsterdam, Montgomery County, on 12 December, and several other flocks of 3,000+ around that time. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** appeared at Fort Miller, Washington County, on 14 December. The rarest waterfowl of the season is the **Harlequin Duck** that showed up in Northumberland, Saratoga County, from 23-26 December.

On the last frosty days of February, when most non-birders are in the throes of winter's lingering gloom, the Region's birders found the earliest signs of spring—the rocking flight of a few northward-bound Turkey Vultures, a few early Wood Ducks in the red maple swamps along creek bottoms, the dress rehearsals of American Woodcocks that seemed to thud down into the select few

tussocks bounded by snow, and a few Killdeers that seemed to prefer the black asphalt of parking lot margins to the frozen fields and snow-covered golf courses. A birder sees such signs of spring long before American Robins nest in suburban garages.

Most people are beginning to yawn at reports of Black Vultures here in Region 8, but Sandhill Cranes are still uncommon enough to get people moving and increasingly frequent enough that listers can count on finding them here every year now. One pair wandered around Saratoga County for more than a month this winter.

Will Raup reported a **Northern Hawk-Owl**, which unfortunately decided to land on grounds owned by the Knolls Atomic Laboratory in Ballston Spa, where security is tight and the space off limits to birders. An employee at the site photographed the bird and emailed it to Will who, with others, confirmed its identity.

Two unusual warblers appeared this winter, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** and **Wilson's Warbler**, both spotted in Albany by Will Raup in December. The typical few winter sightings of Yellow-rumped Warblers did not continue past the Christmas Bird Count Season.

Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs seemed everywhere this winter. Rich Guthrie reports the following pleasant image near his home: "I came across an enormous flock of Snow Buntings on River Road (Co. Rt 61) just north of the Village of Coxsackie, Greene County. Getting a number on the size of this swarm was difficult because they were so flighty. But I'd put a conservative estimate at around 600. They just kept flowing onto the road surface and shoulders until the next vehicle went by. Then they'd flow out as a black and white ribbon cloud rising and dipping across the fields."

Longspurs, often missed many winters, were proportionally common this year. One is often all anyone ever sees, the smudge of brown feathers in a white flock of larks or buntings, but a single location maximum of seven at Coxsackie Flats, Greene County, this winter is highly unusual.

All Regional Christmas Bird Counts showed comparatively few half hardies or rarities this year. Typical now for our Region, the common three icterids—Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird—are no longer found as singles at a few feeders in river-hugging townships, but overwinter in flocks of hundreds in recent years. Common Redpolls seemed at nearly everyone's feeders this winter and a few irruptive Pine Grosbeaks and crossbills could be found in small numbers.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Abrahamsen, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Dave Baim, Hope Batcheller, Mona Bearor, Mimi Brauch, James Coe, Gerry Colborn, Bill Cook, ebird.org, Gordie Ellmers, Larry Federman, Peter Feinberg, Corey Finger, Elizabeth Grace, Jane Graves, Bernie Grossman, Richard Guthrie, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, Drew Hopkins, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CBC – Christmas Bird Count; FtE – T Fort Edwards WASH; VF – Vischer's Ferry SARA.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

#### **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**

**(R8):** Ft Miller WASH 14 Dec.

**Snow Goose:** max 5000 Amsterdam MONT 12 Dec.

**Wood Duck:** arr Catskill COLU 24 Feb.

**N. Shoveler:** Saratoga CBC 15 Dec.

**N. Pintail:** Niskayuna SCHE 14 Dec; SCHE CBC 22 Dec.

**Redhead :** 2 Loughberry L SARA 2 Dec; Troy CBC 5 Jan; 2 Stillwater SARA 18-26 Feb.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 240 Saratoga L SARA 28 Dec.

**HARLEQUIN DUCK (R8) :** Northumberland SARA 23-26 Dec.

**Greater Scaup:** max 100 Saratoga L SARA 9 Dec.

**White-winged Scoter:** VF 13 Dec; SCHE CBC 22 Dec.

**Black Scoter:** Collins L SCHE 12 Dec.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max Saratoga L SARA 9 Dec.

**Com. Loon:** max 3 Alcove Res ALBA 8 Dec.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Loughberry L SARA 7-8 Dec.

**Great Cormorant:** Germantown COLU 24 Feb.

**Turkey Vulture:** arr Hudson COLU 16 Feb.

**Black Vulture:** max 6 Hudson COLU 11 Dec.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**N. Goshawk:** Germantown COLU 2 Jan, three other reports nearby.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** S RENS CBC 3 Jan; 2 Galway SARA 16 Feb.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 6 Troy CBC 5 Jan.

**Am. Coot:** Loughberry L SARA 13 Dec; Saratoga CBC 15 Dec.

**SANDHILL CRANE (R8):** 2 Halfmoon SARA 7 Jan-15 Feb; 2 Clifton Pk SARA 14 Jan; 2 Colonie ALBA 7-12 Feb.

**Am. Woodcock:** arr 5 Livingston COLU 28 Feb.

**Killdeer:** arr Livingston COLU 28 Feb.

**LAUGHING GULL(R8):** Coeymans Landing ALBA 10 Dec (RG).

**Iceland Gull:** New Baltimore GREE 23 Dec; 2 Troy CBC 5 Jan; 3 Crescent ALBA 5 Jan-18 Feb; Halfmoon SARA 10 Jan.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Crescent ALBA 14-17 Feb.

**Glaucous Gull:** Crescent ALBA 14 Jan-18 Feb; Cohoes ALBA 12 Jan.

### PIGEONS - PARROTS

**N. HAWK OWL:** Ballston Spa SARA 19 Jan (WR).

**Short-eared Owl:** 5 FtE WASH 1 Dec; 2 Saratoga Battlefield SARA 5 Jan.

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**N. Shrike:** Brunswick RENS 4 Dec; Glen MONT 20 Dec; Florida MONT 3-9 Jan; FtE 10 Jan; Coxsackie GREE 13 Jan; 3 Rensselaerville ALBA 8 Feb.

**Horned Lark:** max 300 Stuyvesant COLU 5 Dec.

**Hermit Thrush:** Schenectady SCHE 11 Dec-6 Feb; SCHE CBC 22 Dec; Delmar ALBA 22 Jan.

**Am. Pipit:** max 3 Northumberland SARA 1 Dec; Stuyvesant COLU 30 Dec; 4 Delmar ALBA 1 Jan; Troy RENS 5 Jan.

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** Queensbury WARR 13 Dec (mob).

### LONGSPURS WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** 4 Northumberland SARA 1-29 Dec; Stuyvesant COLU 5 Dec; Ft Edward WASH 30 Dec; 7 Coxsackie GREE 1 Jan; Troy CBC 5 Jan; Stuyvesant COLU 6 Jan; 2 Saratoga SARA 6 Jan, relatively numerous this winter.

**Snow Bunting:** max 600 Cossackie GREE 1 Jan, widespread.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** Albany 9 Dec (WR).

**WILSON'S WARBLER:** Albany 11 Dec (WR).

#### **TOWHEES - WEAVERS**

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 9 Stuyvesant COLU 30 Dec, unusual winter high count.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 2 Delmar ALBA 1-21 Jan.

**E. Meadowlark:** FtE 30 Dec; 5 Cossackie GREE 3 Jan.

**Com. Grackle:** max 600 Livingston COLU 22 Dec.

**Pine Grosbeak:** max 30 Queensbury WARR 1 Dec.

**Red Crossbill:** 3 Five Rivers ALBA 9 Dec; max 8 Partridge Run ALBA 10 Jan.

**White-winged Crossbill:** 20 Delmar ALBA 4 Dec; 15 Pine Bush ALBA 20 Jan.

**Com. Redpoll:** irruptive year, widespread at feeders in flocks of 1-20 reported thru.

**Pine Siskin:** max 50 Stephentown RENS 1 Jan.



## **REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE**

**Michael Bochnik**

70 Hutchinson Blvd, Mount Vernon, NY 10552

December was quite warm and wet. Poughkeepsie was 5.6° F warmer than normal, with 4.2" of rain. Most Christmas Bird Counts had no snow cover recorded within their area. There was a lot of open water, and the northern counts recorded more waterfowl than normal. January was dry, with only 2.05" of precipitation, but temperatures were near normal. February had near normal precipitation, with Poughkeepsie seeing 12" of snow on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures were 2.4° above normal, so snow cover was generally below normal for most of the Region.

First, let's take a look at the highlights from the Christmas Bird Counts: The 63rd annual Mohonk Lake-Ashokan Reservoir [NYML] CBC recorded 79 species on 15 December. A remarkable overwintering **Ovenbird** was photographed in Rifton at the Woodcrest Bruderhof Community. The bird remained to at least 31 December. Other highlights were dominated by waterfowl, as most bodies of water remained fully or partially open. Two lingering Northern Pintail were firsts for the count. Other waterfowl included four Green-winged Teal (second count record), three American Wigeon, a Wood Duck, and a Gadwall, plus a count week Lesser Scaup. Other highlights included Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Fish Crow, two American Pipits, and one Red-headed Woodpecker. New high counts were set for Snow Goose, Red-shouldered Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, and Song Sparrows. A small number of Common Redpolls and Red Crossbills were recorded along with two White-winged Crossbills.

The Dutchess County CBC [NYDC] recorded 78 species on 15 December and included: Green-winged Teal, two Killdeer, White-crowned Sparrow, 14

Common Redpolls, and a count week Eastern Phoebe. The phoebe overwintered in Pine Plains and was last reported 6 February.

The 66<sup>th</sup> Rockland County CBC [NYRC] had 87 species on 16 December. Highlights were: Brant, Red-throated Loon, and Wilson's Warbler. High counts were set for: Northern Shoveler, Great Blue Heron, and Bald Eagle.

The 89<sup>th</sup> Bronx-Westchester CBC [NYBW] set a new species record with **126**, with 115 seen in Region 9 on 23 December. This was helped by great weather and record-setting participation, with one hundred volunteers. Highlights from Westchester include: all three species of scoter; Northern Gannets; a new high count of four Red-necked Grebes off Rye and Mamaroneck; Great Egret; five Black Vultures in the Dobbs Ferry/ Hastings-on-Hudson area; Merlins in Yonkers and Rye; a Greater Yellowlegs; 20 Razorbills in Long Island Sound; a House Wren in Yonkers; four American Pipit flyovers in Marshlands Conservancy; Orange-crowned Warbler at Marshlands Conservancy; Clay-colored Sparrow; two Chipping Sparrows; and 36 Field Sparrows, with a flock of 28 in Sprain Ridge Park, Yonkers; and White-winged Crossbills. For the second year in a row American Tree Sparrow set an all time low of only 49 birds. New high counts were set for Long-tailed Ducks (490), Barred Owls (nine, but only two in Westchester), Common Ravens (10), Red-breasted Nuthatches (33), and Winter Wrens (75).

The Putnam County count [NYPC] recorded 78 species on 29 December. Highlights were also dominated by waterfowl and included: five Snow Geese over Carmel; Northern Pintail on West Branch Reservoir, and two Green-winged Teal on Lake Oscawana. Other highlights included nine Bald Eagles, American Kestrel, two Snow Buntings, five American Pipits, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskins.

The Ulster/Dutchess CBC (NYUD) had an impressive 92 species plus six additional count week birds on 26 December. Highlights included: an American Bittern, 50 Snow Geese, a Brant, two Long-tailed Ducks, Chipping Sparrow, and a count week **Magnolia Warbler**.

Ken and Curt McDermott found a **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** on 26 February at the Warren Sod Farm in Orange County. It was again seen two days later. **Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported from Amenia at the end of January and seen into February. A **BARNACLE GOOSE** was discovered by Melissa Gottesman on Larchmont Reservoir on 15 February and stayed through to the end of the month and was seen by many. This would be Westchester County's first record. A number of **Cackling Geese** were reported, and based on a number of pictures viewed, some did turn out to be Cackling Geese while others were diminutive or runt Canadas. Please be careful when reporting these, and photographs are highly appreciated. As mentioned previously; ducks were found in more areas due to the warm winter; but no unusual species or high numbers were reported.

Ring-necked Pheasant are still hanging in there with a couple of reports from the northern counties. An assumed escaped Gray Partridge was found in Millbrook 7 January.

Rough-legged Hawk was well reported, and Golden Eagles were found in a wider area, instead of just the usual Stissing Mountain region. Merlin seems to have become expected in winter.

A **DOVEKIE** was found and photographed off Durmo Road in New Paltz on 21 December. Observers included Jane and Arie Kopelman, Mark DeDea, Annie Mardiney, and Peter Schoenberger. This would be Ulster County's first record.

Owls were well represented, with a few reports of both Snowy and Long-eared Owls. Barred Owl numbers were well up, especially in the southern parts of Region 9, where they are seldom found. A **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** was found in Wappingers Falls on 7 November and continued to 5 December. A NYSARC report was submitted.

Michael McBrien, found an immature Northern Shrike during the New York State Young Birders Club trip to Ward Pound Ridge in Westchester County on 20 January. The shrike was very cooperative, offering great views to most of those present. Eventually, it flew off to the west and disappeared. Northern Shrike was also reported from Montgomery, Waterbury Hill, and Strauss Farm. Both Red-breasted Nuthatch and Winter Wren invaded the area in huge numbers. It seemed that every brush pile or downed tree (thanks to super storm Sandy) had a wren lurking by. American Pipit overwintered in the entire area; highlighting the fact of minimal snow cover this season. They normally disappear after the first deep snowfall.

Ten species of warblers were found in December. Besides the expected Yellow-rumped Warblers, a record late Blackpoll Warbler was discovered at Marshlands Conservancy on 4, 5 December and is the first December record for Westchester County. As mentioned earlier; Ovenbird, Magnolia Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler were found on Christmas Bird Counts. Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and a Nashville Warbler were at Marshlands Conservancy. Pine and Palm Warblers were also reported.

Bob Shriber found a Clay-colored Sparrow at Marchlands Conservancy on 9 December. It is the first winter record for Westchester County. The bird was seen almost daily to 3 February. Winter finches, mainly crossbills and redpolls, were everywhere, with at least three Hoary Redpolls wintering at the Bashakill and another in Dutchess County.

Other notable species include Sandhill Crane, Lapland Longspur, and Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Janet Allison, Richard Aracil, David Arner, Judy Atwood, Barry Babcock, Scott Baldinger, Kyle Bardwell, Alan Beebe, Doreen Beebe, Gail Benson, Andrew Block, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Allan Bowdery, Charlie Breiner, Michael Britt, Tom



Burke, Barbara Butler, Tammie Carey, Marc Chelemer, Steve Chorvas, Drew Ciganek, Judy Cinquina, Jim Clinton, Jim Closs, Jamie Collins, Ray Cramers, Joe Cullen, Patrick Dechon, Mark DeDea, Jacob Drucker, John & Abby Dux, Evan Edelbaum, Meg Edwards, Debra Ferguson, Bill & Jayne Fiero, Dot Fleury, Valerie Freer, Julia Fuhr, Matthew Furst, Elyse Fuller, Tom Fuller, Barbara and Angelo Giaimo, Arie Gilbert, Steve Golladay, Melissa Gotlesman, Frank Guida, Tim Guida, Richard Guthrie, John Haas, Bob Hayes, Devin Hefferon, Orlando Hidalgo, Herb Houghton, Eric Houser, Kate Hyden, Karen Jaquith, Jesse Jaycox, Tait Johansson, Peter Johnson, Carrie Karsch, Maha Katnani, Jane & Arie Kopelman, Deborah Kral, Simon Lane, Eric Lindner, Lewis Lolya, Annie Mardiney, Frank Margiotta, Jim Marion, Evan Mark, Michael McBrien, Curt McDermott, Ken McDermott, Danny Messina, Doris Metraux, Barbara & Allan Michelin, Eric Miller, R. Miller, Clara Montenegro, Dennis Murphy, Frank Murphy, Michael Newhouse, Jeff Nicol, Bruce Nott, Russ O'Malley, Gerhard Patsch, Adrienne Popko, Kevin Quill, David Rankin, Sue Rayano, Sam Ricker, Susan Rogers, Jane Rossman, Jack Rothman, Dick Ryley, William & Lisa Schlesinger, Peter Schoenberger, Steve Schuyler, Mike Shanley, Elisa Shaw, Bob Shriber, Steve Shursky, John Simpson, Ginger Smith, Kevin Smith, David Sonneborn, Allan Spivack, Rob Stone, Anne Swaim, Gilbert Thomson, Larry Trachtenberg, Benjamin Van Doren, Lance Verderame, Chet Vincent, Jane Waters, Carol Weiss, Alan Wells, Margaret Wentworth, Jim Yates, Matthew Zeitler, Adam Zorn.

## ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; CIES – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; PP – Piermont Pier; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR. See CBC codes above in introduction.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE:** Black Dirt Region 26, 28 Feb (KM,CMc,RS,JH).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Amenia 20, 27 Jan 2,7 Feb(CV,DK,AP).

**Snow Goose:** 50 Grahamsville 1 Dec; 400 Ulster 1 Jan; 1000 Saugerties 2 Dec; 330 CPP 3 Dec; 425 NYML 15 Dec; 50 NYUD 26 Dec; 5 Carmel 29 Dec; 300 Poughkeepsie 4 Jan; 200 PP 10 Jan; 600 Saugerties 19 Jan; 10,000 Black Dirt Region 26 Feb; multiple skeins moving north ~10,000 SULL 28 Feb.

**Brant:** 4 Haverstraw Bay County P 16 Dec; Kingston Point 23, 26 Dec; few all winter along Long Island Sound shore.

**BARNACLE GOOSE:** Larchmont Res 15-19,24-26 Feb (MG,OH,MBo), first county record.

**CACKLING GOOSE (R9):** 2 Wallkill R 19 Jan (MD); Larchmont Res 16,24,28 Feb (JDr,FG,TG); Stone Ridge 25 Feb (FMu); Black Dirt Region 26,27 Feb (CMc).

**Mute Swan:** 48 Purdys 19 Feb.

**Wood Duck:** Esopus Creek 15 Dec; arr Bashakill 4 Feb.

**Gadwall:** Stone Ridge 15 Dec; 4 Lake Katrine 26 Dec.

**Am. Wigeon:** 3 Stone Ridge 15 Dec; 2 Stone Ridge 16 Feb.

**N. Shoveler:** 133 NYRC 16 Dec.

**N. Pintail:** 2 Krumville 15 Dec; West Branch Res 29 Dec; Roundout Res 1 Jan; Millbrook 2,9 Jan; 9 Krumville 9 Jan; CIES 20 Jan; 2 Bashakill 21 Jan; Wurtsboro 27 Jan.

**Canvasback:** very low numbers on CBCs; max 40 PP 28 Dec.

**Redhead:** Wurtsboro 8 Dec; 9 Franklin D. Roosevelt SP 15 Dec; Stissing L 5,10,12,27 Jan, 1, 6 Feb(CV); 8 Purdys 19 Feb.

**Greater Scaup:** 2000 EGR 9 Dec.

**Lesser Scaup:** 910 EGR 11 Jan.

**Surf Scoter:** 16 Rye 23 Dec; 67 Rye 11 Jan

**White-winged Scoter:** 25 EGR 31 Dec; 20 EGR 15 Jan; 31 EGR 17 Jan; 34 Rye 4 Feb; 52 Rye 28 Feb.

**Black Scoter:** 13 EGR 15 Jan.

**Long-tailed Duck:** 349 EGR 23 Dec; 2 NYUD 26 Dec; 400 EGR 15 Jan; Kingston Point Beach 19 Jan; Neversink Res 19 Jan.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 2 Clinton 5 Dec; Livingston Manor 5 Dec; Union Vale 6 Dec.

**Ruffed Grouse:** Wittenberg Mountain 1 Jan; Cochecton 27 Jan.

**Gray Partridge:** presumed escape Millbrook 7 Jan (APo).

**Red-throated Loon:** Haverstraw Bay County P 16 Dec; 2 PP 16 Dec.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** EGR 21 Dec; Yonker 23 Dec

**Horned Grebe:** 25 Ashokan Res 16 Dec.

**Red-necked Grebe:** Ashokan Res 4 Dec (FMu); 1-2 Rye 23 Dec, 2, 11 Jan; 9 Feb; 2 Mamaroneck 23 Dec; EGR 15 Jan.

**N. Gannet:** 4 Rye 23 Dec, 11 Jan; 2 EGR 23 Dec.

**Am. Bittern:** NYUD 26 Dec.

**Great Blue Heron:** 11 NYML 15 Dec; 53 NYRC 16 Dec; lower numbers at EGR.

**Great Egret:** Wurtsboro 16 Dec (JH, ABor); New Rochelle 23 Dec, 8 Jan (FG).

**Black Vulture:** 5 Dobbs Ferry 23 Dec; 43 Ward Pound Ridge 20 Jan.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** max 44 NYRC 16 Dec; 9 NYPC 29 Dec.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 5 NYML 15 Dec.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 8-9 SGNWR 2,5 Jan; Narrowsburg 19 Jan; Millbrook 23 Jan,13 Feb; Mashomak 25 Jan; Cochecton 26 Jan; Stanfordsville 22 Feb.

**Golden Eagle:** Pine Plains 10 Jan; Clarence Fahnestock Memorial SP 21 Jan; Rio Res 22 Jan; Mashomak 25 Jan; Millbrook 5 Feb; 1-2 Storm King Mountain 12 - 28 Feb; SGNWR 14 Feb (JY); Pawling 22 Feb; Cornwall 28 Feb.

**Virginia Rail:** 3 CPP 15 Dec; MC 23 Dec.

**Sandhill Crane:** 4 Mission Land Road, Pine Island 3 Dec (JH,MZ,DK).

**Killdeer:** 2 NYCD 15 Dec; a few overwintered along the sound; arr Pearl River 5 Feb (TF).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** New Rochelle 23 Dec.

**Purple Sandpiper:** 2-7 EGR 23 Dec thru, low.

**Dunlin:** 3 MC 1,3,7,20 Dec, 5 Jan.

**Wilson's Snipe:** CPP 1 Jan; Katonah 27-29 Jan.

**Am. Woodcock:** arr 26 Feb.

**Iceland Gull:** Kingston Point 2,21 Dec, 27 Jan, 17 Feb; Beacon 9 Dec; Mohonk 9,17,23 Dec; 3 Beacon 11 Dec; EGR 24,27 Dec; Newburgh 31 Dec, 1,2,3 Jan, 13,15,17 Feb; Mohonk Mountain House 4 Feb; PP 9,10 Feb; 3 Mohonk 17 Feb; EGR 20-23 Feb.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 3 Newburgh 10 Feb; 1-2 Newburgh 13, 15 Feb.

**Glaucous Gull:** Mohonk 27 Jan, 4 Feb; Kinston Point 24 Feb.

**DOVEKIE:** Durmo Rd, New Paltz 21 Dec (J&AK, MD, AM, PS), ph.

**Razorbill:** 4 Rye 13 Dec; 2 Davenport Park, New Rochelle 18 Dec (BV,JDr); Rye 20,31 Dec, 1,3,10,15 Jan (BV, JCI); 20 Rye 23 Dec; 6 EGR 23 Dec; 3 EGR 17 Jan.

#### PIGEONS - PARROTS

**Barn Owl:** Wallkill NWR 15 Jan; SGNWR 2 Jan.

**E. Screech-Owl:** 6 CPP 15 Dec.

**Snowy Owl:** Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh 14 Dec; Fishkill 16 Dec (JS, J&ADu); Wappinger Falls 28 Dec (JCo).

**Barred Owl:** more common this season, especially south of I-287 in Westchester where they are not resident.

**Long-eared Owl:** Accord 15 Dec (NYML); MC 31 Dec; Upton L 7 Jan (Jcli); DUTC 23-27 Feb (SG).

**Short-eared Owl:** 3 SGNWR 13 Dec; 11 SGNWR 11 Jan; 7 SGNWR 23 Feb.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Freemont Center 1 Dec; Krumville 15 Dec; Fir Brook 1 Jan; Rhinebeck 8 Jan; Rochester 22 Feb; Pine Plains 27 Feb.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** Wappingers Falls, found 7 Nov continued to 5 Dec (B&AG).

**Belted Kingfisher:** 9 NYML 15 Dec.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Rhinecliff 2 Dec; 2 Wallkill 13 Dec; NYML 15 Dec; 1-2 Weston Rd, Ulster 5 Jan thru.

**Am. Kestrel:** NYPC 29 Dec.

**Merlin:** SGNWR 15 Dec, 5 Jan; James Baird SP 19 Dec; Yonkers 23 Dec; Rye 23 Dec; Kingston 2 Jan; Vassar 9 Jan; CPP 12 Jan, 3 Feb; Millbrook 20 Jan, 5 Feb; Tivoli 29 Jan.

**Monk Parakeet:** 30 Aiello P, New Rochelle 3 Dec.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**E. Phoebe:** overwintered Pine Plains 14, 23 Dec - 6 Feb (JW\_mob).

**N. Shrike:** Montgomery 15,23 Dec (B&JF, JH,BN); Waterbury Hill 7 Jan(BB,FMa); Ward Pound Ridge 20 Jan (MM); Strauss Farm 25 Feb (CV).

**Am. Crow:** low numbers on CBCs.

**Fish Crow:** NYML 15 Dec.

**Horned Lark:** 25 Mahopac NYPC 29 Dec; 120 Pine Island 30 Dec; 90 Orange Co Airport 30 Dec; 45 Woodbourne 5 Jan.

**Tree Swallow:** Rosendale 26 Feb (ABow).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** well reported, higher numbers overwintered.

**Carolina Wren:** 61 NYML 15 Dec.

**House Wren:** Yonkers 23 Dec (MBo), scarce in winter.

**Winter Wren:** 8 NYML 15 Dec; well reported, higher numbers overwintered.

**Marsh Wren:** Harrison 16 Dec; Great Vly, Ulster 20, 23 Dec; MC 23 Dec.

**E. Bluebird:** 38 CPP 3 Dec; 145 NYML 15 Dec.

**Am. Robin:** 19 NYML 15 Dec.

**Am. Pipit:** many reports, overwintered in many areas. Unusual, most normally disappear after first significant snowfall. 42 CPP 3 Dec; 1-3 MC 3,6,28 Dec, 17 Jan; 34 CPP 15 Dec; 41 PP 27 Dec; 5 Constitution Marsh 29 Dec; 1-4 Saugerties Lighthouse 31 Dec-1,2,4,6,7,12 Jan; PP 2 Jan; Red Hook 2 Jan; Goshen 5 Jan; EGR 15 Jan, 13 Feb; 7 Rockland L 17,19 Jan; 24 Montgomery 20 Jan; 31-33 CPP 2,3 Feb; 4 CIES 16 Feb; Black Dirt Region, Goshen 18 Feb.

#### LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** 2 Pine Island 30 Dec (KM,SS); Orange Co Airport 30 Dec (KM); Ossining 4 Jan (KB,MN); 1-2 Marblatown 23,24 Feb (DFe,FMu,MD); Indiana road, Goshen 28 Feb (EMi,AGi,BH).

**Snow Bunting:** 2 Mahopac NYPC 29 Dec; 2 Goshen 30 Dec; 7 Pine Island 30 Dec; 10 Orange Co Airport 30 Dec; 60 Rhinebeck 30 Dec; 60 Woodbourne 5 Jan; 43 SGNWR 5 Jan; 98 Beechwoods 5 Jan; few Marblatown 24 Feb.

**Ovenbird:** Woodcrest Bruderhof Community, Rifton 15-31 Dec (GTh, NYML), ph.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** MC 14-31 Dec, 5,6,8,9,29 Jan.

**Nashville Warbler:** MC 14 Dec (BV), ph.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** MC 14-25 Dec (TB).

**Magnolia Warbler:** Churchland Rd, Saugerties (ASp), rare in winter.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** MC 4, 5 Dec (TB), State record late, 1<sup>st</sup> Dec WEST record.

**Palm Warbler:** ByLane Farm, Katonah 18 Dec (TJ); PUTN 1 Jan.

**Pine Warbler:** Rock Hill 17,18 Feb (VF,JH).

**Wilson's Warbler:** Piermont 14-16 Dec (NYRC).

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** low numbers on CBCs.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Rockefeller SP 10, 24 Dec, 14 Jan (EE,AW); 2 Hastings-on-Hudson 23 Dec; NYUD 26 Dec; MC 5 Jan (BV).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** MC 9 Dec - 3 Feb, first winter record for WEST (BS, mob); Ward Pound Ridge 24 Dec (DH).

**Field Sparrow:** 28 Sprain Ridge P, Yonkers 23 Dec.

**Vesper Sparrow:** Pine I 17 Feb; 1-2 Wallkill River NWR 17-18 Feb.

**Savannah Sparrow:** 8 Mahopac NYPC 29 Dec.

**Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow:** CPP 26 Dec, 12 Jan (KB,MBo).

**Song Sparrow:** 180 NYML 15 Dec.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** CPP 12 Dec; NYCD 15 Dec; 4 Orange County Airport 2 Jan; 2 LaGrange 4 Jan; 3 Pleasant Valley 8,9 Jan; 4 Amenia 25 Jan; 2 Wingdale 12 Feb; La Grange 19 Feb.

**Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco:** Stanford 11 Feb (DK), ph

**E. Meadowlark:** CPP 12,18 Dec; 20 SGNWR 23 Dec; 3 Union Vale 8 Jan; 3 CPP 3,6,15 Feb; 13 SGNWR 23 Feb.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 3 Rockland L SP 26 Dec.

**Red Crossbill:** few NYML 15 Dec.

**White-winged Crossbill:** 15 MC 14 Dec; 2 NYML 15 Dec; 20 MC 24; 17 MC 26 Dec; 8 Roundout Res 1 Jan; 9 Grahamsville 1 Jan; 4 Fir Brook 6 Jan; 2 Pleasant Valley 26 Jan; 15 MC 28 Feb.

**Com. Redpoll:** many reports from the northern half of Region 9. MC 6,11,12,28 Dec; 3 Wappingers 9 Dec; 30 Livingston Manor 17 Dec; ByLane Farm, Katonah 25 Dec 4,5 Jan; 15 NYML 15 Dec; 14 NYCD 15 Dec; 20 Milan 28 Dec; Fahnstock SP 29 Dec; Katonah 1 Jan; 100 Clinton 1 Jan; Wappinger Falls 1 Jan; 30 Neversink 1 Jan; Westmoreland Sanctuary 3 Jan; Westmoreland Sanc 5 Jan; 50 Tuxedo 5,7 Jan; 100 Claryville 5 Jan; 60 Ellenville 5 Jan; 200 Bashakill 7 Jan; 100 SGNWR early Jan; 6 Barryville 19 Jan.

**HOARY REDPOLL:** 1-3, ph at feeder Bashakill 31 Dec-27 Feb (SB,JH,LV,ABor); Millbrook 3,6 Jan (AP).

**Pine Siskin:** MC 1-11 Dec; 22 Wurtsboro 5 Dec; 23 Bashakill 7 Dec; 5 Cold Spring 29 Dec; 9 White L 5 Jan; Millbrook 27 Jan.

**Evening Grosbeak:** Claryville 5 Dec (CB); Parksville 16 Dec (SRa); Kingston 21 Dec FMu, SC).

#### CORRECTIONS – ADDITIONS

**Orchard Oriole:** first yr m Chappaqua 21 Oct (ASw), ph.

## REGION 10 - MARINE

**Michael McBrien**

3 S. William Street, East Patchogue, NY 11772

mcb3mb@verizon.net

This winter in Region 10 began milder than usual, with temperatures in Central Park 4.9° and 2.5° F above normal in December and January respectively. Similarly, Islip recorded temperatures 4.0° and 2.5° above normal in these months. Rainfall amounts in Central Park during December and January were fairly average, with above average amounts in Islip during December (2.06") and below average amounts in January (-1.42"). Additionally, snowfall was extremely scarce, with only 1.9" recorded during the first two months of this period. Winter arrived in force in February with temperatures 1.4° below average. A blizzard trekked across the Northeast on 8-9 February, dumping 11.4" in Central Park. The largest amounts were recorded in central Suffolk, with the island-wide maximum being 33.5" recorded in Medford. Monthly snowfall totals for February were 12.2" and 31.4" in Central Park and Islip, respectively.

Following the overall development of the weather over the course of the season, numerous Neotropical migrants lingered well into the months of December and January. As seems to be the norm in recent winters, species such as Ovenbird were reported from city parks into January. Notable sightings included a Magnolia Warbler in the Wave Hill section of the Bronx during the Christmas Count, a Northern Waterthrush and a Wilson's Warbler lingering well into January at Alley Pond Park, and a Prairie Warbler staying into mid-January at Pelham Bay Park. Six Orange-crowned Warblers, fourteen Common Yellowthroats, and six Yellow-breasted Chats were reported island-wide, with very few remaining into the new year. Overall, eighteen species of warblers, as well as Rufous Hummingbird, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Indigo Bunting, were recorded across the Region, with most reports trailing off by the first week of January. Two exceptions to this observation were a Black-and-white Warbler seen on 27 January in an East Patchogue yard and a Blackpoll Warbler photographed at Jones Beach West End on 16 February. These sightings are notable in the fact that both these birds survived the freezes in late January (and the early February blizzard for the Blackpoll). With respect to these reports, the thought of what other species may have been lingering in secluded haunts in the less-birded locations leaves many possibilities to the imagination.

Continuing the trend from recent years, two **Barnacle Geese** were recorded—one in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx and the other from southwestern Suffolk. Two **Ross's Geese** were also seen. Large numbers of Greater White-fronted and Cackling Geese were reported, with the seasonal total being 19 and 18, respectively. A "**Black**" **Brant** was present in Marine Park,

Brooklyn in early December. On an interesting note, four different hybrid combinations were reported over the winter.

Above average numbers of Eurasian waterfowl were reported. A grand total of nineteen **Eurasian Wigeon** were seen, with six coming from the West Sayville Golf Course alone. In addition, at least two, possibly three, **Tufted Ducks** were reported from four different locations across the north-central region of Long Island, an area where this species has been seen in recent winters. On the complete opposite end of the spectrum, scoters were notably scarce, especially around Montauk Point, where in past winters it was not unusual to see upwards of one hundred thousand seaducks. A unique representation of the profound scarcity of scoters is the fact that the highest numbers of all three scoters were recorded at Smith's Point in central Suffolk, not on the South Fork. Additional trends noted were the continued decline of Canvasback across the Region, which is accompanied by the inverse climb of Redhead numbers.

Raptors made an interesting appearance this winter as well. Along the lines of the finch irruption that will be discussed later, several **Northern Goshawks** were seen, with four being recorded on the South Nassau Christmas Count. Fifteen Red-shouldered Hawks were reported. For the second year in a row, a **Broad-winged Hawk** was recorded on the Staten Island Christmas Count. On this count, the season's only **Osprey** was also seen; only the second record for that count area, with the first being seen in 1954.

A **Black Rail** was seen for the second consecutive year on the Captree Christmas Count. A **Purple Gallinule** was an interesting addition to this winter's list of birds, especially considering the fact that it was rescued by fishermen over 70 miles offshore. It should be noted that conflicting reports exist regarding the exact location where the bird was found—it may not have been picked up in New York waters. [see *Notes and Comments*, elsewhere in this issue—Ed.] An **American Golden Plover** was found at Heckscher State Park just prior to Captree Count; it did make it to count day but was not seen thereafter. Semipalmated and Piping Plovers were reported again from the south shore of Nassau County this winter, with two other reports of the former coming from eastern Suffolk County. In addition, after not being recorded for the past several winters, two Willets were reported this season, with one even being reported into February. Overall, Purple Sandpipers were somewhat scarce and often difficult to find at several traditional locations.

Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported in small numbers, even from well offshore. Seven Black-headed Gulls were seen. However, Little Gull was unreported this season. Iceland and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were well reported; two separate Lesser Black-backed x Herring Gull hybrids were seen.

There were numerous reports of interesting alcids and seabirds coinciding with a burst of strong easterlies in mid-December. Innumerable Razorbill and Dovekies were seen, especially from the South Fork. Notable were reports of a **Parasitic Jaeger**, from Robert Moses State Park during the Captree Count, as

well as a **Common Murre** and a **Black Guillemot** from Montauk on 17 December. Offshore, 437 Dovekies, 42 **Atlantic Puffins**, and five **Northern Fulmars** were seen on a trip out of Shinnecock Inlet in mid-January. Additionally, 107 Common Murres were recorded from a NOAA vessel within several miles of the south shore in mid-February. This species was present again early this winter in the Long Island Sound as seen from the Orient to New London ferry.

A **White-winged Dove** appeared briefly in a Montauk yard in early December. A few Snowy Owls were reported. Multiple Barred and Northern Saw-Whet Owls were seen mainly in city parks, with some continuing through the period. Only one report was received of a Long-eared Owl—an individual seen on Shelter Island. A **Rufous Hummingbird** continuing from the fall at a feeder in Watermill attempted to overwinter, but was last reported on 6 January.

Likely the highlight of the winter season was a gray morph, sub-adult **Gyr Falcon** discovered by Patricia Lindsay and Holly Wilson at Gilgo Beach on 17 February. This individual was very accommodating as it stayed into March, giving numerous birders, including many from out-of-state, a chance to see this arctic rarity.

Common Ravens made a good showing this season. They were reported from every county, a testament to their growing presence throughout the Region. Almost all reports were of pairs, with returning nesters in Hampton Bays and a pair that appears to be beginning to nest in Shoreham.

In addition to the lingering warblers discussed above, another profound highlight was the continuing **Virginia's Warbler**, originally found by Eric Miller this past fall at Alley Pond Park. Pending NYSARC acceptance, this represents the first New York State record. Another addition in the rare warbler category, an "**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, was seen again this December at Sunken Meadow State Park.

American Tree Sparrows made a widespread appearance; very large numbers of this recently declining species were reported at traditional locations across the Region. **Clay-colored Sparrows** continued their trend of rapidly increasing presence in New York State, with seven individuals recorded; three were present at a farm in East Hampton alone. Vesper Sparrows overwintered along Hulse Landing Road in Calverton; as many as ten were recorded here. *Ammodramus* sparrows also put in an appearance, with all three marsh sparrows being seen. Corey Finger found a **Le Conte's Sparrow** at the Edgemere Landfill in Brooklyn on 16 December. He also found a **Grasshopper Sparrow** at Jones Beach West End immediately following the blizzard in early February. Four individual Lincoln's Sparrows were reported during the winter, with one reported directly after the blizzard. A fantastic record of a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Forest Park on 21 December is one of the several records of this species making it into December.

Up to three **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were present with the enormous, but nomadic, flocks of icterids wintering around the agricultural fields in the

Calverton-Riverhead area. Multiple large flocks of Boat-tailed Grackles were reported from the south shore of Nassau County as well as from Smith's Point in Suffolk. Notable for its location was a single individual recorded on the Montauk Christmas Count in the marsh on Gardiner's Island. Even more impressive was a roosting flock of nearly 600 birds on the Queens mainland.

One of the periodic highlights of winter birding is finch irruptions, and this winter was no different. After a strong presence during the fall irruptions, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks were fairly scarce in the Region. On the other hand, Common Redpolls were evident in most traditional locations for irruptions years; a few continued through the period at feeders in Suffolk. Crossbills also put in an impressive appearance. Large flocks continued from the late fall and remained until mid January. Thereafter, the overall number of reports began trailing off towards the close of the period. As we optimistically look forward to the coming spring with thoughts of warmer weather and new arrivals, the prospect of crossbills staying to breed in the secluded reaches of the Pine Barrens seems to be a realistic possibility, with reports of both species late in the period coming from inland locations of Suffolk County.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Richard Aracil, Seth Ausabel, Andrew Baksh, Rob Bate, Debbie Becker, Gail Benson, *Bobby Berlinger*, Shawn Billerman, Shane Blodgett (SBl), Brent Bomkamp (BBo), Tom Burke, Vicki Bustamante, Ben Cacace, Chase Cammarota, Anthony Ciancimino (ACi), Anthony Collerton, Peter Dorosh, Jacob Drucker, Ken & Sue Feustel, Corey Finger, *Tom Fiore*, Howie Fischer, Karen Fung, Doug Futuyma, Edward Gaillard, Arie Gilbert (AGi), John Gluth (JGl), Doug Gochfeld, Menachem Goldstein, Holly Goyert, Issac Grant, Robert Grover, Joe Guinta, Andy Guthrie, Mike Higgiston, Joel Horman, Sam Janazzo, Rob Jett, Tom Johnson, Pat Jones, Richard Kaskan (RKa), Rich Kelly, Marie King, David Klauber, *Robert J. Kurtz (RJK)*, David LaMagna, Mary Laura Lamont (MLL), Patricia J. Lindsay (PJL), Heydi Lopes, Lewis Lolya, Michael McBrien, Hugh McGuinness, Eric Miller, Shaibal S. Mitra (SSM), Mary Normandia, Peter M. Polshek (PMP), Peter Priolo (PPr), Joan Quinlan, Jeff Ritter, Derek Rogers, Bobby Rossetti, Mike Shanley (MS), Steve Schellenger, Mike Scheibel (MSch), Sy Schiff (SyS), Eileen Schwinn, Peter Scully Jr., John Sepenoski (JSep), John Shemilt, Carl Starace, Gary Straus, Diana Teta, Dianne Taggart, Benjamin Van Doren, Steve Walter, Gabriel Willow, Alex Wilson (AW), Angus C. Wilson; Holly Wilson; Seth Wollney, Byron Young. *Italics*: sent end of season report.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AMNH – American Museum of Natural History, NEWY; APP – Alley Pond Pk, QUEE; BLSP – Belmont Lake SP, SUFF; BBYC – Bellport Bay Yacht Club, SUFF; BPt – Breezy Point, QUEE; BBG – Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, KING; BP – Bryant Pk, NEWY; CVP – Calvert Vaux Pk, KING; CCP – Cupsgogon CP, SUFF; CSP – Caumsett SP, SUFF; COR – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; CP – Central Pk, NEWY; CRSP – Connetquot River SP, SUFF; CVP – Calvert Vaux Pk, KING; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; HSP – Hecksher SP, SUFF; HP – Hook Pond, East Hampton, SUFF;

JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; JBWE – Jones Beach West End, NASS; KP – Kissena Pk, QUEE; MI – Montauk Inlet, SUFF; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; NYBG – New York Botanical Garden, BRON; BPB – Pelham Bay Pk, BRON; PL – Pt. Lookout, NASS; PP – Prospect Pk, KING; Shinn – Shinnecock Bay & Inlet; SPCP – Smith Point CP, SUFF; SMSP – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; VCP – Van Cortlandt Pk, BRON.

CBC codes: BKCC – Brooklyn; BWCC – Bronx-Westchester (only Region 10 highlights); CPCC – Captree; CCCC – Central Suffolk; MKCC – Montauk; NNCC – Northern Nassau; ORCC – Orient; QUCC – Queens; QWCC – Quogue Watermill; SACC – Sagaponack; SICC – Staten Island; STCC – Smithtown; SNCC – Southern Nassau.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 5-6 Further Ln, Easthampton, SUFF thru 10 Jan; 4 SMPS 16-27 Dec (AG); 1-2 St Charles Cem & vic, SUFF & BLSP 17 Dec – 3 Feb (DR, mob); Southaven CP & vic, SUFF thru 19 Jan (DR); Great River, SUFF 17-19 Jan (DR); 2 Blydenburgh, SUFF 28-29 Jan (PS), Riverhead, SUFF 2 Feb (PPr); 2 Huntington, SUFF 7 Feb (C Turner, fide SA).  
**Snow Goose:** max 3500 Edgemere Landfill, QUEE 6 Jan (CF).

**ROSS'S GOOSE (R10):** ad Riverhead 27 Jan thru (MMcB, mob); ad Great River 2-6 Feb (DR, mob).

**Ross's x Snow Goose:** JBWE 1-5 Dec (D LaMagna, MMcB), present earlier in late Nov (T. Roche).

**"Black" Brant:** Marine Park, KING 10 Dec (DG).

**Brant x Snow Goose:** 2 Carnarsie Pier, KING 5 Dec (SBI, DG).

**BARNACLE GOOSE:** VCP, thru 5 Jan; St. Charles Cem & vic, & BLSP 15 Dec – 13 Feb (CC, DR, mob).

**Cackling Goose:** Deep Hollow, Montauk, SUFF, thru 5 Jan; 1-2 VCP thru 26 Jan; CSP 15 Dec (K&SF); 2 Miller's Pond, Smithtown, SUFF 23-24 Dec (BBo, DR); HP 23-30 Dec (ACW, mob); 3 SMCC 27 Dec; 1 Watermill, SUFF 1 Jan (PPr); 1-2 St Charles Cem & vic 3-29 Jan (DR, mob); 3 Eastport Pd, SUFF 6 Jan (MMcB); 2 Blydenburgh 28 Jan (PS); Riverhead 1-3 Feb (RA).

**Greater White-fronted x Canada Goose:** Bridgehampton 1 Jan (ACW).

**Snow x Canada Goose:** Easthampton 23 Dec (ACW).

**Mute Swan:** max 118 Sheepshead Bay, KING 23 Dec (DG).

**Trumpeter Swan:** 1-2 Upper Lk, Yaphank, SUFF, early Jan -2 Feb; returning pr, one shot on 11 Jan.

**Tundra Swan:** flyby, JBWE 31 Dec (RJK, MSch, *et al*), only report.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** St. John's Pond, Cold Spring Harbor, SUFF 3 Dec, 13-21 Jan (DR, DK, mob); Blydenburgh 4 Dec (PS); Rita's Stables & Deep Hollow, Montauk, SUFF 9-30 Dec (SA, CF, mob); Southaven CP thru 12 Dec; Glen Cove, NASS 12 Dec - 1 Feb (MN, mob); 2 Massapequa, NASS thru; Tottenville, RICH 15 Dec thru, returning ind (ACi, mob); Marine Pk 15 Dec; Gardiner's Is, SUFF 15 Dec (ACW); W. Sayville GC, SUFF 1m on 21 Dec, 4 (1 ad m, 1 1<sup>st</sup> cy m, 2 f) on 1 Jan, 6 (3 ad m, 1 1<sup>st</sup> cy m, 2 f) on 20 Jan thru (DR, MMcB, mob); Plum Is, SUFF 18 Jan (J.Sep); Mattituck, SUFF thru 2 Feb (J.Sep); f, FBF 10 Feb (HL, RJ).

**Eurasian x Am. Wigeon:** Massapequa 14-29 Dec (SB, mob).

**Blue-winged Teal:** CRSP 16 Dec.

**N. Shoveler:** 45 Hook Ck, NASS 29 Dec (RJK); 185 PP 1 Jan (PD); 120 Capri L, SUFF 24 Feb (ACW).

**N. Pintail:** 34 Old Place Ck, RICH 20 Jan (MK), max away from Tobay Pd.

**"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal:** 1-2 Smith Pond, Hempstead, NASS, returning from last yr 29 Dec thru.

**Canvasback:** scattered reports of < 20 ind; max 33 Eastport Pd 6 Jan (MMcB).

**Redhead:** 26 Baisley Pond Pk 27 Jan (AB).

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 213 Blydenburgh 23 Dec (BBo).

**TUFTED DUCK:** Huntington Harbor 17 Dec - 3 Jan (BBo, mob); St. John's Pd 13-20 Jan, 11 Feb (DK, mob); Blydenburgh 1 Feb thru (PSc, mob); Hecksher Pk, Huntington 19 Feb thru, likely same ind as Huntington Harbor bird (C Turner fide SA, mob).

**King Eider:** f Glen Cove 20 Dec- 22 Feb, returning from last year (MN, BR); PL 14 Jan (PJ); MP 22 Jan, 23 Feb (RA, ACW).

**Com. Eider:** max 203 Shinn 20 Jan (CS).



**Harlequin Duck:** arr 3 PL 14 Dec (SB); 3-5 PL & vic (PJ, SA, RK, ACW) until 6 on 12 Feb thru; 2 MP & Camp Hero 9 Jan, 14 Feb (SS, F Quevedo, B Blaisdell).

**Surf Scoter:** low numbers overall; max 300 MP 15 Dec (AG).

**White-winged Scoter:** low numbers overall; max 201MP 15 Dec (BVD); only larger report 1138 SMCP 27 Dec (DG, *et al.*).

**Black Scoter:** low numbers overall; max 750 MP 15 Dec (AG); only larger report 8400 SMCP 27 Dec (DG, *et al.*).

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 2900 Manhattan Beach, KING 27 Dec (SBI).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** arr JBWR 15 Dec-18 Jan, returning ind (DG, *et al.*); Cedar Pt CP, Easthampton 19 Dec (AC); 2, m& f L Montauk 2 Jan - 7 Feb (PMP, mob); f Fire Island Inlet, SUFF 16 Feb thru (SSM, mob).

**Ruddy Duck:** missed in JBWR on BKCC 15 Dec.

**N. Bobwhite:** Mastic, SUFF 1 Feb (PPr); 6 Northville, SUFF 7 Feb (JSep).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 5 KP 14 Dec (AB); 9 Fisher's Island, SUFF 18 Feb (N Pattarachanakarn).

**Wild Turkey:** 5 PBP 8 Dec (AB); 2 CPCC 16 Dec.

**Red-throated Loon:** 137 NNCC 15 Dec, record count (prev 51).

**PACIFIC LOON:** East Moriches, SUFF, thru 14 Dec; MP 22 Dec (ACW).

**Com. Loon:** 231 NNCC 15 Dec, record count (prev 59).

**Red-necked Grebe:** 4 MKCC 15 Dec; Old Field Pt, SUFF 18-24 Dec (PS); Setauket, SUFF 20 Dec (AGi); PBP 4 Jan, 11 Feb (RA); 2 Shinn 13 Jan (ACW, JS); SPCP, on bay 21 Jan (DR); Moriches Bay, SUFF 21 Jan (DR); Captree 18 Feb thru.

**WESTERN GREBE:** Montauk 9 Jan (B Hollweg, SS, mob); Shinn 13-15 Jan (TB, GB, mob).

**N. Fulmar:** 5 offshore Shinn 13 Jan (ACW, JS).

**N. Gannet:** max 712 Ft. Tilden, QUEE 5 Dec (DG).

**Great Cormorant:** max 22 Bpt 3 Jan (SBI); imm Eastport Pd 4-6 Jan (AC, MMcB), unusual freshwater location.

**AM. WHITE PELICAN:** JBWR 15 Dec (DG, *et al.*); CSP 15 Dec (K&SF); Powell's Cove, QUEE 16 Dec, poss same ind as at CSP (D Schulman).

**Brown Pelican:** MI 1-9 Dec (AC, mob), ph revealed it was banded.

**Am. Bittern:** SMSP 4 Dec (P. Reisfield, fide AB); JBWR 8, 15 Dec (T Johansson, SW); 1-4 Dune Rd, Shinn 31 Dec - 14 Feb; 3 St. John's Pd 2 Jan (BF); Marine Pk 3 Feb (RB); Gilgo 24 Feb thru (RJK, DG, mob).

**Great Egret:** 12 SMSP 26 Dec (BBo); 16 SMCC 27 Dec.

**Snowy Egret:** Cow Meadow, NASS 29 Dec (MMcB).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 39 Cammann's Pond, NASS 2 Dec (BB).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 2 juvs Cammann's Pd 11 Dec (DG), 1 thru 29 Dec (MMcB).

**Black Vulture:** max 5 COR 20 Dec (ACi).

**Turkey Vulture:** numerous reports, mainly singles, from all counties; max 14 COR 19 Jan (ACi).

## HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** COR 15 Dec (ACi), late.

**Bald Eagle:** Oyster Bay, NASS 12 Dec (MN); JBWR 15 Dec 3 Jan; SMSP 26 Dec (BBo); SNCC 29 Dec; RMSP Causeway 1 Jan (TB, GB, AB); COR 1-4 Jan; Plum Beach, KING 18 Jan (DG); Connetquot 4 Feb (JQ).

**N. Goshawk:** JBWE 29 Dec - 23 Jan, 19 Feb (mob); 4 SNCC 29 Dec; Flushing, QUEE 1 Feb (K.Allaire).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** NNCC 15 Dec; Mt. Sinai, SUFF 24 Dec (JH); SNCC 29 Dec; JBWR 30 Dec (SS); ad JBWE 2 Jan (SyS); KP 6 Jan (ACW); imm JBWE 12 Jan (DR, CC); Massapequa 18 Jan (K&SF); Sayville 18 Jan (AC); COR 6 Jan - 26 Feb (ACi); CVP 21-26 Jan (AW); Southard's Pd, SUFF 23 Jan (K&SF); SMSP 27 Jan (K&SF); Bronx Zoo, BRON 29 Jan, 13 Feb (T. Olson); FBF & vic 2-20 Feb (HL, RJ, DG); Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF 14 Feb (K&SF).

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** SICC 15 Dec.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 2 BKCC 15 Dec; 2 Gardiner's I 15 Dec; Tobay, NASS 29-31 Dec; Fresh Kills P, RICH 5-6 Jan (J. Stetson, T. St. Pierre, mob); Meadowbrook Pkwy, NASS 7-9 Jan (PJ, SJ); Calverton 8 Jan (AC); Mashomack 9 Jan (MSch); Northville 18 Feb (RA).

**BLACK RAIL:** CPCC 16 Dec (R Grover).

**PURPLE GALLINULE:** offshore, rescued by fishermen (fide D Taggart, ph), *intro*.

**Am. Golden Plover:** HSP 12-16 Dec (K&SF, mob), late.

**Semipalmated Plover:** BKCC 15 Dec; Shelter Island 29 Dec (MSch); 9 SNCC 29 Dec; 6 PL 12

Jan (LL, *et al*); Shinn 3, 12 Feb (L Galardi, L Ormand).

**Piping Plover:** 2 PL 12 Jan (LL, *et al*).

**Killdeer:** 100 NNCC 15 Dec.

**Am. Oystercatcher:** Old Field Pt 25 Dec (PS); 21 JBWE 16 Feb.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Huntington Harbor 22-23 Dec (TB, GB, AB, *et al*).

**Willet:** “inornatus” JBWE 15 Dec (eBird, ph); Plum Beach 18 Jan (DG).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Plum Beach 18 Jan (DG); max 155 Springs, SUFF 18 Feb (ACW).

**Red Knot:** 5 JBWE 27 Dec (BB).

**Purple Sandpiper:** reported in low numbers overall; max 23 PBP 16 Feb (AB).

**Dunlin:** max 1400 Gilgo 1 Jan (TB, GB, AB).

**Wilson’s Snipe:** Easthampton 7 Jan (PMP); Massapequa 10-11 Jan (JG, AGi); APP 9-18 Jan; 5 Mastic 1 Feb (PPr); 6 Easthampton 2 Feb (AB); max 9 Mastic 18 Feb (PPr).

**Am. Woodcock:** Northville 3 Dec (MLL); Midtown, NEWY 27 Dec (K Michael).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 12 MP 9 Dec, all ads (SA, CF); 13 MP 17 Dec (AG); 19 RMSP 16 Dec; 8 MP 21 Dec (PMP); 9 offshore Shinn 13 Jan (ACW, JS); 16 MP 8 Feb (DR, PMP).

**Bonaparte’s Gull:** max 334 Gravesend Bay, KING 23 Dec (DG).

**Black-headed Gull:** 1-2 Lk Montauk 1 Dec – 7 Feb (AC); 1-2 Setauket 8-22 Dec, imm later joined by an ad (S. Burch, mob); ad Further Lane, Easthampton 21 Dec (PMP); Gravesend Bay 22 Dec (SBI); CP 30 Jan, 19-26 Feb (K Chaya, fide K Fung, mob).

**Little Gull:** no reports.

**Laughing Gull:** imm, Eastport Pond 6 Jan (MMcB, JG).

**CALIFORNIA GULL:** apparent ad, West Sayville 16 Dec (MMcB, ph), identification pending review.

**Iceland Gull:** arr 1-2 MI 1 Dec thru (AC, mob), 1 MP 1 Dec (K&SF); reported from NASS, NEWY, RICH, and SUFF; at least 20 ind.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** returning ad Napeague thru; ad Huntington Harbor 23 Dec; 2<sup>nd</sup> w Old Field Pt 25 Dec (PS); Long Beach, NASS 26 Dec (SA, BR); COR 28 Dec (ACi); Randall’s Is 30 -31 Dec (BC); 2-3 ad Montauk 5 Jan (DR, MMcB, TB, *et al*); Arden Ave, RICH 5 Jan thru (ACi).

**Lesser Black-backed x Herring Gull:** 3<sup>rd</sup> yr Long Beach 26 Dec-27 Jan (SA, BR); ad BBYC 28 Dec (MMcB).

**Glaucous Gull:** MP 22 Dec (ACW); BBYC 28 Dec (MMcB); HP 7-10 Jan (PMP); Moriches

Bay 21 Jan (L Stocker, DR); Long Beach 5-7 Feb (GS); JBWE 11 Feb (R Proniewych, mob).

**Black Skimmer:** 2-4 Coney Island Ck & vic mid-Dec - 15 Jan (SBI, DG, mob).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** RMSP 16 Dec.

**Dovekie:** MI 5 Dec (AC), deceased; 6 MP 14 Dec (HM); 58 MKCC 15 Dec; 6 RMSP 16 Dec; 1 Atlantic Beach, QUEE (SA, CF) 16 Dec; 2 MP 17 Dec (AG); 4 MP 21 Dec (PMP); 21 Gravesend Bay 21 Dec (DG); 2 Coney Island 21 Dec (DG); 2 Coney Island 22 Dec (HL, RJ), 1 Huntington Harbor 22 Dec (TB, GB, AB); 1 MP 22 Dec (ACW); MP 23 Dec (M Rymkiewicz); Old Field Pt 25 Dec (PS); 2 MP 4 Jan (A Hale); MP 12 Jan (JGI, *et al*); 437 offshore Shinn 13 Jan (ACW, JS); MP 19 Jan (AC); 1-2 MP 20 Jan (A Block), 1 MP 31 Jan (PMP); Rockaways, QUEE 7 Feb (IG).

**COMMON MURRE:** 1+ Orient - New London ferry – NY waters, 16 Dec – 5 Jan (N Bonomo, F Mantlik, mob); MP 17 Dec (AG); 107+ offshore LI (24 mi off Jones In, NASS – 12 mi off Sagaponack, SUFF) 14 Feb (TJ, HG).

**THICK-BILLED MURRE:** Dead Horse Bay & vic 13-15 Jan (RJ, HL, mob); JBWE 13 Jan (PD, *et al*); Lemon Ck Marina, RICH 28 Feb (SWo, J Stetson).

**Razorbill:** reports from all counties except NEWY; large reports in Dec, lower numbers after New Year; max 580 MKCC 15 Dec; max in LI Sound - 7 Old Field Pt 18 Dec (PS); 33 SMCC 27 Dec.

**Black Guillemot:** MP 17 Dec (AG).

**ATLANTIC PUFFIN:** 42 offshore Shinn 13 Jan (ACW, JS); offshore South Fork 14 Feb (TJ, HG).

## PIGEONS - PARROTS

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** E Lake Dr, Montauk 4 Dec (VB).

**Barn Owl:** 1-2 JBWR thru; COR 31 Dec, 31 Jan (ACi); Fisher’s Island 18 Feb (N Pattarachanakam).

**Great Horned Owl:** multiple reports; JBWE 2-3 Jan (K&SF, RJK), unusual location; prs at APP, NYBG, KP, Northville, etc.

**Snowy Owl:** Shelter Island, SUFF 4 Dec (O Birol); Hick’s Island, Napeague, SUFF 8 Dec – 6 Feb (JG, mob); JBWR 16 – 17 Jan (AB, mob); JBWE 20 -26 Jan (G Prelich, mob).

**Barred Owl:** 1-3 CP thru 9 Jan (mob); 1-2 NYBG 2 Dec – 13 Jan (DB); max 5 PBP 8 Dec, 1-4 thru 15 Feb (AB, mob).

**Long-eared Owl:** Mashomack 28 Jan (MSch), only report.

**Short-eared Owl:** MKCC 15 Dec; 2 Edgemere Landfill 16 Dec (SA, CF); JBWE 31 Dec (JGI); Brookhaven 6 Jan (MMcB).

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 1-2 CP thru (mob); 2 BKCC 15 Dec; MKCC 15 Dec; Upper East Side, NEWY 23-24 Dec (fide BC); PBP mid Dec – 12 Jan; 2 Forest Pk, QUEE 29 Dec (AB); Williamsburg, KING 8 Jan (fide AC); Roslyn 19 Jan (BF).

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** Watermill thru 6 Jan (JS).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Cold Spring Harbor 23 Dec (L Scacchetti).

**Hairy Woodpecker:** 13 MKCC 15 Dec.

**Am. Kestrel:** KP 10 Dec (AB); Easthampton 1-9 Jan (AC); Shinn 2 Feb (MMcB); Union Sq Pk, NEWY 13 Feb (DB); Central Islip, SUFF 26 Feb (BB).

**Merlin:** sev reports, most from Calverton & South Fork.

**GYRFALCON:** Gilgo 17 Feb thru (PJJ, HW, mob).

**Monk Parakeet:** 14 Cammann's Pond 2 Dec (BB); 11 SNCC 29 Dec; 18-34 Old Howard Beach, QUEE 16 Dec - 16 Feb.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**E. Phoebe:** Lloyd Harbor, SUFF 15 Dec (J&B Platt, K&SF); Montauk 30 Dec (L Swenson, D Taggart).

**Fish Crow:** "notable numbers moving N," Central Islip 13 Feb (BB).

**Com. Raven:** 2 APP 2 Dec (AB); 2 Jericho, NASS 5 Dec (MN); 2 PBP & vic 7 Dec – 11 Feb (RA); 2 Edgewood Preserve 16 Dec; 2 Hampton Bays, SUFF, returning nesters 7 Jan thru (MH, AC); 2 COR 22 Jan (ACi); 2 Rocky Pt, SUFF 26 Jan (RKA); 2 APP 27 Jan (AB); 2 CP 27 Jan (A Farnsworth); Greenwood Cem, KING 27 Jan, 10 Feb (M Willis, mob); 2 Central Islip 29 Jan, cont from fall (BB); 2 PP 30 Jan (M Willis); 2 Shoreham Power Plant, SUFF, nesting 11 Feb (D Heglund).

**Tree Swallow:** multiples attempting to overwinter at JBWE & COR, until mid Jan; max 17 COR 23 Dec (ACi); 17 JBWE 28 Dec (K&SF).

**CAVE SWALLOW:** Camp Hero, Montauk 9 Dec (SA, CF); BKCC 15 Dec.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** 4 JBWE 3-5 Dec (SyS).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 168 MKCC 15 Dec.

**House Wren:** 1-2 KP 3 Dec – 7 Jan (EM, AB, mob); 1 COR 12-14 Dec (ACi); NNCC 15 Dec.

**Winter Wren:** 27 SMCC 27 Dec.

**Marsh Wren:** Massapequa 29 Dec – 1 Jan; JBWR 13 Jan (AB); 2 Bay Shore, SUFF 17 Jan (DR).

**Am. Robin:** 760 MP, coming in off Block Is Sound at dawn 5 Jan (MMcB); "notable numbers moving N," Central Islip 13 Feb (BB).

**Am. Pipit:** 12-13 Northville 23-27 Jan (RA); max 109 Northville 27 Jan (MMcB).

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** BKCC 15 Dec; JBWE 26 Dec (fide K&SF); HSP 31 Dec – 1 Jan (K&SF); VCP 1 Jan (AB); CVP 2 Jan (SBI); Great Kills Pk 4 Jan (Swo, IG); JBWE 5 Jan – 10 Feb (SB, mob); 2 St. Charles Cem 27 Jan (SW).

**Ovenbird:** BP 17 Dec – 7 Jan (EG, JD); AMNH 10 Jan (M Gavin).

**N. Waterthrush:** APP 4, 28-29 Dec, 18 Jan (EM, AB).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** East Patchogue, SUFF 27 Jan (D Teta).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** KP 3 Dec – 18 Jan (EM, mob); Flushing Meadow Corona Pk, QUEE 6 Dec (AB); Marine Pk 9 Dec – 3 Jan (HL); BKCC 15 Dec; MKCC 15 Dec; PBP 23 Dec (AB, *et al*); Glen Cove 8 Jan (SS).

**Nashville Warbler:** BBG 12 Dec, poss cont from late Nov (DG); CVP 14-15 Dec (AW); NNCC 15 Dec; nr PP 9 Jan (DG); Eastport 4 Jan (AC).

**VIRGINIA'S WARBLER:** APP thru 3 Dec, 1<sup>st</sup> State record pending NYSARC acceptance.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** COR 2-26 Dec (ACi); APP 2-4 Dec (AB, EM); Union Square Pk, NEWY 10 Dec – 9 Jan (A Deutsch); 1-2 JBWR 15 Dec (EM, JR); Montauk 15 Dec (SSM, PJJ); HSP 16 Dec (DR); KP 16 Dec; 4 SMCC 27 Dec; Baldwin 29 Dec (SSM, PJJ, HW); Eastport 4 Jan (AC).

**Cape May Warbler:** St. George, RICH 7-23 Dec (IG).

**Magnolia Warbler:** Wave Hill, BRON 23 Dec (TF, K Wallstrom, ph), very rare in winter.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** CVP 14-15 Dec, late (AW, DG); JBWE 16 Feb, extremely late (K&SF, ph), very rare in winter, State record late.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Greenwood Cem 15 Dec (C. Eliot).

**Palm Warbler:** SMSP 4 Dec (P Reisfield, fide AB); COR 5-27 Dec (ACi); MP 15 Dec (BVD); 7 Easthampton 16 Dec (HM); 2 BKCC 23 Dec; 'hypochrysea' JBWE 28 Dec - 3 Jan (DK, RJK, mob); Randall's Is 16 Dec - 9 Jan (JD, BC, mob); 2-3 Northville 29 Dec, 4 Jan (JSep); PBP 23 Dec, 19 Jan (AB); CVP 26 Jan (AW).

“Audubon’s” **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: SMSP 2-27 Dec (G Herskovic, S Miller, C Miska, mob), possibly same ind as last year.

**Prairie Warbler**: PBP 23 Dec-19 Jan (AB, *et al*).

**Wilson’s Warbler**: m APP 28 Dec (fide RBA); APP 18 Jan (AB, EM).

**Yellow-breasted Chat**: COR 11-12 Dec (ACi); West Sayville 16 Dec (MMcB, *et al*); PP 19 Dec – 17 Jan (RJ, mob); Bronx Zoo 23 Dec; Napeague 5 Jan (AC, mob), JBWR 8 Jan (AB).

## TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Eastern Towhee**: 4 SNCC 29 Dec.

**Am. Tree Sparrow**: large numbers reported; 65 Great Kills Pk 22 Jan (HF).

**Clay-colored Sparrow**: 1-3 Easthampton 16 Dec – 1 Feb (HM, *et al*; mob); PBP 21-26 Dec (RA); Wading River, SUFF 31 Dec (RKa); HSP 7-21 Jan (AGi), Amagansett, SUFF 9 Jan (PMP).

**Vesper Sparrow**: 1-5 Wading River 1-27 Jan, (RKa, mob), 10 on 1-2 Feb (AB, ACW).

**Grasshopper Sparrow**: JBWE 10-11 Feb (CF, mob).

**LECONTE’S SPARROW**: Edgemere Landfill 16 Dec (CF).

**Nelson’s Sparrow**: JBWR 15 Dec (DG, *et al*); CSP 15 Dec (K&SF); CCP 27 Jan (RKa).

**Saltmarsh Sparrow**: Cedar Beach, Southold, SUFF 10 Feb (JSep).

**Seaside Sparrow**: 2 JBWR 15 Dec (DG, *et al*).

**Fox Sparrow**: max 34 PBP 23 Dec (AB).

**Lincoln’s Sparrow**: CP 23 Dec (EG); Easthampton 30 Dec (ACW); KP 4 Jan (AB); Bayard Cutting Arboretum 10 Feb (K&SF).

**White-crowned Sparrow**: 2-3 JBWE 20 Dec, 15 Feb (K&SF, AB); “Gambel’s” – HP 30 Dec (ACW); 12 Wading River 31 Dec (RKa); 1-3 Wading River 6 -13 Jan.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: Forest Pk, QUEE 21 Dec (D Melore, mob).

**Indigo Bunting**: 1-2 KP 3 Dec – 18 Jan (EM, mob).

**E. Meadowlark**: 18-23 Eastport 19-20 Jan (DR, MSch); 2 COR 7 Feb (ACi).

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: 1-3 Calverton 31 Jan – 6 Feb (F Quevedo, B Blaisdell, RKa).

**Rusty Blackbird**: 7 KP 13 Dec (C Castillo); 5 Calverton 20 Jan (JH); max 19 St. John’s Pond 4 Feb (DR).

**Boat-tailed Grackle**: 49 SPCP (JGI); 69 JBWR 15 Dec; 1 Gardiner’s Is 15 Dec (ACW); max 600

South Ozone Pk, QUEE 16 Dec (G Dadone, EM) [at N. Conduit Blvd x Lefferts Blvd]; 323 Baldwin 29 Dec (PJJ, HW, MMcB).

**Baltimore Oriole**: CP 13 Dec – 5 Jan; vic of PP 7-12 Feb (J Clarke fide DG).

**Purple Finch**: several reports from all counties, most involving feeder birds; 4 SNCC 29 Dec.

**Red Crossbill**: large flock (~60-90) HSP thru 6 Jan, few thereafter; 2 Flushing Meadow Corona Pk 6 Dec (AB); 7 Montauk 9 Dec (SA, CF); 22 JBWE 11 Dec (DG); 2 PP 11 Dec (RJ); 35 Shinn 12 Dec (CS); 11 CVP 14 Dec (AW, DG); 7 PP 14 Dec (DG); 146 MKCC 15 Dec; 2 NYBG 16 Dec (DB); 43 CPCC 16 Dec; 50 HSP 22 Dec (DG); 2 NYBG 22 Dec (DB); 10 Montauk 22 Dec (ACW); 30 HSP 28 Dec (DK); 26 SNCC 29 Dec; 20 Shinn 15 Jan (DF); 6 Calverton, inland location, 19 Jan (DR); 4 JBWE 15 Feb (AB); 11 JBWE 16 Feb (K&SF).

**White-winged Crossbill**: flock (~25) HSP thru 6 Jan, few thereafter; ~100 SPCP (JG), 5 Flushing Meadow Corona Pk 6 Dec (AB); 20 Montauk (SA, CF); 4 Coney Island 10 Dec (DG); 25 PP 11 Dec (RJ); CSP 15 Dec (K&SF); 4 CP 15 Dec (JD); 104 MKCC 15 Dec; 16 NYBG 16 Dec (DB); 7 CPCC 16 Dec; 6 Atlantic Beach 16 Dec (SA); 16 NYBG 22 Dec (DB); 20 SNCC 29 Dec; 12 CCP 18 Jan (DF); Calverton, inland location, 19 Jan (DR), 17 Montauk 2 Feb (AB); 7 JBWE 15 Feb (AB, *et al*).

**Com. Redpoll**: 3 Northville 6 Dec (MLL); 1 CSP 6 Dec (K&SF); 1 PBP 7 Dec (RA); 2 KP 10 Dec (EM, JR, AB); 8 PBP (RA); 2 CP 13 Dec, 3-5 Jan, 15 Feb (EG); CVP 14 Dec (DG); 6 MKCC 15 Dec; JBWR – QUCC 16 Dec (EM); 16 Short Beach, SUFF 18 Dec (BBo); 1 NYBG 22 Dec (DB); Ridge 23 Dec thru (JH); 3 Blydenburgh 23 Dec (BBo); 5 JBWE 24 Dec (MG); 13 SNCC 29 Dec; 9 Rodman’s Nk, BRON 27 Jan (AB, *et al*); ~15 Calverton 2-7 Feb (ACW); 35 Wolfes Pd Pk 6 Feb (MS); 45 COR 7 Feb (ACi).

**Pine Siskin**: 40 Cunningham Pk, QUEE 16 Dec (SW); 1 SNCC 29 Dec; 7 PP thru.

**Evening Grosbeak**: 2 CP 15 Dec.

## EXOTICS

**Com. Shelduck**: 3 Seaman’s Pond, Wantagh, NASS 18 Feb (eBird).

**White Stork**: Medford 27 Feb (R Widergren fide DR, ph).

**European Goldfinch**: CP 9 Jan – 14 Feb (AC, mob).

## 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

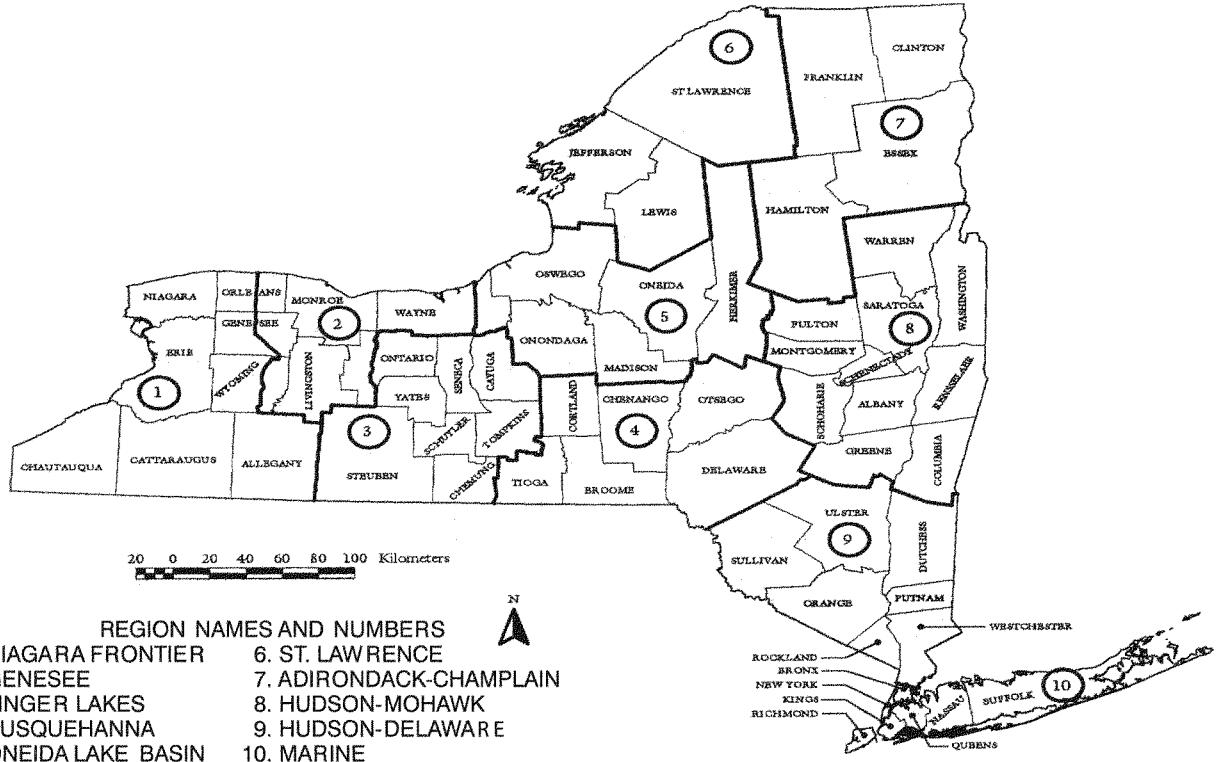
Deadline is 7 June

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  | 6. ST. LAWRENCE         |
| 2. GENESEE           | 7. ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN |
| 3. FINGER LAKES      | 8. HUDSON-MOHAWK        |
| 4. SUSQUEHANNA       | 9. HUDSON-DELAWARE      |
| 5. ONEIDA LAKE BASIN | 10. MARINE              |

**Editor of *The Kingbird***

Shaibal S. Mitra  
Biology Dept., College of Staten Island  
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314

**Editor of *New York Birders***

Timothy Baird  
242 E. State St., Salamanca, NY 14779

***Appointed Committees***

**Archives:**

Linda Benedict—6701 Miller Rd., Newark, NY 14513

**Awards:**

Gail Kirch—1099 Powderhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850

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**Conservation:**

Andrew Mason, Chair—1039 Peck St., Jefferson, NY 12093

**Finance:**

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**New York State Avian Records:**

Angus Wilson, Chair

**Send reports to:**

Gary Chapin, Secretary for NYSARC  
486 High St., Victor, NY 14564; nysarc3@nybirds.org

**New York State Young Birders Club:**

Carena Pooth, Chair—22 Brothers Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570

**Publications:**

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**Publicity:**

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**Research:**

Victor Lamoureux, Chair—885 Bunn Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850

**Waterfowl Count:**

Bill Ostrander—80 Westmont Ave., Elmira, NY 14901

**Web Site and Information Services:**

Carena Pooth—22 Brothers Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570

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